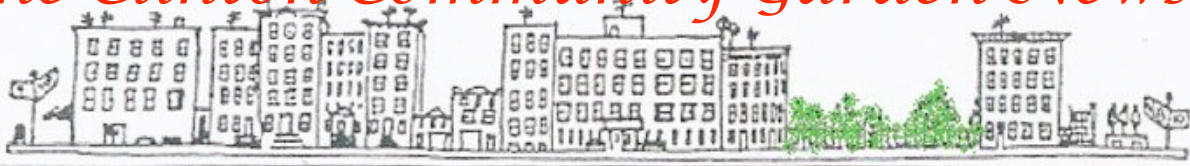


# The Clinton Community Garden News



February 2010

P.O. Box 214, New York City, NY 10108-0214

OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING is March 2, 2010 at 7:30 pm in the Fountain House basement. Refreshments will be served. At that time, we will be holding elections for several Steering Committee positions. Please consider running if your schedule permits. We meet every first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. We will be presenting the **JOHN CARNEY AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** at the meeting, and we will be accepting plot renewal forms. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## WORKING TOGETHER IS WORKING



Last year's newsletter began with an explanation of our new volunteer requirement for all back gardeners. As you know, in the past volunteering to maintain the garden as a whole has been suggested, requested, urged, but never required as a condition of gardening a plot. We're happy to report that the response of gardeners has been heartening. Gardeners have thrown themselves into sweeping the front sidewalk, emptying the garbage bins, raking leaves, and shoveling snow, among many other necessary jobs and the results speak for themselves: Clean sidewalks = an even more lovely garden. Along the way, we've picked up volunteers who don't yet have garden plots or don't necessarily want to but enjoy working outside and helping to tend our garden.

We still do have problems from time to time. Unbelievably, there are dog owners who continue to ignore the law by not cleaning up after their pets. Let's make 2010 the year we catch them. Maybe having to shell out \$450 and being known as "dog-poop perps" will inspire better behavior. Why do people dump old couches, vacuum cleaners, and other household rubbish in front of the the garden? It makes no sense. It's also quite illegal and subject to fines, so the more we're on the job and visibly keeping things clean, the fewer chances dumpers have to dump. It really makes a difference when we're all in this together, working on these problems *together*.

This year, all gardeners will again be required to select a volunteer job to write on their renewal forms. You can put down the same job you did last year or choose a new one, but please read the list of jobs carefully. If you know in advance that a job will conflict with your schedule,

please don't put that one down. There are many choices, and all make an essential contribution to the garden. **Remember, the steering committee cannot renew your plot unless you choose a job.** To clarify, **the requirement is per plot**, so if you and a partner share a plot, you can work it out between yourselves. However, partners who each have their own plot assignment must each contribute the full amount of volunteer time.

Finally, we ask that you make things as easy as possible for team captains who are scheduling you. They are volunteers, too, and scheduling human beings can be a trying experience. Last year, for example, we had very few people committed to open-hours hosting because gardeners cancelled at the last minute or made repeated changes. As a result the garden was sometimes unsupervised on weekends when the gate was open.

The Steering Committee hopes to see many of you at our upcoming Annual Meeting in March. This is our only whole-garden meeting when we elect steering committee members, and it's a chance for the steering committee to hear from you about your ideas for the garden present and future. At that time, you can personally turn in your renewal form, socialize (we'll have refreshments), and buy the garden's latest t-shirt.

Looking forward to seeing you at the garden,  
*Anne Haas & Jane Greenlaw, co-chairs*  
*& the Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee*

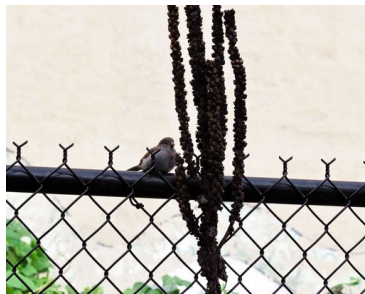
**"We will keep on gardening to get the right flower."**  
—Jose Munoz, long-time volunteer, plot holder, and member of the front-sidewalk team  
When our garbage wasn't being picked up this past fall, Jose got to the bottom of it.

## Rescuing a Young Sparrow

By Monica Hoyt

"Let's stop by the garden for just a few minutes," I said to my husband one summer evening after dinner. Thinking that it would be an uneventful evening, we were simply stopping by to take in the beauty and freshness of the flowers, trees and plants before the sun sets.

But as I walked in the front gate, over to the left was a young sparrow flopping about and unable to fly. I scooped her up and asked Jane if she knew of any wild-life rehabilitators. She kindly referred me to fellow gardeners Nancy and Steve, but they said that the New York Audubon Society would not be able to assist a sparrow.



*Monica's young friend?*

Since it was not likely that she would survive the rainy, chilly night that was predicted, my husband and I put her in a paper bag and took her home. Luckily after some research, I found Rita and Karen from the Wild Bird Fund. They work out of Animal General on Columbus Avenue and 87<sup>th</sup> Street, and were able to assist me that evening. Rita said the most important thing for an young or injured bird is warmth and fluids. She instructed me to put her in a box with just a few paper towels and then put the cardboard box on the television cable box! It turns out that the cable box is just about 97°F, and just about the perfect temperature to warm up a little bird. Next, take a blueberry, strawberry, or grape, and rub it gently on the side of the beak, allowing the bird to take in the fluid. Rita mentioned that with all the rain and unseasonably cold weather, the fledglings were having a hard time staying warm. Luckily, this bird was ready to be on her own. One can tell by the length of the tail feathers approximately how old a bird is. Her tail feathers were a little over an inch, an indication that she no longer needed her parents to survive.

After this was accomplished, I let her rest a bit, and she began to sit up, but preferred not to, so it was more than the cold that was affecting this little creature. At this point, I gave her a dose of Arnica 30C, a homeopathic remedy that is very beneficial to humans and animals after they've experienced trauma. It was not easy to open her beak to drop the crushed pellet in her mouth. Keeping in mind how much she needed it, my husband and I managed to get it down.

In the morning, she seemed to have improved a little bit, but her head was tilted. Luckily, Karen from Animal General was able to see us that morning. Karen diagnosed her with a concussion. Birders are quite familiar with this

phenomenon as birds fly into windows all the time with the many windowed office buildings in Manhattan.

"Give a drop of this inflammatory on the side of the beak twice per day for three to four days, and either she'll get better or she won't," said Karen. With seed and a newly improved plastic temporary housing unit, I went home.

(Rita mentioned that wild birds sometimes don't do well in cages as they can hurt themselves trying to get out before they are completely well. I was learning so many things about wild birds!)

Along with the anti-inflammatory, I gave her Arnica 30C three times daily per Rita's instruction, and by the end of day two, she improved dramatically. So that evening I gave her Arnica in a 200C. It wasn't easy to handle such a little bird as they are so delicate and get quite anxious when held, but since it was evident that she was getting better, I continued.

On day four, she clearly wanted out of the cage. Rita suggested doing a flight test in the bathroom. Since she could fly up, it appeared she was ready to go home. Since it is important to release the bird where you found her, my husband and I returned to the garden. It was such a joy to see her fly out of the cage, up into a tree, onto the fence by the back plots and then merge with the flock.

We often don't know what to do when we find an injured, wild creature, but I learned that with assistance, in just a few days an animal has a second chance. Some people don't care much for pigeons, sparrows, or starlings, but these animals also call New York City their home and deserve to live their lives peacefully. The Clinton Community Garden is a true oasis, not only for us, but for them. Their song tells me so. The garden also provides safety for young birds learning to fly.

There are different ways to assist wildlife, and not everyone will be able to bring a bird into their home. It's important to note that it's not legal to keep a wild creature without the assistance of a licensed rehabilitator, so I've gathered some resources. Another caution: Watch carefully before you intervene! Sometimes young birds just learning to fly may seem to be in trouble, but in many cases are still being looked after by parents standing by to help. The Wild Bird Fund can provide advice. For a list of resources, see the box on page 3.

**The Clinton Community Garden is a true oasis, not only for us, but for them. Their song tells me so.**

## Resources for Wildlife Assistance:

Rita and Karen from the Wild Bird Fund are the best. They will assist with any bird including pigeons:

[www.wildbirdfund.com](http://www.wildbirdfund.com). 646-306-2862.

Meg Myles will take any bird: 212-362-4237.

Rehab people in NYC and tips for caring for wildlife:

[www.nycwildlife.org](http://www.nycwildlife.org).

NYC Audubon: For bird identification and related questions, call bird Identification Hotline at 212-691-2003 or e-mail:

[birdid@nycaudubon.org](mailto:birdid@nycaudubon.org).

Rehab for injured small mammals: Carol Vinzant, 212-979-5327 or 917-566-4859; [cvinzant@pipeline.com](mailto:cvinzant@pipeline.com).

Homeopathic First Aid Tips for Wildlife: [www.ewildagain.org](http://www.ewildagain.org)  
(Two remedies are essential: Arnica 30C for injuries, and Nux Vomica 30C for poisoning.)

**Where to Find It:****Selected Plant Resources****PERENNIAL PLANTS:**

Sunlight Gardens,  
Andersonville, TN  
[www.sunlightgardens.com](http://www.sunlightgardens.com)  
wildflowers, ferns, vines, perennials, shrubs, many native plants.

Niche Gardens, Chapel Hill, NC  
[www.nichegardens.com](http://www.nichegardens.com)

**SEEDS:**

Horizon Herbs, Williams, OR  
[www.horizonherbs.com](http://www.horizonherbs.com), Specializing in medicinal and culinary herbs; they also sell herb plants.

Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds  
[www.kitchengardenseeds.com](http://www.kitchengardenseeds.com)  
A resource for seeds, recipes, and horticultural tips

Johnny's Selected Seeds, Winslow, ME  
[www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com) Seeds, fertilizers, garden gear.

The Cook's Garden, Warminster, PA  
[www.cooksgarden.com](http://www.cooksgarden.com)

**BULBS:**

John Scheepers, Inc., Bantam, CT  
[www.johnscheepers.com](http://www.johnscheepers.com), Excellent retail source for the small garden.

Brent and Becky' Bulbs, Gloucester, VA  
[www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com](http://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com)

**ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE FERTILIZERS AND SOIL ENHANCERS THAT REALLY WORK:**

Gardens Alive, Lawrenceburg, IN  
[www.GardensAlive.com](http://www.GardensAlive.com), Especially recommended products: Tomatoes Alive Plus, Flowers Alive, Roses Alive, Bulbs Alive, Bioboost.

**GARDEN CENTERS IN OUR AREA:**

**Victoria's Nursery:** 578 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ 07652; 201-251-2555 (no web site); Carries an enormous selection of perennials, annuals, roses; where you can also find unusual plants for your garden, from April 15.

**Union Square Greenmarket:** Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat. Especially recommended vendors: Race Farms, Mon., April-June, quality perennials, annuals, herbs (from July on,

fruits and vegetables and baked goods); Scarborough Farms, Mon., April-September, herbs, culinary and medicinal; Silver Heights Farm, Wed. and Sat., April-Oct., organic, open pollinated, unusual, and heirloom vegetable plants and herbs. **Chelsea Garden Center**, 11th Ave., near West 43rd St.

[www.chelseagardencenter.com](http://www.chelseagardencenter.com).

**GARDENING MAGAZINES:**

Horticulture [www.hortmag.com](http://www.hortmag.com)

**Organic Gardening:**

[www.organicgardening.com](http://www.organicgardening.com)  
Contains useful articles, suggestions and resources for chemical-free gardening

**PLANT INFO ON THE WEB:**

Dave's Garden  
[www.davesgarden.com](http://www.davesgarden.com), good info on plants, helpful photos.

(Sources collected and annotated by Jane Greenlaw. First printed a couple of years ago, this list was appreciated by many gardeners, so we're offering it once again.)



## The Children's Garden Is Changing

Having struggled with a somewhat inhospitable spot for a children's garden for almost ten years, I recently decided it was time for change. The area under the spruce tree near the hose will now be a children's place with some plantings and space to sit. I hope to get a child-size picnic table where kids can do drawing and projects like checking out insects and interesting leaves under a magnifying glass. This would also be a great spot for story time. By spring I hope to have a soft covering of grass growing there. Combined with the shelter of the beautiful spruce above, kids will have a place of their own for cooling off in the summer. I will continue to care for the plantings, but eventually I'd like to hand that job over to other garden parents. Interested? Send an e-mail to [ccgsc@clintoncommunitygarden.org](mailto:ccgsc@clintoncommunitygarden.org) and write "Children's Garden" in the subject line.—Anne Haas



*This photo shows a rock garden my son, Benji, and I made when he was seven or eight years old. The entire space was divided into smaller gardens and included an herb bed, bee and butterfly bed, and a shade garden. —A.H.*

### Want to write for the newsletter?

We'd like to put out the newsletter more often. Some ideas for contributions are a Garden Q&A, anecdotes about experiences in the garden, stories about wildlife at the garden, recipes, and interviews with fellow gardeners about their plots and their lives. We're also interested in photos and illustrations of the garden. For more information, e-mail us at [ccgsc@clintoncommunitygarden.org](mailto:ccgsc@clintoncommunitygarden.org) and write "Newsletter contributions" in the subject line.



2009 WAS A BRUSSELS SPROUTS AND CABBAGES SUMMER at the garden. A combination of lots of both available through our spring plant sale and perhaps the weather seemed to ensure a few in each plot. For anyone planning on growing brussels sprouts this year, be sure to give them time. They can grow deep into the fall and will improve in taste with colder temperatures.

Not sure what to do with the knobby little heads once you've picked them? Boiling is not at all necessary! Try them raw. You'll find them to be crisp and sweet. Or do this:

**Trim the sprouts, cut in half.  
Place in a bowl and sprinkle with soy sauce and some squeezes of fresh lemon. Saute them in a tablespoon or so of olive oil. Lightly season with pepper, sea salt, and thyme. Eh, voilà!**

*Look for our garden on FaceBook, thanks to gardener Stan Friedman! Updating of our Web site is also planned for this year.*