

# Garden News



QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN NEWSLETTER

## DEFINITELY A GARDEN BUILDING

The physical distance from Queens Botanical Garden's old administration building to its new Visitor & Administration Center was about 100 feet, but the symbolic distance is enormous.

The Garden's former headquarters, built in 1963, was a simple block building, finished in brick and stone, with a low-pitched roof. Its most distinguished feature was the handsome fieldstone wall in the auditorium. Above all, it was a *park* building.

The new Visitor & Administration Center is definitely a *garden* building. Indeed, the garden is part of the building—the auditorium has a planted roof and a watercourse flows between two sections of the building. But more important, the V&A Center is a technological, philosophical, and emotional quantum leap. At a time when it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the doomsday implications of global warming, the Garden's new facility offers hope and comfort. It's a veritable encyclopedia of technologies that push architecture toward sustainability.

Visually, the structure parses into three parts: the shoebox-shaped main building, the wing-shaped terrace canopy, and the wedge-shaped auditorium. A critical fourth element is the landscaping that includes the watercourse, a constructed wetland that cleans and recycles water, and hundreds of native plants. The building is most impressive in the way it harmonizes interdependent systems to act gently on the environment. To cite just one example, graywater from its sinks and shower is cleaned by the constructed wetland and recycled in the building's public toilets.

BKSK Architects used wit and seduction to advocate green architecture, rather than just demonstrate it. In the sunken auditorium, a ribbon of windows gives insiders a frog's-eye view of the waterway. The terrace canopy is clad in zinc scales like a giant fish, a witty reference to the man-made stream that flows beneath it. The second-floor executive conference room has sliding glass doors that, when open, make the space feel like a tree house.

*continued on next page*

View from the northeast, Visitor & Administration Center, featuring the Green Roof



## SEPTEMBER

### 26 WEDNESDAY

Workshop: NYC Teacher "Wormshop,"  
5 to 7:30 pm

## OPENING WEEKEND EVENTS

### 29 SATURDAY

Workshops, Storytelling, Music, and Tours  
Ongoing from 12 noon each day

#### Highlights:

Rainsticks and Green Roof Activities for Kids  
7th Annual International Moon Festival, 6 to 8 pm

### 30 SUNDAY

Workshops, Storytelling, Music, and Tours  
Ongoing from 12 noon each day

#### Highlights:

Photography, Nature Art, and Composting  
Workshops for Families  
Concert: Bamba NY, 3 pm

See inside for more details.  
Visit [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org)  
for a complete schedule of offerings.

## OCTOBER

### 6 SATURDAY

Tour: openhouseQBG, 1 pm

### 7 SUNDAY

Tour: openhouseQBG, 1 pm

### 17 WEDNESDAY

Workshop: Composting in the City & Indoor  
Worm Composting, 6 to 8 pm

### 28 SUNDAY

Family Program: Pumpkin Patch, 1 to 4 pm

## NOVEMBER

### 7 WEDNESDAY

Workshop: Leaves—the Low-Cost,  
Low-Maintenance Landscaping Tool  
for Wintertime, 6 to 8 pm

### 17 SATURDAY

Workshop: Make Your Thanksgiving Tastefully  
Beautiful, 11 am to 1 pm

## DECEMBER

### 12 WEDNESDAY

Workshop: NYC Teacher "Wormshop,"  
5 to 7:30 pm

### 16 SUNDAY

Latkes and Lights! 1 to 3 pm

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

At last it has come to this celebratory moment—the official opening of our new green Visitor & Administration Center. When the ribbon is cut on September 27, we will usher in a new era at QBG.

Writing in *New York Construction* last February, a reporter observed: “One of the most environmentally advanced construction projects ever launched in New York City is taking place at the Queens Botanical Garden.” It is thrilling that this little garden in Queens, long in the shadow of its better-known sisters, has made a name for itself. QBG is at the leading edge of a phenomenon, a *green* phenomenon that is sweeping the nation.

The City of New York provided most of the funding for this innovative project. Now it is our challenge to utilize this investment to provide programs and services that the public feels compelled to invest in. In the coming months we will launch the QBG Store, a food service program, and the next round of curriculum development focusing on energy, plus much more.

It has been an amazing thirteen years that I have served as executive director. Many have helped us arrive at today.

Thank you for your on going support. I hope we may continue to count on you as these magical inaugural months unfold.

*Susan Lacerte, Executive Director*



View of north facade, featuring FSC certified cedar siding

*continued from previous page*

Other innovations are impressively high-tech, such as a geothermal system that heats and cools the interior by tapping an aquifer 300 feet below ground; roof-top photovoltaic cells that supply approximately 17% of the building's electricity; motion-control devices that turn lights on and off when someone enters or leaves a room; and composting toilets that relieve a bit of the stress on New York City's overburdened sewage system.

But many innovations are low-tech commonsense strategies that have been used throughout history in vernacular architecture but neglected over decades of fossil-fuel addiction. These include operable windows, eight-inch-thick insulation, and horizontal wooden slats on the exterior that protect the building's offices from solar heat. Called a *brise-soleil*, this shading device is commonly found in tropical architecture.

The Visitor & Administration Center has already won the Green Building Design Award from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. More awards are likely. Perhaps the most cherished award is in the future. If everything goes as planned, QBG's new building will be among the City's first to achieve the highest certification in sustainable architecture, a platinum LEED® rating as determined by the U.S. Green Building Council. By that time, it will be a must-see among aficionados of green buildings. But by any definition, it is a terrific gift to the Queens community and all of New York City.

*Scott Stefan, Director of Marketing*

**“We see the Visitor & Administration Center as a built expression of the Queens Botanical Garden's mission. While providing an iconic and welcoming gathering place for the community and a tool for interactive education, the building echoes and sustains the surrounding landscape.”**

Joan Krevlin, Partner, BKS Architects



### COMMUNICATING GREEN

New interpretive exhibits for QBG's Sustainable Landscapes and Buildings project incorporate icons to help highlight interesting facts throughout the buildings and landscapes. Keep a lookout for these icons on signage, touch screen displays, and interpretive markers!



## PROCESS AND PROGRESS

On April 30, about two weeks after staff moved into their new offices, Susan Lacerte, QBG's executive director, sat down to reminisce with three people deeply involved with the Visitor & Administration Center's construction: Jennifer Ward Souder, director of capital projects; Peter Sansone, operations and project manager; and Max Joel, capital projects coordinator. They met with Scott Stefan, director of marketing, in the executive conference room, a second-floor corner room that, with floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors, feels more like a tree house than an office.

*What was your biggest thrill during the 26 months of construction?*

**SL:** The biggest thrill for me was getting a hardhat. Actually, the biggest thrill was getting the first fully-permitted composting toilet in New York City (laughs).

**JWS:** After seeing blueprints for years, to actually watch the building take form was thrilling. But I have to say that almost every day was exciting. Something happened every day.

**MJ:** For me, the biggest thrill was watching the installation of the cistern. To see these thirty-foot concrete rings lifted by a crane and placed in the excavation was really impressive. They looked pristine....

**PS:** Yeah, the cistern is made of precision-molded concrete. The parts have to fit together precisely so the tank is watertight.

*What surprised you the most during construction?*

**JWS:** I was surprised by how critical it is to have teamwork on the site. Without it, nothing would happen.

**MJ:** I was surprised by how fast the canopy went up.

**SL:** I was surprised by how quickly Stonewall (the contractor who built the building) started construction. You're used to hearing that city construction moves slowly. The day after we signed the contract



Peter Sansone, Jennifer Ward Souder, Susan Lacerte, and Max Joel

in Manhattan, Stonewall showed up to begin work! They put up fencing that day.

**PS:** When you construct a building, an interesting thing happens. You start with a hole in the ground. First the hole gets bigger and bigger and then gradually smaller and smaller as the building goes up.

**MJ:** That's right. At each stage the building shrinks. It looks huge in excavation, then as construction goes on, it takes on a smaller precise form.

*What was the most interesting phase of construction?*

**PS:** Excavation was really interesting. The Garden was built on a landfill, so all kinds of stuff showed up.

**MJ:** We found the remnants of a gas station, old-fashioned tiles, doorknobs, white-wall tires—lots of stuff.

**JWS:** For me, the concrete pours were really interesting. It takes months of preparation but the actual pour happens quickly because concrete is a timed exercise. The logistics of an elephant pump are very tricky. It's like choreography. Everyone has to work together to make it happen. A lot of work went into salvaged hemlock forms for the auditorium. When it was all finished, it was a big relief.

*How did the building's green design affect construction?*

**JWS:** You're doing new things—that requires more meetings. Some parts of the job were new to the project team, such as installing photovoltaic cells. It requires an additional level of coordination, so we had to create new systems for smoothing things out. Everyone learned a lot on this job.

*This interview is reprinted in part from the Garden's 12th Annual Rose Ball journal. Read the complete story at [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org).*

**“This project created a shift in awareness for me of green construction and renewable energy. This will help change our business plan to incorporate more green construction and renewable energy projects. It has made me motivated to pursue this more on my own. I am starting construction of a green house for myself.”**

Danny Sawh, President,  
Stonewall Contracting Corporation



## NEW EXHIBITS FOR A NEW BUILDING

The new Visitor & Administration Center has many interesting and innovative features. How can the Garden tell the story of the many environmental and cultural connections that make this building and the gardens around it unique?

The answer: with a group of new exhibits that showcase the extraordinary materials, methods, and systems at work “behind the scenes.”

### Please Touch

With such a big story to tell and such a small space for exhibits, the Garden turned to technology to help visitors learn about the project’s goals. Positioned on a corridor wall just inside the west entrance of the new building are two touch screens, one at adult level and one at child height (and also ADA-compliance height), that display a colorful, interactive presentation about the building. The complete content of the displays is shown in English, Chinese,

Spanish, and Korean, so that as many visitors as possible may enjoy the presentation.

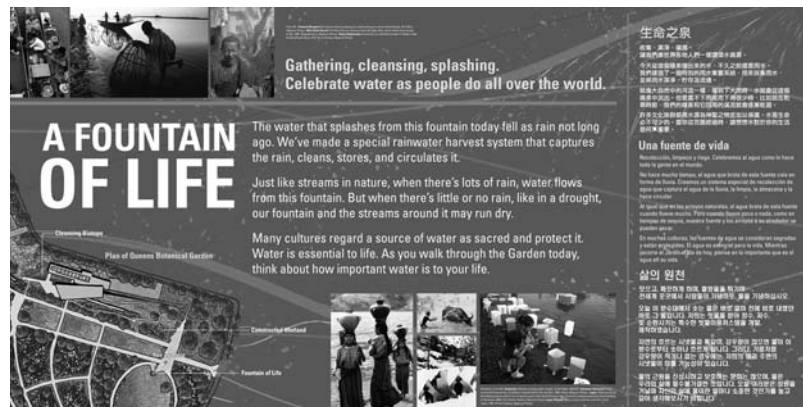
“The touch screen displays let visitors explore the features of the building and landscapes in a fun, engaging way,” says Max Joel, capital projects coordinator. “Just by touching the screen, visitors can virtually move throughout the building and learn about what may be hidden from view. There are even animated sections that show how solar panels work and how plants grow through photosynthesis.

“It’s almost like playing a video game,” adds Max.

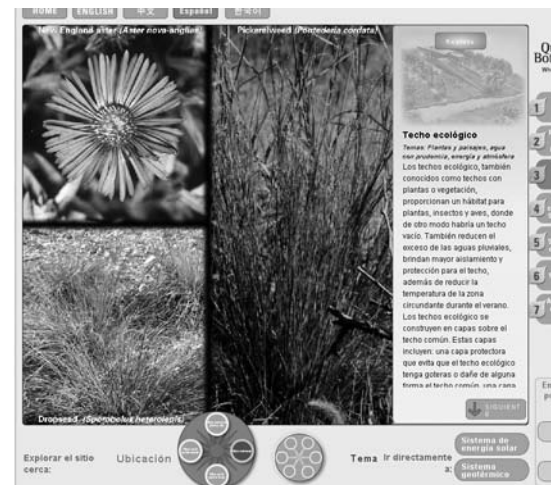
Despite the high-tech graphics, the displays are meant to be educational. Visitors may learn about subjects as varied as non-toxic paint, geothermal heating and cooling, green roofs, and symbolic meanings of bamboo. By showing the connections between the global environment, the communities in which we live, and our own personal health, the touch screen displays help encourage people to make everyday decisions that are environmentally responsible.

### Gathering By Water

A second exhibit, Gathering By Water, is found outside the new building. Interpretive panels by the Cleansing Biotope, Constructed Wetland, and Rainwater Fountain explain the new building’s unique water systems and the incredible biological processes that sustain them. They also reveal the importance of water to cultures around the world and the need to preserve clean water as a resource.



Newly installed interpretive panels appear in multiple languages.



An image still from the Garden's new interpretive touch screen display, designed in collaboration with Fat Spaniel Technologies, Inc.



**“Together with QBG staff, my office and I worked to develop much-needed multi-lingual way-finding and interpretive signs that tell stories central to the Garden's mission: about people, plants, and cultures; the importance of water in people's lives around the world; and 'green design' as practiced right here at QBG.”**

Paul Bluestone,  
Bluestone Design  
Associates

Interpretive Wayfinding and Exhibits are sponsored in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services; Independence Community Foundation; Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.; KeySpan Energy; Hudson River Foundation, NYC Environmental Fund; and New York State's Community Capital Assistance Program.



# Development

## 12TH ANNUAL ROSE BALL

The Garden has done it again! Thanks to our wonderful members, corporate friends, and other supporters, the 12th Annual Rose Ball on June 12 was an unqualified success. The Garden raised 30% more than in previous years to sustain our education programs and keep our gardens beautiful for visitors.

We thank honoree Daniel R. Tishman and Environmental Stewardship Award recipient Lynden B. Miller for their support of our efforts; the members of the Rose Ball Planning Committee—board chair Frank C. Macchio and trustees Rachel Sha and Jae Shin—for their work on behalf of the Garden; and membership secretary Carol Tyrie, for 30 years of volunteer service to QBG.

*Special thanks to our sponsors of the 12th Annual Rose Ball; we are grateful for their support of our work.*

### Event Sponsor

Tishman Construction Corporation

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Patricia Olmstead, *Urban Explorations*

Cesar Perez

The Port Authority of NY & NJ

Renée Ring and Paul Zofnass

Rachel Sha and Chun Wa Ko

John Wu,

*Profit Real Estate, Inc.*

### NEW GRANTS

Queens Botanical Garden expresses its gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their support of the Garden's operations and programs:

#### Lily Auchincloss Foundation:

\$20,000 in support of general operations

#### Consolidated Edison Company of New York:

\$15,000 for energy exhibit

#### Richard R. Aurelio:

\$10,000 in support of general operations

#### Hyde and Watson Foundation:

\$10,000 for green roof instrumentation

#### Roslyn Savings Foundation:

\$10,000 for a family guide

#### Walter Kaner Children's Foundation:

\$7,500 in support of special needs programs and an intern

#### Astoria Federal Savings:

\$5,000 for seasonal sponsorship of the Herb Garden and Wedding Garden

### Government

**NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Office of the Mayor, and the City Council:** \$1 million through the City Council adopted budget, in support of general operations, plus \$50,000 through the **Queens Delegation** and **Councilmember Domenic Recchia** for enhanced collections care and maintenance and security personnel

**NYC Councilmember John Liu:** \$5,000 to support extended summer hours

**New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation:**

**Zoos, Botanical Gardens, and Aquariums (ZBGA) Grant Program:**

\$98,865 for collections care and interpretation

**Awards from the New York State Legislature**

**Assemblymembers Jeff Aubrey, Margaret Markey, Audrey Pheffer, and Mark Weprin:** \$55,000 in capital funding for the "Green Trail"

**The Care of Trees:** \$5,000 in support of general operations

**Sarah I. Schieffelin Residuary Trust:** \$5,000 in support of general operations

**Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc.:** \$4,300 for an electric vehicle

**City Gardens Club of New York:** \$2,500 in support of the Woodland Garden renovation and horticulture

#### Pfizer Volunteer Program:

\$1,000 award in recognition of employee volunteerism by Senior Gardener Joe Kvietkus

**Senator Frank Padavan:** \$40,000 for community outreach

**Assemblymember Ivan Lafayette:** \$13,500 for education programs

**Senator Serphin R. Maltese:** \$11,000 for community outreach

**Assemblymember Ellen Young:** \$3,000 for the opening of the Garden's new building

**Assemblymembers Catherine Nolan, Nettie Mayersohn, and Mark Weprin:** \$1,000 each for master plan update

### Healthy Interiors:

During construction, the ventilation system and ductwork were protected from dust and contamination before, during, and after installation. This improves Indoor Air Quality and helps protect the respiratory health of staff and visitors.



Susan Lacerte, Daniel R. Tishman, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Lynden B. Miller, and Frank C. Macchio





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: NORMAN MILLER

World War II veteran Norman Miller has been a volunteer at QBG since 1997, when he first came to the Garden to work in the greenhouse. Now he can be found “all over the place,” tending the Wedding Garden and surrounding perennial borders, and weeding and cultivating other areas as needed. He is a skilled home gardener who grows grapes and makes jellies, enjoys woodworking and carving, and admits an addiction to Sudoku puzzles. He is also an avid world traveler. “Norman enjoys traveling to Europe and beyond, but I don’t like to see him stray too far from QBG, because he is my favorite volunteer,” notes supervisor of gardeners Marianne Kristoff.

Corporate Membership  
Consolidated Edison Company of New York:  
\$10,000

Individual Support  
QBG expresses its sincere gratitude to the following friends for supporting our work. This list represents gifts of \$100 or more made between January 18 and June 25, 2007. We thank all of our donors for gifts at any level.

**\$1,000 to \$4,500**  
Magda Salvesen+

**\$500 to \$999**  
Sidney Kalugin

**\$250 to \$499**  
Susan Lacerte\* and Archie Hobson

**\$100 to \$249**  
Norman Bluestone  
Marjorie D. Ferrigno  
Marianne Giacalone\*  
Arthur Morgan

+ denotes a member of the QBG Board of Trustees

\* denotes a member of QBG staff

In-Kind Support  
QBG is grateful to Frank Bulfamonte & Sons, Inc. for helping staff with the preparation and planting of the redesigned Cherry Circle. Many thanks to board member Catherine Redd for this introduction!

Thanks to The Care of Trees for providing analysis and preventative services for QBG's trees.

## IN MEMORIAM

QBG mourns the passing of plant and garden lover Martin Kaltman, a longtime friend of executive director Susan Lacerte. Mr. Kaltman had a business, Queens Litho, based in Long Island City, for many years and, in the 1960s, printed all the record jackets for the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. He and Ms. Lacerte met when he advertised for someone to help write a new book on gardening. Later, Mr. Kaltman helped fund QBG’s first publication, *Harvesting Our History*. He especially appreciated Japanese Maples, Rhododendrons, and fragrant plants and funded the planting of QBG’s Fragrance Walk.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

**In memory of  
Louise D. Angelides**  
Helen Angelides

**In memory of  
Sunni Behrman**  
Fred Gerber

**In memory of  
Julie Graf**  
Ms. Marian Robinson

**In memory of  
Ali Hagedorn**  
Janet Schneider and  
Michael Sperendi

**In memory of  
Martin Kaltman**  
Manfred and Ardella  
Bormann

Hannah Brichta  
Philip and Sylvia  
Brownstein

Johanna Burkhardt  
Morris and Leona  
Deutsch

Charles and Cynthia  
Drucker  
Yvette Feil

Bradley and Melissa  
Fischman

Terry and Elissa Hirsch  
Stuart and Isabel  
Kessler

Naomi Lane  
David and Marjorie  
Leary

Matthew Lifflander  
David Miller

Arthur Nevid  
Stuart and Lois  
Rubenstein  
Gerald and Arlene  
Sanders  
Muriel Scotto  
Regina and Philip Stone  
Emanuel and  
Evelyn Ungar  
Robert and Marjorie  
Winick

**In memory of  
Sarah Meyer**  
Carol F. Hutchins  
George and  
Christine Lee  
Ruth Lord

**In memory of  
Christine Spigner**

William and Huong  
Cheung  
Peter F. Chiu

Davidoff Malito &  
Hutcher, LLP/Arthur  
Goldstein

District 29 UFT  
Greater Jamaica  
Development Corp.

John Hopkins  
Honorable Serphin R.  
Maltese

Honorable Catherine  
Nolan

Honorable Audrey  
Pheffer

Barbara Silberman  
UFCW Local 1500

## MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Elise Laney, who celebrates her 99th birthday on September 27, the day of QBG’s ribbon-cutting for its new building! According to Garden records, Ms. Laney is QBG’s member of longest standing. She first came to the Garden to participate in an adult education class, became a member on April 13, 1964, and has been one ever since!

**New Members**  
(through July 11, 2007)

Dorothy Bachop  
Kevin Brown and  
Christina Hogan  
Theresa Lee Chue  
Jin De Ran  
Charles and Cynthia  
Drucker  
Jacqueline Fazio  
Bernie Gilbard  
Thomas Hayes  
Yi (Christy) He  
Bruce Herlich  
Holly, Wood & Vine Ltd.  
Delana Kaahend  
Juana Kilian  
Tai May Lee  
Yolanda Miller  
Queens Botanical  
Garden Tai Chi  
Alfred Rosenblatt  
Maggie Soobbrattie  
Scott Stefan

## GREEN TEENS

Wondering who those smiling young people wearing bright green T-shirts were at QBG this summer? Why, this year's group of summer interns, a.k.a. the Green Teens! Twenty local high school and college students who had in common a passion for the environment, worked with staff members to keep the Garden beautiful and running throughout the hottest days of summer. The interns were involved in all aspects of the Garden, from weeding in the Wedding Garden to creating press kits. Additional duties included helping young participants in HSBC Children's Garden and assisting our development and capital projects staffs. Our Green Teens participated in weekly enrichment activities such as trips, workshops, and lectures. Guest lecturers included representatives from Whole Foods Market and American Express, who spoke about the benefits of organic foods and financial responsibility.



(1st row, l. to r.) Natalie Ramroop, Pratima Bhattacharyya, Christina Cephus, Jessica Li, Khudeja Wardak, Shirley Cheng, Zhen Huang, Kevin Fuchs

(2nd row, l. to r.) Samuel Budin, Shante Dickson, Jeffrey Maiorino, Issa Duncan, Ross Stackhouse, Subrina Moorley, Mariyam Salley, Elissa Mopper

Missing: Ariana Aronis, Jenny Choi, and Danny Martinez

Now in its second year, our eight-week summer program was made possible with support from the Altman Foundation, the Walter Kaner Children's Foundation, and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program. This was also the first summer we employed interns from the Lexington School for the Deaf, with assistance from the Department of Education's Referral and Placement Center.

Thank you and congratulations to our Green Teens for a job well done!

*Sheila Raj, Internship Coordinator*

## STAFF NEWS

QBG welcomes back **Karen Simonson** as director of finance and administration. Karen resumes her old role after leaving the Garden to raise daughter Rebecca and working part-time for the Linden Trust for Conservation.

**Scott Stefan**, new director of marketing, has been a graphic designer, art director, and marketing executive with a long career in advertising. Three campaigns that he created are still on the air: OppenheimerFunds, Lean Cuisine, and Dr. Scholl's (the Gellin' campaign).

**Nicole De Feo** joined the staff at the end of June as capital projects assistant. Nicole recently returned from work in Kenya for the Foundation for Sustainable Development. She previously worked for Form Architecture + Interiors in Manhattan and interned in QBG's horticulture department.

New development and marketing assistant **Tammy Ho** completed her graduate coursework in government and politics in January 2007 at St. John's University. While pursuing her master's, she worked as the Sustainable Development & Population Programme intern at Parliamentarians for Global Action in Manhattan.

**Sophia Warsh** joined QBG as an assistant gardener in April. Sophia has previous experience in private landscaping and gardening in our region and earned her bachelor's degree at Bennington College in Vermont.

**Elizabeth Mooney** and **Gabriel Forestieri** have also joined the horticulture staff as plant records interns.

Putting QBG's green housekeeping practices into effect is new part-time custodian **Pedro Vasquez**. He has been specially trained to implement a protocol developed by operations and project manager Peter Sansone for cleaning the Garden's new Visitor & Administration Center.

**Goodbye and Thank You** Capital projects coordinator **Max Joel**, who contributed several years of hard work and creativity to QBG's capital projects and exhibits, has moved on to pursue his Master of Environmental Management at Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

After five years as an attendant guard, **Freddy Fernandez** leaves to complete his studies in automotive technology at Lincoln Technical Institute. Freddy will also be interning at an auto dealership this fall.



**"I grew up in Queens and had been to this Garden many times as a child. It's nice to be part of the new QBG. It's an interesting project since it's not strictly architectural but also incorporates green spaces."**

Jeremy Lockard, Senior Design Project Manager,  
NYC Department of Design & Construction



Scott, Pedro, Nicole, and Tammy



#### Water Wise:

Our restrooms include no-flow and low-flow plumbing fixtures that conserve clean water. The public toilets on the first floor of the Visitor & Administration Center are supplied by graywater recycled in the Constructed Wetland, and the second floor is home to two composting toilets that require very little water.

#### WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER TODAY?

To learn about the benefits of membership, visit [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org) or call 718.886.3800 ext. 213.

#### Adoption Program

The Children's Health Fund has adopted a Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) in memory of Belle Simon. The plant is along the Fragrance Walk.

Christine and Sheila Singh have adopted a Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) in memory of Pasram Singh. The tree is in the Woodland Garden.

The NYC College Assistants, Local 2054 DC 37 AFSCME has adopted a Miss Kim Lilac (*Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim') in memory of Pamela Lilley. The plant is along the Fragrance Walk.

Jenny Yu and family have adopted a Limber Pine (*Pinus flexilis* 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid') in the Pinetum in memory of Ko Lai and Wen Shu Yu.

QBG will soon announce a new bench adoption program. To get us started, Rose Ball attendees bid on the new seating at the gala's silent auction. Thank you to honoree Daniel Tishman for inaugurating the Terrace with a lovely handcrafted bench, and to Emily Lin, Frank Macchio, and Renée Ring, whose winning bids will help QBG install new benches in various garden areas.

For more information, please contact Tim Heimerle, director of development, at 718.886.3800 ext. 330 or via e-mail at [theimerle@queensbotanical.org](mailto:theimerle@queensbotanical.org).



## Education

### EXPANDING HORIZONS: 2007 HSBC CHILDREN'S GARDEN

The HSBC Children's Garden is a fun and exciting hands-on program where children ages 5 to 14 plant, play, observe, and learn together in a nurturing environment. This year, the program was redesigned to be more exciting for kids and more helpful for parents, with full- and extended-day summer sessions. Additionally, we held spring and fall sessions, creating wonderful and exciting experiences in each season.

During the spring, our young gardeners spent Saturday mornings preparing the garden by turning the soil, propagating seeds, weeding, and of course, doing a lot of watering! They explored the greenhouse and helped transplant seedlings into outdoor vegetable beds. They learned about natural insect control through the release of ladybugs and the benefits of reducing waste by making their own recycled paper.

The summer was filled with adventure! Children tended their crops each morning, watering, cultivating, composting, deadheading, and staking. During the afternoon, our Green Team explored the entire Queens Botanical Garden. They used binoculars to discover the arboretum, cooked in a solar oven, enjoyed flower walks, dug for worms, and created bird feeders to take home. Special guests included artist Alessandra Nichols and Harley Spiller, a.k.a. Inspector Collector, among others.

Our fall participants have lots of harvesting to do! All those veggies from the summer, and no place to go—except our bellies! During autumn, we're learning about healthy nutrition, exploring the changing leaves, and helping to put the garden to sleep for the winter. This is a great chance for the children to see how well their crops did.

Special thanks go to our interns and above all, to instructors Jonathan Mui and Wing Yi Kung. I look forward to another year of gardening, another year of kids, and another year of beautiful flowers and yummy vegetables!

We hope that you'll join us in 2008!

*Children's Garden coordinator Rebecca Wolf can be reached at 718.886.3800 ext. 229 or [rwolf@queensbotanical.org](mailto:rwolf@queensbotanical.org).*

QBG thanks HSBC in the Community (USA) Inc. for continuing its lead support of the Children's Garden in 2007. Additional support was provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the Zoos, Botanical Gardens, and Aquariums Grant Program of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation; and Walter Kaner Children's Foundation.

Flower beds bring butterflies to the Children's Garden!



## Dear Flora

Q. I'm quite concerned about bees. I don't see as many bees in my garden and I've been hearing about colony collapse. It sounds awful. Will my garden be affected? What about the global impact?  
~ Buzzing About Bees

A. There has been a lot in the news lately concerning colony collapse disorder. According to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, millions of honeybees have disappeared from 35 states—a decline that could cost the country up to \$90 billion in agricultural losses. The cause remains a mystery but it is important to know that this decline started about ten years ago. There are many possible contributors to the decline and more research is needed. Support for that research will hopefully come from the federal government as the Farm, Nutrition, and Community Investment Act has money earmarked to address this problem and there is a proposed bill in Congress called the Pollinator Protection Act.

Obviously the biggest impact of this mysterious honeybee disappearance is on commercial agriculture, so you should not see much difference in your backyard flower garden. There are many pollinators in the natural environment. Butterflies are everyone's favorite pollinator but there are also others such as flies, beetles, and solitary bees, to name a few, that flit from flower to flower seeking nectar. The most important thing you can do is provide a pollinator-friendly landscape by offering plants with nectar-laden flowers and herbs, such as fennel, that attract these beneficial insects. A shallow pool of water or well-maintained birdbath is helpful, too.

Pesticides and other chemicals can and will kill any insect—good or bad. Most insects are good and many of the good guys eat the bad ones. Eliminate the use of these products and your yard will be a haven for all these wonderful creatures.

*Have a gardening question for Flora? Contact her at [education@queensbotanical.org](mailto:education@queensbotanical.org).*

### Plants and Landscape:

The green roof provides an additional habitat for native plant species, insects, and birds, while reducing stormwater runoff and providing extra roof protection and insulation for the auditorium below.

BLOOM CALENDAR

Here's a sampling of what you'll find in bloom this season at QBG, as well as those plants having fall color or ornamental interest.

#### Late September

Japanese Anemone, Autumn Clematis, Aster, Chrysanthemum, Blue Lobelia, Turtle Head, Sedum, Bluebeard, Toad Lily, Gloryflower, False-Holly

#### October

Rose, Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, Anemone, Aster, Sedum, Hydrangea, Goldenrod, Chinese Sumac

Fall foliage: Maple, Sweetgum, Witch Hazel, Dogwood

#### November

Ornamental grass, flowering cabbage and kale, Common Witch Hazel, Crabapple

#### December

Holly, Japanese Skimmia, Cotoneaster, Dogwood, Dogwood Redtwig, Paperbark Maple, River Birch, Stewartia, Crape Myrtle

## THE GARDEN HAS LAUNCHED ITS NEW WEBSITE!

Log on to [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org) to check out our exciting new look. Visit us regularly online to find out about the latest upcoming programs and workshops, discover what's in bloom in the Garden, learn about our new sustainable Visitor & Administration Center, or simply browse our pages to see what we're all about at QBG.

## OPENING SOON: THE QBG STORE

Green your hearth and home with unique, eco-friendly gifts and decorative items inspired by nature and the people, plants, and cultures of Queens. Watch for the opening of the QBG Store in the lobby of the new Visitor & Administration Center this fall. Check QBG's website for the latest update.

**“Playing the lead role in Essie's Great Adventure was a fun experience. It was cool to pretend to be a worm and at the same time be able to teach children about the importance of worms and how good they are for the soil.”**

Dominiqua Byrd, education intern, on her acting debut at QBG in June



Dominiqua Byrd, QBG's Walter Kaner Children's Foundation intern, with director of education Patty Kleinberg (l.) and Foundation board member Betty Scott

### Materials and Resources:

Dark surfaces like asphalt and tar roofing absorb heat from the sun and contribute to a hotter microclimate known as urban heat island effect. Our light-colored pavers reflect sunlight, while planted surfaces keep the site cool through plant respiration.



# Events

## OPENING WEEKEND!

### VISITOR & ADMINISTRATION CENTER

Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30  
Events ongoing from 12 noon each day

Celebrate the official arrival of green at QBG! Join us for a weekend of activities for children and adults, including multilingual tours of the new Visitor & Administration Center, workshops on green roof construction, composting, and solar energy, music, exhibits, and more.

See our Calendar of Events at [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org) for a complete schedule of offerings.

Queens County Savings Bank, a Division of New York Community Bank, is Lead Sponsor for the Opening Celebration. Additional support has been provided by New York State Assemblymember Ellen Young and the Rotary Club of Flushing.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Events are free. Materials fees for workshops may apply.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- Rainsticks and Green Roof Activities for Kids
- Professionals Tour, 12 noon
- 7th Annual International Moon Festival, 6 to 8 pm (Bring a blanket or a chair.)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- Photography, Nature Art, and Composting Workshops for Families
- Professionals Tour, 2 pm
- Concert: Bamba NY, 3 pm

## ALLEY POND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER'S NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 29, 11 am to 4 pm, Free

In celebration of National Estuaries Day, Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC), in Douglaston, hosts its third Little Neck Bay Festival, with exhibits, children's activities, and talks. QBG staff will be on hand to highlight stormwater management and other sustainable strategies, such as composting, that the Garden uses in its daily practices. For directions and more information, call APEC at 718.229.4000 or visit [www.alleypond.com](http://www.alleypond.com).

### TOUR: OPENHOUSEQBG

Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7, 1 pm, Free  
*Reservations required*

In conjunction with [openhousenewyork.org](http://openhousenewyork.org), QBG will open behind-the-scenes areas of the Visitor & Administration Center to the public. Joan Krevlin, BKSK Architects, and Jennifer Ward Souder, capital projects director, will give this exclusive tour showcasing the environmentally friendly side of the building. The tour will include a walk on the green roof, a visit to staff offices, and a look at the geothermal system. Please call Nicole De Feo at 718.886.3800 ext. 223 to register. For information about events citywide, visit [www.openhousenewyork.org](http://www.openhousenewyork.org).

## PUMPKIN PATCH

Sunday, October 28, 1 to 4 pm

Fee: \$5 per child (includes pumpkin and activities)

The Children's Garden becomes a spooky pumpkin patch, with Count Dracula and friends on hand to entertain families while kids paint their pumpkins and create Green-Haired Monsters to take home. This year's Pumpkin Patch includes a special Compost Project Show & Tell. Halloween treats are included.



## FARMERS MARKET

Fridays, 8:30 am to 4 pm

Through November 9

From summer through mid fall, QBG hosts a farmers market featuring a range of locally grown produce from upstate New York. Alex's Tomato Farm and The Migliorelli Farm return weekly with a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables available for purchase. Visit them in QBG's parking lot.

## QBG CRAFT SALES

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 am to 12 noon,  
by appointment

Renowned for their exquisite artistry, members of QBG's Craft Group design floral creations for all occasions. Fragrant dried flower arrangements make thoughtful holiday, wedding, and house-warming gifts, while pressed flower art frames beautifully display birth announcements, wedding invitations, and photos. Visit their workshop in the Compost Trailer. Call 718.886.3800 ext. 200 for more information.

### Cultural Connections:

The wall rising from our building's lobby to the second floor is made of reformed bamboo. A symbol of longevity in China and friendship in India, bamboo holds numerous significant symbolic meanings and is highlighted in the mythology and folklore of many cultures.





## EXHIBIT: PROJECT DIVERSITY QUEENS

On view through October 26

Lobby, Visitor & Administration Center

In conjunction with the opening of its new Visitor & Administration Center, the Garden is pleased to participate in Queens Council on the Arts' Project Diversity, a multi-venue exhibition of works across all visual media by scores of Queens artists, being shown at galleries and art spaces throughout the borough this fall.

The Garden's exhibit features paintings, drawings, and sculpture by Maeve D'Arcy, Cathleen Grado, Yukiko Kobayashi, Joungja Lee, Aegi Changsuk Park, and Kim Eng Yeo. Each artist is represented by one or two works.

### Energy and Atmosphere:

The Visitor & Administration Center uses a Digital Addressable Lighting Interface (DALI) system to control the building's artificial lights. The light levels are automatically adjusted in each area based on available natural light and the presence of occupants, thereby reducing energy use.

Project Diversity Queens was conceived by Queens-born artist and gallery owner Danny Simmons, co-founder/vice chair of Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, and developed in partnership with Hoong Yee Lee Krakauer, executive director, Queens Council on the Arts, and key members of Queens' cultural community.



## COMPOST WORKSHOPS

These workshops are provided free of charge or for a nominal fee, thanks to funding from the NYC Department of Sanitation. Pre-registration is recommended at least one week in advance. Call 718.886.3800 ext. 222.

### NYC TEACHER "WORMSHOP": WORM BIN HABITAT IN THE CLASSROOM

Wednesdays, September 26 & December 12 (repeat) 5 to 7:30 pm, Fee: \$10

Open to all NYC schoolteachers grades K to 12

Discover the benefits of having a worm bin in your classroom, an excellent hands-on, inquiry-based activity to teach biology, ecology, environmental science, recycling, and responsibility. Learn great facts about earthworms and how to set up a worm bin, feed worms with food scraps, and maintain the system effectively to use the bin as a cross-curricular teaching tool. Teachers will receive a bin, a voucher for worms, and three useful texts—a value well over \$50.

### COMPOSTING IN THE CITY & INDOOR WORM COMPOSTING

Wednesday, October 17, 6 to 8 pm

Leaves, kitchen scraps, garden trimmings, and weeds can all become garden gold through composting. This class covers the essentials. See how making dark, rich, crumbly compost

doesn't take much time, work, or space. Following the workshop, participants may purchase compost supplies at subsidized prices.

### LEAVES—THE LOW-COST, LOW-MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPING TOOL FOR WINTERTIME

Wednesday, November 7, 6 to 8 pm

Most homeowners rake up and bag their leaves, which is like throwing free mulch in the trash. Leaves deter weeds, reduce erosion, improve infiltration of rainfall, prevent surface crusting, moderate soil temperatures, and, when they decompose, return nutrients to the soil. Learn how to make leaves work for you and discover other techniques to winterize your landscape or garden.

### MAKE YOUR THANKSGIVING TASTEFULLY BEAUTIFUL

Saturday, November 17, 11 am to 1 pm

Join us for Thanksgiving crafts and foods! Learn about the First Americans, exchange traditions and recipes, make a decoration from natural materials, and learn how to compost for an environmentally conscious celebration.

### LATKES AND LIGHTS!

Sunday, December 16, 1 to 3 pm

The days are getting shorter and so the need for lights...and LATKES! Sample yummy potato patties with applesauce at QBG's festive event and learn how to compost the food scraps.



COMPOST WORKSHOPS

Printed with soy-based inks on New Leaf Imagination paper, 100% recycled, 100% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine free, ancient forest friendly, and manufactured with wind power. Forest Stewardship Council certified.



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. The New York City Council and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation provide a portion of the Garden's general operating funds. The Queens Borough President and Queens' elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding. Corporations, foundations, and individuals provide additional support.





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

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Flushing NY



**OPENING  
WEEKEND  
CELEBRATION!**

September 29 and 30  
See inside for details!

New Visitor & Administration Center,  
view of Main Entrance and Terrace Canopy

**QBG HAS LAUNCHED ITS NEW WEBSITE!**  
Visit [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org).



**Garden Offices and Visitor Information**  
718.886.3800

**Autumn Hours (Through October)**  
Tuesday through Friday, 8 am to 6 pm  
Saturday and Sunday, 8 am to 7 pm

**Winter Hours (November through March)**  
Tuesday through Sunday, 8 am to 4:30 pm  
Closed Mondays year-round  
except legal holidays

**Admission**  
Free. Donations welcomed.

**Parking**  
\$5; \$3 members (depending on level of support)  
Days and hours vary by season.

**Plant Information**  
Tuesday, 9 am to 4 pm, ext. 200

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

**QBG Website**  
[www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.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.

GENERAL INFORMATION