



*Spring, 2018*

## *Vice President's Letter*

**By Joe Ann Stenstrom, Vice President**

Think Spring! Hard to believe it is spring, especially with the cold April temperatures! But two good things to say are that the flowers love this weather and they last longer when it is cool!

Have you had a chance to walk in Brookside Gardens and enjoy all that is blooming? With **Brookside Gardens 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** coming up, Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG) is planning to celebrate by adding 50,000 daffodil bulbs to the gardens. As of the first week in April, approximately \$12,000 has been raised toward this project - over 80% toward our goal (see the "**50,000 Golden Daffodils Campaign**" flyer). Please help us meet that goal.

In March, we sponsored a fun and successful 2-day Orchid Show and Sale (see article). In the past two years, we have steadily increased income from this sale! Note that the 2019 Orchid Show and Sale will be on March 16 and 17.

Please save the date for a new FOBG event "**Trio on the Terrace**", Tuesday, May 15. FOBG is co-sponsoring this with the National Philharmonic Orchestra. For more information on this unique evening see the flyer. Tickets can be purchased at [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/trio](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/trio).

Lastly, mark your calendars for our yearly **Plant Sale**, September 8 and 9, and our **3<sup>rd</sup> Silent Auction** on November 10.





## *News from Brookside*

**By Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens**

Plants, plants and more plants! Now that winter is past (finally!), staff can begin implementing a number of planting projects. Last year, you may have noticed crews working in the Gude Garden to shore up the pond banks, particularly at Reflection Terrace and on the Gude Island. Now, new plantings will be installed in those areas. In keeping with the Japanese garden style, the planting palette will be relatively simple, with a focus on using plants with appropriate scale and texture. On the edge of the Viburnum Garden, more evergreens will be planted to create a naturalistic back drop for Reflection Terrace. On the Gude Island, more perennials and small shrubs

will be planted to blanket the ground in foliage, including some choice specimens. In the Parking Garden, staff are working with local designer Barbara Katz to design a new garden area on the banks of the upper Aquatic Garden pond, which will be planted in the fall. In the meantime, a variety of cover crops and wildflowers have been planted to hold the soil and give a hint of the design to come. In the Rose Garden, we are in the second phase of a three year plan to replace older rose plants with new, vigorous specimens and different varieties. We hope you will enjoy watching these new plantings flourish in the coming year!



**JOIN THE NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC  
AND FRIENDS OF BROOKSIDE GARDENS**

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for a sunset garden party at  
Brookside Gardens.



Trio on the  
Terrace

Stroll among the flowers and gather on the  
South Terrace for a classical music performance  
inspired by the spring season.

**May 15 • 7-9pm**

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Mingle with the musicians & fellow garden enthusiasts  
while enjoying wine and hors d'oeuvres.

**Ticket: \$ 35** can be purchased at  
[www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/trio](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/trio)



Save the date!

*Annual Plant Sale*

Proceeds benefit Brookside Gardens



Saturday, September 8, 2018 ◊ 10 AM-3 PM

Saturday 8 AM -10 AM - Open to FOBG members only

Sunday, September 9, 2018 ◊ 9 AM-12 PM

Save the date!

*Holidays in the Gardens*

A Silent Auction to Benefit Brookside Gardens

Saturday, November 10, 2018

6:00pm - 9:00pm



## **Help put us over the top!**

**We are so excited that we have almost reached our goal of Gilding the Garden with 50,000 daffodils for Brookside Gardens 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

**Thank you for your support of this wonderful project. As of the first week of April, FOBG has raised \$12,040 of the \$14,500 Brookside needs to buy the daffodil bulbs. Please support Brookside by helping us reach that goal.**

**Just go online to [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/daffodils](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/daffodils) to make your donation to meet the goal of the Gilding the Garden campaign.**

**Thank you from Brookside Gardens and Friends!**



## ***Report on 2018 Orchid Show-Best Ever!!!***

**By Gloria Sherman, FOBG Orchid Show Chair**

Once again, Mother Nature cooperated! Comfortable weather continued all weekend. The vendors who participated were **Orchid Enterprise, Orchid Station, Little Brook,** and **Arbec.** They are enthusiastic, have very desirable products, and are sincerely appreciated by Brookside Gardens' orchid enthusiasts. **Anne Hardman** (Volunteer) and **Jason Gedeik** (Brookside Gardens Staff) did a fantastic job of repotting orchids. They are very knowledgeable and the lines moved

quickly. Our raffle did extremely well. It's always a lot of fun and the participants are happy to win such fantastic prizes. Vendors and volunteers were treated to a light breakfast and appetizing lunch buffet. Our excellent and dedicated volunteers kept things running smoothly. It was definitely an enjoyable and profitable annual orchid event. Look forward to our 21<sup>st</sup> annual Orchid Show and Sale next March 16-17, 2019. Mark your calendars now!!





# **Welcome to the Cyber World of FOBG**

by Nithya Raghavan, FOBG Webmaster



September 17, 2013 was a red-letter day for the Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG)! Our organization got linked into cyberspace by launching its own website with the web address (also known as *domain name* or *URL*) [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org). The idea of developing its own website had been discussed previously but languished due to lack of internal technical expertise and concern regarding the ongoing cost of outsourcing the project. When **Nithya Raghavan**, a former scientist with some knowledge of web design and management joined the Board in April 2013, the idea got transformed from being a dream to a “virtual reality”. Nithya, who was the secretary of FOBG, volunteered to design and develop FOBG’s website as its webmaster. From its inception in 2013, the website has evolved by leaps and

bounds and now features beautiful graphics, information about FOBG/Brookside events, on-line credit card transactions, memberships, special fund campaigns and event management features.

## **What were the key features that were important in designing this site?**

- Beauty and functionality - namely a design that attracts the onlooker to visit and linger
- A style that is both functional and easy to understand and use
- Having the main page also known as the “**home page**” minimalistic but informative
- Easy to navigate links that guide the user to different pages
- Easy to read content (contrast and legibility) where the reader doesn’t have to squint
- User friendly and functional on multiple platforms (Mac, PC and mobile devices such as phones and tablets) and browsers (Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Explorer etc.)

With these elements in mind, the company “[Squarespace](#)” was chosen for its all-in-one web hosting services, which provided ease of use, simple pricing, design capabilities, graphic user interface, social media and secure credit card transactions via its partnering company, [Stripe](#). *Fun fact:* Squarespace was founded in Antony Casalena’s dorm room in 2013 at the University of Maryland! FOBG’s domain name and administrative email services are provided by a company called [Hover](#).

## **Why do we need so many companies to make this website?**

Although the webmaster can design and manage a website on a daily or almost daily basis (yes, it does take up some or a lot of time depending on the number and complexity of events), the administration, security and management of the hosting platform is best left to technical experts - hence the reason for using a hosting service. This service ensures that the website is secure, always available, is backed up regularly (for restoration) in case of a catastrophic mistake by the webmaster or hardware failure. Additionally, they provide expert assistance on technical matters related to the management of the site. Similarly, secure financial transactions are best left in the hands of experts in that field, hence Stripe.

## **So how does the Website come together?**

The Webmaster, who is a board member, attends most of the committee and board meetings to keep up with the events as they are being planned. Most of her time is then spent on her personal computer planning the layout and design of the site, its page(s), the graphics to feature and the myriad links and facts to embed into the featured page. For *e.g.* the FOBG Plant Sale takes up 2-3 months of work with long hours. Once a page is designed, it gets uploaded to the web server and tested to ensure its ease of use and released initially to the board members for testing, editing and fine-tuning. Once the page is finalized, it is then released to the public, who can then view the content from their home computers or mobile devices. The credit card capabilities were installed for the first time in November 2016 for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift, which was later followed by the permanent FOBG Donation site. Although FOBG membership applications became available online in 2014, its online capability was launched in October 2017, making the membership process very simple.

The web hosting service also offers a wonderful analytical tool to monitor web traffic and associated events that are reported to the FOBG Board on a monthly basis. During 2017, we had over 5000 visitors to the website resulting in over 13,000 page views! The web activity tends to be higher during special events such as the Orchid Show, Plant Sale, Silent Auction, Summer Twilight concert series, etc.

The FOBG website is dynamic and constantly evolving to serve, educate, inform and delight its members and public alike. This is a site for all plant/garden lovers who share a common passion for FOBG and Brookside. We started in 2013 with the website as an empty garden bed and every year we are planting more and more diverse and interesting features (or plants). Our tagline has always been “We Make Brookside Bloom”! We welcome your ideas so together we can make this website bloom. Please contact us with your input via the “[Contact Us](#)” page on our website at [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org)





# Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

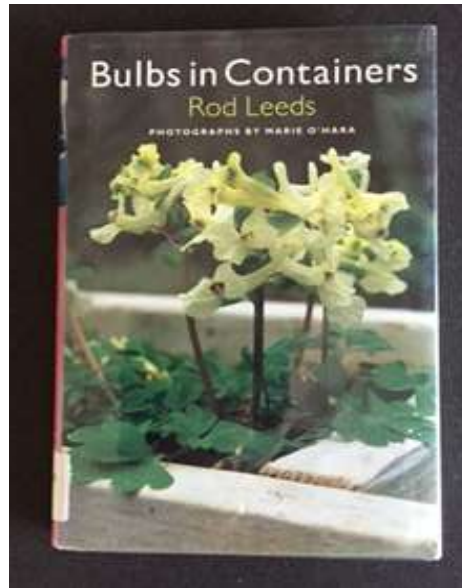
## Hope for Spring is Eternal

As of this writing, winter is dragging on relentlessly unwilling to release its chilling grip despite a few spurts of teasing sun days. But, yes, the hope and expectation of spring drives us gardeners on. Hopefully, by the time of your reading things will have mellowed. What this all means in terms of our gardening is that the late winter blooming things are extended while the spring things may well be abbreviated. Actually, maybe things aren't as bad as they feel!! In late February, it seemed like spring things would have come in a rush and be gone but in actuality there's still much to look forward to. For example, the bulb iris stayed in bloom much longer than in prior years. It looks like the daffodil greens came up early allowing them to photosynthesize and build stronger reserves for next year. And "AH", the hellebores seem so happy despite some heads down on cold mornings!! The woodland wildflowers like trout lilies are just beginning while in past years they may have been well along. Look at the tidal basin Yoshino cherries that were originally thought to be coming out early but were actually on the tardy side. Mother Nature has things her way and we just have to take things in stride. It definitely has been a treacherous tempting period to try to out plants from garden centers or mail order nurseries where the plants have been forced (greenhouse grown), but are too far along to endure freezing temperatures!! All this is what makes gardening such a challenge – Who said gardening is easy!?!?

The taste of coming spring often begins with the snow drops and Philadelphia Flower Show (PFS) by early March. It is always tantalizing at the PFS to see all the blooming things. Of course the Show has evolved into a much more sophisticated event than what had previously been a parade of spring gardens displayed by major nurseries. The theme this year dealt with water features (Wonders of Water) focusing on such things as the water cycle (entry was through a tropical rainforest), runoff management (see photo below), and raingardens to international efforts to wisely use water, etc. – really emphasizing the connections between plants, water and people. Each display was based on an aquatic theme. The plant competitions always permit the display of not only beautifully kept, but unusual plants. There's something there for every gardener, especially throughout the vendor area. For example, what caught my attention was a small corner of the Jacques Amand International (Dutch bulbs) display (beyond the rows of perfect tulips) where there was a 'collection' of bulb iris – many of which have yet to be released!!! It is surely exciting to see things to come = the future = what's NEW!!! Anyway experiencing the PFS is always humbling (probably a good thing) when you see all the wonderful things people can do with plants!! What is also fascinating is seeing the throngs of attendees all of whom must be carrying the gardening gene. Didn't realize there are soooo many of us!!!!



## Book Review



**By Joe Ann Stenstrom**

**Leeds, Rod.** BULBS IN CONTAINERS. Timber Press: Portland, Oregon, 2005. Photographs by Marie O'Hara. Available in the Montgomery County Public Libraries – 635.94 LEE

Support of "Gilding the Garden" for Brookside Gardens might spur you to "gild your own garden" this spring, summer, and fall with flowering bulbs in containers. If you don't have the large expanse that Brookside has, you can add beauty to small areas, corners, patios or window sills.

In his book BULBS IN CONTAINERS, Rod Leeds shows how to do this in each season of the year, using the familiar and unusual in both bulbs and containers. Colorfully grouped on the patio or simply highlighted in a forgotten corner, flowering bulbs can bring joy and beauty to unexpected nooks. Using common terra cotta pots and unusually shaped or decorated containers, the author and photographer show how to add a spark of nature to the commonplace. Nestled under a tree or sitting in a prominent spot they welcome without taking

up a large space. The large wooden barrel filled with a collection of early spring bulbs, the tall narcissus in an equally tall pot which echoes their height, and the metal container holding a variety of colors all invite Spring. In Summer, bedeck the patio with more free-flowing arrangements such as the white flowered *Hypoxis parvula* or the bolder *Lilium* "African Queen" which reflect this more relaxed time of year. In Autumn, switch to those bulbs which display more vibrant fall colors such as some varieties of cyclamen or oxalis. A section of the book is devoted to selection of bulbs suitable for growing in containers. Also covered is how to propagate, cultivate and display these wonderful choices. Bringing the pots indoors when frost threatens in the fall can lengthen the enjoyment of outdoor pleasures, so dream on and plan the "gilding of your own garden" for this spring, summer and fall.

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](#).

Date	FOBG-Sponsored Programs	Course #
5/15/2018	The Trio on the Terrace	
9/8/2018	Plant Sale*	
11/10/2018	Silent Auction	
	<b>Brookside Gardens Adult Programs</b>	
5/2/18	StormWater Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens**	45543
5/4/18	David Culp's Brandywine Cottage Tour	45553
5/8/18	Designing for Dry Shade	45546
5/9/18	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens**	45561
5/9/18	Garden after Dark: Wings & Wine	45558
5/10/18	Botany for Artists - B2*	39404
5/11/18	Hanging Baskets	45551
5/12/18	Focus on Butterflies**	45494
5/12/18	Yoga at Brookside Gardens	45559
5/15/18	Local Maryland Nursery Tour & Shopping Tour	45554
5/19/18	Summer Annual Container	45552
5/22/18	Designing with Big Leaves for a Tropical Look	45547
6/2/18	Gardener's Focus: Soil Health & Regenerative Gardening Practices	46254
6/9/18	Painting Mushrooms with Watercolor: Woodland Jewels of the Forest	47809
6/14/18	Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens	46256
6/21/18	Garden after Dark: Summer Solstice Garden Party	46259
6/27/18	Gardens of Japan: Their Intrigue & Mystique	47813
6/28/18	Enhancing Your Garden's Sensory Experience with Fragrant Plants	46255
7/7/18	Start Drawing & Painting*	45567
7/16/18	The Best of Summer's Harvest	46258
	*Program meets multiple days	
	**Program meets multiple times	



Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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

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