



The GreenThumb Print

GreenThumb News and
Topics of Interest to Community Gardeners in New York City

July 2002

The bulletin of GreenThumb, a program of City of New York Parks & Recreation

All Grown Up

On a hot summer day, three years ago, a timid knock at the front door interrupted the usual bustle of the GreenThumb office. Upon inspection, a shy boy was found hiding in the shadow of the hallway. He slowly stepped into the office and in a barely audible voice introduced himself. He was led to the appropriate office and sat waiting for what was to come. Left alone, his wandering eyes absorbed the unfamiliar surroundings he would soon be acquainted with under the flickering fluorescent light. His hands were clammy and he felt a mix of anxiety and excitement not knowing what was ahead of him. . .Gardeners, who is this mystery person? Turn to page 2 to find out.

Doctor Dandelion Needs a Face Lift

The famous Dr. Dandelion of our beloved kids newsletter, *Inquiring Minds Want To Grow*, has returned. Having been on vacation for so long, and feeling rejuvenated, Dr. Dandelion feels like a brand new person. Therefore Dr. Dandelion feels like she needs a new look and wants your help. GreenThumb announces the Draw Doctor Dandelion Contest. For your good help, you will, of course, be awarded! The winning entry will receive a \$25.00 shopping spree at Pearl Paint, the super fabulous arts supplies store on Canal St in Manhattan.

Here are the rules:

- 1) Try to remember that the kids newsletter unfortunately is printed in black and white so use only those colors.
- 2) Drawings are due August 12, 2002.
- 3) Drawing cannot be traced from past Doctor Dandelion drawings. All drawings MUST be original!
- 4) All artwork must be signed.
- 5) Have fun!

Drought Regulations Still in Effect

June was a blessed month. Flowers were blooming, bees were pollinating and the rains came. But the summer has only just begun and we have 3 more months of very hot and potentially dry weather ahead of us. So don't be so quick to dismiss the drought regulations. Please follow the DEP water regulations affecting community gardens or check out their website www.nyc.gov/dep for more info about water restrictions.

Drought Regulations Affecting Community Gardens

- No kiddie pools (inflatable or otherwise) are allowed under drought restrictions.
- Compost piles may be watered, but must follow the above guidelines for watering.
- Washing of sidewalks, streets, driveways, steps, etc. with public water and a hose is prohibited throughout a Drought Emergency. Sidewalks can be cleaned with water from a bucket.
- Ornamental fountains, artificial waterfalls, reflecting pools, ornamental lakes and ponds are all prohibited throughout a Drought Emergency to increase public awareness of the drought, even if they are not using public water. A garden with a pond with fish whose introduction pre-dates the Drought Emergency can apply for a variance if only rainwater or well water is used in the pond.

In addition, GreenThumb gardens still need a special DEP permit to use fire hydrants. In the past, GreenThumb gardens have been given a blanket permit to use fire hydrants - at this time, gardens have not been issued this permit. Fines for using hydrants to water start at \$750. You can apply for a variance with DEP - you will have to describe in detail what the undue hardship would be, why you should be provided with a variance and what alternative actions you have or will take to reduce water consumption. You can download an application at www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/droughtvariance.html or pick one up at the GreenThumb office.

ALL GROWN UP

...continued from page 1

Why it's Daniel Burgos! When asked, I am sure none of us would recognize the shy young man that was Danny on his first day at GreenThumb. Our Danny is all grown up! It did not take Danny long to adjust and define his role in the GreenThumb family. Starting off as the kids correspondent intern, Danny quickly adjusted to his new environment and established himself as a hardworking, bright and responsible individual. GreenThumb was so impressed with Danny that he was asked to return the following year and the rest is, as they say, history. Danny now does everything under the GreenThumb roof as well as the Kids Newsletter, filling out sign requests, and making sure we are all sane (that's the most difficult). Danny was able to complete his work duties all while fulfilling all his school responsibilities. Now that's amazing! Danny graduated from High School in June with 3 awards! He will pursue a bachelor's degree in English at York College in the fall. We are glad that he will be close by so that he will remain at GreenThumb. Selfish, we know.

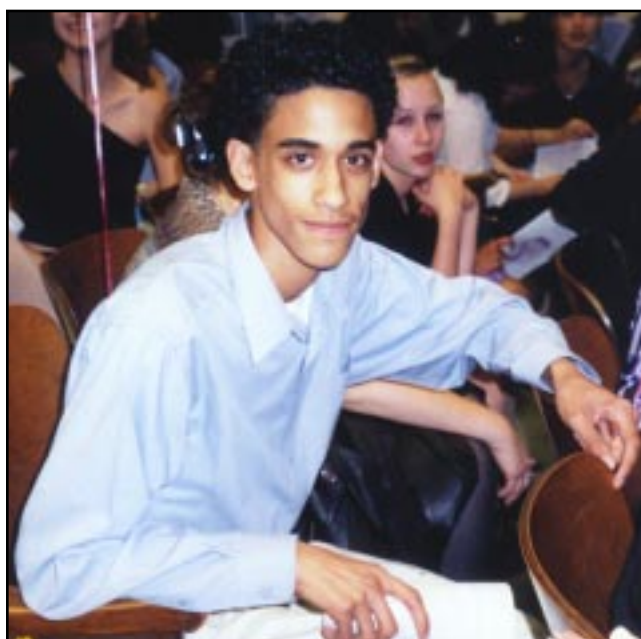
In the three years at GreenThumb, Danny has blossomed into a confident, responsible and very mature individual, most times. GreenThumb wishes to congratulate Danny on completing his HS career and wish him lots of luck in the next chapter of his academic career. We also would like to thank Danny and let him know how much we appreciate his extraordinary work at GreenThumb. The best part is, Danny knows that already! Congratulations Danny!



Anybody recognize this shy 14 year old on his first day at GreenThumb?



Awe, isn't that sweet. Danny and his Mom on his big day as he graduates from High School and moves onto the big world of college.



All grown up. Here is Danny at his awards assembly where he received 3 awards for academic excellence and leadership! Congratulations Danny!



Danny with his date on prom night. Isn't he cute?

Summer Reading

The Struggle for Eden Community Gardens in NYC

by Malve von Hassell



It's summer. The sun is scorching and the Fox first news weather predicts another hot, hazy and humid day with temperatures rising to the upper 90s. All you want to do is sit under a cool shady tree in your garden with an icy cold drink in one hand and a book in the other. "The Struggle for Eden" could be the very book. Pick up a copy at your local library and learn more about the history of community gardens in New York City.

This study is a portrayal of the political, economic, and cultural history and present of community gardens in a New York City neighborhood, the Lower East Side of Manhattan. An ethnographic study of a particular instance of urban history, it provides a basis for an understanding of urban community gardens in the United States. Beginning with a historical overview of urban community gardening in the United States and other countries, the author concentrates on the last two decades of the 20th century in this portrayal of a social movement that seeks to impact urban environments both in social and economic terms and in terms of ecological dynamics. The last decade in particular has been critical with regard to the development of a broad network of community-based coalitions acting on behalf of urban community gardens.

The author considers internal dynamics and organization of individual gardens within the specific social, political, and economic context of the Lower East Side and analyzes the political struggle on behalf of community gardens in that neighborhood and the entire city. The author also addresses the diverse ways in which community gardens on the Lower East Side have become critical components in the daily life of urban gardeners, predominantly poor and low-income people.

- Description by Greenwood Publishing Group

Upcoming Events. . .

Mark your calendars! The GreenThumb Harvest Fair will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2002. It's a couple of months away but we wanted to make sure we reserved a spot in your social calendar. Look in the next issue for more information.

23rd Annual Conference of the American Community Gardening Association

Each year the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) convenes a national conference to gather people involved in all aspects of community gardening and greening programs to share experiences and learn from one another. This year's conference will be held July 25-28, in New York City with participants coming from all over the world including Germany, France, England, Switzerland, Uzbekistan, Japan and the United States and Canada. GreenThumb is very excited and proud to help sponsor the 23rd Annual Conference. Tours of gardens will be part of the conference. To learn more about the tours, other events in the gardens, or volunteer opportunities, contact your outreach coordinator.

We've Got 'Em

Isn't it annoying to walk around your garden and find evidence of some rude neighbor's poor dog walking etiquette? Well, fear no longer because GreenThumb's got the ever dreadful and intimidating Dog Curbing Signs. Dog walkers will see and it and make sure they clean up after their dogs. If you would like a sign for your garden please contact "Do-everything-under-the-GreenThumb-roof" Danny at (212) 788-8068.

List Your Events

Summer is here, school is out and everybody's gearing up to enjoy their summer outdoors and in the garden. We know the gardens will be bustling with activity and GreenThumb wants to list your event. Listing your event is a good way to network and see what's going on in other gardens like the yoga classes held at Le Petite Versailles and Dias y Flores in the East Village or the theater shows on the Upper West Side at West 104th St Garden. Look for the monthly GreenThumb Events Calendar for garden events or the GreenThumb website www.greenthumbnyc.org for last minute events that were not listed at press time. To list your event, fill out an events form and send, email, or fax to GreenThumb. To get a form call Mei @ (212) 788-8073. Get the word out!