



# Brooklyn Gardener

WHERE PLANTS COME TO LIFE

## Sustainable Gardening: Bridge to the Future

**Sustainable gardening is a core principle of Brooklyn GreenBridge**, underlying all our efforts to help you make Brooklyn greener. Simply put, **sustainable gardening means gardening in harmony with nature**, a way to meet human needs while protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.

With support from the EPA Environmental Education Fund, GreenBridge has launched Phase II of the **Sustainable Garden Project**, focusing this year on five neighborhoods eager to build healthier communities. A sustainable garden:

- uses **native plants**
- welcomes **local wildlife**, such as birds, bees, and butterflies
- follows organic principles like **composting**
- conserves **water**

A sustainable garden also nurtures **people** and spreads knowledge about the benefits of gardening. Phase II embraces **the principle of good community relations as an integral way to sustain healthy urban environments**. By partnering with local community groups that are strongly rooted in neighborhood life, GreenBridge has been able to deliver plant materials and workshops designed to meet the unique needs of each neighborhood.

Cultural diversity underscores urban life, and in Brooklyn, this means **celebrating biodiversity** too. In East New York, community gardeners are growing **black-eyed Susans, purple coneflowers, and New England asters**, among other native flowers, to sell at the **East New York Farmstand**. "Native plants are a perfect way to brighten up our market: The plants are tough, but they look great!" says **Georgine Yorgey**, coordinator of East New York Farms.

In Crown Heights, streetside containers decorated by two schools, a police precinct, a youth center, and the **Crown Heights Mediation Center (CHMC)** have been planted with **drought-tolerant native flowers** and installed in front of each organization. "So far, not one has been defaced," noted **Amy Ellenbogen**, director of CHMC. "Now people stop and talk by our storefront, commenting about the containers or the plants. **This project isn't only beautifying the neighborhood; it's building a more caring community.**"

With help from the Sustainable Garden Project, the **Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum** in East Flatbush is installing a **drip-irrigation system** and restoring its landscape with **woodland perennials native to Brooklyn**. "The local community benefited from GreenBridge workshops on **container gardening, composting, and drip irrigation**," says **Phil Forsyth**, caretaker-gardener for the museum. "In addition, each workshop physically enhanced the value of our park as a demonstration site for sustainability."

Other project participants include **Prospect Heights Community Farm** and **Make the Road by Walking in Bushwick**. To learn more about sustainable gardening, come to one of our free classes this fall and winter (see below). I hope to see you there!

—Robin Simmen, Community Horticulture Program Manager



Allegra Porrino was one of a 1000 people at the Brooklyn Compost Giveback in June 2005.

## From the Heap . . . NYC Composting Is in Full Swing!

**The Urban Composting Project continues to promote and educate Brooklyn residents about composting.** Again this fall, we will work with the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY), which will be **collecting leaves to transform them into nutrient-rich compost**. **DSNY will pick up leaves on designated days.** Stay tuned for future Compost Givebacks where NYC residents can pick up free compost (made from last year's leaves) for use in your gardens. Once again, we will sponsor the **Christmas Tree Recycling Project with Green-Wood Cemetery** in early January, when residents are invited to bring their trees to be chipped. This free mulch is available at Green-Wood all year at their entrance on 25th St. and Fifth Avenue.

Please stop by to visit our **Composting Demonstration Exhibit** near the BBG Cranford Rose Garden. We recently upgraded signs to include both English and Spanish interpretation. You will find an array of compost bins, some of which we offer at discounted prices at events and by appointment.

You can become a BBG Master Composter by enrolling in our **six-week Master Composter Certificate Program**, which will be starting in March. **The application deadline is February 24, 2006**, so contact us well in advance to request a form. In addition to this program, we offer free composting workshops (see left for schedule) in both English and Spanish, as well as neighborhood workshops at Brooklyn community gardens and worm-bin workshops for teachers. To inquire about any of our projects or workshops or to ask questions about composting, **please contact us at the Compost Help Line at 718-623-7290, or e-mail us at compost@bbg.org.**

—Joshua Cohen, Urban Composting Project Manager

## PLEASE POST!

### GreenBridge Workshops

Preregistration is required at least one week in advance for these workshops; call 718-623-7220 to register. Free, but space is limited. Para clases en español, por favor llamar a Karla Osorio-Pérez: 718-623-7368.

#### Composting in the City

Wednesday, September 8 • 6–8 p.m. OR  
Saturday, December 3 • 10:30–12:30 p.m.

#### Introduction to Permaculture

Saturday, September 10 • 10 am–12 p.m.

#### Gardening With Children and Youth

Wednesday, September 21 • 5–7 p.m. OR Sunday,  
November 6 • 2–4 p.m.

#### El Arte del Compostaje

miércoles 21 de septiembre • 6–8 p.m. sábado 17  
de diciembre • 10:30–2:30 p.m.

#### Street Tree Pit Gardening

Tuesday, September 27 • 6–8 p.m.

#### Composting Indoors: Worm Bin Basics

Monday, October 17 • 6–8 p.m. OR Saturday,  
November 19 • 10:30–12:30 p.m.

#### Greening Up Your Storefront

Tuesday, October 18 • 6–8 p.m.

#### Community Gardening: How to Increase Your Membership

Wednesday, November 2 • 6–8 p.m.

#### Mulches, Leaves, and Cover Crops

Monday, November 7 • 6–8 p.m.

#### Community Gardening: Horticulture and Design

Tuesday, November 15 • 6–8 p.m.

#### Teacher Workshop: Worm Composting in the Classroom, call 718-623-7290 for more information.



Emily Neustrom, Karla Osorio-Pérez, & Yacouba Diakité

## Spotlight on . . . GreenBridge Staff Is Growing Too

Brooklyn GreenBridge is reaching out with new programs, and we have new hands in the field to help with an assortment of community horticulture projects and the Urban Composting Project. We hope you'll enjoy working with our new staff members:

**Emily Neustrom, Outreach Assistant**, is involved with our Horticulture Therapy Network, our Registered Community Garden programs, and the Sustainable Garden Project. In addition to her interest in horticulture therapy, she is an advocate for permaculture, composting, and school gardening. Emily is a graduate of the University of Louisiana with a degree in Sociology and Environmental Studies.

**Yacouba Diakité, Office Assistant**, works on various GreenBridge projects and focuses mainly on the Urban Composting Project. In addition to maintaining and developing our database, Yacouba assists with GreenBridge outreach programs and events. He holds a BS and an MA in agricultural economics from Université Laval in Quebec.

**Karla Osorio-Pérez, Compost Instructor**, works exclusively on the Urban Composting Project. Her primary responsibilities are teaching classes and coordinating the Master Composter program. Her interests include conservation, horticulture, environmental education, and entomology. Karla holds a BA in biology from the University of Puerto Rico.

### GREENBRIDGE STAFF

Ellen Kirby, *Director*

Robin Simmen, *Community Horticulture Program Manager & Newsletter Editor*

Emily Neustrom, *Outreach Assistant*

Joshua Cohen, *Urban Composting Project Manager*

Karla Osario-Pérez, *Compost Instructor*

Yacouba Diakité, *Office Assistant*



## Congratulations to the 2005 Winners of the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest!

For inspiration on how to green up your block or storefront, visit any of these stunning winners:



The Landings at Fresh Creek

### Residential Block Winner:

**The Landings at Fresh Creek, Phase II, for Louisiana Ave. between Twin Pines Dr. and Vandalia Ave. (Spring Creek Towers)**

Second Place (Tie):

Bridge Plaza Beautification Civic Assoc. for Concord St. between Duffield Place and Gold St. (Bridge Plaza); MMSL Block Assoc. for MacDonough St. between Stuyvesant and Lewis Aves. (Bedford Stuyvesant)

Third Place (Tie): Lincoln Road R&B Block Assoc. for Lincoln Rd. between Rogers and Bedford (Lefferts Gardens); E. 102nd St. Block Assoc. for E. 102nd St. between Aves. L and M (Canarsie)

Fourth Place: Citizens for a Better Community for E. 39th St. between Foster Ave. and Farragut Road (East Flatbush)

### Business Block Winner:

**Hoyt St. the Victory Gardens Block, for Hoyt St. between Atlantic Ave. and State St., E. Side**

Second Place: Shops of Lewis Ave. for Lewis Ave. between McDonough and Decatur Sts., East Side (Bedford Stuyvesant)

Third Place: Mid-Atlantic Block Assoc. for Atlantic Ave. between Bond and Nevins Sts., North Side (Boerum Hill)



Hoyt Street



Brownstone Books

### Greenest Storefront in Brooklyn:

**Brownstone Books, Lewis Ave. between MacDonough and Decatur Sts. (Bedford Stuyvesant)**

Second Place: Stan's Place, Atlantic Ave. between Bond and Nevins Sts. (Boerum Hill)

Third Place: Botanica Universales, Fifth Ave. between 6th and 7th Sts. (Park Slope)

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Harvest Fair 2005

Saturday, September 17, 11 a.m.–5p.m. at Brooklyn Botanic Garden  
Children's activities, music & dancing, country crafts, composting displays and harvesting tips from Brooklyn GreenBridge

### Making Brooklyn Bloom 2006

Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
Palm House, Brooklyn Botanic Garden  
Kick off the garden season with free workshops, exhibits, and tours.  
Free, but you must register at 10 a.m. on the day of the event.



Brooklyn Botanic Garden gratefully acknowledges past and present support for these programs from the John N. and Gillett A. Gilbert Family Fund, Independence Community Foundation, the Joseph LeRoy Fund, NYC Dept. of Sanitation, Ann C. Warner Fund, Inc., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Grant, and Brooklyn Members of the New York State Assembly and Senate.

Printed on recycled paper

Non-profit org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Permit No. 832

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN  
1000 Washington Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11225-1099  
www.bbkg.org

