


GreenBridge Gardener

 Please Post!

GreenBridge Workshops

Preregistration is required at least one week in advance for these workshops. Register online at bbg.org.

Street Tree Care

Section A Tuesday, March 15 | 6–8 p.m.

Section B Thursday, April 14 | 6–8 p.m.

Section C Thursday, May 19 | 6–8 p.m.

Section D Thursday, June 16 | 6–8 p.m.

Organizing for Community Greening

Wednesday, April 6 | 6–8 p.m.

Native Plants for Brooklyn Gardens

Thursday, April 21 | 6–8 p.m.

Community Calendar

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

March 1–31

Photo Exhibit

2010 Greenest Block in Brooklyn Winners
Brooklyn Botanic Garden Visitor Center

March 12 | 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Making Brooklyn Bloom

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

March 19

GreenThumb GrowTogether

Call 212-788-8070 for information.

May 4 and 5

BBG Annual Plant Sale

Free with Garden admission.

Call 718-623-7200 for information.

May 3

BBG Members' Plant Sale Preview

June 1

Greenest Block in Brooklyn Entry Deadline

Applications available in March.

June 1

Brooklyn Urban Gardener Certificate Program Application Deadline

Applications available in March.

Call 718-623-7250 for information.

Going Native in Brooklyn

Join us this year as BBG's Native Flora Garden celebrates its 100th anniversary! Created in 1911 to display plants that grow in a variety of environments within 100 miles of New York City, this unique garden invites you to experience many of New York's distinctive natural habitats and the biodiversity they support.

Cultivating native plants is a wonderful way for Brooklyn gardeners to learn more about our ecological history and prevent the spread of invasive species. "Planting natives makes good garden sense," says Native Flora Garden curator Uli Lorimer. "Because they adapted over thousands of years to the climate and soil conditions of this region, native plants are particularly economical and sustainable." Native plants also attract more pollinators, which helps all plants in a garden bear more fruit.

Last summer, GreenBridge organized a field workshop on gardening with natives to encourage people to create habitat for bird and insect pollinators. Members of the GreenBridge Community Garden Alliance gathered at Bushwick's Secret Garden Nature Preserve, part of the Linden-Bushwick Community Garden,

for the workshop led by Dr. Randi Eckel of Toadshade Wildflower Farm. Until recently, the Secret Garden was a hidden green gem in the rough, used as a dumping ground by construction crews. The well-attended workshop was "a great start to the replanting of the space," said Sean-Michael Fleming, the project's director.

Over the past two decades, BBG's New York Metropolitan Flora Project (NYMF) has mapped plant species distribution in every county within a 100-mile radius of New York City. GreenBridge will use this information to help Brooklyn community gardeners select

native plants best suited for today's urban soils, with a special emphasis on using natives to soak up rainfall and reduce stormwater runoff. For inspiration on what to plant in your garden, come take a stroll through our Native Flora Garden!



Adam Schwartz and Rachel Easterly with native plants at the Secret Garden

—Robin Simmen, GreenBridge Director

Greenest Block in Brooklyn Contest 2011

Applications available in March. The contest is open to all residential and business blocks in Brooklyn. Get your block or business association to join in!

- First place prize is \$300!
- Deadline to enter is June 1.
- For information and applications, call 718-623-7250 or visit bbg.org/greenbridge.

Organized by GreenBridge in cooperation with Borough President Marty Markowitz and with generous support from Brooklyn Community Foundation.



Let's Garden Together: 30 Years of Making Brooklyn Bloom!

Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Palm House, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

First Annual Wilbur A. Levin Keynote Address Presented by Ellen Kirby, Coordinator of the Food Bank Community Garden, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

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.



30TH
ANNUAL
MAKING
BROOKLYN
BLOOM

Banner:

Wetland meadow in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

From the Street... New Trees in East New York

East New York will start 2011 with 1,000 new street trees, thanks to the MillionTreesNYC (MTNYC) initiative. GreenBridge staff worked throughout the fall and early winter to let East New York residents know about the new arrivals, spreading the word about street tree care with workshops across the neighborhood. Local community gardens and public schools offered venues for the workshops—a great way to build support for tree stewardship in any neighborhood.

Once the trees are planted, GreenBridge and Groundwork, Inc., an after-school program in East New York, will follow up with a series of tree care workshops that focus on finding local resources and empowering residents to beautify streets and maintain a healthy urban forest. GreenBridge supplies free tree care tool kits, funded by MTNYC, to adopters of street trees who join the MTNYC Stewardship Corps at the end of a workshop. A free street tree care workshop will also be conducted at BBG on March 15 (see front for details).

As winter melts into spring, street trees need help preparing for the hot summer months. What can a tree steward do? Remove any old mulch laid down for winter (which protected trees by absorbing toxic salt spray and dog urine) and replace it with two to three inches of clean wood chips to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and improve soil in tree beds. Green-Wood Cemetery keeps a pile of free wood chips for the public to pick up from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. inside its main gate at 5th Avenue and 25th Street in Brooklyn; the security guard will direct you. Call Green-Wood at 718-768-7300 for more information. In addition to mulching, inspect street trees for vandalism, disease, and pests. Please call 311 to report any tree-related issues, or visit milliontreesnyc.org for more information.

—Michael Mitchell, MillionTreesNYC Fellow

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is the newsletter of GreenBridge, the community environmental horticulture program of Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Visit us at bbg.org/greenbridge; contact us at 718-623-7250 or greenbridge@bbg.org.

GREENBRIDGE STAFF

Robin Simmen, Director
Michael Mitchell, MillionTreesNYC Stewardship Corp Outreach Coordinator

Spotlight on...

Brooklyn Urban Gardener Program

This spring, Brooklyn is buzzing with excitement over three new community greening projects that took root at the end of last year's growing season.

Participants in the first annual Brooklyn Urban Gardener (BUG) program have been hard at work through the winter developing horticulture initiatives at a school garden, a community garden, and on a commercial street. The projects have given BUG participants a chance to test their newfound knowledge and practice volunteering with neighborhood-based organizations.



BUG volunteers (from left) Nina Browne, Mirem Villamil, Jamel Evans, and Michele Israel met with Susannah Laskaris at PS 217 to support its school garden.

"We cover a lot of material, and there is so much to learn," said Ena McPherson, a BUG participant who lives in Bedford Stuyvesant. "The interaction has been great, and I like to hear the different perspectives from the group."

McPherson worked alongside four other BUG volunteers on the beginnings of a new community garden at the Dutch Reform Church in Flatbush. The team worked with members of Sustainable Flatbush to get input from local residents and plan for spring projects at the site.

Another project brought BUG volunteers to PS 217, also in Flatbush, to work on expanding an

existing school garden. The team met directly with the school's teachers, brainstorming ways to introduce the garden into day-to-day lessons.

A third group worked with merchants on Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights to green up one of the corridor's commercial blocks. BUG volunteers led street tree gardening workshops, gave away free daffodil bulbs to business owners, and made plans to install container gardens this summer.

Applications for the fall 2011 BUG training course will be available at Making Brooklyn Bloom on March 12 and online at bbg.org/greenbridge. Be sure to check out the impressive work that last year's BUG group has been doing throughout the borough!

Still want to receive a print copy of this newsletter? Let us know!

To save paper and reduce our environmental impact, this autumn we will begin sending the *GreenBridge Gardener* exclusively via email. To ensure that we have your latest email address, visit bbg.org/greenbridge and submit your contact information in the form on the upper right-hand side of the screen.

If you wish to receive a paper version of the *GreenBridge Gardener* in your mailbox, please call 718-623-7250, send us a letter, or email us at greenbridge@bbg.org with the words "Paper Newsletter" in the subject line. Provide us with your name, latest address information, and telephone number, and we'll add you to our print mailing list.