

Garden news

QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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Queens
Botanical Garden

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355
718.886.3800 www.queensbotanical.org

Green Jobs Training Program at Queens Botanical Garden

Queens Botanical Garden (QBG) does “green” very well and has been doing so for many years. With a core mission of education and the Garden’s extensive green experience specifically in the areas of composting and sustainable landscapes, plus being home to the first public green building in New York City to be LEED® Platinum certified by the U.S. Green Building Council, QBG is ideally positioned to provide green jobs training.

Director of Education and Deputy Director of the Garden, Patty Kleinberg, is the leader of this innovative program. She is ably supported by Senior Museum Instructor Gennadyi Gurman who serves as curriculum developer and instructor.

The Port Authority of NY & NJ has provided multi-year funding for this training program. The Port Authority is demonstrating strong leadership by funding green jobs training for the residents of New York and New Jersey and great faith in QBG’s ability to provide authentic and relevant training. QBG’s training partner, LaGuardia Community College, has a demonstrated track record of offering vocational trainings and job placement assistance. LaGuardia will handle all the recruitment and processing of participants and provide the introductory basics required for the Green Jobs Training. The basics include a 3-day Key Concepts class and 10-hour OSHA training session.

The program is free to participants who are out of work and have at least a GED or high school diploma. Career changers are also welcome to this full-time training that runs in discreet modules on weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm. Training modules commence this fall and are repeated into 2013.

The areas of training include Waste Management, Sustainable Landscape Design and Maintenance, Green Building Design and Maintenance, and Green Cleaning. QBG has tapped into a network of professionals who work in these fields to serve as training partners and mentors. The trainings are very hands-on and provide relevant skills and content knowledge that are important in the emerging green fields as well as established job sectors.

In the Waste Management module, participants will learn about the handling and recycling of e-waste, waste cooking oil, food and yard waste, paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, metals, and other components of the waste stream. (cont. on p. 3)

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The Visitor & Administration Building will serve as a perfect classroom to teach Green Building Design and Maintenance as well as Green Cleaning techniques.

Photo by Jeff Goldberg/ESTO





ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS



Dear Flora,

I love to see flowers in my garden in spring, the first sign that the cold winter months are truly over. Friends have told me spring flowering bulbs are easy and will provide a tapestry of colors for me. But how and when should I plant them? Signed, Yearning for Color

Dear Yearning,

There is a variety of spring flowering bulbs that can provide a long period of interest from early April through May with careful selection.

Most of these early flowering bulbs require fall planting (October/November), as they need some time in the soil to establish and grow roots before the ground freezes in our New York zone 7. This period of cold (vernalization) is also an important trigger that initiates the flowering process of daffodils and tulips.

The correct planting depth of bulbs varies and is very specific to the type and variety of bulb you choose; but the rule of thumb is to plant the bulb at a depth twice that of its height, so the average daffodil bulb which is about 3" high should be planted about 6" deep. If in doubt you should ask an informed sales person at your local garden center or read packaging materials carefully for planting directions.

Fertilization is optional as bulbs are little parcels of joy that come complete with everything they need inside for growth and development. You can however sprinkle a little Super phosphate into each planting hole. That will assist quicker root development.

There really is not much more than this to basic bulb planting except to sit back with a hot chocolate on those frosty winter mornings in anticipation of the first green tips to reveal themselves in spring.

Queens Botanical Garden

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355
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, Students with ID and Children (ages 3 to 12) \$2. Free on Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 6 pm and Sunday afternoons from 4 to 6 pm. Free all day from November 1 through March 31.

Parking

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

Plant Information

Tuesday, 9 am to 4 pm, ext. 200

Compost Information

718.539.LAWN(5296) or
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. 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.

Garden News

Annette Fanara - Editor

Contributors - Patty Kleinberg, Karl McKoy, Darcy Hector, Shari Romar, Regina Forlenza, Hannah Libraty, Jen Kline Susan Lacerte - Executive Director



around the garden

QBG NEWS AND NOTES



Harvest Fest and Pumpkin Patch on October 16

Queens Botanical Garden will usher in the autumn months with the Harvest Fest & Pumpkin Patch celebration on Sunday, October 16, from noon to 4:30pm. The family-friendly event will celebrate the season with food, live bluegrass music, storytelling, poetry readings, garden workshops and tours, children's activities, as well as a variety of vendors and a beer tent.

The day kicks-off at noon with a Garden Tour and Bird Walk, led by Susan Lacerte, Executive Director, and QBG resident avian-enthusiast, Shari Romar.

At 12:30pm the Fresh Meadows Poets, a favorite of QBG visitors, return to read their original poetry, followed by a musical performance by the bluegrass band, The Birdhive Boys at 1:15pm.

Professional storyteller Bobby Gonzalez takes the stage at 2:45pm, highlighting tales from Native American and Latino cultures.

Finally, at 3:15pm Lonesome Moonlight String Band closes the day with music at the performance stage.

QBG's popular Pumpkin Patch runs from 1 to 4pm and will offer children the opportunity to select a pumpkin for \$3, decorate it, then participate in other activities including seed plantings, paper folding, and face painting. The National Children's Study (www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov) will also offer activities like vegetable printmaking and hula-hoop contests.

Bulb planting, composting and other gardening related workshops will be presented. Famous Dave's BBQ options will be available for purchase along with items from other food vendors. A beer tent will be open to visitors 21 years and older.

Activities and workshops (except Pumpkin Patch) are free with admission, which is \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 children and free for QBG members.

Bring the whole family and friends for this festive day at the Garden!



New Green Jobs Training Program *(cont. from p. 1)*

Regulations and requirements affecting the various sectors of waste generation are covered and will prepare participants for job opportunities in residential and commercial sectors.

The Sustainable Landscape Design and Maintenance module will showcase the Garden's Master Plan that embraces the environmental conditions on site by managing stormwater with working landscapes.

The training will cover native and non-native plant selection, permeable paving systems, and organic methods of using natural fertilizers and partnering with nature for pest management. Participants will learn how to brew compost tea and maintain turf lawns organically.

Open since 2007, the award winning green Visitor & Administration (V&A) Building will serve as the model and tool for the Green Building Design and Maintenance as well as Green Cleaning trainings. QBG has much experience planning, building, and maintaining green. The V&A offers photovoltaic panels for electricity, geothermal heat pumps for cooling and heating, gray water and rainwater recycling systems, numerous sustainable materials, and a green roof. Needless to say, there is much to learn about green buildings and we are ready to teach.

For more information about Green Jobs Training at Queens Botanical Garden call 718-730-7331.

around the garden

QBG NEWS AND NOTES



(Above) *Astoria Sunflower* by Barbara Leven, whose photography exhibit opens October 1 and runs through January 2012 in the V&A Building Gallery.

Art in the Garden: *Enchanted Earth 2.0*

“Photography is my preferred medium. Through the viewfinder otherwise ordinary subjects are transformed into images I have never seen before. I try to capture a moment, an emotional response, an instant of being that will vanish in a heartbeat and to preserve, at least for a little while, a tiny strand of the vast web of existence. Through the process of photography I am able to achieve some small measure of serenity.” – Barbara Leven
Beginning October 1 and running through January 2012, *Enchanted Earth 2.0*, a photography exhibit by Barbara Leven will be on display in the Visitor & Administration Building Gallery. An Artist Talk is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, from 11am to 1pm.

Ms. Leven says photography is about light and time; the transformation of a field of light in an expressed fraction of time into a two dimensional image. This image becomes a window through which the artist enables the viewer to see beyond the obvious subject into a deeper meaning. The meaning becomes a dialogue between the viewer and the artist.

Born and raised in New York City, Barbara Leven took up photography upon graduation from Queens College of the City University of NY, where she majored in Art, specifically painting. Not finding her own “voice” in painting, she started fresh with a new medium, photography, and has been involved with it for over 25 years. Her work is represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cincinnati Art Museum and important private collections.

Ms. Leven began to photograph “nature” just prior to the death of her father in 2005, when in need of solace she journeyed to New York City’s botanical gardens armed with a camera and macro lens.

Since that time, in gardens and wilder places, nature has become a major theme in her work. Through the lens she says she “seeks to unlock some secret the subject holds either in its perfection, or its decay; its relationship to weather, and the environment; to discover something I have not seen before so that I might more fully understand in a spiritual sense the cycles of life of which I too am a part.”

around the garden

MORE QBG NEWS AND NOTES



For Members Only

Once again this summer, QBG members enjoyed a variety of events held just for them.

On July 21, the Annual Members Recognition Dinner was attended by over 40 people who were treated to a tour of the Parking Garden by Susan Lacerte. On August 18, dancers Santiago and Tanya from the Arthur Murray Dance Center in Bayside entertained members with a foxtrot and swing, then gave swing instructions to all willing hoofers. On September 24, almost 40 members showed off their culinary skills at the first Member Harvest Potluck Lunch.

We are happy to acknowledge the support of our members through these events.

Dr. Bang Elected to Board of Trustees



Dr. Joon J. Bang was elected to the Board of Trustees at the August meeting. He fills a spot vacated by Cindy Krezel who served on the Board since 2009.

He is founder of the Korean-American Friends of QBG and was given the Adopt-a-Tree award at this year's Rose Gala for his dedication to the Garden and the community.

Dr Bang most recently served on the QBG Advisory Council.

(Left) Photo by Pasquale Cuomo.



(Top left and clockwise) Members enjoyed a variety of events this summer. Photos by Shari Romar.



digging in at home

HANDS-ON GARDENING

Composting for Fall

Is this a good time of year to start composting? As long as you know a few tips, anytime of year is a great time to start recycling your food and yard waste into homemade compost!

Fall leaves are not only a spectacular display of nature's brilliance, they are also a wonderful source of carbon-rich, dry material for your compost bin. Save your fallen leaves for use as a carbon source to use throughout the year.

Homemade leaf containers are easy to make and inexpensive. You can use snow fencing, chicken wire, hardware cloth, pallets or any other material that will contain the leaves and give you more yard space. In a pinch, you can keep them in plastic bags over the winter. Leaves will decompose faster if they are shredded or broken up, so if you want to compost quickly, we recommend either crumpling them up by hand or passing a mulch mower over the leaves. You can also fill a garbage can with leaves and carefully use a weed whacker like you would an immersion blender by sticking it into the bin and shredding the leaves.

Don't forget that although the compost process may slow down in the cold, you should still be adding equal amounts by volume of dry, carbon rich material whenever you add wet, nitrogen rich material such as food scraps. By continuing to add dry material, you will ensure that your compost pile doesn't become a stinky mess once the first warm day of spring hits. When possible, continue to mix your compost once or twice a month. If you do run out of dry leaves during the winter, you can always add shredded newspaper, non-treated wood shavings or wood chips.

To learn more about composting, please attend one of our workshops. (See the Calendar of Events on page 7 & 8)

Jen Kline & Gina Baldwin, NYC Compost Project at QBG, mixing more dry leaves into a compost bin.



(Above) The seed pod of the Southern Magnolia tree (*Magnolia grandiflora*), one of the delights of autumn in the Garden.

DONORS AND FRIENDS

Queens Botanical Garden expresses its deep appreciation to the individuals and families who have adopted a tree or a bench in memory of loved ones during the past year. We are grateful that they have chosen to honor these special people through this important support for our work.

Trees

Gina Argento in memory of her father, Paul Argento
Fig (*Ficus carica*)

George Meyer in memory of his wife, Sarah Meyer
Umbrella pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*)

Karen Wellington in memory of her mother, Sylvia Taitt Wellington
Jujube (*Ziziphus zizyphus*)

Bench – 1939 style

Martha Taylor in memory of her father, Edward Gottlieb

Jason & Cheryl Eng, with family and friends, in honor of their mother, Lori Eng

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 Darcy Hector, Director of Marketing & Development at 718-886-3800 ext. 330.

What to see and do

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FALL 2011

Registration is encouraged for all programs. For composting and lawn care workshops, register at compost@queensbotanical.org or call 718-539-5296. Check our website at 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.

Beginning Saturday, October 1

Art Exhibit: Enchanted Earth 2.0

Fee: Free with Garden admission

The photography exhibit by Barbara E. Leven will be on view in the V&A Building Gallery through January 31, 2012. See nature through her lens and engage in the conversation between artist and audience.

Saturday, October 1, 6pm

Summer Evening Concert: Music in the Garden

Fee: Free with Garden admission

Enjoy music and dance from India, including a full-force choir, intricate and colorful dancing, and a fusion instrumental musical extravaganza to complete the evening. Beginning at 6pm, food from the Temple Kitchen will be available for purchase on the Terrace.

Sunday, October 16, Noon to 4:30pm

Harvest Fest and Pumpkin Patch

Fee: Free with Garden admission

Additional Fee: \$3/pumpkin at Pumpkin Patch

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family! Readings from the Fresh Meadows Poets; stories from professional storyteller, Bobby Gonzalez; live bluegrass music by The Birdhive Boys and Lonesome Moonlight String Band; gardening workshops; Garden tour & bird walk, a beer tent, food and vendors, PLUS our popular Pumpkin Patch. Fun and activities for all! Vendors include: Famous Dave's BBQ; Bayside Corn; black sheep heap; Eco Art Productions; Me She Designs; Surfside Sea Glass; Department of Environmental Conservation; The National Children's Study; NYC Compost Project; Green Mountain Energy; Community Markets; Shari Romar Nature Photography & Writing; and more!



Saturday, October 22, 10am to 1pm

Autumn Leaves -- QBG Volunteer Fall Clean-up

Fee: Free

What is better than Autumn in New York? Come join the QBG "Autumn Leaves" Fall Cleanup. Enjoy the brisk, clean air and vibrant Fall colors plus the fun and camaraderie of working with other community groups to help keep QBG clean and beautiful! Registration is required -- email hlibraty@queensbotanical.org by Monday, October 17.

Sunday, October 23, 11:30am to 1:30pm

Composting After the Harvest

Location: LIC Community Garden, 49th Avenue (between Vernon Blvd & Fifth Street), Long Island City

Fee: \$5 per person

Fall is the time to clear out your garden and clean up your yards. What do you do with all your spent plants, overgrown weeds, and fall leaves? Join us to learn how to minimize your waste and create compost from your garden and yard waste. Your composting efforts in the fall will benefit your gardens in the spring. Registration is required: email compost@queensbotanical.org or call 718-539-5296.

What to see and do

HERE'S MORE HAPPENING AT QBG!

Thursday, October 27, 5 to 7pm

Teacher Wormshop

Location: Materials for the Arts 33-00 Northern Blvd 3rd Floor, LIC

Fee \$5 per person

Discover the benefits of composting with a worm bin in your classroom. This excellent hands-on and inquiry-based activity teaches kids biology, recycling, and responsibility. Learn great facts about earthworms, how to set up a worm bin, and how to maintain the system effectively. Registration is required: email compost@queensbotanical.org or call 718-539-5296.

Saturday, November 12, 11am to 1pm

Artist's Talk with Barbara Leven

Fee: Free

Come to the V&A Building Gallery and enjoy the photography exhibit, *Enchanted Earth 2.0*, from Barbara Leven's perspective.

Every Friday until November 18, 8:30am to 4pm

Farmer's Market Friday

At the corner of Dahlia Avenue and Main Street.

Saturday, November 19, 10:30am

Fall Migration Birdwalk

Fee: Free

Don't miss fall migration at QBG. Take a walk with avian enthusiast/QBG staffer, Shari Romar. Learn about the birds that pass through our 39-acres on their way to other climes. Perfect for beginners. Bring binoculars and meet in the V&A Building lobby. For registration or information, contact Shari Romar at sromar@queensbotanical.org or 718-886-3800, ext. 213.

Saturday, December 3, 11:30am to 1:30pm

Composting for Winter

Fee: \$5 per person

Come warm your hands by our compost pile, drink hot chocolate, and learn about composting in the city.

This class covers the essentials on composting, both outside using a bin in city yards and inside your apartment using a worm bin. See how making compost doesn't take much time, work, or space. Registration is required: email compost@queensbotanical.org or call 718-539-5296.



Autumn color is beginning to show on the Japanese Maple in the Wedding Garden.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM?

Fall Color & Ornamental Interest

OCTOBER

Rose
Chrysanthemum
Dahlia
Anemone
Aster
Sedum
Hydrangea
Goldenrod
Chinese Sumac

NOVEMBER

Ornamental grass
Common Witch Hazel
Crabapple

DECEMBER

Holly
Japanese Skimmia
Dogwood Redtwig 'Winter Flame'
Paperbark Maple
River Birch



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