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Art blooms in Jackson Saturday

By Shannon Reville
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Get ready to watch the town of Jackson blossom this Saturday at the Mountain Garden Club's first "Art In Bloom" walking tour of Jackson Village.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. visitors are welcomed at the Jackson Public Library, the Snowflake Inn, the Jackson Historical Society, the Ravenwood Curio Shoppe, the Wentworth and the Canterbury Hill Gallery.

Each of these six venues will be filled with local artists' pieces, and a garden club floral arrangement inspired by each piece.

"It's a very new concept," explains committee co-chair Cal Minton, "but the town of Jackson has been absolutely fantastic, and the garden club is very excited to give back to this community."

The Mountain Garden Club is responsible for many gardens around the valley, and is also very active in the area. Members sell their plants, have youth programs and garden shows, and even provide garden therapy to those interested.

The club spends much of the spring and summer months maintaining public properties and roadsides in Bartlett, Conway, Eaton, Freedom, Jackson and North Conway. Member are responsible for gardens like the ones in Schouler Park, and at the Route 16/302 intersection in Conway Village.

During the fall and winter months, the club has monthly programs that promote all phases of horticulture, floral design, civic beautification, community service, education and conservation within the community of Mount Washington Valley.

"There is a charm and beauty in Jackson that needs to be appreciated," says Minton, "and this is the garden club's way of giving back to Jackson for being so great to us."

The concept of "Art in Bloom" originated five years ago, when the club created floral arrangements to go along with pieces of art at the Artisan's Gallery.

"Since the Artisan's Gallery is no longer in business," Minton explains, "we explored the idea of doing it in Jackson."

Minton is one of three co-chairs who have put the event together. She got the garden club arrangers to create the flower arrangements, Carol White got all the pieces of art from local artists, and Nancy Lundquist has organized all the hostesses.

The event starts at 10 a.m. and will last until 5 p.m. From 3 to 5 p.m. there will be a reception at the Snowflake Inn, where 12 different Jackson-area restaurants will provide refreshments.

There will be a raffle, with prizes to include floral arrangements, a winter sleigh ride for 12 during

the Chocolate Tour season, works of art, and much more.

The event will be free and guests can either walk leisurely or get a shuttle to each of the six venues. Parking is provided at the town lot next to the Jackson Public Library, and more information can be found at www.mountaingardenclub.org.
