



Fall/Winter 2008

# 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 llama a Karla Osorio-Pérez al 718-623-7368.

#### Making Compost with a Touch of Spanish/Haz Abono Orgánico con un Toque de Inglés

Tuesday, September 9 | 6–8 p.m.  
A bilingual workshop in English and Spanish

#### Constructing Cold Frames for Winter Harvest

Tuesday, September 9 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Teacher Workshop:

#### Worm Composting in the Classroom

Tuesday, September 23 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Street Tree Bed Gardening

Thursday, September 25 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Mulch, Leaves, and Cover Crops: How to Protect and Improve Your Soil

Tuesday, October 7 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Rainwater Harvesting

Thursday, October 16 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Starting a Children's Garden Program

Tuesday, October 21 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Composting in the City

Section A: Tuesday, October 21 | 6–8 p.m.  
Section B: Tuesday, December 16 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Composting Alternatives and Gathering Materials

Wednesday, November 5 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Healing with Horticulture

Thursday, November 6 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Composting Indoors: Worm Bin Basics

Tuesday, November 18 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Brewing Compost Tea

Tuesday, December 2 | 6–8 p.m.

## Compost Stories from the Field

**Great gardeners understand that compost is key to growing healthy plants.** Every spring the Brooklyn Compost Project, funded by the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY), trains a new class of Master Composters to go out into Brooklyn neighborhoods and spread the good word about how to recycle kitchen waste, newspapers, and leaves into black gold for a greener borough.

**This year's crop of Master Composters has been especially fruitful.** During their six-week classroom and field-trip program, these future volunteers developed community project ideas that they've begun to implement with amazing success. Here are some stories from the Class of 2008:

**"The Master Composter Program for me isn't only about gaining expertise on urban composting, it's also about connecting with like-minded activists to help build the Brooklyn where I want to live,"** says Alex LaMond. Last spring Alex and 2008 classmates **Sigrun Wolff Saphire** and **Sara Epstein** began helping the St. Marks Prospect Heights

Community Garden improve their three-bin compost system. In May the three led a field trip of P.S. 316 students to the community garden, where fourth graders built a compost pile using food waste from their cafeteria. "The children loved it so much that they decided—unprompted by any adult—to donate to GreenBridge \$400 of the Penny Harvest money they had raised to support GreenBridge horticultural outreach to Brooklynites young and old," Alex told us.

Master Composters appreciate the connections they make with each other, and many work together in the field. **Laura Silver** and **Seth Orman** launched a bike tour of local composting sites called the Brooklyn Tour de Compost. **Bruni Torras** and **Wilfred Burgoyne** have been answering questions about compost at the weekly Cortelyou Road Farmers' Market, where they give worm-bin demonstrations and hand out DSNY composting and recycling information. **Coquille Houshour** and **Micki Josi** (both NYC teachers) have gone beyond composting to organize a hearing on recycling in New York City schools, which was held at City Hall in June. And last summer Master Composters assisted 12 **GreenBridge Community Garden Alliance** members with a variety of composting projects.

If you are interested in getting Master Composter advice for your community garden, block association, school, or other project, or want to find out how to become a Master Composter yourself, please call our compost help line at 718-623-7290 or write to us at [compost@bbg.org](mailto:compost@bbg.org).

—Karla Osorio-Pérez, Brooklyn Compost Project Manager



Melanie Skrzek adds compost to a tree bed during a Master Composter field trip.

## SAVE THE DATE!

## MAKING BROOKLYN BLOOM 2009

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 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.

## Congratulations to the 2008 Winners of the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest!



8th Street



Bond Street



Cake Man Raven

Take a stroll down any of these winning blocks for inspiration and ideas on how to green up your block.

### RESIDENTIAL BLOCK WINNER:

8th St. Block Association for 8th St. between 8th Ave. and Prospect Park West (Park Slope)

### SECOND PLACE (TIE):

East 25th St. Block Association for East 25th St. between Clarendon Road and Ave. D (East Flatbush)

State St. Cathedral Block Association for State St. between Hoyt and Bond Sts. (Boerum Hill)

### THIRD PLACE (TIE):

Schenectady Ave. Block Association for Schenectady Ave. between Ave. D and Foster Ave. (East Flatbush)

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

### FOURTH PLACE:

Bainbridge Homeowners and Tenants Block Association for Bainbridge St. between Malcolm X. Blvd. and Stuyvesant Ave. (Bedford Stuyvesant)

### BUSINESS BLOCK WINNER:

Bond St. from Atlantic to Pacific for Bond St. between Atlantic and Pacific Aves., East Side (Boerum Hill)

### SECOND PLACE:

Mid-Atlantic Block Association (South) for Atlantic Ave. between Bond and Nevins Sts., South Side

### THIRD PLACE:

Myrtle Ave. Brooklyn Partnership for Myrtle Ave. between Waverly and Washington Aves., South Side (Clinton Hill)

### GREENEST STOREFRONT IN BROOKLYN:

Cake Man Raven, 708 Fulton St. (Fort Greene)

### SECOND PLACE:

Burrito Bar, 307 Flatbush Ave. (Prospect Heights)

For a complete list of all winners, visit [bbg.org/education](http://bbg.org/education) or call 718-623-7250.

**GREENBRIDGE GARDENER** is the newsletter of GreenBridge, the community environmental horticulture program of Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

#### GREENBRIDGE STAFF

Robin Simmen, *Director* • Susan Fields, *Program Manager* • Lis Thomas, *Outreach Assistant* • Karla Osorio-Pérez, *Brooklyn Compost Project Manager* • Luke Halligan, *Compost Instructor* • Yacouba Diakité, *Office Assistant*

#### BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Washington Avenue • Brooklyn, NY 11225 • 718-623-7250

#### COMPOST HELP LINE

718-623-7290

Brooklyn Botanic Garden gratefully acknowledges past and present support for these programs from the Sovereign Endowment Fund at Independence Community Foundation, NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs, NYC Dept. of Sanitation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Grant, and Brooklyn Members of the New York State Assembly and Senate.

Printed on presses using wind-powered energy, with soy-based inks on 30% postconsumer waste recycled paper.



## Spotlight on... Saying Goodbye to Mary Sciales

Mary Sciales of the P.S. 4K Paradise Garden passed away on May 22 after a long illness. Her work was an inspiring tribute to the power of gardening to change lives and neighborhoods. "She was one of the first people I met early in our work with community gardens," remembers Ellen Kirby, founding director of Brooklyn GreenBridge. "She was incredibly enthusiastic about her garden and the children it served." Together with neighbors, Mary helped transform a vacant lot full of garbage into a beautiful community garden in East New York. Today, it is preserved as city property, lush with flowers, trees, raised vegetable beds, rainwater harvesting, wheelchair-accessible pathways, and a gazebo.

Mary was determined to incorporate gardening into her work with emotionally, physically, and mentally challenged children. In addition to being one of the first community gardeners to register with GreenBridge, Mary was a member of the GreenBridge Therapeutic Horticulture Network.

In 1997 Brooklyn Botanic Garden awarded Mary its Certificate of Merit, which recognizes individuals who are involved in promoting environmental initiatives at the community level. "Her work was inspirational; she showed how you could work with challenged populations and make a difference in their lives," says Gerard Lordahl, director of the Open Space Greening Program at Council on the Environment of NYC.

The P.S. 4K Paradise Garden is located on Glenmore Avenue, between Ashford and Cleveland Streets. Donations to the garden are being accepted in Mary's name. For more information, visit [www.howsmary.com](http://www.howsmary.com).

—Susan Fields, GreenBridge Manager



Ellen Kirby (middle left) and Mary Sciales (middle right) at Paradise Garden.

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

