



The GreenThumb Print

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

September 2002

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

Plant & People Grant and EIG Update

IMPORTANT!

GreenThumb is announcing a temporary suspension of the Plant & People Grant. Emma de Caries, the current Grant Coordinator, will be leaving GreenThumb at the end of August. It will take some time to find the right person to fill the Grant Coordinator position. As a result, we must suspend the grants program for the upcoming period, which runs from October 1-December 31, 2002 with an application deadline of August 31st. We hope to be able to hire a new Grant Coordinator and resume the program for the following grant period, January 1 - March 31, 2003. Please note that our standard materials such as tools, lumber, and soil, will still be available until the warehouse is closed for the winter. Please continue to contact your Outreach Coordinator for you general garden needs.

Plant & People Grant Update:

- GreenThumb will not hold Grant Orientation Workshops in August. A mailing will be sent out when these grant workshops will resume.
- We cannot accept new applications or distribute applications until further notice. Any applications received will be put into a folder until we resume our grants program
- We will inform all garden contact people by mail of the next round of Grant Orientation Workshops. Your patience is appreciated and we ask that you do not call regarding these workshops until you have received notification either in the newsletter or by postcard announcing the Grant Orientation Workshop and the next deadline.
- If you have already been informed that your group has been awarded a grant, you are not affected by this suspension even if an event is planned for later in the season (i.e. a Halloween or Winter Solstice party).

Education in the Gardens (EIG) and School-led Program Update:

The new public school structure now called the Department of Education represents an opportunity to strengthen our Education in the Gardens program and celebrate the partnership between the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Education. At this time, GreenThumb would like to clarify and adjust our EIG program.

If you are a School-led Garden, there are several important changes in the EIG Program. A "Fall 2002 EIG Program" packet will be mailed to the garden contacts in early September. Please carefully review the enclosed information. Please call Tim Rutgers at 212-788-8080, or e-mail at tim@greenthumbnyc.org if you do not receive this packet by September 20th so a copy can be mailed to you, or if you have any questions.

The "Fall 2002 EIG Program" packet includes:

1) 2002 Registration forms: These forms are the "General Contact and Property Information" sheet and the "School-Led Garden Survey". All School-Led Gardens will be required to provide this information to receive materials and programmatic support from GreenThumb. Please return these forms by mail or fax by September 30, 2002. All new school-led programs should call GreenThumb and request the full EIG Information Packet.

2) EIG "Request for Program Assistance": School-Led Garden programs will be asked to complete this request as a way for you to describe the comprehensive needs of your program and so GreenThumb can better match some of your needs with available materials and programs. We ask that you attach this to your registration forms.

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Although GreenThumb will only be able to provide part of your overall program's needs we hope that our EIG program will help you with the necessary networking and development of additional partnerships that make for a strong and sustainable program. All programs that are new, want major re-design, or are planning large projects must complete this request. Please keep in mind that standard issue materials such as tools, lumber, soil and compost, continue to be available. We also have many new items in our warehouse that will be offered based on need and availability.

Membership Policy Clarification

GreenThumb wants to clarify our long standing public access and membership policy that is described in our GreenThumb Handbook and in the August GreenThumb Print. GreenThumb expects that each garden has as many members as possible and actively recruits new members and supports general public access and use. All GreenThumb Gardens must also post their open hours for the general public. Gardens should clearly post their rules and procedures or provide them to all existing members, as well as new and potential members. However, a GreenThumb Garden may not limit its membership based on race, sex, age, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or geographic location of residence. This should be reflected in your procedure for leadership elections and new members.

Public Access:

The public must be allowed to:

- a) Become members of the garden or their names be placed on a waiting list.
- b) Hold events in the Garden
- c) Attend events in the Garden
- d) Visit the garden during open hour sessions (at least 10 hours per week)

Membership List:

The garden group must provide GreenThumb with a list of all garden members.

ACGA Conference In NYC -- a Resounding Success -- Thanks to GreenThumb's Gardeners

On the weekend of July 26, over 400 gardeners from around the world convened at Columbia University for the 20th Annual ACGA Conference. The conference was deemed the best so far by the international attendees. Much of this praise was due largely in part to the many generous gardeners who donated their time to help ACGA prepare and host the tours of NYC's community gardens. Over 10 different tours were conducted throughout the five boroughs visiting over 100 gardens in one day! The tours allowed international gardeners to see the gardens' diversity and the integral role they play in their community. The tours revealed how vegetable gardens from East NY in Brooklyn to Harlem in Manhattan grow food to feed hungry people in their community; composting projects in community gardens help to reduce solid waste while producing nutrient rich compost for garden beds; and gardens as centers of art, music, culture and free outdoor programming to the public. Each garden is different, reflecting the flavor of the neighborhoods they are a part of, yet similar in how they serve the community. The international tourists were truly amazed with the incredible spirit and dedication of NYC's community gardens. GreenThumb would like to thank all those gardens who helped to make the tours, the ACGA Conference and NYC's community gardens, a resounding success.

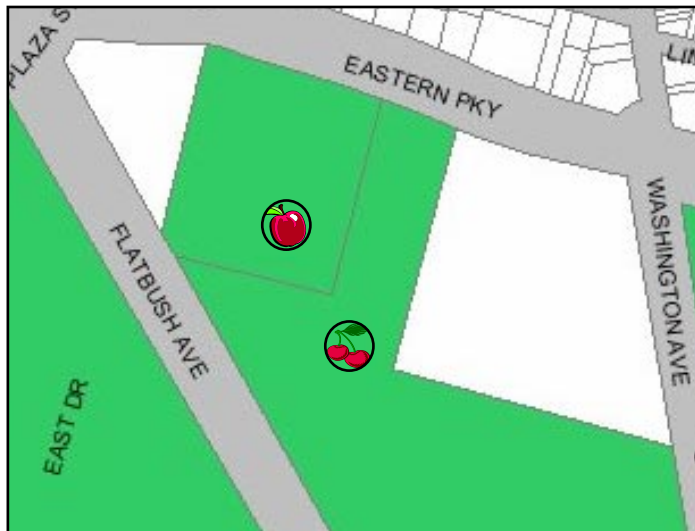


ACGA board members and local host committee pause for a pose at the 23rd Annual ACGA Conference in NYC. Photo taken by Laura Berman.

Harvest Fair 2002

Get your competition outfits ready for the 2002 GreenThumb Harvest Fair, Saturday, September 14! We have spiced up the competition with a brand new culinary category for those of you who love to garden and love to cook. Enter and you could win a prize in one of the over 30 categories of competition including best-looking, best-tasting and best-arrangement of your prize winning fruits and vegetables.

Remember! The Harvest Fair will be held in two locations this year -- the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Mt Prospect Park. They are located right next to each other on Eastern Parkway, between Washington & Underhill (see map below). The judging will be in the Cherry Esplanade of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden while the rest of the festivities including lots of great food catered by Papa Jones and live music by Genarro's Wax Trio will be at Mt Prospect Park. Registration of your entry starts at 10:30 am. Entries must be in by 12:30 pm. Announcement of winners starts at 2 pm. The Harvest Fair is on Saturday, September 14, 11 am - 5 pm. Please look in your mail for more information about 2002 Harvest Festival. We hope to see you there!



 Mt Prospect Park

 Cherry Esplanade

Directions to BBG & Mt Prospect Park: By train--Q local or Q express trains to Prospect Park station; 1 or 2 trains to Eastern Parkway. By bus--B41, B43, B48, and B71.

Citizens Committee for New York City Neighborhood Project Grants

Deadline: October 7, 2002

<http://ccnyc.neighborhoodlink.com>

Citizens Committee for New York City works with over 12,000 block, youth, faith-based, tenant and other grassroots organizations throughout the city to help sustain strong leadership in neighborhood organizations and strengthen communities. The Committee is currently accepting applications for the following grant programs:

Building Blocks Awards are small grants, ranging from \$150 to \$500, that support the work of volunteer block, tenant, and neighborhood associations in New York City. Awards are available in three categories: 1) New Organizing, to support the efforts of groups that are less than eighteen months old; 2) Communication, funding for projects designed to improve communication among neighborhood residents (e.g., newsletters, neighborhood surveys, public awareness campaigns, and community forums); 3) Model Projects, support for projects of any type that take an innovative approach to a community problem.

The Mollie Parnis Dress Up Your Neighborhood Awards recognize and support efforts by volunteers to "clean up, green up, and beautify New York City's neighborhoods." These grants support activities including murals, clean-ups, park improvements and outreach projects that increase awareness and support for community beautification efforts, such as media and educational events or publications. Applicant organizations must be volunteer-driven neighborhood organizations located in New York City. Awards will range from \$100 to \$500 and can be used for planting and cleaning supplies; copying, printing, and mailings; publicity costs; meeting space rental; program event expenses; etc.

FREE HORSE MANURE!

Available at Garden of Angels located at 978 Greene Ave, b/w Malcolm X & Patchen Aves, Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. Bring your own bag! For more info & directions, call Lee Scott @ (646) 249-7007 or Sandra Dougherty @ (718) 453-4870.