

SAVE THESE DATES

Urban Wilds Event Cider Pressing Festival

Sunday, October 2
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
McLaughlin Playground,
between Parker Hill and Fisher
Avenues, Roxbury

Come usher in fall with fresh pressed cider from apples harvested from the historic orchard on Parker Hill. Listen to live Appalachian folk music, try your hand at making cider from a traditional wooden press and join stewards from Mission Hill Green for a tour of the woodlands.

Contact karen@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696 for more information. Rain cancels the event.

BNAN Annual Event 10th Annual Pumpkin Float

Saturday, October 22, 5:30 p.m.
Rain date: Sunday, October 23
Pope John Paul II Park, Hallet
Street entrance, Dorchester

Bring your carved jack-o-lanterns and watch them float in Davenport Creek. Halloween costumes encouraged! Pumpkins can be no larger than 8 inches, or they won't float. No registration necessary. Event check-in now at Hallet Street entrance to park. For more info contact BNAN at 617-542-7696 or info@bostonnatural.org.

Boston Gardeners Council 2011 Citywide Seed Swap

Saturday, November 19
2:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m
BNAN Office, 62 Summer
Street, Boston

Join gardeners from around the city for the Boston Gardeners Council's first annual seed swap. Bring your favorite or extra seeds and discover what other gardeners love to grow. Come share your wisdom, tips and tales of beloved crops. Contact karen@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696 for more information.

Boston's Tree Canopy to Grow with BNAN Leadership

Boston Natural Areas Network will take up the leadership of tree advocacy efforts this fall with the launch of the Boston Urban Forest Program. Through the program BNAN will offer organization, funding, educational opportunities and promotion of trees citywide. The effort will build on the success of the Boston Urban Forestry Coalition from 2006 through 2008, which established a goal of planting 100,000 trees by 2020 to increase Boston's tree canopy from 29 to 35 percent by 2030. BNAN is working to revive this collaborative group of government and non-profit agencies and connect them with Boston residents to build awareness and activity for trees at the neighborhood level across the city. BNAN will coordinate an expanded and re-invigorated citizen-based coalition to guide tree planting efforts, programming and policy in the city of Boston.

Mathew Cahill is on board as Program Coordinator for the Boston Urban Forest Program. Mat has more than ten years experience working as an Urban Forester, having worked with non-profits in New York, San Diego and Ann Arbor. Most recently, *continued on page 8*



Members of the 2011 Youth Conservation Corps River Crew proudly show off their trail work along the Neponset River in Mattapan. For more on YCC, see page 10.

Neponset Greenway Extension Wins Approval, Federal Funding Sought

At a long awaited public meeting held at the end of August, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation presented their preferred plan for the route of the Neponset Greenway from Central Avenue to Mattapan Square along Milton and Mattapan. The option DCR presented was greeted with applause from over one hundred people in a packed room, evidence of community support on both sides the river. Senator Brian Joyce, Representative Linda Dorcea Forry and Representative Russell Holmes all spoke in strong support of the new plan, as did many residents.

The route is a compromise solution- beginning on the Milton side of the river along the MBTA tracks, crossing over via a new bridge behind Ryan Playground and continuing on the Mattapan side of the river. Near Mattapan Station, the trail slowly ramps up and over the tracks creating a unique "Canopy Walk". The trail then exits the station through a new Greenway Gateway Visitors Center planned in Mattapan Square. *continued on page 2*

Neponset Greenway continued from page 1

Neponset Greenway Council members were pleased to see that the DCR alternative closely aligned with the alternative they developed and shared with DCR and the community last year. This critical section of the Greenway has been controversial since 1996 when the original masterplan for the Lower Neponset Reservation designated this area a “special study area”. Subsequent attempts to reach agreement between the Milton and Mattapan communities were unsuccessful until DCR launched a renewed effort to resolve differences in 2010. Now with agreement on the route, stakeholders will be involved in further design discussions for this section of the Greenway throughout the fall.

In an attempt to win competitive federal dollars for construction, DCR has combined the Mattapan-Milton gap along with gaps at the northern and southern ends of the trail together into one package. The northern gap, known as the Dorchester Coast Trail, would connect the Greenway to the Harborwalk across the rainbow gas tank property. The southern gap would fulfill the Greenway’s aim to connect the “Hills to Harbor” by continuing the trail from Martini Shell to Paul’s Bridge in the Blue Hills.

The federal grant application is due in early October, so both DCR and advocates are in high gear to garner support to push it through. If the grant is awarded, the Greenway will be on track to be completed by 2014. However, if the Greenway does not receive the federal grant, advocates are prepared to hunt for funding to build the trail in sections, as all six miles of the trail have been built before.

Want to be a Master Urban Gardener?

When the harvest is gathered and gardens are ready for winter, some community gardeners are just getting started – on their applications for the Master Urban Gardener (MUG) course. The year 2012 marks the sixteenth year of the MUG program that is offered each winter from January through March. The MUG course covers all you need to know to grow food in one of Boston’s community gardens- from seed starting to community organizing. Forty hours of classroom and hands-on learning takes place on consecutive Saturdays at Northeastern University.

Rather than paying a fee, MUG graduates give volunteer service to Boston’s gardening community. By donating their skills and time, MUG graduates gain invaluable in-the-field experience, while giving back. This season, MUG graduates did everything from organizing new community gardens to weighing donated vegetables at local food pantries. In Dorchester’s newly renovated Nightingale Community Garden, MUG graduates served as Garden Coaches for the first time, offering advice to new gardeners every Saturday morning throughout the growing season.

Applications for the MUG course are due December 1, and the class is capped at 35 gardeners. For more information, or to download an application, visit www.bostonnatural.org/MUG or call BNAN at 617-542-7696.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Continues to Grow and Entertain

Hot weather and an occasional storm cloud did not dampen the spirits of the thousands of participants in the 17th Annual Neponset River Greenway Festival. Once again the Festival included weekly movies at both the Martini Shell and Pope John Paul II Park, children’s performances at Ryan Playground, canoe trips, music and art workshops.

This year the Festival also included a very popular Greenway geology walk and a special tour exploring the available options for completing the Neponset River Greenway trail near Mattapan Square. New to the Festival this year were two presenters at the Ryan Playground Especially for Children series: the Blue Hills Trailside Museum with its birds of prey show and the Park Rangers from MA DCR who led fun, active programs like potato sack races and tug-of-war.

BNAN is pleased to continue the great partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and their dedicated staff who work so hard to make the festival a success. BNAN is also grateful for the sponsors of the 17th summer of fun: Massachusetts Cultural Council, Merck Family Fund, The First Parish Church of Lincoln and the Neponset River Greenway Council.



MA DCR Ranger Dave Furey instructs eager participants getting ready for a beginners canoe trip on Mother Brook, a tributary of the Neponset River.

NEPONSET RIVER GREENWAY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday** **October 5, 2011** **7:00 p.m.**
Hyde Park Police Station District 18
1249 Hyde Park Ave., Hyde Park
- Wednesday** **November 2, 2011** **7:00 p.m.**
St. Brendan’s Church
589 Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester
- Wednesday** **December 7, 2011** **7:00 p.m.**
Foley Senior Residences
249 River Street, Mattapan

City Natives Notebook

by Jeremy Dick, BNAN Horticulturist

As an eventful summer fades into autumn, I contemplate compost and the challenge of better managing the composting system at City Natives. For the past few years we have maintained a static pile of compostables that includes pulled weeds, fallen leaves and pumpkins from the Pumpkin Float. A static pile (one that is not aerated and watered regularly) composts more slowly and takes up greater space than an actively managed pile. In addition, static pile composting can lead to a buildup of large volumes of composted and mostly composted organic matter, which is the situation we are dealing with currently.

Our garden educator Erika Rumbley and I put our heads together to develop an integrated solution for the City Natives compost that incorporates education, active management and regular use of the product. To start we will create a new active compost system large enough to process onsite materials. This bin system will be maintained by staff and volunteers and will complement educational programs on composting, soil fertility and garden maintenance. This system will be constructed of lumber, making use of recycled wood pallets, to illustrate a low cost/low tech method of construction.

Making use of the compost we have is the second part of the solution. We are screening the City Natives "Pumpkin" Compost to amend plots in the Learning Garden, incorporate in upcoming tree planting projects in East Boston and Dorchester and offer to gardeners at the Harvest Festival. We're mobilizing lots of volunteers for compost work parties in September, to get our compost system into shape. Please contact us if you want to help out!

Fall planting season is here. Reference www.bostonnatural.org/citynativesnursery for the full list of perennials, shrubs, trees and vines offered at City Natives. Plant purchases can be made by appointment or during programs and events. Orders and volunteer inquiries can be submitted by email to citynatives@bostonnatural.org.

BOSTON GARDENERS COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Tuesday October 25, 2011 6:00 p.m.**
BNAN Office, 62 Summer Street,
Downtown Crossing
- Tuesday November 29, 2011 6:00 p.m.**
BNAN Office, 62 Summer Street,
Downtown Crossing

Please check our website at www.bostonnatural.org for latest BGC meeting updates.

Dorchester community gardeners, public officials, and BNAN staff celebrated the Nightingale Community Garden Grand Opening on August 6. Pictured left to right are: Elnora Thompson, Janice James,



Adel Taha, BNAN President Valerie Burns, Saleh Osman, City of Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Mohamed Ibrahim, City of Boston Councillor Charles Yancey, Grantley Payne, Winston Jankee, Walla Alzobair, and Sayed Mohamed-Nour.

Nightingale Community Garden Grand Opening

On a day when not a single cloud could be spotted in the summer sky, it seemed fitting that the Nightingale Community Garden Grand Opening celebration should take center stage. On August 6 an enthusiastic gathering of over one hundred community gardeners, residents, and public officials celebrated the newly renovated Nightingale Community Garden. Centrally located between Dorchester's Codman Square and Four Corners communities, Nightingale has transformed into the largest community garden in Dorchester and has become the talk of the neighborhood.

Expanding from 30 to 133 plots, Nightingale now features handicapped-accessible walkways and raised beds, a new watering system, ornamental steel fencing, granite plot dividers, a toolshed, bike racks, a sun shelter and gathering area, composting bins and rain barrels for energy and water conservation.

BNAN President Valerie Burns emceed the celebration, which represented the culmination of years of community planning, financial support, and ongoing communications among BNAN staff, community residents, partner organizations and funders. City of Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Boston City Councilor Charles C. Yancey were both on hand to voice their support of the garden. Also in attendance was Evelyn Friedman, Director of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development; Antonia Pollak, Boston's Parks Commissioner; Edith Murnane, Boston Food Policy Director and Barbara Ferrer, Commissioner of the Boston Public Health Commission.

Before and after remarks, the Gospel Encouragers offered inspiring musical vocals while guests enjoyed light refreshments provided by City Feed and Supply. On more than one occasion, Nightingale community gardeners could be seen showing off their vegetable garden plots to family members and visitors.

Still the highlight of the day was reserved for volunteer garden coordinator Elnora Thompson, who expressed her heartfelt thoughts as she presented a certificate of appreciation to Carmen Pitter in honor of her late husband Ivis Pitter, a long-time Nightingale "gardener whose seed of faith inspires others to grow." A plaque in Mr. Pitter's honor will be dedicated during the Nightingale fall harvest festival on October 15.

BNAN would like to thank our funders for their support for the BIGG project. These include the Boston Public Health Commission, Department of Neighborhood Development, Manton Foundation, Claneil Foundation, Towards Sustainability Foundation, Cabot Foundation, American Heart Association, Amelia Peabody Foundation, The Boston Foundation and an anonymous foundation.



Young visitors to the Condor Street Summer Solstice Festival wear crowns they made from ivy and flowers.

A Busy Summer, Fall Programs in Urban Wilds

The Urban Wilds Council celebrated its second summer solstice festival this year at the Condor Street Urban Wild in East Boston. Over a hundred people turned out to listen to live music, share food and watch the sun set over the harbor. BNAN collaborated with the Neighborhood Organization of Affordable Housing (NOAH) based in East Boston to make the event a success. A number of BNAN volunteers worked with NOAH's youth members to help with solstice-related art projects and other activities. BNAN and NOAH would like to collaborate to make this an annual event.

Another unique event focused on the importance of the Hellenic Hill Urban Wild, which is currently under threat of being sold to development. Sixteen people turned out to learn about the significance of the urban wild, its relationship to Jamaica Pond and what they can do to help preserve the land. Participants were able to get a closer look of the Wild from Prince Street, where they learned more about invasive plants and how Urban Wilds require attention and care to maintain their ecological health. BNAN will continue to work with the Friends of Jamaica Pond and others who are advocating to protect Hellenic Hill in the months ahead.

This fall the Urban Wilds Council looks forward to hosting a bike ride in Allston to explore both remaining and lost Urban Wilds in the neighborhood. BNAN will also be collaborating with Mission Hill Green to host another Cider Pressing Festival at the orchard on McLaughlin Playground. Join us to press apples, share cider and listen to live music. Please see the calendar on page five for these and other Urban Wilds events. You are also invited to join us for our next Urban Wilds Council meeting on Wednesday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the BNAN office.

Great Compost, Happy Gardeners

Compost was provided for community gardens again this year through the City of Boston. Gardeners welcomed this healthy soil amendment with deliveries made through July. Over one hundred truckloads of compost were delivered to eighty-seven community gardens. BNAN worked with the BU School of Public Health to analyze and test the compost to assure suitability for growing vegetables and fruit. This year, the City provided compost from Northeast Materials Solutions, Inc. in Quincy, Massachusetts.

The gardeners and BNAN thank Mayor Thomas Menino, Public Works Commissioner Joanne Massaro, and Recycling Director Susan Cascino for this important program. We could not grow without it!

A New Community Garden Comes To Life

This past spring BNAN collaborated with the Bromley Heath Tenant Management Corporation, the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC) and Associated Early Care and Education to build a new community garden at the Bromley Heath Housing Development in Jamaica Plain. The garden, which is located along the Southwest Corridor Bike Path near the Jackson Square T station, opened in July. Fifteen families fill the garden, some were introduced to the garden through RIAC and others recruited by the Tenant Management's Community Services Department. The garden was largely built using funding through BNAN's Gardening Through Refugees (GRO) program, additional funds to include granite edging were provided by a generous contribution from Associated Early Care and Education.

On July 16, the new gardeners gathered to plant seedlings provided by City Natives. A number of youth joined their parents and helped to prepare the plots for planting. Despite the fact that the garden opened mid-summer, the plots are in active use and well on their way to harvest. Stay tuned as the garden plans to celebrate its first harvest this fall. Thank you to all from Bromley Heath, RIAC and Associated Early Care and Education who helped to make the garden a reality.



New gardeners gather to celebrate their first planting day at the new Bromley Heath Community Garden in Jamaica Plain.

All programs are free and open to the public. Please check our website at www.bostonnatural.org for updates, maps to locations and further details.

To register and for further information call BNAN at 617-542-7696 or email info@bostonnatural.org.

Boston is Growing Gardens Watercolors in the Garden

Saturday, September 17

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Explore the beautiful bounty that can be found in your community garden. Instructor Barrington Edwards will help you to capture nature's beauty through the fine art of watercolor painting. Beginners are welcome. **Registration required.** Contact info@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696.

Seed, Sow & Grow

Extend Your Growing Season

Saturday, September 24

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive,
Mattapan

Don't stop now! Learn what cool season annuals and perennial vegetables you can grow in the fall and even through the winter. We'll also cover ways to make inexpensive season extending devices and how to combat late season frosts. **Registration required.**

Boston is Growing Gardens Putting Your Garden To Bed

3 opportunities to experience this workshop:

Thursday, **September 29**

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Spencer Street Community Garden,
96 Spencer Street, Dorchester

• Thursday, **October 6**

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.,

Leyland Street Community Garden
6 – 18 Leyland Street, Dorchester

• Saturday, **October 8**

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.,

Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Have you ever considered that your vegetable garden would like to enjoy a restful slumber while recovering from a busy season of digging, planting, and harvesting? Learn cover crop and mulching tech-

niques that will give your soil a rest, so it's ready to spring into action for next season. Free cover crop seed will be available for workshop participants.

BNAN Annual Event Harvest Festival & Perennial Divide

Saturday, October 1

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive,
Mattapan

Enjoy the fall bounty! Take advantage of a gardener's market of native plants, fresh produce, honey and family arts and crafts. Learn about beekeeping and also get your garden questions answered! Participate in the popular perennial divide plant swap with other gardeners! Bring pre-divided plants you'd like to share and bring containers to take other plants home.

Urban Wilds Event

Cider Pressing Festival

Sunday, October 2

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

McLaughlin Playground, between
Parker Hill and Fisher Avenues,
Roxbury

Come usher in fall with fresh pressed cider from apples harvested from the historic orchard on Parker Hill. Listen to live Appalachian folk music, try your hand at making cider from a traditional wooden press and join stewards from Mission Hill Green for a tour of the woodlands.

Rain cancels the event.

Boston is Growing Gardens Nightingale Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 15

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Come out and celebrate the first annual Nightingale fall harvest festival. Nightingale gardeners invite all to share the bounty of the Dorchester's largest community garden. This event will be highlighted by a potluck of fresh dishes inspired by a season of growing.

Neponset River Greenway Fall Foliage Photo Workshop

Saturday, October 15, 2:00 p.m.

Martini Shell Park, Truman
Parkway, Hyde Park

Strolling along the Neponset River with

Martha McDonough, Readville resident and avid nature photographer, we will capture the beauty of fall colors. Workshop will focus on composition basics and making the most of nature's light. **Registration required.** Contact info@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696.

Boston Gardeners Council Save Those Seeds For Next Year's Garden

Thursday, October 20

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Jamaica Plain Library, 12
Sedgwick Street, Jamaica Plain

Learn how to collect, process, and store seeds from your garden. We will cover proper handling and preservation of your seeds to increase your success with germination. Contact karen@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696 for more information.

Seed, Sow & Grow

Canning: How to Preserve Your Harvest

Saturday, October 22

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive,
Mattapan

Learn the process of canning to enjoy your garden produce year round. Elnora Thompson, Nightingale Community Garden Coordinator, and Vivien Morris, Registered Dietitian and member of Boston Organization of Nutritionists and Dietitians of Color, will demonstrate the steps involved in preparing and canning a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Discussion will include the benefits of a diet rich in vegetables and preparation methods that best preserve nutrients in your canned produce. **Registration required.** Contact info@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696.

Urban Wilds

Exploring Allston's and Brighton's Urban Wilds by Bike

Saturday, October 22

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ringer Playground, 50 Webley
Street at Armington Street, Allston

Join BNAN staff and avid cyclist Doug Mink for a guided tour of Allston and Brighton's Urban Wilds. We will explore both protected or intact urban wilds as well as those that have been fragmented or lost to development. Bring your personal

continued on page 6

Events continued from page 5

bike and helmet. Contact karen@boston-natural.org or 617-542-7696 for more information. **Registration required.**

BNAN Annual Event 10th Annual Pumpkin Float

Saturday, October 22, 5:30 p.m.
Rain date: Sunday, October 23
Pope John Paul II Park, Hallet Street entrance, Dorchester

Bring your carved jack-o-lanterns and watch them float in Davenport Creek. Halloween costumes encouraged! Pumpkins can be no larger than 8 inches, or they won't float. No registration necessary. Event check-in now at Hallet Street entrance to park. For more info contact BNAN at 617-542-7696 or info@boston-natural.org.

Urban Wilds Event Sherrin Woods Urban Wild Nature Hike and Woodland Restoration Project

Saturday, November 5
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Sherrin Woods Urban Wild, meet at the corner of Windham Road and Sherrin Street, Hyde Park

Celebrate the trail building and woodland restoration achievements of the Green Team summer youth crew members at Sherrin Woods Urban Wild. BNAN and the Southwest Boston CDC will lead a tour through the woods and then ask for your help with a woodlands restoration project. Work gloves and tools will be provided. Contact karen@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696 for more information.

Boston Gardeners Council 2011 Citywide Seed Swap

Saturday, November 19
2:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m
BNAN Office, 62 Summer Street, Boston

Join gardeners from around the city for the Boston Gardeners Council's first annual seed swap. Bring your favorite or extra seeds and discover what other gardeners love to grow. Come share your wisdom, tips and tales of beloved crops. Contact karen@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696 for more information.

Future East Boston Greenway Extension Walk

Date and Time, TBA
Meet at Bremen Street Park Community Garden, near Bremen & Prescott Streets, East Boston

Come see first-hand the location of the proposed Greenway Extension through the airport's North Service Area and narrow gauge railroad right of way. Together we will imagine the possibilities of transforming this land not currently accessible to the public. **Registration required.** Contact info@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696.

Dot Grows Garden Council
Monthly Meetings
First Tuesday of each month,
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Codman Square Health Center,
Conference Room B (located
downstairs)
637 Washington Street,
Dorchester

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.



Nature artist Anne Schmalz introduces a participant to sketching the natural world at City Natives along the Neponset River.



BNAN Stewardship Manager Karen Chaffee works with new homeowners from Woodlawn Street in Roxbury to improve their front yards.

New Homes, New Gardens Is Underway

BNAN has launched an exciting new pilot program known as the New Homes, New Gardens program. Last winter BNAN was approached by the Boston Department of Neighborhood Development's Home Center to assist new homeowners of formerly foreclosed properties with improving their outdoor spaces through offering landscape design, planting training and services, and maintenance coaching. The pilot project began in mid-June with nine homeowners, who bought their homes within the last two years, participating. BNAN's Program Manager, Karen Chaffee leads the program, assisted by Garden Educator Erika Rumbley and Director of Property Jeremy Dick.

Homeowners first completed questionnaires asking them to provide detailed information on how they currently used their property and what visions they had for improvements. During their first visits with BNAN staff, clients were interviewed about their plans and hopes. Site analysis and mapping were conducted and soil tests were taken. Clients then received a plan for their property which, depending on space availability could include installing perennials, trees and shrubs or container plantings and hanging baskets. The clients, along with volunteers from MUG and MUGatHOME, assist in the installation of plants and then are given maintenance resource packets and a set of basic gardening tools.

The New Homes, New Gardens program will continue into the fall and hopefully into the years ahead. For more information or to volunteer please contact Karen Chaffee at karen@bostonnatural.org.

Sounds of the Garden Fill Dorchester and Jamaica Plain Gardens

On Wednesday July 20, BNAN kicked off its community garden summer concert series, Sounds of the Garden, with the Leo Colon Jazz Project at the Nightingale Community Garden in Dorchester. Delightful weather and lively jazz in the air attracted scores of gardeners and neighbors of all generations to the performance. This was the Jazz Project's first gig in the series. Gardeners hope to have them play again next year.

Two weeks later on August 3, bluesman Lloyd Thayer performed at the Leland Street Community Garden in Jamaica Plain. The performance was accompanied by a barbecue organized by the Leland Street gardeners, including fresh brewed herbal tea from the garden. Delicious! This concert drew a large crowd of neighbors who lingered well after the performance to enjoy the garden, hot dogs and the beautiful weather.

On an unseasonably cool August 10, Valdisa Moura and Roberto Cassan offered a passionate blend of Brazilian jazz and folk music at Nightingale Community Garden. Singing songs in her native Portuguese tongue, Moura warmed up the audience with her heartfelt and soulful voice. Deborah and Giovanni Rocha concluded the concert series on August 24 at the Southwest Corridor Community Farm in Jamaica Plain.

This free concert series is generously funded and produced by Ellen Schmidt and Jake Kensinger. The duo works with BNAN each summer to schedule the performances, book the musicians and provide sound. Special thanks, as well, to our friends Lloyd, Valdisa and Deb and Giovanni for returning each year to perform in the series.



The Leo Colon Jazz Project opened the 2011 Sounds of the Garden concert series at the Nightingale Community Garden in Dorchester on Wednesday, July 20. The group performed lively jazz standards for a crowd of nearly 70 gardeners and neighbors.



Bowdoin Street Health Center's Healthy Champions present the pickling process during Pucker Up! Pickle Making for Kids & Families on August 13 at City Natives in Mattapan. This youth crew, led by program coordinator Jennifer French, learns health, wellness, gardening and marketing concepts at the Norton & Stonehurst Streets Community Garden and the Bowdoin Geneva Farmers Market in Dorchester.

Seed, Sow & Grow Extends Season Through October

Seed, Sow & Grow, BNAN's free workshop series, provided a fit and healthy lineup of summer programs, kicking off with "Are You Garden Fit?". On a sunny Saturday morning in July, twenty gardeners of differing ages and abilities participated in a trio of exercise workshops geared towards preparing for the physical rigors of gardening. Instructors Elizabeth Knapp, Garry Sanon, and Stephanie Webbe led half hour sessions of yoga, basic strength training, and Zumba respectively. The workshops were both calming and energetic and left participants feeling rejuvenated and ready to garden.

Late summer programs provided fresh produce preparation tips with "Summer Cooking in the Garden" and an opportunity to visit "Dorchester Community Gardens by Bicycle". Additional programs included the "South End Community Gardens Walking Tour" and the "East Boston Community Gardens Bicycle Tour" offering active choices for gardening families. The highlight of the summer was "Pucker Up! Pickle Making for Kids & Families" held in August. This interactive program was presented by members of Bowdoin Street Health Center's youth program Healthy Champions. Participants in the program learned the process of making refrigerator pickles and then went on to make a jar of their own using fresh produce from City Natives and Newton Community Farm.

Seed, Sow & Grow wraps up in October. However, do not fret, you can use what you learn at the two final programs to enjoy your garden well into the winter. Join Garden Educator Erika Rumbley for Extend Your Growing Season in September to learn simple, low-cost techniques to raise crops later into the fall. "Season extending is my favorite gardening topic to teach", says Erika, "I get excited to show gardeners ways to protect cool season annuals from freezing temperatures with row covers. It's incredibly satisfying to extend the New England growing season and eat your own greens from under the snow."

Looking to enjoy garden-grown green beans in February? Learn this practice in "Canning: How To Preserve Your Harvest" in October. Gardeners Elnora Thompson and Vivien Morris will guide you through the process of safely processing and preserving your produce for year-round enjoyment. Discussion will include the benefits of a diet rich in vegetables and preparation methods that best preserve nutrients in your canned produce.

Check the calendar section of this newsletter for the full listing for these programs. Registration is required for each and participants are urged to register early.

Produce to Pantries: Rallying Community Gardens and Local Farms

After the success of BNAN's Boston Gardeners Council's "Plant-a-Row for Haiti" project last season, the BGC expanded its efforts this year by partnering with three different food pantries throughout the city of Boston in order to reach more people with fresh produce donations. These pantries include the Haitian-American Public Health Institute (HAPHI) in Mattapan, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dorchester, and the Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, also in Dorchester. This year's "Produce to Pantries" project began in mid-July with donations from gardeners at ten community gardens in the South End, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Dorchester and Mattapan. Many donations also come from four local farms in the Greater Boston area including Bradley Farm, Brookwood Farm, Land's Sake Farm, and Powisset Farm.

In the first four weeks of the program, over two thousand pounds of produce have been donated to the three pantries, nearly five hundred of which has come from community gardens and BNAN's own City Natives Learning Garden in Mattapan. The Produce to Pantries effort involves approximately twenty volunteers who help out weekly with transporting, weighing, sorting, and distributing the donations. An exciting addition to this year's project includes two enthusiastic bikers who, in an effort to keep the project as green as possible, volunteer both their time and energy to deliver produce on two wheels. Produce to Pantries will continue through the end of the summer into the fall months. The last scheduled donation day is October 28.



Volunteers Dawn Graichen-Moore and Kafi Dixon prepare produce donations from the Learning Garden for the Produce to Pantries program.

Boston's Tree Canopy continued from page 1

in addition to running a small tree care business in Michigan, Mat was the Project Forester for Global Releaf of Michigan, a non profit dedicated to educating the public on the value of trees and the need to properly select, plant and maintain them. "We are delighted to have someone of Mat's experience in Urban Forestry join our staff," says BNAN Director of Property Jeremy Dick. "His knowledge and skills will greatly benefit Boston's Urban Forest Program."

The initial effort of the Boston Urban Forest Program will be the facilitation of the Grow Boston Greener tree grant program for community groups. Currently funded by the City of Boston, this small grant program will provide funding for organizations to plant trees in their neighborhoods. BNAN plans to release an application for Grow Boston Greener in early September with the aim to plant over 150 trees this fall. Look for more information on BNAN's website about the Boston Urban Forest Program and the Grow Boston Greener Tree grant round in the coming months.

Dorchester Youth Tend Community Gardens

This summer in community gardens across Dorchester, children and youth did a lot more than grow vegetables. They exercised, learned about urban soils and made friends. On rainy days, they discovered dill pickles and basic nutrition.

As part of the Dorchester-based Boston Is Growing Gardens (BIGG) program, BNAN Garden Educator, Erika Rumbley, taught gardening workshops for over 150 youth participants in summer programs run by our community partners. These partners include Bowdoin Street Health Center, Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation and Grace Christian Academy.

In an ever-popular Garden Scavenger Hunt, teams of kids hunted for roots, leaves and fruits that were ready to harvest. The winning team enjoyed the first taste of the resulting garden salad. When youth were not eating out of their garden plots, they sold their cucumbers, eggplant, collards and corn to neighbors. Bowdoin Street Health Center and Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation organized youth stands at their local farmers markets. Both programs benefitted from Erika's workshop on proper harvesting techniques.

You don't have to join a community garden to get your hands dirty. Over sixty youth from Dorchester Over the Summer, a camp sponsored by Saint Mark Parish and the City of Boston, took field trips to City Natives this summer. Following an interactive tour of the garden, youth planted containers of salad greens to take home and feasted on the City Natives raspberry patch.

Next season, BNAN will continue to support these partner organizations as they tend community garden plots and grow food with youth. Erika commented, "Each of our partners is drawn to food gardening as a hands-on way to fulfill their mission, whether that is wellness or neighborhood development. Our task is to provide the technical assistance their staff needs to grow a healthy, bountiful garden." Write to erika@bostonnatural.org to volunteer in a community garden-based youth program.



Elizabeth Reardon helps children from Grace Christian Academy discover pollinators in their plot at Nightingale Community Garden.

Meet the Learning Garden Volunteer Crew

Walking down Edgewater Drive in Mattapan just past seven on a Tuesday morning, you'll get a nice surprise. While the city sleeps, BNAN's City Natives bustles with activity, as volunteers cut salad greens from planters along the Neponset River, fill buckets with bell peppers and collect bins of pickling cucumbers. Others wash and bunch the harvest before it is whisked away to the food pantry at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Dorchester.

These bountiful harvests are the work of the Learning Garden Volunteer Crew. A dozen Master Urban Gardener and MUGatHOME graduates, the Volunteer Crew plants and tends the Learning Garden with the guidance of BNAN Garden Educator, Erika Rumbley. Gardening together on Tuesdays and Saturdays through October, this dedicated Crew models intensive urban gardening practices. The Crew is a joyful bunch, bringing a diverse collection of skills and backgrounds to our work together.

Earlier this summer, Angela Murray would end each Crew by harvesting extra callaloo to give to her Mattapan neighbors. Angela, a Jamaican native who works in Boston Public Schools, is known to share instructions for using the medicinal weeds we encounter. Everyone listens when Angela begins, "In the islands, people use this leaf for..."

Hector Cruz is a Colombian community organizer from East Boston. He brings humor and a sense of mischief to the Crew. A patient gardener, Hector's diligent watering ensured that our seedlings thrived through the summer's hottest weeks. Long finished with his MUG volunteer hours, Hector continues to devote his time to the Learning Garden and youth garden education in East Boston.

Nancy Havelka gardens near Egleston Square in Jamaica Plain. Like Hector, she has long since surpassed her volunteer hours. We knew Nancy was dedicated when on a hot July day, she joined us at the Learning Garden after a clean-up workday in her own community garden.

These are just a few of the dedicated gardeners in our Learning Garden Volunteer Crew. If you are interested in joining us on Tuesday mornings or Saturday afternoons, write to erika@bostonnatural.org.



Volunteer Angela Murray



Volunteer Hector Cruz

Students Begin School With Gardens

This fall, there are fourteen schools participating in the SLUG (Students Learning Through Urban Gardening) program. Students are returning to their raised bed gardens and indoor grow labs. This summer for the first time, MUG volunteers pitched in to weed, water and plant SLUG school gardens over the summer vacation. It is a win-win: school gardens are tended and MUG volunteers gain a bit more gardening experience while giving back to their neighborhoods.

The SLUG Teacher Training, an all-day session, will be held this year on Saturday, October 15. All SLUG teachers are encouraged to attend.

SLUG trains Boston Public School teachers to integrate gardening into their classrooms. All Boston Public Schools are eligible to participate. To learn more, please contact us at slug@bostonnatural.org.

Greenway Connection Moving Forward in East Boston

East Boston Greenway advocates are cheering a neighborhood victory with Massport's announcement, at an August community update meeting, committing to the continuation of the popular walking and biking path across the northern part of Massport property. The half-mile path will link the Greenway at the end of Bremen Street Park, across Neptune Road and Massport's North Service Area and its new Green Bus Depot and ultimately to Constitution Beach.

With the support of Mayor Thomas Menino, negotiations between Massport officials and officials from City of Boston agencies including the Boston Redevelopment Authority occurred rapidly following rulings by the Boston Conservation Commission this spring and summer. Community advocates from the East Boston Greenway Council and AIR (Airport Impact Relief), Inc., along with the delegation of East Boston's elected officials, have tirelessly worked to stress the importance of this link in the Greenway trail, which gives residents access to community parks through a safe off-road pedestrian and cycling path. Clearly the hard work is paying off.

While the exact details of the route and trail design of the path have yet to be solidified, advocates are eager for community voices to be heard in the design process, which will begin in September. We invite you to participate in this exciting development by staying up-to-date via our East Boston Greenway email list. Contact candice@bostonnatural.org to be added to the list or attend an East Boston Greenway Council meeting the 4th Thursday of each month.

EAST BOSTON GREENWAY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Thursday** **October 27, 2011 6:30 p.m.**
 East Boston YMCA, 215 Bremen St.,
 East Boston
- Thursday** **November 17, 2011 6:30 p.m.**
 East Boston YMCA, 215 Bremen St.,
 East Boston

Youth Conservation Corps Makes a Big Impact

Forty-five teens working on four crews made this summer's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) the biggest yet. Through special funding, BNAN was able to expand the original three crews to four, adding a second Neponset crew to YCC's hardworking roster. All across the city, with crews based in East Boston, West Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan, the teens worked hard for six weeks to complete open space improvement projects, learning about their environment and earning a paycheck all at the same time.

Thanks to the East Boston Crew and their supervisor Chris Marchi, the East Boston Greenway has never looked better. The crew paid special attention to making the path open and inviting to visitors through landscape management. In addition, the crew spent two days a week working at MA DCR's Belle Isle Marsh where they completed some serious trail work near the Saratoga Street entrance and made posters and interactive skits to show visitors the importance of keeping the park clean.

The Hallet Street entrance to Dorchester's Pope John Paul II Park was the hot and sunny setting for the Neponset Crew, under the guidance of returning supervisor Mujihad Muhammad. The crew expanded the work of the habitat-enhancing hummocks started by previous YCC crews, while they mulched, pruned and planted new beds.

Our new Neponset crew led by Kurt Wigmore was based in Mattapan, and dubbed themselves the "River Crew" as they spent 4.5 weeks next to the river enlarging the riverside trail behind Ryan Playground. The trail really benefited from this attention as many people are eyeing this section of trail as a possible Neponset River Greenway extension to Mattapan Square. Also a first this year, the crew worked with South Region DCR staff on projects including a dig with archeologist Ellen Berkland and building bird boxes with Ale Echandi.

Lastly, the Urban Wilds crew focused on Allandale Woods with thousands of removed invasive plants, hundreds of feet of maintained trails, and exactly 100 restorative native plants added to the landscape. Crew Supervisor Sam Rush also led the teens in advocacy letter writing and team building activities, encouraging teens to change their world.

While it was a hot summer and filled with difficult work, YCC teens did receive a few breaks to enjoy biking and canoeing their sites. Woven throughout every day were environmental education lessons as well as teachable moments, where teens learned about their parks and the ecological issues that were important at each.

As an East Boston teen put it, "I think we have worked very hard and I really think the job I am doing is going to change my community." Thanks so much for all your efforts this summer YCC!

BNAN would also like to thank our sponsors and partners for this year's program: Paul and Edith Babson Foundation, City of Boston Youth Fund, City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Copeland Family Foundation, East Boston Savings Bank, East Boston Greenway Council, Foundation M, Green Leaf Foundation, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, George Macomber Family Charitable Fund, Neponset River Greenway Council, Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust, and Individual Donors.



The hummocks at Pope John Paul II Park in Dorchester benefited from another summer of hard work done by the Neponset YCC Crew, creating new habitat on the former landfill site.



The East Boston YCC Crew spent a morning biking the East Boston Greenway and stopped at Neptune Road, a site that advocates would like to be incorporated into the future path.



Teens of the Urban Wilds YCC Crew spent part of their time this summer hauling out debris from Allandale Woods to improve water quality of its vernal pool and protect wildlife.

Summer Time Fun Spills Into Fall in Dorchester Gardens

In the midst of a busy season of food growing, community gardens in Dorchester were coming to life in yet another form. BIGG -Boston Is Growing Gardens-in Dorchester is a project that focuses on preventing and reducing the incidence of obesity in Dorchester communities. A steady diet of free garden-based workshops was offered to educate and enrich Dorchester gardeners and residents at Nightingale, Barry, Spencer, Leyland, and Lydon Way gardens.

Workshops ranged from exercise and healthy cooking demonstrations to entertaining musical performances.

Elizabeth Knapp, Garry Sanon, and Stephanie Webbe energized a group of enthusiastic gardeners and residents through yoga, basic strength training, and zumba exercises. The group left energized and prepared to handle the rigors of gardening.

Led by Gina Petracca, a group of chefs and nutritionists from *Cooking Matters* conducted two cooking demonstrations that encouraged participants to be hands-on in the preparation of healthy meals. Would-be chefs cut, sliced, chopped, and diced garden vegetables to produce meals like black bean burgers with grilled sweet potato fries. Delicious indeed.

Garden coaching, a new approach to garden mentoring, was piloted at the Nightingale and Barry Street gardens to support new gardeners. On Saturday mornings Master Urban

Gardener volunteers have been on hand to answer questions and offer advice to novice food growers.

A full schedule of workshops and events will continue through the fall to provide enrichment to the blossoming Dorchester gardening community. Watercolor painting led by Barrington Edwards will be added to the mix of community-building social events, the culmination of which will be the first annual Nightingale Community Garden Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 15. Please join us!



Dorchester resident and yoga instructor Elizabeth Knapp leads a group of gardeners in some basic yoga movements during the "Are You Garden Fit?" workshop held at Nightingale Community Garden on July 9.

Special Membership Offer

Now is a great time to become a member of Boston Natural Areas Network and support the important work we do. As a result of our affiliation with The Trustees of Reservations, new and renewing members who contribute \$50 or above for a one-year BNAN membership will also receive a complimentary, introductory one-year membership to The Trustees, the world's oldest regional land trust. Trustees' members receive free or reduced admission to all 105 properties, discounts on programs and special events, a complimentary copy of The Trustees 200-page Property Guide, a subscription to the membership quarterly and more. Please join or renew now by completing the form below. Offer ends June 30, 2012.

BNAN MEMBERSHIP FORM

Boston Natural Areas Network, Inc.

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MEMBER BENEFITS

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Boston Building Resources, Mission Hill. 5% off member price on lawn & garden tools

City Farm Florist and Nurseries, Roslindale. 10% off plants & floral arrangements, 5% off fertilizers

Advance Notice of all BNAN special events and programs

Satisfaction of knowing you are playing a vital role in protecting green space right here in the greater Boston area!



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Children from the “Dorchester Over the Summer” program listen to instructions for their edible scavenger hunt at BNAN’s City Natives greenhouses and learning garden in Mattapan.

Boston Natural Areas Network, organized in 1977, works to preserve, expand and improve urban open space through community organizing, acquisition, ownerships, programming, development and management of special kinds of urban land – Urban Wilds, Greenways and Community Gardens. In all its endeavors, BNAN is guided by local citizens advocating for their open space and assisting them to preserve and shape their community.