



Late Fall, 2018

President's Letter

By Carla Adam, President and Joe Ann Stenstrom, Vice President

As we close out 2018, a look back to several **Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG)** events refreshes our collective memories. Nearly each month something of importance happened. In January, the Board worked toward a minor update of the FOBG membership brochure in preparation for a revision to be developed in 2019. **FOBG** sponsored several Brookside Gardens events throughout the year beginning with the **Green Matters Symposium in February**. Over 300 attendees filled the Silver Spring Civic Building to learn about "Restoring and Renewing Our Urban Landscapes". In **March**, the **annual Orchid Show and Sale** brought breathtaking displays of gorgeous orchids. In addition, potting and repotting services and orchid growing classes were offered. **FOBG sponsored Earth Day activities in April and Children's Day in September**. Both these events afforded the opportunity to reach families and promote membership. Another FOBG-sponsored event was the **June Twilight Concert Series** featuring Latin Rock, Reggae, Bluegrass and Classic Rock – a little something for everyone. **May** also found us on the South Terrace for "**Trio on the Terrace**", a collaboration with the National Philharmonic Orchestra from Strathmore. Attendees enjoyed wine and refreshments with a concert of spring music provided by a string trio from the orchestra. Watch for another collaboration with the

Orchestra in spring 2019. Friends sponsored "Shakespeare in the Gardens" with the presentation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by the Prince George's Shakespeare in the Park group, and also sponsored the Brookside Speaker's Series with three talks during the year, ranging from a discussion of the cultivation of seeds to garden design and Japanese gardens. **September** brought us the **annual Plant Sale** along with rain, rain and more rain. After a long, hot summer in which volunteers nurtured the plants, the planned day of the sale brought the much needed rain (but not that day!). The sale continued through the weekend and extended to the next. In spite of the weather, the sale was still a resounding success thanks to **Plant Sale co-chairs Joan O'Rourke and Taffy Turner** and their multitude of helpers. We celebrated the sparkling new **Joan and John O'Rourke Greenhouse** generously financed by Joan and dedicated with a **ribbon cutting on September 21**. In honor of the importance of Brookside and this gift from Joan, the event was attended by officials from Montgomery County Parks, the Montgomery County Council and the State of Maryland.

Throughout the year, **FOBG donors** supported Brookside's "**Gild the Garden**" campaign to fund Brookside's purchase of 50,000 daffodils for the 2019 celebration of Brookside's 50th Anniversary.

The volunteer planting which took place a few weeks ago was a huge success. We can't wait to celebrate Brookside's 50th Anniversary and to see all the daffodils in the spring "Gilding the Garden"!

Our biggest event this year was the Silent Auction on November 10th, a major fund raiser. In addition to the usual wonderful auction items of art, crafts, gift certificates, garden items, experiences such as trips to New Orleans and to Tuscany were made available! Also new this time was a "wine cork pull"; for \$15, participants were guaranteed a wine of greater value. We also enjoyed the harp music of **Jim Dronenburg** and the jazz music provided by **J.P.Jazz**. Delicious food was provided by the caterer "Putting on the Ritz" and by the Passion Bakery. Many kudos go to the **Auction**

Chairs Suzanne Carbone and Kathy Kircher and the many exceptional committee chairs, members and volunteers!

In summary, with the help of our supporters, **FOBG raised and donated \$86,500 to Brookside** this year to fulfill Brookside's Requested Funding to support many Brookside garden projects including seasonal gardening staff, two summer internship positions, the Spring and Fall lecture series, Children's Day, Green Matters, Earth Day, June Concert Series, new plants, and Shakespeare in the Garden.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2019 and we thank you and all the many volunteers who made this year a success in our support of the Gardens we all love!



News from Brookside Gardens

By Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens

On November 4, 2018, nearly 40 volunteers plus nine gardeners tackled a Herculean task: planting 50,000 daffodils in the Parking Garden. While wet soil conditions hampered efforts, it made a great start on implementing the legacy gift from the Friends of Brookside Gardens in honor of **Brookside Gardens' upcoming 50th Anniversary in 2019**. This planting project is one of many activities underway to celebrate this milestone occasion. You may have already seen the newly designed and named *Cultivate* magazine or

joined the new Facebook Group, 50th Anniversary: Brookside Gardens' Story. Over the next year, we will refresh our memories of history of the development of Brookside Gardens, and hope that you will share your stories and pictures with us. Did you celebrate a special occasion here, like a wedding or bar mitzvah? Come to walk with your grandchildren? Enjoy taking a horticulture class? If Facebook isn't your thing, in January a new display board will be installed in the Visitors Center where you can post your story.



Bulbs



Nithya Raghavan, volunteer bulb planter

Fall Plant Sale Photo Gallery



Co-Chairs Joan O'Rourke and Taffy Turner



Something for everyone



Informative Plant Labels by Nithya Raghavan & Peter FitzGerald



Miniature Hostas



Easy checkout

2018 FOBG Silent Auction



Auction Chair Suzanne Carbone and Frog, A.M. Phibian artist/donor Jack Hammond



Table Art



Gift Certificates



Bundles



Geoffrey Stein, Stephanie Oberle and Barbara Waite-Jaques



J.P. Jazz



Jim Dronenburg and Kathy Jentz

Garden Guardian



Rain clip art – Google.com

Too Much of a Good Thing.....Ain't !!!

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

Sure – our gardens need or depend on rainfall. But maybe too much of a good thing may NOT be..... Such would seem to be the case for this summer's relentless, excessive rains which saturated most soils – even those purporting good drainage. The abundant water simply could not 'escape' (drain) in good time, leaving pockets of soil with low to sub-minimal oxygen leading to stress and death of affected plants. When it rained, it poured (unlike my Morton's salt which formed a concretion in its container). You know – every other summer you pray for rain and feel lucky/deserving when it finally comes. (This year somebody up there really listened to us!!) Typically, the hoses are out in full force, the watering regime repeats every week – we're slaves to the spigot. Not this year, even our hose is rotting for lack of attention. Why can't we have a 'normal' summer one of these years. We're living in a world of weather extremes. Anyways – the sog reduced a number of fine plants to corpses. In almost all cases, upon removal from the ground, it was revealed that the root mass was a sappy mess. It didn't seem to matter if the plants had been planted on high or in true grit. Oh well, guess it will be good for the local horticultural economy. Got to fill those empty spaces with something! There's the positive spin – the sog provided opportunities for new plants (sure – the old stuff was getting boring). However, there was another aspect of this summer's gloom that was more insidious:

It seemed very apparent that many plants simply did not receive enough sunlight/photons to run their machinery. A number of conifers either pooped out or looked stressed with the foliage being very skimpy. The skimpiness on whole plants reminded me of portions of plants that thin out when overgrown by neighboring plants. OK – it is true most of the plants that responded poorly to the reduced sunlight were ones in partial shade. One simply has to hope they'll revive when abundant sunshine returns. But it does point out how important it is to site your plants as labeled, where the different species perform better under specified light requirements. Some years you might get away with a little more shade than recommended – NOT THIS ONE! One last thought relating to this summer's extended tropical damp – fall colors are either well postponed or just not happening (yet?). A recent lecture revealed how important nitrogen cycling is for fall coloration. As leaves senesce nitrogen is rerouted to next year's buds. As this happens chlorophyll declines and the background pigments tend to dominate – either become unmasked or are actually produced by the changing light waves (longer) integrating with leaf phytochromes. Right now some tree leaves are slow to senesce due to the perpetuated suitable growing conditions (warm and moist), so we're not seeing the ancillary pigments, while others (some oaks, e.g.) are senescing too soon apparently due to early formation of abscission cells.

What are you seeing??

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](#).

	FOBG-Sponsored Program		
	Green Matters (see below)		2/22/2019
	Orchid Show and Sale*		3/16/2019
	Brookside Gardens Adult Programs		
	Thanksgiving Centerpiece	54881	11/20/18
	Longwood Gardens - Holiday Displays & Light Show	54986	12/3/18
	Tea, Treats and Flowers	54718	12/8/18
	Holiday Entertaining	54973	12/10/18
	Festive Fresh Greens: Festive Wreaths	54882	12/11/18
	Festive Fresh Greens: Festive Centerpieces	54883	12/12/18
	Garden After Dark: Holly Daze	54858	12/13/18
	Kokedama - The Art of Crafting Living Mossballs	54884	1/19/19
	Art in Watercolor - A3*	54983	1/24/19
	Brookside Gardens Witch Hazel Tour	54855	1/28/19
	East vs. West: Amazing Similarities Between Asian and American Plant Species	55301	2/2/19
	Valentines, Tea and Chocolate	54719	2/9/18
	Chocolate Decadence	54974	2/11/19
	Everything You Wanted to Know about Pruning	54877	2/15/19
	Green Matters	55276	2/22/19
	Philadelphia Flower Show**	55274	3/5/19
	* Program meets multiple days		
	**Program meets multiple times		



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Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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