

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.

Spring 2024



President's Letter

Take an opportunity this spring to check out what's new outside in the gardens. You will see many exciting projects throughout Brookside (as detailed in the Director's report on [page 2](#)).

Inside the Conservatory, new Manager Ray Carter planted a fascinating xeric garden in the North Conservatory (see [page 5](#)). Thanks to all the Brookside gardeners for their dedication and creativity.

In Board news, I will be returning as president for another year, along with Vice President Suzanne Carbone, Secretary Barbara Waite-Jaques, and acting Treasurer Kathy Kircher. We also welcome new Board member Judy Irwin in April. Judy is on the Marketing Committee and is a frequent volunteer at events throughout the year.

We are excited to sponsor **Earth Month at Brookside Gardens from April 4 – May 4**. Unlike previous one-day festivals, Earth

Month offers a range of activities that highlight protecting the environment (see [page 3](#)), including a Brookside Gardens **Plant Sale on Saturday, April 20** from 10 am to 2 pm. This is separate from the FOBG plant sale to be held in September. **FOBG members will still get a 10% discount** at the April sale (but no early admission). See the ad on [page 4](#) for more details.

Other FOBG-sponsored spring and summer events include the ongoing **Speaker Series (May 18 and June 15)**, and the **Twilight Concert** series in June. These events are possible through the generosity of our members and donors. Thank you.

Finally, the **BloomBox fundraiser** is back, running from **May 1 - 15** (see [page 8](#)). Order plants from the online store **BloomBox** using special code **BROOKGARD15**, and FOBG receives a percentage of the sales.

Enjoy spring at Brookside!

Anne Roland, FOBG President



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News from Brookside

Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens

Spring is in the air, but our horticulture staff have been busy all winter long, making improvements to the Gardens. Here are some of the projects you will see taking place at **Brookside Gardens:**

Bog Garden: Horticulturist Thomas Crawley is expanding the small bog garden he created last year, nearly doubling the display of native carnivorous plants and associated bog plants. This new garden area is located to the south of the Conservatory, across from the boardwalk that leads to the Nature Center.

Crevice Garden: Thomas is also installing a Crevice Garden on the steep bank bed on the north end of the Idea (formerly Trial) Garden. He has carefully placed local Carderock stone to resemble a rocky outcropping that creates a number of planting pockets to hold a variety of drought-tolerant plants.

Fragrance Garden: This year, Horticulturist Keely Shaughnessy highlights fragrant plants used in perfumes. Intern Ashia Bunkley's independent internship project last summer focused on how plants, many already in our collection, are used by the perfume industry to create complex perfumes. Every year, Friends of Brookside Gardens funds two of the four Summer Internship positions.

Rose Garden: Horticulturist Kristin Davey is in the midst of a total planting redesign of the Rose Garden, which includes removing all the roses and associated perennials and grasses, as well as some of the woody plants. The new design features pest and disease resistant rose cultivars, including some lovely heirloom varieties. The roses will be complemented by a variety of perennials and grasses that will extend the bloom season and attract a variety of pollinators. The irrigation system will be changed to a drip system, to save water and eliminate water spray on the leaves. This project is funded in part by a gift from Friends of Brookside Gardens.

Gude Garden: Horticulturist Josh Demers installed 20 new flowering cherry trees between Reflection Terrace and the Viburnum Garden last fall. This little grove of trees will grow into a wonderful feature to give visitors the opportunity to walk through a canopy of blossoms.

Native Azalea Garden: More native azaleas and spring ephemerals have been added to the Native Azalea Garden, near the Ginkgo Canopy, by Horticulturist Jeanette Proudfoot. This project, funded by Friends of Brookside Gardens, highlights the native deciduous and evergreen Rhododendron species native to the eastern United States.





Earth Month at Brookside Gardens

Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens

***DC Environmental Film Festival (FREE #PBG0134 100001)**

Screening & Panel Discussion

Thursday, April 4, 7:00-8:45 pm | Visitor Center Auditorium

Brookside Gardens Plant Sale

Saturday, April 20, 10:00-2:00 pm | Visitor Center South Terrace

10% discount for FOBG members (*Not a member? Join at the sale*)

NOTE: Debit and credit cards only. No cash accepted.

Electric Landscape Equipment Exhibit

Saturday, April 20, 11:00-2:00 pm | Gude Garden

***Guided Bird Walk \$12 (#PBG0133 100001)**

Saturday, May 4, 8:30-9:45 am | Visitor Center Entrance

***Bird Walk: Screening & Panel Discussion (FREE #PBG0132 100001)**

Saturday, May 4, 10:00-11:15 am | Visitor Center Auditorium

Earth Month Sustainability Tours (ALL TOURS ARE FREE)

***In Spanish (#PBG0143 100001)**

Tuesday, April 2, 10:30-11:45 am

***Rose Garden and Maple Terrace (#PBG0143 100002)**

Wednesday, April 10, 10:30-11:45 am

***Gude Garden (#PBG0143 100003)**

Monday, April 15, 10:30-11:45 am

***Parking Garden & Harry Dewey Memorial Garden (#PBG0143 100004)**

Friday, April 26, 10:30-11:45 am

***Every Day is Earth Day Family Event (FREE #PBG0128 100001)**

Sunday, May 5, 10:00-2:00 pm

*These events require registration (even if FREE). There is a fee for certain events. Check **Cultivate Magazine** for more information.

To register for programs, please visit **Active Montgomery**



Brookside Gardens Plant Sale

Saturday, April 20 / 10am - 2pm
Brookside Gardens Visitor Center
South Terrace

This year, Brookside Gardens invites you to celebrate **April as Earth Month** with a variety of programs and events, including a film festival, bird walk, garden tours, electric equipment showcase, plant sale and fun family event. The **Plant Sale**, held on **Saturday, April 20 from 10am to 2pm**, will feature native ecotypes grown by Montgomery Parks' own Pope Farm Nursery, as well as other Maryland-friendly perennials, trees and shrubs. Members of **Friends of Brookside Gardens** **will receive a 10% discount** at the plant sale. If you are not a member, you can become one at the sale and enjoy your 10% discount!! Get expert advice from Brookside Gardens' staff horticulturists. *Proceeds support ongoing efforts to improve Brookside Gardens.*

Check out the latest electric landscaping tools, including mowers, trimmers and blowers when you finish shopping. Learn about Montgomery Parks' efforts to replace all gas-powered landscaping equipment with electric. Staff will be available to help with plant selection and share our experience with the electric equipment.

The **plant list** will be published on the main page of www.brooksidegardens.org the week prior to the sale.

NOTE: Debit and credit cards only. No cash accepted.

FOBG's Perennial Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024

The New Xeric Garden at the Conservatory!!

Nithya Raghavan, FOBG webmaster

With climate change happening, we as gardeners wonder about all the changes in the weather patterns and the flora and fauna that are affected by these changes. To answer a myriad of our questions, USDA in November of 2023, has classified our local area as Zone 7b! We are slowly but surely inching our way to a warmer zone. How will this affect how we live and garden and grow crops? While it is certainly a conundrum, we can observe the plants in our garden, pay attention to our water usage and make an informed decision about how to affect environmentally sound changes in how we garden.

The new conservatory manager at Brookside Gardens, *Raymond Carter* is showing us how one can grow plants in an arid climate within the small environs of the North Conservatory. Ray graduated from a Professional Horticulture program at Longwood Gardens in PA and during an internship with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, Scotland, he trained in the management and conservation of critically endangered species. He comes to Brookside after his tenure at Ladew Topiary Gardens in Maryland.

The **Xeric Garden** at Brookside is Ray's brainchild and showcases beautiful cacti, succulents and other exotic species that have low water dependence. Xeriscaping is the process of gardening or landscaping that reduces the need for water dependence in areas where water is in short supply. It shifts the focus away from manicured lawns and flora which have a high dependence on water, fertilizer and pesticides. A xeric garden is a low maintenance garden, featuring drought tolerant plants such as cacti and succulents that may or may not be natives. These plants are thus suited to the specific arid climate and require only a small amount of moisture.

Visitors to Brookside Gardens may remember some of the stalwarts of this xeric Garden – the ponytail or elephant's foot palm (*Beaucarnea recurvata*), the Snake plants (*Sansevieria* spp.),

the *Eucalyptus* tree. Now, these plants and their myriad relatives are being showcased in a sparkling xeric garden as soon as you enter the North Conservatory. The Saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*), the Madagascar Palm (*Pachypodium lamerei*), the Golden Barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*) and the Agave stand tall and proud and prickly. The smooth, shiny colorful succulents like Sedum, *Senecio repens* (blue chalksticks), *Haworthia cooperi* (Cooper's haworthia) (right), and *Crassula ovata* (Jade plant) resembling alien creatures stand guard protecting their Martian landscape!! *Euphorbia milii* (Crown of thorns) with its vivid red blooms adds a splash of vibrant color to the verdant hues of this garden. All the plants are from collections at Brookside Greenhouses or the Conservatory. Some of them are endangered species that will be protected, propagated and preserved for all to see and enjoy.



Do not miss the bromeliad *Deuterocohnia brevifolia* (above), which looks like a big, green, prickly ball. Yes, it is very prickly – so see with your eyes and not with your hands!! There also some amazing succulents in pots that resemble underwater creatures!

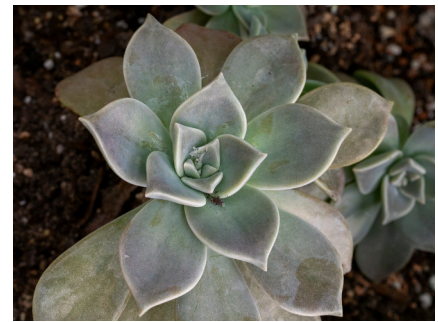
The purpose of this new garden is to showcase and conserve many of these plants and to educate the community about the beauty of a xeric garden. Come on over and talk to the conservatory staff to learn about these plants!! Browse through pages 6 and 7 to see these plants through the camera lens of Coriolana Simon and Doug Wolters.

Photos of the Conservatory Xeric Garden

Photography - Coriolana Simon & Doug Wolters



Sedum nussbaumerianum (Stonecrop)



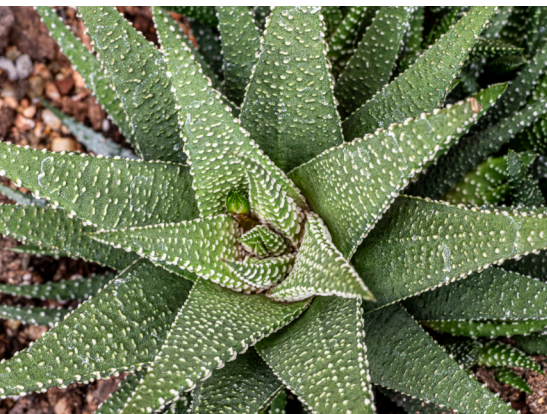
Xeric garden with Ponytail palm (*Beaucarnea recurvata*) in the back *Graptopetalum paraguayense* (Ghost Plant)



Sedum, *Gasteria*, *Senecio*, *Kalanchoe* mix



Echinocactus grusonii (Golden barrel cactus)



Haworthiopsis fasciata (Little Zebra plant)



Euphorbia milii (Crown-of-thorns)

Photos of the Conservatory Xeric Garden

Photography - Coriolana Simon & Doug Wolters



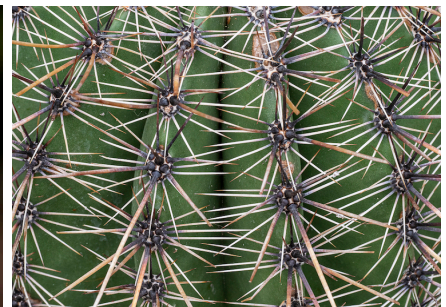
Eucalyptus, *Myrtillocactus*, *Ponytail palm (Beaucarnea recurvata)* in back row
Opuntia, *Saguaro*, *Echinocactus*, *Deuterocohnia*, *Euphorbia*, *Melianthus* in front



Pachypodium lamerei (Madagascar palm)



Senecio flower buds



Golden barrel cactus close up



Sedum nussbaumerianum, *Gasteria acinacifolia*,
Kalanchoe delagoensis, *Senecio kleiniiformis* mix



Echinocactus grusonii (Golden barrel cactus)
Senecio repens (Blue chalk sticks)

FOBG Spring 2024 Fundraiser with BloomBox (May 1-15)

Great Mother's Day Gifts!!

Surprise your loved ones with living gifts from BloomBox and help Brookside Gardens!

BloomBox will donate 15% of your total plant order cost directly to FOBG!



Use code
BROOKGARD15

at checkout to support our fundraiser!

How it works:

Visit www.getblooming.com OR www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org

- Place your order with BloomBox and your plants will be **delivered directly to your home** in 3 days.
- Use code **BROOKGARD15** on the gift card or discount code box during check out to support FOBG.
- You may order multiple times during **May 1-15** to support our fundraiser!
- Open to everyone!



BLOOMBOX
YOUR GARDEN
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Where: getblooming.com

Dates: 5/1/24 – 5/15/24

Discount Code: **BROOKGARD15**

HELP WANTED: TREASURER & EDITOR

If you are interested in either position, or if you would like more information, please contact us at friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com.



TREASURER

Are you an excellent bookkeeper or accountant? Do you want to get more involved with Friends of Brookside Gardens? FOBG is seeking a member with bookkeeping/accounting experience to fill the position of Treasurer. We use QuickBooks accounting software. The Treasurer is elected to the Board for a one-year term, as well as consecutive terms.



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We are looking for an **Editor** for our newsletter, **The Brooksider**. The newsletter is published four times a year - February, May, August, and November. It focuses on FOBG news and activities at Brookside Gardens, as well as stories about garden-related matters. Various FOBG members contribute the articles. The editor is responsible for planning, compiling, and editing the articles using their own publishing software. The editor should be a member of FOBG and be available to periodically join FOBG Marketing Committee meetings and attend events. We will train the new editor.

A Professional's View of Brookside: Lee Goodwin

By Coriolana Simon

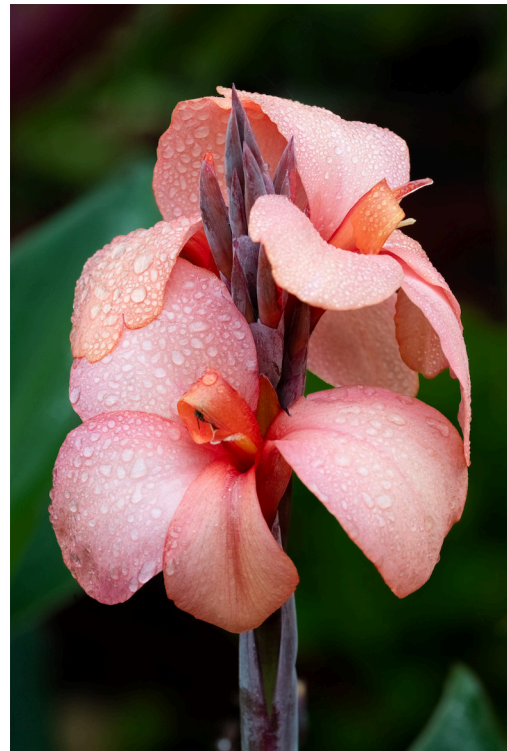
Potomac, Maryland-based fine art photographer Lee Goodwin has been making special trips to Brookside Gardens for many years, capturing the visual flavor of the seasons. He says, "Brookside is one of my favorite places to photograph. I'm really drawn to the variety of subjects and the way they change from season to season." Lee adds, "My favorite subjects are, of course, the flowers. I like the vibrant colors but also the intricate structure of individual flowers." In his photography, Lee often converts flower photographs from color to black and white to emphasize those structures.

Besides the flowers, Lee says, "Brookside is also an excellent place to photograph wildlife – from small insects to great blue herons." He notes that the fragrance garden, in particular, attracts a variety of butterflies. In fact, he says, "In 2020, the garden had an unusually large population of monarch butterflies in addition to the various butterfly species that appear in

different years." To Lee, Brookside offers much more than just flowers and wildlife. He explains: "The Brookside landscape itself is a great subject, especially in the fall."

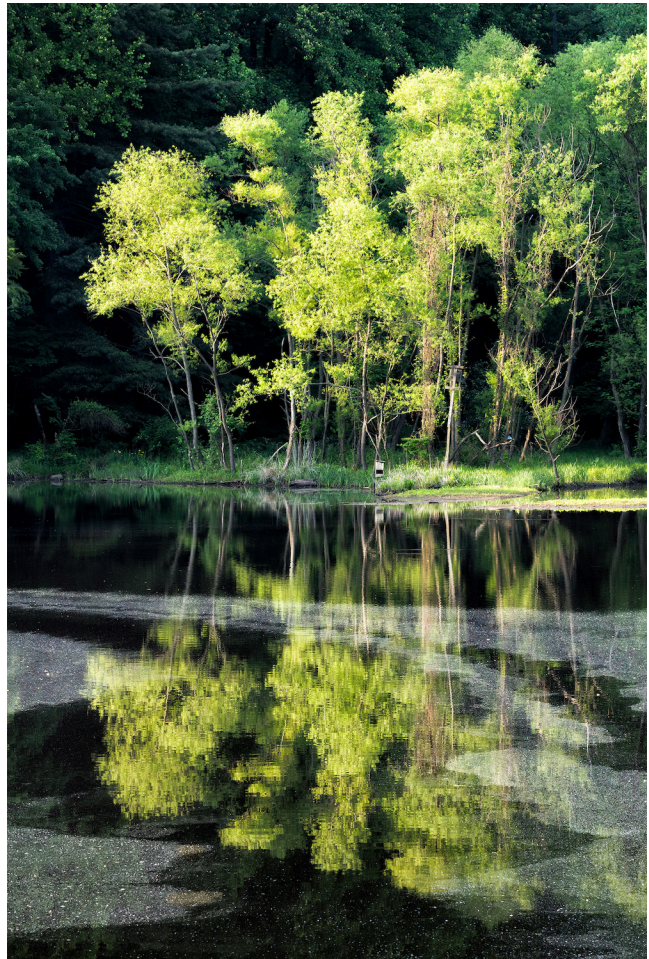
In spite of his wealth of Brookside images, Lee Goodwin does much more with his cameras. As a professional photographer in the MD / DC / VA areas, he is well known for specializing in wildlife and landscape images. His photographs have been featured in more than a dozen solo exhibits and more than 80 group and juried exhibits. They're also on permanent display in the Maryland House of Delegates office building in Annapolis. The sales of his photographs have raised thousands of dollars for charities such as the C&O Canal Trust, Rachel's House, and Critical Exposure.

If you'd like to see more of Lee's work, please **CLICK ON LEE GOODWIN PHOTOGRAPHY**. And for spectacular views of fall landscapes at Brookside Gardens, **CLICK HERE**.



Images courtesy of Lee Goodwin

A Professional's View of Brookside : Lee Goodwin



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Thank you for your support!

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**Print this page and enjoy adding color to the
Springtime Blooms**



Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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The Brooksider

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Photography: Coriolana Simon, Doug Wolters

FOBG Webmaster: Nithya Raghavan

Flower of the Month for April

Daisy - It represents beauty, purity and innocence

Please refer to the **Cultivate** Spring and Summer 2024 magazine to read about the programs offered at Brookside Gardens.

CLICK HERE to access the Cultivate magazine

To register for programs, please visit

Active Montgomery

