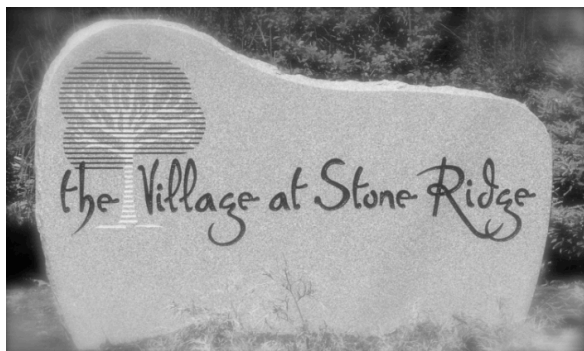


Quarry Bulletin

March - April 2012



SPRING COMES TO THE VILLAGE



Even after our exceptionally mild winter and surprise summer interlude in March, I know we are all glad to see the return of colorful flowers gracing the entrance to the clubhouse. Thanks to Landscape Committee members Kathy Abate, Cathy Shreve, and Judy Premru for using their green thumbs for our enjoyment.

Pancakes Hit the Spot!

By Linda Anzivino

Approximately fifty people enjoyed a wonderful feast of pancakes at the recent President's Day brunch. Lois Frampton and Jayne Currier kept two varieties of pancakes coming hot off the griddles until everyone was satisfied. You could choose between sourdough (Lois) and buttermilk (Jayne) or try some of each!

The buffet table covered in a beautiful red, white, and blue tablecloth was laden with a giant bowl of fresh fruit, butter, maple syrup and sausages, as well as the pancakes. There was the usual never-ending supply of coffee, tea, and orange juice. The tables were decorated with vases of red carnations, baby's breath, and small American flags.

The conversations were many and some were quite lively as all seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely. If you missed out on this neighborhood get-together you missed a real treat. Many thanks once again to our hard working Social Committee.



Lois and Jayne hard at work



Enjoying the company as the pancakes cook



Fruit and sausages rounded out the menu.



Social Committee members Joan Roy and Judy Premru check the tables.



A lovely way to celebrate Presidents' Day

SPRING LANDSCAPING NEWS

Artillery Fungus

Ed. Note: This is an abbreviated version of an email blast sent earlier this month.

Some of you may have noticed a few of your neighbors walking around the Village inspecting the sides of units and some fences. They have been checking for something called Artillery Fungus. It is an unsightly but not hazardous spore that lives in decaying and ground-up wood chips. It grows and spreads by shooting spores in the air as high and as far as 20 feet. The spores are attracted to light colored and smooth surfaces, such as vinyl siding, cars, etc. To date there are no known fungicides or other chemical products that will destroy the fungus. Power washing, cleansers, and insect sprays do not remove it from the vinyl siding. However, it is possible to remove the spots from window glass and car surfaces.

A subcommittee measured the extent of infestation of each unit and determined that the best approach to minimize the spread of the fungus is to remove the existing mulch and replace it with high quality mulch such as an all-bark mulch from cypress, hemlock, cedar and a few others.

We have asked our landscape contractor (TruGreen) for an estimate to remove and replace as much mulch as possible. Soon you will see a lot of activity on the grounds surrounding the units as they do this. Some plantings may be disturbed or even destroyed in the process. They will be extra careful, but removing and replacing mulch is a laborious task. Please be patient. Stopping the spread of artillery fungus is very important to the overall appearance of Stone Ridge.



Tom West, Landscape Committee chair, and his second-in-command, Barbara, at a recent Committee meeting

Spring has arrived! Gardeners, get your gloves on!

By Barbara West

You will notice a touch of spring has been added to the entrance of the clubhouse thanks to members of the Landscape Committee. This will be done seasonally.

We want to keep you posted on the Landscape Committee's activities:

- We have trimmed most of the trees in front of the units.
- All of the spirea has been trimmed.
- We are in the planning stages of adding annuals and perennials to the bridge and entrance.
- A water source is also being added on the bridge so that we will be able to water when necessary.

For those of you interested in gardening, there will be a series of lectures held at Weston Nursery in Chelmsford. The first one is on Container Gardens and will be held on April 28, 2012 at 2:00 in Chelmsford. You can call Weston Nursery at (978) 349-0055 for more information, to register for this lecture, or to get on their mailing list.

Some of you might have noticed that the rabbits at VSR are becoming very, very fat. They have discovered many delicious meals in our gardens. You might want to purchase some rabbit and deer preventative.

For removal or planting of bushes or trees **you must get approval from the Landscape Committee**. If you have any questions please talk to a committee member or email at Barbara@bbpinc.com. If you would like to join our committee please let us know; it is a fun group and new members are always welcome.

Board of Trustees Reminder

The Board of Trustees reminds all residents of the policy regarding seasonal and other decorative items that was adopted last August. As we enter into the spring season, please adhere to this revised policy.

Board Policy Regarding Exterior Decoration of Unit (August 15, 2011)

Item # 11 in the VSR recent Rules and Regulations reads as follows:
 Seasonal and other decorative items should be tasteful and in keeping with the attractive character of our neighborhood which we all wish to preserve. The Board can require the removal of any item(s) at its discretion. The Managing Agent makes periodic inspections of the neighborhood to identify any violations and reports them to the Board. Preferably, any disagreements regarding suitability should be resolved amicably among neighbors. However, the Board is the final arbiter of any unresolved differences. Seasonal items shall be removed within four weeks of the related event.

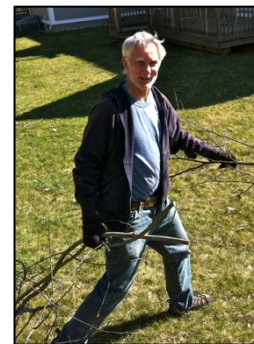
To eliminate any inconsistency in the interpretation of the rules and regulations as to applicable lawn ornaments and other items, the following are some specific guidelines:
 Flower planters (whether on the ground or hanging) are allowed as long as the base container is compatible with the natural setting of the village.

Bird feeders, houses, and baths are not to be placed in the front of any unit. Bird feeders should not be used in the summer months so that unwanted wildlife will not be attracted. Statues (whether religious or non-religious) should not be placed in the front of any unit unless they are not visible from the road or sidewalk in any season.

Garden ornaments (such as ceramic, cement or metal figures of ducks, geese, rabbits, dogs, mushrooms, frogs, birds, turtles, gnomes, garden plates and decorative flags, gazing balls, sundials, etc.) must be placed sparingly and should not dominate the surrounding plantings.

Chairs and benches, etc. may be placed on front porches or in the yard as long as they are compatible (color, size, etc.) with the surroundings and they are in good condition and do not interfere with landscaping maintenance.

Unused planters, etc. should be stored so as to not be visible from the road or sidewalk. As condo owners everyone must be mindful that the land around all of our units does not belong to each unit owner but is common land, and thus each unit owner must consider the overall effect that any addition to the common land will have on the total look of the Village. The intended ambiance of our surroundings is one of uncluttered natural beauty. Therefore, the Board urges unit owners to limit the number of yard decorations, especially those visible from the road, reflect on the suitability of each decoration for our Village, and take everyone's views into consideration.



The "tree crew" hard at work recently: left to right – Frank Bashore, Jack Bilodeau, Doug Craib, Paul Currier, Jack Gilmartin, and Dick Coleman.



VSR BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Dianne Marston



Almost 20 members of the VSR Book Club met on March 29 to discuss Geraldine Brooks' novel, **Year of Wonders: Year of the Plague**. A lively discussion followed a time of enjoying refreshments and socializing.

The next meeting will be held on May 10 at 1:00 p.m. The discussion will focus on **The Double Bind**, a book by Chris Bohjalian. Bohjalian is known for his riveting fiction featuring ordinary people in heartbreaking circumstances. In this literary thriller with references to (and including characters from) **The Great Gatsby**, Bohjalian takes readers on a haunting journey through one woman's obsession with uncovering a dark secret. This is a tale that travels between the Roaring Twenties and the twenty-first century, between Jay Gatsby's Long Island and rural New England. Book Clubbers who have read the book say they could hardly put it down!

At the June 21st meeting, the latest of Geraldine Brook's novels, **Caleb's Crossing**, will be the topic of our discussion. This book will be out in paperback on April 24.

"Brooks has a real gift in making history come alive in her fiction. Set on Martha's Vineyard in the 1660's, Brooks fictionalizes the life of the first Native American to graduate from Harvard. She relates his story through the impassioned voice of the daughter of the island's Calvinist minister, a brilliant young woman who aches for the education her father wastes on her dull brother." We are anticipating an excellent read and a fine discussion. As always, all Villagers are invited and welcome!

VSR VOLUNTEER IN CAMBODIA

By Dick Coleman



In the middle of November 2011 I was privileged to join three hundred Habitat volunteers in Phnom Penh in building twenty-two sun-dried brick houses. The Khmer Build was an opportunity for these twenty-two families to create new lives for themselves, part of a bold five-year plan to assist 10,000 Cambodian families.

Before we laid a single brick we took a short trip to the city dump on the outskirts of the city. The houses we were to build would be for those living in this wasteland of human trash. The smiling faces of the children were the only bright spot in this depressing place.

The houses we built consisted of a single 8 x 10 room. Cooking, eating, and bathing are done outside. But these homes sat on a concrete pad and had metal roofs that would not leak. And most importantly, the families who worked alongside us day by day would own these houses. On the last day of building, the mother of House # 3 proudly swept the floor again and again. Another mother living next door said that every morning when she wakes up she would be reminded of the love that built these walls.

Our Habitat experience also included a visit to the Farm where chickens are raised, pole beans are planted, and bricks are produced for sale as a means of added income. The director commented that his hardest task is to instill hope that there can be something good beyond just getting by day after day.

A two-day visit to Siem Reap completed our experience. There spread out over 25 acres were the fabled Angkor Wat temples. Magnificent! You too can join us from the Lowell Habitat Affiliate and travel to some exotic place. Let me know if you are interested.



Simply Social

It has been great to see so many Villagers back from their winter journeys, and we look forward to catching up with you at our social events coming up. Don't forget, if you want to find out what's doing in the Village while you are away, you can always check out the Quarry Bulletin online on the VSR website. Here are some of the opportunities in the next few weeks:

- April 28 – **Elvis is going to be in the house!!** Jim Barone, award winning Elvis impersonator, is coming up from New Jersey just to do our show. Cocktails are at 6:30, showtime at 7:00. The cost will be \$25 per person. **Ron Catarino will be collecting the money at the clubhouse from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 23.** Skip Giles has organized this wonderful opportunity for us. Don't miss a great show and a terrific evening!
- Work/Play Day – April 29, rain date May 6. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Cookout following for all participants.
- May 8 – a luncheon outing to Nashoba Tech's restaurant
- May 23 – outing to see the Manchester Fisher Cats play
- May 28 – Memorial Day Cookout with a special performance by the VSR Chorus
- June 19 – a presentation by Jodi Gilson on herbal gardening with an herbal luncheon to follow



Fun at the Drop-In Coffee, March 24



DO YOU ZENTANGLE?

By Joyce Minosh



Wendy Brown, a Zentangle instructor, came to the clubhouse to introduce us to the art of artistic “doodling.” We were provided with a Zentangle kit, including special paper, pen,

pencil, sharpener, and two pieces of chocolate. We then set to work learning several types of designs. Keeping to the principles of Zen we all found it fun and relaxing, especially when we heard that in Zentangle it’s impossible to make a mistake! We found it amazing that all 15 of our “squares” looked unique. After our hard “work” we enjoyed a lunch provided by the Metro Deli. We all look forward to practicing our skill at home and perhaps taking an intermediate course next year.



Zentanglers show off their handiwork.

Editor’s Note

Thanks for all your kind words about my first Bulletin. I hope you enjoy Gail’s new column. Any other critic wannabe’s out there? Don’t forget to check the website for additional pictures of events and to see the photos in color. Lois Frampton’s recipe for her scrumptious sourdough pancakes is there also.

Carlene Craib

GROOVY MOVIES

By Gail Sergenian

This is a new column, in which I will review movies that are worth seeing. Please let me know about the types of films you would like to see reviewed and alert me to any specific films others might enjoy.

We just viewed “The First Grader,” a moving film based on an amazing true story. In 2002 Kenya announced that free public education would be available to all citizens for the first time. Shortly thereafter, an unusual applicant appeared at the gate of a rural primary school. Kimani Ng’ang’a Maruge, an illiterate 84 year old, was very eager to learn how to read and write. The school repeatedly sent Maruge away, but his persistence eventually paid off.

Maruge became a model student. He helped his young classmates with their learning and with their lives. But his pursuit of education was never easy. His neighbors and members of the bureaucracy were suspicious of his motives, and he and his teacher were the targets of rumor, anger, and threats to their lives.

Maruge overcame many challenges during his lifetime. He had been active in the Mau Mau uprisings against the British when he was younger. During that tumultuous period, he was brutally tortured and lost his family. His success became an inspiration to others, and he was eventually invited to speak before the United Nations to demonstrate the power of education.

“The First Grader” was filmed in Kenya. The acting is superb, and it is a powerful story that has stayed with us. Let us know if you agree.

Directed by Justin Chadwick, written by Ann Peacock. Released in 2011 by National Geographic Entertainment. With: Naomie Harris, Oliver Musila Litondo, Lwander Jawar, Tony Kgoroge, Alfred Munyua, Shoki Mo kgapa and Vusuu. Running time: 103 minutes.

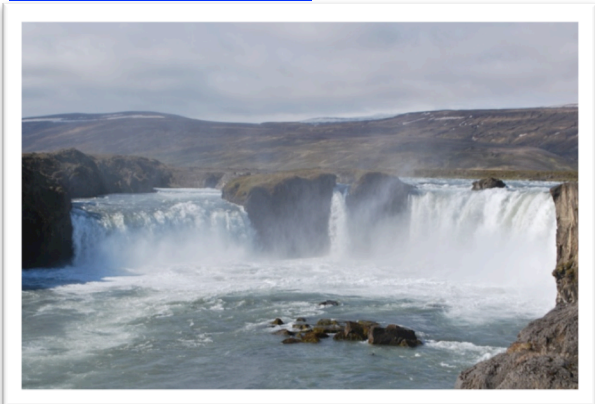
VILAGE MEETING NEWS



About 20 residents gathered at the April Village meeting to see Rose O'Donnell's photos of her trip to Iceland. As usual, her lively commentary and spectacular photos made the trip come alive for us. Below is one of her photos of Godafoss, one of the most stunning of the hundreds of waterfalls in Iceland. If you missed the presentation and would like to see Rose's photos you can see them at:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/108529287616883399526/IcelandJune2011>

If you would like to share your travels or have an idea for a presentation for a Village Meeting, contact Louise O'Donnell at harlouod@comcast.net.



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The Quarry Bulletin is a bi-monthly newsletter to keep you informed about events and information for The Village at Stone Ridge. Contributing writers please send copy to ccraib@comcast.net.

RETARDED GRANDPARENTS

(This was actually reported by a teacher)

After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Bateman's Bay where everyone lives in nice little houses, and so they don't have to mow the grass anymore! They ride around on their bicycles and scooters and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore.

They go to a building called a wreck center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now. They do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on. At their gate, there is a dollhouse with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out and go cruising in their golf carts!

Nobody there cooks; they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night – early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the dollhouse. The ones who do get out bring food back to the wrecked center for potluck.

My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the dollhouse. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren.

Contributed by Bob Eddy

WELCOME!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest neighbors. Nancy and Buzz McArdle have moved into 32 Stone Ridge Road. We look forward to getting to know them and seeing them at Village events.