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GUIDE TO THE ARTS AND LEISURE • AUGUST 3, 2006

Museum offers inviting garden

This summer, thanks to the generosity of many friends, the Griffin Garden at the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts (METC) in Madison has emerged as a lovely, colorful pocket garden that is being enjoyed by museum visitors, passersby, butterflies and birds.

Designed by Beth Riley of Madison, owner of the Potted Garden landscape and garden design company, the project was a collaborative effort to restore a pocket garden located within a portion of an existing raised bed adjacent to Green Village Road. A focal point within the garden is a terracotta Griffin which was originally part of the 1899 James Building across from the museum and was donated by the Solu family in 1997.

The period appropriate design features a blend of native North American and Victorian era plants. The plantscape uses a softened geometric bedding scheme which is representative of the changing garden approach used in the latter part of the 19th

century and into the 20th century. The arched shape of the plant materials replicates the arches of the museum building.

While visiting the garden, stop into the museum, too. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children 6 and older. Family maximum admission \$13. Admission is free from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. The Museum's summer hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, closed Sunday and Monday.

Housed in a 1900 Richardsonian-Romanesque Revival building listed on the National Register of Historic places, the museum explores 18th- and 19th-century American history, with a focus on New Jersey.

The Museum offers visitors a broad range of changing exhibits, and related programs that address many facets of early American history, craftsmanship, and the diversity of trades. The museum is located at 9 Main Street in the heart of downtown Madison. For more information, call (973) 377-2982 ext 10 or visit the website at www.metc.org.



A delicate moth, above, finds some sweet nectar as does a bee, right, in the Griffin Garden.



Griffin, the garden's name sake, stands guard over the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts in Madison.