

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



February, 2013

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

This will be my last letter as the president of Friends of Brookside Gardens. Where has the time gone? The past two years have seen us grow and change in many ways. We updated and improved *The Brooksider* to include more articles and photographs, as well as completed the transition to a totally electronic format. We modernized our *Styrax japonicus* 'Pink Chimes' logo, which you will soon see on communications from Friends. If you have not yet visited our Facebook page, join those who have—one week, there were more than 1500 visitors! These improvements were initiated by the hardworking Marketing Committee: Elaine Dynes, Gene Horman, Coriolana Simon and Chairperson Suzanne Carbone. Behnke Nurseries Garden Party was another new event that supports FOBG. Thanks to Carole Galati for spearheading this event in 2011 and for continuing to make it happen. The third annual Garden Party will be held on June 8.



Since the last *Brooksider* appeared, the Holiday Greens Sale Committee, chaired by Taffy Turner and Joanie Palmer, plucked boxwood with which they created beautiful wreaths, centerpieces and table-top trees. The December sale was a great success. Joan O'Rourke and Taffy Turner are now hard at work selecting plants for the September Plant Sale. For the first time in three years, we will be growing our plants from plugs, using some space in Brookside's maintenance area. If you would like to

join the crew who will pot and maintain the plants from May until September, please contact us by email (friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com) or voicemail: 301-962-1435.

Our next event is the annual Orchid Show & Sale, which will be held March 16 and 17 in the Auditorium of the Visitors Center. Doors open both days at 10:00. Gloria Sherman has found some wonderful orchid vendors; each will feature their unique plants and other orchid-related items for sale. Orchid repotting will again be an important part of the Show. The Rock Creek Orchid Club (formerly the Brookside Orchid Club) will display some very special orchids and give orchid advice. I hope you will mark your calendars for this wonderful opportunity to enjoy the splendor of orchids and take home some of their long lasting color. Displaying an orchid is a great way to brighten those last days of winter!

The Silent Auction Committee, chaired by Freddi Hammerschlag, has been planning its strategy for the November 9, 2013 silent auction, *Holiday in the Gardens*. The timing of the auction should be perfect for finding something special for the holidays, or a bit of nature to bring indoors. On the evening of November 9, you will have a chance to bid on garden items, nature books, art work, and certificates for services, restaurants and entertainment opportunities. You will be entertained by local musical groups. You will take a break with the refreshing drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres. It has been four years since

our last silent auction, and we hope to make this the best ever. By the end of February, you will receive a mailing from us that will include a letter requesting your support for the auction, a donation form and a copy of a solicitation letter intended for businesses. You can help by using the letter to solicit support from your favorite business, and we hope you will consider making a personal donation of an item and/or a financial contribution. The help of many 'Friends' will ensure the success of the auction.

Our new and returning FOBG board members as well as the new officers will be announced in the next

newsletter to be published in April. As you can see, we are a dedicated group of Brookside Garden enthusiasts. Would you like to take an active role in our mission to support our beloved gardens by joining our board? Please contact us by email or voicemail.

Thank you to the board members for their passion and dedication in keeping FOBG a vibrant organization, and thank YOU for your support.

Barbara Waite-Jaques, President

***Winter weather got you down?
How about a visit to the Brookside conservatories!***





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 [Xperience](#) program guide.

<u>FOBG Sponsored Events</u>	Date	ParkPASS #
FOBG Orchid Show and Sale	03/16/13	-----
FOBG Orchid Show and Sale	03/17/13	-----
FOBG Fall Plant Sale	09/07/13	-----
FOBG Silent Auction	11/09/13	-----
FOBG Spring Lecture Series:		
Capital Splendor Gardens	04/12/13	231502
Network for Life: Stitching Together the Natural World	04/26/13	229309
My Weedless Garden	05/16/13	229310
Gardening with Deer?	06/14/13	231749
FOBG Summer Twilight Concert Series:		
Oasis Island Sounds	06/04/13	-----
Rita Clark and the Naturals	06/11/13	-----
DreamStreet	06/18/13	-----
Trio Caliente	06/25/13	-----
Green Matters Symposium	02/22/13	212968
Earth Day Festival	04/21/13	-----
Children's Day	09/21/13	-----

<u>Brookside Gardens Adult Programs</u>	Date	ParkPASS #
Gluton Gone (Cooking Demo)	02/27/13	211851
Rain Garden Workshop	03/01/13	219249
Rain Garden Workshop	03/02/13	219250
Philadelphia Flower Show	03/05/13	213149
Spring Care of Roses (Garden Demo)	03/06/13	231849
Philadelphia Flower Show	03/07/13	213151
Seed Starting: Indoors and in Cold Frames	02/12/13	231149
Growing Orchids in the Home	03/13/13	231154
Cut Orchids on the Rocks	03/13/13	231954
Essentials of Organic Food Gardening	03/19/13	231150
Easter and Passover Cooking	03/20/13	231949

Hatracking your Hollies (Garden Demo)	03/21/13	231850
New Ways with Market Bouquets	03/27/13	231999
Make a Papercrete Trough	04/04/13	231201
Splendid Spring Blossom Tonic	04/10/13	232049
Make & Take Rain Barrels	04/12/13	219299
Make & Take Rain Barrels	04/13/13	219300
Food Gardening in Containers	04/16/13	231151
Garden Party Cooking	04/17/13	231950
Green Roofs for Feathered Friends	04/18/13	231203
Historic Garden Week/Fredericksburg, VA	04/23/13	231249
Working the Rain Garden (Garden Demo)	04/24/13	231851
Hardy Terrestrial Orchids - Really?	05/01/13	231156
Native Plant Preview Sale and Lecture	05/02/13	231453
Native Plant Sale	05/04/13	-----
Aquatic Garden Plants (Garden Demo)	05/07/13	231800
Mother's Day Modern Floral Fusion	05/08/13	232050
Plant a Garden Trough	05/09/13	231202
Hanging Basket Workshop	05/10/13	231257
Hanging Basket Workshop	05/10/13	232699
Plant Walks: Shade Garden Plants	05/14/13	231799
Herbs of Summer	05/15/13	231951
Selecting Native Trees and Shrubs (also 5/29 and 6/12)	05/15/13	232199
Butterfly Container Workshop	05/16/13	232149
Butterfly Container Workshop	05/16/13	232150
Focus on Butterflies! (nine additional dates)	05/19/13	229299
Northview and Chanticleer Gardens	05/22/13	231250
Container Gardening with Succulents	05/28/13	231158
Container Gardening with Succulents	05/29/13	231159
Conservation Landscaping Techniques	05/31/13	219301
Conservation Landscaping Techniques	06/01/13	219302
Private Gardens of Montgomery County	06/01/13	231499
Tabletop Fountains	06/04/13	231207
Think it! Build it! Willow Furniture Workshop	06/08/13	231209
A Bit of Brookside	06/11/13	231199
A Bit of Brookside	06/12/13	231200
Feasting with Fireworks	06/19/13	231952
Butterfly and Garden Photography (also 6/29)	06/22/13	229308
Garden Whimsy Mosaic Totems (also 6/28)	06/25/13	231208
The Fragrant Year (Garden Demo)	06/26/13	231899
Fall and Winter Food Gardening	07/09/13	231152
Summer Stones (Cooking Demo)	07/17/13	231953
Concrete Leaf Sculpting	07/25/13	231205
Concrete Leaf Painting	08/01/13	231206

For additional programs, more information, registration and fees,
see the [Xperience](#) program guide or click this link for: [ParkPASS](#)

Brookside Gardens Master Plan Progress Report

In this time of austerity, Brookside Gardens is fortunate to move forward with two projects on the Master Plan, which directs changes to our facility over the next 20 or so years.

Gude Garden

The Gude Garden is getting restored! Are you as excited as we are?!

Over many years, most of the dams in the garden have disintegrated, banks have crumbled, and the ponds have become too shallow from silt infiltration and leakage. Aquatic weeds are taking advantage of this, and water temperatures are too high for a healthy, dynamic aquatic environment. Visitors and staff alike have hoped for funding to resolve these issues for some time, but in years of tight budgets, we were unsure when a resolution would come.

Thankfully, at the beginning of the fiscal year in July, funds were allocated from the Montgomery Parks' Capital Improvements budget to assess problems and design solutions to address this longstanding deterioration. Since August a team of Parks and Brookside staff and contractors have been meeting to work out solutions. Construction is expected to begin in 2013. Although we expect construction to be messy and last for the better part of a year, we hope you'll bear with us. The finish line is still a long way away, but our fingers are crossed that the Gude Garden will be restored to its original glory soon. Cross your fingers, too! We can't wait to see the ponds full and sparkling once again!

1800 Glenallan Entrance and Parking Area

Phase I and II of the Master Plan are also closer to becoming reality! These phases, which are now

combined into one project, will result in a fresh, new design for the 1800 Glenallan Avenue entrance and the parking area in front of the Visitors Center. Brookside Gardens and Parks staff are meeting with design consultants to create construction drawings for the project. Though the design process is long and arduous, it's exciting to see the product starting to come together. The construction design will be well worth the wait!

Some features that will be particularly attractive for visitors are:

The South Terrace: A stunning gathering spot located outside the Visitors Center atrium that will include fabulous structural plantings, a special water feature, and seating for relaxed gatherings and events.

The Water Garden: A regenerative garden where stormwater from the parking lot will be treated, and wetland plantings and seat walls will offer an educational, yet relaxing experience.

Courtyard Garden: A dedicated drop-off area in front of the Visitors Center surrounded by lush plantings demonstrating a number of horticultural techniques.

New Entrance Design: A safe and attractive pedestrian walkway leading to a boardwalk that meanders through a vernal pool, a baldcypress grove, and into the lovely expanse of the bulb lawn.

We expect construction to begin in Spring 2014. The final design renderings will be on display in the Brookside Gardens Library, and will be available at ParkProjects.org (select Project Status, Profiles of Major Projects).

Reprinted from *Xperience* with permission from Brookside Gardens.

Friends of Brookside Gardens will be **celebrating the orchid** with their annual weekend sale at the Visitors Center. Top regional vendors will vie for your attention with a wide array of new selections and old favorites. This year, many "minis" will be offered. Orchid growing supplies (pots, potting medium, etc.) will also be available. You'll find great beginner orchids like *phalaenopsis*; the "moth orchid" with flowers that last three months; or *cattleytonia*, which can bloom three times a year.

Clive Atyeo, renowned orchid expert, will be on hand again this year to offer his repotting services, at a nominal fee, along with his advice and consultation. The Rock Creek Orchid Club (formerly Brookside Gardens Orchid Club) will be exhibiting their exotic collections. And, of course, our very popular RAFFLE, in which you could WIN a beautiful orchid.



Sponsored by
Friends of Brookside Gardens &
Rock Creek Orchid Club

March 16
10am - 4pm

March 17
10am - 3pm

ORCHID SHOW & SALE

- ❖ Repotting services for a small fee by noted orchid expert, Clive Atyeo
- ❖ Wide variety of orchids from top regional vendors
- ❖ Tips for successful plant care
- ❖ Vivid orchid display
- ❖ Admission is FREE!

BROOKSIDE GARDENS
1800 GLENALLAN AVE., WHEATON, MD 20902
301-962-1400

Beginning with our next issue, FOBG's *The Brooksider* will include the first in a new series of articles titled "Brookside from the Inside." These articles will be 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



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)

Email address: friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com

Barbara Waite-Jaques, *President* Gene Horman, *Treasurer*

Directors: Carla Adam, Suzanne Carbone, Elaine Dynes, Freddi Hammerschlag
Gene Horman, Joel Lerner - ex officio, Joan O'Rourke,
Joanie Palmer, Gloria Sherman, Coriolana Simon, Betsy Thomas - ex officio,
Taffy Turner, Barbara Waite-Jaques

The Brooksider: Gene Horman, Julia Horman co-editors

Photography by: Coriolana Simon, Douglas Wolters, Gene Horman