

# The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



*Spring, 2019*

## *President's Letter*

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

It's Spring! --- and the **Brookside Gardens** are in splendor! It's a great time to stroll the paths and enjoy the surrounding beauty while the weather is still cool and lovely. We hope you were able to see the 50,000 golden daffodils all around the grounds in celebration of this 50<sup>th</sup> year of Brookside. Thank you to all who contributed to this "Gilding the Garden" gift from **Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG)** to Brookside, and thanks to those who helped plant the bulbs last fall!

In March, **FOBG** and the **Rock Creek Orchid Club** had its **Orchid Show and Sale** and this year was one of our most successful ever. The orchids were very popular and there were many unique and hard to find orchids available. The North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC) also participated for the first time. Thank you for supporting this year's Orchid Show and Sale.

Looking ahead, there are **FOBG-sponsored** events each month, so mark your calendars in **May, June and July**. Join us on **May 19** for another fun time co-sponsored by **FOBG** and **the National Philharmonic**. Enjoy music while you savor crepes and beverages in the Rose Garden at "**Spring Serenade**". Details and registration information are located elsewhere in this

Newsletter. **June** means concert time with the Tuesday night bands! Bring a picnic supper and have a family time as you listen to: **Reggae on June 4, Spanish flamenco on June 11, African Beat on June 18 and Cajun on July 2**. Note there is no concert on June 25. On **July 9**, Shakespeare returns to the Gardens with a performance of "**Much Ado About Nothing**". Another time for a picnic supper!

We welcomed **two new Board members** in **April**. **Anne Roland**, who has served on the Marketing Committee and will now chair that group; and **Judy Marcum**, who has been a volunteer for several events such as the Silent Auction. It is a delight to have these two join us and we look forward to working with them.

There are many wonderful things happening at Brookside and we hope you visit and continue to enjoy the gardens. Soon, we will be launching a new campaign to enhance Brookside's azalea collection by adding new ones to what is already there.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and wish you a wonderful and healthy spring and summer. Thank you for volunteering and helping to fund the many activities at Brookside.



**Please note** that the “News from Brookside” and “Garden Guardian” columns will return in the Summer 2019 issue of The Brooksider.

Join the National Philharmonic and  
Friends of Brookside Gardens  
for a Rose Garden Party at Brookside Gardens



Savor crêpes and beverages as you celebrate the spring season with friends and family in Brookside Gardens’ Rose Garden. Enjoy musical offerings presented by the National Philharmonic at Strathmore, and marvel at the Wings of Fancy butterfly exhibit (included with \$35 fee option).

**Sunday, May 19 — 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Mingle with musicians and fellow garden enthusiasts while enjoying mimosas and brunch.

Fee: **\$35** includes Wings of Fancy or **\$30** for brunch only

Registration required at [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/spring-serenades](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/spring-serenades)

# Orchid Show and Sale Report

By Gloria Sherman, Event Chair

**BEST YEAR EVER!!! Surpassed last year!!**

Mother Nature cooperated. Saturday and Sunday were sunny and temperatures were in the 50's. The publicity and social networking brought in a record number of visitors. Four orchid vendors joined us: **Arbec, Orchid Enterprise, Orchid Station, and Little Brook**...all from last year. They were enthusiastic and loved the Brookside atmosphere. This year, we had an addition to our show,



the **North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC)**. They set up a display, sharing space with the **Rock Creek Orchid Club (RCOC)**. They sold Orchid-gami packets and gave away 3-D samples.

**Anne Hardman** and **Jason Gedeik** did a fantastic job of potting and **Chryss Mavrides** stepped in while **Jason** was teaching his class. They were very knowledgeable instructors and kept things moving. Much appreciation for their donation of time and expertise.

The Raffle did extremely well. We had eight appealing entries donated by the vendors, the Rock Creek Orchid Club, and the NAOCC.

Thanks to **FOBG Board members Kathy Kircher** and **Barbara Waite Jaques** who provided a very appetizing breakfast and lunch buffet enjoyed by the vendors and volunteers

The excellent and dedicated volunteers kept things running smoothly.

*Julia Horman's Retirement Luncheon Snapshots*

**March 24, 2019**

**Brookside Gardens Visitor Center**

**Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG)**



**Julia Horman, retiring  
Treasurer of FOBG**



**Luncheon Buffet**



**Luncheon Dessert**



**Thank You Gifts**



# A Thank You Note to Stephanie Fleming

By Carole Galati, FOBG Board Member

It all started in the fall of 2010. I met **Stephanie Fleming**,



Rose and Albert Behnke's granddaughter, at the **Behnke Nurseries** in Beltsville, MD. She wore the red Behnke shirt with a name tag, so I knew who she

was. We started talking about garden clubs and how I would like to get them together at some kind of fun event. Then Stephanie suggested adding a fundraising raffle. But to whom should we donate the money? I suggested **Brookside Gardens**. She loved the idea. For a month or two we kept in touch, meeting a few times. The idea kept growing – just like a well-nourished plant. Our ideas grew like dandelions. We would invite garden clubs to staff tables to promote their clubs and recruit members. Then we added garden talks, a plant exchange, music, food, garden-related vendors, door prizes, special sales, Master Gardener Plant Clinic, garden demonstrations and plant societies. It took us several months to decide on the name. I think we started out with Garden Gala, but ended up with Garden Party. And what a party it turned out to be! After the first one, Stephanie looked at me, tilted her head and said quietly, “Do you want to do this again?” We did – for five more years. The six Garden Parties were never exactly the same from year to year. A few years we even had a popular wine tasting and cooking demonstration. The Garden Parties were a lot of fun, but also a lot of work, especially for Stephanie and the **Behnke's** staff.

The raffle was always the motivation and centerpiece, raising money for **Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG)**, all inspired by the “Queen of Raffles”, Stephanie! That first raffle, we had over 130 donated items! It almost did us all in, but we raised about \$1200 that year. To prepare for each Garden Party, **Behnke's** staff had to move hundreds of items, including signs,

plants, other garden merchandise, tables and displays. Whole rooms were emptied out. They supplied all kinds of PR, signage and literature for the events. The entire staff at the nursery was involved, along with the Board and members of **FOBG**. **Barbara Waite-Jaques** was my quiet partner and main support, but the entire Board always stepped up at each Party to make the raffle happen – labeling items, selling raffle tickets and staffing the **FOBG** tables all day long.

That first year, seven garden clubs and several plant societies signed up, experts volunteered to do garden talks and **Jim Dronenburg** volunteered his wonderful harp music to set the mood. All the participants donated raffle items. **Behnke Nurseries** did not make huge profits on the day of the Garden Party, but the events were so much fun and invigorated the customers and participants, so we kept going. We had Garden Parties the first Saturday each June from 2011 to 2016. Upon hearing that they were ending, **Joan O'Rourke** (who ran the **FOBG** plant sales each year) said, “Well now, Carole, you'll have time to join the Board of **FOBG**.” I couldn't argue with her on that one!

The six years of Garden Parties generated almost \$10,500 for **FOBG**. But the goodwill, camaraderie team work, friendships and sharing of information were priceless for all of us. This is the longest ‘Thank You Note’ that I have ever written. It is for my friend, **Stephanie Fleming**, and the entire **Behnke** “family of employees” who were so inspiring, energetic and supportive.

But all good things must come to an end. The annual Garden Party event ended in 2016 and now, after ninety years, we must also face the end of **Behnke Nurseries**. With sadness we say, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You – for all these years of feeding our gardening passions and supporting **Friends of Brookside Gardens!**

# The Philadelphia Flower Show 2019 – Flower Power

by Nithya Raghavan, FOBG Board Member and Webmaster

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's (PHS; [PHSONline.org](http://PHSONline.org)) Philadelphia Flower Show, an annual event held in early March, is considered the largest indoor flower show in the world and attracts approximately 250,000 people. Each year's flower show has a specific theme and this year's theme was "**Flower Power**". PHS is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 1827, whose programs connect people who love gardening and horticulture and helps bring together beautiful, healthy and sustainable communities. The Philadelphia Flower Show is the nation's largest and longest-running (since 1829) horticultural event and features stunning displays by the world's premier floral and landscape designers. In addition to major garden displays, the flower show also hosts competitions for plant varieties, horticulture and design, artistic floral arranging, gardening presentations, demonstrations, special events, vendors and the citywide Bloom Philly pre-Show celebration.

The aim of the flower show is to let individuals experience the powerful connection between plants and people and to begin developing one's own love for gardening and nature. In this year's "**Flower Power**" theme, the swinging sixties era is revisited as designers channeled their inner flower child to put forward their groovy creations! The Design Gallery section at the Philadelphia Flower Show is the perfect place to



express oneself through floral arrangements and artistic creations. Many of the designers took this year's show theme, "Flower Power" to heart and created displays that took one back to the psychedelic sixties and the era of peace and love.

This year's flower show was also the venue for the **Interflora World Cup** which is considered the most prestigious event for the floral industry and is held every 4-6 years. Florists' Transworld Delivery (FTD) was proud to host this premier competition for the first time in the U.S. since 1985. The competition, named FTD World Cup 2019 in recognition of the event's host organization, included 23 countries. It is a design competition that showcases talented floral designers from around the globe. Bart Hassam from Australia was named Interflora World Cup champion.

The large displays - the "**Peace**" sign, the anti-war slogan commonly associated with the 60's "**Make Love not War**", the **60's camper caravan** and counterculture life style and the **psychedelic tie-die** trends popular with the hippies - were aptly designed befitting the psychedelic sixties flower power theme! Of course, no sixties theme is complete



without Jimi Hendrix, the ultimate rock guitarist well versed in the show-stopping high jinks of rhythm & blues. The show paid tribute to Jimi Hendrix with a design exhibit. The music selections streaming throughout the day - Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Simon and Garfunkel, Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, Pink Floyd, etc. - transported one to the psychedelic sixties!



Additionally, there were competitions and displays on plant varieties, plant groupings, flower arranging with fresh flowers, arrangements with dry plant materials, miniature dioramas, garden designs etc. Judging criteria include quality of design, horticulture, plantsmanship, visitor experience, among other multitudinous qualities.

The flower show also featured amazing garden displays and the Gardener's Studio where gardening gurus shared their expertise with visitors. Also available were a wide variety of classes in floral design and a "Garden Tea" which was a relaxing experience amidst the hustle and bustle of the Flower Show. At the tea, visitors enjoyed a proper tea in a room which was transformed into a virtual garden filled with flowers and soothing music!

Of course, no flower show is complete without the spectacular "**Flower Show Shop**" or marketplace that

is any garden lover's dream. It was filled with fabulous things for the garden and the home, apparel, jewelry, crafts, flower show memorabilia and cut flowers, plants, bulbs and dried flowers. It was an Aladdin's cave for the masses and only the strong-willed could resist this assault to their sight and senses! I am thankfully not one of those!

Total awe and wonder at the beauty of the exhibits, a camera to capture multiple Kodak moments, comfortable clothing and shoes, strong arms to carry one's purchases and a fount of energy are pre-requisites for the Philadelphia Flower show! Whether you are seasoned veterans of the show or a newbie, you will never leave the show without feeling WOW!

Inspired by Mediterranean gardens, the **2020 Philadelphia Flower Show** theme "*Riviera Holiday*" invites you to fall in love with gardening once again. It will be held from February 29- March 8, 2020 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.



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](#).

Date	FOBG-Sponsored Program	Course #
5/19/2019	Spring Serenade (co-sponsored with the National Philharmonic)	
6/4/2019	Concert Series*	
7/9/2019	Shakespeare in the Park - "Much Ado About Nothing"	
	<b>Brookside Gardens Adult and Children's Programs</b>	
5/1/2019	Stormwater Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens*	62586
5/4/2019	Summer Annual Container	62595
5/4/2019	Focus on Butterflies*	62406
5/8/2019	Hanging Baskets	62597
5/8/2019	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens*	62611
5/11/2019	Mother's Day Floral Design	62600
5/11/2019	Yoga at Brookside Gardens*	62607
5/16/2019	Pepper's Greenhouses & Red Mill Pond Botanic Garden	62615
5/17/2019	Secrets of Working with Colored Pencils on Drafting Film*	63527
5/18/2019	Goat Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	62556
5/22/2019	Miniature Hostas	62702
5/30/2019	Culinary Justice: Defining a Theory of Gastronomic Sovereignty	63524
6/1/2019	Garden Focus: Sustainable Gardening Practices	62585
6/5/2019	No Fuss Roses	63466
6/8/2019	Introduction to Natural Dyeing	63470
6/12/2019	Morris Arboretum Trip	62605
6/14/2019	Exploring Traditional Pen & Ink Techniques with Crow Quill*	63528
6/24/2019	Garden Fairies and Gnomes Summer Camp*	60656
6/24/2019	Garden Fairies and Gnomes Extended Care*	60657
6/25/2019	Water in the Landscape: Creating a Garden Oasis	63467
6/29/2019	Common Garden Pests & Diseases	63468
7/11/2019	Care and Handling of Butterflies: From Wings of Fancy to Your Garden	63469
7/15/2019	Garden Architects and Inventers Summer Camp*	28659
7/15/2019	Garden Architects and Inventers Extended Care*	28658
7/20/2019	Pressed Flower Art	63475
7/22/2019	Farms, Food, Fun and Sun Summer Camp*	60654
7/22/2019	Farms, Food, Fun and Sun Extended Care*	60658
7/29/2019	Garden Eco-Explorers Summer Camp*	60985
7/29/2019	Garden Eco-Explorers Extended Care*	60986
8/5/2019	Botanical Art Summer Camp*	60897
8/8/2019	United States National Arboretum	63485
8/12/2019	Hip Hop Architecture Camp*	61014

\* - Program Meets Multiple Days

\*\* - Program Meets Multiple Times Per Day



Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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