

The **Brooksider**

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Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



September, 2012

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

The first week of September is always a time of high excitement and anticipation, with a touch of anxiety. Will the weather for the Friends of Brookside Gardens annual plant sale be good? Will we have plants that will be attractive to the public? Will everything be set up in time for the 8:00 Saturday morning sale for FOBG members? Will there be enough volunteers to keep everything running smoothly? I am ecstatic to report that the answer to each of these questions is a resounding YES.

Joan O'Rourke made an outstanding selection of conifers, woody plants, and perennials, as evidenced by the fact that we were almost completely sold out by 1:30pm. (The sale did continue until 3:00.) Taffy Turner recruited the volunteers, without whom we could not hold the sale, had each assigned to a task, and even planned the break times. The volunteers themselves reported on time, kept things running smoothly, facilitated the check-out procedure efficiently, helped load plants into cars, and kept the rapidly

emptying tables looking attractive. Brookside staff members Lisa Tayerle and Phil Normandy and Friends members Taffy Turner and Frances



Smithson provided advice on plant selection. Brookside publicist Leslie McDermott supplied the local media with information about the sale, and director Stephanie Oberle coordinated the staff participation. A tremendous thank you goes to all the [FOBG members](#) and Brookside staff who contributed to making this a successful sale. This sale provides a substantial sum toward our support of Brookside Gardens.

Watch the mail for your membership renewal form, which will be arriving during the first week of October. Mark your calendar for the FOBG annual meeting on Sunday afternoon, November 4. And look for a holiday greens order form in the October *Brooksider*.

Thank you for your support!

Barbara

2012 PLANT SALE: REWARDING AND EFFICIENT

By 7:45am on Saturday, September 8, enthusiastic FOBG members had already lined up behind the ribbon, waiting for the 8:00 opening of the annual plant sale. By 8:06, not a single hellebore left on the tables. The dragon's eye pine – gone. The giant red hibiscus – thinning out quickly. Gardenias – disappearing at a rapid rate. Holding their FOBG memberships cards at the ready for the 10 percent discount, dedicated gardeners loaded red wagons with their finds and rolled up to the cashier tables. Some opted to carry their selections, their faces hidden by pots of tall grasses balanced on outstretched arms.

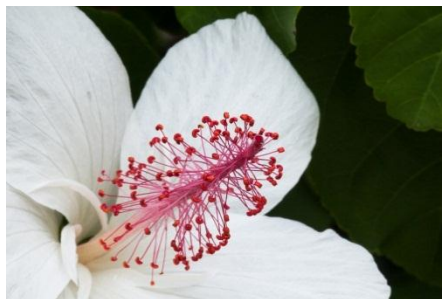
Judging by the rate of their disappearance, this year's abundance of native plants – flowering and otherwise – proved exceptionally popular. The wide variety of dwarf conifers also attracted many buyers looking for something unusual, slow growing, and low maintenance. Hostas, always a favorite, came in some surprising shapes, notably the variety with very narrow, spear-shaped leaves with wavy edges.

Aside from the plants themselves, the overall operation of the plant sale this year showed improved efficiency. At the prepayment table, volunteers removed the

color-coded price markers in each pot. At the cashier table, customers joined one line for check or credit card payments or the other line for cash. The new FOBG credit card processing machine worked overtime and streamlined payment considerably. For those who wanted to continue shopping or visit the gardens, additional volunteers kept watch over plants parked in a holding area. Volunteers were even on hand later to help carry purchases to customers' cars.

In a marked change from previous years, at this plant sale, many visitors enquired about FOBG membership, and eighteen new members signed up. Volunteers at the membership table as well as the cashier table encouraged customers to join and gave out membership flyers and also printed copies of the *Brooksider* and the list of retailers who offer the member discount benefit. Membership reps also canvassed for potential new members for the FOBG board and identified several interested individuals.

Though the plant sale continued until mid-afternoon, by 1:30pm there was little left to sell. The steady stream of customers had packed the latest treasures for their gardens and driven home, ready to get their plants into the ground.





Betty Bieberly presides over the container garden raffle.



Brookside director Stephanie Oberle finds a new treasure for her garden.



The plant sale queen, Joan O'Rourke, watches the action.



Plant sale co-chair Taffy Turner gives gardening advice.

A MOOSE – OR WAS IT A DEER? – IN THE GARDENS

Louis Paley

Well actually it was both, one moose in an Alaskan garden and deer in Brookside Gardens. Let me explain. This past June, I was touring the Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage. On the front gate, there was a huge sign to the effect that: “There is a moose in our garden; if you see it, please call the management at ...” Occasionally, and lately even routinely, Brookside Gardens is similarly invaded. Even with 10-foot-high chain-link fences and secured gates or “deer barriers” (in the case of Brookside), unwanted 4-legged “guests” sometimes enter our gardens.

In the case of the Alaska Botanical Garden, over the Memorial Day weekend, someone had cut a large hole in their fence, and a very hungry female moose and her yearling calf let themselves in to feast on the beautifully cultivated flowers and shrubs. The mother seems to have hidden her calf from the garden staff, so when they found her, they chased only the female out of the garden. Weeks later, when I visited, the staff found signs that another moose was munching on their garden plants, so they posted the sign at the entrance.

When we entered the gardens on our trip, we soon found the yearling moose lying down in the middle of the 25-acre garden. It seemed quite content and did not seem to fear our presence until I approached within about eight feet to take pictures. Even then, it simply stood up on its very long, skinny legs (total height was already about six to seven feet) and continued to graze, while keeping one eye fixed on me. It was only when the staff – and I along with them –

began chasing it with large branches and the garden staff yelled at it with bull horns, that it showed any fear. When I got too close to the yearling, it took a few charging steps towards me, but when I tapped its nose with a branch, it stopped short and looked bewildered. I guess its mother did not have time to finish her lessons on how to act around humans. “What to do?” the young moose must have been thinking.

After we chased the yearling for about an hour through waist-high underbrush without removing it from the garden, I put down my

branch and went back to sightseeing. After I returned home, I was curious about what happened to the moose, so I phoned the garden director in Anchorage. He told me that a few days after our adventure, they saw the yearling stand-

ing right next to a gate, so they opened the gate and the yearling simply walked out of the garden on its own. At Brookside, the current way to remove deer is by conducting deer drives – scaring them out of the brush and chasing them out of the nearest open gate. This spring, Brookside conducted an average of two deer drives each month, so it’s obviously a problem.

The next time you’re frustrated by deer and other animals feasting on your plants, keep in mind that nothing, not even tall metal fences, is guaranteed to keep hungry vegetarians away from our gardens. As bad as the deer, rabbit, and squirrel problems are in Montgomery County, just remember that other parts of the country have even larger and hungrier garden intruders.



WHERE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS GO:

BROOKSIDE GARDENS FALL LECTURE SERIES

Every fall and spring, Brookside Gardens presents a series of lectures by noted experts, underwritten and sponsored by FOBG. All are open to the general public, and all are free. You must register in advance, though, because the lectures are so popular that seats fill up fast. For additional information, see page 10 of the fall-winter issue of *Xperience*.

The first lecture of the season, *From the Tree's Perspective*, given by arborist Richard Murray on Friday, October 19, ties in with themes of the Trees Matter Symposium on November 15. Mr. Murray will examine characteristics of trees that have led to their survival for millions of years and secrets they hold for us about our own survival on this planet. He'll also talk about practical issues of establishing and preserving our trees. Watch for the October *Brooksider* for a feature article about *From the Tree's Perspective*!

This fall, the series also offers three lectures in tune with Brookside's multi-year focus on edible plants – not only growing and cooking your food but also showing off your food in visually creative ways.

Scott Scarfone will talk about *A New Vegetable Garden Aesthetic* on October 25. Instead of sequestering vegetables to their own growing area – which will be visually uninviting and unproductive for two-thirds of the year – he recommends integrating vegetables with traditional ornamental plant beds. Such an approach can reduce pests and disease and bring an unusual perspective to your garden.

Liz Chabra is an Ayurvedic chef and yoga teacher. It's not surprising that she combines the two disciplines; the ancient Hindu Ayurvedic system as well as yoga encompass healing the body, mind, and spirit. In her November 2 lecture, *Ayurvedic Cooking for Self-Healing*, Liz will show how this ancient wisdom can help us select balanced foods to strengthen us and help restore equilibrium.

On December 7, Adrienne Cook and Danielle Navidi will reveal new recipes for the holiday season, while Karen Nelson Kent presents creative ways to dress up the holiday table with floral design. *Not-so-Traditional Holiday Entertaining* is a popular program that sells out, so be sure to register early!

FALL LECTURE SERIES

See [Xperience](#) (page 10) for course numbers and registration details.
All lectures are held in the Visitors' Center auditorium.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS – IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!

Elaine Dynes

Our annual membership campaign goes into full swing at the beginning of October and lasts all through the month. In a couple of weeks, you'll receive your annual renewal form in the mail.

WHY YOUR DUES ARE SO IMPORTANT

You all know what the general economic situation looks like, and you're all aware that Brookside Gardens needs our organization's help more than ever. You know that FOBG's primary mission is to provide funding to support Brookside Garden's plantings and programs. But did you know that most of FOBG's revenues come from your dues? Those of us who are already FOBG members understand that Brookside Gardens is truly a special place and that it has become more beautiful each year in its more than 40-year history. It's not trite to say it: We feel that having access to Brookside Gardens makes us healthier and happier. We have joined FOBG because we realize that our collective voices, and our collective dollars, are more powerful than our individual ones, and we think Brookside Gardens deserves our support.

When you renew this year, do consider upgrading to a higher membership category if you can.

Please mail your renewal form along with your check back to us no later than October 22. We plan to send your new membership cards by bulk mail the last week in October, so that you will have them before your current cards expire on October 31.

You'll see that the form asks for your email address. For significant savings on printing and postage, we have converted our newsletter to an electronic publication. We also send you important notices and event reminders electronically with the FOBG Flash. We'd like to reach more of you by email. Please note that we never

sell our list and do not make it available to any other organization.

HELP GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP

If you have a friend or neighbor who enjoys Brookside but is not already a member, you might encourage them to join now as well. And don't forget: FOBG memberships are a much appreciated and thoughtful gift! Though Brookside Gardens gets more than 400,000 visitors each year, we have fewer than 900 members in FOBG. Our membership goal this year is to reach 1,000 – and keep growing. Spread the word about our mission and about the benefits of membership.

BENEFITS FOR YOU AND FOR BROOKSIDE

What are these benefits? First of all, you are helping to nourish and grow Maryland's premier public garden. But your membership has more tangible benefits as well:

- The *Brooksider* electronic newsletter, with timely information about Brookside Gardens, FOBG activities, and beautiful color photographs of the gardens and conservatories
- Exclusive early access and a 10% discount at FOBG's annual plant sale
- 10% discount on non-sale items at the Marylandica gift shops
- Discounted fees on many of Brookside's classes
- Discounts at many retail garden centers in our area
- 10% discount on a subscription to Washington Gardener Magazine

We appreciate your support and encourage your involvement in Friends of Brookside Gardens, as a plant sale volunteer, board member, or as an emissary, spreading the word about FOBG and Brookside Gardens.

Plant Sale Volunteer List

Betty Bieberly
Leslie Cronin
Pat Daly
Elaine Dynes
Ed El-Hoshy
Adele Fein
Peggy Fields
Agatha Francis
Carole Galati
Howdy Gaskill
Kathy Gaskill

Kathie Gilley
Aileen Goldman
Helen Gray
Anne Hardman
Gene Horman
Gouri Krishna
Randy Lacombe
Bette Lewis
Kira Lueders
Janis Moran
Meryl Moran

Sally Moran
Susan Nelson
Joan O'Rourke
Louis Paley
Joanie Palmer
Dolly Perkins
Shirlie Pinkham
Betty Raulin
Lynn Rhomberg
Karen Saint-Rossy
Karen Seitz

Gloria Sherman
Richard Sherman
Coriolana Simon
Frances Smithson
Geoffrey Stein
Diana Sullivan
Betsy Thomas
Taffy Turner
Barbara Waite-Jaques
Cindy Walczak
Irene Yuhaniak

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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

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Gloria Sherman, Coriolana Simon, Betsy Thomas – ex officio,
Taffy Turner, Barbara Waite-Jaques

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