



May 2011

# Maudslay Views

News from the Maudslay State Park Association

The Maudslay State Park Association (MSPA) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of the natural, historical and horticultural resources of Maudslay State Park.

All community members are invited to contribute to the park's care by attending the bimonthly MSPA board meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the park headquarters.

The 2011 meeting dates are 5/26, 7/28, 9/22, and 11/17.

## MSPA CONTACTS

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## Update from Park Headquarters *by Rob Kovacs, Park Supervisor*

Even though we work at the park year-round, the arrival of spring means a particularly busy time for staff. A number of tasks are underway in preparation for the recreation season: cleaning up of grounds, tree work along the roads and trails, replacing damaged fencing, sprucing up of public buildings, and tree planting, just to name a few.

Park staff endeavor to maintain a clean, safe, and

aesthetically pleasing park for all visitors. We ask dog owners to clean up after their dogs and deposit the mutt mitts in the trash barrels provided.

From an administrative point-of-view, the curatorship programs for the Coach and Bell Houses are being reviewed in preparation for the bidding process. Keep in mind that wedding ceremonies, group picnics, and similar

events are allowed at the park. Permits for such events are \$25.00.

For a calendar of seasonal events at Maudslay, please visit the DCR website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/maud.htm>

The park staff welcomes your questions and comments. Contact us at 978-465-7223 or via email [maudslay.park@state.ma.us](mailto:maudslay.park@state.ma.us).

## Clippings from the Garden *by Sandee Liversidge*

This time last year volunteers had already spent 32 hours in the garden. Remember that warm spring? Later, in May, June, July, August, September and October an additional 164 hours were given to the garden by a large and dedicated group of volunteers. The Garden Committee had numerous new volunteers join us in the garden, from high school students to grandparents. The work is fun when you are meeting new people, sharing garden stories or just learning about plants.

Last summer, the dahlia, 'Otto's Thrill' once again made a spectacular display, while the sweetly scented phlox 'Miss Lingard' and 'David' held their white heads high. In

the coming months we will have all three for sale to the community as we divide and pot them up. If you are interested in helping pot up these plants for sale, or would like to purchase some, email Sandee Liversidge at [gardenwork2@earthlink.net](mailto:gardenwork2@earthlink.net).

This spring the Garden Committee is trying a new volunteer work schedule – not always being in the garden on the same day of the week. Hopefully, this will give more people the opportunity to come join us in the garden.

If you enjoy the gardens at Maudslay and would like them to continue to flourish and improve, please make a donation to the Maudslay Garden Committee. This

year we would like to finish funding a project to replace the large pots at the major intersection of the garden's paths and plant them with pyramidal boxwood. The pots will be weatherproof, which will allow us to keep them in the garden, bolted down, throughout the year.

If you are interested in working in the gardens, please contact Sandee at 978-462-4731 or email: [gardenwork2@earthlink.net](mailto:gardenwork2@earthlink.net). Also, visit our website at [www.maudslaygardens.org](http://www.maudslaygardens.org) for volunteer work dates and times.

Donations may be sent to MSPA Garden Committee, 74 Curzon Mill Road, Newburyport, MA 01950.

## Flowering Pond Project Underway

by Marlys Edwards

Over the past two decades there has been increased concern over the condition of the Flowering Pond at Maudslay. The MSPA recently formed a committee to work with Park Supervisor Rob Kovacs and DCR to develop a phased restoration of the pond and the dam. The initial phase of clearing out fallen and hazardous trees will begin in June. The park staff will also address pruning and clearing of the plantings along the river. Passersby will appreciate the aesthetic improvement.

While these initial efforts will enhance the visual impact of the pond, subsequent phases will involve more structural changes that will address the dam, the spillways and water quality. These final efforts, by repairing the structures of the pond, will insure its continuing health and safety as well as its natural beauty.

## Thank You to Our Adopt-An-Acre Sponsors

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## Report from the Scanning Committee *by Stefanie Hufnagel*

The Scanning Committee was formed last year with the goal of digitizing the wealth of historical material about the estate, the gardens and landscape, the Moseley family and the park. Items include photographs, slides, newspaper clippings and memoirs that have accumulated since the park was formed in 1985.

Over the past year the Scanning Committee has

continued its weekly sessions at the park office, making good use of a new computer and scanner/printer (which was jointly funded by the MSPA and the Garden Committee).

Beginning in the spring of 2010, Garden Committee members, Beth Duerr Munro, Elizabeth Rooney, Stefanie Hufnagel and Ann Morrill, spent over 130 hours scanning hundreds of slides,

photos and documents. And even with all this effort they have only scratched the surface of this remarkable collection.

The park's extraordinary historical collection has grown under the supervision of Park Interpreter Donna Sudak, among others. Many park visitors have been inspired to give Donna pictures and written memories from their own family treasure troves.

She has organized these materials into a remarkable archive and the Scanning Committee is determined to digitize it all, so that copies of these invaluable resources can be safely kept for future generations.

If you have any Maudslay items that you would like to contribute to this effort, please send them to the park and they will be returned to you when scanning is completed.

## Your Annual Support is Appreciated!

Your personal investment in Maudslay State Park continues to enhance and improve this wonderful natural resource. Over the past year, the MSPA has assisted the park by helping with interpretive programs for the public, maintaining the beautiful flowers in the formal gardens, planting new trees, and repairing the brick wall in the courtyard. If you have not already submitted your annual membership dues, or would like to become a new MSPA member, please mail your donation to the address below. Thank you for sharing our goal of preserving and protecting the natural beauty of Maudslay.