



August, 2013

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Brookside Gardens is one of the Washington metro areas most popular and beautiful public gardens. It is a source of inspiration, a place for enjoyment, exercise, and education for thousands of people representing the diverse community of Montgomery County and the region.



The Friends of Brookside Gardens takes great pride in supporting the Gardens through a wide array of programs and services, recognizing as we do that the value of public gardens cannot be underestimated. Brookside Gardens energizes and enriches everyone who experiences it.

In essence, FOBG provides substantial financial support to the Gardens through our events and thereby we help to create a set of circumstances that makes it possible for thousands of people to do something at Brookside.

As the heat and lush beauty of August slows our pace of life, it gives us a chance to plan how we will be engaged with the events of Brookside Gardens. The Fall/Winter issue of Brookside Gardens Xperience magazine describes boundless opportunities for children and adults, ranging from plant shows

and conservatory displays to garden demos and special events.

Take the opportunity to attend the September 7 (10 am-3pm) annual FOBG Fall Plant Sale. Members of FOBG have been preparing for it since early spring, nurturing each selection throughout the summer so that the plants will be at their best on the day they make their premier to the public.

Be sure to attend the Holidays in the Garden Gala Silent Auction on Saturday, November 9 from 5:00-8:30 pm. It promises to be an exciting evening, made possible by FOBG, which will benefit the Gardens with each item sold, including art work by well-known artists, gift baskets, classes, entertainment and more. Four musical groups will set the mood as you enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres and wine. You can register by email to FriendsOfBrookside-Gardens@yahoo.com or call 301-962-1435. The fee is \$25 for FOBG members if you register by October 19 or \$35 after that date.

This year has passed so quickly and your membership will soon expire. Expect our reminder to be in your mailbox the first week of October. Please return your renewal promptly, so that FOBG can send your new cards by mail on October 30th. Please remember all the opportunities that Brookside Gardens offers you and renew at the highest level you can afford.

Suzanne



Annual Plant Sale

September 7, 2013

Saturday, 10:00AM-3:00PM

Open to Public - RAIN or SHINE

*8:00-10:00AM FOBG Members Only
10% Discount for Members*



We accept
Visa and MC,
checks or cash

- *Plants selected for Seasonal Appeal*
- *Dwarf Conifers*
- *Hard-to-find Perennials*
- *Woodies, and MORE!*
- *Raffle of container garden*

**Brookside Gardens
Visitors Center Lawn
1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902**

**For more information:
301 962-1435 or
www.bgfriends.org**

In this and future issues of FOBG's *The Brooksider*, we will include a new series of articles titled "Brookside from the Inside." These articles are based on conversations with the Brookside Gardens' staff horticulturists whose inspiration, skill and hard work create and re-create the gardens that we love. We will look at what drew BG staff members to a professional life in horticulture and public gardens, and how they feel about working in a changing environment that is always on display. We'll take a stab at understanding their complex jobs that require a visionary, designer, project manager – who can dig, maintain plantings and diagnose problems. We'll let them tell us about their areas of responsibility, their challenges and successes, and what they like best about Brookside.

We hope "Brookside from the Inside" will enhance your enjoyment of the gardens by giving you a new perspective on how it all happens.

Julia Horman, co-editor

Brookside from the Inside *a look at what it takes to make it all happen*

By **Julia Horman**

If you are a regular visitor at Brookside, you've probably developed a strong sense of connection to the gardens - they are embedded in your psyche. You cherish the peace and comfort of the place, enjoying its beauty in all seasons. Patterns of color, texture and bloom are familiar. You have your favorite routes and vistas and you mourn the loss of a favorite tree or shrub. As a matter of fact, you may feel like you own the place, so you won't be surprised to hear that Brookside's lead gardeners feel the same way!

Roger Haynes, who is responsible for Brookside's Rose and Trial Gardens, describes himself and the rest of the gardening staff, as happy members of the world's oldest profession. When you raise your eyebrows at that comment, Roger will suggest that you check out the Bible or other early historical sources for references to our responsibility to care for the garden. It's his view that Brookside's success is based on its lead gardeners taking ownership of

their assigned areas.

Gardening has always been part of Roger's life. He grew up on a farm in the Fairland area of Silver Spring, Maryland, and now finds some irony in the fact that a once-hated chore of weeding a 60-foot flower bed has turned into a desirable career. In spite of the weeding, Roger knew early on that he wanted to work outdoors, especially after taking a summer job in a basement office with no windows. (He even suggested that we sit outside during our interview for this article.)

Initially, Roger planned to study Forestry in college, but concern about earning a living led him to switch his major to Horticulture – Flowers and Ornamentals. After graduation from the University of Maryland, he applied for a position at Brookside Gardens. This is how he describes the interview: *Roger tells the interviewer, "I'm interested in working anywhere on the grounds."* The interviewer asks, "Can you fix



doorknobs?" Roger answers, "Sure, I can fix doorknobs." Interviewer nods and offers Roger a job. Since the beginning of his career at Brookside, Roger has been working in the Rose Garden. In 1987, he was given responsibility for the Trial Garden and recently picked up the 40th Anniversary Grove; he also works on exotic/invasive weed control. Roger tells us that he loves his job – but, 33 years later, he is still wondering when he will get that doorknob assignment.

Roger's two main areas of responsibility have very different characteristics and requirements. The Rose Garden's overall design was established during Brookside's early development phase. Its enclosure and strong structural elements give us a sense of permanence. In contrast, the Trial Garden offers design challenges to the gardeners and the excitement of seasonal and thematic changes to visitors. In describing how his responsibilities fit into Brookside as a whole, Roger recalls Brookside's mission to foster appreciation for the art of gardening and the science of horticulture. He says he keeps Brookside's visitors in mind as he designs, maintains and presents his areas for their appreciation and education.



Brookside's visitors rarely miss the Rose Garden. Although its featured plant is a romantic favorite, universally recognized in both form and fragrance, the rose is a plant that we may not have in our home gardens. Roses are very difficult to grow well in our area even when we comply with their strict maintenance regime of regular spraying, fertilizing, pruning

and weeding. Brookside's Rose Garden offers its visitors the pleasure of well-grown roses without all the work and expense. For many years, All American Rose Selection (AARS) supplied Brookside with award-winning plants for display in the garden. The current extensive collection stems from the AARS program. Roger is happy to say that frequent annual AARS awards for the high quality of Brookside's Rose Garden resulted in some very good internal performance evaluations for him.

As Roger told me stories about his success in the gardens, I noticed that they frequently related to the way a garden changes from one moment to the next. One was about creating instant change. Roger described an invasion of Canadian thistle in the Rose Garden. Struggling with this weed, which is difficult to pull up and resistant to herbicides, Roger thought about the basic survival needs of plants –soil, water and light. In the Rose Garden, there wasn't much he could do about the soil and water, but he could control light. Using landscape cloth, he covered all the areas where the thistle was growing and then added mulch. In an instant, the thistle was gone! Although it was about a year before the garden was actually thistle-free, Roger was pleased that this success was achieved without the use of chemicals.

Another success story focused on the wisteria growing along the pergola and an unexpected change in the appearance of the garden. The flowering buds on the wisteria form early in the spring and are at risk of being killed by late-spring frosts. Roger said he was always watching the weather reports. One year, after the buds were about one and half inches long, there was an overnight freeze warning. Roger knew the buds would die if they froze. Determined to save a much-anticipated Rose Garden display, he decided to try a technique that is used in Florida to protect fruit from freezing. Roger set up sprinklers along the pergola to keep the wisteria buds continually irrigated; he kept the water running throughout the night. In the morning, Roger found that his buds had survived. He also discovered that his plan had changed the appearance of his garden – it had created an amazing ice show with a display of foot-long icicles hanging from the pergola. He said it was fun

to watch people lining up to take pictures of his Rose Garden's beautiful ice sculptures! Although some of the ice weighed down the roses and broke some of the clematis, judicious pruning saved those plants, too.

The Trial Garden's name tells us that it's all about change. It's also an area for education – a place where Brookside's visitors expect to find new ideas for their home gardens. Creating new displays for the Trial Garden's five planting areas is demanding – Roger and his seasonal staff need inspiration, planning and execution skill. To keep the regularly changing displays in top condition, they have to commit to a meticulous maintenance schedule. Even with some repetition in theme, like the annual bulb and mum displays, the Trial Garden keeps Roger and his team focused on the future. They must begin planning their displays at least ten months to a year in advance of installation and maintain close communication with the growers throughout the planning and development stages. Roger says he is always on the look-out for new and unusual plants and catchy combinations. Ideas come from many sources, including other public display gardens, HGTV programs, and even chance sightings like an unusual Sorghum plant spotted growing in southern Maryland. Although Roger didn't start out with an art background, he is pleased with his progress as a designer and particularly likes the effects that he and his seasonal staff have achieved when they approach the Trial Garden as a whole.

Roger never loses sight of how much he loves working at Brookside, but he tells us that, like any job, his has its downsides. For him, the most difficult part is trying to control insects, diseases, deer or anything else that damages or degrades the plants in his area. Dressing up in a Tyvek suit and spraying the roses on a hot summer morning is probably the worst task. That's a job that puts him in the Rose Garden well before sunrise, hoping to beat the heat. Ranking a close second to spraying, is dealing with the frustration of having plants stolen from the designs.

Returning to the positive side of working at Brookside, Roger says that he loves all the help he gets from his 17 volunteers and appreciates their skill and ability to fill in the labor gaps. He says that Brookside would not achieve what it does without the Volunteer Program.



Personally, Roger finds his gardens peaceful and very rewarding. He enjoys looking around and seeing something he has done well, and watching the visitors enjoying the gardens that he helped create. He hopes that visitors don't miss the bulb display and the first flush of roses. Other favorite areas are the Gude Garden, looking east to take in the whole garden, and the Azalea Garden in spring.

Roger and I talked a bit about his home garden, which he says is nothing like the huge gardens of his childhood. But he was happy to report that his family just had some fresh green beans for dinner! Roger also had a little advice for us taken from personal experience: do not plant autumn-blooming clematis and do not fertilize tomatoes until after they bloom.

Roger's message for the members of FOBG is "Thank you for helping us." Then he adds, "Don't forget that the garden is constantly changing, from one moment to the next, one day to the next, one season to the next – so come often and stay long!"

In this and future issues of *The Brooksider*, we will provide a listing of upcoming FOBG sponsored events and Brookside Gardens adult programs. The list will be updated as information becomes available. We hope this will be helpful in planning how you can take advantage of all that Brookside Gardens has to offer. Additional offerings, such as children's programs, art exhibits and excursions are available in the [Experience](#) program guide.

FOBG Sponsored Events

	Date	ParkPASS #
FOBG Fall Plant Sale	09/07/13	-----
Children's Day	09/21/13	-----
FOBG Free Lecture: Colors of Fall with Native Plants	11/01/13	248602
FOBG Silent Auction	11/09/13	-----
FOBG Free Lecture: Design-less Gardening	11/15/13	248603
FOBG Free Lecture: Beautiful Buffets	12/06/13	248604
FOBG Greens Sale	12/07/13	-----
FOBG Orchid Show and Sale	03/15/14	-----
FOBG Orchid Show and Sale	03/16/14	-----

Brookside Gardens Adult Programs

	Date	ParkPASS #
Focus on Butterflies	08/11/13	229306
Focus on Butterflies	08/24/13	229307
Focus on Butterflies	09/07/13	229399
Low Tunnel Construction	09/14/13	248605
Crop Mob at Sharp Farm	09/14/13	248199
Crop Mob at Sharp Farm	09/14/13	248200
Kokedama	09/15/13	248699
Indian Summer Sizzle	09/17/13	248749
Ayurveda	09/18/13	248149
Demo: Creating the Peacocks	09/20/13	248549
New Ways With Eggplant	09/24/13	247949
New Ways With Eggplant	09/24/13	247950
Eggplant Eggstravaganza	09/25/13	247999
Local Gardening Resources	09/26/13	248802
Autumn Tour of the Gardens	09/27/13	248550
A Visit to the Green Farmacy	10/02/13	248249
Regionally Adapted Plants	10/03/13	248803
Autumn Tour of McCrillis Gardens	10/04/13	248551
Composting and Vermicomposting	10/08/13	248805
Cooking Carousel	10/09/13	248000
The Ayurvedic Fall Cleanse	10/13/13	248099
Fresh Ways with Market Bouquets	10/15/13	248750
Champion Tree Tour	10/16/13	248250
The Drunken Botanist with Amy Stewart	10/17/13	245899

Local Gardening 102	10/17/13	248804
Demo: Plants and Construction	10/18/13	248552
Winter Squash	10/22/13	247951
Winter Squash	10/22/13	247952
Winter Brights	10/23/13	248001
The 2 for 1 Container	10/25/13	245849
The 2 for 1 Container	10/25/13	245850
Fall Conservatory Tour	11/01/13	248554
Colors of Fall with Native Plants	11/01/13	248602
Anatomy of a Leaf	11/06/13	248806
Demo: Planting Tulips	11/08/13	248555
Bountiful Expression	11/12/13	248799
Snowy Roots	11/13/13	248002
Designer-less Gardening	11/15/13	248603
Mixed Winter Container	11/22/13	248807
Mixed Winter Container	11/22/13	248808
Thanksgiving Table Flowers	11/25/13	248809
Thanksgiving Table Flowers	11/25/13	248810
Beautiful Buffets	12/06/13	248604
A Richmond Christmas	12/10/13	249299
A World of Flavor	12/11/13	248849
Seasonal Chic	12/17/13	248800
Seasonal Sides	12/18/13	248003
Holiday Centerpiece	12/20/13	248850
Holiday Centerpiece	12/20/13	248851
Cleaner, Greener Home	01/08/14	248852
Nature Movie Night: Planet Earth: Seasonal Forests	01/10/14	248599
Fairy Gardens	01/17/13	248853
Fairy Gardens	01/17/13	248854
Food Gardening and Climate Change	01/21/14	248855
Feeling Fruity, Nearly Nutty	02/22/14	248004
All About Air Plants	02/12/14	248856
Nature Movie Night: Planet Earth: Great Plains	02/07/14	248600
Let the Sunshine In	02/11/14	248801
Seed Starting for the Veggie Garden	02/18/14	248857
Season Spanning Soups	02/19/14	248005
Spring Forward Conservatory Tour	02/21/14	248556
Green Matters Symposium	02/28/14	248349
Philadelphia Flower Show	03/04/14	245851
Philadelphia Flower Show	03/06/14	245852
Nature Movie Night: Disneynature's Wings of Life	03/07/14	248601

***For additional programs, more information, registration and fees
See the [Experience](#) program guide or click this link for [ParkPASS.org](#)***

Holidays in the Garden

A Silent Auction to Benefit Brookside Gardens

Saturday, November 9, 2013
5:00 to 8:00 PM

Brookside Gardens Visitors Center
1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

**Art; Fashions; Books; Plants;
Gift Certificates for restaurants, entertainment,
get-aways, and services.**

→ Accepting only checks,
→ Visa, or Master Card
for bid items.

**Light refreshments
& live music**

Sponsored by
Friends of
Brookside Gardens
www.bgfriends.org

Information: 301-962-1435 or
FriendsofBrooksideGardens@yahoo.com

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors

1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902

301-962-1435 (voice mail checked daily)

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