



GreenBridge Gardener

WHERE COMMUNITY HORTICULTURE COMES TO LIFE

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 Indoors: Worm Bin Basics

Thursday, November 15 | 6–8 p.m.
Optional \$10 materials fee for NYC residents, call 718-623-7290 for more information.

Composting in the City

Thursday, January 17 | 6–8 p.m.

Teacher Workshop: Worm Composting in the Classroom

Thursday, January 31 | 6–9 p.m.
This class may also be held at your Brooklyn school for a group of ten or more teachers; call 718-623-7290 for more information.

Master Composter Certificate Program

Call 718-623-7290 in early January for an application to apply for this eight-week training program starting on March 13.
(See article on back page.)

Save the Date!

MAKING BROOKLYN BLOOM 2008

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8
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 a.m. on the day of the event.

New Faces Bloom in Ellen's Garden

Brooklyn Botanic Garden launched GreenBridge, its community horticulture program, in 1993,

when Ellen Kirby started the Urban Composting Project in cooperation with the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY). Over 14 years, Ellen expanded GreenBridge into a multifaceted outreach program that helps tens of thousands of people each year connect with nature, themselves, and our communities through horticulture.

"The Compost Project began with about 50 gardeners picking up free compost; last spring over 4,000 people attended our compost giveback. And the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest has grown from 50 participating blocks to 250, involving thousands of city residents," Ellen observes.

GreenBridge has undergone many changes itself this year, beginning with Ellen's retirement in April.

"I leave with a deep sense of gratitude to everyone who has made this program come to life. Brooklyn residents have embraced GreenBridge as their own, and an energetic, creative BBG staff continues to serve the community with substantive support from BBG trustees and members."

Two other GreenBridge staff also left last spring to pursue graduate studies: **Joshua Cohen** is now enrolled in the Environmental Science and Policy Program at Columbia University, and **Emily Neustrom** returned to her home state to study environmental horticulture at the University of Louisiana.

Robin Simmen, program manager for the past four years, was promoted to director of GreenBridge. **Karla Osorio-Pérez**, formerly senior compost instructor, was promoted to Brooklyn Compost Project Manager. And **Susan Fields**, formerly deputy director of GreenThumb, the NYC community gardening program, has joined GreenBridge as program manager. Look for two more staff members to become part of the GreenBridge team.

You may notice a few other changes as well. The Urban Composting Project has been renamed the **Brooklyn Compost Project**, reflecting program changes at DSNY. The redesigned Brooklyn Gardener newsletter has become the **GreenBridge Gardener**, and the Brooklyn GreenBridge logo is no more. The old logo was a much beloved part of the GreenBridge experience, and we will miss its visual embrace of Brooklyn, but retiring it positions GreenBridge to draw strength from our foundation in Brooklyn Botanic Garden, whose logo the newsletter now displays. **Many thanks to the community members who reviewed these identity changes with staff and helped coin the new name for our newsletter!** And our heartfelt enduring thanks to Ellen Kirby, whose loving stewardship of GreenBridge nurtured partnerships that continue to bloom as we all work together to make this world greener.

—Robin Simmen, Director of GreenBridge



Ellen Kirby with winners of last year's Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

To further your spirit of reducing and reusing, why not recycle your holiday tree (free of lights and ornaments) into valuable wood-chip mulch? GreenBridge, in partnership with Green-Wood Cemetery, will hold our annual **Christmas Tree Recycling and Wood Chip Mulch Giveaway** on January 12 at Green-Wood Cemetery. Watch your tree being chipped, then take home a bag of mulch or leave it for others. Green-Wood Cemetery is located at 5th Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. For information on other holiday tree recycling projects in the city, including the Parks Department's MulchFest, call 311. Mulch is available for free to the public all year round, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. daily, at Green-Wood Cemetery.

From the Heap... Start the New Year Right with Compost

Help turn this year's leaves into next year's compost by brown-bagging your leaves for pickup. **Brooklyn leaf set-out dates are two Saturdays, November 10 and 24.**

Brown-bag your leaves! Here's why: Setting out leaves in paper bags allows the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) to create cleaner, higher-quality compost that may be returned to you through compost giveback events. Currently, DSNY composts about 20,000 tons of leaves every year. **Beginning this fall, the NYC Yard Waste Composting Law requires residents in designated districts to set out leaves either in paper lawn and leaf bags or in unlined rigid containers on specified dates.**

Avoid being fined for setting out your leaves in plastic bags during the DSNY leaf collection period by purchasing paper lawn and leaf bags at participating retailers and supermarkets. **Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/compost for questions about leaf collection, designated districts, or where to purchase brown bags.**

This winter, join the NYC Compost Project by enrolling in our Master Composter Certificate Program! Sponsored by DSNY, this program—which promotes urban composting, community outreach, and the reduction of NYC solid waste—consists of 25 hours of classroom training (including two field trips) and 30 hours of volunteer service in compost education and promotion. An application is required; please call our Compost Hotline at 718-623-7290 in early January to request one. The due date for applications is Friday, February 22. The course will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on eight Thursdays, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, and May 1, 8, at Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

—Karla Osorio-Pérez,
Brooklyn Compost Project Manager

No Compost Giveback at Spring Creek this Year

There is no more compost left at Spring Creek. DSNY has been waiting for a permit to compost leaves at this site since 2001. Without a permit to accept leaves, compost cannot be created or distributed at this site. The new NYC Solid Waste Management Plan calls for a Compost Siting Task Force to be formed by fall 2007 to locate additional sites citywide and research new technology. **For more information on composting or compost givebacks elsewhere, visit the NYC Compost Project at www.nyccompost.org.**

Congratulations to the 2007 Winners of the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest!

For inspiration on how to green up your block, street tree beds, or storefront, visit any of these inspiring winners:

RESIDENTIAL BLOCK WINNER:

Macon/MacDonough/Stuyvesant/Lewis Block Association for MacDonough St. between Stuyvesant and Lewis Aves. (Bedford-Stuyvesant)

SECOND PLACE (TIE):

Macon/Reid/Patchen Block Association for Macon St. between Malcolm X Blvd. and Patchen Ave. (Bedford-Stuyvesant)

Vanderveer Place Block Association for Vanderveer Pl. between Flatbush Ave. and East 23rd St. (Flatbush)

THIRD PLACE (TIE):

Atlantic Village Homeowners Association for Fulton St. between Cumberland St. and Carlton Ave. (Fort Greene)

Fuller Place Block Association for Fuller Pl. between Windsor Pl. and Prospect Ave. (Windsor Terrace)

FOURTH PLACE:

East 49th St. Block Association for East 49th St. between Lenox Rd. and Linden Blvd. (East Flatbush)

BUSINESS BLOCK WINNER:

Hoyt St. the Victory Gardens Block, for Hoyt St. between Atlantic Ave. and State St., East Side (Boerum Hill)

SECOND PLACE:

AaNT Association of Atlantic Ave. Local Development Corp. for Atlantic Ave. between Nevins St. and Third Ave., North Side (Boerum Hill)

GREENEST STOREFRONT IN BROOKLYN:

Miracle Grill, 7th Ave. and 3rd St. (Park Slope)

SECOND PLACE:

Brawta Caribbean Café, Hoyt St. and Atlantic Ave. (Boerum Hill)

THIRD PLACE:

Dig, Atlantic Ave. between Nevins St. and Third Ave. (Boerum Hill)

For a complete list of all winners, visit bbg.org/education or call 718-623-7250.



MacDonough Street



Hoyt Street



Miracle Grill

GREENBRIDGE GARDENER is the newsletter of GreenBridge, the community environmental horticulture program at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Call us at 718-623-7250 or call the Compost Help Line at 718-623-7290.

GREENBRIDGE STAFF

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