

2016 Shirley Meneice Conference

Report to the LMGC by Morrison, Horticulture Chair, September 2016

The 2016 GCA Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference was held at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden September 19-21, 2016. The title of the conference was *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Featured sites included the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Brooklyn Bridge Park, and Prospect Park.

Many of the lectures and small group tours and demonstrations focused on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and practices used in New York public gardens and parks. Scot Medbury, President of the BBG, spoke about the educational, horticultural and conservation programs of the BBG. We heard another comprehensive lecture about Prospect Park and its history and design, and a fascinating lecture by renowned landscape architect Darrel Morrison. Much of the two days at BBG was devoted to tours and demonstrations on a wide range of topics, including rose garden care, orchids, bonsai, tool maintenance, seed saving, Japanese pruning, tours of the various specialty gardens, sustainable gardening, making compost tea, growing organic herbs, vegetables and fruit trees, and water conservation. We also had a zone horticulture meeting, which was very informative and an excellent chance to meet other horticulture chairs from our region.



Brooklyn Botanic Garden



View from Martha Stewart's house looking toward the horse barn on her Bedford farm

On the optional third day, I attended a tour of several gardens in the Hudson River Valley, including the Untermyer Gardens in Yonkers, several beautiful private gardens, and Martha Stewart's farm, Cantitoe Corners, in Bedford (her farm, gardens and refreshments were of course perfect).

I learned so much during the conference, and had a unique opportunity to meet women from around the country interested in horticulture and eager to share their knowledge and experience. And everyone offered great kudos to Minnesota for our exceptional annual meeting this summer! Thank you for this opportunity.