

The Brooksider

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Spring, 2017

President's Letter

By Barbara Schwarz, Past President

Dear Friends,

My term is now over. It has been an honor to have served as President of Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG). I have spent many years being 'attached' to Brookside Gardens, first as a Friend since 2000 and then serving on your Board for the past four years. My love for the Gardens has grown over these years. Wonderful walks and family outings have morphed into working for Brookside in any way I can. My respect for the staff and all their hard work to give our community pleasure, a beautiful safe haven, and an education, is immeasurable. As for the FOBG Board, I have the utmost respect. We come from all different backgrounds, with different life experiences. But, we work as a cohesive unit for the Gardens we all love.



I encourage anyone who loves Brookside to volunteer in some way. As a Friend you already show your support by paying dues. Thank you!

And many of you volunteer for the Plant Sale, Silent Auction, and many of our other projects. Thank you! But, we always need more help. So when you see an event or meeting or class that appeals to you....reach out to us. You will be appreciated!

Carla Adam, the new FOBG President, has an exciting two years ahead with many events on the calendar. We will be announcing new projects and enhancing some of the traditional favorites, such our annual Plant Sale. All these will be on our webpage, so please stay in touch with all the wonderful information being offered there.

Thanks to all the members of the FOBG Board. Working with you has been rewarding, satisfying, and enjoyable! I am grateful for all your dedication, your help and your support. I truly look forward to continue working with you, Carla, and with all the membership, to help Brookside Gardens bloom for many years to come.

News from Brookside

By Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens

The Parking Garden: One year later

One year ago, on Earth Day, we held the ribbon cutting for our new Parking Garden. So much has changed! The thousands of perennials that were



planted with the help of hundreds of volunteers have filled in nicely, but more work

needs to be done. What you may not realize is that only a portion of the planting plan was completed during the design process, including the large island beds in the center of the three parking bays, the woody plants on the slope as you enter the driveway, and most of the trees throughout the site. The initial focus was to restore the tree canopy, stabilize the driveway bank, and satisfy the regulatory requirements for storm water management. Brookside Gardens staff Christopher Elenstar and Phil Normandy

continue to design and install the balance of the plants in the peripheral garden areas. Planting will continue into next spring, 2018. This year for Earth Day, volunteers will help plant the beds directly in front of the Visitors Center Auditorium and down the slope towards the upper aquatic garden pond. The sea of blue flowered perennials, including several species of *Salvia*, will carpet the ground beneath a canopy of Crepe Myrtles. The perennials will be anchored by evergreen shrubs that will create a visual separation between the garden and the benches to enjoy the plantings as they walk towards the lawn or down the hill towards the aquatic gardens. As with other designs, the plant choices are not only beautiful and appropriate for gardens in the DC area, but increase the overall diversity of our plant collection.



Meet Jason Gedeik

By Joe Ann Stenstrom

Born and raised in Hawaii, Jason Gedeik has come full circle in relation to gardening and nature. Growing up amid tropical plants with family who loved gardening, his grandparents instilled in him a love of plants. So it is no surprise that he has returned to a lifelong passion in working with nature after a series of career adventures.



Jason brings a wealth of event coordination and public relations experience to his position as Adult Education Programs Manager at Brookside Gardens. With a degree in International Relations and Economics, his first career was in high tech public relations working on the Microsoft account at a PR firm. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy, which he used working for the Interfaith Alliance and as press secretary for Sojourners where he supported the work of the White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. In whatever capacity he has worked, Jason's goals were to effect change at the grass roots level.

These experiences and his interest in community engagement came together as Jason turned to horticulture, earning a degree in Plant Science & Horticulture at the University of Maryland. While at the University, among other important projects, he completed a tree survey on the College Park campus. Selected as a National Garden Fellow with the US Botanic Garden, he worked on public programs and created a cell phone tour of the National Garden featuring native plants. As a Horticulture Intern at the Smithsonian Gardens he helped to maintain the beautiful Enid Haupt Garden behind the Smithsonian "Castle". He served as Head of Greenhouse and Design Operations

at Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens managing its collection of over 2000 orchids. While there he was also responsible for the seasonal landscape designs, floral design operations and served as an instructor for various design and plant related workshops. His love of teaching was demonstrated at the recent FOBG Orchid Show and Sale with his classes being sold out and earning rave reviews. A gifted teacher, his enthusiasm spills over to those listening and learning.

Looking at his experiences and accomplishments you can see how well they culminate in his work at Brookside Gardens. Jason's passion for horticulture and his desire to instill meaningful connection to the environment within visitors of Brookside Gardens is evident in the programs he is initiating. Opening new avenues for younger constituents to enjoy the gardens is also a goal taking fruition in programs such as the "Garden after Dark". Studying how different groups and people engage with the gardens inspires Jason to plan programs and events that meet the needs of Montgomery County's diverse communities. He is also working to engage new audiences by offering programs on weekday evenings and weekends to appeal to those who work during the week.

We have a gem in Jason with his enthusiastic embrace of nature and the cultural diversity of our county. Experience his enthusiasm yourself by taking part in the outstanding programs and events he is creating at Brookside Gardens. The exciting new look he has brought to the "Xperience" program guide of coming events makes one want to attend each of them. We hope to see you at several of these.

Gift Shop Books – Saving and Helping!

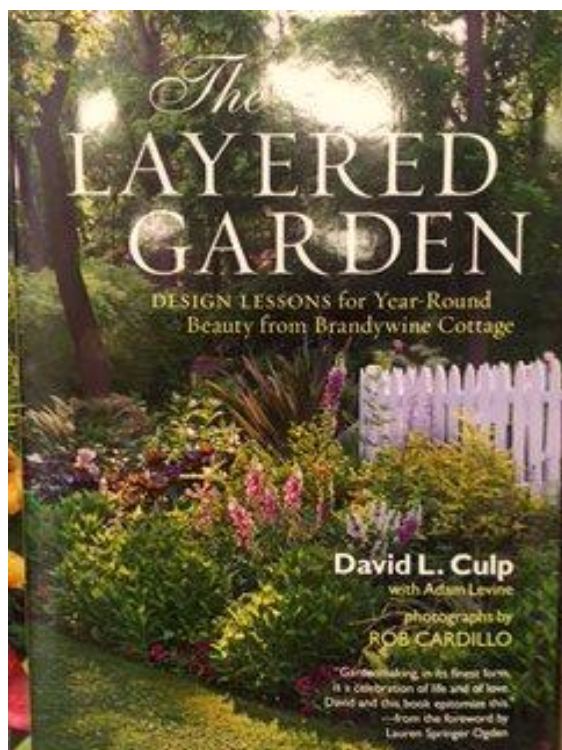
By Joe Ann Stenstrom

Want to buy new gardening books and help Brookside Gardens at the same time? The gift shop has a number of beautifully enticing selections for layered gardens, colorful perennials, and orchid growing (now that you purchased that gorgeous specimen at the FOBG Orchid Sale and need help with keeping it beautiful).

If you want an “oldie, but goodie”, the Brookside Gardens library staff maintain a used book collection for sale with some treasures they no longer have room for on the shelves. You might see just what you need or a surprise find on the cart in the lobby.

Are you ready to plant your own annuals rather than go to a garden center? The rack outside the gift shop is filled with seed packets to make you dream of how lovely your garden could be with some judicious planning and planting and saving of pennies instead of buying ready-grown plants. There is also the satisfaction of “growing your own”.

These are some ready-made ways to support the Gardens and save money with the discount you receive as a member of FOBG. Take a look. You might be surprised at what you find.



Garden Guardian



By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

Seasonal 'Fickality'

Mother Nature seems to be constantly up to new tricks – often with resultant surprise and negative impacts on herself and then, yes, on us hapless bystanders. This year's (2017) Springs are surely a case in point. An exceptionally mild February and early March (prior to the Ides) moved the early spring bloomers to do their thing several weeks earlier than the norm. A bulk of the daffodils, hellebores, aconites, etc. peaked in early March as opposed to possibly mid-to late March. Then in mid-March around the Ides (March 15) there occurred a severe freeze with temperatures in the low twenties!! The negative impact on plants pushed forward too far, too fast was pretty devastating. Not only were daffodil flowers bent to the ground with no rejuvenation, new hellebore leaves frosted, and aconites forced to surrender - but BIG troubles happened to the deciduous shrubs and trees that had been tricked by the early unseasonal warmth. As a result of the ensuing strong cold blast, the early magnolias did get blasted (often at risk though), the *Prunus* (cherries, apricots, etc.) got caught essentially halving their blooms, many Japanese maples had broken bud only to have the new tender leaves frozen black, soooo many spring camellias were damaged and so on. I would be interested in your experiences – what other plants were fooled and damaged by the weather trickery??? But following that severe cold snap, spring sprung forward again – essentially providing a second spring, but detached from the first. What resulted was a separation of blooming species that often are noted to bloom in tandem. For

example, the forsythia seemed to hold out for the second spring as did the red buds. But even this second spring is now far too early. Note that many forest trees are breaking bud – an annual phenomenon that generally occurs towards the END of April. As of this writing (early to mid-April), there still may be concern of yet a freak April freeze that could affect these advanced foliage. Another case in point was born out by our amphibian friends: normally the wood frogs sing out earliest with the spring peepers merging out next. This year the wood frogs used the early spring, whereas the spring peepers waited in a disjunctive fashion for the second spring and are still peeping in mid-April!!! Anyway, we should all keep our eyes out for unusual patterns as most everything is at least a couple weeks earlier than norm this year. Even the azaleas are popping out a couple weeks premature.

Perhaps as a consequence, you may remember last year I expressed concern about a hellebore infestation (aphid) that seemed to be being attacked by a pathogenic fungus. At any rate, whether the weather or the fungus or.....I have NOT seen a recurrence of the aphids. So once again I appeal to all your eyes and intellect – have you seen any problems on your hellebores this year - including freeze damage??? The way for us all to learn is through sharing information – and the quest for sharing information will make us more perceptive.

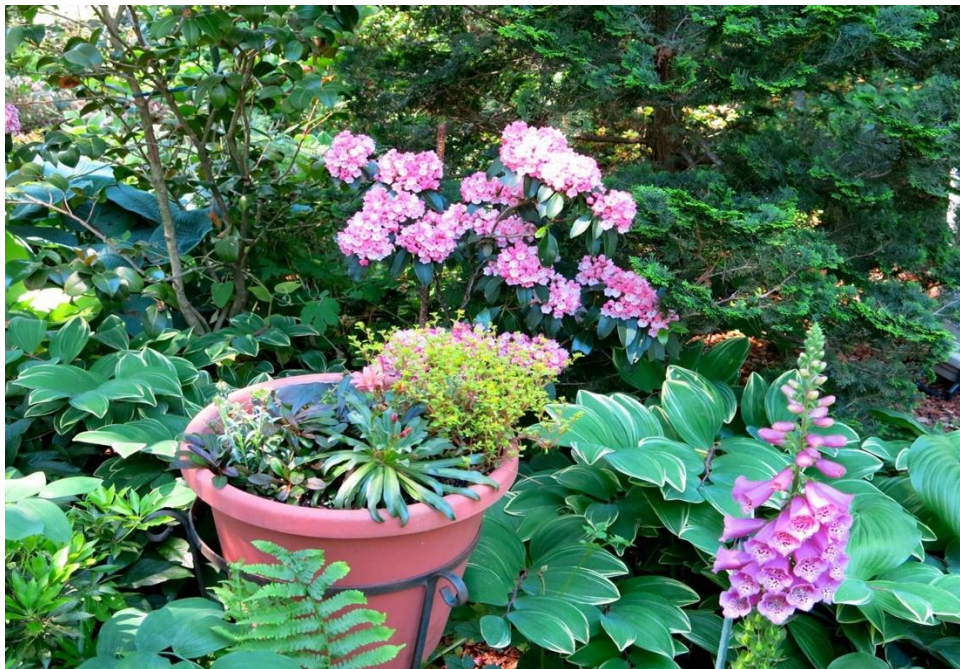
Meet your Friends

Joan O'Rourke's Garden

By Julie Fortin, Volunteer with the Sandy Spring Museum Garden Club

Many of you know **Joan O'Rourke**, the founding president of Friends of Brookside Gardens. But did you know that she is a devoted and fabulous gardener and plant collector? Joan's suburban yard started out as a parcel of cornfield bordered by a typical fence row of trees. But over the years, Joan has transformed her suburban space into an amazing "collector's garden". Much of her plant collection started out as dwarfs or miniatures, but under Joan's extraordinary care these specimens quickly outgrew their expected statures. She has developed a woodland shade forest with an amazing display of evergreens interspersed with a varietal flush of spring bulbs, hellebores, ferns, peonies, bluebells and many other perennials. Her lower back yard is a series of raised bed garden rooms, and within every crevice she has tucked away a diverse assortment of low growing shrubs such as camellia, daphne,

mahonia, azaleas and more. Joan is also a master of growing in pots, and potted plants abound everywhere. Many pots have two or more species of evergreens, and have flourished under Joan's intensive care. A sizeable greenhouse provides space for plant propagation and housing tender collections. The trickling of water from a small fish pond and the shady garden nooks that have been created will inspire even the most experienced gardener. Joan has truly demonstrated just how much can be done with a small space. This spring, Joan's garden will be one of five local, private gardens featured in the **May 20, 2017 Sandy Spring Museum's biannual Garden Tour**. For more information about the tour go to www.sandyspringmuseum.org/gardentour.



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: [Xperience](#)

Brookside Gardens Adult Education Classes	Course #	Date
Labyrinth Movie and Meditative Guided Walk	30487	5/7/17
Garden After Dark: Wings and Wine	30444	5/11/17
Focus on Butterflies**	30481	5/13/17
Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	30484	5/13/17
Growing a Cutting Garden	30480	5/13/17
Roses on Vellum*	30491	5/18/17
Gail Gee's Peony Garden	30483	5/20/17
Stormwater Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens**	30492	5/31/17
No-Fuss Roses	30724	6/2/17
Hometown Habitat: Lecture and Screening	30718	6/8/17
Growing & Healing with Common Garden Herbs	30747	6/10/17
Exploring Butterflies with Colored Pencils	30754	6/13/17
Creative Graphite & Layering Techniques*	30750	6/17/17
Fruits of Summer	30742	6/19/17
Succulents Container	30726	6/21/17
Burpee's Test Gardens: Fordhook Farm	30737	6/23/17
Small Space Gardening in Urban Settings	30725	6/28/17
Grow Your Own Bog & Carnivorous Container Garden	30727	7/6/17
Canning & Preserving	30728	7/8/17
Garden After Dark: Full Moon Cocktail Dinner	30719	7/8/17
Start Drawing & Painting*	30752	7/15/17
Tomato Burst	30743	7/17/17
Garden After Dark: Garden Color Theory	30720	8/2/17
* Program meets multiple days		
**Program meets multiple times		

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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