



# 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 with Lovely Redworms

Thursday, February 14 | 6–8 p.m.  
Includes \$10 voucher toward purchase of a worm bin and redworms. Call 718-623-7368 for more information.

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

Thursday, February 28 | 6–8 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 25 | 6–8 p.m.  
A bilingual workshop in English and Spanish

#### Greening Up Your Street

Tuesday, March 18 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Creating a Rain Garden

Tuesday, April 22 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Arbor Day Eve Street Tree Gardening

Thursday, April 24 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Composting in the City

Wednesday, May 28 | 6–8 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 23 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Composting Indoors: Worm Basics

Wednesday, June 11 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Edible Landscaping

Tuesday, June 3 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Brew Your Own Compost Tea

Wednesday, July 9 | 6–8 p.m.

#### Food Grows in Brooklyn

Thursday, July 10 | 6–8 p.m.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For information, call 718-623-7250 unless otherwise noted.

March 1–31, **Photo Exhibit of Winners from 2007 Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest**, at BBG Visitor Center

March 8, **Making Brooklyn Bloom**. 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at BBG

March 15, **Green Thumb “Grow Together.”** For info, call 212-788-8070

April 25, **Deadline for Ordering Window Box Kits**. \$17 each; pick up at BBG May 17th. For info, call 718-623-7250

May 7 and 8, **BBG Annual Plant Sale**. Free with Garden admission. For info, call 718-623-7200. Members’ Preview Sale, May 6

June 2, **Entry Deadline, Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest**. Applications available in March. For info, call 718-623-7250

## Greening Brooklyn Together

### GreenBridge recently completed a strategic plan, *Greening Brooklyn Together: GreenBridge Strategic Plan 2007-2011*.

The yearlong planning process included input from block associations, master composters, community gardens, and horticultural therapy sites, as well as city agencies and environmental groups with whom we’ve partnered in the past.

Our resulting vision for the future forecasts a significantly greener Brooklyn by the year 2015: “Community horticulture and conservation have transformed Brooklyn. All citizens enjoy the benefits of community gardens, parks, and verdant rooftops and streetscapes; people’s relationship to nature is enhanced by cultivating plants; neighborhood gardeners are creating compost and improving soil, growing food, caring for street trees, and building safe, healthy communities.”

Making Brooklyn greener depends on your partnership. To this end, we’ve crafted a new mission statement: **GreenBridge, the community environmental horticulture program of Brooklyn Botanic Garden, promotes the greening of the urban environment through education, conservation, and creative partnerships. GreenBridge is building a vibrant network of people, places, and projects dedicated to making Brooklyn a greener place.**

In addition to reaffirming three successful projects—the **Brooklyn Compost Project**, the **Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest**, and **Making Brooklyn Bloom**—GreenBridge is launching three new initiatives to make this vision come to life:

- The **Street Tree Stewardship Initiative**, being developed to support the mayor’s Million Trees NYC campaign and to help people care for street trees already planted. We launched this initiative last summer with a new “Best Street Tree Beds” award for the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest.
- The **Community Greening Initiative**, which includes a new GreenBridge Community Gardens Alliance (see article on back page) and focuses on growing food, promoting sustainable horticulture, and helping neighborhoods build more active “village greens” for community life.
- The **Brooklyn Urban Gardener** certificate program for training community gardeners and block association members who will volunteer their time to help community-based greening efforts. This program will launch in 2010.

After a year of transition, GreenBridge is delighted to have a full staff again, including two new members to help us carry out this work: **Luke Halligan**, Compost Instructor, and **Lis Thomas**, Outreach Assistant. Thank you to all our friends and partners who contributed time and ideas to *Greening Brooklyn Together*—we look forward to making it a reality!

—Robin Simmen, Director of GreenBridge



MacDonough Street between Stuyvesant and Lewis Avenues is the green glory of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

## EDIBLE NYC: GREEN IT! GROW IT! EAT IT! THE 27TH ANNUAL MAKING BROOKLYN BLOOM

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 by 10 a.m. on the day of the event.

## From the Heap... Compost Indoors with Redworms

Vermicomposting is an easy way for apartment dwellers to start recycling kitchen waste because it doesn't take much space. To compost your own kitchen scraps, all you need is a plastic bin and a pound of redworms.

To get started, collect your daily plant-based, uncooked kitchen scraps (no meat, fish, oil/ fats, cooked food, or dairy products) until you have enough to fill a quart-size yogurt container. To prepare the worm bin, save old newspapers, find a plastic bin at least 2 feet x 2 feet (make sure it has a lid and holes on its sides for ventilation), and purchase one pound of redworms.

These are available at the Union Square Green Market in Manhattan at the Lower East Side Ecology Center booth. For information on buying redworms, call 212-477-3155.

**Assembling your worm bin is simple:** First, create a bedding layer at the bottom of the plastic container by adding three to four inches of newspaper strips. Sprinkle this with water until it feels as moist as a wrung-out sponge. Spread the kitchen scraps on top of this and cover them with another three or four inches of newspaper strips. Sprinkle water again, and add the redworms.

**In a few days, your redworms will start eating the food scraps.** You can add more organics (food scraps and newspaper) every day or every week. Redworms eat half of their own weight per day, so to feed a pound of redworms, add half a pound of organic material per day or 3 1/2 pounds each week.

—Karla Osorio-Pérez,  
Brooklyn Compost Project Manager



Worm bins are easy to maintain.

## Spotlight on... GreenBridge Community Garden Alliance

This spring, the **GreenBridge Community Garden Alliance** will replace and build upon the work of the Brooklyn GreenBridge Garden Registration Program. This change is a result of our recent strategic planning process and the decision to focus on promoting **sustainable gardening practices to support healthy communities of people, plants, and wildlife.**

The time is ripe to work together to strengthen community gardens so that they will be with us in the future. Under the terms of the New York City community garden settlement in 2002, gardens located on city property must sustain their public membership and accessibility.

**What should gardens expect when they join the GreenBridge Community Garden Alliance?** Community gardens that become members of this alliance will connect to and learn from their fellow garden alliance members. GreenBridge staff will partner with garden groups who have expertise on specific best practices to deliver educational, hands-on workshops. In addition to workshops held in community gardens, there will be **seasonal gatherings for alliance members at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, including a Harvest Potluck in the fall.** Gardeners will continue to be invited to special events and giveaways of plants, seeds, and supplies, and will receive a newly designed, attractive sign for their gate.

More information and an application form will be mailed to all Brooklyn community gardening projects in February. Visit the GreenBridge table during the upcoming Making Brooklyn Bloom on March 8th to learn more about the Alliance. **There will be an information and application assistance session on Tuesday, April 8 at BBG.** If you are interested in learning more about any GreenBridge program, please call 718-623-7250 or e-mail [greenbridge@bbg.org](mailto:greenbridge@bbg.org).

We look forward to visiting your garden soon!

—Susan Fields, GreenBridge Manager  
—Lis Thomas, GreenBridge Outreach Assistant



The 6/15 Green Community Garden in Park Slope is a neighborhood joy.

## GREENEST BLOCK IN BROOKLYN CONTEST 2008

The contest is open to all residential and business blocks in Brooklyn. First prize is \$300! Applications are available in March. Deadline to enter is June 2. For information and applications, call 718-623-7250.

Organized by GreenBridge in cooperation with Borough President Marty Markowitz and with generous support from the Sovereign Endowment Fund at Independence Community Foundation.

**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 Diakit , *Office Assistant*

### BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN COMPOST HELP LINE

1000 Washington Avenue • Brooklyn, NY 11225 • 718-623-7250  
718-623-7290

Brooklyn Botanic Garden gratefully acknowledges past and present support for these programs from the Sovereign Endowment Fund at Independence Community Foundation, N.Y.C. Dept. of Cultural Affairs, N.Y.C. 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% post-consumer waste recycled paper.



Don't forget! June 2 is the deadline to enter  
the 2008 Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest!

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN  
1000 Washington Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11225-1099  
[bbg.org](http://bbg.org)

