

Garden News



QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN NEWSLETTER



SPRING: EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Everyone remembers the Good Old Days, when times seemed simpler. In today's fast-paced, high-tech environment, many people are yearning for or returning to Old World ways to calm and nurture their spirit. Growing plants for food. Saving and sharing seeds. Using manure and compost to feed the soil, and soap, or garlic or tobacco juice concoctions, to ward off insects. Connecting to nature on a spiritual level with garden labyrinths, music, and dance. These centuries-old practices are again becoming mainstream, and are proving to be personally rewarding.

Gardens, when cultivated on a holistic level, offer a deep therapeutic connection that can often provide insight to the delicately balanced systems of the Earth. QBG's 39 acres were originally a marsh meadow, subject to the ebbs and flow of the Flushing River. Once again, this land is undergoing change—both dramatic and subtle. The landscape transformation in the Arboretum, for example, is much more subtle than in those areas being reshaped by new construction.

Yet, it can be profoundly dramatic if viewed from a different perspective. As the soil heals, beneficial plant species proliferate along with beneficial insects. Slowly a magical web of life with birds, animals, insects, and plants weaves itself into the meadow, offering beauty only nature can create.

We can't restore the landscape to its original pristine condition, just as we can't really return to the Good Old Days. But we can make tomorrow better by developing a reverence for human as well as nature's wisdom and maintaining cultural traditions that keep us connected to our roots. This year's Gardening Day is a great place to start! See inside for details.

APRIL

2 SUNDAY

Spring Talk: Starting Vegetables and Flowers from Seed, 1 pm

6 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Plant Propagation, 2 pm

8 SATURDAY

Just for Kids! HSBC Family Seed-Sowing Day, 1 pm

27 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Grocery Store Gardening, 2 pm

30 SUNDAY

Gardening Day: Everything Old Is New Again, 12 noon to 5 pm

MAY

7 SUNDAY

Spring Talk: Plant Propagation, 1 pm

11 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Bees and Honey Tasting, 2 pm

13 SATURDAY

Just for Kids! Spring Nature Walk—Family Food Foraging, 10:30 am
Spring Talk: Mother's Compost Day, 1 pm

21 SUNDAY

Spring Talks: Backyard Composting, 11 am
Conservation in Small Spaces—Vermicomposting, 1 pm
Herbal Skin Care, 1 pm

25 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Creating An Indoor/Outdoor Herb Collection, 2 pm

JUNE

1 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: The Painted Harp, Note, Brushstroke, and Flower Story, 2 pm

10 SATURDAY

Just for Kids! Grocery Store Gardening, 10:30 am

15 THURSDAY

Seeds for Seniors: Flower Arranging, 2 pm

17 SATURDAY

Spring Talk: Build a Bench—Compost Style, 11 am

18 SUNDAY

Spring Talk: Making Herbal Jams and Preserves, 1 pm

25 SUNDAY

Just for Kids! Worm Olympics, 1 pm

Development

HELLO, GOODBYE...BOARD NEWS

QBG's Board of Trustees has attracted the talents and expertise of four leaders from the financial and architectural fields. They are William DeJesus, senior internal auditor at The Rockefeller Group, one of the largest development corporations in New York; Emily Lin, principal of LIN + ASSOCIATES Architects, PC, whose practice includes a wide range of projects through the tri-state area and China; Rachel Sha, founder of Optima Partners Inc., a firm that provides financial services consulting to an overseas family office; and Vipin Thakral, chief operating officer for T&T Business Group, LLC/T&T Commercial Capital, LLC and a guest writer for *New York Real Estate Journal*.

The Garden is grateful to outgoing trustees Joan N. Bluestone, Paul W. Ho, James V. McTighe, Verdia M. Noel, and Martha Taylor, Esq., for their dedication to the Garden and support of its many initiatives during their board tenure. Each has made notable and lasting contributions to QBG, and their good work and leadership example should serve as inspiration for all board members, both old and new alike.



Emily Lin, Rachel Sha, William DeJesus, and Vipin Thakral

Re-elected to their posts for another term are board officers Stefanie F. Handsman, chair (c.), Frank C. Macchio, vice chair, Renée E. Ring, secretary; and Robert Schirling, treasurer (not pictured). Joining them on the Executive Committee are James Riso and Patrick Sun. *Photos: Pasquale J. Cuomo*



Renewed support from HSBC in the Community (USA) Inc. will keep QBG's Children's Garden green and growing for the 2006 season. Students from PS 193, in Whitestone, Queens, greeted Paul W. Ho (c.), senior vice president of HSBC Bank USA and former QBG board member, during a recent visit, when he presented executive director Susan Lacerte with a \$50,000 check. *Photo: Pasquale J. Cuomo*

NEW GRANTS

Independence Community Foundation: \$100,000, a two-year award toward wayfinding and exhibits

HSBC in the Community (USA) Inc.: \$50,000 award for the Children's Garden

The Kupferberg Foundation: \$10,000 award in support of general operations

Verizon Foundation: \$6,000 award for technology initiatives

Astoria Federal Savings: \$5,000 award for Gardening Day

BJ's Charitable Foundation: \$5,000 award for education programs

BP Corporation North America, Inc.: \$5,000 award in support of general operations

Mushroom Trust: \$5,000 award toward the internship program

Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation: \$2,500 award for Gardening Day

S.H. & Helen R. Scheuer Family Foundation: \$1,000 award in support of general operations

Max & Selma Kupferberg Family Foundation: \$1,000 award in support of general operations

Great Eastern Bank: \$500 award in support of general operations

CORPORATE MEMBERS

\$10,000

Consolidated Edison Company of New York
Pfizer, Inc.

\$5,000

Credit Suisse
Goldman, Sachs & Co.

NEW

MEMBERS

(August 19, 2005 through February 8, 2006)

Star Ault

Sue Campbell

William Frank

Jane Heckler

Kurt E. Hoppe, Jr.

Hydroponic Garden Centers, Inc.

Greta Jaklitsch

Tyler Jenner

Emily Lin

Steve and Sonja McKinnon

Sondra Miller

Patricia O'Malley

Denise Marie Orefice

Rachel Sha

Nancy Sheer

Fernella Smith

Tinko Tau

Juanita Torrence Thompson

Thelma Whitaker

Miranda Wong

2005-2006 ANNUAL APPEAL

We are grateful to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses for their support of our annual appeal to date. As of February 28, \$18,174 had been raised for QBG, with \$1,710 earmarked for the endowment.

\$1,000 to \$2,499

LIN + ASSOCIATES
New York Hospital
Queens
Robert Schirling
WestWind Foundation

\$500 to \$999

Garden View Plaza
Condo
Sidney Kalugin
James Riso
John B. Wingate

\$250 to \$499

Joan N. Bluestone*
In Seung Chun
DC 37
Nicholas DeCicco
Stefanie F. Handsman
Michael Lee
Frances G. Madrid
Nassau Tent
\$100 to \$249
Sakuo Anzai
Richard Aurelio
Automatic Mail
Services Inc.
Sunni Behrman
Naomi Dagen Bloom
Ellen Borker
Benjamin Broun
EMJ Construction
Consultants
Aline Euler
Lawrence Fields

Fred Gerber
Victoria Gershik-
Ostrovsky*
Tom & Irma Giordano
Helen Green
Hee M. Han
Masayoshi Itoh
Greta Jaklitsch
Charles Khym
Allan Kramer
Linda Lacerte
Susan Lacerte*
Elise Laney
James Lee
Lions Club of Flushing
Noreen Madigan
Liam Martin
Lola McLinden
McNulty Outdoors Inc.
Sophie Minkoff
Frank J. Mirovsky*
Art Morgan
Vernetta Nelson
Dorie Sheer Pearlman
Queens Center
Adele & Albert Robbins
Margaret Savarese
David & Adele Scheck
Betsy Pinover Schiff
Claire Shulman
Michael C. Sperendi,
Esq.
Archie Spigner

John Spillane
Steven Winter
Associates
Margot Suesheim
Robert & Nancy Ward
George Young
\$50 to \$99
James & Connie Abbet
Victor S. Aimar
Nicholas Ancona
Joon J. Bang, MD
Ashok Bhavnani, AIA
Larry & Ruth Borger
Katherine Cohen
Ann Delnnoctiis
Clare Del Monaco*
Robert & Nancy
Donohue
William Donohue
Flushing Cemetery
Assoc.
Kevin & Laura
Gallagher
Alma & Sol Greenbaum
Kristina Jones
Leo Kellerman
Patty Kleinberg*
Shirley Kushner*
Carla LaBoyne
Beverly & Lawrence
Lacerte
Judith Levey
Linda Li
Wai Li*

George Meyer
Yen Ming Mung
Dr. Jacqueline M.
Newman
Aaron Norarevian
Elizabeth O'Leary
Miguel Ortega
Edward Potter
Sandra Robishaw
Jean Sbarra
Richard & Marjorie
Schnall
Jennifer Ward Souder*
Martin Tytun
Up to \$49
James Adams
Noerah Alvi
Audience Research &
Analysis
Owen Bernstein
Marilyn Bitterman
Sandra Reed Bottino
Thomas J. Chin-Bow
Ka-Yiu Chung
Alan Cohen
Thomas A. Dent
Elsa Dessberg
Linda Dunn
Anne Ebinger
Nancy Engrao-Carmel
Freddy Fernandez
Elaine Fleischman
Rollin Gattis
Theodore Goldberg

Henry Galton
Jacquie Gregor
Bernard Gus
Blaise Guzzardo
Jeannemarie
Hendershot*
Paul Hetzer*
Jackson Heights
Garden Club
Kenneth & Elaine
Kowald
Marianne Kristoff
Michael Lichtman
Barbara McKinnon
Lynn McMahan
Victor Mendez
Elsa Oliphant
Louis Osofsky
Lew Picardi
Eduardo Questell
Eleanor Rakower
Herbert & Barbara
Schmaler
Lois Schuman*
John Semple
Audrey Sequeira-
Butaney
William Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Telios
Margaret Anne
Tockarszewsky*

*earmarked for
endowment

ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENT GIFTS

\$5,000 and above

Mushroom Trust

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Gloria Levin
The Port Authority of
NY & NJ
Renée Ring
Magda Salvesen

\$500 to \$999

Robert Schirling

Up to \$499

Joan N. Bluestone
Stefanie F. Handsman
Frank J. Mirovsky

MATCHING GIFTS

Computer Associates
(\$200)
Times/Ledger
Newspapers (\$200)
Ford Foundation (\$150)
The McGraw-Hill
Companies (\$100)
Verizon Foundation
(\$100)
Exxon Mobil Matching
Gift Program (\$35)
Pfizer Foundation
Matching Gift Program
(\$35)

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.

SAVE THE DATE

ROSE BALL
Thursday, June 15
7 to 10 pm

IN MEMORIAM

Over the past six months, QBG has had to say farewell to four good friends who enriched this institution in so many ways.

So deeply a part of the Garden's early years on Main Street, **Isabel Astle** leaves a legacy of kindness, fond memories, and good works. As a longtime member of the Flushing Garden Club, she assisted with shows here in the 1960s and 1970s and with creating holiday decorations for Garden sales. With her husband, Will, a longtime QBG board member, she helped organize school plant sales as part of our early fund-raising efforts, and was a gracious hostess in their home, where they entertained Garden staff, guest lecturers, and members of the Queens County Bird Club, of which Will was a founding member. A graduate of one of the finest Royal Horticultural Society schools in England, Isabel was modest about her considerable horticultural knowledge. She specialized in English "sink" or trough gardens, and her skill in flower arranging was extraordinary as well. The Astle family will celebrate her life with a memorial event on June 8 at QBG. Call Barbara McKinnon, ext. 202, for further details.



Raymond Chen

For well over a decade, **Raymond Chen** was a daily presence at QBG. As leader of the tai chi group, he arrived at 7:30 each morning and left as most staff arrived to start their day. But all knew of his extraordinary leadership, warmth, and ambassadorship for the Garden, which extended throughout the Flushing community. Raymond arranged for the group to perform at and participate in various Garden events, and he graciously served as media spokesperson, accommodating requests from press for interviews and photographs. The group's annual fund-raiser raised thousands of dollars in support of the Garden's operations. His spirit will endure, and his legacy can be seen each morning on the Oak Allée.

Longtime Flushing resident **Ruben Libraty** was a frequent visitor to the Garden, volunteering his time assisting security and maintenance staff, and enjoying the grounds

with family and friends. He took great pleasure in sharing his talents. A professional taxidermist, Ruben donated a number of exhibits for our education classroom for use in school programs. He enjoyed showing his support for staff as well; the annual barbeque was always more bountiful thanks to his generosity. He will be missed.

Garden neighbor and past volunteer **Sunni Behrman** could be found at many a QBG event, usually with longtime partner Fred Gerber, QBG director of education emeritus. Fred's work kept him engaged in Garden activities on weekends and afterhours, presenting programs for children and adults alike, and Sunni frequently turned out to support his efforts. The board and staff offer their heartfelt condolences to Fred on his loss.

"Being here at QBG sometimes feels like being in heaven. The sunsets, the Canadian geese, the pheasants, the red-tail hawk, the willow tree, the oaks, the eucalyptus. It's the Garden of Eden northern style!"

Victoria Gershik-Ostrovsky, QBG Compost Project coordinator



Welcome! Jeannemarie Hendershot (l.), Barbara McKinnon, Victoria Gershik-Ostrovsky, and Daniel Tainow are the newest members of QBG's staff.

STAFF NEWS

Barbara McKinnon, a native of Texas, has joined the staff as development associate. Barbara is a 2004 graduate of Kenyon College, OH, where she received a dual bachelor of arts in English and dance.

Jeannemarie Hendershot, a graduate student at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service and a former middle school teacher, joins the staff as intern coordinator.

Daniel Tainow is our new instructor in the Compost Project. Dan earned a master of arts in environment and community from Humboldt State University, CA, in 2003, and comes to QBG from The Nature Conservancy with exceptional experience in environmental education.

Victoria Gershik-Ostrovsky joined the Compost Project last October. She graduated from Oberlin College, OH, in 2003 with a degree in environmental studies and brings solid experience from her previous position as transportation coordinator for Ballet Tech to her new position as Compost Project coordinator.

Lois Schuman, who previously served as Compost Project manager, has become QBG's education manager.

Gennadyi Gurman, formerly with the Compost Project, is now a museum instructor assisting with all aspects of public education programming.

Retired QBG horticulturist **Zofia Pienkos** rejoins the staff this spring as Children's Garden and programs horticulturist, assisting with the planning, plant propagation, and horticultural care of the Children's Garden.

QBG staff will again have a role at the annual American Public Gardens Association (formerly AABGA) conference, to be held in San Francisco June 27-30. Executive director **Susan Lacerte** will speak on the topic of "Effecting Change," while director of capital projects/assistant director **Jennifer Ward Souder** will serve as a speaker for the session, "Air, Earth, Fire, Water, and Spirit: Defining Sustainability Across All Garden Activities."

INTERN NEWS

Even though winter is not often thought to be a busy season for a garden, interns were working diligently in all of our departments to help with some of our most important work. **Victor Antoine** and **Zhen Weng**, both seniors at John Bowne High School, worked daily to ensure all materials were ready for classes in our education department, in addition to helping out during the classes and maintaining the education greenhouse. **Wendy Florez**, a student in the Young Adult Borough Center (YABC) at John Adams High School, took on myriad tasks in our marketing department, from greeting public officials at Garden events to fielding press inquiries and assembling press kits. **Colin Blair**, a senior at Columbia University, began working on an archival project to document QBG's rich history in photos.

Last fall, **Janet Ruiz**, a bus driver and recent City College graduate, spent her only days off each week working in our horticulture department on plant-mapping. Janet, who has a background in biology and had held an internship at The Wildlife Conservation Society prior to her work at QBG, finished her Garden internship in December. The education department recently said goodbye to **Deaotra Bell**, a YABC student at John Adams High School, who has moved on to another internship at a record company. Deaotra brought a great deal of talent and enthusiasm to her work with classes each day, and her presence will surely be missed. Everyone at QBG wishes the best of luck to **Henry Asfaw** as he begins college. Henry started as an intern in our horticulture department two years ago, and after his phenomenal work there, was offered the Walter Kaner Children's Foundation's internship to work in the education department. He has decided to further his education and has just started classes at Queensborough Community College.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Thanks to a generous grant from The Altman Foundation for an internship coordinator, the Garden is able to provide an expanded summer internship program for high school students this year. In addition to the many opportunities available in the Children's Garden, QBG will now be offering internships in administration, marketing, horticulture, outreach, cultural research, and capital projects. Internship coordinator Jeannemarie Hendershot will be organizing field trips, lectures, and other events for the program. For more information or to request an application, contact her at jhendershot@queensbotanical.org or 718.886.3800, ext. 204.

February's hard-hat tour for Queens Borough President Helen Marshall (middle row, c.) and other city officials included a visit to the Visitor/Administration Building under construction and the recently completed Horticulture/Maintenance Building. The latter is the first new building to be constructed at QBG since 1986. *Photo (bottom): Pasquale J. Cuomo*

Capital Projects

GARDEN CELEBRATES GREEN PROGRESS

On February 6, 2006, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, members of the New York City Council, NYC Department of Design and Construction Commissioner David J. Burney, and others toured the Garden's Sustainable Landscapes and Buildings project to celebrate the recently completed Horticulture/Maintenance Building and get a behind-the-scenes look at the Visitor/Administration Building under construction.

The 6,229-square-foot Horticulture/Maintenance Building includes staff offices, workshops, and vehicle storage. Sustainable features include translucent wall panels that let in natural light, a rainwater recycling system, and nontoxic interior materials and furniture. The building's attractive wood façades are made of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified cedar.

Behind the construction fence this winter, great progress was made on the new Visitor/Administration Building. The building was enclosed, geothermal wells and photovoltaic panels were installed, and interior walls were constructed. This spring, visitors can expect to see windows, FSC-certified cedar, and cement board siding installed and work continuing on the large outdoor terrace and auditorium walls.

QBG will host a hard-hat tour of the Sustainable Landscapes and Buildings project on Saturday, April 22, as part of National Landscape Architecture Month. Contact QBG's Jennifer Ward Souder at 718.886.3800, ext. 220 for more information.



WISHLIST

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

Composting toilet
(\$30,000)

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

Microsoft Windows upgrade for BG Base Plant Inventory System
(\$2,800)

Dosatron fertilizing machine
(\$500)



© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C.

Forest Stewardship Council

Most of the wood products used in QBG's new buildings and landscapes, including the distinctive cedar façades, *brise soleil* (sunshading device), fences, benches, and interior doors, are made from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood. FSC is an international organization that establishes independent standards for wood harvesting and forest management based on environmental and social criteria, including the rights of workers and indigenous peoples and the protection of forest ecosystems. Purchasing wood products stamped with the FSC logo allows consumers to feel confident that they are purchasing products made from sustainably harvested wood, including plywood, furniture, paper, and other wood-based materials.

Cultural Research

CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR FLOWER MARKET

On a brisk and clear Friday afternoon in January, I attended the New York Chinatown's 3rd Annual Lunar New Year Flower Market in Manhattan's Columbus Park, one of the many Lunar New Year festivities that take place in the five boroughs every year. A large white tent, surrounded by touch football games on the park's AstroTurf, enclosed roughly forty vendors selling and displaying travel packages to China, ceramic vases, ink drawings, 'fusion crepes,' artificial flowers, and of course, a bounty of real flowers. As a volunteer in QBG's cultural research department, I attended the event in order to observe the sights, smells, and sounds of this year's Flower Market and celebration of the ensuing Year of the Dog. I accompanied Marianne Kristoff from the horticulture department, who had been invited by organizers of the event to serve as one of three judges of the bouquet design competition. Flowers found in both the designs and vendors' booths for sale included kumquat trees, bundles of pussy willow branches, willow trees, 'money trees' with braided trunks and red envelopes awaiting bills of good fortune, peonies, narcissus, and many more. Much of the symbolism embodied in these flowers and their exchange relates to notions of happiness, good fortune, prosperity, and luck—messages common to many celebrations of the New Year. Various other Asian cultures, including Korean and Vietnamese, follow a lunar calendar as well; accordingly, this event seeks to serve all celebrations of Lunar New Year. The two-day event was organized by the Museum of Chinese in the Americas, the Asian American Arts Alliance, and The United East Athletics Association.

Cultural research volunteer Shelby Semmes is an undergraduate student at Columbia University.

Horticulture

BECKONING BULBS

What better way to slough off the dreary wet weather than with a visit to QBG's annual tulip display? Nearly 10,000 bulbs will be ready to pop by April's end, delivering a rousing splash of color wrapped in a crisp spring breeze. Their fetching names and eye-catching palette just might influence spring wardrobe and makeup choices, if not inspire repeat visits to the Garden.

Bordering the lawns at the Main Street entrance, 1,200 double tulips, in shades of lavender, pink, and rose, will beguile passersby with their demure charm. Attracting attention in nearby Bernie's Bed—the staff's affectionate name for the oval formerly tended by a QBG longtime gardener—2,000 'Lipsticks' tulips will boldly draw admirers to their jewel-toned bonnets of dark cherry-red and deep rose.

On the Oak Allée, the three oval beds will be aglow with 4,000 long- and short-stemmed tulips in pastel shades of pink, cream, and a range of yellows, from lemon to the striking gold 'Solar Raise.' The rectangular bed in front of the Administration Building will feature

500 'Tang Dynasty' tulips in four colors: white, yellow, apricot-orange, and sweet lemon. The future site of the Garden's water features, this area is slated for construction later in the year, making this the last season this bed will be planted with tulips. "We will have a fabulous send off," promises supervisor of gardeners Marianne Kristoff about the 'Tang Dynasty' plantings.

The Wedding Garden will dazzle viewers with hundreds of 'Going Baroque' tulips ("No pun intended!" insists Marianne), along with the evocatively named 'Get Rhythm,' and an ample selection of 'Cretaceous' and 'Parrot Blend' plantings.

In the more naturalistic setting of the Woodland Garden, a few hundred dog's-tooth violets will make their debut, while just to the east, 10,000 naturalized daffodils will highlight the grassy areas inside the fence by Peck and Main Streets.

Finally, expect to see the later-blooming *Allium unifolium* (pink) and 'Moly' (yellow), and a small selection of *Camassia* 'Blue Danube,' appearing in the Backyard Gardens sometime in June.



QBG board members Stefanie F. Handsman (r.) and Patrick Sun (second from right) caught up with New York State Senator Frank Padavan (c.) and community leaders at this year's Lunar New Year Parade in Flushing. *Photo: Michael O'Kane*

"As a judge, I looked at the six floral entries and the criteria the designers had followed to participate in the event, which included color, expressing the spirit of Chinese New Year, and size restrictions. The winning design featured a gold dog (for the Year of the Dog), spider mums, and colorful wires twisted to appear like fireworks coming from a base of four red-and-gold upright vases. Ribbons and tassel continued the festive theme."

Marianne Kristoff,
QBG supervisor
of gardeners

Compost



At this winter's MulchFest, QBG master composter Robin Kraut bagged up some wonderful-smelling pine mulch to take home and put around her trees and garden. The event was sponsored by the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation.

HUNGRY FOR HUMUS?

With two new full-time employees, the Compost Project staff is taking Queens and the rest of New York City by storm, spreading the message of “compost more, waste less” to diverse audiences. The staff spent the winter months conducting compost workshops for the public, students, and teachers onsite at QBG, at W.C. Bryant High School and other institutions, and at events like Swap-O-Rama-Rama, a reuse and revamp clothing exchange. Additionally, the Compost Project staff tabled at a number of events throughout the City, including the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation's annual MulchFest, an opportunity for the public to bring their holiday trees to a local designated park to be converted into woodchips. During the event, the staff met Queens residents committed to seeing their holiday trees go to a good cause—keeping the city greener and more beautiful—and not into the waste stream.

With MulchFest under their belts, staff members are ready for their next challenge, the Compost Givebacks, which serve close to 1,000 families in one weekend. On Saturday, April 8, and Sunday, April 9, they will help people load up on free New York City compost at the Spring Creek compost site, located at the easternmost end of Flatlands Avenue, past Fountain Avenue, in Brooklyn.

Compost, sometimes described as humus-rich compost, is a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land. The NYC Department of Sanitation's Bureau on Waste Prevention, Reuse, and Recycling has dedicated days in the fall and winter to collect leaves from city residents and institutions. These leaves, which could have easily been taken to a landfill, are instead turned into high-quality matter—compost—and given out to the public at spring and fall Compost Givebacks. Deputy director of the Compost Unit, Kirk Tomlinson, says that the City “[has] barely scratched the surface in [its] past attempts to give away a lot of compost.” City residents use compost in backyards, gardens, and parks to improve soil quality, increase plant growth, and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers and watering.

If your garden is hungry for humus, then make sure to put one of the Compost Giveback dates on your calendar. It will surely satiate your compost appetite!

COMPOST GIVEBACKS

**Saturdays & Sundays
April 8, 9, 22, and 23
Spring Creek
Composting Facility,
Brooklyn**

For more information and additional dates and locations, visit www.nyccompost.org or call the Queens Compost Helpline at 718.539.LAWN(5296).

THANKS!

We appreciate the efforts of the following master composters who volunteered at the Autumn Compost Giveback and MulchFest, and who help us out now and again: Sarah Aronson, Suzanne Boyle, Florencio Bravo, Polly Chea, Henry Gralton, Blaise Guzzardo (and his wife), Max Joel, Robin Kraut, Noreen Madigan, Angela Malanga, Anna Mardjanian, and Sandra Robishaw.

Dear Flora

Q: My kids love the worm bin I bought last year at a QBG workshop! But we have more food scraps than the worms can eat. We know that we can't overfeed the bin. What can we do with the surplus food scraps? We can't bear to throw them away.

A: There are various ways to deal with surplus kitchen scraps.

1. Get another worm bin or a larger bin and more worms. Worms can consume half their body weight a day in food scraps. Double the amount of worms and you can double the amount of food.
2. Pulverize your food scraps in a food processor or garbage disposal. The worms and microorganisms will be able to break down the food faster.
3. Store extra food scraps in the freezer until the worms seem to have eaten up most of the other food scraps. (Defrost before adding to your worm bin!)
4. Eat more and therefore discard less of your food. For example, learn to eat the skins of your potatoes or vegetables. They contain the majority of the fiber, and many of the nutrients are located close to the skin.
5. Consider backyard composting. If you have a balcony or outdoor space, punch holes in a metal garbage can and use it to compost more food scraps. (Attend QBG's workshop on May 21 to learn how!)
6. Sometimes you just have to throw out some of the food scraps.

More composting questions?
E-mail compost@queensbotanical.org.

“The best thing for me was to get my hands dirty!”

Anna Mardjanian, commenting on her experience in the 2002 Master Composter Class

The Compost Project staff wants to collaborate with you on spreading the compost message! Please contact us via the Queens Compost Helpline at 718.539.LAWN(5296) or e-mail us at compost@queensbotanical.org.

Spring Talks & Workshops

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

STARTING VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS FROM SEED

Sunday, April 2, 1 pm

Fee: \$5, members free

Join horticulturist Zofia Pienkos and discover the economical and fun way to grow your garden from seeds. See the inner workings of QBG's greenhouse and a hands-on demonstration on starting annual, vegetable, and perennial seeds indoors. Planting mixes, proper watering, and light requirements will be discussed.

PLANT PROPAGATION

Sunday, May 7, 1 pm

Fee: \$5, members free

Discover the fun way to multiply and grow plants in your garden. As the air and soil begin to warm up it's time to move outdoors and learn different techniques of propagating plants. Zofia Pienkos demonstrates methods such as cuttings, division, layering, and direct sowing of seeds. She also provides examples of plants, soil mixtures, and containers and further instructions on caring for plants both indoors and out.

HERBAL SKIN CARE

Sunday, May 21, 1 pm

Fee: \$5; members free

Many herbal treatments that cost a bundle at professional spas and health food stores can be created in your own home for much less. Join certified herbalist Cynthia Reed as she demonstrates how to create herbal facials, hair treatments, and hand and body conditioners.

MAKING HERBAL JAMS AND PRESERVES

Sunday, June 18, 1 pm

Fee: \$5; members free

Fresh herbs are now ready for picking! In this class, Cynthia Reed will demonstrate how to make herb jellies, vinegars, and savory preserves. This is the best way to preserve the intense flavors of fresh herbs to enjoy throughout the year.

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 housewarming 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.

COMPOST WORKSHOPS

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

MOTHER'S COMPOST DAY

Saturday, May 13, 1 pm

Want to do something original and earthy to commemorate Mother's Day? Celebrate with your family by taking this plant-potting workshop. You'll make a potting mix with compost and potting soil and then pot a plant to take home. We'll talk about nature's recycling and how you can do it at home, too!

COMPOST DOUBLEHEADER

I. Backyard Composting

Sunday, May 21, 11 am

Fee for optional subsidized compost bin: \$20

Want to start turning your leaves, kitchen scraps, or other select organic matter into a soil amendment? Learn the art of decomposition from QBG's Compost Project staff. We'll cover all of the fundamentals of outdoor composting. When you compost you play a part in helping the earth recycle its skin. In return, you are rewarded with "black gold"—by far one of the best soil amendments for your indoor plants, outdoor plants, gardens, and lawns.

II. Conservation in Small Spaces—Vermicomposting

Sunday, May 21, 1 pm

Fee for optional supplies: \$10 for worm bin and voucher for one pound of red wiggler worms

Worms are great conservationists! A worm bin is perfect for apartment dwellers and homeowners interested in reducing the amount of rubbish they put into the waste stream, and gardeners who want in on a nutrient-rich soil amendment, vermicompost. A worm bin is also an amazing learning tool for parents, children, and adults. Register for this workshop to learn about this latest waste reduction method and make a huge difference for your plants and Mother Earth.

BUILD A BENCH—COMPOST STYLE

Saturday, June 17, 11 am

Soon, the 'green' Visitor/Administration Building won't be the only new construction at the Garden! Leave your mark at QBG when you help compost instructor Dan Tainow build an outdoor compost bench for QBG from reused wood. A compost bench solves both your composting and relaxation needs. It is a functional, attractive bench that decomposes your organic waste. In the workshop, gain knowledge of backyard composting as well as some carpentry experience so that you can then build one for yourself. Plans will be available. We want your help, so come on out and build!

For information on free compost givebacks 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).

SEEDS FOR SENIORS

A Free Gardening Series for Older Adults

This spring, QBG is offering seniors age 60+ the opportunity to learn about gardening in a nurturing setting, share their plant knowledge, and make healthy connections with nature. Qualified horticultural instructors will present all programs for this series in the Garden's Education Building.

Pre-registration is required. Please call Marianne Giacalone, senior programs coordinator, at 718.886.3800, ext. 230. Class size is limited to 20 people. Seniors are limited to one workshop per season.

PLANT PROPAGATION

Thursday, April 6, 2 to 3:30 pm

This workshop reviews stem propagation, leaf cutting, and layering techniques. Appropriate starting media, container selection, and plant care are also reviewed. Each participant creates a mini-greenhouse to bring home.

GROCERY STORE GARDENING

Thursday, April 27, 2 to 3:30 pm

Learn to grow your own exotic house plants from the many unusual and interesting ethnic fruits and vegetables found in our markets today. Participants will plant seeds and/or seedlings that they can take home.

BEEES AND HONEY TASTING

Thursday, May 11, 2 to 3:30 pm

Learn why bees are important to the Garden and how honey is made. Each participant will enjoy sampling the honey made by bees in our own Bee Garden.

CREATING AN INDOOR/OUTDOOR HERB COLLECTION

Thursday, May 25, 2 to 3:30 pm

Learn about the therapeutic value of various herbs, and see the differences in their foliage, texture, scent, and taste. Each participant will bring home a selection of herbs that can be planted indoors or outdoors.

ADULT EDUCATION

Spring 2006 Adult Education Courses are offered through Queensborough Community College (QCC). Classes are held at QBG. To register and obtain a schedule of fees, contact QCC at 718.631.6343. Fees include all materials.

FLOWER CREATIONS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Tuesdays, April 4 and 11, 7:30 to 9:30 pm

WEDDING FLOWERS

Tuesday, April 25, 7:30 to 9:30 pm

BASKET ARRANGEMENT OF FLOWERS

Thursday, May 18, 7:30 to 9:30 pm

THE PAINTED HARP, NOTE, BRUSHSTROKE, AND FLOWER STORY

Thursday, June 1, 2 to 3:30 pm

Using water, colored pencils, and wet brushes, participants will create a flower painting while listening to the rhythms of a Celtic harp. Come and enjoy this holistic, art-filled flower experience.

FLOWER ARRANGING

Thursday, June 15, 2 to 3:30 pm

Participants will learn about flower types, treatments, color, and balance to create attractive arrangements that they will bring home. Fresh or herbal flowers may be used.

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.



A participant in last year's flower-arranging workshop

Special Event

GARDENING DAY 2006:

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Sunday, April 30

12 noon to 5 pm

Free

Gardening Day, QBG's annual family event, is about gardening, nature, and culture—showcasing talks, demonstrations, performances, and kid-friendly activities. This year's event focuses on the theme, "Everything Old Is New Again," and features presentations by author Amy Goldman, who has written two acclaimed books filled with practical knowledge and impassioned advocacy for heirloom fruits and vegetables; master gardener Cathy Guzzardo, who'll discuss heritage and heirloom roses; and certified herbalist Cynthia Reed, who returns with old-time herbal remedies. Soothing sounds will fill the air as Andrea Florendo and Ensemble presents a harp therapy performance; and labyrinthista Ariane Burgess will facilitate labyrinth walks throughout the day. There will be guided walks focusing on the ecology, horticulture, and management practices in the Garden's Arboretum, and plenty of craft and planting activities for children who can help create a special mural and make a Beanarium to take home. NYC-certified master composters will answer your questions and demonstrate composting techniques as well as natural lawn care. Organizations expected to be on hand to complement our message include: **thecareoftrees**, Alley Pond Environmental Center, NYSERDA, EPA, Solar 1, GreenHomeNYC, and EarthPledge.



is providing lead support for Gardening Day 2006.
Putting people first.

Additional support has been provided by Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation.

Special thanks to Clif Bar & Co., Dr. Bronner's Magical Soap, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Seeds of Change, and Starbucks for their in-kind support.

Just For Kids!

Pre-registration is required for the following programs. Families should phone the education department at least one week in advance of each program, at 718.886.3800, ext. 230.

HSBC FAMILY SEED-SOWING DAY

Saturday, April 8, 1 pm

Free

The Children's Garden has enjoyed lead support from HSBC in the Community (USA) Inc. since 2003. Family Seed-Sowing Day provides a great opportunity to spark a budding interest in horticulture as children plant flower and vegetable seeds to take home, nurture, and later transplant into their windowsill or outdoor gardens. For those families without a home garden, the Children's Garden program is a great way for kids to experience the joys of growing food and flowers while learning respect for nature. Please refer to the Children's Garden listing for more information.

SPRING NATURE WALK—FAMILY FOOD FORAGING

Saturday, May 13, 10:30 am

Limited to 30 participants

Fee: \$5 per family; members free

Join director of education emeritus Fred Gerber and museum instructor Gennady Gurman for this follow-up to the Winter Walk. This spring walk follows the footsteps of the First American families that lived in this area before European settlers arrived. See and touch samples of plants and products used by Native Americans and discover how similar our needs are today! Families will collect edible wild plants and will make a wild salad, adding wild plants found in local markets and a special maple syrup dressing. Don't miss this interesting and tasty experience.

GROCERY STORE GARDENING

Saturday, June 10, 10:30 am

Fee: \$5 per family, plus \$5 materials fee; \$5 materials fee for members

No matter where we come from, we use plants for food. In fact, you might be surprised to learn the origins of some of our fruits and vegetables. Join Fred Gerber on this fascinating world journey and taste produce from Queens markets. Afterwards you'll learn how to grow exotic houseplants from the seeds and parts of this locally found produce and take home two plantings to nurture.

WORM OLYMPICS

Sunday, June 25, 1 pm

Free*

Come join us at QBG's first Worm Olympics for kids. Fun-filled educational and energetic activities, such as Dig for Worms, A Relay-Sorting Race, and Mother Nature's Thinking Cap, will get your kids up and learning! Suitable for kids ages 6 and up.

*This program is provided at no charge, thanks to funding from the NYC Department of Sanitation.



A mural titled *Marvelous Marsh* (detail shown here), was created for QBG by participants at Alley Pond Environmental Center's National Estuary Day Celebration on September 24, 2005. Education director Aline Euler and her staff presented it to QBG after the event. The mural is now proudly displayed in our education classroom.



Photo: Teri Bloom

HSBC Children's Garden

The Children's Garden is a hands-on teaching garden cultivated by children ages 5 to 14, who learn to plant, maintain, and harvest their own vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The Garden offers a discount to QBG Family members. For more information or to register, contact the education department at 718.886.3800, ext. 230 or education@queensbotanical.org.

SPRING

**Saturdays, April 22 through June 17
9:30 am to 12 noon**

Fee: \$120; \$100 Family members

SUMMER

**Session I: Mondays & Wednesdays
July 10 through August 23**

**Session II: Tuesdays & Thursdays,
July 11 through August 24**

**Both sessions run 9:30 am to 12 noon
Fee: \$210; \$175 Family members**

AUTUMN

**Saturdays, September 9 through 30
9:30 am to 12 noon**

Fee: \$60; \$50 Family members

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

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

APRIL

Daffodils, Japanese flowering cherry trees, magnolia, katsura tree, trillium, winter-hazel, candy tuft, mahonia, empress tree, skimmia, amelanchier,

Harry Lauder's walking stick, lesser celandine, bergenia, lenten rose, pulmonaria, PJM rhododendron, dog's-tooth violet

MAY

Azaleas, brunnera, clematis, columbine, crabapple, dogwood, pansies, redbud, euphorbia, lilacs, peonies, primrose,

tulips, viburnum, wisteria, wood hyacinth, hawthorn, scotch broom, deutzia, enkianthus, leucothoe, privet, magnolia grandiflora, spiraea, epimedium, alchemilla, bleeding hearts, myrtle, tiarella, golden chain tree, Oriental poppies, persimmon, penstemon,

star of Bethlehem, hesperis, wallflower, lily of the valley, cranesbill, Virginia bluebells, forget-me-not, sweet woodruff, viola, daphne, fringetree, flowering almond, fothergilla

JUNE

Rhododendron, roses, dogwood, iris, astilbe,

foxglove, smokebush, cotoneaster, lavender, osage orange, firethorn, Japanese snowbell, yucca, kousa dogwood, ajuga, coral bells, meadow rue, poppies, mountain laurel, linden, dianthus, lilies, Virginia sweetspire, lilacs



In honor of National Garden Month 2006, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has proclaimed April as a time for New York City to "go green" with NYC GROWS. Presented by the National Gardening Association and the NYC

Department of Parks & Recreation, NYC GROWS will feature events focusing on different gardening themes such as environmental stewardship, health and wellness, community development,

home gardening (with a focus on container and rooftop gardening), and plant-based education.

QBG's Gardening Day on Sunday, April 30, will be the final NYC GROWS event, with activities touching upon all of the themes of National Garden Month 2006. For information about NYC GROWS and other National Garden Month events, visit www.nationalgarden-month.org.



VISIT THE PLANT SHOP THIS SPRING AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT.

While supplies last. One per person. The Plant Shop reopens April 8. Hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am to 5 pm.



Printed with soy-based inks on Mohawk 100% post-consumer waste fiber paper made with non-polluting, wind-generated energy. Forest Stewardship Council and Green Seal certified.

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.

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





Queens Botanical Garden

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

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Flushing NY



Get out and grow! *Photo: Teri Boom*

GARDENING DAY

Sunday, April 30, 12 noon to 5 pm

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FOR VISITORS

To access the Main Garden this spring from the parking lot, follow the footpath past the Plant Shop and office trailers. (Note to drivers: The City has re-opened Blossom Avenue, restoring access to the Garden from College Point Boulevard.)

Garden Offices and Visitor Information

718.886.3800

Spring/Summer Hours

Tuesday through Friday, 8 am to 6 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 8 am to 7 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 Shop (reopens Saturday, April 8)

Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm,
ext. 236

Plant Information

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

Compost Information

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

QBG Web Site

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.

