

# The Brooksider

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**Fall, 2018**

## ***Vice President's Letter***

**By Joe Ann Stenstrom, Vice President**

As we pass the mid-point of summer, everything seems to be growing at top speed. With the rain and sun, plants are thriving! It is hard to keep up with the growth; each day, even the weeds seem to double in size. The plants have loved this weather, even as we may have been frustrated with the ability to get out and garden as often as we would like.

FOBG has not been idle during this season of supposed rest from activity. Patiently cared for by many volunteers, the plants for the annual plant sale are well on their way to being ready for show and purchase on September 8 & 9. See information on the sale elsewhere in this issue. Remember that members get first choice two hours before the sale opens to the public and a 10% discount! So mark your calendars and set your alarm to be there early.

This is the year for the biennial Silent Auction scheduled for November 10. Committees have been busy for the past year, including

all summer, planning for this major fundraiser and festive time. See the volunteer ad on page 6 of this issue and share in the excitement as we plan for this fun event with unusual offerings on which to bid in support of Brookside. There are some surprising things in store. Don't miss out!

If you enjoyed the May 15 "Trio on the Terrace" jointly sponsored by FOBG and The National Philharmonic Orchestra, plans are underway for another event next year. The planners are currently brainstorming ideas for another fun evening with music, food and enjoyment.

So you see, FOBG is working through these "vacation days" to plan ways to contribute to Brookside Gardens. Help us do this by participating in these and other events being planned for the upcoming year. We welcome volunteers and urge you to contact us. See the volunteer "ad" asking for your help to make Brookside bloom!

## FOBG PLANT SALE 2018

**Saturday, September 8, 2018 – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

*Preview Sale for FOBG members Saturday 8:00 AM – 10:00AM*

**Sunday, September 9, 2018 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**By Joan O'Rourke, Joe Ann Stenstrom & Nithya Raghavan**

Mark your calendar for this year's **FOBG Annual Plant Sale** on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. You won't want to miss out on the unusual perennials, shrubs and trees that Joan O'Rourke has garnered for this year's event. Joan has faithfully chaired this special event since its inception – the year FOBG was founded – 1996! This is year 23 and Joan reminisces that she has tried to collect some really beautiful plants over the years and remembers planting knee high trees that are now 20 feet tall! All are old favorites and she hopes that she has selected some of your favorites for this year. There are at least 75 or more varieties of plants to choose from this year!



*Joan O' Rourke*

Some of you will remember the first ever Friends Plant Sale that September in 1996, the year the Friends was established. FOBG Founder and first President, Joan has been the mainstay of the plant sale all these years.



*First Plant Sale 1996*

Why September? In the words of Joan herself from an interview in the August 2011 Brooksider.

*"I had an idea for the sale to make it different. Everyone in the whole wide world has their plant sale in spring, but I thought it would be a good idea to have ours in the fall, since that's really the best time for planting."*

For that first sale, Joan chose plants, ordering from a few wholesalers she knew from her volunteer work at Brookside and ran the sale with a few volunteers. Sound familiar? She is still at it today – selecting plants, ordering months in advance from a greater number of wholesalers, finding the best plants at the best price each year. She and Taffy Turner oversee the work all summer long with a large number of faithful volunteers who pot, water and prune.



*Plant Sale 2009*

Much has changed since that first sale in 1996. There was no Visitors Center so the sale was held behind the Conservatory. Though well attended, there were fewer people than at today's sales now held on the South Terrace of the Visitors Center with better visibility and abundant parking. We also have a major online presence where the plant lists, details of each plant, planting designs for garden types and featured plants are posted in July. Please go to our website at [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/plantsale2018/](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/plantsale2018/) to check out

this year's offerings. Our potential shoppers now arrive with printed plant lists with their preferred plants marked. The plants are identified with large signs describing their attributes!! With a greater variety and unusual offerings of only perennials, the plant sale has become a major fund raiser for FOBG in its commitment to supporting Brookside.

Again, in Joan's words: *"The sale has now become one of Friends' major fundraiser and a big way of how we fulfill our mission of supporting Brookside Gardens. We give Brookside every nickel of the money we raise ..... Brookside makes requests to FOBG to help support specific programs or activities."* So literally we **MAKE BROOKSIDE BLOOM!**

Each year, Master Gardeners Joan O' Rourke and Taffy Turner monitor the progress of the plants from potting, watering and trimming so they are picture ready for the sale in the fall. Many hands accomplish this as a team of volunteers work all summer preparing the plants for the sale. Our sale could not be successful without those wonderful volunteers. Hot summer days require daily watering, a chore that requires both time and many helpers who care for the plants. This ensures that the plants you purchase can easily adapt to the local environment and will be hardy at the time of the sale. By September, the mature plants are well established and ready to find their permanent homes - **YOURS!!**



**Plant Sale 2017**



**Plant Sale 2017**

Many of you know that hostas are wonderful shade plants (if you can keep the deer away). Joan has grown hostas in containers for many years and miniature hostas in particular, are one of her favorite plants. In 2018, you may catch the hosta fever too! We will have a few of these mixed gems in container gardens at this year's plant sale. They are easy to care for and over winter well. Talk to Joan at the sale!

Proceeds of the plant sale, along with other endeavors of FOBG, support programs at Brookside Gardens such as Earth Day, Green Matters, Children's Day, seasonal staff, internship programs, the Summer Twilight Concert Series, Shakespeare in the Park, lecture series and various plantings. So come to the sale, buy some uncommon and beautiful plants to enhance your own garden, and help support Brookside.

If you would like to help us and learn about growing plants in your own yard, give us a try. Join FOBG and/or volunteer for the Plant Sale. To volunteer please check us out at **Friends of Brookside Gardens** ([www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org)). You can call us at 301-962-1435 (voice messages are checked once daily) or email us at [friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com).

Watch the FOBG website [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/plantsale2018/](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/plantsale2018/) for plant lists, detailed description of each plant and planting design suggestions. **See you at the sale!!**



**Saturday, November 10, 2016, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

*Brookside Gardens Visitors Center*

*1800 Glenallan Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902*

Join us for an evening of lilting music and light refreshments after you drive through Brookside Garden's elegant entrance and Parking Garden. Meet old and new friends and enjoy the festive evening while helping Brookside Gardens benefit from your generosity. All proceeds from the Silent Auction are designated for the support and improvement of Brookside Gardens that we all love and enjoy year round! This source of funding is increasingly important in times of shrinking budgets for public works projects.

Whether you are thinking about a gift for yourself, or about holiday gifts for your family, you are sure to find something with your name on it at **FOBG's Holidays in the Gardens Silent Auction**.

*We are receiving beautiful items that will make wonderful holiday gifts or a treat for you. Bid on interesting and useful auction items*

including: artwork from local artists; decorative and practical home and garden items; hand-made crafts and items for children; jewelry; hand-painted gourd bird houses; gift certificates for restaurants, entertainment and services; experiences; vacation rentals and a chance to purchase tickets for the

'evergreen and plant' raffle.

#### **How you can help?**

- ***Come and bring your friends.*** Not only will we have outstanding auction items, fantastic live music, great food, but use this event to meet up with old friends and make new ones.
- ***Spread the word.*** Forward auction information to your friends and community and garden club list serves and newsletters.
- ***Donate auction items.*** Do you have some art work you no longer have a place for, a vacation home rental you could donate for a week or weekend or are a crafter or artist and have some pieces to donate? We have many items already and we are looking for more great things.



**FITZ & FLOYD COOKIE JAR**  
CRAFTS & COLLECTIBLES

- If you have something to donate, **call us at 301-962-1435** and leave a message **OR email us at [friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com)**.
- You may also contact our procurement chairs **Barbara Schwarz** ([barbaraschwarz44@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraschwarz44@gmail.com)) or **Freddi Hammerschlag** ([peachnfrog66@comcast.net](mailto:peachnfrog66@comcast.net)).

➤ **• Make a financial donation.** Please consider making a direct donation via our website or by mail even if you cannot attend the auction or in addition to coming to the event.

➤ **• Volunteer to help.** We need help at the event and with auction planning. We guarantee a feeling of satisfaction from working with us to support Brookside. Please contact us through our website, email or phone.

*Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and all your donations help with the programs and plantings at Brookside Gardens.*

Promotional flyers are available at Brookside's Information Desk and the FOBG Bulletin Board. We encourage all to spread the word and help us make the **2018 Holidays in the Gardens** our most successful auction yet.

Information on the auction and how to donate are available on the FOBG website, [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/auction](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/auction). Tickets are \$45 per person and \$40 for FOBG members before October 19. **Online tickets** for the event *via* Eventbrite will become available in September 14 2018. You may also purchase your tickets via mail by sending a check to FOBG.

**Suzanne Carbone**, Chair  
**Kathy Kircher**, Co-Chair

***Thanks for your support!!***





## Volunteer with Friends of Brookside Gardens



### Help Make Brookside Bloom!

With a few hours of volunteer time,  
you can support Brookside Gardens,  
make a difference in our community,  
and meet new Friends.

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To volunteer, email:

**[friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com),**  
or call the Friends office at 301-962-1435 and  
leave a message. We will get in touch about  
specific volunteer opportunities.

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For more information on FOBG events,  
visit our website:

**[www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org)**



*E. fargesii*



*E. sempervirens* 'Cherry Hearts'



## Garden Guardian

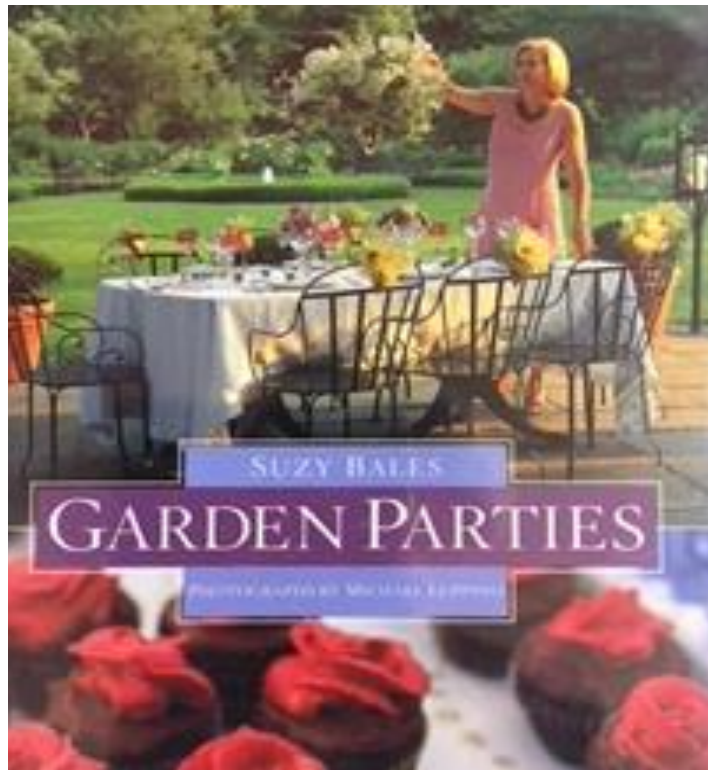
By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

### Singing Praise of 'Epis'

In response to my wife, Freddi, I will endeavor to voice the virtue/values of vigorous *Epimediums*. Various known as Barrenworts, Fairy Wings and Bishop's Hats, these low growing, often ground cover plants are finding increasing receptivity by gardeners everywhere. The reasons are many. So what are *Epimediums*? They are hardy (zone 5b), flowering plants in the Berberaceae family that are relatively small, but sturdy, and are undergoing a rapid development of new hybrids. Some of the plants are European or Japanese in origin, but many new cultivars are derived from Chinese sources. In a number of ways their attributes parallel those of Hellebores. These perennials prefer shade, can withstand some summer dryness, are deer-resistant, are easy to grow (low-maintenance) and come in many forms (see photos above). They flower in early spring with the flowers often showing before the new leaves. Many, but not all are evergreen. Some are clumpers, others are spreaders. The flower form is 'intricate', yielding a variety of forms and beholding a wide range of colors. One

must look a bit closely to appreciate them, though at a distance many resemble a group of dancing fairies!!! Really though, a strong point of *Epimediums* is their diverse leaf form. They vary from smooth-edged to strongly serrate, and from green to red with fall coloration. It really is not possible to do justice to them in a short piece like this, so I encourage you to seek more information from books like "A Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums" by Sally Gregson (Timber Press), or go on line to Garden Vision Epimediums ([www.epimediums.com](http://www.epimediums.com)). Most *Epimediums* prefer average soil that retains moisture, but is well drained, however the Japanese *Epimediums* need acidic soil. Unlike the hybrid Hellebores, *Epimediums* mix well with woodland plants, but horticulturally may work best as border plants. They are relatively unobtrusive and well-behaved, though a few spreaders will need to have their 'ears pinned back'. Once your fascination with *Epimediums* becomes strong and you gain a cordial familiarity with them, why you may even lovingly call them 'Epis'!!!!

## *Book Review*



**By Joe Ann Stenstrom**

Were you inspired by the recent “Trio on the Terrace” event jointly sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens and The National Philharmonic Orchestra? We hope you enjoyed the early summer evening and want to entertain in your own garden. If you are looking for ideas, the Brookside Gardens library has an inspiring book filled with ideas that range from simple to more elaborate, whatever your style. **GARDEN PARTIES** by **Suzanne Bales** is filled with ideas that support her statement in the introduction: “Almost everyone agrees that everything tastes better outdoors.” This delightful book is filled with menus and mouthwatering recipes you may want to use even without a party! There are simple bruschettas, tea-time scones, refreshing dips, sparkling drinks and even a blueberry tart. Ideas abound for themes such as a “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party”, “A Strolling Cocktail Party”, a

“Country Breakfast” and candlelit parties, such as “Night of a Thousand Lights”. Each of these can spark your own fun ideas as you plan to enjoy your garden with friends this summer. Published in 2003 by Clarkson-Potter Publishers, it can be found on the shelf in the Brookside Library at TX 715.B213, 2003. For another source of ideas for parties published by the same company in 2001, see **Ina Garten’s BAREFOOT CONTESSA’S PARTIES: IDEAS FOR EASY PARTIES THAT ARE REALLY FUN**. This is found in the Montgomery County Public Libraries at 624.8 GAR and has a chapter titled “Lunch in the Garden”. If you have used any of Ina Garten’s recipes you know they are easy and delicious, so her party ideas should be the same.

**Happy partying!**



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 can be found at: [Cultivate](#).

<b>FOBG-Sponsored Program</b>	<b>Course #</b>	<b>Date</b>
Plant Sale*		9/8/2018
Silent Auction		11/10/2018
<b>Brookside Gardens Adult Programs</b>		
Focus on Butterflies	45503	9/8/18
Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	54885	9/8/18
Flower Buds**	54554	9/10/18
Dealing with Deer & other Mammals in your Garden	54860	9/12/18
Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens**	54966	9/12/18
Observe & Compose - D1*	54981	9/13/18
McCrillis Gardens Sunday Walks*	54817	9/16/18
Ladew Topiary Gardens & Historic Mansion Tour	54978	9/17/18
Drawing Botanicals with Silverpoint*	54984	9/21/18
Brookside Gardens Saturday Walk**	54815	9/22/18
Monarch Way Stations: Creating a Butterfly Garden	54864	9/26/18
Fall Story Celebration	54955	10/5/2018
Fall Story Walk**	38561	10/5/18
Hands-on Orchid Repotting	54878	10/6/18
Stormwater Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens	54874	10/10/18
Native Plants for both New England and Mid-Atlantic Gardens	54987	10/12/18
Glory of Fall Garden Tour	55278	10/24/18
Art in Graphite - A2*	54982	10/25/18
BOOtanica Family Festival	54564	10/26/18
Capturing Fall Delights with Watercolor*	54985	10/26/18
Champion Tree Tour	54975	10/30/18
Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter	54875	11/2/18
Meditative Photography: Seeing Beauty Where You Are	54979	11/3/18
Mixed Winter Container	54879	11/17/18
Thanksgiving Feast	54972	11/5/18
Thanksgiving Centerpiece	54881	11/20/18
* Program meets multiple days		
**Program meets multiple times		



Please note that the "News from Brookside" column will return in the Fall 2018 issue of The Brooksider.

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

## Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors

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