

SPRING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

MARCH

Inflorescence: Drawings and Prints by Tanja Softic

Saturday, March 3–Sunday, April 1
Opening Reception: Saturday, March 10, 2–4 PM
STEINHARDT CONSERVATORY GALLERY

The large-scale organic work of Sarajevo-native artist Tanja Softic is inspired by observations of plants, botanical drawings, illustrations of animal anatomy, medical instruments, and architecture.

26th Annual Making Brooklyn Bloom—Garden-Wise Greening

GROWING HEALTHY SOIL, FOOD & COMMUNITY
Saturday, March 10
10 AM–4 PM

This annual spring-gardening kick-off day features keynote speaker Joan Dye Gussow, author of *This Organic Life: Confessions of a Suburban Homesteader* and professor of nutrition at Columbia University. No pre-registration required, but visitors must arrive at 10 a.m. to register for the day's workshops.

APRIL

Hanami: Celebrating the Cherry Blossom Season at BBG

Saturday, April 7–Sunday, May 6
Hanami is the Japanese cultural tradition of viewing and cherishing each moment of the cherry-blossom season, from the first buds to the brilliant blossoms to the petals falling like pink snow. Enjoy Hanami at BBG with five weeks of programming.

Hana to Mushi, Flowers and Insects: Woodblock Prints & Cut Paper by April Vollmer & Kako Ueda

Saturday, April 7–Sunday, May 6
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 7, 1–3 PM
STEINHARDT CONSERVATORY GALLERY

To celebrate the beginning of Hanami, BBG presents two artists who use traditional Japanese methods to produce their graphically styled art: April Vollmer with her *mogu hanga* Japanese woodcuts and Kako Ueda with paper cuttings.

Special Events

The following events raise funds to support BBG collections and programs.

Tickets must be purchased in advance for all special events. For information and ticket prices, contact Alison Burke at 718-623-7254.

Cherrywatch 2007

Early April–Mid-May
WWW.BBG.ORG/CHERRYWATCH
This web-based exhibit tracks the blossoming of BBG's cherry trees and provides a detailed guide to our collection, including history, cultivation, and care of the trees.

Sakura Matsuri: The 26th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival

Saturday, April 28–Sunday, April 29
NOON–6 PM
With over 220 trees in bloom, BBG's flowering cherries take center stage during this vibrant weekend celebration of Japanese culture, featuring over 60 activities, performances, and workshops for adults and children.

MAY

Annual Auxiliary Plant Sale

Wednesday, May 2, 9 AM–7 PM
Thursday, May 3, 9 AM–2 PM
This two-day event offers the largest selection of quality indoor and outdoor plants in the metropolitan area, all at excellent prices.

Animated Nature: The Art of Sue Johnson

Saturday, May 12–Sunday, June 17
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 19, 2–4 PM
STEINHARDT CONSERVATORY GALLERY

This mixed-media exhibit by artist Sue Johnson uses materials from BBG's own collection of plants and archival photographs.

JUNE

June Is Rose Month!

Friday, June 1–Saturday, June 30
Celebrate the flowering of over 5,000 rosebushes in the Cranford Rose Garden with a month of rose-related activities. Free guided tours of the Rose Garden will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays at 1 and 3 p.m. throughout June.

Jazz and Roses

Sunday, June 3
NOON–5 PM
Enjoy afternoon tours of the Cranford Rose Garden, kids' activities, and jazz on the Cherry Esplanade.

Gramercy Garden & Antiques Show Preview Party

Thursday, March 8

Family Party

Thursday, May 31

Birds in Flight & at Rest

A Collection of Artists Specializing in Ornithology
Saturday, June 23–Sunday, July 22
Opening Reception: Saturday, June 23, 2–4 PM
STEINHARDT CONSERVATORY GALLERY
A diverse collection of paintings, drawings, and sculpture by artists inspired by birds.

Members-Only Events

The following events are for BBG members only. Guest passes cannot be used for members-only events.

Forsythia Day

Sunday, April 1, 11 AM–4 PM
Celebrate the official flower of Brooklyn! BBG members receive a free forsythia plant. The annual Forsythia Awards ceremony and members' reception will take place in the afternoon.

Members' Plant Sale Preview

Tuesday, May 2, 4:30–8 PM
Members have first pick of the best annuals, perennials, and other plants offered at this popular annual event. Only members are admitted to the preview—no guests, please.

Members' Summer Hours

Wednesdays, May 30–September 5, 6–8 PM
Members can visit BBG for two extra hours every Wednesday evening for the summer months. Enjoy a twilight stroll or dinner al fresco at the Terrace Café.

Rose Night

Wednesday, June 6, 6–8 PM
Celebrate the blooming of the roses at this wine and cheese reception, with BBG's rosarian, Anne O'Neill.

June Members' Sunset Picnic

Wednesday, June 27, 6–8 PM
Bring your own blanket and a picnic, or purchase one from the Terrace Café and enjoy it on the softest, greenest grass in Brooklyn. The June picnic is "Bring a Guest Night," when members are encouraged to invite a friend. Other picnic dates are July 25 and August 29.

Spring Gala

Tuesday, June 5

Passport to Summer

Thursday, June 21

THE GARDEN GIFT SHOP

Members' Savings



Lotus Blossom Scarf

The earliest florilegia—anthologies of illustrations describing living collections of flowering plants—first appeared 400 years ago. Brooklyn Botanic Garden Florilegium Society, a group of the country's most accomplished botanical artists, is reinventing this centuries-old form. Florilegium artist Wendy Hollender has designed textiles for more than 20 years, and her colored-pencil rendition of *Nelumbo nucifera* 'Double Rose' has been gracefully interpreted on a BBG-exclusive, silk voile scarf (12" x 60"; hand wash).

Retail \$75, Member's Price \$67.50



BBG Signature Tie

Our new logo is expertly interpreted on BBG's silk signature tie. The three colors, rich sky blue, warm citrus orange, and a vibrant spring green, are screen printed on a deep royal-blue background (100% silk, dry clean only).

Retail \$55, Member's Price \$49.50

MEMBERSHIP PARTNERS PROGRAM 2007 BOOKLET

The enclosed 2007 Membership Partners Program booklet offers discounts from a wide array of participating merchants. Don't forget to check out our special May 2007 promotion participants below (also listed in booklet).

Take advantage of these special offers in May 2007, and also support BBG!

These select Partners will donate a portion of member sales back to the Garden:

Garden Tools by Garden Hardware Co.

www.gardenhardware.com • 888-476-4426

Use code **BBGMAY07** when checking out to receive 10% off your order (excluding shipping, handling, and tax), and 10% of proceeds will be donated to BBG. *Members' discount cannot be combined with other discounts or promotions.*

Providence Day Spa

329 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201 • 718-596-6774

Members always receive 10% off all treatments. In May, mention the BBG promotion and 10% of your purchase will also be donated to BBG.

From You Flowers

www.fromyouflowers.com/bbg • 800-838-8853

BBG members always receive 20% off their orders by mentioning code **975**. In May, 5% of your purchase will be donated to BBG.

WindowBox.com

www.windowbox.com

BBG members always receive a 15% discount on online purchases. In May, 5% of your purchase will also be donated to BBG. Mention code **BBGmembers**.

Hydroponic Garden Centers, Inc.

146-49 Horace Harding Expressway, Flushing, NY 11367
718-762-8880

BBG members always receive 10% off metal halide grow lights and a free pint of aerated compost tea. In May, members will also receive 10% off complete hydroponic kits and compost tea brewers, and 10% of your purchase will be donated to BBG.

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



Members *news*

WHERE PLANTS COME TO LIFE

Years of Achievement:

Reflections on BASE and Its First Graduating Class



BASE Student: Diedre Alexia Willer



BASE Student: Ronald Williams

BASE is made possible through a major grant from the New Century High Schools Initiative, a joint initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Open Society Institute. It is managed by New Visions for Public Schools in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education, the United Federation of Teachers, and the Council of Supervisors and Administrators.

Additional support for BASE has been provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, American Honda Foundation, Louis Calder Foundation, John N. and Gillett A. Gilbert Family Fund, New York City Environmental Fund, Newman's Own Foundation, Inc., and Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund.

What happens when you take two world-class cultural institutions, add 125 eager high school freshmen, and move the classroom outside the walls of the school building?

Four years ago, this was the question that Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Prospect Park Alliance (PPA) asked when they cofounded the Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment (BASE) in partnership with the New York City Department of Education. Now, with total school enrollment at 467 and those eager freshman poised to become BASE's first graduating class, we reflect on what the students have learned—and what we have learned from them.

BASE, Brooklyn's first environmental public high school, offers a rigorous, engaging academic curriculum to a diverse community of students. It was one of four small schools set up on the site of the former Prospect Heights High School, which had been one of the city's lowest-performing schools.

Statistics show that the BASE curriculum model, which introduces scientific and environmental concepts to students through a combination of core academics and hands-on learning, is improving student performance. In 2005–06, 96% of all BASE freshmen passed the state Living Environment Regents exam, 94% passed the Chemistry Regents, and 84% passed the Physics Regents (the first year physics was offered at BASE).

Diedre Alexia Willer, a senior who wants to study medicine and become an obstetrician, thinks field study sets BASE apart from other high schools. "It's easier, and more interesting, to learn scientific principles by actually doing

experiments rather than just reading from a book in the classroom."

BASE also offers students innovative opportunities for personal growth and career building, including internships at BBG, PPA, and other environmental and community organizations, and learning-expedition trips, the first of which made it possible for ten freshman students to travel to and study the Florida Everglades.

"These activities go to the heart of what a BASE education is all about: strong classroom studies supplemented by learning opportunities that help to develop a mature and well-rounded young adult," says Sharon Myrie, BBG's vice president of Education.

BBG's experience working with BASE students, teachers, and staff over the past four years has made it a stronger institution. By bringing community resources into the school and by engaging students within their own communities, the Garden and its education staff have helped create leaders who are eager to make a difference.

Ronald Williams, a senior who plans a career in computer science, says, "I developed an appreciation for the environment that I never had before. I learned how my actions affect the planet, and I try to do my part, like recycling my computer ink cartridges so the chemicals don't damage the ozone layer."

With the support of BBG members and other funders, BASE will continue to foster students' strong academic achievement, attendance above the city average, and a school culture focused on high graduation rates and college attendance.

Garden Views



Many casual visitors do not know that Brooklyn Botanic Garden is actually much bigger than the 52 acres that mark its boundaries. In this *Members News* we are proud to share with you some facets of the Garden that are not on display but which are

essential to the Garden's vitality and to the well-being of our community.

The Garden is proud to celebrate the achievements of BASE's first graduating class. Building on our founding commitment to invest in strengthening young people's sense of responsibility for the environment, BBG offers these high school students their first opportunities to participate in serious, full-fledged research, including a project to build a DNA database of BBG's living plant collections. When it is complete, this database will be an important resource for scientists around the world.

BBG's broad array of internships gives students the chance to learn about the beauty of nature, the world of work, and careers in science, horticulture, and the environment. And though our primary focus is to reach middle and high school students in Brooklyn, youth throughout New York City are also participants in the Garden's programs, including students from the Harlem Children Society, who are featured in our story about the new interactive identification keys for woody plants.

And the impact of BBG's Brooklyn Greenbridge program can be seen and felt throughout Brooklyn. Continually forging new links to the community, BBG staff and volunteers work to make our urban environment a healthier, safer, and more beautiful place to live and work.

We thank you, our members, for helping to extend the Garden's reach well beyond our gates through innovative education, science, and outreach programs like these.

Scot Medbury, BBG President

THE GRAPEVINE

🌸 Introducing New Brooklyn Botanic Garden Staff

Director of Publications Elizabeth Peters oversees Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guides, *Plants & Gardens News*, and *Urban Habitats* (BBG's scientific journal), as well as the Garden's website (bbg.org) and other publications. Elizabeth came to BBG from Time Inc.'s theater magazine, *Show People*, and was formerly publisher of *The Independent Film & Video Monthly* and director of Pennsylvania's Tuscarora Organic Growers Cooperative.

Director of Continuing Education Rebecca Johnson oversees BBG's adult education classes. Rebecca formerly served as program manager for the continuing education and nondegree training programs at the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University.

Director of Government and Community Affairs Aaron Bouska is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary and was most recently the Advocacy Program Officer for Habitat for Humanity.

HORT REPORT

New Hornbeams Grace the Osborne Garden

The original design of the southern end of the Osborne Garden called for twin rows of European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) trees to frame the bluestone walk that runs behind the limestone fountain to the wide staircase above the lilac collection. Over the past several years, however, these trees steadily declined.

In 2006, Osborne Garden curator Dan Ryniec joined staff arborists, horticultural foremen, and grounds workers in a project designed to breathe new life into the space. Eight declining trees were removed and replaced with 46 low-branched hornbeams shipped from Oregon. Planted along the semicircular path in intervals on both sides of the fountain, these twin groups of 23 trees will be clipped, or pleached, into a hedge that we hope will reach up to 20 feet in height.

"Such a formal landscape detail is in harmony with the Osborne's classical Italianate style and will provide a striking backdrop for southerly views there," says Patrick Cullina, BBG's vice president of Horticulture and Facilities. "The trees will also lend a crisp green backdrop to a series of white-flowering dogwoods that we'll plant between the hedge and the limestone benches this spring.

Low-branched versions of this tree that lend themselves to such formal design are not easy to find, but Garden staff have kept a few replacements on hand to meet future needs. In the meantime, visitors will see real progress this year as the trees embark on their first full growing season in Brooklyn.

SCIENCE

Woody Plant Identification Made Easy With Interactive Keys

With a grant from the New York State Biodiversity Research Institute, BBG scientists have developed interactive identification keys to woody plants of the region. This electronic tool will enable scientists, horticulturists, and home gardeners to more accurately classify unknown woody plants.

Before these keys were created, plant identification was most often done using field guides. However, users often experience difficulties naming a plant when the guide refers to a structure (e.g., flowers) that the specimen does not have. If the structure doesn't exist, the user is stuck at that identification step, with limited options for further classifying the plant.

Interactive keys address this problem by having users enter into a PC or handheld PDA only the information available to them. For example, if the specimen lacks flowers, the user can focus on leaf characteristics. Each characteristic is linked to a file that explains it.

The new keys were tested last summer at Black Rock Forest, 50 miles north of New York City, by BBG college interns and at the Garden by four high school interns from the Harlem Children Society.

"I was impressed at how often the interactive keys were correct," says Dr. Gerry Moore, BBG's director of Science. "In one instance, the Garden received a woody plant specimen that lacked flowers and fruits. I didn't know what it was, and a traditional field guide did not yield an answer. However, the Harlem Children Society interns quickly found the correct answer using the interactive keys—fuzzy pride-of-Rochester (*Deutzia scabra*)."

The BBG Science Department has posted the interactive keys for free, public use on the Garden's website at <http://bbg.org/sci/keys/index.html>.

EDUCATION

BASE Student Heads North to Study Polar Bears

Donning parka and boots, Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment (BASE) high school student Raashad Roberts traveled in October to Manitoba, Canada, to take part in Polar Bear International's (PBI) 2006 Polar Bear Science Leadership Camp, sponsored by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Raashad, a junior, is among only 16 students worldwide selected to be part of this intense ten-day field course, which gives talented teenagers the opportunity to study in the "Polar Bear Capital of the World" during bear migration. The students visited a maternal den site, met the scientists, and discussed the perils that the polar bear and its environment are facing due to global warming.

While onsite in Canada, Raashad shared his experiences with fellow BASE students through an online journal, and when he returned to Brooklyn, he facilitated a distance-learning exchange via live video simulcast between BASE students and PBI scientists, including Dr. Donald E. Moore, former director of Prospect Park Zoo.

"One thing I leave with," says Raashad, "is the fact that I am now an ambassador to the Arctic, which means that I can pass on my knowledge to others."

Sharon Myrie, BBG's vice president of Education, said, "It is so exciting that through BBG's relationship with our partners, Prospect Park Alliance and Prospect Park Zoo, Raashad was able to take part in this program and share his experiences with other students."

BASE will continue to offer internships, research projects, and other unique learning experiences for students in 2007, including two research studies at BBG—a seed dispersal project and a plant DNA project.

OUTREACH

Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest—a Lesson in Teamwork

From its humble beginnings in 1995, the Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest has expanded in size and scope, with a record 255 blocks participating in 2006. Despite its growth, the contest holds true to its original goals of promoting streetscape gardening and community involvement.

The 2006 residential block winner, East 25th Street between Avenue D and Clarendon Road, has participated in the contest since 1998, when it received special recognition for best new entry. Through committed teamwork, residents improved the block's gardens and streetscape each subsequent year until they won first place in 2004, and again in 2006. "Participating in Greenest Block is about more than winning a contest," says Hazel Foster, greening coordinator for East 25th Street. "It is also about a lifetime dedicated to building stronger, greener communities for future generations."

2006 Commercial Block winner, Lewis Avenue between MacDonaugh and Decatur Streets, exhibits that same dedication. According to Lloyd Porter, owner of Bread Stuy and vice president of Shops on Lewis Avenue Merchants Association (SOLA), "It's not only 'good business' to showcase our shops and attract customers, but the rewards of participating in the contest include a better working environment for our employees and the sense of community spirit that teamwork produces."

With the support of the Sovereign Endowment Fund at Independence Community Foundation and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, the 2007 contest will continue to foster greening activities and community participation. For more information and a 2007 entry form (deadline June 4), visit bbg.org/edu/greenbridge/greenestblock online or call 718-623-7250.

HELPING THE GARDEN GROW (Gifts received August 1 to December 31, 2006)

Gager Society

We are pleased to recognize the following individuals for their generous support of \$1,500 or more to BBG's annual and membership campaigns. Donations to capital campaigns, dedications, special events, and the gala are not included in Gager Society totals.

Leadership Gifts

(\$50,000 or more)

Ernestine Feinland
Diane and Joseph Steinberg
Tiger Baron Foundation

(10,000 or more)

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Dino Veronese
Lillian Weiss

Forsythia Society

The Forsythia Society honors individuals who support the Garden through a bequest in their will or through a planned gift during their lifetime.

We are pleased to welcome the following Forsythia Society Members:

Dorothy Strauss
Charlotte Thorp

We are pleased to acknowledge gifts from the following estates:

Estate of Elfrieda Huntenburg
Estate of Vivian R. Masterson

Corporate, Foundation, and Government Agency Support

Leadership Support

The Theodore H. Barth Foundation, Inc.
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The Ambrose Monell Foundation
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The George Backer Family Foundation, Inc.
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The Garden is grateful for the ongoing support received from:

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz
Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council
Brooklyn Delegation of the New York State Assembly
Brooklyn Delegation of the New York State Senate
Natural Heritage Trust
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
New York State Department of Education
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



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For membership information, contact us at 718-623-7210 or membership@bbg.org.

For information about the Forsythia or Gager Societies, contact Mary Shuford, interim director of Gift and Estate Planning, at 718-623-7246.