

Brooklyn Gardener

Fall-Winter
2002/2003



THE NEWSLETTER OF BROOKLYN GREENBRIDGE • BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

Planning for Planting

If you want to grow a pumpkin, you know you have to think far ahead of Halloween to get that project off the ground. You have to find the space (lots of it!), order the seeds, plant, water, weed and take care of the emerging fruit. Then there's the harvest and deciding what to do with your 10 lb. babies. The whole process takes lots of planning!

It's the same thing in the world of community gardening. Planning is essential to make our organizations work for the greatest good. And what better seasons than fall and winter to think about this crucial process? When you can't get outside as much, at least you can dream about and plan for next year in the garden.

Planning first starts with evaluation and reflection:

- What worked well in your garden this season:

Plants (which ones?)

Events

Relationships with other gardeners, neighbors, and community groups

- What aspects need improvement?

- Were there unfinished projects? Plans for completion?

- What didn't work?

- What are your dreams and visions for next year?

Set aside adequate time with other garden

members. Consider organizing two sessions, one in the fall for evaluation/reflection and one in the winter for the nuts and bolts of planning for 2003.

Certain items stimulate the planning process:

- Catalogues of plants and seeds
- Photos of the garden from 2002
- Anecdotes or written evaluations from garden members, the public, or sponsors
- Snacks!

Here are some suggestions for planning:

- Make sure the key participants from your garden are present, but include new people and prospective members, too;
- Set aside at least two hours;
- Be open to everyone's ideas;
- After reflecting on successes and areas that need improvement, come up with three top goals for 2003;

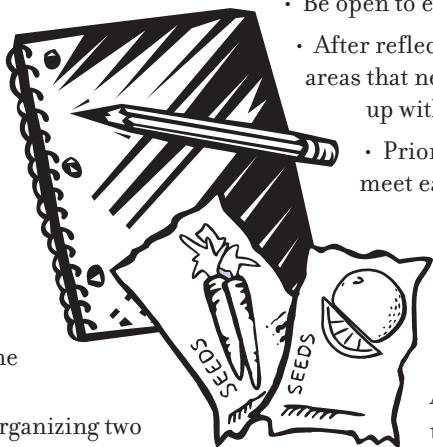
- Prioritize and list steps to meet each goal, including resources needed (people, funds, materials, etc);
- Set a time for the next meeting.

Also, visit the website of the American Community Gardening Association

(www.communitygarden.org) and check out their Publications link for planning resources.

—Ellen Kirby, Director

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe." —Anatole France



Spotlight on ... Winter Garden Ideas

Planning is vital to a successful garden, and winter is the perfect time to do it.

But there are still lots of things you can do *outside* to spruce up your garden during the winter months. So when you just can't take one more planning meeting, put on your overcoat and try some of these garden ideas:

- Build a cold frame to extend the growing season and jump-start plants in spring (spinach in January? — Yum!). Call us for low-cost, easy to build ideas.
- No compost? — Try manure! There are horse stables in Brooklyn where you can get manure; give us a call for locations.
- Plant winter-interest ornamentals like winter-hardy pansies, cabbages and kale. Locate them near the gate, so people will see them as they pass by.
- Sow early-season annuals like larkspur, bachelor buttons, and poppies right on top of snow or scratch seeds into bare soil. They'll start growing in early spring when the weather is right.
- Plant winter-interest varieties through October. Evergreens look green and fresh all year round (try *Skimmia japonica*, *Liriope muscari*, conifers, and hollies). Red Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) has lovely red stems, while Hellebores and Witch Hazel flower in the dead of winter!
- Sign up for the free workshop, Winter Garden Ideas, this December (see GreenBridge Workshops column).

—Julie Warsowe, Community Horticulture Program Manager

PLEASE POST!

GreenBridge Workshops

Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance for these workshops. Call 718-623-7220. Free unless noted. Call 718-623-7250 for class descriptions.

Gardening with Children and Youth: For Adult Leaders Tuesday, October 24 • 10 am–12 pm; Wednesday, January 22 • 4–6 pm

Introduction to Horticultural Therapy Wednesday, October 23 • 6:30–8 pm

Bulb Basics Saturday, October 26 • 2–4 pm

Introduction to Composting Saturday, November 9 • 1–3 pm

Winter Garden Ideas Saturday, December 7 • 10 am–12 pm

Lasagna Gardening Thursday, December 12 • 4–6 pm

Save the Date!

Making Brooklyn Bloom
2003

SATURDAY, MARCH 15,
10 AM–3:30 PM

Palm House, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Kick off the garden season with free workshops, exhibits, and tours.

Free, but you must register at 10 am on the day of the event.

From the Heap...

Regretfully, BBG's Brooklyn GreenBridge Urban Composting Project was eliminated by the city of New York due to reductions in funds for recycling programs. Since 1993 Brooklyn Botanic Garden, along with the other NYC botanical gardens, has been a leader in educating New Yorkers about the reduction of municipal solid waste through composting. Thousands of city residents benefited from composting education, bin sales, compost givebacks, worm-bin classes, and our demonstration sites and special events.

Some of our services will continue, on a reduced scale. We will keep you posted as to how we are best able to serve you.

Meanwhile, if you have technical questions about how to compost, you may call our BBG Gardeners' Resource Center, 718-623-7270 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 2 to 4 pm, Tuesday through Friday.

Pat Jasaitis served as BBG's Brooklyn GreenBridge Urban Composting Project Coordinator from 1994 to 2002. Known to Brooklynites as the most knowledgeable person anywhere about composting, Pat led many efforts to advance the art and science of composting in ways that were accessible for city residents of all ages. Among her accomplishments was the recruitment and training of over 50 BBG Master Composters. For many the training was one of the most creative educational experiences ever encountered.

Although Pat will be deeply missed in Brooklyn GreenBridge programs, she will continue her relationship within BBG as the new Director of the "Invest in Nature" program of Botanic Gardens Conservation International located within BBG's Science Department.

Thanks, Pat, for bringing flair and substance to a great cause. We will miss you here but wish you well in your new pursuits for our environment.

GREENBRIDGE STAFF

Ellen Kirby, *Director*

Julie Warsowe, *Community Horticulture Program Manager and Newsletter Editor*

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Congratulations to the "Fulton 10" Atlantic Village Homeowner's Association 2002 WINNER OF THE "GREENEST BLOCK IN BROOKLYN" CONTEST

Located in Fort Greene on Fulton Street between Carleton and Cumberland Avenues, the "Fulton 10" Atlantic Village Homeowner's Association is a cheerful, colorful, and beautifully tended block with 100% participation. Residents even adopted street trees outside the park across the street from their homes.



Other residential winners include:

Second Place:

TIE: The Landings at Fresh Creek Phase II (Starett City), Vanderveer Place Block Association (East Flatbush)

Third Place:

TIE: Fuller Place Block Association, (Windsor Terrace), 300 East 25th Street Block Association (Flatbush), Schenectady Avenue Block Association (East Flatbush)

Honorable Mentions:

Fenimore Street Block Association (Lefferts Manor), 581-645 MacDonough Street Block Association (Bedford Stuyvesant), Macon, MacDonough, Stuyvesant, Lewis Block Association (Bedford Stuyvesant), "Fulton 5" Atlantic Village Homeowners Association (Fort Greene), Fourteenth Street Block Association (Park Slope), and Columbia Place Block Association (Brooklyn Heights)

And Congratulations to the Bond Street Merchants Association: 2002 Winner of the "Greenest Business Block in Brooklyn"

Bond Street between State and Schermerhorn Streets has exceptionally beautiful planters of all shapes and sizes. The plantings are well-maintained, colorful, and include many evergreens. A container planted as a memorial for firefighters lost on September 11 shows exceptional beauty. The overall impact is inviting to residents and customers.

Other business winners include:

Second Place:

Washington Avenue Merchants Association (between Saint Marks Avenue and Bergen Street in Prospect Heights)

Honorable Mentions:

South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation (Cobble Hill/Carroll Gardens)
North Flatbush Business Improvement District (Park Slope/Prospect Heights)



Congratulations! For directions to these beautiful blocks, call (718) 623-7250.

The "Greenest Block in Brooklyn" Contest is sponsored by Brooklyn GreenBridge and Borough President Marty Markowitz with support from Independence Community Foundation.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden gratefully acknowledges support for these programs from the Altman Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund, The Dime Foundation, The Independence Community Foundation, The New York City Environmental Fund, The Leonard and Claire Tow Charitable Trust, Inc., United States Environmental Protection Agency/Environmental Education Grant, and Brooklyn Members of the New York State Assembly and Senate.



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