

January 7, 2010

Dear Garden Leader,

Happy New Year! It's time again to request seeds and compost for your Community Garden. We have you listed as a coordinator or contact for your garden. For some gardens, we have one or two others listed who will also receive this memo, but otherwise you are the only one from the garden who is getting this information. **Please share the information with your other gardeners.**

Please let us know immediately if you are no longer the contact for the garden. Call BNAN at 617-542-7696 or email kim@bostonnatural.org.

We have moved to an email format for these periodic mailings in order to save trees, costs, and also to make it easier for coordinators to forward pertinent information to their gardeners. We continue to post mail to those we do not have emails for. If you have received this in post mail form and would prefer it emailed to you, please notify us (contact info above) and we will make the change. These mailings will also be posted on our website at www.bostonnatural.org/cgCoordinator.htm.

The 35th Annual Gardeners Gathering will be held on **Saturday, March 20, 2010** at the Curry Student Center, Northeastern University from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Gathering is free and for ALL gardeners and others who would like to become gardeners. As we are unable to mail to each gardener, we need your help in telling others. Please spread the word. Garden gloves will again be available at the discounted price of \$2 a pair. We hope to see you at the Gathering!

FORMS ENCLOSED/ATTACHED IN THIS PACKAGE:

- **FREE SEEDS. Order vegetable seeds for your community garden.** Determine the amount and types of seeds *everyone* in the garden would like and return form by **Monday, February 1. Please order only what your garden will use, BNAN now purchases these seeds for distribution. THESE PRE-ORDERED SEEDS MUST BE PICKED-UP AT THE GARDENERS GATHERING MARCH 20. SEEDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT 4:30 P.M.** Mail or fax (617-542-0383) the enclosed/attached order form to BNAN, or call in the seed order to Kim at 617-542-7696 x17 or email to kim@bostonnatural.org.
- **FREE SPRING COMPOST DELIVERY.** *(For City of Boston Community Gardens only.)* The Boston Community Gardens are fortunate to be eligible to receive free compost delivered to their gardens. Compost is provided by the City of Boston Public Works Department through their Recycling Program. This valuable soil amendment provides vital nutrients and assists with lead and PAHs in urban soils. Make sure you order enough for all your gardeners. A method to assist you to calculate amounts is included on the order form. Please send or fax (617-542-0383) the enclosed/attached form before **Monday, February 1** to BNAN, or call in the order to Kim at 617-542-7696 x17 or email to kim@bostonnatural.org.
- **SEEDLINGS. ReVision Urban Farm** will again be raising organic and heirloom seedlings in their Dorchester greenhouse. Sale of the seedlings is on a pre-order basis. Please find enclosed/attached their order form, orders are due **Monday, February 8. Return forms to ReVision Urban Farm (do not send to BNAN).** For further information call ReVision at 617-825-8642 or www.vpi.org/Re-VisionFarm/.

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER. During non-gardening months please continue to make your Community Garden an asset to the entire neighborhood. Each garden is separately responsible for ensuring that snow and ice are removed from all sidewalks adjacent to the garden. The reputation of Community Gardens depends on being responsible neighbors—which in winter means keeping sidewalks walkable. Across the city, Community Gardens are using different techniques for doing the snow removal:

- Assign each gardener a week or more during which she/he is responsible for snow removal.
- Let gardeners meet their next season's work requirement by doing the shoveling this winter.
- Collect additional garden dues to hire someone to do the shoveling. Check in your neighborhood to see if someone offers this service or call BNAN for information on someone who does.
- Ask a nearby business, community agency, or resident to clear by the garden when they are doing their own property (especially if they have a snow blower or the garden sidewalk is a short distance.)

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MUG and MUGatHOME Master Urban Gardener Programs. The MUG program *for community gardeners* is full for 2010, but please consider submitting an application for next year, preference is given to early applicants. For information or to apply for the MUG program please contact Jo Ann Whitehead at 617-542-7696 x15 or joann@bostonnatural.org or check the BNAN website at www.bostonnatural.org/MUG.htm. **However, the MUGatHOME program for residential gardeners is being offered this April.** We are currently accepting applications. The program is open to Boston residents. Please share this information with anyone who may be interested. For further information on MUGatHOME please contact BNAN at 617-542-7696 or email info@bostonnatural.org or check www.bostonnatural.org/MUGatHome.htm.

NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENT FUND (NEGEF).

- NEGEF's Boston Grants Initiative provides grants up to \$10,000 to groups working on environmental projects and includes funding for community gardens in the neighborhoods of Boston, Chelsea, Somerville and Cambridge. The upcoming deadline for applications is January 15, 2010, with a funding decision in early April. The following deadline is June 15 with a funding decision to be made at the end of September.
- NEGEF's Small Grants Program provides grants up to \$2,500 to fund community involvement in projects that address a wide range of environmental issues and includes funding for community gardens. Gardens must be outside of Boston, Chelsea, Somerville and Cambridge. The upcoming deadline for Small Grants Program applications is February 15, 2010, funding decision to be made early May. The following application deadline is September 15, with a funding decision in early December.

For more information and before submitting a proposal please contact Ginny Callan at callan@grassrootsfund.org or call NEGEF at 802-223-4622. More information is available on their website at www.grassrootsfund.org. If your garden would like assistance in writing your NEGEF proposal BNAN will assist you, please call BNAN at 617-542-7696 or email vidya@bostonnatural.org.

FREE FILM VIEWING OF "THE GARDEN": The Boston Gardeners' Council (BGC), an advocacy group for Boston's gardens, begins this year's programming with a film viewing and discussion of "The Garden" on Tuesday, February 2, at 6:00 p.m. at South End Branch Library, 685 Tremont Street. Watch and discuss this powerful 2008 documentary on the efforts to save a large community garden/farm in Los Angeles. Co-sponsored by South End/Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust. To become involved, attend meetings, and learn more about the BGC check the website at www.bostonnatural.org/cgCouncil.htm or email info@bostonnatural.org.

SEED, SOW & GROW. BNAN will once again offer a selection of free gardening workshops throughout the season through the *Seed, Sow & Grow* series. Watch for the *Seed, Sow & Grow* brochure which will be sent in spring and also posted on the BNAN website.

SPRING PERENNIAL DIVIDE and PLANTING FESTIVAL. The 2010 Spring Planting Festival and Perennial Divide will be held this spring on Saturday, May 15, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at BNAN's City Natives at 30 Edgewater Drive in Mattapan.

GARDENS WITH PLOTS AVAILABLE for 2010. Some gardens have waiting lists, others have plots waiting to be gardened and it is important that available community garden plots be utilized. BNAN will update our list of gardens with plots available and post it on our website. If your garden has plots available and you would like to be listed, please email kim@bostonnatural.org or call Kim at 617-542-7696 x17. This is a simple way to aid your garden in getting the word out.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFER. Thank you to the gardens who are currently BNAN members. If your garden is not a member or if individuals wish to join now is a great time to become a member and support the important work we do. As a result of our affiliation with The Trustees of Reservations, **new and renewing BNAN members who contribute \$50 or above for a one-year BNAN membership will also receive a complimentary, one-year membership to The Trustees**, the world's oldest regional land trust. Trustees' members receive free or reduced admission to all 100 properties; discounts on programs and special events; complimentary copy of The Trustees 200-page Property Guide, a subscription to the membership quarterly, and more. Please find BNAN's membership slip along with BNAN membership benefits enclosed (post mail), or join/renew online at www.bostonnatural.org. This special offer ends June 30, 2010. For more information about The Trustees of Reservations visit them at their website at www.thetrustees.org.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION (ACGA). SAVE THE DATE - ACGA's 31st Annual Conference will be held August 5-8, 2010, in Atlanta, Georgia. Presenting “Holistic Approach to Building Sustainable & Healthy Communities: The Choice is Yours”. Call for presentations will be coming in January. For more information including early bird conference rates check www.communitygarden.org.

BNAN WEBSITE. Please visit our website at www.bostonnatural.org for program information, program updates, and community gardening resources.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the enclosed information, BNAN will be happy to assist.

BNAN STAFF:

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