



A TORNADO IN QUEENS?

The Storm of September 16 was fast and furious. Around 5:15pm the storm front neared with thunder and lightening while staff was setting up for Cosmos Night 2010 on the Terrace. Suddenly it hit.

It left 38 trees damaged, 11 seriously. We had over \$100,000 in damages. We'll need another \$50,000 for replanting.

A 100'-plus Weeping Willow in the Wedding Garden was uprooted; its twin sustained serious damage to its leafy canopy. Both trees have now been removed. The plumbing and electricity will need to be redone, and some benches, statuary, and fencing repaired or replaced. What was once a shade garden has become a sun garden overnight. New designs are being worked on.

A Linden in the Bee Garden was uprooted, toppling the observation beehive and crushing the interpretive panel and fence below. The beekeeper came in late that evening, but could not find the queen. The next day she righted the toppled hive. The queen is now reported to be alive and well and producing eggs.

A Norway Spruce and a Weeping Higan Cherry also went over, and a Norway Maple in the Arboretum split. Two Honey Locusts also had significant canopy damage; miraculously the plantings underneath are intact.

That Friday, with the spectacular work of our arborist, staff and volunteers, paths were cleared of fallen branches, and we opened at 8am on Saturday, piles of brush neatly stacked on the turf. The wedding scheduled for that Saturday relocated to the Terrace, and a picture of the beaming couple was featured in the *Daily News*. Children's Gardeners still came to harvest their produce, while an artist sculpted from the now more plentiful fallen material. A new moss garden has been planted on fallen tree trunks in the Backyard Garden.

Although the storm was a surprise and the damage to the Garden unnerving, nature recycles itself. We will take these opportunities to continue to grow this oasis in Queens.

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Dear Flora,

After this hot, dry summer, my lawn and garden are a mess! Many plants are brown and look dead, and the lawn looks like its been through a prairie fire. How do I prepare for next season? Should I pull everything out and start over?

Help me!

—Parched Petunia

Dear Parched,

My response to your letter requires a lot of space. Here's the short answer but please go to www.queensbotanical.org for the full answer.

This was indeed a rough growing season around here. We had the hottest summer since they've been keeping records, and it was also very dry—a bad combination. Plants, however, are often more resilient than we think.

Perennials may look dead after this summer, but keep them well watered going into winter. Cut all dead stems to within 1 to 2 inches of the soil surface. Many, like bleeding hearts (*Dicentra* spp.), *Corydalis*, *Astilbe*, and others, naturally die back to conserve moisture in dry weather and many come back in the spring so don't be quick to pull out perennials. You can always replace them in spring if they don't re-sprout. A good organic mulch of leaves will help keep roots moist going into winter and will also prevent heaving and root damage when winter sets in and the ground freezes and thaws. Be sure not to cover the crown (center of plant) completely as this may cause rotting.

To check for life in woody shrubs and trees, bend the twigs. If they are brittle and snap, they're gone; but if they are flexible, they still have life. Even if twigs are dead, check larger branches and trunk by gently scraping a small spot in the bark with your fingernail or a penknife. If it's green underneath the bark there is still life.

Don't hesitate to trim the dead material to conserve energy for the living parts. I've seen young trees where all the side branches had to be cut back to just a few inches, and they leafed out nicely the next season.

Most of all, keep up that watering. Most gardeners call it quits after Labor Day, but late fall is a critical time, particularly for fall planted trees, shrubs, and evergreens. I would even give new plants some water during winter thaws.

Above all, if you plant new plants next year, check with the library, Cooperative Extension service or Queens Botanical Garden and plant native and xeric plants that are better able to tolerate hot, dry summers. Some good plants are sedums, daylilies (*Hemerocallis*), coneflowers (*Echinacea*), other composites (daisy-like plants), *Epimedium* varieties (good for dry shade), and grasses and sedges.

For the true gardener, there's always next season!

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

Parking

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

Plant Information

Tuesday, 9 am to 4 pm, ext. 200

Compost Information

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

Getting Here

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

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

Garden News

Annette Fanara - Editor

Shari Romar - Grant Writer & Manager

Contributors - Patty Kleinberg, Fred Gerber

Susan Lacerte - Executive Director



around the garden

QBG NEWS AND NOTES

COSMOS NIGHT 2010

On September 16, the Korean-American Friends of Queens Botanical Garden helped raise over \$14,000 in support of the Garden. Yong Hwa Ha, President of the Korean American Association of Greater New York, was honored for his community service and spirit of involvement. A hundred guests enjoyed delicious food, traditional Korean music and dance, and friendship on the Terrace. The event was co-chaired by Dr. Joon Bang and Mr. Charles Khym.



Above, from left: Dr. Joon Bang, Yong Hwa Ha, Susan Lacerte, Assemblywoman Grace Meng, and Charles Khym. Photo by Pasquale Cuomo.



Above, from left, at the Board Alumni & Special Friends Party: Honoree Robert Schirling with Lola McLinden, Stephen Hans, and Board Chair Frank Mirovsky. Also honored at the event was Ashok Bhavnani, AIA. The party raised \$2,300 for the Garden's general fund and \$6,500 toward the Storm Appeal fund. Photo by Shari Romar.

Interested in becoming a member?
Visit our website at www.queensbotanical.org.

HSBC VOLUNTEERS

HSBC corporate volunteers spent a day working in the Parking Garden and other areas of QBG. HSBC is lead sponsor of the Children's Garden. *Photo by Shari Romar.*



MEMBER RECOGNITION DINNER

Fifty-five members at the Supporting level and above gathered on the Terrace on the evening of July 15 for the annual Member Recognition Event. After enjoying a unique tapas buffet, cooked fresh on-site, guests were led on a Garden tour by Susan Lacerte. This annual event allows the Garden an opportunity to thank members for their ongoing support.



Susan Lacerte (standing, in white) visits with members at the Member Recognition Dinner. **3** Photo by Shari Romar.

around the garden

QBG NEWS AND NOTES

BORDERS, BACKYARDS AND GRASSES

Change is one of the pleasures of a garden, watching plants grow out of and into new spaces, and embracing new styles and tastes. As this year begins to draw to a close, QBG celebrates this spirit of change within three garden spaces.

Garden visitors know that QBG offers a stunning backdrop for photography, and certain areas are particularly popular for wedding photos. The new Floral Border – planted in April and made possible with support from Astoria Federal Savings – is a result of feedback from the Garden’s brides and grooms and has quickly become a favorite spot.

“I selected plants with lots of long-lasting color and arranged them in cool to warm hues so the border coordinates with a variety of bridal party color schemes,” explained Assistant Gardener Morgan Potter. Even after flowers fade, the plants will provide texture, colorful bark, and structural interest to the space, she added.

Not far from the Floral Border, the Backyard Gardens is enjoying recent renovations, thanks to a bequest gift from the Mombello Russo estate. Constructed nearly 25 years ago by local landscapers, this intriguing space offers visual suggestions to homeowners with small city backyards.

“Since the theme is backyards, I wanted to give the impression of looking through a window or door into an outdoor room,” said Morgan. She achieved this by installing doorways and window sills in lively colors and repainting an arbor to highlight climbing vines like wisteria.

The Backyard Garden’s newest feature is a moss garden. “This was always a shady area, and I thought it would be perfect for mosses,” Potter said. Rearranging large nearby rocks and incorporating some large fallen branches from September’s storm, she nestled misters amongst the mosses which provide further ambiance while keeping the plants hydrated.

Just steps away, the Ornamental Grass Garden highlights the diversity of Poaceae, the grass family, and was made possible from The City Gardens Club of New York as well as the Mombello Russo bequest. With subtle textures, feathery seed heads and warm green and gold colors, grasses are arranged by height so that when viewed from a distance, species move from tallest to shortest. Get a sense of the prairie by stepping into the center path and become surrounded by these delicate garden charmers.

“Grasses are beautiful in the autumn and provide wonderful winter interest, so plan to visit even when the temperatures drop,” suggested Sophia Warsh, Assistant Gardener.



(Top to bottom) Floral Border, Backyard Garden and Ornamental Grass Garden. Photos by Shari Romar.

seasonal pleasures

RECIPES AND MORE

FALL FOLIAGE AND MORE

Many people look for the ever-changing palette of leaf colors in the autumn, but don't realize the variety of flowers that are still in bloom. The staghorn sumac (below in the Circle Garden) displays vibrant gold leaves. Surrounding it, visitors will find the delicate cosmos flower and hardy Montauk daisy.



(Above) Fall flowering Canadian anemone.
Photo by Shari Romar.

GRANDMA'S APPLE CRISP

5-6 Granny Smith apples

1 cup flour

¼ cup brown sugar

¼ cup sugar

½ cup (approximate) butter
or margarine

Cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Peel, slice, and core apples and place in baking pan. Sprinkle with cinnamon.

In a bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, and sugar. Add butter or margarine and mix until ingredients form moist crumbs (a little more butter or margarine may be needed). Spread crumb topping over apples in baking pan.

Place baking pan in oven. Bake between 30-45 minutes.

Photo and recipe supplied by Shari Romar,
Grant Writer & Manager.



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 you can help call Susan Lacerte,
Executive Director, at 718.886.3800 ext. 205.

tips and tools

PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

RECYCLING TIPS: THINGS THAT ARE HARD TO RECYCLE

As the weather cools and people move inside, many start cleaning out closets, attics, basements and garages. Once things have been given away or sold at the yard sale, what does one do with all the unneeded or unwanted junk? There are various ways to dispose of unwanted goods, but throwing them out to the curb may not be the best way. You may want to recycle or have someone else reuse the items, but sometimes it takes quite a bit of effort just to find out how to accomplish that. Don't give up! Here are a few tips on recycling or donating your unwanted "treasures."

- Crafters or the art program at your local school may want **wine corks** for craft projects. Yemm & Hart is processing the old bottle stoppers into lovely, environmentally friendly cork floor and wall tiles. Mail corks to them at: Wine Cork Recycling, Yemm & Hart Ltd., 425 North Chamber Drive, Fredericktown, MO, 63645. Whole Foods has Cork ReHarvest boxes in all of its 292 stores in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.
- Most people don't throw away their **used books, DVDs and CDs**, but buying new consumes unnecessary resources and cash. Trade your old ones for something new to you at Swaptree.com. Just sign up, list your unwanted items, and choose items you'd like to receive. Complete the swap through the mail.
- Nike will take your **rubber-soled shoes**—no matter what brand—and recycle them into new athletic surfaces like basketball or tennis courts and running tracks. Find your nearest dropoff location at the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe website (NikeReuseAShoe.com).
- What can you do with polystyrene **packing peanuts**? They're made from petroleum, are annoying and hard to get rid of. Polystyrene packing peanuts and molded foam cushioning can either be dropped off or sent in the mail. Local companies include PRC Industries, Inc. in St. James, NY and Gianco Environmental Services in Brentwood, NY. Call them to check on any changes in policy.
- Use the **Holiday Lights** you have for now, but when those old strands die, send them to holidayleds.com to be recycled, and you'll get a 15-percent-off coupon for anything on their site, so you can replace them with LED lights. Bonus: lower utility bills.
- Drinking water in many major metropolitan areas is contaminated with all kinds of **prescription medication** from antibiotics to antidepressants. Instead of flushing your old prescription meds down the toilet, try to donate drugs that are still usable. Check with your local pharmacy for information.
- Return **metal clothes hangers** to the dry cleaner to be recycled. Most will accept and reuse them.
- Donate your **old eyeglasses** to a charity that distributes them to people in need. Check out New Eyes for the Needy, the Lions Club, or contact your local LensCrafters, Pearle Vision, or Goodwill store to find out which have drop off boxes.
- Don't forget about consignment shops for your **gently used items**. You'll keep cloth and other goods from the landfill and could earn back a little cash for yourself. Or, donate goods to a thrift shop, or post the items on Craigslist or Freecycle for your area.



Teepee sculptures in front of the Compost Office trailer. Photo by Shari Romar.

For other recycling needs, Earth911 has a toll-free hotline (1-800-CLEANUP) and website (Earth911.com) with an exhaustive directory of recycling and disposal centers near you.

What to see and do

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS Fall 2010

Member Volunteer Day

Saturday, October 16, 9am to noon

Members Only. Help us prepare the Garden for Fall. Bring your own gloves, water bottle and hand tools. RSVP to afanara@queensbotanical.org or 718-886-3800 ext. 202.

Art: From the Garden to the Walls

A Project by Susan Springer Anderson

Exhibit Opening: Sunday, October 17, 3 to 5pm

Free with admission

Susan Springer Anderson, artist-in-residence, has been working at the Garden for a month from September 18 through October 17, 2010. She has created a collection of figurative installation sculptures utilizing natural materials collected from the Garden. The project is made possible through a grant with QCAF-Queens Community Art Fund.

NYC Teacher "Wormshop": Worm bin habitat in the classroom

Wednesday, October 20, 5 to 7pm

Fee: \$5/person

Discover the benefits of a composting worm bin in your classroom, an excellent hands-on and inquiry-based activity to teach biology, recycling, and responsibility. Learn great facts about earthworms, how to set up a worm bin and maintain the system effectively.

Registration is required. Email compost@queensbotanical.org or call 718-539-5296 to register.

FREE After Dinner Gardening Workshop at the Skyview Center Mall

Saturday, October 23, noon to 2pm

Where: Skyview Center Mall

40-24 College Point Boulevard, Flushing NY 11354

Come join QBG at the new Skyview Center Mall where our education staff will be holding a free After Dinner Gardening workshop. Participate in seed planting while learning about various edible and common food plants in our showcase! No registration required.



Glass Painting Class

Sunday, October 24, 2 to 3pm

\$25 class fee + \$15 materials fee

Bright colors, transparency, and light: this is what glass painting is all about. Create a unique decoration for your home or a personalized present for someone special in a joyful way! The class will introduce you to the basics of glass painting. You'll learn how to trace a design on glass; how to color it with transparent, water-based paints specifically designed for use on glass and you'll bring home your own work of art! Registration required, please email rwolf@queensbotanical.org or call ext. 230.

MillionTreesNYC Train the Trainer: Learn How to Conduct Your Own Workshop!

Wednesday, October 27, 6 to 9pm

Free

Do you want to share your enthusiasm for taking care of our city's street trees with others? This workshop is for you! Come learn how to organize and facilitate workshops in your neighborhood. Must have taken a previous MillionTreesNYC tree care workshop to attend. Registration required. Email million-treesnyc@queensbotanical.org or call 718-886-3800 ext. 236 to register.

What to see and do

HERE'S MORE HAPPENING AT QBG!

Natural Gardening Workshop Series in collaboration with LaGuardia Community College: Plant Propagation

Thursday, October 28, 6:30 to 8:30pm

Take your outdoor plants and learn how to propagate them. Explore different techniques of plant propagation, such as taking cuttings, division, layering and direct sowing of seeds. Learn how to care for plants, both indoors and out, focusing on various kinds of plants, soil mixtures and containers. To register for a session, contact LaGuardia Continuing Education at (718) 482-5125.

Pumpkin Patch

Sunday, October 31, 1 to 3pm

NonMember Fee: \$10/pumpkin - includes single admission

Member Fee: \$8/pumpkin

Come dressed in costume and see the Children's Garden transformed into a spooky pumpkin patch, while Count Dracula and other whimsical characters create an afternoon of fun for all! Kids will select and paint their own pumpkins to take home as well as create a unique Green-Haired Plant Monster. The fun continues with spooky tattoos and yummy Halloween treats! No reservation required.

Fall Poetry Recital

by Fresh Meadows Poets and St. John's University Poetry Club

Sunday, October 31, 3 to 5pm

Free with admission

Join the Fresh Meadows Poets and St. John's University Poetry Club as they present a Fall Poetry Recital on the Terrace. No registration required.

Composting in the City & Indoor Worm Composting

Saturday, November 20, 11am to 1pm

Fee: \$5/person

Leaves, kitchen scraps, garden trimmings, and weeds can all become garden gold through composting. This class covers the essentials on composting, both outside in city yards and inside your apartment using a worm bin. See how making dark, rich, crumbly compost doesn't take much time, work, or space. Registration is required. Email compost@queensbotanical.org or call 718-539-5296.



WHAT'S IN BLOOM?

FALL COLOR AND ORNAMENTAL INTEREST

Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile.

—William Cullen Bryant

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
Redtwig Dogwood
Paperbark Maple
River Birch
Stewartia
Crape Myrtle