

# Garden news

## QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010 / Issue16 #4



Queens  
Botanical Garden

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355  
718.886.3800 [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org)



*The Parking Garden combines water management and beautiful plantings with parking for over 100 cars.*  
*Photo by Shari Romar*

### Earth Day is Every Day at Queens Botanical Garden

In 2011, Queens Botanical Garden will host a series of events, celebrations and volunteer days to observe Earth Days. These events are designed to create unity and bring environmental awareness to the residents of our borough and beyond. Join us as we celebrate an exciting season at the Garden, where Earth Day is every day! Watch for updates on our website at [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org).

The kick-off to the season will be on March 20 which is the original, historical Earth Day, the first day of spring. Starting in the innovative Parking Garden, Queens community groups will gather for some volunteer work around the Garden. Then we will parade over the College Point Boulevard Bridge into Flushing Meadows-Corona Park to join other members of the community and encircle the Unisphere as a symbol of peace and unity. We invite all interested members and community groups to join this initiative to create a greater awareness of the importance of living an environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

On April 28, in honor of Arbor Day, we will celebrate the Grand Opening of the Parking Garden which is sponsored by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. This innovative space focuses on sustainability and wastewater management. Local school groups will complete the final stage of this living collection by planting native trees. A special ribbon-cutting ceremony will round out the day.

The Arbor Day Weekend Festival will be held on May 1 from 12 to 4pm and offers an afternoon of community fun. This event will feature a variety of activities for participants of all ages. In-house gardening and nature specialists, local artisans, and organic food and environmentally conscious vendors will be onsite tabling and selling their wares, giving workshops and demonstrations. Family-friendly activities, musical performances and celebrations will continue throughout the afternoon.

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*Skimmia berries bedazzled with snow.*  
*Photo by H. David Stein*

# around the garden

## QBG NEWS AND NOTES



Queens  
Botanical Garden

Where people, plants, and  
cultures meet



Sen. Frank Padavan (c.) with QBG Executive Director Susan Lacerte (r.) and Deputy Director Patty Kleinberg (l.) admiring the new garden signage he helped make possible.

### Fall Highlights:

- On October 16, 25 QBG members participated in Volunteer Day by planting spring bulbs in the Backyard Garden, weeding the planted beds in the Parking Garden and clearing “the back 40” of barn grass, while 20 HSBC Employee Volunteers helped prepare the Children’s Garden for winter.
- The Fresh Meadows Poets presented a Fall Poetry Recital to an appreciative crowd, while families enjoyed the annual Pumpkin Patch - choosing and painting pumpkins, learning origami pumpkin making and planting “hair” on a Green-Haired Monster to take home on October 31.
- New garden signs are being installed throughout the Garden, thanks to support from Senator Frank Padavan through the New York State Community Capital Assistance Program.
- Photographs of Birds, Bugs & Blooms of QBG by staff member Shari Romar are in the Visitor & Administration Building Gallery through February. Sales of the artwork benefit the Garden.
- Renovations have begun on the Wedding Garden after the damage caused by the September tornado that swept through Flushing. Funding for the project is provided by the New York Community Bank Foundation.
- Ms. Darcy Hector has begun as new Director of Development, bringing with her experience as Program Officer for Arts and Culture at the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation.

### PLANT YOUR LEGACY WHERE IT WILL GROW...

Your gift or bequest will provide funding for programs now or will help the Garden meet future needs. To learn more about how you can help, call Susan Lacerte, Executive Director, at 718-886-3800 ext. 205.

### Queens Botanical Garden

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

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

#### Garden Offices and Visitor Information

718.886.3800

#### Hours (April through October)

Tuesday through Sunday, 8 am to 6 pm.

#### (November through March)

Tuesday through Sunday, 8 am to 4:30 pm

Closed Mondays year-round except  
legal holidays.

#### Admission

Adults \$4, Seniors \$3, Children (ages 3 to 12) \$2.  
Free on Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 6 pm  
and Sunday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm. Free from  
November 1 through March 31.

#### Parking

The Parking Garden entrance is on Crommelin  
Street, at Blossom Avenue. Fees are charged.

Hours vary seasonally.

#### Plant Information

Tuesday, 9 am to 4 pm, ext. 200

#### Compost Information

718.539.LAWN(5296) or  
[compost@queensbotanical.org](mailto:compost@queensbotanical.org)

#### Getting Here

QBG is easily accessible by car, train, or bus. For  
complete travel directions and  
further information, phone QBG or visit  
us online.

The Queens Botanical Garden is located on property  
owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation  
is made possible in part by public funds provided through  
the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and  
the New York City Council. The New York State Office  
of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation provides  
a portion of the Garden’s general operating funds. The  
Queens Borough President and Queens elected repre-  
sentatives in the City Council and State Legislature pro-  
vide leadership funding. Corporations, foundations and  
individuals provide additional support.

### Garden News

Annette Fanara - Editor

Shari Romar - Grant Writer & Manager

Contributors - Regina Forlenza

Susan Lacerte - Executive Director



# What to See and do

## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHAT'S IN BLOOM AT QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN!

WINTER 2010

### WINTER 2011 PROGRAMS

Registration is encouraged for all programs. For composting and lawn care workshops, register at [compost@queensbotanical.org](mailto:compost@queensbotanical.org) or call 718-886-3800 ext. 500. Check our website [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org) or call 718-886-3800 for more information on other workshops.

The NYC Compost Project is funded and managed through the Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling.

*Sunday, January 9, 10am to 4pm*

*Parking Garden*

### Electronic Waste Recycling Event

The Lower East Side Ecology Center is bringing its 8th Annual "After the Holidays" E-waste Event to Queens Botanical Garden. You can responsibly dispose of unwanted or broken gadgets. Help them meet their goal of collecting 100 tons this January: spread the word to your friends and neighbors! A list of acceptable materials can be found on their website: [www.leseecologycenter.org](http://www.leseecologycenter.org). For more information contact [info@leseecologycenter.org](mailto:info@leseecologycenter.org).

*Saturday, January 22, 11am to 1pm*

### Composting in the City

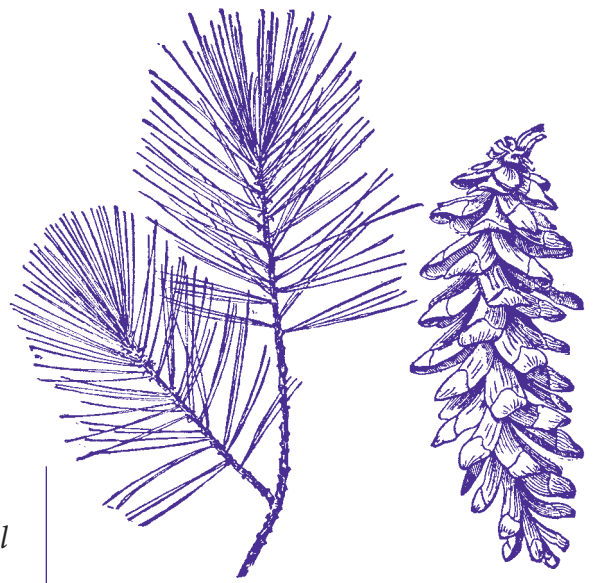
*Fee: \$5*

Leaves, kitchen scraps, garden trimmings, and weeds can all become garden gold through composting. This class covers the essentials on composting, both outside in city yards and inside your apartment using a worm bin. Registration is required.

*Deadline: Tuesday, February 1*

### Master Composter Certificate Program Application

If you're interested in spreading compost know-how and enthusiasm, consider the NYC Compost Project's Master Composter Certificate Course! This train-the-trainer course to promote the practice of urban composting consists of over 20 hours of classroom training (with two field trips) and 30 hours of volunteer outreach service in compost education and promotion. The Master Composter Certificate course is offered every spring by the NYC Compost Project at the city's botanical gardens in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. Course material fee is \$40; limited scholarships are available. Applications are due February 1, 2011. For more information, dates and the online application, visit: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/compost/compostproj\\_mastercomposter\\_course.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/compost/compostproj_mastercomposter_course.shtml).



*Through February 10, 2011*

### Books for Trees:

#### Read-a-thon to Benefit Queens Botanical Garden

Queens Paideia School in Long Island City is running a 12-week long read-a-thon to help the Garden recover from September's tornado. Students from any school may participate. For more information go to [www.queensbotanical.org/programs/BooksforTrees](http://www.queensbotanical.org/programs/BooksforTrees).

*Sunday, February 13, 12 to 2pm*

### ♥Worms: Heart-Shaped Compost Cookies

*Fee: \$5*

Valentine's Day is the time for love and heart-shaped everything: chocolate, stuffed toys, and...compost cookies! This unique introduction to composting will provide participants with heart-shaped compost cookies to use for plants and step-by-step instructions on how to start and maintain an outdoor compost bin and indoor worm compost bin. Be prepared to get your hands dirty. Registration is required.

*Saturday, February 19, 10:30am*

### Great Backyard Bird Count

Join QBG staffer Shari Romar in this annual bird counting event. Our results will be added to those submitted from across the continent. For more information or to register email [sromar@queensbotanical.org](mailto:sromar@queensbotanical.org).

# What to SEE and do

## HERE'S MORE HAPPENING AT QBG!

Wednesday, February 23, 2 to 3:30pm

### I♥Worms For Kids

Fee: \$5

Did you know that worms have five pairs of hearts? This unique introduction to composting for kids will introduce participants to the life of compost worms. The program features a hands-on activity making heart-shaped compost cookies to use for plants. Be prepared to get your hands dirty! Children must be at least five years old and accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.

On view through February 25

Visitor & Administration Building Gallery

### Birds, Bugs & Blooms of Queens Botanical Garden

A series of 19 photographs by QBG staffer, Shari Romar, that celebrate both the beauty and rich biodiversity at Queens Botanical Garden throughout all seasons.

Saturday, March 12, 2 to 4pm

### HSBC Children's Garden Family Day

Get a taste of the Children's Garden program as we plant seeds and learn about gardening and the environment. Register for the Spring Session at this Open House. For more information, email Rebecca Wolf at [rwolf@queensbotanical.org](mailto:rwolf@queensbotanical.org) or call 718-886-3800 ext. 230.

Sunday, March 20

### MARCH for the Earth

Celebrate the first day of spring - historical Earth Day - by joining us and other community groups for a day of volunteering and unity here at QBG and then at the Flushing Meadow-Corona Park Unisphere. Watch our website for details as the date nears.

Sunday, March 20th, 1 to 3pm

### MillionTreesNYC Street Tree Care Workshop

Attend our FREE tree care workshop to learn how you can help water and care for one of the over 400,000 new trees that have been planted across NYC with MillionTreesNYC! NYC Compost Project staff will also discuss how to improve street tree bed soil by creating your own compost! Pledge to take care of a specific street tree and get a FREE watering kit and volunteer card. Please be able to tell us where your tree is located. Registration is required: email [milliontreesnyc@queensbotanical.org](mailto:milliontreesnyc@queensbotanical.org) or call 718-886-3800 ext. 236.

Saturdays, March 26 thru June 11, 9:30am to Noon

### HSBC Children's Garden Spring Session

Children's imaginations and knowledge blossom as they plant and harvest vegetables and flowers, visit the bee garden and more!

(continued in next column...) 4



*Nandina domestica (Heavenly Bamboo)*

Photo by Shari Romar

### WHAT'S IN BLOOM?

"Hear! hear!" screamed the jay from a neighboring tree, where I had heard a tittering for some time, "winter has a concentrated and nutty kernel, if you know where to look for it."

~Henry David Thoreau

#### January

Christmas Rose

#### February

Snowdrop

Witch Hazel

Andromeda

#### March

Cornelian Cherry

Crocus

Siberian Squill

Border Forsythia

Fragrant Winterhazel

Buttercup Winterhazel

Glory-of-the-Snow

Skimmia

•••••

For ages 5-12 years. For information or to register, contact Rebecca Wolf at [rwolf@queensbotanical.org](mailto:rwolf@queensbotanical.org) or call 718-886-3800 ext. 230.

Sunday, March 27th, 1 to 3pm

### Spring Lawn Care

Fee: \$5

Spring is a critical time for lawn care. Join QBG's Patty Kleinberg, lawn care expert extraordinaire, for an important introduction to natural lawn care. Learn how to start the season right with important lessons and tips for maintaining a healthy lawn without the use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides. Registration is required.