

QBG GARDEN NEWS FALL 2018

A special newsletter for friends of Queens Botanical Garden VOL 24 ISSUE 3

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A Letter from Susan

Dear Friend,

Fall is a time of year where you can really see QBG's commitment to sustainable practice. Autumn roses are in bloom! They are a show-stopping hallmark of our commitment to being green. Having eliminated pesticide use more than a decade ago, rosarian Karl McKoy installed berms to keep the rose plants' roots dry and then planted the berms with wildflowers like purple aster for stability (and to discourage critters!). This is their season to shine—both the dramatic rose and the humble aster! Other flowers are showing off their last blooms before shutting down for cooler weather. Rather than "dead-head" them all, Morgan Potter

and the horticulture team leave the seed heads intact, providing food for local and migrating birds. It has been such a wet summer here in Flushing and our trusty bioswales have done their best to soak up storm water, keeping water in the Garden, where it's needed most (and out of the city sewer system!).

A few months ago, I chatted with a lovely Member (coincidentally, her name is Rose!) and in the course of our conversation she mentioned that she loved the way QBG lets nature take its course—that we don't cut everything back as soon as it's spent. She loves that the Garden is an example of environmental sustainability, and that we allow plants to do what they do best—take part in an ecosystem where they feed creatures large and small, in all stages of life from stem, to flower, to seed to compost. It was so satisfying to learn that Rose appreciates our green mission. I hope you do too!

See you around the Garden,

Susan Jacente

Susan

P.S. Speaking of roses: visit our website for a recent blog post, "For the Love of Roses," to learn about our rosy beginnings, from the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair to the beautiful, reconstructed Rose Garden featuring prestigious "trial roses" from the American Garden Rose Selections™ program. Go to queensbotanical.org/fortheLoveofroses to read more.

WHAT TO DO & SEE



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Monarch Butterflies

Each autumn, millions of monarch butterflies make an epic journey south. Luckily, QBG and other east coast gardens are pit stops along their path. Nectar-rich flowers, such as aster (pictured), zinnia, Brazilian verbena, and butterfly bush are speckled with butterflies as they fuel up for their long travel.

Monarch migration is prompted by cooler and longer nights, which, in New York City, typically take place early September. During recent hotter and longer summers, butterflies do their best to lay eggs before their journey. These late caterpillars pupate and emerge into late October butterflies, forming clusters along the east coast.

Last year, QBG was home to hundreds of monarchs in late October and even early November. Some may be strong enough to make the trip, but most won't make it due to lack of food or frost.

In the meantime, enjoy their beautiful presence, wherever they shall flutter!

SAVE THE DATES

Pumpkin Patch

Every Weekend in October & Columbus Day

Harvest Fest & Pumpkin Patch

Sunday, October 14

QBG's ever-popular **Pumpkin Patch** is back and bigger than ever to bring you the quintessential fall family experience every weekend in October and on Columbus Day! Advanced tickets online cost \$4 for Non-Members (\$6 at the door), admission is FREE for Members, and pumpkins are \$6 when purchased online (\$8 at the door upon availability). Get your tickets today and enjoy savings: queensbotanical.org/pumpkinpatch

Plus, **Harvest Fest & Pumpkin Patch** on Sunday, October 14 is a fun-filled day for the whole family. Come for the petting zoo, beer and wine garden, live music, lawn games, face painting, garden demonstrations, crafts, and more! \$12 Adults; \$10 Children (age 4 and up); FREE for Members and Children age 3 and under. For more information, go to queensbotanical.org/harvestfest.



Celebrating Five Years of *Taiwan: A World of Orchids* at the Garden

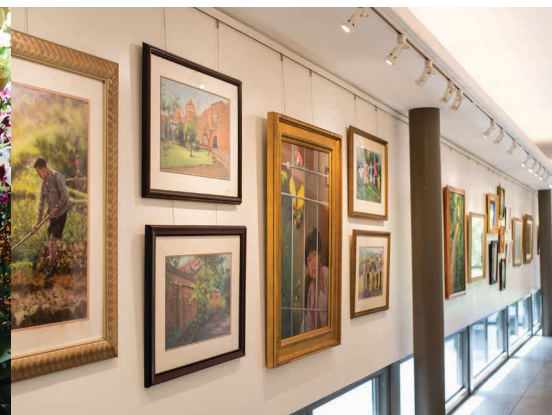


On Thursday, August 16, 2018, Queens Botanical Garden (QBG), in partnership with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO-NY), announced the fifth annual weekend-long exhibit *Taiwan: A World of Orchids*, which took place Friday through Sunday, August 17 through 19 at QBG. Ambassador and Director General of TECO-NY Lily L.W. 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*. Also present to share remarks were New York State Assembly Members Edward Braunstein, Nily Rozic, and David Weprin, New York City Council Member Peter Koo, Ai-Lin Chung of North America Taiwanese Women's Association-NY (NATWA-NY), MuseConnect Music Director Dr. Lan-In Winnie Yang, event sponsor Gene Wang of Linda Fashion Company, and QBG Public Programs Manager Dylan House. Ambassador of Paraguay Juan Alfredo Buffa Ramirez, Consul General of Nicaragua Juan Rene Icaza Jimenez, Consul General of Estonia Kairi Kunka, and Consul of Singapore Jasmine Wee were also present to celebrate the occasion.

"This vibrant [Taiwanese] community still has a strong presence, and I think this exhibition is a fair-fitting testament to the special relationship between Queens and Taiwan."

- Lily L.W. Hsu, Ambassador and Director General of TECO-NY

Designed by Paul Moreno and drawing inspiration from Taiwan's landscape, including rivers, mountains, jungles, and coastal plain terrains, the exhibit featured a stunning display of over 400 pots of exquisite Taiwanese orchids. This year's displays were located in the



Meeting Room and Auditorium of the Visitor & Administration Building at the Garden, and were titled "The Coastal Lowlands to the Sea" and "A Cloud Over the Five Mountains" respectively. The exhibit also featured the exquisite "Gold Orchid" sculpture by well-known Taiwanese artist Erh Ping Tsai and art by the North America Taiwanese Women's Association (NATWA). The exhibit was accompanied by orchid-themed programming, including crafts and a watercolor workshop, and orchid sales.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS

Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in New York • Pauline Huang, QBG Board Chair
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Kent Wang/Chatime USA LLC DBA • United Orchids

If you purchased an orchid at *World of Orchids*, or have one at home, be sure to check out our step-by-step guide on how to repot an orchid on Page 6.

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Top (Left to Right) Ambassador and Director General of TECO-NY Lily L.W. Hsu, QBG Executive Director Susan Lacerte, and QBG Board Chair Pauline Huang led a press conference; closeup of a phalaenopsis featured in the exhibition

Middle Left: Close-up of a phalaenopsis orchid

Middle Right: "Gold Orchid" sculpture by Taiwanese artist Erh Ping Tsai

Bottom (Left to Right): "A Cloud Over the Five Mountains" display in the Auditorium of QBG's Visitor & Administration Building inviting visitors to sit beneath a nest of orchids; orchids spilt out into QBG's biotope waterways; watercolor artist Chemin Hsiao, who led a watercolor workshop during the exhibition weekend, draws inspiration from the display as he paints; art by the North America Taiwanese Women's Association (NATWA) displayed in the gallery of the Visitor & Administration Building; visitors got up close with the orchids of "The Coastal Lowlands to the Sea" display; a close-up of the "Gold Orchid" sculpture.





Summer Intern Program Sprouts a Class of Nature Lovers, Young Professionals, and (if we're lucky) Horticulturists

The Garden was brimming with blue and green this summer!

For six weeks, QBG's Horticulture and Maintenance staff got an extra boost of help from 51 summer interns. Arranged into blue and green teams—and eventually smaller, self-named teams like "The Broccolis," "The Terroriums," "The Berry Bunch," and "Overpowered Flowers"—interns played a major role in horticulture and maintenance projects. Thanks to their hard work, various areas throughout the Garden, including the Arboretum, Fragrance Walk, Green Roof, Parking Garden, Cherry Circle, and even the perimeter fence were spruced up! Interns were busy planting, mowing, weeding, pruning, propagating, removing invasive plants, watering, and more—all tasks that require work, time, and sweat, and resulted in newfound skills, work ethic, and a job well-done!

The internship program is both challenging and rewarding. "The work" was listed as both the participants' most favorite *and* least favorite part of the program. Other great aspects were group work, making friends or being in a friendly environment, and the food that was provided. In addition, they enjoyed perks like attending a Mets game with complimentary tickets from Citi Field, bagel breakfast every Tuesday, hot lunch every Friday, and getting henna tattoos. Through scheduled workshops, participants also learned about tool safety from QBG staff, body mechanics from NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, financial literacy from HSBC Bank, tree pruning from expert Frank

"I don't go anywhere in summer, I just stay home. That's why it's boring, so I try to always apply for SYEP (Summer Youth Employment Program), and if I get it, I choose a worksite. **This year was the best year for me than any other SYEP year, so if I get it next year, I'll try to come here."**

- Mahfuza, Summer Intern



Buddingh', and landscape architecture from Consultant Pamela Lester.

For most interns, this program was their first job experience, first time receiving professional training, and their first pay check. We are thankful for the hard work and dedication they put into keeping QBG clean, green, and growing!

A special thank you to QBG Board Member Debra Lodge and HSBC Bank, whose generous support ensured that our interns were well fed and provided with essential programmatic supplies, including t-shirts, safety glasses, gloves, visors, waterbottles, dust masks, sunscreen, bug spray and various first-aid supplies. We also would like to thank QBG Board Member Julia Ermish for her generosity and enthusiasm, and for sponsoring the welcome breakfast and end-of-program luncheon. The support allowed the interns to truly focus on the work at hand and set them up for a successful summer at QBG!

See you next summer!

If you would like to support or contribute to QBG's internship or volunteer program, please contact QBG Director of Development Stephanie Ehrlich at sehrlich@queensbotanical.org or 718.886.3800, ext 330.

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Top: Interns pose with QBG Horticulture Staff, Executive Director Susan Lacerte, Board Member Julia Ermish, Coordinator of Volunteers Eryn Hatzithomas, QBG Education staff member Fred Gerber, and QBG Member Maureen Chen.

Bottom Left to Right: The Blue Team removes invasive plants along the Oak Allée; the Green Team busy at work on the path leading to the Green Roof; QBG Board Member Julia Ermish addresses interns at the end-of-program luncheon celebration; interns learn about financial literacy at a workshop led by HSBC Bank; QBG Supervisor of Gardeners Morgan Potter gives instruction on proper tree care.



"I learned how to work with tools. Coming from the city, it's not often that you get to use a pitchfork or mulch."

- Derek, Summer Intern





Beyond a Garden: QBG Turns Into A Classroom, Kitchen, AND Playground for Kids as They Plant, Learn, and Play

Summer is a very busy time for the participants of our Children's Garden, Garden Buds, Forest Explorers, and Junior Naturalists programs! At Queens Botanical Garden, when "class is in session," so are planting, learning, and playing.

In July and August, our Children's Garden program welcomed nearly 100 children in four sessions: Urban Critters, Art in the Garden, Kitchen & Beyond, and the Incredible Seed. The children, ages four through ten, seeded, cultivated, and harvested in our vegetable garden; investigated beetles, bees, and butterflies in the Rose Garden; cooked with fresh crops; painted with natural materials—all while having loads of fun!

Garden Buds, our popular series for children ages two and three with a caregiver, allowed children to fully enjoy the summer blooms as well as the delicious produce in the Garden. It's always so joyous watching our little gardeners get their hands dirty—some digging and picking for the first time!

Our six-week summer Forest Explorers program for children ages two through six is rooted in traditional methods of the Forest School model. Children deepen their relationship with earth through open play in a forested section of the Garden; making community connections through mealtime and tool-sharing; going on guided explorations of the Garden; and working on various nature-themed art projects.

The oldest students, our Junior Naturalists—ages 11 through 14—participated in all sorts of wonderful science-rich activities. They worked with QBG's horticulture team to build a trail on site, helped maintain QBG's one-acre farm, and created part of a plant-based exhibit for our Art Gallery. They went on three off-site trips to the Queens Museum, Queens Zoo, and New York Hall of Science, ending their summer experience with a fun overnight campout on QBG grounds.

Kids programming offers hands-on discovery for children ages two through fourteen. We encourage families to join us throughout the seasons to see all the wonderful elements of our Garden throughout the entire year. To learn more about, and sign up for, our autumn offerings, go to queensbotanical.org/kidsprograms

Some of our favorite memories with our participants in kids programs this summer:



Instructor Teri leads a Garden Buds sing-a-long.



Forest Explorers doing what they do best: connecting with nature and each other.



Children's Garden participants Hanna and Anahita discover a caterpillar (and its lunch) at the QBG Farm.



Delicious! Chef Clara prepares okra harvested from the Garden as part of Children's Garden's "Kitchen & Beyond" session.



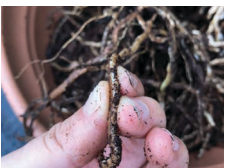
Junior Naturalists are screen printing, creating unique pieces for a temporary art exhibit.

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Orchid Doctor: How to Repot an Orchid

Before you start, be sure to have sanitized shears for cutting and clean pots on hand. Photographed is the repotting of a 20-year-old *Cattleya portia*.

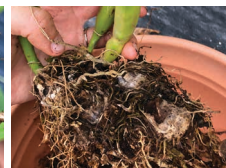
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1 Gently remove all old potting material. Inspect roots by gently squeezing the phylum (vascular tissue surrounding the root). If there is squishy texture to the phylum, remove it gently by pulling down and off the root.



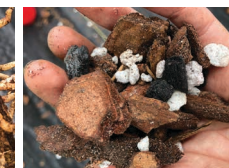
2 Be sure to avoid trimming the actual roots, which are the thin, stringy parts beneath the phylum.



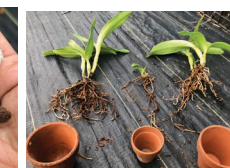
3 Remove dead pseudobulbs or other water storage organs, indicated by dryness, color, and weight. Pull a little piece off with your nail—if it is black or brown underneath, it is dead. White or green? It's alive!



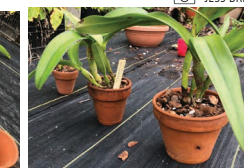
4 *Oops!* If you accidentally cut and remove a portion of live bulb to reveal a white interior, cover and protect that portion with cinnamon, a natural fungicide.



5 Pick an appropriate potting medium. For our mix, we chose orchid bark, perlite, and charcoal.



6 Be sure to choose pots that have drainage and enough space for new growth. Add your mix evenly under and around the roots.



7 Give your newly potted orchids a good drink. See them take root!



Summer Wraps Up and Fall Unfolds at QBG Farm and Compost

We cannot believe that summer is over, or that there are still so many vegetables growing at our QBG Farm and Compost site! This summer brought us abundant delights, and not just in the form of the sweet raspberries, juicy tomatoes, and crisp cucumbers—all fueled by our nutrient-rich compost made from residential food scraps.

The NYC Compost Project hosted by Queens Botanical Garden proudly launched **two new food scrap drop-off sites on July 19 in Rego Park and Elmhurst in Queens**. The new sites are growing quickly and **we already have 50 households dropping off 200 pounds of food scraps each Thursday**. In addition, you can still find us in Briarwood and Kew Gardens on Tuesdays and in Jackson Heights and Forest Hills on Sundays. Food scraps can even be dropped off in the QBG Parking Garden during all open hours. **In total, we diverted over 30,000 pounds of food scraps from landfills this summer**. Our finished compost will be used in community gardens, parks, in our gardens and farm, and shared with volunteers and Master Composters.

Volunteers, interns, and the return of our Farm Manager Lise Lorimer after a maternity leave, all add to the joys of the past season. Four amazing individuals joined us for the QBG Farm & Compost internship program, which runs from April through October each year. Although interns Amelia Zeh and Sophia Miller are back to college now, interns Tom Nielsen and Elaina Harper will continue with us through fall. We are very grateful for all of their time and commitment, and specifically their help with weeding, harvesting our fruits and veggies, watering compost piles, making windrows, and much, much more. We couldn't do it all without them!

Every Wednesday since April, up to 20 individuals have joined us for Farm & Compost Volunteer Days. This program invites the general public to work alongside our staff for three hours at a time. The openings are always filled up far in advance, so we decided to create some new opportunities especially for our most dedicated volunteers. We now have long-term Farm & Compost volunteers joining us on other days of the week to help in all aspects of operations. Our long-term volunteers include former City Service Corps member Marie Josette Seraphin. Marie Josette finished her second year of service with us in July, and we are fortunate that she is generously continuing to share her time with us.

Looking ahead to fall, there is much in store. We can't wait for annual events like the after-Halloween Pumpkin Smash in November, where launching old pumpkins in a trebuchet helps to prepare them for composting! Once leaves start to fall, we'll be collecting them at Leaf Crunch, also in November, to use as a carbon source in our compost pile, and to share with community compost sites. This fall you can get involved with the NYC Compost Project hosted by QBG by visiting the farm on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5pm through October for Farm Open Hours, attending a workshop (including 自制堆肥101 - Compost 101 in Mandarin, and Zero-Waste Thanksgiving), or dropping off your food scraps.

We wish you all a happy fall and hope to see you soon!



Learn and Grow at Upcoming Workshops & Opportunities:

Farm & Compost Volunteer Days

Every Wednesday & last Saturday of the month through October, 9am to 12pm

Farm Open Hours

Wednesday through October, 3:30 to 5pm

自制堆肥101 - Compost 101 in Mandarin

Sunday, October 21, 2 to 4pm

Zero-Waste Thanksgiving

Saturday, November 17, 1 to 3pm

Sign up! Go to queensbotanical.org/farmandcompost

© FOREST ABBOTT-LUM, COMPOSTESS, VANESSA VENTOLA

Above Left to Right: Interns Tom and Elaina on site

Middle Right: The new food scrap drop-off site in Elmhurst

Bottom Left to Right: Summer harvest; zinnias and zucchinis at the QBG Farm





Queens Botanical Garden

43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

queensbotanical.org | 718.886.3800

NEW!
Pumpkin Patch
 Every Weekend in October
 & Columbus Day
SAVE THE DATE!
Harvest Fest &
Pumpkin Patch
 Sun, 10/14

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THANK YOU to our MEMBERS, SPONSORS, and FRIENDS!

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