

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



Summer, 2019

President's Letter

By Carla Adam, President

Many celebrated Brookside Gardens' 50th Anniversary at a rededication ceremony on Friday, July 12th. Speakers included **Mike Riley**, Director, Montgomery Parks, **Amanda Allen** from Larry Hogan's office, **Casey Anderson**, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board, **Jeff Waldstreicher**, Maryland State Senator, District 18, **Emily Shetty**, Maryland State Delegate, District 18, **Marc Elrich**, Montgomery County Executive, Montgomery County Council Members **Gabe Albornoz**, **Andrew Friedson**, **Tom Hucker** and **Will Jawando**, **John Robinson**, Acting Director, Montgomery Parks Foundation, and **Stephanie Oberle**, Director, Brookside Gardens. Most speakers reflected on what Brookside has meant to them and their families.

Brookside Gardens opened to the public on July 13, 1969 and has become an outstanding garden and park for many visitors over the years. It has provided us with beauty, peace, enjoyment and inspiration. It is a place to bring your family to enjoy the many treasures it has to offer for all ages.

Joan O'Rourke founded **Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG)** in 1996. Since then, **FOBG** has provided critical support for Brookside Gardens and we greatly appreciate and thank all of you for your continued support.

FOBG sponsored the **Spring Serenades** with the **National Philharmonic** on Sunday, May 19. The rose garden was in bloom and was lovely. There were 130

people in attendance, including members of the **National Philharmonic**, **FOBG**, and the public. Overall, it was an enjoyable day filled with roses, music and good food. Many attendees also enjoyed the Wings of Fancy, the live butterfly and caterpillar exhibit in the Conservatory. We thank you for supporting this event and hope to plan similar events in the future.

Brookside's Summer Twilight Concert series (sponsored by **FOBG**) were well attended by all ages. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the last concert had to be cancelled. The **Shakespeare in the Garden** (also sponsored by **FOBG**) was another success. We hope you enjoyed some of these festivities.

Our very popular **plant sale** is coming up the weekend of September 14 and 15. The plants are growing now at the hoop house at **Brookside** and they are looking beautiful. We hope you will take advantage of the **FOBG**-member discount and get some plants to enhance your own gardens.

We have also started the "**Color Our Future**" campaign to raise funds to enhance the azalea garden at **Brookside**. You can read about it in this issue.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and look forward to seeing you at our plant sale this September. Thank you for all that you do to support **FOBG** and **Brookside Gardens**.



Please note that the “News from Brookside” column will return in the Fall 2019 issue of The Brooksider.

FOBG PLANT SALE 2019

By Joan O' Rourke & Nithya Raghavan

Saturday, September 14, 2019 – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Preview Sale for FOBG members Saturday 8:00 AM – 10:00AM

(Not a FOBG member? Join at the Sale)

Sunday, September 15, 2019 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join us again on a glorious September weekend at the South Terrace of the **Brookside Gardens** Visitors Center for **FOBG's** annual plant sale! We have always thought it would be fun to use the words “annual” and “perennial” side by side. It is one of the biggest perennial plant sales in our area and it happens annually! We have over 70 varieties of perennial plants, shrubs and trees this year. Come early to the sale and start your perennial garden collection!

What is so special about perennials? Perennials are plants that live for more than 2 years (and many more), grow and flower over spring, summer and fall (depending on their bloom time), die back in winter, and spring back to life again in spring! They are relatively hardy and live long with a little care (like pruning or dividing) during the growing season. Planting a perennial garden has the advantage that your garden can always be blooming from one season to the next

and could be interesting even in winter. Some perennials also do well in containers, so lack of garden space does not have to be a deterrent. Perennials can be planted either in spring or fall and what better way to spend a crisp fall day than planting your first perennial garden or adding to your existing one!!

This 2019 plant sale will showcase a special collection of nine different hellebores (commonly known as the Lenten rose or Christmas rose, etc.). They are evergreen, perennial flowering plants belonging to the Ranunculaceae family. They are easy to grow, tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions, deer resistant and will continue to bloom for a number of years. There is even a book “Dying for the Christmas Rose”, a botanical murder mystery based on hellebores and written by our very own local author and horticulturist **Carole Ottesen!**

As more and more plant nurseries are closing, finding perennials is not an easy task. Perennials tend to be more expensive than annuals, but the bang for the buck is much more since it is a one-time planting expense! One can intersperse bright annuals among the perennial garden to make it shine even more during the summer months.

Our sale would not be successful without wonderful volunteers who work hard all summer planting, watering, pruning and repotting so that we can provide

the best plants from our greenhouse to your garden. Thank you **FOBG volunteers!** To become a **FOBG** volunteer, email us at friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com or call **301-962-1435**.

Check the **FOBG** website www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/plantsale2019 for the complete plant list, detailed description of each plant and planting design suggestions. Make 2019 the **YEAR OF THE PERENNIAL GARDEN** and experience endless joy come spring. *See you in September!!*



Color Our Future

By Anne Roland, FOBG Board Member

Thanks to your support for “Gilding the Gardens” last year, **FOBG** members funded the purchase of 50,000 daffodils to commemorate Brookside’s 50th anniversary. Please help continue the celebration this year by making a donation to expand the Azalea Garden at Brookside.

Since **Brookside Gardens** first opened 50 years ago, azaleas have been a highlight of the garden experience. The Azalea Garden is a semi-wooded area that features over 300 varieties of azaleas represented by 2,000 plants. Wandering the paths among the colorful azaleas at Brookside is a time-honored spring ritual. According to [Washington Gardener](#) magazine, Brookside ranks as one of the top places to see flowering azaleas in our region.

Starting this year, **FOBG** hopes to make the azalea garden at **Brookside** even more vibrant. You can

help color our future by donating to renew and expand the azaleas in the gardens. Brookside will use the funds to replace older azaleas and add new azaleas with companion plantings. With your support, spring at **Brookside** can be even more spectacular for the next 50 years.

Donate today! To help renew and refresh the azaleas at **Brookside Gardens**, contribute online by visiting www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/color-our-future, or mail your donation to:

Color our Future
Friends of Brookside Gardens
1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902

Make checks payable to FOBG

Thank you!



Photo courtesy of Brookside Gardens

Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County



Is a Garden a Structure???

Of course there is a prompt for that question! A few weeks back, a strong thunderstorm with sustained high winds blew across our property knocking down a couple of trees and large limbs. Now fortunately, the blow downs and debris did not impact the house or shed (structures with 'four walls'...). Had that happened, it likely would have been possible to collect some insurance to cover costs for actual damage and debris removal. But much of our property affected by the storm and its damage is maintained as a garden. We had to have the tree debris (whole trees and limbs) carefully removed ASAP because it was impacting = crushing, smothering, shading, etc. the underlying garden. Having this done professionally was not cheap. There was plant material that needed to be protected or saved. There were paths that could be used, others preferably not. Then there was the trampling of the workers having to go 'on garden' to access the tree debris. Point is, the garden has format, it contains structures, it is a design feature, it must be maintained and protected – it is not just an 'open' piece of land or even a lawn (though maybe a case could even be made for lawn to have some 'standing' as a designed/maintained/ formatted structural feature of the property). I pursued the issue with my insurance company hoping to get some coverage, but to no avail. There are a couple documents involved: (1) a guidance and (2) THE POLICY.

The guidance can mention a number of possible coverages, but it is THE POLICY that dictates coverage. In our case, the guidance does use the term 'structure' and mentions debris removal, but THE POLICY only uses the term 'building' (i.e., the insurance will only deal with damage to a building (a 'four walled' thing) but NOT the garden (turns out one might pay extra to include landscape coverage).

Sooooo, maybe y'all should check YOUR policies and check what/if you have any insurance coverage for your garden in which you invest incalculable time and effort to enhance and sustain its structure.

The BIG issue here brother/sister horticulturalists is whether a garden/your garden should really be considered an extension of your building structure/home landscape. It is cared for, nurtured, manipulated, BUILT using engineered techniques, contains art work, etc. and should be considered part of the property structure, just as much as any of the other 'man built' things...

What do you think about this? Just how important are gardens in the scheme of things such as the value of your property?? We need to promote 'gardens' as invaluable structural features of our property which deserve insurance coverage- in effect, deserve 'standing' (i.e., not 'just' a flower bed...!!!!!!)...

Meet Your Friends

Anne Roland began her involvement with **Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG)** through the **FOBG** Marketing Committee in



2017, joined the Board this past April, and is now chair of the Marketing Committee. She has been coming to **Brookside** since she was a teen-

ager. She frequently brought her two (now grown) children to walk the paths and learn about the plantings. She particularly likes to walk in winter, when it is so quiet and still, and you can see “the bones” of the garden.

Anne was born in Washington, DC and grew up in Silver Spring, attending Virginia Tech, and then the University of Maryland for her MBA. After a long career with the energy industry, she switched to higher education, where she handled external relations for the University of Maryland, Baltimore County School of Public Policy. She retired in 2016.

She loves gardens and gardening, working with her husband Dave on the flower beds in their yard. She also enjoys visiting gardens on her travels, such as the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville this past summer, and the Villa Borghese Gardens in Rome, Italy last year. **Anne** also volunteers at the Visitor Center Information Desk, welcoming regular walkers and answering questions from first-time visitors.



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 in: [Cultivate](#).

Date	FOBG-Sponsored-Program	Course #
9/13/2019	Plant Sale*	
	Brookside Gardens Adult and Children's Programs	
8/8/2019	United States National Arboretum	63485
9/6/2019	Advanced Watercolor Techniques: Challenging Textures, Patterns, and Colors*	71626
9/7/2019	Yoga at Brookside Gardens*	71549
9/8/2019	Focus on Butterflies	45503
9/11/2019	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens*	71563
9/12/2019	Garden After Dark: Wings & Wine	71571
9/14/2019	Full Moon Hike*	71561
9/19/2019	Chanticleer: Fall Delights	71573
9/22/2019	Behind-the-Scene Greenhouse Tour*	71576
9/22/2019	Sunday Walk at McCrillis Gardens*	71725
9/24/2019	Speaker Series: Celebrating Brookside Gardens 50th Anniversary	71639
9/28/2019	Saturday Walk at Brookside Gardens*	71723
10/5/2019	Perfect Plant Marriages	71580
10/10/2019	Stormwater Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens	71581
10/12/2019	Landscape Design & Aesthetics of Japanese American Gardens	71604
10/13/2019	Hands-On Orchid Repotting	71584
10/19/2019	Autumn Herbal Tea & Honey Remedies	71631
10/22/2019	Champion Tree Tour	71574
10/24/2019	Speaker Series: Gardenlust: A Botanical Tour of the World's Best New Gardens	71575
10/29/2019	Chrysanthemum Tour	71613
10/31/2019	Glory of Fall Garden Tour	71578
11/2/2019	Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter	71582
11/3/2019	Momiji-gari: Japanese Tradition of Autumn Leaf Viewing	71622
11/6/2019	Shinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing	71548
11/8/2019	Botanical Illumination*	71629
11/10/2019	Healthy Cooking with Seasonal Herbs	71590
11/14/2019	Speaker Series: Designing with Native Plants	71956
11/16/2019	Mixed Winter Container	71585
11/26/2019	Thanksgiving Centerpiece	71586

* - Program Meets Multiple Days

** - Program Meets Multiple Times Per Day

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors

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