



A Bouquet of a Million Flowers

By Adam Honigman, Volunteer, Clinton Community Garden



The Million Flower Compost/Liberty Community Garden Re-Dedication Ceremony at the Liberty Community Garden, a stone's throw from the WTC was one of the most emotionally resonant commemoration events I've attended in the aftermath of 9/11. New Yorkers cannot really find words to thank Jon Rowley, Seattle P-Patch and the City of Seattle... The wheelbarrows of the composted flowers left at a Seattle stadium by 75,000 attendees over a year ago in memory of 9/11 said more than a million speeches. We were all smiles and tears. Thank you Jon Rowley, Seattle P-Patch volunteers, the City of Seattle, the Battery Park Corporation, Tessa Huxley and Ellen Kirby for helping to make this happen!

After the dedication ceremony at Liberty Community Garden I took a few small bags of ceremonial compost (symbolism and the event aside, Jon and composters, that is primo-compost!) to the Clinton Community Garden where we were hosting a program of the Municipal Art Society's Imagine New York Series - NY Recovers: a low keyed way for folks to take time out to take care of themselves, before and after the anniversary of 9/11. In our case it was a yoga class and the creation of small cheerful tree decorations. Neighborhood residents were sitting on mats on the lawn doing

yoga with an instructor as I entered the garden with the Million Flower Compost.

I took off my shoes, got on a mat and did all the yoga a short, fat person can do without permanently injuring himself. At the end of the class, I put the small bags of compost on the lawn and opened one up for people to pass around, touch and smell.

I began by saying "Did you ever wonder what happens to a million flowers if someone has enough love to compost them for a year, and then give a thousand pounds of it to some friends who've had a really bad time?" Then I told the story of what all of you had done with the flowers that 75,000 people had brought to your stadium, the contribution of the elephants, the events down at the

Liberty Community Garden, and how these small bags of compost were going to be incorporated into our Native American Plants Bed, a flower bed, a few pinches into some of our compost bins (to teach them how to behave) and into some of the raised vegetable beds where we raise food that goes to low income folks and seniors.

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Liberty Community Garden, Battery Park City, NY

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The Community Gardener is published by the American Community Gardening Association.

The **American Community Gardening Association (ACGA)** is a nonprofit membership organization of professionals, volunteers and supporters of community greening in urban and rural communities. The Association recognizes that community gardening improves the quality of life for people by providing a catalyst for neighborhood and community development, stimulating social interaction, encouraging self-reliance, beautifying neighborhoods, producing nutritious food, reducing family food budgets, conserving resources and creating opportunities for recreation, exercise, therapy and education.

ACGA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization

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Letter from Ellen Kirby, ACGA President

ACGA will be moving its national office from the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society to new space early in 2003. As our plans evolve, we will keep communicating with you about decisions made in this regard.

For nearly ten years, the good folks in Pennsylvania have given us free office space and in-kind staff services. We have been served extremely well by Dawn Johns, Sally McCabe and Janet Carter and others. Patricia Shreiber has provided helpful oversight to the ACGA relationship. ACGA would never have grown as much as it has without their help in keeping our membership records, distributing resource materials, helping with the design of materials and answering zillions of phone calls. They have also provided technical assistance to our members. What will we do without them! Thank you Pennsylvania Horticulture Society for all your many contributions to the development and nurturing of ACGA.

Yet, alas, times are changing and the horticulture society is experiencing budget reductions and cutbacks so ACGA is searching for a new home. Our situation reminds me of all the community gardeners who yearn for permanent, secure space to do their important work.

The ACGA board has a Location Task Force that is pursuing options for the future along with our goal of expanding our capacity to serve our membership and advance community gardening. We welcome your thoughts and ideas for this process and hope to announce in the next newsletter where our feet will land for basic services.

We need your support and commitment as we face this challenging change. If any of your organizations have in-kind services you can contribute to ACGA, do let us know that too. Meanwhile, you can keep communicating with our Philadelphia address until further notice. One exception is the annual appeal letter, which will ask for contributions to be returned to Betsy's address in Boston. You may check the website, www.communitygarden.org and our list serve for the latest information about our whereabouts.

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It may be nearly winter, but in ACGA world, it's time for RENEWal! The capacity and success of our organization depends on the strength of our membership! There is no doubt that we are strong in experience and heart, but it is through our membership dues that we provide the essential support to operate. I urge each of you to 1) RENEW your membership, and 2) encourage a friend or colleague to join-- tell them what ACGA means to you, and why you think they should join our ACGA family.

ACGA Membership Categories:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Individual Community Gardener \$25 | Organizational \$100 |
| Student \$25 | Sustaining \$200 |
| Professional \$50 | Sponsor \$500 |
| Friend \$50 | Corporate \$1000 |
| Library \$50 | |

Letter From Ellen Kirby...

(Continued from page 2)

In addition to finding a new national office location, here are a few more highlights of board activity:

-the ACGA board has launched a capacity building fund raising effort to secure a more permanent and stronger future for ACGA. On January 21, the Ittleson Foundation, one of ACGA's strongest supporters, will host a funders' reception and briefing in NYC so that we can share our vision for the future as adopted by the board in 2000. At that time, we will try to gain support for a stronger, more viable ACGA with more visible and active programs in the areas of advocacy, networking, training and research.

-will be holding our 2003 winter board meeting Feb. 5,6,7 in Birmingham Alabama. In addition to conducting the business of ACGA we will visit with some exciting new community gardening efforts in Birmingham.

-will welcome about ten new board members after the fall elections to the board. Ballots are in the mail for ACGA board elections! Each ACGA member is receiving a ballot with the nominees for election to the board and for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is recommending for election eleven nominees to fill the current vacancies on the board. Mailed ballots are due back by November 30, 2002. Nominees are:

1. Kate Chura, Chief Operating Officer Horticultural Society of New York (HSNY), New York, New York

2. Rodger Cooley, Midwest Program Manager, Heifer International, Chicago, Illinois
3. Sizwe Herring, Executive Director, EarthMatters Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee
4. Betsy Johnson, Vice President, Boston Natural Areas Network, Boston, Massachusetts
5. Ellen Kirby, Director, Brooklyn GreenBridge Brooklyn Botanic Garden Brooklyn, New York
6. Rory Klick, Manager, Community Gardening Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Illinois
7. Gerard Lordahl, Director, Open Space Greening Program Council on the Environment of New York City, New York, New York
8. Yvonne Savio, Program Manager, Cooperative Extension Common Ground Garden Program, University of California Monterey Park, California
9. Shane Siwik, President, Utah G.A.R.D.E.N.S., Salt Lake, Utah
10. Gwenne Hayes-Stewart, Executive Director, Gateway Greening, St. Louis, Missouri
11. Corrie Zoll, Program Director, Greenspace Partners Program, The Green Institute, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota

ACGA is growing in so many ways. Since 1990, our membership has grown four fold, from 200 members to over 800. Our last national conference was the biggest ever (in numbers of people and in countries represented). The potential is tremendous and the opportunity for making a difference in the lives of individuals and neighborhoods is compelling. If you have any ideas or suggestions about how we can continue this growth, please let me or any of your board members hear from you. Meanwhile, enjoy the restfulness of winter, the time for reflection and a chance to dream about next year in the garden.



A Bouquet...

(Continued from page 1)

After the yoga event, one of our gardeners who has been having a rough time sleeping this year helped me sprinkle the compost. This lady was at the World Financial Center and had a jumper fall right near her as she was scrambling over glass to safety. She wills herself to feel better, every day.

She kept saying, " a bouquet of a million flowers, a bouquet of a million flowers"... a kind of sacrament against evil.



Jon Rowley at Million Flower Compost

Keep the Research Coming!

Attention everyone interested in community garden research! We're developing a network and listserv to discuss, support, and figure out how to facilitate more community garden research & make it more accessible to ACGA members and supporters. Also, please continue to send citations of current or past research to be added to our growing community garden research bibliography/database. Contact Amanda Edmonds at aedmonds@umich.edu.



The 23rd ACGA Conference in the Big Apple: Carrying on the Tradition

By Gerard Lordahl

Photos by Don and Tiah Lambert

What do ACGA members like most about the annual conferences? Meeting and interacting with gardeners from North America and around the world? Being able to interact and learn about other programs in other parts of the country? The opportunity to share collective experiences? Brainstorming with other greening professionals? Diversity of workshops? All of the above and more.

This year's conference, held in New York City, July 25-28 on Columbia University's campus attracted 450 registrants from six countries which include Bosnia & Herzegovina, Canada, England, France, Germany and Sweden. It had been 17 years since New York hosted this event on October 15-18, 1985, with the theme "Community Gardening: A Tool Towards Greening The City". Past conference goers may also remember the excitement of Seattle in 1987, Louisville in '93, Chicago in 1994 and Atlanta in 2000, "Planting Millennium Seeds". The excellent and inspirational youth component of Salt Lake City's conference in 2001 was quickly overshadowed by the images we had to bear along with the World Trade Center attack just after the 2001 conference ended.

It seemed appropriate for the New York City local committee to recognize the important role community gardens play in uniting and healing people in communities with the theme, "Gardeners Restore Our World" (GROW). This ACGA conference was co-chaired by the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation's GreenThumb Program and the New York Restoration Project. It was organized by ten other groups including: New Yorkers for Parks, Battery Park City Parks Conservancy, Brooklyn Botanic Garden-GreenBridge, Council on the Environment of New York City, Green Guerillas, The Horticulture Society of New York, The New York



East End Baptist Community Garden Tour

Botanical Garden-Bronx Green Up, Magnolia Tree Earth Center of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Neighborhood Open Space Coalition and the Trust for Public Land.

Making the conference affordable to all interested parties is a goal accomplished through the scholarship program which awarded 45 scholarships, representing 28 different cities in North America and Canada, the UK, Germany and France. Recipients included students, AmeriCorps VISTA workers, community gardeners, a mother of six children, educators and health and social workers.

Howard-Yana Shapiro, Ph.D, and Vice-President of Agriculture for Seeds of Change in New Mexico gave the keynote address. His visually delicious presentation entitled, "Paradise Found: Gardening for the Future of the Earth," was inspiring to many with both the stunning images and poetry. Forty workshops, fifteen color-coded tours, with a mix of walking, bicycling, vans and buses brought people to all parts of the five boroughs and Newark, New Jersey.

Workshop titles included: Improving Food Security One Garden Bed At A Time, Prison Horticulture: Troubled Plants in Troubled Places, Building on History in the Environmental Justice Movement, Youth-Led Garden Design and Mapping, Solar Energy Uses in the Garden and the ABC's of Land Trusts.

Fifty-three individuals and organizations contributed to the Silent Auction, Saturday evening. Over 110 different items were bid on and all had a good time. Lucky winners walked away with a foldable park bench, CD recordings of bird calls

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Farmers Market Tour

Seattle's Million Flower Compost Plays Role In New York Community Garden Restoration

By Jon Rowley

"After the collapse of the World Trade Center towers, the Liberty Community Garden, located only 1 1/2 blocks away, was covered with a foot of 'moondust,' airplane parts, personal papers and lots of shoes", recounted Tessa Huxley, Executive Director of the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy. "The garden was subsequently obliterated by rescue and clean-up trucks.. One part of the garden hosted a stack of crushed cars six stories high."

When a cleaned-up and replanted Liberty Community Garden celebrated its Rededication Ceremony on September 28, 2002, a delegation of Seattle P-Patch gardeners and community leaders was there to present a cubic yard of their Million Flower Compost, as a gesture of solidarity and compassion and as a metaphor of renewal. Seattle P-Patchers can't imagine what the Liberty gardeners went through, but they can make compost.

75,000 people brought approximately one million flowers to the Seattle Center's International Fountain Flower Vigil following 9-11.

The Interbay P-Patch Community Garden stepped forward with an offer to compost the 80 some cubic yards of flowers. As Site Coordinator of the garden at the time, I remember welcoming the huge task. It connected us with a future and gave us something physical to do at a time when we were feeling hopeless and emotionally drained.

Hundreds of volunteers, including Seattle's Mayor, policemen and firemen in uniform, were involved at the Center Fountain separating flowers from plastic wrappings, wire, rubber bands, ribbons and mementos. At Interbay, bouquet by bouquet, pitchfork by pitchforkful, wheelbarrow by wheelbarrowful, 80 volunteers chopped and mixed the flowers with donated "browns" by hand. On the day of the composting, Interbay gardener, Stephanie Marquis, suggested sending part of the Million Flower Compost to the community garden closest to the World Trade Center in New York. We learned later from Ellen Kirby, President of the American Community Gardening Association that gar-

den was the Liberty Community Garden only 1 1/2 blocks away.

The Liberty gardeners were not only receptive to receiving the gift of the year old Million Flower Compost, its presentation was made the main event of the garden's rededication celebration.

How does 1400 lbs of compost get to New York? The compost was packed into 32 oyster boxes and air shipped in an LD2 container. Taylor Shellfish Farms donated the airfreight to JFK. UPS volunteered to transport the shipment from JFK to Battery Park City.

The Seattle delegation, clad in green Seattle P-Patch T-shirts included City Councilmembers Richard Conlin and Judy Nicastro; poet and Greenwood P-Patcher, Ann Hursey; singer/songwriter John Van Amerongen; Good Shepard P-Patcher Greg Shigenaka and son Mason (age 7) and Interbay P-Patchers Jon Rowley and Kate McDermott. Ann Hursey recited her



Tessa Huxley at the Liberty Community Garden

poem "Composting Peace" written on the day of the composting. Van Amerongen performed his song "Message from New York" and Mason Shigenaka presented a scroll of poems to the garden written by students at the John Stanford International School. "The fifth-graders did the poems and my principal arranged this all to give to New York, to the Liberty Garden to put on," Mason explained to the assemblage of gardeners and community leaders. Seattle P-Patch T-shirts were in high demand. Fortunately we thought to bring a few dozen to leave.

"Seattle has one of the strongest community gardening programs in the country" stated ACGA President Ellen Kirby. "The American Community Gardening Association is pleased to be a participant in this inspiring exchange. The sharing of compost and resources strengthens the link between gardeners

across the US."

"The City of Seattle recognizes the value of community gardens and open green spaces to the vigor and health of our neighborhoods and urban environments," said Richard Conlin, in presenting the compost. "It is an honor to present on behalf of the City of Seattle and the Seattle P-Patch community our Million Flower Compost and join with New Yorkers in celebrating the restoration of the Liberty Community Garden. We are enormously proud of the hundreds of volunteers who made this compost happen. The plants and community growing here are a beacon of recovery and renewal from the losses we have all experienced."

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French Gardener Reflects on July ACGA Conference

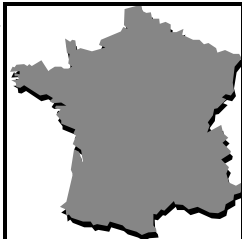
By Laurence Baudelet , Board Member, Graine de Jardins (Paris)/Le Jardin dans Tous Ses Etats

The national network Le Jardin des Tous Ses Etats had the pleasure of participating in the 23rd ACGA conference held in New York last July. This network was created in 1997. Its members are non-profit organizations using community gardens as tools to develop social ties and solidarity, to help people restore their self-confidence when facing socio-economic or psychological difficulties and also to spread respectful attitudes regarding our environment.

Le Jardin dans Tous Ses Etats has developed links with American and Canadian gardening non-governmental organizations for several years. A group of us first attended an ACGA annual conference in 1996 at Montreal. Since then

we've organized two international forums on community gardening issues in 1997 and 1999, and invited American and Canadian organizations to participate. The New York Community gardens played a great role in the development of the French ones. So we're grateful for the opportunity we got to present some French experiences and to share this with you.

Our group, the "French Delegation," included fifteen people belonging to different gardening associations and to the Paris Parks Department.



We all did appreciate the help we received from ACGA, and give special thanks to Diane Dodge, Tom Kerr and Gerard Lordahl.

The workshops and the garden tours dealt with many questions that are also acute in France, such as the relationships between the city and the gardeners, urban agriculture, gardening with prisoners, involving the children in a participatory design, and so on... Each of us came back with ideas and reflections.

The New York community gardens are a delight, especially when it's very very hot! We had a great time visiting them and meeting the gardeners. Last but not least, the food was excellent, very important for French people!

Visit Le Jardin dans Tous Ses Etats' website at:

www.jardinons.com



Seattle's Million Flower Compost...

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After the ceremony Liberty gardeners, some with tears, rushed to get the Million Flower Compost mixed into the soil of their gardens. "We are thrilled to have our hands in the dirt again," says Liberty Gardener, Mike McCormick. "We were devastated by the destruction of our garden and thought it was gone forever." Gardeners attending the event from other NY gardens, including the irrepressible Adam Honigman from the Clinton Community Garden, and some who had lost friends or relatives on 9-11 reverentially packed small symbolic baggies of the Million Flower humus for their gardens or special plants.



Mason Shigenaka celebrates with a friend

"The Liberty gardeners are really touched by what Seattle gardeners have done," said Huxley, "We find ourselves getting choked up when we think about it!"

"Planting has been part and parcel of confidence in every human society that it would persevere through good times and through bad times," said Alan Gerson, New York City Councilmember. "This is a continuation of our rebirth."



COMPOSTING PEACE

* Into the garden, not one, but many
* We join to turn a million flowers into tomorrow.

* Cradled bouquets by thousands, chopped,
* Flower by flower, we blend love and loss.

* Petals and stems feed earth's hunger—
* Steam sweet promise.

* By Ann Batchelor Hursey, September 15, 2001

The Ephemeral Art of Community Gardening

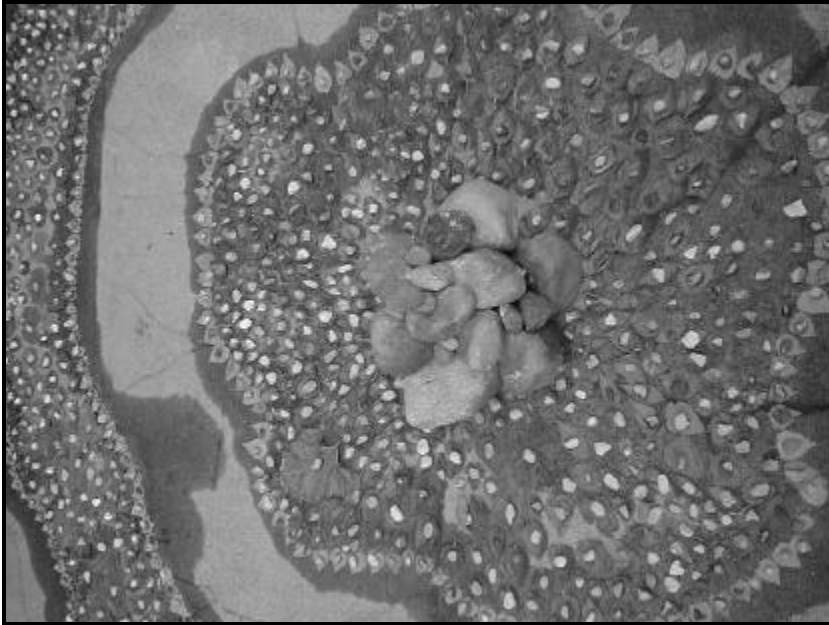
By *Mark Granlund*

The life of a community garden is transitory. The seasons and the habits of plants will always keep it this way. The tomato plant goes into the ground. It blooms and produces fruit. We harvest, it dies. We start again. Communities are this way, too. A gardener appears, taking the spot vacated by the last one. She digs and plants and harvests. A few years

Every community garden is reflecting the community that had created it. Some gardens are neat and orderly, like the tucked in shirt and clean gloves of the elderly gardener in plot#6. Others are blustery in their appeal, like the strapping t-shirted with sun-peached cheeks and forehead gardener who stands straight up, weight bearing on her heels as she smiles wide eyes shining as she greets you with a familial "hey."

Ephemeral art may be transitory, or it may be short-lived, but it is always about change. It is a celebration of change, lifting it up and recognizing the zen-ness of life's many stages. Nothing is forever, but life.

An ephemeral artwork might be made of impermanent materials meant to decay. It might be designed to grow and change in response to the environment round it. Ephemeral art begins to blur the line between art and nature. One definition of art in Webster's New World Dictionary is the "human ability to make things; creativity of man as disguised from the world of nature." But what if an artist is using nature as a medium? Is the art then in the arrangement of things?



later she moves on to other places, other activities. Her place is taken by someone new. Sometimes, where there is no garden, one grows. It lives and breathes for several years and then vanishes into weeds, disrepair or some form of development.

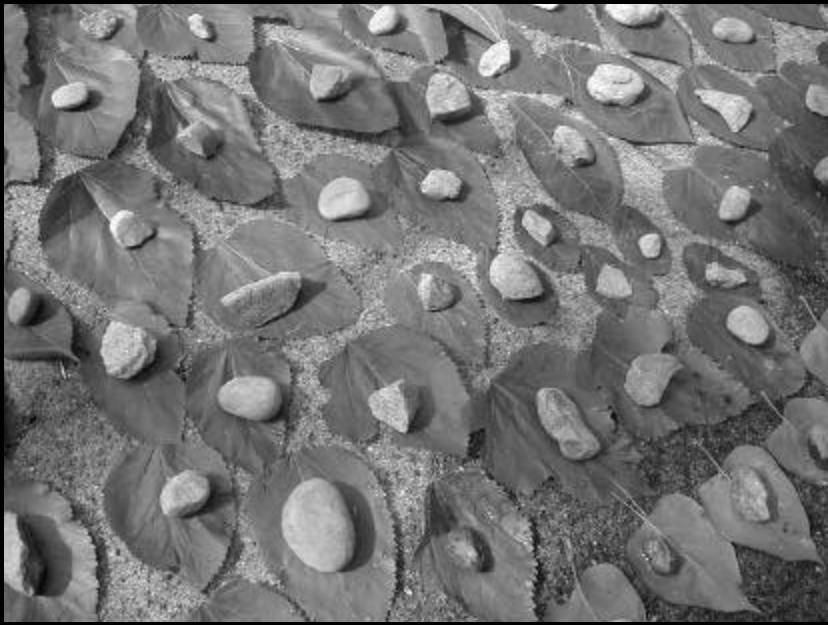
This is the way of community gardening. Always changing: one short-lived experience after another. Many people lament this aspect of community gardens because they are seeking a consistency of community: a group of people to share your life and activities. We want to know that the garden and those sun-lit dirt-smudged faces with which we commune will be there every year.

Art is a celebration. In any form, it is the expressed belief that all things are of value, even small things like a poem, a drawing, a pot. Community art is a way to observe, document and express the experiences of a community. Even if the art piece is not about the community, it is a documentation of the interactions of that group of people in a given place and time. This too, is a garden.



This is a community garden: the purposeful arrangement of

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It is circular, like most of life. The more we learn about how our activities tell us about who we are, the more we want to do them in order to learn more about who we are. The more we know about why community gardening is pleasing to us, the more we want to do things that celebrate and encourage that activity.

Ephemeral art.

Mark Granlund is an ephemeral artist and the Arts and Community Gardening Coordinator for Saint Paul Parks and Recreation. He also has a consulting business: Green Canyon. He can be reached at markgranlund@netscape.net.

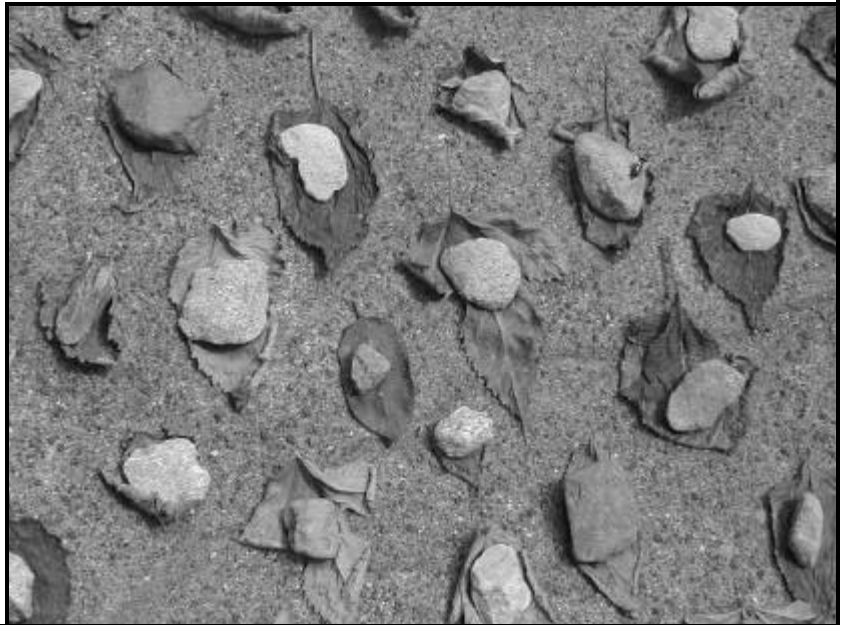


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nature by a common group of people. This is the ephemeral art of community gardening: the purposeful arrangement of nature by a common group of people so as to express that purpose.

How can you move your community garden towards being an art form? Ask these simple questions:

- What is it we celebrate by gardening?
- Can we celebrate this as a group?
- Can the garden incarnate that which gives us joy?



Community Food Documentary Nominated for Emmy Award

“Our Food Our Future,” a public television documentary about community food projects in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and West Virginia, was nominated for a Mid-Atlantic Region Emmy Award this Fall. The nomination was under the category “Outstanding Public Affairs Program/ One Time Only Special,” a category shared with four other nominations. Unfortunately, “Our Food Our Future” did not, in the end, win the award, but its nomination was an inspiration to community gardeners and others involved in community food organizations everywhere.

The program was produced by Shirley Road Productions, a Philadelphia non-profit production company, in collaboration with Penn State and Cornell Universities. Frances McElroy is the director and Sharon Mullally is the Editor.



For more information on “Our Food Our Future”, write Fran McElroy, Shirley Road Productions, 108 Shirley Road, Naberth, PA 19072 or call 610-667-9348.



The NYC Garden Settlement– A Digest of Press Releases & Commentary

By Adam Honigman, volunteer, Clinton Community Garden

From the Attorney General's September 18, 2002 press release, "Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Attorney General Eliot Spitzer announced an agreement that will enable the City to proceed with plans for the construction of more than 2,000 units of affordable housing while preserving almost 200 GreenThumb gardens and increasing the protection of almost 200 gardens, thus raising the number of protected gardens in the City to 500. This agreement allows for the construction of critical affordable housing and other community facilities on City property... The agreement resolves a three-year-old lawsuit over the development of City-owned property containing community gardens."

Adapted with thanks from the Gotham Gazette CG web page: http://www.gothamgazette.com/maps/community_gardens.shtml

There are 838 community gardens in NYC (more or less) This is the box score:

Under the agreement:
391 will be "preserved". If Parks takes them, they're safest. If they're offered to a land trust, there's still a chance local review can nix the land transfer.
114 are subject to future sale or development. Before a garden can be sold, it must go through a review process that requires the city to offer alternative land for neighborhood gardeners. However, there's even less of a chance that the garden will be preserved.
38 gardens are slated for immediate development. Over 2,000 apartment/multiple dwelling units are planned for these lots. As expected, the bulk of these are predominantly in communities of color whose elected officials support other uses for the land - including rental units that run for \$2,000 a month.
295 gardens are not covered by the settlement. Gardens registered after 1999, on private property, or those that have been purchased by the Trust for Public Land or the New York Restoration Project are not part of the agreement.

Flies in the ointment: NYC's Green Thumb Program (directed by ACGA board member, Edie Stone), which provides technical support for many gardens, will remain in existence only as long as it maintains its own funding stream.

"This settlement demonstrates that the city officials recog-

nize the importance of open space by preserving hundreds of gardens," said Christian DiPalermo of New Yorkers for Parks. "However it fails to permanently protect these sites and does not set up meaningful process for creating new gardens."



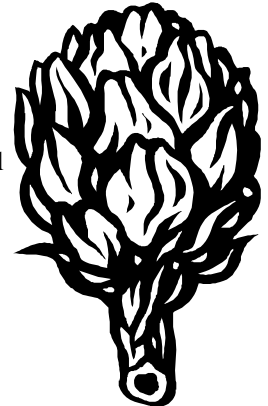
Doolittle Community Garden– A Project of the Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada

By Don Fabbri, Master Gardener

The City of Las Vegas Community Garden is one of the many activities of the Doolittle Senior Center. The garden was dedicated May 17, 1995, and is administered by the City of Las Vegas Park and Recreation Leisure Services Department.

The community garden is approximately 225' X 225', with 35 raised beds. Each bed is 6' X 12', which allows easy access to all sides by the seniors. The raised beds are problem-solvers, as any difficulty of digging and weeding is minimized. The wide bed border provides resting and seating, which adds to the social atmosphere, making the community garden a true gathering place.

In addition to the 8-15 regular gardeners, the community garden serves as a learning center, and the educational tool for such groups as Operation Head Start, a children's program for disadvantaged kids. They have learned how to plant seeds, and where their food comes from. The garden has also provided rehabilitation services for victims of stroke and head trauma injury.



The desert southwest provides a climate for a year-round growing season. Seasonally in the garden you may expect to find, among many others, artichoke, kale, and summer squash, while their herb garden might include rosemary, dill, and sage. Some of the personal favorites are peanuts, watermelon, and okra. There are fruit trees boasting pears and apricots, and other interesting plants such as sugar cane, cotton, and roses for color.

The active gardeners have won several awards for their entries at local gardening shows. At a recent fall garden show, the seniors had 19 entries and won 18 blue ribbons, and *Arboreal* and *Sweepstakes* awards.

The Doolittle Community Garden is located at 1200 Blankenship St. in Las Vegas. It is not open to the public, but it can be visited with an escort from the Doolittle Senior Center, phone (702) 229-6125.



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Building Community Through Greening



Visit ACGA on the Web at:
www.communitygarden.org

To:



ACGA Conference

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from Paris, a home canning kit, watering cans, books, T-shirts and garden tools.

Gardener's Supply Company of Burlington, Vermont, Whole Foods Market- Chelsea, New York City, Con Edison-New York and the Richard and Iris Abrons Foundation generously sponsored the 23rd Annual American Community Gardening Association's Conference.

This year's closing speaker was Karen Hobbs, Senior Fellow at the Center for Neighborhood Technology, who oversees the Partnership for Regional Livability which works in Atlanta, Chicago, Denver and San Francisco. The Center addresses issues such as transportation, housing, workforce development and open space. Karen's speech titled, "Harvesting Change" addressed the needs of a changing, more proactive, and ever-more vital ACGA. It allowed for a lively Q and A session afterwards.



Staten Island Tour, Decker Farm Project

All in all the conference was very successful. Surpassing the registration goal, having the largest international delegation ever, receiving over \$5,000 in publication sales and the same amount in member contributions, the New York City conference achieved the dream of a fabulous conference and a surplus revenue stream to help keep ACGA moving forward.

Thanks to all who contributed and participated. Chicago-North America's third largest city- will be the host of our will be the host

of our 24th conference. It is a showplace for what innovative urban greening efforts could look like in the future, with a Mayor who goes beyond the ordinary to green his city. Look for more information about the 24th conference in Chicago-Easy Being Green!



Save this date:

Next ACGA National Conference -
Chicago, July 31- August 3, 2003