



The GreenThumb Print

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

April 2003

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



GreenThumb sends a huge thank you to the community gardeners, workshop leaders, guest speakers, exhibitors and volunteers who helped celebrate the 25th Anniversary of GreenThumb at the 19th Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether in grandeur and style on Saturday, March 22.

According to workshop leader Paula Hewitt of Open Road, "This was the best GrowTogether I have ever attended."

GreenThumb staff agrees that it was one of the best GrowTogethers and we thank the GrowTogether Coordinator, Brooke Gentile, for her brilliant work. Brooke confesses, "It was a hectic day, but I am very happy with the way it turned out."

The opening ceremony started with much gusto and excitement from Earth Celebrations who led a procession of fantastic earthly creatures to intoxicating rhythms. Assistant Commissioner for City-wide Services, Jack Linn, brought laughter to the crowd when he professed the greatest power is "flower power!". Guest speaker, Jane Weissman, took us on a beautiful verbal walking tour of community gardens which she described with vivid detail from her days as the director of GreenThumb. Community gardeners Abu Talib and Antonia Diaz each shared their passionate stories of gardening while Howard Young graced us with excerpts from his collection of poetry (soon to be published).

In traditional fanfare, GreenThumb staff revealed the 25th Anniversary T-shirt on stage to cheers as over 500 balloons were released to the surprise of the crowd. Attendants happily danced out to a day of workshops as the beats of Celebrate! by Kool and the Gang filled the air.

See page 2 for more photos.



Earth Celebrations' fantastic puppets kicked off the 19th Annual GrowTogether dancing down the aisle to intoxicating beats.



GrowTogether Coordinator, Brooke Gentile, smiles at the conclusion of a very successful 19th Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether.

19th Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether



19th Annual GrowTogether guest speakers from left to right: Jack Linn, Assistant Commissioner for Citywide Services, City of NY Parks & Recreation; Jane Weismann, former GreenThumb Director; Abu Talib, Taqwa Community Farm, Bronx; Antonia Diaz, 1001 Anderson Ave Community Garden, Bronx; and Horace Young, Howard Avenue Block Association, Queens.



Over 500 balloons were released in celebration of GreenThumb's 25th Anniversary.



Eve Prince (right) of Earth Celebrations helps Titeanna Wright (left) make a crown of flowers at the Art & Ecology Workshop.



More puppets and dancers from Earth Celebrations bring vibrant energy to the opening session.



Children and adults take a moment to stretch at a Yoga workshop with Chris Stewart of Berry Street Garden.



Sebert Harper of Drew Gardens leads a very popular kids workshop on environmental art -- making ladybugs out of recycled paper.



Children of all ages, including Juanita Drayton of B.C.C.A Mini-Park & Garden in Jamaica, Queens were excited to get their face painted.



Participants "imprint" the water with nutrient rich minerals at Steve Storch's Biodynamic Method workshop. One bucket of water is enough for an acre!



Paula Hewitt (center) of Open Road "maps a project" with participants in the Participatory Design with Youth Workshop.



Classie Parker of Five Star Block Association in Manhattan and Roger Reopohl of Genesis Park in the Bronx, led a very popular canning workshop. The free samples were delicious!

GreenThumb Garden Events Listing

The snow has finally stopped and the air is little warmer. Bulbs are sprouting through the ground and hints of green are spotting the landscape. Soon, bulbs will bloom vibrant colored flowers, days will become longer and warmer and that means we can spend more time in the garden. Events will be planned including holiday barbecues, block parties, and horticultural workshops. Below are some garden events to start off the growing season.

If you have an event you want posted, please contact Meilan Chiu at (212) 788-8073, mei@greenthumbnyc.org for an events listing form or go to www.greenthumbnyc.org/events.html and download it. **Remember, as a registered GreenThumb garden, your garden group must have at least one event in your garden during the gardening season (April - November).**

Native Plant Communities - An Introduction Greenspace@President Street, Brooklyn

Sunday, April 13, 10 am - 12 pm

Interactive workshop on native plants and plant communities. Workshop will start with an introduction and discussion of native plants followed by some hands on work transplanting and caring for native spring perennials.

Location: 222 5th Ave, corner of President St

Directions: By train - R to Union St and 4th Ave. By bus - B63 to Union St on 5th Ave.

Info: Please call Judy Janda at (718) 638-8939

2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

West 104th St Community Garden, Upper West Side, Manhattan

Saturday, April 19, 1 - 3 pm

(Raindate: Sunday, April 20)

Easter Egg Hunt and Costume Parade. Children through 8 years old welcome. The West 104th Street Community Garden invites our neighbors to come and cheer the hunters on! Bring YOUR children or grandchildren to enjoy the afternoon with us!

Location: 6-10 West 104nd St

Directions: By train - B,C to W 103rd St. Walk one block south on Central Park West, turn right onto W 102nd St, middle of south side of block between Central Park West and Manhattan Ave. By bus - M10 to W 102nd St.

Info: Please call Lucille Murovich at (212) 316-0558

Native Plant Communities - A Hands On Workshop Greenspace@President Street, Brooklyn

Saturday, April 19, 10 am - 12 pm

Hands on work planting native perennials followed by discussion of native plant garden on the Sackett Street water Tunnel site.

Location: 222 5th Ave, corner of President St

Directions: By train - R to Union St and 4th Ave. By bus - B63 to Union St on 5th Ave.

Info: Please call Judy Janda at (718) 638-8939

Celebrate National Gardening Month

Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment, Inc.

Saturday, April 19, 12 - 3 pm

Celebrate National Gardening Month with gardening workshops, interactive stations and family programs at the The Tennis House in Prospect Park.

Location: The Tennis House, Prospect Park, enter park at 9th St entrance

Directions: By Subway - F train to 7th Ave and exit at 8th Ave. Walk (uphill) one block to 9th St. Enter park at 9th St entrance. Walk straight ahead on the footpath and cross the park drive at the traffic light. Tennis House is on the left. By bus - B69 to 9th St. Enter park at 9th St entrance. Walk straight ahead on the footpath and cross the park drive at the traffic light. Tennis House is on the left.

Info: Please call Skai Stroud at (718) 788-8500 X 239

Community Garden Outreach Initiative



Community Garden Outreach Initiative of CarePlus Health Plan is a program created by Lillian Reyes of Little Green Garden in the Bronx. The Initiative offers assistance to community gardeners. Open your garden to CarePlus Health Plan and

they can help your community with free or low cost health plans. They may also be able to offer material assistance to gardens including chairs for barbecues or other events. All you need to do is ask.

Your garden is eligible if it is located in **Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens or Staten Island.**

If you would like to open your community garden to CarePlus Health Plan, or for more information, please contact, Lillian Reyes at (212) 563-5570, x 240.