



# Simply Green

## Live Well, Tread Gently

### ISSUE XI December: Celebrating in a “Green” Way

**Christmas Tree Recycling:** Make a dent in reducing holiday waste this year by recycling your fresh Christmas tree after you are done celebrating. Planet Manhasset's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual tree recycling day is scheduled for January 10, 2009, from 9 am – 12:00 pm in the parking lot of the Congregational Church, compliments of Hefferin Tree service. Instead of taking up valuable space in landfills, where decay is painfully slow because of a lack of oxygen, Christmas trees can be readily ground into wood chips or made into useful compost. Considering that nearly 29 million households opted for a real Christmas tree in 2006, that's a lot of wood chips! Bring a strong bag to take home your mulch, or donate it to the Church.

**Think “outside the box” when wrapping gifts.** Wrap gifts with colorful newspaper “funnies,” or create personalized collages and get your children involved. Make the box part of the gift, with reusable canvas-covered organizers or woven straw boxes. Better yet, put gifts inside a reusable shopping tote. Instead of disposable bows and ribbons, attach a sprig of berries or some pretty leaves or shells with twine.

**Want to set a great “green” holiday table?** Consider using recycled glassware, which is available at various price levels, from stores such as Target, Crate & Barrel, and various online shops. Use cloth napkins instead of paper. It's more elegant and will avoid wasting paper; wash with regular laundry load to avoid wasting energy. Beeswax candles or candles made from hydrogenated soybean oil or palm oil do not contain stearic acid (derived from animal and vegetable fats) and other additives in most conventional dripless paraffin candles. Think of serving organic wine or champagne. There is a wide variety available at most liquor stores and online.

**Still need some gift ideas?** These sites offer a vast selection of green gift items and ideas:

- The Daily Green <http://www.thedailygreen.com>
- TreeHugger <http://www.treehugger.com>
- The Nature Conservancy <http://support.nature.org/>
- The Environmental Defense Fund <http://www.edf.org/article.cfm?contentID=5616>
- **Have an urban treehugger on your list?** The TreeBranch Network is New York City's Internet Portal to Environmental and Urban Quality-of-Life Issues. Make a \$50 tax-deductible gift towards a tree planting in the Gateway National Recreation Area, with units in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island or Sandy Hook, New Jersey. It is primarily made up of “retired” United States military facilities that need to be re-naturalized and recycled for new uses. Native trees and shrubs are an important priority. Friends of Gateway's Gateway Greenhouse Education Center has been set up to meet that need and the greening needs of the New York City community gardens and neighborhood organizations. Read more at <http://www.treebranch.com/PlantTrees.htm>.
- **Need a gift for an outdoor enthusiast?** Why not give a national parks pass or a membership to botanical gardens or aquariums. Your Annual Pass which costs \$80 covers Entrance Fees or Standard Amenity Fees at sites managed by USDA Forest Service, National Parks Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation, is valid for one year, Provides entrance or access to pass holder and accompanying passengers in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle at Federally operated recreation sites across the country, and covers the pass holder and three (3) accompanying adults age 16 and older at sites where per person entrance fees are charged. No entry fee for children 15 and under. Check out the National Park Service's site for information [http://www.nps.gov/fees\\_passes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm).
- **Adopt an endangered sea creature in someone's name** at <http://www.oceana.org> (\$35-\$150). Adopt one of the creatures for you or a loved one and your donation will help Oceana's work to protect these creatures and their habitats. As a token of thanks, you may choose between Oceana's famous creature cookie cutters or a huggable

plush stuffed animal as a gift to be sent out to the person of your choice. Other gifts include Oceana oven mitt and framed adoption certificate. Orders placed by December 18 receive free shipping.

For more information on Planet Manhasset or any SCA committee/event, please visit <http://www.manhassetsca.org>  
Questions/comments? Please e-mail: [PlanetManhasset@yahoo.com](mailto:PlanetManhasset@yahoo.com)

Tips are provided as information only. Planet Manhasset presents this data as is, without any warranty of any kind, express or implied.