

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



Fall, 2014

President's Letter

Dear Friends

Fall is a time of transition. We can see it in the rapidly changing colors of the landscape, as they evolve from the brilliant hues of early autumn to the muted tones and silhouettes of early winter.

We can sense it as time intrudes to remind us that we are near the end of another year and will soon be at the beginning of a new one.

This is then, a good time for FOBG to review the activities of the past months and to anticipate a new year filled with events that will help Brookside Gardens to be even better!

Throughout 2014, the membership and Board of the Friends of Brookside Gardens continued their strong support of the Gardens. That support was especially evident after the November 2013 *Holidays in the Garden Silent Auction* which raised over \$17,000 for Brookside Gardens. Building on that success, we have begun to plan for the second gala silent auction which will be held in November 2015. We expect that it will be as profitable and exciting as the first.

Enhancements of Brookside Gardens and the accompanying construction projects gave FOBG the opportunity to use a Behnke Nurseries as the venue for the annual Orchid Show in March, as well as for

the June Garden Party. We thank Behnke Nurseries and their staff for offering to host these events in 2014 and 2015.

Throughout the months of summer, dedicated FOBG members nurtured hundreds of plants so they would make a beautiful entrance at the annual fall plant sale. The tender care paid off and the sale was again a successful one.

During the past year, the Board has worked on other projects behind the scenes, continuing the development of the handsome FOBG website and the design and publication of an impressive new FOBG brochure. We hope that both of these projects will promote and enhance membership in our organization. Please visit the website often and share the new brochure with your friends. You'll find copies in the Conservatory and Visitors' Center.

Thanks to all of you who renewed your memberships in October and welcome to all new members. We hope you will become active members of FOBG. It's a wonderful way to make new friends and to become part of a community that works together because of a love for Brookside Gardens.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Suzanne Carbone, President

Update on Master Plan Implementation at Brookside Gardens (plus a little bit more)

By: Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens

Progress is being made on several phases of the Brookside Gardens Master Plan. This time last year, you may recall the Gude Garden being several shades of mud; now the pond edges are complete, the rolling contours of the landscape have been re-established, and the ponds are once again full of water. Brookside Gardens staff Phil Normandy and Lisa Tayerle worked with Parks landscape architect Ching-Fang Chen to design herbaceous plants for the lowest pond, now a marsh of mostly native wetland plants. What used to be an under-filled pond now features a winding stream lined with rounded stones and a fine selection of plants, which should fill in rapidly next spring. The concept is that after very heavy rainfalls, the banks of the stream will overflow and flood the marsh plantings, slowing down the water and capturing sediments. We're very excited about this new type of planting at the Gardens.

Early this fall, Jeff Patterson and a crew of Brookside Gardens staff installed a new labyrinth in the Gude Garden. The whole surface is now paving stones, which is very smooth and provides better footing than the previous labyrinth that was bounded by cobble stones and filled in with gravel. Jeff also installed a low, curved retaining wall that doubles as a wide, comfortable bench.

In front of the Visitors Center, work continues at the entrance, parking garden and flanking garden rooms. Most of the underground utility work has been com-



Gabion Wall

pleted, as has the beautiful gabion wall which is made of concrete curbing and sidewalks recycled from the demolition phase earlier this summer. The gabion wall exemplifies our goal of repurposing existing materials. Just last week, crews started pouring the concrete curbs and gutters and will also be pouring a sample of the concrete that will make up the footers of the Overlook (a.k.a. the bus parking area) and the walls of the Underlook, a seating area that will have a lovely view of the Upper Aquatic Garden Pond. Our contractor would like to get as much concrete work done as possible before the cold weather really sets in.

Phil and Ching-Fang have been working on plant lists for these gardens, which is a terrific opportunity to expand the plant collections. Already all the trees and many shrubs and perennials are being grown at Pope Farm, Montgomery Parks' nursery in Derwood. Fundraising is also underway, lead by Ellen Bennett. Friends of Brookside Gardens has been and continues to be a major supporter of the Master Plan. Donors have also generously given to bring several major elements to life, including the Ginkgo Canopy, the Gate House, the Fern Gate, planting containers, one of the custom Benches overlooking the Anderson Island, plus a number of other benches throughout the site. We are very grateful that so many people share the vision of what this major renovation can be and the joy that it will bring to many visitors for years to come.

FRIENDS OF BROOKSIDE GARDENS ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2014

April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

Our Mission

We make Brookside Gardens grow! As a community-based independent non-profit, we sustain plantings and educational programs for Brookside Gardens through membership dues and fund-raising events.

I. Highlights of the Year.

Projects Funded:

Each year Brookside Gardens provides Friends with a list of proposed projects and we select from this list those which we view as high priority and within our funding ability. During the year, FOBG provided \$80,000 to Brookside Gardens, including funds for the Master Plan, seasonal gardening staff, the Fall Lecture Series, Children's Day, Green Matters, and garden renovations.

Funds Committed for Brookside Gardens' FY2015 (July 2014-June 2015): We have committed to funding seasonal gardening staff, Green Matters and the Summer Concert Series, a total of \$55,000.

Fund Raising Events: The fund raising events held this year were Behnke's Garden Party raffle, our Fall Plant Sale, the Silent Auction, the Holiday Greens Sale and the Orchid Show and Sale, which was hosted this year by Behnke Nurseries.

Silent Auction, Holidays in the Garden was well received. Everybody had a good time, shopping, socializing, enjoying beverages and hors d'oeuvres, and listening to the music provided by several volunteer musicians. This event raised over \$17,000.

Fall Plant Sale was held in September. Joan O'Rourke selected the most desirable perennials and monitored an army of volunteers who nurtured them throughout the summer. They were priced in a way that is advantageous to the buyers and still leaves a tidy profit for the Gardens. The sale netted over \$5,000.

Fund Raising Events Planned for FY 2015:

We were beneficiaries of the Behnke Nurseries Garden Party raffle in June, we already completed our annual plant sale, held on Service Hill this year, and we expect to have the Orchid Show and Sale in March, 2015, again at Behnke Nurseries. We are also planning a Silent Auction for November 2015.

Special Thanks To Our Volunteers. Our fundraising events are made possible only with the assistance of volunteers who donate their time, energy and talent.

Membership Drive. This year FOBG continued our efforts to increase membership. Our membership has remained steady at about 800. Your membership dues are the single greatest source of our revenue. In FY 2014, memberships accounted for over \$48,000, about 63% of our total revenue. We appreciate the loyalty of our membership.

Annual Meeting. Our annual meeting was held in September 2013. There were door prizes, refreshments, and the rollout of FOBG's informative new website. Stephanie Oberle presented a preview of the elements of the Master Plan that would be starting in 2014.

II. Grants to Brookside Gardens

Master Plan Construction	35,000
Seasonal Gardening Staff	30,000
Fall Lecture Series	2,000
Children's Day	6,000
Green Matters	2,000
Garden Renovations	<u>5,000</u>
Total	80,000

III. Donors of \$250 or more to FOBG for FY 2014

Alderman, Rhoda
Bethesda Community Garden Club
Browning Charitable Trust
Byrne, Terence & Sarah
Diemer, Margretta
Dynes, Elaine
Erdahl, Robert & Ann
Gillespie, Duff & Joanne
Gingrich, Julie
Hammerschlag, Richard & Freddi
Horman, Gene & Julia
Janzic, Michael & Jennifer
Keller, Mary Ruth
Mason, Dwight & Sue
McDermott, Leslie
O'Rourke, Joan D
Perkins, Dorothy
Rice, Dennis
Salisbury, Carolyn
Stell, Katherine
The Forge Company
Zweig, Larry S

FOBG Board of Directors

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Carla Adam

Elaine Dynes, Vice President

Freddi Hammerschlag

Gene Horman +

Julia Horman, Treasurer

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Joan O'Rourke, Founding President

Joanie Palmer +

Nithya Raghavan, Secretary

Barbara Schwarz *

Gloria Sherman

Coriolana Simon

Joe Ann Stenstrom

Betsy Thomas, ex-President (Ex Officio)

Barbara Waite-Jaques, ex-President (Ex Officio)

* New board members

+ Retired from board

Membership Renewal Reminder and Alternative Gift Idea

To the many members who have sent in their membership renewals, thank you! 2014 memberships expired at the end of October, and most FOBG members sent their renewal checks and received their 2015 membership cards, but more than two hundred members have not yet renewed. The Friends of Brookside Gardens would rather give your membership donations directly to the Gardens for new plants for the restored Gude Garden than spend money on printing and mailing final reminder postcards, so please send your membership check as soon as possible.

As the holiday season gets underway, sometimes you may feel pressure to spend too much money on things that nobody really wants or needs. Why not give happy memories and create a lasting legacy with a tax-deductible donation to FOBG? A gift of any amount will be acknowledged by a letter on FOBG letterhead to both you and the recipient, and for gifts of \$40 or more we will include FOBG membership cards. FOBG members appreciate the benefits that come with the card! Forms may be downloaded from our website, www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/membership. Remember, FOBG is Brookside Gardens' primary source of supplemental funding. And that support has become even more critical as the weak economy has forced deep public funding cuts to Brookside's operation. A gift to FOBG is an investment in the future.



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 are available in the [Xperience](#) program guide.

Brookside Gardens Adult Programs	Date	ParkPASS #
A du Pont Family Holiday	12/03/14	296099
Value Study - D3	12/06/14 *	296751
"	01/10/15	"
Holiday Buffet	12/10/14	295402
Holiday Air Plant Terrarium	12/11/14	296399
Holiday Centerpiece	12/16/14	296400
Holiday Centerpiece	12/17/14	296401
Painting Basics - P1	01/08/15 *	296752
"	01/15/15	"
"	01/22/15	"
"	01/29/15	"
Fairy Gardens	01/13/15	296449
Fairy Gardens	01/14/15	296450
Winter Salads	01/21/15	295403
Art in Graphite - A2	01/24/15 *	296799
"	02/14/15	"
Calligraphy for Botanicals: Pointed Pen	02/06/15 *	296756
"	02/13/15	"
"	02/20/15	"
"	03/06/15	"
Terrarium Workshop	02/10/15	296499
Terrarium Workshop	02/11/15	296500
Hearty Casseroles	02/18/15	295404
Everything you wanted to know about pruning...	02/19/15	296549
Art in Watercolor - A3	02/24/15 *	296755
"	03/24/15	"
"	04/07/15	"
Green Matters Symposium	02/27/15	297058
Philadelphia Flower Show	03/03/15	296149
Philadelphia Flower Show	03/05/15	296150
Botanical Painting - P2	03/05/15 *	296753
"	03/12/15	"
"	03/19/15	"
"	03/26/15	"

*For additional programs, more information and fees,
click this link for the [Xperience](#) program guide or click this link for [ParkPass.org](#)*

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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The Brooksider: Gene Horman, Editor