

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



Spring, 2015

President's Letter

Dear Friends:

Spring is finally here! The walking paths at Brookside Gardens were filled this week with families, teenagers,



young mothers with babies and children, and couples, young and old. Every part of Brookside Gardens was a place of joy as sunshine, blue skies and warm temperatures lured people outdoors.

I have the pleasure this month of introducing you to the newly elected officers of the FOBG Board. They are President **Barbara Schwarz**, Vice President **Joe Ann Stenstrom**, Treasurer **Julia Horman** and Secretary **Nithya Raghavan**. Because Barbara Schwarz and Joe Ann Stenstrom have major responsibilities in planning the FOBG Silent Auction in November, current Vice President Elaine Dynes and I have been asked to be acting officers in our current positions until after the November 7th event.

The FOBG Board of Managers has been busy with a number of fund-raising events for Brookside Gardens. I want to thank Gloria Sherman for the very successful Orchid Show at Behnke Nurseries on March 14 and 15. Behnke's was again a wonderful venue for this traditional sale and we thank them for their support.

There is so much to look forward to in the forthcoming months. Joan O'Rourke is already busily ordering plants for the fall plant sale. Please let one of the Board members know if you would like to help nurture the plants in preparation for the sale.

The 5th Annual Garden Party will be June 6th from 9 am-3 pm at Behnke Nurseries. It's always an exciting event! A huge raffle sponsored by FOBG will offer treasures to appeal to everyone, some garden-related and some not. There will be a plant swap, garden talks, live music, food and a wine tasting in the afternoon. For more information, be sure to read **Carole Galati's** flyer in this issue of **The Brooksider**.

Preparations are well underway for the second FOBG Holidays in the Garden Silent Auction, scheduled this year for November 7th at the Brookside Gardens Visitors' Center. It will be another gala event and we hope you will share this information with friends and put the date on the calendar. If you have questions about the auction, please e-mail FOBG at friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com or leave a message on the FOBG voice-mail at 301-962-1435. The FOBG website is also a great place to look for further information on the event. Check it out at www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org

There is no doubt about it! Spring is the time of year that promises joy, energy and expectation! I wish all of you a joy-filled spring!

Suzanne Carbone, Acting President

News from Brookside

By Stephanie Oberle, Director, Brookside Gardens

After a wet, cold and snowy winter, the staff at Brookside Gardens are very much looking forward to Spring and all its attendant changes that entice the senses. Drifts of spring bulbs are emerging, coloring the ground under flowering trees and shrubs like magnolias, winterhazel, plums and cherries. The moist warm air carries the scent of flowers like hyacinth and sweetbox. And all around, the birds and frogs add their spring sounds.

The capital improvement project addressing the entry to the Visitors Center parking lot and adjacent garden areas is also progressing. Despite the weather, the understructure of the pedestrian boardwalk linking the intersection of Heurich and Glenallan to the Gardens was built, a curving path that will lead visitors through the trees and above a mix of shade and moisture loving plants. The boardwalk will be flanked by stainless steel railings and decked with black locust lumber, a local and renewable hardwood. Baltimore artist Linda DePalma is fabricating a

graceful gate inspired by fern leaves and fronds that will do dual duty of welcoming visitors on foot and keeping out those unwelcome natives, the deer. Samples of concrete walls and sidewalks are being poured for approval, which will provide the bones of the hardscape around which the decorative elements and imaginative plantings will be arrayed.

We are looking forward to summer and fall, when the Gardens will resume offering several popular events that were put on hold during construction. Mark your calendar for July 1, 2015, when the Wings of Fancy Live Butterfly and Caterpillar Exhibit will reopen, with striking butterflies imported from around the world. Children's Day will also make its return in late September, and Garden of Lights in November.

As always, we are grateful to the Friends of Brookside Gardens, whose generous support supplements our programs and events in so many ways.



Photo by Nithya Raghavan

5th Annual Garden Party

Behnke Beltsville Nurseries

Saturday, June 6, 2015

9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Calling All FOBG Members,
Fans of Brookside Gardens & All Gardeners!!**

WHY SUPPORT AND ATTEND THE GARDEN PARTY?

Besides raising money for Brookside Gardens, this wonderful event brings together garden clubs, plant societies, green organizations, vendors and Behnke customers.

By adding live music, food for sale by "Holy Crêpes", door prizes, special Behnke discounts, Plant Swap, two garden talks by Carol Allen, a wine tasting and much more, it will be an even more glorious celebration of all things gardening.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Help us procure items/services/gift cards from your friends, neighbors, relatives and businesses you frequent.
- Sign up to volunteer at the Garden Party on June 6. Use this URL:
<https://www.volunteersignup.org/W3CPT>
- Collect and save used/new garden books, which will be to given away to those who buy at least \$20 worth of raffle tickets.
- Invite friends, relatives, neighbors and garden club members to the Garden Party!

THE GARDEN PARTY SCHEDULE

8am - 9 amParticipants set up
9am - 2 pm.....Buy Raffle Tickets
9am - 11 amSubmit plants to Plant Swap for approval
11am - 12 am1st Special Garden Talk by Carol Allen
11am -11:30 amPlant Swap
1pm - 2 pm.....2nd Special Garden Talk by Carol Allen
1pm - 3 pmWine Tasting
2pm - 2:45 pmRaffle winners announced (You do not have to be present to win.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Contact:

Carole Galati: cagalati@rcn.com

Or Barbara Waite-Jaques: waitejaques@aol.com

IN DESPERATE SEARCH OF SPRING: A Visit to the Philadelphia Flower Show

Coriolana Simon

February. Early March. Late winter's unforgiving cold, and all that snow and ice. What better way to find a glimpse of spring than to spend a day at the Philadelphia Flower Show! Whatever the theme, the show blazes with tulips and daffodils, azaleas, and roses in full bloom.

Every year's show is a delight, but 2015 seemed more creative, more innovative than any show in the past six or seven years. This year's theme focused on the movies, with special emphasis on Disney and Pixar. As one approached the show's grand entryway, a bright marquee spelled out a welcome and just beyond, the primary space was



designed like a stylized 1920s movie theater, including a screen where movie clips were projected.

Each of the large landscaped areas evoked a different movie, using 20- or 30-ft. tall trees, flowering shrubs, ornamental grasses, flowers, hardscape, and water elements to interpret the themes. Among the most imaginative was a botanical adaptation of Little Nemo.

Designers converted the entire landscape area into the bottom of an imaginary sea. A wire-frame giant turtle and sting ray floated above



the plants, while a huge set of shark's teeth grinned in the background. Everywhere, ordinary plants like coleus and agave had been clumped in the sand bed like sea-ferns, while overhead, birds lined up on a dock, and the underside of a row boat reflected the sea's sparkle.

Winnie -the-Pooh featured a huge jar of honey, with cascades of golden Heuchera spilling from



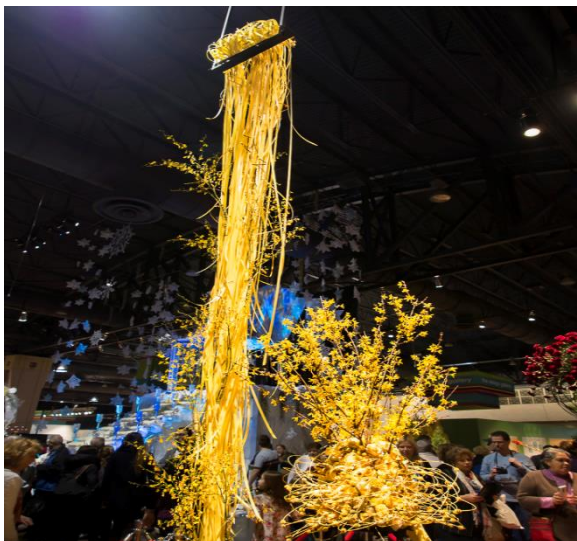
its rim. In a smaller landscaped area, The Sorcerer's Apprentice showed the tall blue wizard's hat, while two stylized brooms carried buckets full of pansies. The show's

central design feature focused on Cinderella. A magnificent long table was set for a formal banquet with immense arrangements of pale roses, blue and white hydrangeas, and white orchids,

punctuated by shimmering blue-purple light. In the center, high on a pedestal of ivy and pink and white roses sat a glass slipper. Overhead, an oval chandelier nearly as long as the table glowed lilac.



The American Institute of Floral Designers always has the most unusual and innovative displays in the show, and this year was no exception. Rather than concentrate on one film, the designers took Disney “princesses” as their theme, though some were merely heroines. For each of about a dozen princesses, designers showed a stylized drawing of the character and floral creations depicting an essential quality of the character. For Rapunzel, for example, the designer constructed a 2-storey-high frame from which cascaded golden streamers punctuated by sprays of forsythia, all repre-



senting Rapunzel’s hair.

Perhaps the cleverest and most amusing display took the film *Ratatouille* as its theme. Rémy, the rat turned star-chef, scrambled up and down a wire Eiffel tower in one scene. In another vignette, Rémy travelled through the Paris sewers, depicted by black flex pipe in a large pool accented by floral arrangements. A third scene showed Rémy in his chef’s toque at work in the kitchen, peering out of a soup pot. Each dish in



preparation was created by different combinations of flowers.

While each of these landscaped areas was ingeniously conceived and executed – and a great deal of fun to explore – flowers mostly seemed to serve a secondary role, more of an accent. In other sections of the show, flowers and plant materials held primary importance. As always, the Philadelphia chapter of Ikebana International had a fine display of compositions representing the Sogetsu, Ikenobo, and Ohara design traditions. Similarly, the bonsai exhibit showed breathtaking examples of this art.

One of the most intriguing sections of the flower show is the competitions, which include window boxes, table settings, store windows, hats, and miniature arrangements in illuminated niches – all made from botanical materials. Visitors can



decide if they agree with the judges' posted critiques and selection of award winners in each category.

The displays of individual specimen plants – orchids, succulents, amaryllis, tulips, and others –

should be a joy to browse through. However, the unpleasant quality of convention center lighting makes it impossible to see the true color of each specimen and makes photography out of the question.

At the end of many hours taking in all the displays, touring the “marketplace” lets visitors unwind and perhaps find a treasure or two to take home for their own gardens. Bulbs, fresh cut flowers, the inevitable curly willow, flower-themed jewelry, garden supplies, hand-made soaps, garden furniture, table linens, flower arranging supplies...it's all there.

Next March, we'll go back – and let the Philadelphia Flower Show give us our first breath of spring.

Meet Your Friends

Carole Galati (Chair of the Behnke NURSERIES' Annual Garden Party) is now a stay-at-home gardener. She was born in Philly and went to Mil-



l-ersville University in Lancaster, PA. She ended up in Silver Spring after surviving five years in Buffalo. After single parenting two kids

and teaching almost 30 years, she retired in 2000 and took the Montgomery County Master Gardener training in 2002. Now she finds herself immersed in her garden, garden clubs, grandchildren and fundraising endeavors for Brookside

Gardens. Being Co-Chair of the Takoma Horticultural Club (www.takomahort.org) keeps her busy. Check out their Spring Open Garden Series HELD EACH YEAR in June. Carole loves to collect plants and friends. She enjoys working with Behnke NURSERIES, COORDINATING the annual Garden Party, which is on June 6th this year. She especially enjoys collecting items for the Garden Party fund-raising raffle. All the proceeds go to Friends of Brookside Gardens. She is also procuring items for the Brookside Gardens' Silent Auction on November 7th. She claims she is good at “Begging for Brookside”! NEXT TO BEING WITH THE GRANDKIDS, playing in her garden gives her the greatest joy. CAROLE states “It is good exercise, very therapeutic and keeps me grounded and in touch with Nature. My garden is my pallet – an ever changing canvas of color and texture in my little oasis.”

Gloria Sherman has recently completed her sixth year on the FOBG Board of Directors. Recognizing her organizational talents, particularly her work as Chair of the annual Orchid Festival weekends, the FOBG Board has asked her to assume the position of “Special Events Coordinator.”



This new wide-ranging responsibility mirrors Gloria’s long-term interest and experience as a supporter of Brookside Gardens.

Gloria’s commitment to Brookside Gardens (BG) began in the early 1990’s when she started working as a Volunteer Gardener. She helped during the summers in the Fragrance and Perennial Gardens and volunteered as a Docent for the Butterfly Show. When she retired in 2004, after 24 years with Montgomery County Public Schools, Gloria found the time to expand her BG volunteering to include the Visitors Center Information Desk, the Gift Shops, and the Conservatories.

A native of the DC Metro area, Gloria was born in the city; her family moved to the Maryland suburbs when she was 14 years old. She attended the University of Maryland where she met her husband, Richard. Gloria’s interest in gardening developed after she was married and living in her own home – she describes her first gardening experience as spending the summer before the birth of her second child sitting on her lawn pulling dandelions. Her thumb became greener as she advanced from dandelions to a small vegetable garden where the challenge was seeing how large a squash could grow.

Gloria’s horticulture education began while she worked as an Instructional Assistant in Horticultural Science classes at Springbrook High School.

Learning on the job, Gloria remembers being determined to stay one step ahead of the students. In 2004, she joined the MC Master Gardeners to continue advancing her gardening knowledge and expertise. Her progress was evident in her beautifully designed and maintained home garden, which was featured twice on Brookside’s Garden Tours.

In 2010, Gloria and Richard moved to Leisure World (LW) where Gloria’s gardening activities have expanded. She worked with the LW Landscape Committee for two years, identifying and reporting diseased and damaged plant material. Her community garden won the 2013 Award for Best Combo Garden, and she started a new business, “Gloria’s Gardening” – offering design, planting and maintenance services to Leisure World residents.

Gloria’s e-mail address reminds us that “she loves gardening.” She shows that love in all she does for Brookside and FOBG. She carries it with her on her travels, enjoying a wide variety of gardens from Butchart in British Columbia, Versailles and Les Tuileries in Paris, to the community gardens and rice paddies of Vietnam. But she never loses sight of the advantages of having the beauty of Brookside close at hand. Gloria regularly walks the “Heart-Smart Trail” for exercise and for the soothing benefits of the garden’s tranquility. As she walks by the conservatory parking lot, Gloria experiences the pleasure of seeing her own tree – a *Malus* (crabapple) planted in the natural area bordering the steam bed. The tree was donated by her children in honor of Gloria’s 60th birthday. It’s a reminder of what she considers to be her time best spent, with her wonderful family...daughter, son, their spouses and five grandchildren.

Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, your guardian and now Master Gardener intern (Howard County)

Not only was the long hard winter enough to numb are bodies when outside but apparently it also numbed our garden brains even inside. Despite my desperate plea for garden questions in the last newsletter no such questions were forthcoming. What were you thinking?? Oh, you weren't!!! So, that was then when our gardens were dead frozen but now, ahah, I think/hope we are thawed out so we can turn our 'thawts' to gardening. Without any questions this column is rudderless (without question) so I'll wander around with some random contemplations. Don't blame me!!!

As cold and long lasting as this winter was, there does not seem to be major cold damage. It may be due to two factors: the first is the cold came in relatively slowly so many plants did have an opportunity to harden off; and the second is there was an enduring snow cover which probably kept the root zone somewhat protected from the icy blasts. But the most telling result from the never ending winter of 2015 is that spring is definitely tardy – certainly a couple weeks and in some cases at least a month. I am sure I've seen maple and elm flowers appearing in late February some years and this year they're just showing now – April Fool's Day!! The net result is not only belated normally early blooms but there will be a degree of 'telescoping' – that is a jamming of blooms popping in early April as opposed to being spread out over the month of March into April. And, it's not just plants.

Even the early frogs – peepers and wood frogs have waited until April to raise their chorus. They've got to be tough. I mean how do those thin skinned things survive such a winter?? But they have!! Whatever, we're all certainly ready for spring and will enjoy its amassed consolidated bounty all the more.

What also seems to be the case is that the local garden centers are not sure what to do with respect to stocking up. Many have held back deliveries for fear of losing tender plants to a late freeze and others are wary of receiving plants but having to haul them inside on cold nights. It was truly shocking to go to a solid local garden center the very week before Easter and NOT finding any perennials!! You can't make money if you don't have plants to sell, but you can lose a lot of money if your merchandize freezes...a true dilemma.

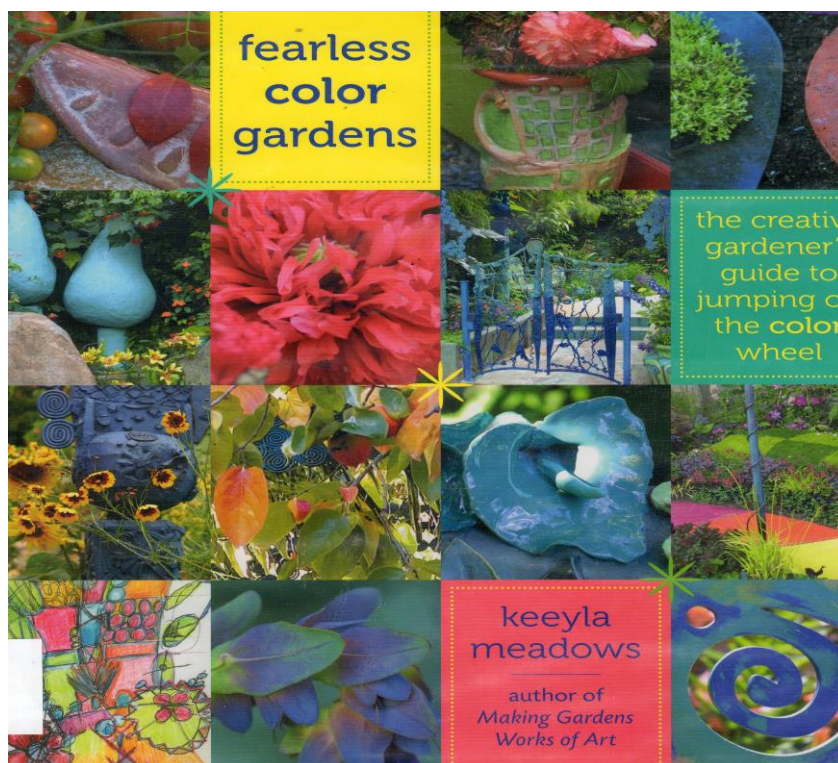
One benefit of the spring procrastination is that most of the flowering woodies e.g., magnolias, cherries, fruit trees, etc. will be blooming after the risk of a freeze is past. How many previous years have a number of these (like the Star magnolia) broken flower bud early only to have them browned by freezing temperatures.

Anyway – enough rambling. Feel free to send questions for the next edition – if just to spare yourselves having to read more of this!!! For gardening questions, contact Dick at: peachnfrog66@comcast.net.



Photo by Nithya Raghavan

BOOK REVIEW



Keeka Meadows. FEARLESS COLOR GARDENS, Timber Press: Portland, Oregon, 2009.

It's Spring and time to plan your garden for summer enjoyment. To add to the pleasure of a setting to gladden your heart in the coming months, think color. An artist and gardener, author Keeyla Meadows says "Color is fun!", "Color is exciting!". Color can set the mood and feel of your garden just as it does in your home – for the entire garden or zones within it.

Meadows advocates looking at everything that surrounds your garden, including the hardscapes and fixtures, as well as established plantings. Then look for color relationships as you plan your "palette", working for harmony and contrast to add interest. The artist's color wheel is helpful in determining these relationships, whether aiming for a warm or cool atmosphere. Meadows uses her "color triangle" to demonstrate color combinations in this inspirational book. Try it by choosing any color and placing it next to a warmer color on one side and a cooler one on the other, for instance, bold orange with yellow-orange and blue-purple.

Are you ready to celebrate spring and summer with color? Don't be afraid to be bold rather than boring and have fun with garden color.

This book is available in the Montgomery County Public Libraries.

Reviewed by

Joe Ann Stenstrom

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. Additional offerings, such as children's programs, art exhibits and excursions are available in the [Xperience](#) program guide.

Brookside Gardens Adult Programs

Date ParkPASS #

Surreybrooke Gardens& Shopping Trip	05/05/15	316801
Botany for Artists	05/05/15	316651
Hanging Baskets	05/07/15	316454
Hanging Baskets	05/08/15	316455
Conservation Landscaping Techniques	05/14/15	316107
Conservation Landscaping Techniques	05/15/15	316100
Herb Celebration	05/13/15	315951
Digital Garden Photography	05/21/15	316457
Private Gardens of Mink Hollow	05/23/15	316830
Willow Furniture Workshop	05/30/15	316549
Herb Container Garden	06/03/15	316458
Herb Container Garden	06/04/15	316499
A Visit to Ladew Topiary Gardens	06/09/15	316802
Composting: At Home and Behind the Scenes	06/11/15	316449
A Permaculture Homestead	06/12/15	316829
Succulent Container	06/18/15	316500
Succulent Container	06/19/15	316501
Tarts & Pies, Sweet & Savory	06/24/15	315952
Hummingbirds in the Garden	06/25/15	316305
Tomato Extravaganza	07/08/15	315999
Landscapes for Life	07/09/15	316150
Start Drawing and Painting	07/07/15	316665
Start Drawing and Painting	07/11/15	316666
Low Tunnels and Winter Gardening	07/25/15	316453

Free tours:

Brookside Gardens Saturday Afternoon Walks

May 9, course #316214

May 23, course #316215

June 6, course #316216

McCrillis Gardens Sunday Afternoon Walks

May 3, course #316217

May 10, course #316218

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

**Membership Support at Benefactor & Patron Levels
for the Fiscal Year ended 3/31/2015**

Benefactor \$500 +

Erdahl, Robert & Ann
Kircher, Kathy
Salisbury, Carlyn
Bethesda Community Garden Club
Gingrich, Julie
Lussier, Patricia Smith & Frances
O'Rourke, Joan D

Patron \$250 - \$499

Mason, Dwight & Sue
Dynes, Elaine
Diemer, Margretta
Alderman, Rhoda
Brady, Arden
Byrne, Terence & Sarah
Gillespie, Duff & Joanne
Hammerschlag, Richard & Freddi
Jackson, Shelton & Lily
Janezic, Michael & Jennifer
Keller, Mary Ruth`
Mantzouranis, Heidi
Phillips, Susan L
Smithson, Frances
Turner, Stephanie (Taffy)
Williamson, Mary Louise



Photo by Nithya Raghavan

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors

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*Barbara Schwarz, President, Joe Ann Stenstrom, Vice President, Nithya Raghavan, Secretary and
Julia Horman, Treasurer*

Directors: Carla Adam, Suzanne Carbone, Elaine Dynes, Freddi Hammerschlag,
Julia Horman, Kathy Kircher, Joan O'Rourke – founding president,
Nithya Raghavan, Barbara Schwarz, Gloria Sherman, Coriolana Simon,
Joe Ann Stenstrom, Betsy Thomas – ex officio, Barbara Waite-Jaques – ex officio

The Brooksider: Freddi Hammerschlag and Joe Ann Stenstrom, Editors



Photo by Nithya Raghavan