



CONTACT: Erika Rumbley
Garden Educator
Erika@bostonnatural.org
BNAN
617-542-7696 x15
www.bostonnatural.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Gardening Course For Boston Gardeners

Master Urban Gardener program offered by Boston Natural Areas Network

BOSTON, MA, October 25, 2011 – The **Master Urban Gardener (MUG)** program is an intensive, skill-building training program for community gardeners. Whether you're just getting started or have been gardening for decades, MUG covers everything you need to know to thrive in one of Boston's community gardens- from vegetable gardening and composting to community organizing. Each winter, 30 community gardeners join the program. The program is open to Boston residents who are active community gardeners and demonstrate a commitment to sharing their skills with others.

The MUG program consists of 30 hours of classroom instruction, followed by 30 hours of volunteer service. The 2012 MUG classroom sessions will be offered on 6 consecutive Saturdays from January 14th- February 18th. The classes will be hosted at the Boston Natural Areas Network office, at 62 Summer Street in Downtown Boston.

Each Saturday will feature topical lectures as well as participatory activities. Topics include: (1) Vegetable garden planning for bigger harvests; (2) Botany and soil science for gardeners; (3) Managing weeds, pests & diseases without chemicals; (4) Composting in community gardens; and (5) How to facilitate garden meetings and workshops.

Rather than paying a fee, Master Urban Gardeners give volunteer service to Boston's gardening community. A suggested \$30 donation helps to cover materials costs for the program. MUG participants choose from a number of service projects including Community Composting, Tending the Learning Garden, and Public workshops and celebrations. By donating their skills and time, MUG participants gain invaluable in-the-field experience, while giving back.

62 Summer Street Boston, Massachusetts 02110, 617-542-7696 www.bostonnatural.org

Applications for the MUG course are due December 1st. Applications are available online at www.bostonnatural.org/MUG.htm. BNAN staff will arrange phone interviews with all eligible candidates in December. Questions? Please contact Erika Rumbley, Garden Educator at 617-542-7696 x15 or erika@bostonnatural.org.

Boston Natural Areas Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together local residents, partner organizations, public officials and foundations to preserve, expand and enhance urban open space, including community gardens, greenways and urban wilds. For further information about the organization, becoming a member or the calendar of events, visit www.bostonnatural.org, or call 617-542-7696.

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