


QBG GARDEN NEWS FALL 2017

A special newsletter for friends of Queens Botanical Garden VOL 23 ISSUE 3

 H. DAVID STEIN



 ANNE TAN-DECHKOV

A Letter from Susan

Dear Friend,

This fall, in addition to feeling a genuine sense of gratitude for little things, like leaves fading from green to gold, I also feel an overwhelming sense of honor.

First, I am delighted to have been chosen by the City Gardens Club as their Medal of Honor winner (honored, really!). Please do read more about the good work they do for children and teachers, as well as their support for this garden, on page 7.

We were all honored by the presence of Ambassador Lily Hsu (Taiwan-ROC), Consul General Maria Isabel Nieto (Colombia), and Consul General Juan Alfredo Buffa Ramirez (Paraguay) at our fourth annual *Taiwan: A World of Orchids*. This summer, there were twice as many floral displays—with many thanks to the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office, United Orchids, The Window Box, and the leadership of QBG Board Chair Pauline Huang.

As I enter my 24th year at the Garden, I am thrilled to see how it has grown and changed over the years. There are many more changes afoot in the years to come, and I hope you'll do me the honor of visiting often and spreading the word about our oasis in Queens.

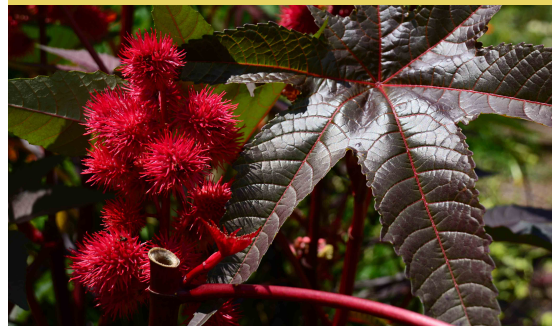
See you around the Garden,



Susan Lacerte
Executive Director

P.S. I was also honored to be an intern at QBG in 1984, and to return ten years later as Executive Director!

WHAT TO SEE *Ricinus communis* (castorbean)



 JESS BREY

Ricinus communis is commonly known as castorbean, castor-oil plant, palma Christi, and wonder tree. Like its many names, this plant has a variety of applications. The most familiar use of the plant is castor oil, which is extracted from its seeds. The seed capsules appear mid-summer as large and spiky berries. The unique and colorful capsules complement the plant's large, purple leaves. This bold look makes it a desirable addition to botanical collections. The shrub is a fast-growing perennial that flourishes in well-draining soil. Unfortunately in some parts of the world, such as California, this plant has become invasive along roadsides.

Castorbean is medicinally used as a laxative and treatment of infection and inflammation. It is also made into fuel for lamps and is a substance in lubricants, paints, beauty products, and more! The processing of this plant produces one of the most dangerous by-products on Earth: ricin. Ricin is a very lethal poison that has no antidote. The poison is present in all parts of the plant, so don't try to make your own castor oil at home!

SEE YOU AT

HARVEST FEST & PUMPKIN PATCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15
11am to 5pm

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family at the seventh annual Harvest Fest & Pumpkin Patch!

We'll have live music, bounce houses, petting zoo, face painting, tours, composting demonstrations, craft and food vendors, beer & wine tent, the ever-popular Pumpkin Patch, and more.

Admission: \$12 Adults; \$10 Children; FREE for Members. Pumpkin Patch and select activities require additional fees.

For more information, visit queensbotanical.org/harvestfest



Queens Botanical Garden Hosts Fourth Annual *Taiwan: A World of Orchids* Exhibit August 18, 19, 20

QBG and Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in New York (TECO-NY) presented a weekend-long exhibit of stunning orchid displays celebrating Taiwanese culture

On Thursday, August 17, 2017, Queens Botanical Garden, in partnership with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO-NY), announced the fourth annual weekend-long exhibit *Taiwan: A World of Orchids*, which took place Friday through Sunday, August 18 thru 20, 9am to 5pm at QBG. Ambassador and Director General of TECO-NY Lily Hsu, QBG Executive Director Susan Lacerte, and QBG Board Chair Pauline Huang led a press conference to kick off this year's iteration of *World of Orchids*. New York State Assembly Members Ron Kim, Nily Rozic, and David Weprin, New York City Council Member Peter Koo, and QBG Advisory Council Member Saul Kupferberg joined.

"The Republic of China (Taiwan) is famous for its rich and striking flora—and orchids are the pride of our nation!" said Lily Hsu, Ambassador and Director General of TECO-NY. "Located at a crossroad where Eastern and Western cultures meet and traditions are treasured, Taiwan has become a favorite destination for international travelers.

Special thanks to Pauline Huang, QBG Board Chair.



The exhibit featured a stunning display, including over 300 pots containing exquisite Taiwanese orchids. This year's show expanded into two exhibition rooms, the Meeting Room and the Auditorium in the Visitor & Administration Building. The arrangements were designed by Regina Minerva, Jessica Brey, and The Window Box.

Each day Friday through Sunday, Taiwanese watercolor artist Che Min Hsiao created live paintings of orchids. Hsiao's exhibit at the Garden, (*HÉ HUÀ YUǎN ZUÒ ZHÈ*) *Sitting with the Garden*, comprised site-specific watercolor paintings that are inspired by Hsiao's memories of Taiwan. Also, on Saturday and Sunday, visitors were invited to make an orchid-themed craft.



Top Left: Ambassador Lily Hsu speaking at the World of Orchids press conference.
Bottom Left to Right: Orchids; Display; Visitors enjoying the displays; orchid display; the orchids flowed out and into the biotope outside the Visitor & Administration Building.
Above: Artist Che Min Hsiao paints live at the exhibition with onlookers
Top Right: Che Min Hsiao, Representative from NY City Council Member Grace Meng's Office Sandra Ung, Regina Minerva, NY City Council Member Peter Koo, Susan Lacerte, NY State Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Pauline Huang, NY State Assembly Member Ron Kim, Ambassador Lily Hsu, Saul Kupferberg, NY State Assembly Member David Weprin, TECO-NY Director Jack Huang, Scott Litroff



Trees of QBG

Thanks to a two-year project funded by an Urban and Community Forestry Grant through the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), an inventory and evaluation of the trees at Queens Botanical Garden was completed this year. Conducted by intern Alison Filosa in the first year, and by intern and graduate student Maria Rodriguez and student volunteers from John Bowne High School in the second year, QBG inventoried 789 trees in the garden, collecting data such as tree height, tree diameter at breast height (DBH), and average tree canopy size. The interns worked under the supervision of Morgan Potter, QBG Supervisor of Gardeners, and Fran Reidy, consulting arborist. These important facts are crucial in understanding the current health and environmental impact of the Garden's trees, and will assist the horticulture staff in planning for the further development of the Garden's tree collection.

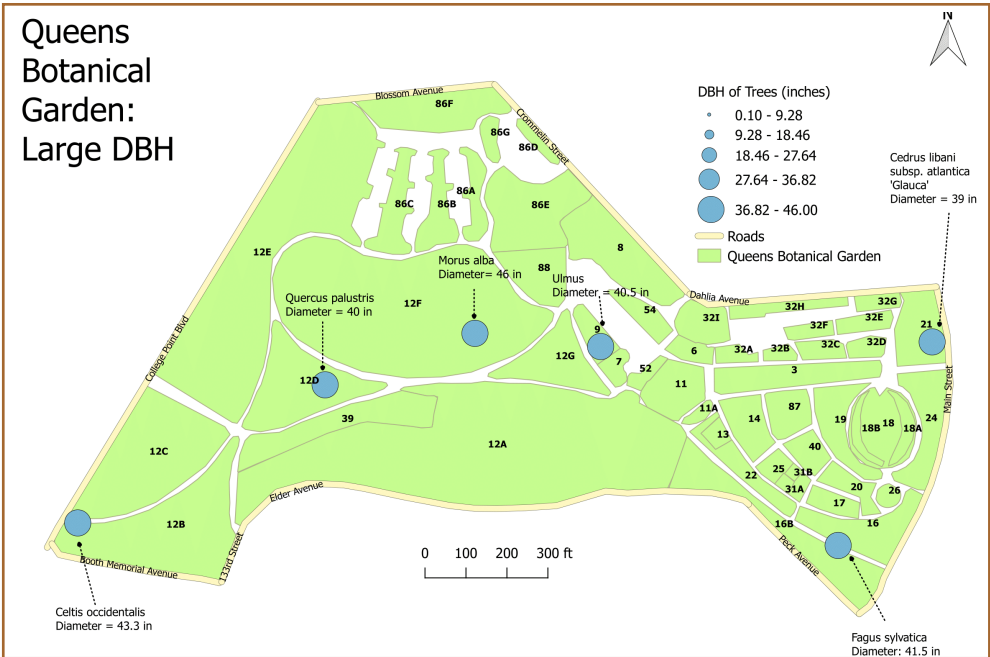
FINDINGS

- The most common tree species at QBG are *Malus* (Crabapples), *Quercus palustris* (Pin Oak), and *Quercus phellos* (Willow Oak)
- Among the total trees found at QBG, 41% are native to New York State.
- Using a forestry model from the U.S. Forest Service called i-Tree, we have a better understanding of our trees value as well as their environmental impact. They have been hard at work, accomplishing the following:
 - Pollution removal:** 504.1 pounds per year (\$9,740 per year)
 - Carbon storage:** 314.7 tons (\$40,800 per year)
 - Carbon sequestration:** 7.912 tons per year (\$1,030 per year)
 - Oxygen production:** 21.1 tons per year
 - Avoided runoff:** 17,240 cubic feet per year (\$1,150 per year)
 - Structural value of trees:** \$1.8 million per year

Trees remove pollutants such as ozone, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide; sequester carbon from the air; and produce oxygen. They also alleviate the burden of runoff water in times of heavy rain, an important benefit to the Garden because it is located in a low-lying area that floods frequently. Now, with this study, we have a comprehensive understanding of how much pollution we are removing, how much stormwater we are diverting, and how we are improving the urban environment of Flushing and beyond!



Header and Bottom Left: Intern Maria Rodriguez measures the tree diameter of a Zelkov serrata tree.
Right: Map of the Garden's largest diameter (DBH) trees



Finally, Fall on the Farm

The cool temperatures of autumn offer QBG's farmers respite from the bustle and buzz of summer. Yet fall bears a whole new to-do list for our busy team as they begin to wind down the season.

As the last of the warm weather crops are being harvested, they are filling the beds with cover crops. Cover crops, also called green manure, are plants grown for the enrichment and protection of soil. Their root systems reduce soil erosion and compaction and may help gather trace elements from deeper in the soil profile. Some cover crops are killed when the first frosts come, leaving their biomass and nutrients behind to feed the soil. Others persist longer into the winter, eventually lying dormant and returning in the spring.

But not all of the vegetables are finished growing so soon! Fall brings a bounty of seasonal produce: storage roots – carrots, turnips, and beets, old favorites not seen since spring – lettuce and spinach, and hearty cole crops – broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, and kale. A thick mulch is added for these plants to retain heat in the soil as the temperature drops.

“As we slowly put the farm to bed we are grateful that our produce has been enjoyed by our volunteers, interns, and donated to City Harvest all season long,” said Lise Lorimer, QBG Farm Manager. “We look forward to spending the winter working on next year’s crop plan!”

QBG Farm & Compost is part of the NYC Compost Project hosted by Queens Botanical Garden. The NYC Department of Sanitation's NYC Compost Project, founded in 1993, works to rebuild NYC's soil, neighborhood by neighborhood. Find out more at nyc.gov/compostproject.



Header: The QBG Farm
Top Two: Crops from the QBG Farm
Bottom: Cover crop germination

ADOPT A BENCH and share your love for Queens Botanical Garden.

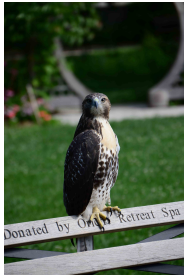


Your bench's inscription shares a personal message:

- Honor a loved one
- Celebrate a blessed event
- Commemorate a colleague's retirement
- Promote your business

For more information or to set an appointment, please contact Annette Fanara, Assistant Director of Development, at 718.886.3800 ext. 202 or afanara@queensbotanical.org

Visit queensbotanical.org/bench to learn more.





Art in the Garden: Borderlines by Shahryar Shahamat

Friday, September 29 thru Sunday, December 31 • Free with Admission thru October, Free November thru December • Visitor & Administration Gallery

Through his paintings in Borderlines, artist Shahryar Shahamat shares his experience—boundaries and challenges—as a resident of New York City for the past seven years.

Meet the Artist: Artist Reception

Sunday, October 1, 2 to 4pm • Free with Admission

Meet the artist and view the exhibit.

Live Painting & Performance

Saturday, November 4, 2 to 4pm • Free with Admission

Observe Shahryar Shahamat as he creates site-specific, life-sized paintings, inspired by the ambiance of the Garden and a live musical performance on trombone.

© SHAHRYAR SHAHAMAT



© JESS BREY

Harvest Fest & Pumpkin Patch

Sunday, October 15, 11am to 5pm

Admission: \$12 Adults; \$10 Children; Free for Members.

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family! We'll have live music, bounce houses, petting zoo, face painting, tours, composting demonstrations, craft and food vendors, beer & wine tent, the ever-popular Pumpkin Patch, and more.

Pumpkin Patch and select activities require additional fees. Food and beverage not included. Free hours are suspended. \$10 event parking rate in effect. Free parking and admission passes not valid on event days, except for QBG Members.

QBG thanks our Harvest Fest Lead Sponsor:

NewYork-Presbyterian
Queens

Generous support provided by:



© QBG STAFF

Preparing Your Garden for Winter*

Saturday, October 21, 10am to 12pm • \$6 (includes Admission); Free for Members

Registration required: prepwintergarden.eventbrite.com

Autumn is here, and it's time to put the garden to bed for the season. Join QBG Farm & Compost staff to learn how to care for your soil during fall and winter. We'll discuss soil testing, cover crops, mulch, and compost application.



© COURTESY OF USTAD SHAFAT KHAN

Music in the Garden: Ustad Shafaat Khan

Saturday, October 21, 3:30 to 5pm • Free with Admission

Sitar and tabla Maestro Ustad Shafaat Khan is a world-renowned Indian classical musician who has performed with Stevie Wonder and has released three historic CDs produced by Dr. Deepak Chopra. Enjoy Maestro Khan's blend of Indian classical and folk music as he is joined by his fusion group "East Meets West" and presents music that reflects heritage that can be traced back to the sixteenth century. Sponsored by Astoria Bank and Kupferberg Center for the Arts.



© ANNETAN-DECHKOV

Halloween at the Garden

Sunday, October 29, 12 to 4pm • Free with Admission

Make a seasonal botanical craft, see a magic show, and take pictures with Flora, QBG's friendly mascot! Show off your Halloween costume and bring your trick-or-treat bags!



© ANNETAN-DECHKOV

Honoring the Extraordinary Work of Susan Lacerte

Susan Lacerte has been the Executive Director of Queens Botanical Garden since 1994. When she took the helm of this NYC Cultural Institution, it was on the verge of being shut down, due to mismanagement. The City stepped in, Ms. Lacerte was hired, and she took a once downtrodden landscape and turned it into an oasis in downtown Flushing, Queens. Her fiscal acumen brought the organization into the black—and has kept it there for two decades. Susan is well-known in the Queens community as a warm and gracious team player. On her visionary watch, QBG built New York State's first publicly funded LEED Platinum building—and the facility is still a fine example of green construction. She is an exemplar of passionate leadership, sustainable practice, and devotion to community.

For her accomplishments and spirit, Ms. Lacerte is being celebrated with a **Medal of Honor from the City Gardens Club of New York City** this fall, in recognition of her distinguished work and dedication in enhancing gardens, parks and open space in New York City. The Medal of Honor was established in 1928 on the tenth anniversary of The City Gardens Club, discontinued during World War II, and resumed in 2005 on the club's 88th anniversary. Designed by the noted American sculptor Herbert Samuel Adams (1858-1945), the medal is accompanied by a framed certificate and will be presented to Susan on Wednesday, October 18 at the Club's Centennial Luncheon. Susan also received the Melville Award in 2012 for demonstrating excellence in environmental education.

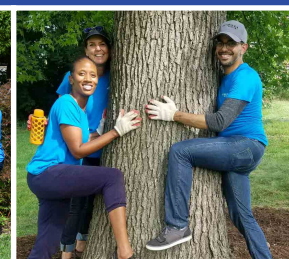
We are so proud—*Congratulations, Susan!*

QBG thanks The City Gardens Club of New York City whose consistent support for over a decade has made it possible to enhance horticultural displays in the Rose Garden, Annual Garden, and Perennial Garden, as well as the Native Plant Bed by the Visitor & Administration Building, and the meadow and bridges adjacent to the Parking Garden. The work required to make each of these gardens look so wonderful has been implemented by youth interns and students in horticulture, under the supervision of QBG's staff gardeners.

The City Gardens Club of New York City
CENTENNIAL LUNCHEON HONORING SUSAN LACERTE
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 • Reception 11:30am • Luncheon at Noon
The Lake Room at The Boathouse Restaurant in Central Park
For reservations, contact cgcny1918@gmail.com or (212) 737-0138.



Astoria Bank



Flushing Bank



Corporate Friends with Big ♥s

Queens Botanical Garden Corporate Members enjoy a range of valuable benefits, including volunteer opportunities for employees!

On September 12, ten Astoria Bank employees volunteered an entire day at QBG. They worked with our horticulture staff to clear tree pits of weeds and grass, then covered the cleared area with mulch to protect the roots and help retain moisture.

Ten Flushing Bank Interns volunteered a day in July, deadheading roses in the Rose Garden and Annual Garden. Under the meticulous eyes of our resident rosarian, Karl McKoy, these interns learned pruning skills while helping our plants create more blooms.



Looking to get your company involved with the community? Searching for volunteer opportunities for your employees? Join today as a Corporate Member and take advantage of free admission, free parking in our convenient Parking Garden, use of our lovely venue for meetings and receptions, and discounts on programs. Contact Stephanie Ehrlich, Director of Development, at sehrlich@queensbotanical.org or (718) 886-3800 extension 330.

© ANNETAN-DECHKOV **Top Left, Top Third, Top Fourth, and Bottom Left:** Astoria Bank volunteers gather for a group shot at the Moon Gate; Flushing Bank volunteers at the Rose Garden.
© COURTESY OF ASTORIA BANK **Top Second:** Astoria Bank employees show their love for nature.



Queens Botanical Garden

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

queensbotanical.org | 718.886.3800



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THANK YOU to our MEMBERS, SPONSORS, and FRIENDS!

QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the NYC Council, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Queens Borough President and Queens elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding. Corporations, foundations and individuals provide additional support.

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QBG GARDEN NEWS

Anne Tan-Detchkov
Editor
Jessica Brey
Contributor
Stephanie Ehrlich
Contributor
Annette Fanara
Contributor
Susan Lacerte
Executive Director



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We extend our gratitude to the following elected officials and government bodies:

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