

SUMMER  
2012

# Update from Park Headquarters



July 16, 2012

Dear Friends of Maudslay State Park

Spring and summer have been very busy for park staff and partners here at Maudslay. Vegetation management and maintenance; renovation of buildings, roads and parking areas; and the delivery of quality services and programs have been enthusiastically planned and provided for by park staff, the Maudslay State Park Association, the Garden Committee, Theater In The Open, Maudslay Arts Center, Farmhouse curators, and the newest addition to Maudslay; SpeedboardUSA the standup paddleboard company heading up the Coach Property curatorship.

Since May, mowing lawns and fields, weed trimming, gardening, brush clearing, tree removal, trail maintenance, and view shed enhancements have been ongoing. Vistas have been reopened along the river and invasive and nuisance plants such as knotweed, bittersweet, and poison ivy, to mention a few, have been removed from many of the azalea and rhododendron groves as well as from specimen trees.

Improvements continue to be made on the buildings such as the repainting of doors and benches at the comfort station; replacement and painting of fascia boards and a new light fixture on the office porch; and carpentry and painting at the Stone House. Keeping the vacant buildings secure from vandalism and weather tight continues to be a challenge.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control three very old and dilapidated small buildings had to be torn down. Split rail fence posts and rails have been replaced where needed and newly painted picnic tables have been out for the public to enjoy. Snow fencing has to be placed strategically in numerous park locations to discourage illegal trails from developing. Already established illegal trails will be closed. Park visitors are asked to stay on the marked trails. Trails are well marked with signs although vandalism makes replacement ongoing.

Interpretive programs for all ages such as the healthy heart and senior walks, and children's nature programs have been popular. There have been numerous weddings, group outings, and running events held at the park and we have sold over 500 annual parks passes. Lots of visitors have been enjoying the park. The wildlife has been abundant; recent sighting of a pack of coyotes, red fox, lots of deer, rabbits are making a comeback, lots of hawks, and a variety of birds including Baltimore orioles.

In closing, I would like to thank park staff, partners, and all volunteers who work to protect, maintain, and enhance this beautiful park as well as for providing so many wonderful programs for the public benefit. Enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

Robert Kovacs, Park Supervisor



MAUDSLAY STATE PARK ASSOCIATION

# Maudslay Views

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Help us achieve our dream of FREE Theater!

Such as:

Our program **Family Hour in the Open** continues to run in Maudslay, free to the public. On the third Saturday of each month through September, at 11am, we invite artists from the community to share their talents with us. Story-telling, juggling,

song, dance; whatever our community provides, we shape it into a casual and diverting hour in the park. And of course, we blow Big Bubbles!

We are also working on an interpretation of T. S. Eliot's **The Waste Land**, which will transform a walk through the park into a walk through this classic, haunting, era-defining poem. The incomparable Stephen Haley directs, bringing his signature ensemble approach to the text. This runs Saturdays and Sundays at 4pm, August 18th - September 9th, and is also free to the public. Many thanks; see you in the Open!

Edward F. Speck, Artistic Director  
Theater in the Open

[www.theaterintheopen.org](http://www.theaterintheopen.org)

## Greetings from the Gate Lodge

at Maudslay State Park! We are now in our 25th year in residence at Maudslay, and our second season of proving our performances entirely free to the public. This free programming is made possible through the magic and generosity of our beloved Maudslay State Park, the care of DCR, local donors, and of course Fundraisers! This year, after an 11 year hiatus, **Circus Smirkus** will be returning for four performances to benefit TitO, this time at Manter Field in Newbury. Please join us for these remarkable shows and help us provide 33 more seasons of community based entertainment in Maudslay State Park!

## Clippings from the Garden

### Award Winners!

On Sunday, May 20, 2012 the MSPA Garden Committee was presented with an award for Historic Landscape Restoration by the Newburyport Preservation Trust for our work in rehabilitating and protecting Maudslay's historic character.

Congratulations to all our volunteers, with special thanks to our founding members Lindsay Cavanagh, Stefanie Hufnagel, Sandee Liversidge, Lillian Newbert and Karen Wakefield for their vision and tireless efforts.

[www.maudslaygardens.org](http://www.maudslaygardens.org)

Next time you are in the gardens you will notice four new large terra cotta-like, weather-resistant pots. After much thought, planning, and assistance from Lillian Newbert's connections, we were able to purchase the pots and plant them with pyramidal boxwood at the main axis of the garden. The Newburyport Garden Club and others contributed to this long-awaited improvement. These pots are stunning and make a tremendous difference to the look and feel of the garden. You may also notice a series of compost bins that several volunteers constructed outside the garden walls. With this new area we will no longer have to leave our waste in a pile for the park staff to move. Plus, we will be making compost for future use in the garden.

*Sandee Liversidge MSPA Garden Committee Chair*



# Maudslay Arts Center

The Arts Center is a summer venue for music entertainment featuring concerts playing a variety of pop, classical, folk, country & big band sounds. Jazz, pop, folk, Klezmer, Irish Dance and more, performed under the sun and stars !

On the grounds of the Arts Center special events such as weddings, conferences, family reunions, educational & summer camps are held. See the Arts Center Insert for our schedule



Visit our Website at [www.maudslayartscenter.org](http://www.maudslayartscenter.org)



## Maudslay Equestrians [www.maudslayequestrians.info](http://www.maudslayequestrians.info)

This is a great time of the year to take in the sights and sounds at Maudslay on horseback. Deerflies that make riding in other areas of the Northeast a real chore, are practically non-existent at Maudslay. Ocean breezes coming in off the Merrimack River keep the temps lower too.

The new entrance to the field parking area is working well and the gateway to the pasture fields has been widened and the posts have been eliminated. Bring along a picnic lunch and enjoy sitting in the cool shade under the trees in the parking area after your ride. Plan ahead now for our Chili Day Fundraiser Trail Ride on November 25, 2012

## FLOWERING REFLECTION POND RESTORATION PROJECT

After several months of study into the possible refurbishing of The Flowering Pond in Maudslay State Park by an independent environmental consultant, the state now has an official report outlining the stages of renewal necessary for the restoration of the pond -- a central focal point of the park. Initially work will be done to remove portions of the beaver dams that are preventing flow of water through the pond system. Following this very necessary work will be steps to stop the erosion and run-off of organic materials into the pond. The next phase will be the more costly chore of dredging significant portions of the pond to remove a good amount of the sludge that had accumulated over the course of several dozen years. During the entire restoration, focus will be placed on saving marine life in the pond and eventually planting native plant species that will support the ecosystem developed to maintain a healthy water system and help control runoff. Ultimately, the Maudslay State Park Association hopes to establish an endowment that will support the state in its efforts to maintain the pond's refurbished state.



The Flowering Pond Restoration Committee will focus on fundraising over the course of the next few years to assist the state in procuring funds to realize the dreams of many who frequent the park -- the restoration of the pond to its original natural beauty. Visit the website for more info

[www.maudslayprojects.info](http://www.maudslayprojects.info)

# Adopt – An – Acre Donation Form

Yes, I / We want to participate in the **Adopt-An-Acre** program to support the Maudslay

State Park Association. Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Your adoption will expire 12 months from this date.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

How many acres are you Adopting? **Circle One**

(A maximum of five acres may be Adopted) 1 2 3 4 5

**Number of Acres** you are Adopting \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 per acre. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you are Adopting-An-Acre in honor of or in memory of someone, please provide the following information:

Honoree's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to adopt -an-acre in a particular location, please let us know.

We will try to accommodate all requests

*Please make checks payable to Maudslay State Park Association and mail this form to:*

**Adopt-An-Acre - Maudslay State Park Assoc 74 Curzon Mill Road, Newburyport, MA 01950**

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## MAUDSLAY STATE PARK ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enroll me as a member

\_\_\_\_ \$15 Year Individual \_\_\_\_ \$20 Year Family

I would like to make a tax deductible gift to the General

Fund for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to  
Maudslay State Park Association  
and return this form to:**

**MSPA, 74 Curzon Mill Road,  
Newburyport, MA 01950**

*The MSPA is a registered 501(c)(3) organization in Massachusetts.  
Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.*

MAUDSLAY STATE PARK ASSOCIATION  
74 Curzon Mill Road  
Newburyport, MA 01950