



Fall, 2016

President's Letter

By Barbara Schwarz, President

By the time you read this, our hot, dry days of summer will be behind us and we will be enjoying the cool, crisp days of fall. We are so fortunate to live in this



wonderful climate with our changes of season. Every three months, beautiful Brookside Gardens changes, bringing a new landscape to delight our senses.

Summer months were not lazy days for the volunteers working on the September Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG) Plant Sale. Under the capable directions of Joan O'Rourke and Taffy Turner, teams of volunteers potted 1600 seedlings. Then volunteers spent the summer watering the plants every day for 4 months until these plants and shrubs were lush and gorgeous. With the helpful assistance from Stephanie and many Brookside staff, all the plants were moved and readied for the sale, which was held on the new South Terrace on September 10 and 11. FOBG members enjoyed two hours of exclusive shopping before the sale was opened to the public. The two sale days

were constantly busy and our net profit was the highest in eight years. In addition, we had more people join FOBG to take advantage of the member discount than we did in previous years. Many thanks to Joan, Taffy, the Brookside staff, and all the volunteers who planted, watered, pruned, set up, sold, and helped to make this Plant Sale so successful!

The weekend after the Plant Sale found us back on the South Terrace to help with Children's Day, which is a Brookside Garden event for the community. What fun it was for FOBG to man an information booth with the Brookside staff! Parents with children in tow, grandparents with grandchildren in tow, young adults, and groups of families all seemed to stop by our booth for directions and information. So many activities occurred such as face painting, free potting of seedlings for children to take home, and the ever popular butterfly exhibit. It felt like Brookside was swarming with happy people enjoying the beautiful weather and day's events in the Gardens. This was truly an outreach to the community and the county, and we were very proud to have sponsored this totally free happening.

By now you will have received your renewal notices which were mailed out in early October. Your renewal is so very important to FOBG because with all the fund raising we do, your dues still provide the largest segment of the money we give to Brookside to sponsor their projects. There is an excellent article by Elaine Dynes on membership with some history and demographics inside this newsletter.

Also, with your renewal letter was information with a way for you to donate to FOBG's 20th Anniversary Gift to Brookside. This beautiful dry stone sphere, 4 feet in diameter, by sculptor Devin Devine, will be a dramatic addition to the Gardens. Our goal is to raise \$24,000 to cover all costs of the sculpture and also include an endowment for its maintenance in the future.

If you have sent in your membership renewal, thank you! If you have contributed to the gift, thank you, again! We very much appreciate your support. And if have not done either, please put these items at the top of your To-Do list!

One of FOBG's functions is to advocate for Brookside Gardens in front of the County Government. On September 15, **Nithya Raghavan** (the FOBG webmaster), **Stephanie Oberle** (Brookside Garden's Director), and I appeared before the Planning Board to tout FOBG

and Brookside Gardens. With Nithya's wonderful 20th anniversary video presentation running, I read a script about FOBG and how we have helped support Brookside over many years, and then Stephanie answered questions from the Board. Being a Friend, you should know how very grateful they were for our organization's efforts. They praised all of us for donating to, and working and volunteering for Brookside. It seems like we're always talking about fund raising, but being an advocate for the Gardens helps Brookside get the funding they request, but are not often able to get. If you would like to be an advocate for Brookside, please contact us and we will make sure you have the dates and instructions on how to testify at the county meetings.

In September, we also welcomed **Carole Galati** to the Board. Carole has been an active volunteer with FOBG for many years, as well as being active in local Garden Clubs. We look forward to working with Carole as she brings her experience to work with the Board for FOBG. Please see the article in this newsletter about Carole.

With Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and the New Year approaching, I speak for the entire FOBG Board in sending you our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.



Please note that the "News from Brookside" column will return in the Winter 2017 issue of The Brooksider.

Friends of Brookside Gardens is celebrating its 20th Birthday!

By Elaine Dynes

Established in 1996 by **Joan O'Rourke** and dedicated individuals who loved Brookside Gardens, FOBG has supported the Gardens in several ways:

- It has contributed well over a million dollars in financial support, mostly from membership dues, but also from fundraisers, such as the Fall Plant Sale, the Orchid Show, Silent Auctions and more.
- FOBG officers represent you and the thousands of Brookside's annual visitors at Park and Planning Board and County Council budget meetings.
- Members contribute many volunteer hours at both FOBG and Brookside Gardens.

We have a steady and loyal member base. Half of the original charter members are still active in FOBG twenty years later. For the best twentieth birthday present, help us increase membership to more than a thousand this year.

Many of you have already **renewed your FOBG memberships**. Those of you who renewed in October have already received your 2017 cards, and your prompt response enabled us to save hundreds of dollars by using bulk mail. Thank you! If you haven't yet renewed, please do so. Remember that FOBG membership offers additional benefits:

- Exclusive early admission plus a 10% discount at FOBG's Fall Plant Sale
- Discounts at many area garden centers
- Notice of upcoming programs and workshops at Brookside Gardens
- Discounted fees for many of Brookside Gardens classes and programs
- Invitations to special "members only" events

For complete details, please visit our website at www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/membership

If you have friends who are not FOBG members, please give them one of our brochures, or give them a membership. The donor and recipient will both receive letters acknowledging the gift. As we celebrate our twenty years, we thank you for being a Friend.



FOBG PLANT SALE – A SUCCESS!

By Joe Ann Stenstrom

Another successful plant sale! With construction completed, it was wonderful to be back at the Visitors Center. The South Terrace proved to be a good location for this year's sale with room to spread out and have easy access to supplies inside the Center. The sale was well-attended even though the day was HOT! – but sales were HOT, too, with many “sold” signs posted and the net return for FOBG being \$7,492. The complete plant sale listing with details of the individual plants was posted on the FOBG website in August by **Nithya Raghavan** and that helped buyers in making informed decisions about their plant purchases.

The layout was well-organized with **Kathy Kircher's** signs easing the finding of specific plants as people arrived with their lists already marked. The picture signs were a help, too, “forecasting” what the plants would look like in the spring. Montgomery County Parks staff provided excellent information about specific plants. As a follow-up on your purchases, see the FOBG website for additional information on planting,

pruning and other details. The most popular plants were *Hydrangea* – ‘Abracadabra Star’, *Weigela* – ‘Spiked Wine’ and ‘Sonic Boom, Red’, *Heuchera* – ‘Stainless Steel’, and *Carex* – ‘Evercolor Everillo’.

Tables were loaded with wonderful offerings lovingly tended all summer by **Joan O'Rourke, Taffy Turner** and their faithful volunteers. Potting, repotting, watering and pruning resulted in beautiful and healthy plants and shrubs. Labor to produce such a show is intense, especially during hot weather. Many hands are needed to nurture the plants and have them ready for the sale. Consider offering your help next year as a “plant-tender”. Joan is already looking at catalogs for ordering next year's quality offerings. Mark your calendars for next year – September 9 and 10, 2017.

The few plants not sold were used for a raffle at Children's Day and were offered to Brookside Garden staff for enhancing the Gardens as do the proceeds from the sale.



Joan O'Rourke



BROOKSIDE GARDENS GIFT SHOP - EXCEPTIONAL FINDS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GIVING!

By Joe Ann Stenstrom

What a treasure trove can be found in the Gift Shop in the Visitors Center at Brookside Gardens.

Sharon Fitzpatrick retired at the end of October after 15 years of managing this exceptional gift resource.



With a background in the graphic design business, she brought an artistic eye to the displays, and management expertise to the operation of this self-sustaining retail venture which was begun approximately 17 years ago. With Assistant Manager and 5 volunteers, the shop is open year-round. Displays are often focused on Brookside Gardens activities, such as educational items for Children's Day, gardening classes, book and author programs and seasonal items. Sharon managed both the shop in the Visitors Center and the one in the Conservatory which is opened only seasonally.

Sharing her criteria for selection of merchandise, she noted an emphasis on the work of local craftsmen, including those from the immediate area and the East Coast in general, and "made in USA" items (from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York), as well as craft works from such places as Haiti and China. Her sources were trade and gift shows, referrals from networking and other contacts and friends.

Some unique gifts you might want to consider for your holiday purchases include the following: exquisite turquoise blown glass pumpkins from China; different and beautiful decorative items made in Haiti from steel oil drums; great pottery serving pieces from Ohio; wooden art pieces with an Amish look, though not from Amish artists, from Pennsylvania; jewelry in nature designs from 4 Seasons in New York (necklaces echoing leaves and rosemary among other objects) and others such as beautiful fiber necklaces; natural soaps in lovely fragrances from Virginia; serving pieces made in Burtonsville, Maryland from recycled glass; outstanding greeting cards made by a Manassas, Virginia photographer. These are but a few of the wonderful pieces of merchandise awaiting your delight in this unusual shop. Also, remember that members of Friends of Brookside Gardens enjoy a 10% discount on purchases with their FOBG membership cards.

Sharon will be missed after leaving to enjoy visits with family in Michigan, taking some art classes and simply enjoying retirement. She brought beauty and joy to this corner of the Visitors Center.



A Regal Flight

By Nithya Raghavan

Brookside Gardens has a Monarch Waystation to help this regal butterfly on its amazing migratory journey from US and Canada to its overwintering stations in California and Mexico. In addition to the Waystation, the Butterfly Garden and the Trial Garden at Brookside offer a great habitat for these gorgeous butterflies where there are milkweeds for the Monarch caterpillars to feed on and flowers that provide abundant nectar for the butterflies to feast on! Even as late as last week (mid October), we had Monarch larvae and butterfly sightings (see images below) at Brookside Gardens! **Cheryl Beagle** who manages the “Wings of Fancy” butterfly exhibit at the Brookside Gardens Conservatory said that a gentleman from the Smithsonian who tags Monarchs as a part of the Monarch Watch program (www.monarchwatch.org) mentioned that the highest number of Monarch butterflies tagged this year in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area was from Brookside Gardens!



Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener Howard County

Ask a Master Gardener Program at Brookside Gardens

Yes, Brookside Gardens is a lovely place to stroll around and relax. But well beyond that it provides a reservoir of information with carefully planned landscapes and a wide array of plant materials that have been selected as being ornamental and climatologically tolerant that could be used by homeowners in the region. Moreover, it is possible to randomly bump into staff should a question(s) arise about these plantscapes. However, more times than not your question(s) will go unanswered and leave you longing for clarification. OR, you may have a question derived from your own garden!! Fortunately there is a regularly scheduled program where you may take your questions and get immediate answers. Montgomery County (as do other Maryland counties) sponsors a Master Gardener (MG) Program where citizens with experience and love of landscapes volunteer their time to promote a greener county. They all receive quality training and on the 'job' experience. One of the task areas these MGs can volunteer is the "Ask the Master Gardener" program. And guess what? In case you didn't realize it already, is that Brookside Gardens is one of the designated sites for the program. So, the purpose of this article is to encourage you, your friends and others to take advantage of this free service. What better way to enhance the value of your visits to Brookside Gardens than to bring your garden queries, at designated times, to a cadre of several MG specialists. **Taffy Turner** (the lead person on the Brookside Gardens team) reports that the MG team is present in the Brookside Gardens library essentially every Saturday, from 10 am to 2 pm year round, except January and February; Sunday, the schedule is similar except the time frame is 1 to 4 pm; Wednesdays and Thursdays have veteran teams available from March through October from 1 to 4 pm. Hopefully, this provides a diverse enough series of time

frames for you to make contact. Not only are the MGs very knowledgeable, but they have access to the latest information with them as well as being able to look on line with you pinpointing the questioning process. Now, the better prepared you are with your 'questions' the more likely you will receive the needed answer. This means be sure and clear (thought out) as you can about your issue; whenever possible, please bring in a FRESH plant sample or sharp photograph exhibiting the problem; you could also bring in a **well contained** (say in a zip locked bag) pest example. You may have almost any gardening type question that pertains say to vegetable gardens, lawns, landscapes, storm water management (erosion), soils, compost, native plants, invasive plants, deer browse pressure, pruning, weed management, insect pests, IPM (Integrated Pest Management = best management techniques), plant ID, and on and on. See if you can stump the Ask the Master Gardener team (I know, it's not a game, but always a 'human' thrill should the MGs not be able to answer directly. But, and this is a serious point, more times than not the MGs will take your question and seek to answer it and report back to you promptly.) The bottom line is that almost any garden/horticulturally related question should be brought in.

In summary, the Ask the Master Gardener program at Brookside Gardens should be taken advantage of. In so doing, more inquisitive, landscape interested visitors will be drawn to Brookside Gardens. This provides a WIN/WIN situation for you (the visitor) and Brookside Gardens which thrives on satisfied visitors. For questions, contact Dick at peachnfrog66@comcast.net.

Meet Your Friends

After working closely with the Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG) Board on the annual Garden Party at Behnke's for six years, **Carole Galati** has directed her



energies to getting "on Board". Besides being on the FOBG Board, she is also very active in her own garden, in the Takoma Horticultural Club and four other garden clubs. And then there is her grow-

ing blended family: four kids and 5.5 grandkids which will become six by April, 2017.

Carole was born in Philadelphia, attended Millersville University, did graduate work at the University of Maryland and taught pre-school through sixth grade for 30 years. After she retired, she took the Master Gardener training in Montgomery County in 2002. But she fell in love with Brookside 35 years ago and it

became her oasis. It inspired her to create her own oasis at home in her own garden. She became a Charter Member of FOBG while she was cataloging printed Brookside PR materials which she did for the better part of 10 years.

After professional retirement, she retired to her own garden, which she have been slowly cultivating since 1971 when she moved here from Buffalo. As Adrian Higgins' photographer said, "you have a small house in the middle of a big garden". She loves to collect plants and things (cheap, free, traded or recycled) and she finds ways to combine them in her garden. Since she has mostly shade, she loves the challenge of combining rocks and stones with plants. And then she adds some surprises and whimsy. Her gardens are full of paths: stone, chips, boardwalks and groundcovers. Carole says she has four ways to get from her front door to her car!

Carole has enjoyed working with the Board on the Garden Party/Silent Auction and now that she is on the Board looks forward to many more interactions.

Takoma Horticultural Club Celebrates a Century¹

¹This article compiled from the THC archives at Historic Takoma, Inc. and written by THC members **Kathy Jentz**, **Nancy Newton**, and **Diane Svenonius**.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Takoma Horticultural Club (THC), one of the oldest continuously operating garden clubs in the United States. In March, 1916 TWELVE men, many who were employees of the FDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Service residing in the Takoma area (both DC and MD), formed the Club with the objective of "promoting horticultural improvement throughout Takoma Park and vicinity." In its first year, the Club held five flower

shows to encourage "horticultural appreciation," undertook its first "co-operative buying of seeds, plants, and *sundries*" through the wholesale purchase of \$600 [approximately \$13,000 in today's dollars] of imported bulbs for resale to members, and distributed a booklet on the Club to all the homes- about 1,000- in the new Takoma Park development.

The aims of the THC have remained much the same as those of 1916, but some of its activities have

changed. The club has held bulb sales almost every one of its 100 years, with the exception of the World War II period and a year or two in the twenty-first century. Our bulb sales take place at the Takoma Street Festival each October. Flower shows - as many as seven per year - continued through the 1990s. They have been a very important part of the Club's history.

The THC's public gardening mission—"beautifying Takoma Park through the improvement of its home grounds, parks and streets..." continues to be a Club priority. A year after its founding, the Club assisted the City of Takoma Park to secure several small tracts of land for parks. During World War I, the THC sponsored the Boys and Girls Garden Club, which was a forerunner of the 4-H Clubs. Since then, the THC has helped to develop plots for flowering shrubs and perennials and butterfly gardens at neighborhood schools. They have also donated plants and bulbs for landscaping public buildings and parks in Takoma Park. In the early sixties, the Club gave support to the city's Azalea Committee in its huge propagating and

planting effort to bring about "Azalea City." Area libraries have received hundreds of gardening books donated by the Club.

To commemorate the Club's 100th Anniversary, the THC is currently working with the City of Takoma Park to create a park and garden at a major intersection. Through a hundred years of activities and effort, the Club has had a very positive impact on the environment and gardens in the Takoma Park area. The Takoma Horticultural Club is proud to be a member and supporter of Friends of Brookside Gardens. Our members often look to Brookside for inspiration – an oasis for all gardeners!

Club membership (\$12 per year) is open to gardening enthusiasts (both beginners and experts) throughout the region. Popular member-only benefits include the two plant exchanges a year, picnics, potlucks, field trips, discounts on bulbs, and specialized hands-on workshops. Other activities and resources free and open to the public include: monthly club meetings with speakers; a Facebook page, a web site (www.takomahort.org) and an active gardeners Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/takomahort/>).



100th Anniversary Planning Committee; photo Jim Turner



Flower Show 1971

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 <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Xper Fall2016-Winter2017 Final.pdf>

Date	Brookside Gardens Adult Programs	Course #
11/14/16	Nutty and Fruity	23607
11/18/16	Mixed Winter Container	23476
11/19/16	Mixed Winter Container	23480
11/22/16	Thanksgiving Centerpiece	23491
12/9/16	Holiday Entertaining	23395
12/13/16	Garden After Dark: Holly Daze	23400
12/14/16	Festive Fresh Greens: Wreath	23510
12/15/16	Festive Fresh Greens: Centerpieces	23513
1/24/17	Terrarium Workshop	23542
1/27/17	Necklace Potpourri	23521
2/9/17	Garden After Dark: Roses are Red, Violets are Blue...	23401
2/13/17	Chocolate Decadence	23613
2/15/17	Dealing with Deer and Other Mammal Pests in Your Garden	23463
2/24/17	Green Matters: Plant Solutions	23666



FOBG Donors October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016

Benefactor \$500+

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Steven & Teresa Tretter
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Stephanie (Taffy) Turner
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Winding Orchard Citizens Association
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Nancy Wong
Mariam Zimmerman

Memorial

Jonathan Hardis - Memory of Adele Fein

20th Anniversary Gift

Matthew Bogin - Honor of Emily Stashower

Steven & Teresa Tretter

FOBG Silent Auction Cash Donors March 2015 - April 2016

Benefactor Level \$500+

Joan Jarman

Kathy Kircher

Roger & Barbara Schwarz

Patron \$250-\$499

Carol & Richard Barsky

Freddi & Dick Hammerschlag

Dr Michael & Janice Marcus

Mary Lou Williamson

Sponsor \$100-\$249

Linda Barrett

Elaine Dynes

Michael & Madeline Feinberg

Glenda H Goldman

Bonnie & Alan Hammerschlag

Eric Katkow

Joan & James Patterson

Helen Pechacek

William Ragsdale

Sharon Schwarz

Stephanie (Taffy) Turner

Woodley Gardens Garden Club



HELP US CELEBRATE

FOBG's 20th ANNIVERSARY

We are giving Brookside a gift to commemorate Friends of Brookside Gardens' first 20 years of support for Brookside Gardens' programs and plantings. Brookside Gardens has chosen a unique stone sculpture that will harmonize with its natural setting. A creation of eco-artist Devin Devine, the stone sphere will cost \$20,000.



Many of you have already contributed. Join the celebration by helping fund the gift! Donations of any amount are appreciated, and gifts of \$100 or more will be acknowledged on the Giving Tree in the lobby of the Visitors Center.

Visit our website, www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/ anniversary-gift, for more information on how to contribute and for updates on the campaign's progress.

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

Web address: <http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/>

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FOBG webmaster: Nithya Raghavan