

January 5, 2012

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 Karen Chaffee at karen@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 prefer email, please notify us and we will make the change. These coordinator mailings will also be posted on our website at www.bostonnatural.org/cgCoordinator.htm.

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 City of Boston will be ticketing for non-removal of snow, if your garden is ticketed, the garden will be required to pay the fine. If you use a snow melt product on your walks, please use only those which are environmentally-safe and animal-safe. 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).

The 37th ANNUAL GARDENERS GATHERING will be held on **Saturday, March 31, 2012** 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, flyer to post is included in this mailing. We hope to see you at the Gathering!

FREE SEEDS. (For City of Boston community gardens only.) Order free vegetable seeds for your community garden. Determine the amount and types of seeds *everyone* in the garden would like. **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 31. SEEDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT 4:30 P.M.** Mail or fax (617-542-0383) the enclosed/attached order form to BNAN, or email to kim@bostonnatural.org or call in the seed order to Kim at 617-542-7696 x17. Forms are **due by Wednesday, February 1.**

FREE SPRING COMPOST DELIVERY. (For City of Boston community gardens only.) We anticipate that compost will be available for Boston community gardeners through the City of Boston Public Works Department's Recycling Program again this year. 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. Mail or fax (617-542-0383) the enclosed/attached

order form to BNAN, or email to kim@bostonnatural.org or call in the compost request to Kim at 617-542-7696 x17. Forms are **due by Wednesday, February 1.**

SEEDLINGS. ReVision Urban Farm will again be raising organic and heirloom seedlings in their Dorchester greenhouse. Seedling order forms will be available by mid-January; to download and print an order form, visit www.vpi.org/Farm and click on “Seedling Coop”. For more information please call ReVision Urban Farm at 617-822-3276 or email jolivetti@vpi.org.

GARDENS WITH PLOTS AVAILABLE for 2012. (*Boston gardens only*). Some gardens have waiting lists, others have plots waiting to be gardened and it is important that all available community garden plots be utilized. BNAN will update our list of gardens with plots available and post it on our website this spring. If your garden has plots available and you would like to be listed, please email Karen Chaffee at karen@bostonnatural.org or call at 617-542-7696 x1. This is a simple way to aid your garden in getting the word out. Please send us your list of gardeners and your waiting list so we are able to always have a contact for the garden and to make sure we are able to keep in touch.

THE BOSTON GARDENERS COUNCIL (BGC), an advocacy group for Boston community and residential gardeners, welcomes your involvement and input. The BGC now meets quarterly on the third Tuesday of the month in February, May, August and November. To get involved in the Boston Gardeners Council or the Produce to Pantries program please contact Karen Chaffee at karen@bostonnatural.org.

The BGC is currently organizing two events this season. The events are free and open to all. Please help spread the word.

Community Garden Leadership 101

Thursday, February 9

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

BNAN Office, 62 Summer Street,

2nd Floor, Downtown Crossing

Come learn from long-time community garden coordinators about how to develop an effective leadership structure for your garden. Whether you are a veteran coordinator or new to the role, you’ll discover tools to build a collective sense of responsibility and action in your garden. All gardeners welcome! For more information contact Karen Chaffee at karen@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696.

Registration required.

Building an Effective Community Garden Composting System

Thursday, March 8

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

BNAN Office, 62 Summer Street,

2nd Floor, Downtown Crossing

Do you currently compost at your community garden but want better results? Are you interested in composting but don’t know where to begin? Come troubleshoot and learn the best techniques for your garden from urban composting expert, Bruce Fulford, of City Soil and Greenhouse Co. For more information contact Karen Chaffee at karen@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696. **Registration required.**

DOT GROWS GARDEN COUNCIL. The DOT Grows Garden Council meets first Tuesday of each month 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at rotating locations (call for location site). The newly formed Dot Grows Garden Council serves to support Dorchester community gardeners, residents, families, and organizations in practicing and promoting community gardening, sharing resources and ideas, and planning for a healthier Dorchester. All are invited. Please contact Grantley Payne at BNAN at grantley@bostonnatural.org or phone 617-542-7696 if you would like to learn more about BIGG. Individuals interested in gardening and volunteer opportunities in Dorchester are especially welcome!

DORCHESTER'S WINTER FARMERS MARKET. Dorchester Community Food Coop sponsors Dorchester's first Winter Farmers Market. The farmers market will offer fresh produce, bread and cheese, and meats from local Massachusetts farms. The market runs from January through March on Sundays from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Great Hall in Codman Square. **The grand opening is scheduled for January 8.** Contact the Dorchester Community Food Coop at dotcommcoop@gmail.com for more information.

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 at www.bostonnatural.org/SeedSowGrow.htm.

SPRING PERENNIAL DIVIDE and PLANTING FESTIVAL. The 2012 Spring Planting Festival and Perennial Divide will be taking place again this spring at BNAN's City Natives at 30 Edgewater Drive in Mattapan, date to be determined, check our website for update. Gardeners are invited to exchange, donate or simply take home perennial divisions and other plants. BNAN Master Urban Gardeners will be available to provide plant advice and care. Select natives available for purchase.

BOSTON URBAN FOREST COUNCIL (BUFC). BNAN is convening the Boston Urban Forest Council (BUFC) to bring tree enthusiasts and Boston residents together to share information and coordinate efforts to promote tree planting, education and appreciation in the City of Boston. By addressing the need to raise visibility of the impact of trees and the benefits of the urban forest, the BUFC will increase awareness of the relationship between public health, quality of life and a sustainable urban forest. In addition, the Council will support open dialogue among residents, tree activists and public agencies to support policy decisions that positively impact Boston's tree canopy.

BNAN staffs the BUFC by facilitating meetings, organizing outreach efforts, managing communication platforms and contributing to the urban forest discourse. BNAN will spark conversation by scheduling experts to present information about trees and how they benefit the urban environment.

The BUFC will meet for the second time on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. and plans to continue meeting bi-monthly. BNAN hosted an initial meeting in November to gather feedback and identify action items for 2012. The BUFC needs your voice and support. All are welcome. We encourage you to spread the word to fellow tree enthusiasts. For more information contact Mathew Cahill at mathew@bostonnatural.org.

GROW BOSTON GREENER program is a competitive mini-grant program administered by BNAN in partnership with the City of Boston that provides funding of up to \$2,500 for tree plantings in neighborhoods throughout the city. Funding for the GBG program is provided by the support of corporate and philanthropic donors through the Fund for Parks and Recreation in Boston.

The goals of GBG are to increase tree canopy, mitigate heat island effect, reduce energy consumption, improve air quality and improve storm water management. GBG focuses not only on planting trees, but also on the community-based stewardship activities necessary to ensure the trees' survival.

For more information visit www.growbostongreener.org or contact Mathew Cahill at 617-542-7696 x20 or mathew@bostonnatural.org. **Look for information on the next grant round in February 2012.**

NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL FUND (NEGEF).

Small Grant Program Support for Community Gardens Across New England

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) seeks to energize and nurture long term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable communities. NEGEF provides grants to groups working at the community level in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. NEGEF interprets the word 'environment' broadly and will provide funding for a wide range of activities and efforts including local food initiatives, including community gardens.

NEGEF grant programs for 2012 will include a "Seed" grant program offering small grants with an accelerated decision making process and a "Grow" grant program offering mid sized grants with two application deadlines annually. More details will be forthcoming in 2012. The Boston Grants Initiative will be folded into NEGEF's New England wide grant structure in 2012. Be sure to visit the NEGEF website at www.grassrootsfund.org for a grant program update in mid January 2012.

For more information please contact Ginny Callan at callan@grassrootsfund.org or call NEGEF at 802-223-4622. If your garden would like assistance in writing your NEGEF proposal BNAN will assist you, please call BNAN at 617-542-7696.

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 104 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, 2012. 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 33rd Annual Conference, "Community Gardening on the Cutting Edge", will be held Thursday August 9 – Sunday August 12, 2012, in San Francisco. Check their website for call for presentations. For more information including early bird conference rates check <http://communitygarden.org/learn/training/annual-conference/index.php>

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.

Thank you,
Karen Chaffee
BNAN Stewardship Manager

BNAN STAFF:

Valerie Burns, President
Vidya Tikku, Vice President
Shea Ennen, Operations Manager
Candice Cook, Program Manager
Jeremy Dick, Director of Property and Horticulture
Erika Rumbley, Garden Educator
Karen Chaffee, Stewardship Manager
Bill Stanton, Grant and Outreach Coordinator
Grantley Payne, BIGG Project Manager
Mathew Cahill, Urban Tree Program Coordinator
Kim Kudrna, Program Assistant
Pat Grady, Administrative Assistant