

# The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



*Spring, 2016*

## President's Letter

**By Suzanne Carbone, Acting President**

On this bright and sunny April day, I am reminded again of how beautiful the earth is and of the steady



richness of the cycles of the seasons. Everywhere we look, the landscape is filled with gorgeous colors of spring, from the deep magenta of redbuds to the cheerful yellow of daffodils, and the lacy pinks and whites of flowering cherry trees. All of this beauty is proof of the reliability of growth and renewal and promises that all is well with the earth.

This is my last letter as president of the Friends of Brookside Gardens. For the past three years, I have seen how FOBG has grown and developed as an organization, because of its membership and the marvelous Board of Managers. Together we have worked to increase membership, and to develop an extraordinary website to keep our members informed of activities, special events, photographs of Brookside, and members' news. We have seen our presence on Facebook grow to 1134 Friends. FOBG has also taken an active part in advocating for Brookside Gardens as

we've testified at budget hearings on behalf of the Gardens.

We have hosted plant sales, Orchid Shows, sponsored Earth Day Festivals, Spring Lecture Series, the Summer Twilight Series and the Garden Party at Behnke's Nursery. We hosted the first evening Holiday in the Garden Gala Silent Auction in November 2013, which garnered \$17,000 for Brookside Gardens.

At this very moment, we are celebrating the completion of our second Gala in the Garden Silent Auction held on the evening of April 16<sup>th</sup>, looking forward to a Midsummer Night in the Garden Annual Meeting on June 23, and the annual plant sale on September 10<sup>th</sup>. These efforts highlight the fact that this year we are celebrating the Friends of Brookside Gardens 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that we continue to be an organization that is vibrant and meaningful.

Each event and activity exists to raise money and to support Brookside Gardens, an extraordinarily lovely public garden in Montgomery County. Each event and activity is made possible because of the passion and hard work of your Board of Managers: Founding President Joan O'Rourke, Carla Adam, Elaine Dynes, Freddi Hammerschlag, Julia Horman, Kathy Kircher, Nithya Raghavan, Barbara Schwarz, Gloria Sherman,

Coriolana Simon, Joe Ann Stenstrom, Betsy Thomas, Barbara Waite-Jaques, and Stephanie Oberle, Brookside Gardens Executive Director and Ex-Officio member of the Board. My thanks to this amazing group of people for their dedication and support these past three years. I welcome our new president, Barbara Schwarz and our new Vice President, Joe Ann

Stenstrom, who will replace Elaine Dynes. I invite everyone who reads this newsletter to join us, to work directly with us on the projects we develop, and to consider becoming part of the Board of Managers. We are eager to continue to help Brookside Gardens blossom and grow with you as part of our team.

## *News from Brookside*

The Garden Gateway Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on Friday, April 22, 2016 was a huge success. Kudos go to Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens, and her staff for organizing this event to commemorate the completion of the Brookside Gardens' new Garden Gateway. Representatives from government, the community, Brookside Gardens Staff, volunteers, members of Friends of Brookside Gardens and

students and teachers from Glenallan Elementary school helped to make this a momentous occasion, and many participated in a volunteer planting project prior to the ceremony. Most heartwarming was to see the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Glenallan involved in the planting project! This event was a wonderful kick off for what promises to be a very exciting summer at Brookside Gardens!



Please join us for

## A Midsummer Night in the Garden

### An Annual Meeting and Social

Thursday, June 23, 2016

7:00-9:00pm

- To celebrate FOBG's first twenty years
- Review its recent successes
- Get updates from Brookside Gardens
- And talk about the future
- With light refreshments



*Friends* OF  
BROOKSIDE GARDENS

Brookside Gardens

Visitors Center

1800 Glenallan Avenue

Wheaton, MD 20902



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

# GARDEN PARTY

— JUNE 4, 2016 —  
AT BEHNKE'S

*You Are Invited!*

*Join Garden Clubs, Friends, Neighbors for our  
Sixth Annual Garden Party!*

**> 10am to 2:30pm <**

**It's a real party! Garden games, trivia, prizes & an  
ice cream social!**

*Plus...*

**Raffle to Support Friends of Brookside Gardens**

*Buy raffle tickets: 10 to 1:30 Winners announced: 2:00pm  
Your presence is not required as winners are announced.*

**Best Garden Hat Contest**

*Wear your favorite garden hat or make one at the Party.  
Winner will receive a \$25 gift card from Behnke's!*

**Plant Swap: 10:30 to 11:00**

**Key Note Speaker: Kerry Mendez**

**"Design Tips for Knockout, Easy Care Gardens"**

*Award-winning speaker, garden designer and author of four gardening books.*

*Sponsored by Espoma®*

*11:am to 12:30pm*

**Speed Talks**

*10 amusing and educational talks, 5 to 10 minutes each*

*1pm to 2:pm*

# *Gala in the Garden*

By Kathy Kircher and Barbara Schwarz, Silent Auction Co-Chairs

## Brookside Silent Auction was a Grand Success!

It was a beautiful spring evening. Guests passed the new Gatehouse, the Fern Gate and the Ginkgo Canopy as they entered Brookside for a fantastic night with friends and fellow Brookside supporters. The auction room was filled with music, laughter, and sounds of people sharing the celebration. By the end of the evening we had raised over \$17,000 for Brookside programs.

**Thank you to everyone - guests, donors, and volunteers.**

**We were successful because of all your contributions.**

The Friends of Brookside Gardens Board would especially like to thank the staff at Brookside Gardens and the many volunteers who provided the backbone for the event.

**Master of Ceremonies** – Phil Normandy

**Musicians** - James Dronenburg, Painted Trillium (Kristin, Rob, and Susan Meyer), Doug Wolters, and Geoffrey Stein

**Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs** – Carla Adams, Elaine Dynes, Julia Horman, Gene Horman, Joan O'Rourke, Nithya Raghavan, Gloria Sherman, Joe Ann Stenstrom, Betsy Thomas and Barbara Waite-Jaques

**Procurement Committee Members** – Sherry Crisp, Carole Galati, Aileen Goldman, Freddi Hammerschlag, Pat Roth, Joan O'Rourke, and Gloria Sherman

**Raffle Coordinators** – Joan O'Rourke and Betty Bieberly

**Volunteers** - Roger Adam, Jean Adams, Betty Bierberly, Elaine Bullington, Vivienne Burke, Ken Clore, Hal Crisp, Sherry Crisp, Bob Dargel, Peggy Fields, Peter FitzGerald, Janet Flores, Harvey Goldman, David Gray, Helen Gray, Dick Hammerschlag, Anne Hardman, Kathy Jentz, Audrey Katz, Sheldon Katz, Burt Leete, Karen Leete, Judy Marcum, Claudia Martinez, JoAnn Mueller, Roman Novak, Jane Olmstead, Carolyn Olsen, Joan Patterson, Helen Pechacek, Dolly Perkins, Lina Marie Rojas, Ellen Ross, Roger Schwarz, Richard Sherman, Mary Frances Steiner, Taffy Turner



## ***ORCHIDS – BACK HOME!***



**By Joe Ann Stenstrom**

How delightful to be back at the Visitors Center for this year's Orchid Show and Sale! The atmosphere was almost festive as people enjoyed "coming home" after two years at another location during construction. In spite of the weather, which seemed more like winter than spring, attendance was high. The displays created an indoor garden refuge from the rain and pending snow on Saturday.

### **Comments and questions from those attending ranged from:**

"My plants look healthy but produce no flowers" – one for our orchid expert and potter, Joe Francis;

to "I have 60 orchids, but want to add more" – one for the wonderful vendors who provided a huge variety of unusual species.

Other comments were "I have no luck with orchids, but want to try again" – advice was available from vendors, the Rock Creek Orchid Club members, and Mr. Francis and "I can't grow Vandas" – again the vendors and Rock Creek had answers.

I was told by one woman about the growing atmosphere in Burma where orchids grow in abun-

dance in the forests. There they have the optimum situation with breezes blowing through the trees, light, air and space. She also told how she pots her plants in a mixture of broken clay pots (crushed to dime-sized pieces) and bark with no soil. Watered from the top about every ten days, the pots sit in a bowl of rocks into which the water drains and creates the needed humidity.

Conversations flowed freely as long-time orchid enthusiasts and new growers exclaimed over the exotic beauties and exchanged advice on particular types of orchids. The raffle netted donations from those who just wanted to support FOBG. People bought plants for themselves and as gifts for birthday presents. Mr. Francis was busy from start to finish giving advice, diagnosing problems with plants, and repotting plants brought in by those attending. People left happy with newly potted plants and new finds.

Can't grow orchids? Plants don't produce blooms? Need advice? Searching for new varieties? These books from Montgomery County Public Libraries might be of help. They can be found on the shelf at 635.934.

Banks, David. P. *ORCHID GROWERS COMPANION: Cultivation, Propagation, and Varieties.*

*BEST ORCHIDS FOR INDOORS: Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-region Guides.*

*COMPLETE GUIDE TO ORCHIDS: Selecting, Growing, Displaying – Ortho Books.*

\*Cullin, William UNDERSTANDING ORCHIDS: An Uncomplicated Guide to Growing the World's Most Exotic Plants.

\*GARDENER'S GUIDE TO GROWING ORCHIDS: Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-region Guides.

\*Johnson, Liz EASY ORCHIDS: The Fail-safe Guide to Growing Orchids Indoors.

\*Rittershausen, Wilma and Brian ORCHIDS FOR EVERY HOME: The Beginner's Guide to Growing Beautiful, Easy-care Orchids.

Sheehan, Thomas J. & Robert J. Black ORCHIDS TO KNOW AND GROW.

\*Also found in the Brookside Gardens Library, which has two full shelves dedicated to the cultivation of orchids. Found there at SB 409 are such gems as those listed below and are only a few of the rich resources available for your research.

Chapman, William K. ORCHIDS OF THE NORTHEAST: A Field Guide SB 409.5.

Frowing, Steven A. FRAGRANT ORCHIDS.

Frowine, Steven A. MINIATURE ORCHIDS SB 409.75.

Motes, Martin R. VANDAS – THEIR BOTANY, HISTORY, AND CULTIVATION.

Noble, Mary YOU CAN GROW ORCHIDS.

Schooser, Gustav ORCHID GROWING BASICS.

Zachos, Ellen ORCHID GROWING FOR WIMPS.

**Three interesting finds are:**

Reinikka, Merle A. HISTORY OF THE ORCHID.

Stewart, Joyce & William Stearn ORCHID PAINTINGS OF FRANZ BAUER, Botanical artist 1758-1840 SB 409.3.

Williams, B. S. & H. THE ORCHID GROWERS MANUAL, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, c. 1894.

In addition to book references, remember that advice from Master Gardeners is available in the library on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm. Ask the experts in person.

# *Garden Guardian*

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener Howard County



## ***Hard Rock Gardening***

We readers are all gardeners of one kind or other: some with hands on, others with feet jogging through, while others may just be mindful. But how many of us 'rock' around the garden?? Hopefully not when stoned.

Anyway, so here goes a brief essay on the virtues of rock gardening. Simplistically rock gardening is a form of gardening where rocks play an important role as a design/structural/functional element. In much the same way that small water bodies or patches of turf provide vistas and open space in a garden, likewise can rocks. Being of different texture than plants, exposed stones can break up the 'monotony' of solid plant beds often in the process isolating or highlighting plants of interest. Following is a list of attributes garnered through the use of placed or in place stones to make your garden rock (solid).

1. Provides openings = spacing; breaks up continuity of plant material
2. Promotes 3D (three dimensional) design/plantings. Avoids boring horizontal layouts. Raised areas, slopes and mounds improve drainage.
3. CREATES MICRO CLIMATES!!! Micro climates around the body of a large stone provide myriad opportunities for plant diversity. Increased plant palette opportunities challenges the gardener!!!! Often can stretch plant zones depending on plant placement/aspect/soils, etc. Gives you that 'look what I'm growing' edge!!!
4. Stones can enhance the garden view; stones themselves may be decorative through form, color, texture, etc. Adds interest.



5. Can mimic landforms/geology – for naturalistic gardens, can create images of hills, mountains, stream valleys, hill sides, etc.
6. Stones last!! They don't need water. Essentially carefree (actually hold space that otherwise might harbor weeds).
7. Stones can reduce temperature extremes by absorbing heat in winter and reflecting heat in summer. They encourage deep growing roots....
8. Some stones can affect soil pH – increase acidity (granite) or alkalinity (limestone).
9. Some stones can actually provide planting sites (plant upon the stone itself).
10. Stones can be crushed to form decorative gravel/gravel mulches.
11. Stones can otherwise provide myriad functions in garden design: paths, walls, waterfalls, edging, drainage ways, etc.
12. Often a good idea to use local stone IF available; often suggested to use the same stone for a garden section, i.e., don't mix stone types (consistent geology)....UNLESS deliberately showing off stones!!!
13. Stones can provide memories of places, even people!

Help with developing a rock garden area can be obtained through the Potomac Valley Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society and its members. The Brookside Gardens library would also be a valuable resource.

For those of you who went to the Brookside Gardens auction in mid-April you will recall the ten dwarf conifers that were raffled. The point is that rock gardens can use woody plants, too, so long as they're slow growing!! Dwarf conifers provide year round interest and can be planted in a way so as to resemble a small forest or rocky wooded hillside if you want.....

**The 'grounds' the limit!!!!!! Have fun with your garden!!!!**

## *Meet Your Friends*

Carla Adam is the Marketing Chair of FOBG and is currently working at Alliance Insurance in DC. She was



born in Philly and grew up in Radnor, PA. She graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Communications. At MSU, Carla worked for the Grounds Dept. and spent her time getting paid to garden. After MSU, she moved to

Rockville, MD. She was the PR Representative at EOSAT (Earth Observation Satellite Co.) in Lanham for nearly 10 years. Then she went to work in sales at the family business and worked there running the successful business with her brother for 15 years. Carla volunteers as social chair of her Community Association in Manor Country Club in Rockville. She has two

daughters, Nicole, age 25 and Sara, soon to be 18, graduating from Rockville High and attending University of South Carolina Business School in the fall. Carla enjoys spending time with her family and friends, gardening, traveling and sports.

Carla got her love of gardening and nature from her father, who enjoyed gardening, fishing, boating, and being outdoors. Carla enjoys being on the FOBG Board, working with FOBG Board Members, the Brookside staff, and helping to fundraise to enhance the Brookside experience. Carla says "Brookside Gardens is a special place and we're very fortunate to be able to enjoy it and help to contribute to its beauty for others to enjoy; and let's face it, I'm a plant and garden fanatic which I'm sure my husband, family and friends would agree."

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 can be found at [http://www.montgomery.org/brookside/documents/xper\\_sp2016.pdf](http://www.montgomery.org/brookside/documents/xper_sp2016.pdf).

Date	FOBG Sponsored Event	Course #
6/4/2016	Garden Party at Behnkes	
6/23/2016	Annual Meeting	
<b>Brookside Gardens Adult Programs</b>		
5/11/2016	Mighty Alliums	14875
5/12/2016	Container Gardening Basics and Beyond**	14891
5/14/2016	Hometown Habitat: Lecture and Screening	14879
5/14/2016	Focus on Butterflies**	14909
5/14/2016	Fibonacci Spiral Patterning	14864
5/18/2016	Best of Brookside**	14893
5/19/2016	Storm water Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens**	14895
5/24/2016	Maryland Natives: On Land and By Sea	14883
6/1/2016	Summer Sweets	14876
6/3/2016	Painting Peonies*	14865
6/8/2016	Grow a Miniature Garden**	14897
6/10/2016	Floral Arranging from the Garden	14899
6/16/2016	A Delaware Gardens Sampler	14884
6/18/2016	Butterfly Photography**	14900
6/21/2016	Native Bees in Your Garden	14880
6/30/2016	Behind the Scenes: Wings of Fancy	16461
7/7/2016	Wings and Wine	14886
7/12/2016	Start Drawing and Painting*	14866
7/13/2016	Marvelous 'matatoes	14877
7/21/2016	Some Like it Wet... the New Marsh Garden	16462
8/2/2016	Cocktail Flower	14887

\*Program meets multiple days

\*\*Program is offered multiple times

*For additional programs and more information and fees,  
click this link [http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/documents/xper\\_sp2016.pdf](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/documents/xper_sp2016.pdf)*



Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

**Friends of Brookside Gardens, Board of Directors**

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301-962-1435 (voice mail checked daily)

Email address: [friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com)

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

Barbara Schwarz, **President**. Joe Ann Stenstrom, **Vice President**, 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 and Barbara Waite-Jaques – ex officio  
**The Brooksider:** Freddi Hammerschlag and Joe Ann Stenstrom, Editors

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