

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



Fall, 2017

President's Letter

By Carla Adam, President

Thank you to all of our donors for helping us reach our



goal for the FOBG 20th Anniversary Gift to Brookside Gardens. We raised \$20,316 for this gift. Devin Devine, the artist and sculptor was working most of the month of September installing the stone-sculptured sphere.

Hopefully, some of you came by to see the artist at work. The sphere is located in the fragrance garden under the golden rain tree.

We are pleased to announce that we will be having a **Fall Membership Gathering on Sunday, November 12, 2017 from 2 to 4 pm** to celebrate the presentation of the FOBG 20th Anniversary Gift and we hope many of you will attend. We are also in the process of sending out membership renewals and hope you all renew your memberships.

The FOBG membership drive is our largest annual revenue generating activity and the proceeds go to fund Brookside Garden's requests to fund various FOBG

sponsored projects at Brookside. FOBG funded some new projects for Brookside this past year including two successful summer internships and Shakespeare in the Garden that took place in July. We have received Brookside's requested funding for projects in the gardens beginning July 2018 and we look forward to being able to fulfill their requests that include funding again for two summer internships and Shakespeare in the Garden.

We had a very successful plant sale this past September and generated more than \$14,000 in revenue, which is almost double what we have made at past sales. Most of the beautiful plants were blooming and many garden enthusiasts came out to purchase plants for their gardens.

Plans are underway for additional FOBG-sponsored events you won't want to miss. For details, check our regularly updated website: <http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/>. Please support FOBG and its mission by donating directly on our new online donation site available on our website.



News from Brookside Gardens

By Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens

Last week, the Montgomery County Planning Board voted on the Montgomery Parks recommended Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for the six year budget cycle that runs from FY19 (July 1, 2018) through FY24 (June 30, 2023). Why is that important, you may ask? Because the CIP budget funds major new construction and renovations to Park properties. Parks staff categorizes CIP projects into several expenditure categories to show how they meet the broad needs of the parks system. These categories include: maintenance and renovation; land acquisition; new parks and park facilities; environmental stewardship; and historical and cultural stewardship. At Brookside Gardens, the CIP budget funded the recently completed Parking Garden project and the new Production Greenhouse currently under construction. Both projects were supplemented by generous donations. In the upcoming CIP cycle, the Planning

http://montgomeryplanningboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CIP-Adopt.MCPB_.10-12-2017wATTCH-signed-ToChair.pdf

Board has tentatively approved three projects for Brookside Gardens: design money to plan for a new Conservatory; renovations to the Formal Gardens to address failing infrastructure and ADA shortcomings; and renovations to the Rose Garden, supported in part by a generous donor gift. There are always many worthy projects and not enough money. The County Council will listen to testimony from citizens and community groups to help form their decisions to balance CIP needs county-wide. Your FOBG leadership has been a strong advocate for Brookside Gardens and for Parks projects, and we appreciate FOBG's support.

If you'd like to learn more about the CIP budget, this link will direct you to the document approved last week.

Annual FOBG Plant Sale 2017

By Joan O' Rourke, Chair of the FOBG Plant Sale

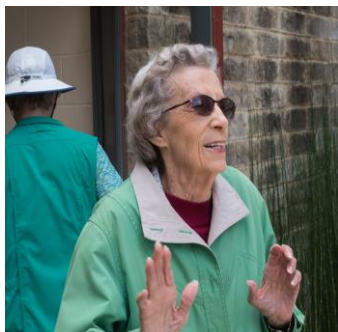
The sun was shining, the skies were blue, the weather was perfect and thanks to our great website, the customers came, saw and bought!! The plants that our tireless volunteers cared for through the hot summer months looked terrific and it made it hard to make selections. I can relate, but it is hard in December when the decision has to be made to decide what will look good in September of the following year!! Many plants sold within a short period of time. I am sorry if you missed the ones you wanted to purchase. You know what they say about the early bird and one way to ensure that it happens is to join FOBG which then gets you through the door by 8 am and also gives you a 10% discount on all your purchases!

Now that you have your plants home, please plant

them with care. Be certain to water them well this fall season and please mulch around them before winter sets in. The first year is important to get the plants off to a good start. Some perennials require a year or two to really settle in. Patience is the key to a great perennial garden!

Again, thanks to our loyal core of volunteers who worked so hard all summer - they potted, cared and groomed the plants, and to the wonderful Brookside staff who helped us all along. Also, a very special thanks to our customers who purchased our plants. The proceeds of the spectacular 2017 plant sale will benefit Brookside Gardens with their plantings and programs. We are already planning 2018's crop!!

Please come back next year!



FOBG to Present Anniversary Gift to Brookside Gardens

By Barbara Waite-Jaques and Coriolana Simon

How often do we get to see a dream become a reality? The members and supporters of Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG) just made this happen! What was the dream? To commemorate our 20th anniversary, Friends of Brookside Gardens wanted to present the Gardens with a special – and lasting – gift. We asked the Brookside staff to suggest a gift, and they gave us several options. The staff and FOBG agreed: a sculpture, a large stone sphere that would be created at Brookside, its natural material harmonizing with its surroundings and enhancing the beauty of the Gardens.

INTRODUCING THE ARTIST: The staff of Brookside identified the eco-artist and stone sculptor **Devin Devine** to carry out the project. After working ten years in masonry and hardscaping, Devin established Devine Escapes in 2007 with the mission of creating inspiring landscapes in an ecologically responsible manner. Known as a master of artistic hardscaping, Devin has created functional walkways, stone steps, patios, low walls, stone tables and benches, and sculpture simply to be enjoyed.

TECHNICALITIES: Next, FOBG board members worked with Brookside Director **Stephanie Oberle** to navigate the process required by the Parks to introduce the sculpture into Brookside's landscape. This required studies of potential sites for the sculpture, as well as engineering reports on soil stability. Studies also had to consider placement so the sculpture could be enjoyed by all visitors, including the handicapped. After much consideration, the entrance to the Fragrance Garden from the Maple Terrace was the final selection for the sphere's site.

YOU DID It: Once the gift was selected in the summer of 2016, we asked the membership and supporters of FOBG to consider a special contribution toward the construction of the sphere. You overwhelmed us by your response! We raised \$20,316, with 188 gifts ranging from \$1 to \$3000.

FROM BEGINNING TO END: With the money committed and all requirements met, Devin began the actual construction of the sphere the first week in September. With only brief delays caused by rain, he placed the capstone on September 26. Some of you may have come by the Fragrance Garden and seen the construction in progress. **Coriolana Simon** and **Doug Wolters** came to the site nearly every day and documented the installation in a series of photographs (see below).

THE "NUTS & BOLTS" OR LOTS OF STONE: Always with a view toward good environmental stewardship, Devin used recycled stone for the sphere rather than extracting new stone from the quarries. The stone comes from northeastern Pennsylvania and is known as bluestone. However, Devin selected an assortment of subtle hues – lavenders, greens, blues, pale whites – for the different sections of the sphere. While he did not build an actual model of the sphere beforehand, Devin did construct a cairn, or purposefully stacked set of stones, to judge how the stone blended. Before driving down to Brookside in his truck, Devin cut nearly all the pieces of stone at his work studio. As he says on his web site, "Every stone is cut, chiseled, carved, hammered, grinded, kissed, and handled multiple times."

WHAT HOLDS IT TOGETHER? The finished sphere measures about four feet high. And yes, it's stone all the way through. At the sphere's heart, Devin placed

a slab of quartz that he found at Brookside. Most of the stone pieces are long, thin triangles, with their points facing toward the center. Some pieces go the whole way across the core of the sphere; some go just to the center; smaller pieces have a supporting role. So what holds the whole sphere together? Devin says, “The very same forces that bind our entire universe together – gravity, friction, willpower, and love.” Though the stone is self-supporting, a small amount of mortar and glue has been used in the interior so that curious visitors can’t pry apart pieces of the sculpture.

WHAT HOLDS IT UP? To support the sphere, Devin created a concrete foundation to serve as a pedestal. After excavating the pit, he installed a metal cylinder to contain the concrete while it set – like a cake pan to hold batter. To reinforce the structural integrity of the concrete, Devin used reinforcing rods (“rebar”). Unlike rebar made of steel in traditional construction, Devin used basalt rebar, which can never rust out and retains its strength over time. The day the concrete truck arrived, Devin probably put in his most intense physical labor. Since the concrete mixing truck couldn’t drive all the way into the Fragrance Garden, Devin and his assistant had to haul the wet concrete

in wheelbarrows, push it up the incline at the sphere site, and tip it into the pit.

THE POETRY OF THE SPHERE: After that, the sphere itself began to take shape, curving and swirling upward each day. Working so close to the main pathway meant passers-by could watch Devin – and occasionally ask him questions if he wasn’t concentrating on a critical action. Once, a visitor asked Devin what the structure was. His reply: “A pile of stone.” Yes, but Devin turned that pile of stone into a ball of energy, an organic, graceful, undulating mirror of our planet.

TO KNOW MORE: If you would like to read more about Devin, his description of the construction, and his thoughts on his experiences at Brookside, go to his website:

<http://www.devineescapes.com/new-garden-sculpture-stacked-stone-sphere-brookside-gardens/>

The formal presentation of the sphere from Friends of Brookside Gardens to the Gardens will take place at the **FOBG Membership Gathering on November 12, 2017, from 2 – 4 pm at the Visitors Center.**

Thank you for enabling this dream!



SPECIAL EVENT at Brookside Gardens in 2018!!

By Suzanne Carbone, Chair 2018 FOBG Silent Auction

Plan ahead and mark your 2018 calendar now for the much- anticipated **Friends of Brookside Gardens "Holidays in the Garden" Silent Auction**. This very special event will be offered at the Brookside Gardens Visitors' Center and is scheduled for **November 10, 2018**, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. All proceeds benefit Brookside Gardens! The auction will offer artwork, va-

cation homes, children's gifts, garden related merchandise, and a wide range of gift certificates for entertainment, restaurants, travel and much more. We hope to see you there! If you would like to become involved or would like to volunteer to assist with the auction, please send an e-mail to friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com.



Whimsical Idea on a Tree-lined Path

By Joe Ann Stenstrom

Surprises abound while strolling along Addison's Walk adjacent to Madelyn College, University of Oxford, England. The path circles a lake with its own wonderful sights of nature, but what catches the eye of the observant walker are unusual seats. Along the trail are numerous "chairs" carved from stumps of trees long dead. Inviting and whimsical, these creations add their own kind of beauty to the landscape. Some are tiny, some are tall and large. One at the entrance to a private path is just what a young child fantasizing about being a prince or princess could want – sitting high and regal. These visual gems are hidden all along the path and easy to miss with all the other lovely parts of nature to behold.



Phil Normandy, Brookside Gardens Plant Collection Manager, says that a few of these types of seats are being carved over time from dead tree trunks at Brookside Gardens. It may be a long while before you see them in the gardens, but you just might some day. Phil notes that the wood from these stumps deteriorates over time and because they may not last long they are not practical. Still, look for some creative use of old stumps in your wanderings through outdoor venues.

Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

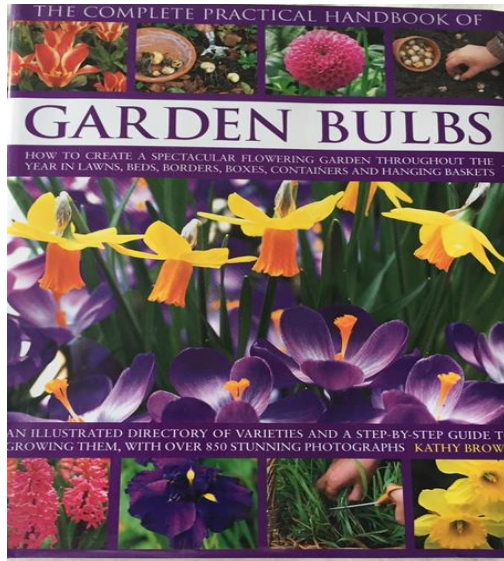
Sculpt your Garden

In keeping with the main theme of this newsletter, the intent here is to emphasize that a garden, though primarily a growing thing, may be greatly augmented by the presence of inert sculptures. The contrast between the green growies and stoic sculptures makes each more appreciable and worthwhile. So saying – you should add sculptures to your garden - just like FOBG did to support Brookside Gardens!!! **Devin Devine's** stone earth sphere surely complements the Brookside Garden plantings and adds depth to the visitor experience. So you, in your way, should do the same in yours – make your garden more interesting!!! **Devin Devine's** divinely devoted effort delivered to the defined destination a devilishly developed, devious Devonian device destined to delight the visitor!!!...R U delirious??!! In a more deliberate vein it seems clear, FOBG made a good choice in sponsoring the production of the earthly sphere sculpture. It is not just any piece of sculpture but one, because of its stone composition (stone from the Devonian era) and earthliness, clearly fits in to the garden setting. It belongs!! My travels to Great Britain were seriously made more enjoyable by encountering stone sculptures in myriad settings – some in gardens, some just out in the landscape. Honestly, a stone sculpture need not just be a sculpture...there were soooo many stone walls of varying design that were visually captivating. The point being made here is that there are many ways you might consider to better sculpt your garden.

As visual tantalizers, here are two pictures: 1) A stone sculpted by Andy Goldsworthy in the Scottish countryside, and 2) A stone sculpture having geologic implications as well as serving as a playground device near Jedburgh Abbey, Scotland. Some stone sculptures may have greater meaning, i.e. Goldsorthy placed stone aches in the Scottish countryside as a symbol of uniting Scotsmen at home and abroad. What meaning might you assign to Devine's dry stone sphere?



Book Review



Brown, Kathy. **GARDEN BULBS**. Anne's Publishing Ltd: London, Eng. 2011.
Available from Montgomery County Public Libraries 635.94 BRO

Reviewed by Joe Ann Stenstrom

It's that time of year again, nearly time to select and plant bulbs for those fabulous flower displays in the spring. The book **The Complete Practical Handbook of Garden Bulbs** covers more than Springtime flowering. After an informative introduction to the botany and history of bulbs, buying and planting techniques are discussed. Creative Ideas for use in borders, large and small containers, in grass and hanging baskets are presented. Winter storage and propagating are included, as well as dealing with pests and other problems.

There are sections dealing with use of bulbs in each season of the year – enjoy them all year-

round. What could be more beautiful than colorful plants in the dead of winter?

Plan your garden plot for spring, nestle bulbs in unexpected locations like scatterings in the lawn for that burst of surprised joy when they bloom. Gather containers for windowsill and table gardens that laugh at the snow and bring beauty inside.

In the meantime, enjoy planning and dreaming of what your yard will look like when the bulbs you plant this fall burst forth in the spring.

Note - Brookside Gardens will soon be celebrating its Golden Anniversary -- 50 years! FOBG plans to raise funds for a carpet of 50,000 golden daffodils as our contribution to the celebration. Watch for details to be announced shortly!

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 Program	Course #
	11/12/17	Fall Membership Gathering	
	3/17/ 18*	Orchid Show and Sale	
		Brookside Gardens Adult Programs	
	11/1/17	Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter	38629
	11/13/17	Thanksgiving Feast	38644
	11/18/17	Mixed Winter Container	38635
	11/21/17	Thanksgiving Centerpiece	38634
	12/4/17	Winterthur - A Yuletide Experience	39904
	12/8/17	Holiday Entertaining	39901
	12/12/17	Festive Fresh Greens: Festive Wreaths	39151
	12/13/17	Frestive Fresh Greens: Festive Centerpieces	39152
	12/14/17	Garden After Dark: Holly Daze	38625
	1/11/18*	Value Study - D3	39306
	1/16/18	Brookside Gardens Winter Tour	39889
	1/20/18	Kokodama - The Art of Crafting Living Mossballs	39905
	1/27/18	Gardener's Focus: Holly & False Holly	38630
	2/10/18	Botanicals in Colored Pencil on Drafting Film	39443
	2/12/18	Chocolate Decadence	39896
	2/16/18	Everything you wanted to know about Pruning	38631
	2/23/18	Green Matters	40522
	3/6/18*	Philadelphia Flower Show*	39934
		* Program meets multiple days	

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20th Anniversary Gift Campaign

\$ 500 +

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Roger & Barbara Schwarz
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\$200 - \$499

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Coriolana Simon & Doug Wolters

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Rosemary Williamson
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Norma Yes

20th Anniversary Gift - Commemorative Contributions

Linda Barrett
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Elaine Dynes
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Linda Lear
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honor of Adda & Clem Clark
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honor of Joan O'Rourke
honor of Ann & Dick Schaefer
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honor of John Waite

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Marcia Postman
George & Angela Schreiber
Frances Schueler

memory of Sarah Rosenbaum
memory of Frank McDonald
memory of Martin Postman
memory of Jennifer Osterman
memory of Jean Showalter



Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors

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[Web address: http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/)

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Handcrafted pens using wood from Brookside Gardens