

Garden News



QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN NEWSLETTER



RIDING THE WINDS OF CHANGE AT QBG

For many months now, staff have worked in the shadow of their new home, eagerly anticipating and noting the transformation taking place each day. First the form of a building emerged from the ground, one story, then the second, as an architectural rendering came to life. Walls were clad. Windows were installed. But it wasn't until June, when twelve steel columns dramatically rose to meet the canopy of a neighboring stand of pin oak trees, that the delightful promise of this building was more fully revealed. These supports were fitted with the building's signature rain-collecting roof, its inverted form recalling a bird in flight. Suddenly, there stood a soaring sculptural piece, heralding a new era at QBG.

Change, as it percolates through the Garden, affects everyone on staff, and manifests in the presentation of the Garden to the public. Banners along the construction fence explain to visitors, in multiple languages, the changes they are witness to each day. Through text and photos, they tell the story of environmental stewardship and reveal, in the opening petals of a lotus flower, QBG's cultural vision.

Other initiatives under way to engage, explain, and educate include a new wayfinding system that will orient visitors to expanded facilities, reflect green technology, and strengthen cultural connections; an inaugural docent program, which will extend the reach of QBG's education department; and a pilot program, *Round and Round It Goes*, which will deliver QBG's lessons on sustainability to the City's middle schools, and bring students and teachers to the Garden. Additionally, QBG's website, www.queensbotanical.org, is being given a new look, and the Garden's logo, designed to reflect the four seasons, has been updated with a refreshed color palette.

What we will achieve by next spring will be extraordinary. We encourage you to visit and to continue your support in the coming months.



SEPTEMBER

28 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Make Scents of Plants, 2 to 3:30 pm

30 SATURDAY

Community Event: 6th Annual International Moon Festival, 6:30 to 8 pm

OCTOBER

5 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Making Herbal Teas and Vinegars, 2 to 3:30 pm
Compost Workshop: Composting in the City, 6 to 8 pm

19 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Creating an Herbal Wreath, 2 to 3:30 pm

29 SUNDAY

Family Program: Pumpkin Patch, 1 to 4 pm

NOVEMBER

9 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Asian Dish Garden, 2 to 3:30 pm
NYC Teacher "Wormshop": Worm Bin Habitat in the Classroom, 5 to 8 pm

19 SUNDAY

Compost Workshop: Indoor Composting with Worms, 12 noon to 2 pm

DECEMBER

3 SUNDAY

Compost Workshop: Hummus to Humus, 11 am to 1 pm

7 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Houseplant Arrangements, 2 to 3:30 pm

14 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Terrariums, 2 to 3:30 pm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Progress made in recent months on the Visitor & Administration Building includes construction of the terrace canopy (above, view from west). Windows were installed and finishes are now being applied to the second-floor administrative offices.

Development

ROSE BALL RAISES \$175,200 FOR QBG

As a brief summer shower gave way to a vibrant rainbow, Queens Botanical Garden exemplified its reputation for being an oasis in Queens at the 11th Annual Rose Ball on Thursday, June 15. Under the Cherry Circle tent, local community leaders, politicians, and Garden supporters gathered to celebrate QBG and the achievements of two New York City leaders: Claire Shulman, former borough president of Queens, and Steven Fisher, chairman and CEO of Plaza Construction Corporation.

As the recipient of the 2006 Queens Botanical Garden Rose Ball Award, Mr. Fisher demonstrated his latest ties with NYC's largest borough. Responsible for The Shops at Atlas Park in Glendale, Mr. Fisher is a longtime philanthropist and a community-oriented businessman. His wide array of experience has brought many new and interesting perspectives to his work and to QBG.

Presenting the 2006 Environmental Stewardship Award to Ms. Shulman was Borough President Helen Marshall. Borough President Marshall detailed not only her predecessor's involvement with the Garden but also Ms. Shulman's betterment of the Queens community. Through her dedication to the enhancement of Queens, Ms. Shulman has carved out a special place in the history of the borough and the City as a promoter for the people, a problem solver, and a woman with a vision. Her involvement with the Garden led to the commencement of the Sustainable Landscapes and Buildings Project, the first part of which is scheduled to open in spring of 2007.

Also celebrated at the 11th Annual Rose Ball were three community members noted for their dedication to and enthusiasm for the Garden: former board members Paul Ho, Frank J. Mirovsky, and Georgiana Reese. Paul Ho received the HSBC Children's Garden award for his work in consistently securing funding for QBG's Children's Garden, one of the most vital and popular educational resources at QBG. The Garden celebrated Frank J. Mirovsky for his enthusiastic support of QBG; as board chair from 2002 to 2004, he inspired everyone with his leadership, passion, and commitment to the Garden. Georgiana Reese, a past board secretary, was recognized for her role in launching the Rose Ball in 1996, when she served as one of its co-chairs and then continued in that role in successive years. She also garnered support for the Garden from local funders, including her employer Queens County Savings Bank/New York Community Bank.



“The Garden looks fantastic. It's kept in great shape; we love coming here!”

QBG visitor, Summer 2006

The 2006 Rose Ball exceeded all fund-raising expectations, bringing in \$175,200 and topping the successes of past years. For his second year in a row, Rose Ball chair Frank C. Macchio worked tirelessly toward achieving gala goals, and the Garden, board chair Stefanie F. Handsman, and fellow trustees thank him for his dedication and hard work. A special thank-you goes to those individuals who supported him in his efforts: Rose Ball committee chairs James Riso (journal), Emily Lin (silent auction), and Rachel Sha (gift bags), and committee members Grace Meng, Jae Shin, Vipin Thakral, and John B. Wingate. And as always, the enthusiasts of the Garden help to make this event a yearly success. QBG extends thanks and appreciation to all who supported the 2006 Rose Ball. See you next year!



Above: Jae Shin, accepting the award for Paul Ho, Georgiana Reese, and Frank J. Mirovsky. *Photo: Jason Green*

Left: Executive director Susan Lacerte, gala committee member Grace Meng, board chair Stefanie F. Handsman, honorees Steven Fisher and Claire Shulman, gala chair Frank C. Macchio, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, and New York City Councilmember John Liu. *Photo: Jason Green*

The Garden looks nice and green! I come to the Garden to relax.

John Sears, visitor

THE FOLLOWING ARE TEN OF THE MAJOR STEPS REMAINING IN THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. CHECK OUR WEBSITE, WWW.QUEENSBOTANICAL.ORG/SUSTAINABLE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES.

The Garden would like to acknowledge and thank the following gala sponsors:

Event Sponsor

Plaza Construction Corporation

Red Rose Sponsors

The Bank of New York
Consolidated Edison Company of New York
Cord Meyer Development LLC
The Durst Organization, Inc.

Pink Rose Sponsors

Flushing Commons
HSBC Bank USA, N.A.
Richmond County Savings Foundation
The Rockefeller Group
Stonewall Contracting Corp.
TDC Developers

White Rose Sponsors

Albanese Organization, Inc.
Muss Development Company
New York Hospital Queens
Rotary Club of Flushing
John B. Wingate

Individual Sponsors

A.T.S. Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
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Graf & Lewent Architects
Han Mi Realty
Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority
Koreavillage
Lin + Associates Architects
Frank C. Macchio
Grace Meng
Port Authority of NY & NJ
James Riso
Rachel Sha
T&T Commercial Capital, LLC
Vornado Realty Trust

GOVERNMENT FUNDING UPDATE

QBG is grateful to our elected officials for providing substantial support for the Sustainable Landscapes and Buildings Project in FY07. Queens Borough President Helen Marshall has earmarked a total of \$1 million in capital funding for the Garden Entrances Project in the coming year. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has allocated \$850,000 toward the completion of the Visitor & Administration Building. The New York City Council has committed \$850,000 to the Garden Entrances Project.

Last spring, the Zoos, Botanical Gardens, and Aquariums Grant Program of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation awarded QBG \$88,500 for collections care and interpretation. Borough President Helen Marshall also provided \$15,000 for general operations.

Executive director Sharon G. Grosser (r.) and senior program officer Marian Conway (second from left), of The Roslyn Savings Foundation, recently visited QBG and were met by the Garden's executive director Susan Lacerte and retired New York Community Bank vice president Georgiana Reese. *Photo: Jason Green*

NEW GRANTS

Carnegie Corporation of New York:

\$100,000 award from an anonymous donor, in support of general operations

William Randolph Hearst Foundations:

\$50,000 award in support of education programs

Altman Foundation:

\$40,000 award for an internship coordinator

Robert Sterling Clark Foundation:

\$40,000 award for earned income initiatives

The Pinkerton Foundation:

\$25,000 award for the internship program

The Edith Glick Shoolman Children's Foundation:

\$20,000 award in support of education programs

Lily Auchincloss Foundation:

\$15,000 award in support of general operations

Consolidated Edison Company of New York:

\$15,000 award for energy exhibit in Visitor & Administration Building

The Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation:

\$15,000 award for Seeds for Seniors program

Richard Aurelio:

\$10,000 award in support of general operations

The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation:

\$10,000 award for the Village Gardens

The New York Community Trust:

\$10,000 award for earned income initiatives

Walter Kaner Children's Foundation:

\$6,000 award in support of special needs programs and an intern

Aviation Development Council:

\$5,000 sponsorship of the Bee Garden and related school programs

The Roslyn Savings Foundation:

\$5,000 sponsorship of the Herb Garden and related education programs and horticulture

Sarah I. Schieffelin Residuary Trust:

\$5,000 award in support of general operations

SCS Astoria Energy Foundation:

\$5,000 award in support of general operations

Pfizer Volunteer Program:

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



ADOPTION PROGRAM

The Honorable Moses Weinstein has adopted a Crimean linden (*Tilia x euchlora*) in memory of his wife, Muriel Weinstein. The tree can be found in the Bee Garden.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of

Sunni Behrman:
Barbara Britton

Maurice Bruet
Peter Dunleavy
Fred Gerber

Naola B. Gersten-Woolf

James McCabe

Bruce McInnes

Kim Mulcahy

Andrew Rabb

Christopher Roddick

Thomas Russo

Naomi Zurcher

In memory of

Ina Germeck:

Lois Beberman

Marcia Cohen

Lori Diamond

Nicole Eisenhandler

Myra Geffon

Marion Herman

Carole Lehrman

Jennifer Lucadamo

Barbara Martin

PS 144 Social Club

Harriet Rabunski

Howard Stern

Jennifer Sussman

In memory of

Mary Talamo:

Mary A. Vavruska

In memory of

Muriel Weinstein:

Clare Cooper

Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Flug

Suzanne Li

Christine P'Simer

Queens County

Supreme Court Justices

Mr. and Mrs. Roger

Rosengarten

10: The Terrace Canopy is completed. Its unusual shape makes an architectural statement and collects rainwater for recycling. 9: The sloped, concrete walls of the Auditorium are poured, using rough-cut planks as formwork to

IN MEMORIAM

With great fondness as well as sadness, we remember two members of QBG's family who passed away in recent months.

A former board chair and president, **Muriel M. Weinstein** was a vibrant member of a core group of Garden leaders who generated support and provided direction for the fledgling institution when it opened in its new home on Main Street in 1963. Her involvement



Muriel Weinstein dons a hard hat for the Education Building groundbreaking in 1984.

began as a committee member for the Chrysanthemum Balls (the precursor to today's Rose Ball), followed by long-standing membership on the board of trustees, and several turns as gala co-chair and chair. She continued to be a guiding force through the mid 1980s, overseeing the groundbreaking of the Charles G. Meyer Education Building in 1984, the first and only new building to be erected at QBG until recently.

Her president's message, written that year for the 34th annual Chrysanthemum Ball, resonates today: "For over 22 years, year after year, as season followed season, I have watched the growth of our beautiful Garden, the changing moods of our floral displays, the shifts in terrain, the stately formal front beds, the emerging of our Backyard Gardens, the Children's and Senior Gardens, the magnificent wonder of our Wedding Garden, and the varied herb experimental and other ventures. As our staff labored in the vineyards, as many of our colleagues worked in our fund-raising activities, our Garden grew and grew. It is the center and the hub of many functions; yet it is still a lovely oasis of peace and quiet in the midst of an active urban community."

QBG honored her and her husband, Judge Moses Weinstein, at the 1998 Rose Ball, which celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Garden's opening.

Because **Rita Soares Fernandes** said "yes," more things were possible at QBG. A member of the Visitor Services staff from 1997 to 2005, Rita welcomed thousands of visitors to the Garden each Sunday. She oversaw weddings and receptions, photography bookings, the garden greeters and junior weekend staff, and assisted with public programs. The former Flushing resident greatly enjoyed working with the public, and considered her Garden responsibilities a perfect complement to her job as a NYC public school teacher. Rita, who held several master's degrees, regularly imparted her love of learning to her small charges, whom she adored, and shared her enthusiasm for life and for new things with us all.

INTRODUCING QBG'S GREEN TEENS

If you visited the Garden this past summer, you may have noticed a flurry of activity and enthusiasm among the staff – and many new faces! The Garden's new internship program for high school students attracted a crop of twenty-three bright and eager teens who helped out in nearly every department. Wearing their bright green T-shirts, they assisted youngsters in the HSBC Children's Garden, eradicated weeds in the Cherry Circle, wrote press releases, and helped staff with projects in finance, human resources, and cultural research.

The QBG High School Internship Program, renamed the QBG Green Teen Program, has finished its inaugural summer thanks to generous grants from the Altman Foundation and The Pinkerton Foundation, as well as support from HSBC in the Community (USA) Inc. The Garden's interns also received funding through LEARN, a program of the New York City Department of Education, and through The



Afterschool Corporation (TASC) and the Asociacion Cultural Beneficia de Father Billini in Corona, both part of the City's Summer Youth Employment Program. These grants and partnerships enabled the Garden to expand the internship program beyond the Children's Garden to all departments, with weekly workshops to develop

professional skills and help promote "green"-collar career exploration, as well as foster environmental stewardship and cultural appreciation among the teens.

From an intense three-day orientation, field trips to the New York Hall of Science and Solar 1, and weekly meetings, this summer was a busy one for the interns, who hailed from all parts of the borough. In addition to gaining professional experience, the interns developed an array of environmental advocacy skills that they could bring back to their schools in September.

The eight-week program culminated on August 24 with an Intern Celebration, an event planned entirely by the teens, which helped them to develop their nonprofit event-planning skills.

The 2006 QBG Green Teen Program participants were: Rabia Alam and Nikki Ramroop (horticulture); Weberlange Exilus (marketing); Giovanna Orama (capital projects); Christina Cephus, Anny Costa, Tatiana Coy, Shante Dickson, Rabiya Hass, William Jablonski, Wing Yi Kung, Vasantie Naraine,



Arriana Prendergast, Melanie Romano, Inbar Sharon, and Maryam Wardak (Children's Garden); Eliana Paradis (finance); Andrea Rodriguez (education); Issa Duncan and Barbara Paradis (administration); Jennifer Choi (earned income); Tiffany Cheng (cultural research); and Lisa He (compost).

Jeannemarie Hendershot is QBG's internship coordinator.

give the walls a unique, visible texture. 8: Work begins on the Parking Garden, a beautiful new gateway to QBG that also helps manage the stormwater that falls on the site. 7: The Visitor & Administration Building's

STAFF NEWS

QBG offers a warm welcome to **Constance Comer**, who recently joined our finance department. Connie comes to the Garden after having worked for the United Nations Federal Credit Union for the past 13 years. She will be responsible for preparing payroll and general accounting functions including assistance with the annual audit and budget. The balance of her time will be with human resources.

Jaymie Sharabi has joined QBG as a horticulture intern, funded in part by The Mushroom Trust and the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. Jaymie, who worked with QBG's horticulture staff in 1999, has gained well-rounded experience at public gardens around NYC. In her own words: "Every early morning when I enter the grounds of QBG I am grateful. I have been given the responsibility, yes the honor, of working and tending a piece of the Earth."

A seasonal assistant gardener, **Gabriel Forestieri**, joined the horticulture staff this summer. Gabriel has extensive horticulture and gardening experience, most recently in California, and is also a professional dancer.

After more than two decades of dedicated service to QBG, **Eduardo Questell** retired from the horticulture/grounds department on May 1. Staff send a big thank-you to Eduardo, who is enjoying retirement in Puerto Rico.

Gardener **Joan Boriqua** earned her Commercial Pesticide Technician License from the State of New York's Department of Environmental Conservation.

Capital Projects assistant **Max Joel** has been awarded a Junior Fellowship from the United Way of NYC's Nonprofit Leadership Development Institute.

Max also passed his LEED™ Accredited Professional exam on July 17.



The arboricultural firm The Care of Trees contributed \$10,000 in cash and services to QBG this past year. Welcoming president and CEO Scott Jamieson (r.) and district manager Frank C. Buddingh' to the Garden in June were horticulturist Marianne Kristoff, director of capital projects Jennifer Ward Souder, board chair Stefanie F. Handsman, and executive director Susan Lacerte.



Following their morning exercises on July 19, members of QBG's Tai Chi groups delighted Garden staff and board with contributions totaling \$8,675, the result of their most successful fund-raiser to date in support of the Garden's operations. New York City Councilmember John Liu was among members of the community who turned out to mark the occasion.

PLANT YOUR LEGACY

WHERE IT WILL . . .

PRODUCE

Your gift or bequest will provide funding for the Garden's annual programs.

ENDURE

Your gift or bequest will help the Garden meet future needs.

To learn more about QBG's Charitable Gift Annuity program and other giving opportunities, contact **Susan Lacerte**, executive director, at 718.886.3800, ext. 205.



William Martin, director of community affairs at Verizon, learns about the latest plant mapping equipment from gardener Joan Boriqua and cultural research volunteer Shelby Semmes (r.). Verizon Foundation has been a longtime supporter of technology initiatives at the Garden.

The internship was truly an experience I will never forget. All the training and work have done two things: help improve my working skills and help me be a part of a beautiful living museum known as the Queens Botanical Garden.

Issa Duncan, QBG administration intern

CORPORATE MEMBERS

\$15,000

(a two-year membership)

Altria Group, Inc.

\$5,000

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

NEW

MEMBERS

(February 9 through August 18, 2006)

Alice Bodner

Tzy-Ching Chu

Mayrda De Bor

Nancy Fahnestock

Juoy Fok

Manitha Hegde

Patricia Hendershot

Douglas Knight

Edward and Karen Mitchell

Scott Murphy

Vasantha Ramanathan

Catherine Redd

Rosanna Roizin and James Graham

Penny and Robert Schnitzer

Vipin Thakral

Ramesh Veluro

geothermal system is fully connected and tested. This system provides low energy heating and cooling and, combined with rooftop photovoltaic panels and overall efficient building design, helps the facility use over 30% less

Capital Projects

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND QBG: HELP IS ON THE WAY!

QBG has nearly completed the design of a new interpretive wayfinding system that will be unveiled next spring, which will help orient visitors as well as point out connections between people, plants, and cultures as expressed through the Garden's exhibits, collections, and green technology.

Incorporating water harvest systems, recycled materials, solar energy, cultural imagery, symbolic pictograms, and design elements that celebrate the natural world and give expression to QBG's vision and mission, kiosks at the Garden's three entry points and Bee Garden gate will feature a site map and visitor information—and one kiosk will even have a mini green roof! Throughout the 39-acre site, trailside directionals will point visitors to facilities, amenities, and Garden areas. The directionals feature plant patterns that reference culturally important plants like *Ginkgo biloba* and bamboo as well as plants that will be featured in our new Plants in Community gardens, such as asters and native sedges.



A visitor survey aimed at evaluating our current wayfinding system (so that we can see how things improve when the new system is installed!) was administered during the first two weekends in June. While everyone expressed enthusiasm for making additional information available through an expanded wayfinding program, several respondents also provided general comments about the Garden on their survey forms that made staff smile.

Many thanks to our volunteer community group for providing us with feedback and insight throughout the design process!

Interpretive Wayfinding and Exhibits are sponsored in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Independence Community Foundation, Consolidated Edison Co. of New York, Inc., and New York State's Community Capital Assistance Program.

WISHLIST

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of the following items, please contact Jacquie Gregor at 718.886.3800, ext. 329.

Viburnum or rose bush (\$30-\$50)

Two electric golf carts (\$5,500 each)

Diesel-powered vehicle (in-kind gift) to convert to run on used vegetable oil from local restaurants, and conversion kit (\$2,000)



DID YOU KNOW PLANTS HAVE FAMILIES, TOO?

New gardens, called *Plants in Community*, are coming to QBG as part of the Sustainable Landscapes and Buildings Project. These new gardens are organized by plant family and will feature native plants in a garden setting. More than fifteen plant families will be highlighted in the *Plants in Community* gardens, which will be located between the existing Oak Allée and the new Visitor & Administration Building. Interns Tiffany Cheng and Giovanna Orama researched the following two plants that visitors will find in the *Plants in Community* gardens next spring.

Purple Prairie Clover *Petalostemum purpureum*

Petalostemum purpureum, also commonly known as purple prairie clover, belongs to the Leguminosae family. Native to the northern central part of the United States, this deep-rooted plant blooms from May through September and grows from one to three feet. Attractive to birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, purple prairie clover is used for the reclamation of parks, mine spoils, over-grazed plains, and wildlife improvement. This plant specializes in restoration because it has a special characteristic: it is able to pull nitrogen from the air and release it through nodules at the tip of its roots, into the soil, which is essential for plant growth.

Native Americans had many uses for purple prairie clover; many chewed the root because of its sweet, pleasant flavor. Tribes living along the Missouri River used its dried leaves as an alternative for tea. The Montana Indians bound fresh wounds with



bruised leaves. The Navajo used the plant to treat pneumonia and its flower as a treatment for heart problems. The Meskwaki used purple prairie clover to treat diarrhea; they also tried to use the flower to treat measles. Hundreds of years later, this multi-purpose plant is still commonly used today.

energy than a regular building. 6: On top of the Auditorium, the Green Roof is planted with native and adapted plant species. New garden collections are installed around the Visitor & Administration Building, including the

Silverbell *Halesia carolina*

Halesia carolina, commonly known as silverbell, is a tree that belongs to the Styracaceae family. Found near ravines and in wooded areas, the species has a native range extending from Florida to West Virginia to eastern Oklahoma. Growing thirty to forty feet tall, silverbells thrive in well-drained, moist soil. In addition, silverbells have a high resistance to disease and are able to withstand the cold. In the fall, silverbells are one of the first trees to lose their leaves. However, this does not stop the tree from providing a stunning display—its moderate yellow and mottled yellow-green leaves make for breathtaking foliage.

Education

HSBC CHILDREN'S GARDEN 2006: AN ADVENTURE THROUGH COLOR

The HSBC Children's Garden is a fun and exciting yearly adventure where children learn and grow along with their plants. Each year is a fresh, innovative experience, as new and returning friends come together to plant, in their own "private" gardens, seeds and seedlings that they nurture and watch grow into healthy flowers and vegetables and then harvest at the end of the season.

During the spring session, the children prepared the garden for planting by weeding, turning the soil, and adding mulch, compost, and of course, water. They explored the greenhouse where horticulturist Zofia Pienkos had started seeds in late winter, and helped transplant those seedlings. They learned the fundamentals, and experienced the struggles, of starting and nurturing a garden.

Children enrolled in the summer sessions embarked on a discovery of the colors of the rainbow, including our own QBG addition, brown! Each week children learned about important plants, vegetables, and flowers related to a particular color. They planted "rainbow" vegetables that were different and exotic: Cheddar cauliflower, Purple Haze carrots, and Rainbow peppers. In addition, they created colorful herb, butterfly, and shade gardens.

Many special guests joined us this year to enrich our experience. Artist Alessandra Nichols from *Salvage/Salvation Part IV: Hive* taught us how to build nests and a compost hut from materials found in and around the Garden. From Harley Spiller, a.k.a. Inspector Collector, we learned about different insects in the garden, and how to mimic spiders by creating webs out of recycled materials. Apiarist Urte Schaedle showed us working beehives and explained the role of honeybees in the Garden. We

HSBC senior vice president Paul Ho enjoyed meeting Children's Garden interns and participants on graduation day. *Photo: Jason Green*



Plants in Community gardens (see article for more information). 5: The Cleansing Biotope and Constructed Wetlands are planted with wetland species that naturally filter and clean water. These areas cleanse rainwater

Best known for their ornamental qualities, silverbells—with their delicate, bell-shaped flowers—are favorites for small gardens, lawns, patios, and general landscaping. In spring, these white flowers start to bloom, attracting and providing many bees with honey. Likewise, the bark of the silverbell provides year-round interest with a unique display of brown, black, and grey. Its many fine properties make the wood of the silverbell desirable for veneer and cabinet work.



Photo: Jason Green

made a delicious salad from our own garden greens with Fred Gerber, QBG director of education emeritus, who taught us about grocery store gardening and what Native Americans living in our region grew and ate in the past. With Compost Project staff Victoria Gershik-Ostrovsky and Daniel Tainow we completed our rainbow learning with lessons on compost, which has a rich brown color. Our rainbow experience culminated in tie-dyeing T-shirts on Community Day, followed by a cheerful graduation ceremony to celebrate the program's end.

We were fortunate to have instructor Chandani Sani, now a senior at Queens College, join us for another adventurous year. We were privileged to work with QBG internship coordinator Jeannemarie Hendershot and her QBG Green Teens, who assisted instructors and helped to individualize activities.

Every year I look forward to embarking upon a new voyage as coordinator of this program, exploring life in new and different ways and experiencing it through the eyes of a child. We hope that you will join us on next year's journey. Please call in early spring for more information at 718.886.3800, ext. 230.

Michele Krejci is QBG's Children's Garden Coordinator.

QBG thanks HSBC in the Community (USA) Inc. for continuing its support of the Children's Garden in 2006.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES NEW CURRICULUM

With initial phases of QBG's Master Plan soon to be completed, the education staff seized the opportunity to develop new school workshop offerings for 2007 with funding provided by The Louis Calder Foundation. Guided by environmental education consultant Jill Weiss, they created curriculum reflecting green technologies showcased in the Garden's facilities and landscapes, deciding to focus on the primary forces driving ecosystems that are imperative for life. The resulting first unit—*Round and Round It Goes*—focuses on the role of water in the environment and has been designed specifically for middle-school grades six, seven, and eight.

Education staff chose a multi-experiential lesson plan that includes an in-school visit by QBG staff as well as two on-site class visits to the new Visitor & Administration Building and accompanying landscapes, which are models of both natural systems and sustainable technologies. The students learn about the water cycle and its effects on the environment, observe a wetland experiment in their own classroom, and become stakeholders in the Garden by planting in the constructed wetlands.

The bioswales, cleansing biotopes, and constructed wetlands demonstrate how natural systems recycle nutrients from runoff while filtering the water, remediate and prevent flooding, act as buffers to prevent soil erosion, and create habitat and nursery areas for native species. They also serve as examples of bio-mimicry—copying nature and applying the same principles in technology (in this case by creating ecologically sound filters for polluted water and flood prevention measures).

Plants and soil on the auditorium's green roof absorb excess water, thus relieving our already overburdened combined sewage system during heavy rains. The green roof also acts as an insulator due to the water's high specific heat capacity (the energy required to raise the temperature of water or the energy given off when water cools) by absorbing massive amounts of energy from the building in the summer and giving it off in the winter, thus lowering our reliance on fossil fuels to heat or cool the building. The building's geothermal heating and cooling system works on a similar principle.

As QBG begins to shape a sound scientific approach to environmental studies with this pilot program, education staff hope to inspire young minds to observe and learn from nature. The Garden's systems and landscapes provide unique hands-on learning opportunities that truly solidify the student's experience. Middle-school teachers interested in registering for *Round and Round It Goes* should call the education department at 718.886.3800, ext. 230. The curriculum will also be available for viewing online at www.queensbotanical.org.

QBG'S NEW DOCENTS ARE WAITING FOR YOU!

Congratulations to the stellar inaugural group of QBG docents who completed several months of intensive training this summer. As the Garden prepares to get the word out to the public about its remarkable workshops and environmental stewardship initiatives, these individuals will be essential to communicating this information to visitors, both young and old alike, and furthering their understanding and enjoyment of QBG's environmental and botanical resources.

Currently, docents conduct tours for school groups on a pre-scheduled basis. These tours are designed to enhance the workshop curriculum or emphasize a specific area of study. Docents will soon guide special interest tours, interpret seasonal events and exhibits, and conduct hands-on family craft activities for Garden visitors. They will also offer seasonal tours to the public on a walk-in basis. These tours will provide an overview of several popular and significant garden exhibits and an understanding of key concepts related to stewardship and grounds management.

QBG's new docents are Cathy Bouchard, Frances Cleary, Milagros Dichoso, Dennis Golin, Gerda Kiermeier, Irving Leos, Shirley Leos, Lola McLinden, Judith Nostramo, Gabriella Oldham, Adele Scheck, Peter Schifftan, and Yolanda Silver.

Compost

Dear Flora

Q: My worm bin has been working great and the worms seem happy. However, I opened the bin the other day and saw hundreds of little brownish red bugs crawling on top of the bedding and on the underside of the lid. What are these creatures? Are they a problem? And, how do I get rid of them?
~ More Than Worms

A: What you have is an extreme population of mites. Mites are an important part of the decomposer community that you have created in your worm bin. They eat decaying organic matter, fungi, and other organisms. Nevertheless, mites sometimes grow to a population that stresses the worms. This overpopulation usually occurs in a bin that is too wet. The worms will show their stress by refusing to eat, not coming to the surface, grouping together in a ball, failing to reproduce, or trying to escape the bin.

If your large population of mites begins to produce these behaviors from your worms, there are several things you can do to get the mites back to a balanced population. First, try to lower the moisture in your bin by adding dry bedding or placing the bin outdoors in the sun and leaving the top open for a short time (make sure you don't overheat or completely dry out your bin). Second, since the population of mites is often concentrated around a specific piece of food, you can just remove that piece of food from the bin.

If there are still too many mites after those treatments, you can remove the top few inches of bedding or bait the remaining mites with some of their favorite foods: melon wedges, raw potato slices, and moistened bread. When the mites have concentrated on the bait (sometimes on the underside), you can remove the food from the bin. Place mite-covered food or bedding in an outdoor compost bin or garbage can.

Lastly, worm bin mites and their fellow decomposers pose no threat to humans or living plants. I encourage you to learn more about them and appreciate the work that they do!

More composting questions? E-mail compost@queensbotanical.org or call the Compost Helpline at 718.539.LAWN(5296).

and water from the Visitor & Administration Building's drains, allowing it to be reused in the water feature and for toilet flushing. 4: Painting is completed and furniture is moved into the new building. All interior materials and

HOW TO CREATE A "BUZZ" ABOUT COMPOSTING?

Composting is not usually thought of as a "hot" topic, except in some circles like Green Drinks NYC (where every month people who work in the environmental field meet up informally for a beverage), or the Master Composter Certification Program (through which NYC residents of all walks of life receive training, resources, and work experience educating the public on composting). Otherwise, in the vast sphere of popular culture, outside of gardening, there is very little mention or knowledge of composting as an important part of a citizen's responsibility in managing his or her garbage.

As the Garden's new Compost Project coordinator and a novice composter myself, I was curious as to why this is so. Did composting fall out of fashion? Or was composting always known just to a select few, i.e., those who grew up on farms or in the country?

When the key words "composting" and "history" are Googled, very little comes up. The few hits that do appear give us what I predicted: people returning organics to the soil dates back to the Akkadian Empire, 2300-2200 BC, but composting was fairly limited to the agricultural sphere. Not until Sir Albert Howard in the early 1900s, and later J. I. Rodale, carrying on Howard's work from the 1940s through the early 1970s, did American gardeners learn the value of composting for improving soil quality. Composting was thus expanded beyond agriculture to home gardens.

Composting, now recognized as an important waste reduction method, can make the leap into everyone's home. But what would it take to get a whole nation to compost? Legislation? Celebrity endorsements? Perhaps one or two reality show TV stars could demonstrate how to compost on their shows. Unless incentive programs are created by elected officials or composting is taken up as a celebrity's "cause," spreading the word about composting will continue to occur at the grassroots level. While a



grassroots movement can be very powerful, it requires even greater effort to engage a mainstream audience.

I urge you to make a commitment to start composting. Attend one of our upcoming workshops. Pick up free compost at the Compost Giveback this fall. Buy a NYC-subsidized \$20 compost bin to place by your house. Set up a worm bin in your home. Up for more? Consider applying to the 2007 Master Composter Certification Program.

Victoria Gershik-Ostrovsky is QBG's Compost Project coordinator.



COMPOST PROJECT UPDATES

Get free, unlimited amounts of compost from the City at this fall's Compost Giveback at the Spring Creek Composting Area in Brooklyn. For more information, call the Queens Compost Helpline at 718.539.LAWN(5296) or visit www.nyccompost.org.

The Master Composter (MC) Class of 2006 completed the class portion of the program and took several field trips to learn about various composting systems. Trips included Rikers Island Compost Facility, Red Hook Farm, Garden of Union, and more. MCs are now fulfilling their thirty-hour community service requirement in many ways, including walking in compost parades, tabling at events, and educating neighbors, co-workers, and real estate agents. Applications are now being accepted for the 2007 Master Composter Certification Program. Call 718.886.3800, ext. 222.

Staff from Compost Projects in the five boroughs are brainstorming on ways to collaborate and increase visibility and interest in composting. A jointly produced Compost Project newsletter will be available soon at www.nyccompost.org. Learn about new developments in composting, read accounts of the Compost Givebacks, and pick up some really neat tips and information.

"Excellent, professional, knowledgeable, kind, and courteous staff."

QBG visitor, Summer 2006



The Gro-Cart was on the road this summer, making appearances at Queens' parks, including the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, where education and compost staff kept families busy with hands-on activities. QBG's Gro-Cart is enjoying lead support from KeySpan Foundation in 2006.

finishes contain no or very low levels of harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and many contain recycled material. 3: QBG staff move into the new administrative offices. The old Administration Building is demolished to

Autumn Talks & Workshops

SEEDS FOR SENIORS

A Gardening Series for Older Adults

This fall, QBG continues to offer adults age 60 and over the opportunity to learn about gardening, share their plant knowledge, and connect with nature. Seniors may sign up for one workshop per season. Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited to twenty people. Please call Marianne Giacalone, senior programs coordinator, at 718.886.3800, ext. 230. Classes meet in the Garden's Education Building.

MAKE SCENTS OF PLANTS

Thursday, September 28, 2 to 3:30 pm

Fee: \$5; QBG members free

Learn why plants have an aroma as you explore various fragrant roots, stems, leaves, and spices. You'll combine those you find most pleasing in an attractive sachet to bring home.

MAKING HERBAL TEAS AND VINEGARS

Thursday, October 5, 2 to 3:30 pm

Fee: \$5; QBG members free

Choose from a selection of dried herbs to make custom herbal tea blends and herbal vinegars for home.

CREATING AN HERBAL WREATH

Thursday, October 19, 2 to 3:30 pm

Fee: \$5; QBG members free

Learn about the many uses of herbs and how to make an herbal wreath from the autumn garden.

ASIAN DISH GARDEN

Thursday, November 9, 2 to 3:30 pm

Fee: \$5; QBG members free

Learn about the significance of Asian landscapes and how they differ from the history and design of Western gardens. Make a mini landscape with plants and decorations representing the principles of an Asian garden.

HOUSEPLANT ARRANGEMENTS

Thursday, December 7, 2 to 3:30 pm

Fee: \$5; QBG members free

Learn how to combine plants that have similar light, water, and soil requirements. Plant your "instant garden" in an attractive container to bring home.

TERRARIUMS

Thursday, December 14, 2 to 3:30 pm

Fee: \$5; QBG members free

Learn about the history and care of terrariums. Choose suitable small houseplants and closed containers and create your own terrarium.

Seeds for Seniors is made possible by The Jean & Louis Dreyfus Foundation and is presented in collaboration with New York Hospital Queens' Health Outreach Program.

COMPOST WORKSHOPS

These workshops are provided at no charge or for a nominal fee, thanks to funding from the New York City Department of Sanitation. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance of all workshops. Call 718.886.3800, ext. 222 to register.

COMPOSTING IN THE CITY

Thursday, October 5, 6 to 8 pm

Turn city leaves, kitchen scraps, and garden trimmings into a rich, beautiful soil conditioner through composting. Composting doesn't take much time, work, or space. This class covers the essentials: what the composting process is, how to compost even in small city yards and apartments, how to use the finished compost, how to avoid and solve problems, and which equipment and tools are helpful.

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

Thursday, November 9, 5 to 8 pm

Fee: \$10

Discover the benefits of a classroom worm bin, an excellent hands-on and inquiry-based activity to teach biology, ecology, environmental science, recycling, and responsibility. Receive a refresher course on the earthworm and learn how to set up a worm bin, feed worms with food scraps, and maintain the system effectively. Creative curriculum-related ways to incorporate worm composting into science, math, and language arts will be discussed. Teachers will receive a bin, a voucher for a pound of worms, and three useful texts—a value worth well over \$50.

INDOOR COMPOSTING WITH WORMS

Sunday, November 19, 12 noon to 2 pm

With the help of red wiggler worms you can recycle your kitchen scraps and other select organic scraps into one of the richest soil amendments—vermicompost—to use on indoor and outdoor plants. Not in love with worms? We'll teach you how to love them or how to compost indoors without them. *Optional \$10 materials fee for NYC residents provides a plastic worm bin and a voucher for a pound of red wiggler worms.*

HUMMUS TO HUMUS

Sunday, December 3, 11 am to 1 pm

Learn how to make the most delicious hummus, a popular Middle Eastern spread made from mashed chickpeas, tahini, lemon juice, and garlic, with the help of Chef-Instructor Melanie Underwood of the Institute of Culinary Education (ICE). Afterward, discover how to turn your cooking lesson leftovers into humus, a brown or black complex material formed from partial decomposition of plant matter. QBG's Compost Project staff will show you how to responsibly compost these kitchen scraps.

For information on free compost giveaways and compost bin sales, as well as answers to compost and lawn care questions, check out www.nyccompost.org or call the Queens Compost Helpline at 718.539.LAWN(5296).



make way for a new Entry Plaza and water feature. 2: The Entry Plaza Fountain is turned on and recycled rainwater flows through its channel across the Plaza, alongside the Visitor & Administration Building, and back

Special Events

6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MOON FESTIVAL

A Community Celebration!

Saturday, September 30, 6:30 to 8 pm
Free

Join us for an evening of traditional music, story, and song celebrating the autumn equinox and the harvest. Festivities get under way at 6 pm in downtown Flushing at 39th Avenue, with a colorful parade down Main Street to QBG. Bring a blanket or a chair and a friend. Organized by the Flushing Development Center.

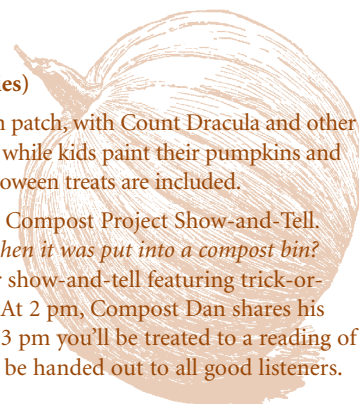


PUMPKIN PATCH

Sunday, October 29, drop in from 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 other whimsical characters on hand to entertain families while kids paint their pumpkins and create a Green-Haired Monster to take home. Halloween treats are included.

This year's Pumpkin Patch also includes a special Compost Project Show-and-Tell. (*What did the pumpkin say to the Wicked Witch when it was put into a compost bin? "I'm melting!"*) Starting at 1 pm, come enjoy our show-and-tell featuring trick-or-treat pumpkin worm bins, both real and plastic. At 2 pm, Compost Dan shares his picture gallery of a composting pumpkin, and at 3 pm you'll be treated to a reading of *Jackie-O's Great Adventure*. Afterward, treats will be handed out to all good listeners.



WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER TODAY?

- Individual Member \$35
- Individual Senior \$30
- Dual \$50
- Dual Senior \$45
- Family \$60
- Supporting Member \$100
- Friend \$250
- Patron \$500
- Life Member \$5,000
- Organization \$150

- Please call me about the Planned Giving Program
- My check is enclosed, made payable to:
Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street,
Flushing, New York 11355, 718.886.3800

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

To learn about the benefits of membership, visit www.queensbotanical.org or call 718.886.3800, ext. 213.

Here's a sampling of what you'll find blooming at QBG this fall.

LATE SEPTEMBER:

Autumn clematis, asters, chrysanthemums, chelone, sedum, caryopteris, tricytris

OCTOBER:

Roses, franklinia, chrysanthemums, dahlias, anemone, asters, sedum, hydrangea, solidago, witch hazel

NOVEMBER:

Ornamental grass, flowering cabbage and kale

DECEMBER:

Berries on holly, skimmia, cotoneaster, and dogwood; pine cones on conifers; Christmas rose

CRAFT SALES

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 Plant Shop trailer, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, by appointment. Call 718.886.3800, ext. 200, for more information.

The Queens Botanical Garden, an independent not-for-profit institution located on City-owned land, is governed by a volunteer board of trustees. It is partially supported by public funds through 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; Queens Borough President Helen Marshall; the New York City Council; State Senator Frank Padavan; State Senator Serphin R. Maltese; and the New York State Assembly Queens Delegation. The New York City Department of Sanitation provides funding for QBG's Compost Project. Additional support through private sources includes contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals.

Lead support for the Gro-Cart has been provided by



Printed with soy-based inks on New Leaf 100% post-consumer waste fiber paper, processed without the use of chlorine or chlorine derivatives. Forest Stewardship Council certified.



to the Cleansing Biotope. **1:** New informational kiosks and signposts are installed throughout the Garden to help visitors find their way around and learn about QBG. **Grand Opening in Spring 2007!**



Queens Botanical Garden

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



Photo: Jason Green

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #433
Flushing NY

PUMPKIN PATCH
Sunday, October 29, 1 to 4 pm



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 and Friday, 9 am to 4 pm, ext. 200

Compost Information

718.539.LAWN(5296) or compost@queensbotanical.org

QBG Website

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