

ACGA Adopts *Garden Mosaics*

At its February meeting, the ACGA Board of Directors voted to assume responsibility for promotion and distribution of *Garden Mosaics*. This curriculum is a National Science Foundation funded informal science education program developed by Cornell University that connects youth and elders to investigate the mosaic of plants, people, and cultures in gardens, to learn about science, and to act together to enhance their community. The program responds to the fact that educators and community-based organization staff often lack the training and resources needed to provide children with informal science-based learning in urban agriculture and the environment. As a result, urban youth rarely are aware of where their food comes from, the scientific processes needed for food production, and how the quality of the environment impacts local gardening.

On March 15, two dozen ACGA members participated in a Teleconference Workshop led by new ACGA director and current *Garden Mosaics* program manager, Keith Tidball. Jo Ann Whitehead of Boston Natural Areas Network and Emelie Swackhamer of Pennsylvania Extension in Allentown described how they have used *Garden Mosaics* as a “learn and serve” program. For more information go to www.gardenmosaics.cornell.edu or link from www.communitygarden.org.



ACGA Joins NGA with National Garden Month & NYC Grows

ACGA is joining with the National Gardening Association (NGA) in **National Garden Month**, a nationwide celebration and promotion to increase the popularity of gardening and its many benefits.

This year, NGA is partnering with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, ACGA, and Les Dames d’Escoffier International to present **NYC GROWS**, a multi-day celebration.



For two weeks, NYC GROWS events will focus on different gardening themes such as environmental stewardship, health and wellness, community development, home gardening (with a focus on container and rooftop gardening), and plant-based education. On Tuesday, ACGA will join Mayor Bloomberg and NGA in announcing the Adopt a Community Garden program.

On Saturday, April 29, 2006, the NYC GROWS Garden Festival in Union Square Park will be located adjacent to the popular Greenmarket in Union Square between 14th and 17th Streets. ACGA will sport a booth in conjunction with the Council on the Environment of New York City, Whole Foods-New York, and Rodale. Other ACGA member organizations are also participating, including Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Green Guerillas, GreenThumb, Horticultural Society of NYC, New Haven Land Trust, and New York Restoration Project.