



Summer, 2016

President's Letter

By Barbara Schwarz, President

First, I would like to thank Suzanne Carbone, past president, and Elaine Dynes, past vice-president for all their hard work and inspiring leadership over the



past several years. Both women set the gold standard for leadership. Their excellence has inspired and motivated all of us to achieve with them. Both Suzanne and Elaine will remain on the board which makes us all happy not to lose their talent!

The Silent Auction held in April was a great success. With over 250 donors and 165 attendees, numerous FOBG volunteers, 100% FOBG board member participation, wonderful help from Brookside staff, 3 musical performances, and great food, we were able to net more than \$18,000 for Brookside Gardens. Many thanks to Kathy Kircher, chairperson, and to all of you who helped make this evening a grand success and lots of fun!

The Garden Party, chaired by Carole Galati and Barbara Waite-Jaques, was held in June at Behnke's. It was a lovely day filled with interesting speakers, fun

and unique raffle items, and the always popular plant exchange. Thank you to all who helped and all who came to enjoy the day!

The Annual Meeting, "A Midsummer Night in the Garden", held on June 23rd was a very special meeting. This year is FOBG's 20th Anniversary. Nithya Raghavan created a fabulous visual presentation, 'A Walk Down Memory Lane'. Doug Wolters performed beautifully on the cello. Refreshments were catered by Diana Sullivan. All this while members arrived and socialized. It was a lovely introduction to the evening. Joan O'Rourke entertained us with 20 years of history. Stephanie Oberle, the Director and our special presenter brought us current on activities at Brookside. Congratulate yourselves-- Friends has contributed over \$1.2 million dollars to Brookside over 20 years! This year we will be donating \$65,000 toward activities and programs per the Director's request and FOBG board approval. There was a special section in the annual meeting booklet devoted to our wonderful website. Our webmaster, Nithya Raghavan, designed and administers this state-of-the-art web site. Its elegant design, ease of navigation and valuable information draws thousands of visitors a year and numerous compliments. We were pleased to announce in honor of our **20th Anniversary**, FOBG is giving a very

special gift to Brookside Gardens! Proposed by the Director and Staff of Brookside Gardens is a unique sculpture, a magnificent dry stone sphere approximately 3 feet in diameter, created by Devin Devine. Its natural beauty will blend into and enhance the gardens we all love. The cost is \$20,000 to be raised beyond the \$65,000 we will be donating to the Brookside budget this year. You can see a photograph of the sphere elsewhere in this newsletter. Please join us in donating for this very special gift!

Preparations are in full gear for our Plant Sale on September 10 on the South Terrace! Joan O'Rourke and Taffy Turner are heading up a big team of volunteers, having potted hundreds of plants and now watering them every day. By September, these plants will be

large and gorgeous after many months of special attention! Contact either Joan or Taffy via our website if you would like to volunteer. Mark your calendars to join us from 10 am to 3 pm. and for members only, starting at 8 am.

All too soon school will start, vacations and the lazy days of summer will be over. I hope you are taking time to take life a little slower. Before all the fall activities start, do walk through the wonderful gardens you love and support.

PS....Watch the website for upcoming news on our newest fund raiser being planned now for April. We will be hosting a Run/Walk for all ages at Brookside!



News from Brookside

By Stephanie Oberle, Director Brookside Gardens

While much of our attention in the past two years has been focused on the new Parking Garden, other parts of the Garden have enjoyed the attention and creativity of our skilled horticulturists. Here are some places you might search out:

The 40th Anniversary Grove: in the past year, many new perennials have been planted along the stabilized gravel pathway. Look for twinkling mirrors hanging from the *Taxodiums*. Can you believe how these trees have grown in the past seven years!

Cocktail Garden: The round bed in the Trial Garden features plants used in cocktails. In addition to the regular plant identification labels, there are recipes you can try at home!

Fragrance Garden: New fragrant plants are always being added to this garden. There are a lot of *Salvia* plants, in many shades of blue and purple.

Gude Garden: Take note of the increased quality of pruning and detailed maintenance on the Tea House Island. A Japanese Garden consultant is training staff in techniques to improve and refine the whole Gude Garden.

Aquatic Garden Ponds: Many invasive plants have been removed, including the beautiful but aggressive yellow iris, and the edges are being replanted with plant selections that will hold the steep slope.



A pruned pine on Gude island

IT'S COMING! – THE FOBG ANNUAL PLANT SALE!

By Joe Ann Stenstrom

SEPTEMBER 10, 2016 is the day – put it on your calendar and make your list!

Thanks to the labors of the many volunteers who weathered Washington's summer to plant, water and nurture plants and seedlings to maturity, there will be a bountiful offering for your garden plans. Under the watchful eye and supervision of **Joan O'Rourke**, founder of the Friends of Brookside Gardens, plants are flourishing.

As Joan related at the recent Annual Meeting, "Midsummer in the Garden – Celebrating Twenty Years", after retirement she was casting about for something meaningful to do with her time. Seeing a notice asking for volunteers at Brookside Gardens, she began what would become almost a full-time job! Aren't we glad she volunteered – look what has grown out of those twenty years of dedicated service! As she spoke, Joan drew a verbal picture of the beginnings of what we now enjoy. The Conservatory housed the offices, a tiny library and anything else needing a place to administer Brookside Gardens. That included the plant sale which Joan initiated.

This effort has grown enormously over the twenty years, eventually moving from the Conservatory to the parking lot of the Visitors Center. Creativity was needed last year during construction of the entrance to the Visitor's Center and the parking lot. The sale was successfully held in the Hoop House in spite of the logistical problems of parking, transporting plants and people. This year, it is back at the Visitors Center, on the beautiful South Terrace.

Curious as to the sale items? See the announcement on the next page and consult the FOBG website for a complete listing of plants, trees and shrubs, including descriptions and planting advice. Print it out, mark it up for things you want to consider buying, and bring it with you to the sale. Remember that FOBG members receive a 10% discount on all purchases. If you are not a member, consider joining before or at the Plant Sale; it could be worth \$\$\$ to you, and you can get that same discount at sponsoring nurseries throughout the year.

An added benefit for members is that 8-10 am the sale is open for members only; public hours are 10 am to 3 pm. For more details consult the website: www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org.



ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, September 10, 2016

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Open to Public—Rain or Shine

8:00-10:00 AM—open to FOBG Members Only

10% Discount for FOBG Members

Not a member? Join at the sale!

We accept Visa & MC, checks, or cash



Plants selected for seasonal appeal, hard-to-find perennials, native plants, woodies & more! For more information & plant list, visit www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org or call 301.962.1435.

Brookside Gardens Visitors Center
South Terrace
1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902-1369



HELP US CELEBRATE

FOBG'S 20th ANNIVERSARY!!!!

We're giving Brookside a gift!

It'll commemorate FOBG's first 20 years of support for Brookside Gardens' plantings and programs.

We've chosen a unique stone sculpture that will harmonize organically with its natural setting. A creation of eco-artist Devin Devine, the stone sphere will cost \$20,000.



And here's where you come in!

You're invited to join the campaign to fund the gift.

Soon you can contribute through the FOBG website or simply send us a check.

We leave the amount of your donation up to you, but suggested giving levels are \$100 * \$250 * \$500 * \$1,000 * or above

For every donation of \$100 or more, you'll see a new leaf added to our "Giving Tree" in the lobby of the Visitors' Center.

Check the "Tree" often and watch our campaign's progress!

www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org ♦ 301.962.1435



Gala in the Garden

**Raises \$18,000 for
Brookside Programs**



Over 150 people attended.





Thank you to everyone who contributed to make the event a success.



Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener Howard County



Hell on a Hellebore

OK – turnabout is fair play!! This column has been premised on readers sending in questions that deserved a robust answer. Unfortunately, very few questions have been forthcoming. Sooooo, instead I am going to ask our readers some observational questions and look for sharp-eyed responses. Right – we have been going through a crazy weather pattern. Don't we always!!?? Remember we had a very warm March followed by a freeze out in April, and thereafter we've been pretty lucky with generally cool weather and timely rains. OK, so now you're ready for the QUESTION!!! Have you noticed anything 'going on' with your hellebores?? IF so, what?????

I have witnessed a severe infestation of aphids on my hellebores (checked with Mary Malinowski, Entomologist for State of Maryland). Particularly on the undersides of the hellebore leaves were what appeared as a 'pox' of aphids....that is, there were the spaced dots (pox like) of aphids (see pics). There was also what looked like a lot of 'dandruff' around and about. Then particularly the old leaves quickly turned a saddened, gooey black that begged for removal. A number of new leaves were affected. A couple plants melted out. So, all this was a surprise to me – hellebores have been one of the 'iron man' plants..... no problems, deer avoid, etc. One year does not an issue make – maybe that special set of circumstances in March and April were 'just right' for the aphids. Perhaps next year will be different. AND.....there is a reason for optimism. At the advice of Mary M., I looked at the 'pox' spots on the hellebore leaves under a dissecting scope at the extension office. They were not just aphids, but aphids covered by a fungus. So there seems to be a dynamic biological control going on (the word for this is 'entomopathogenic' fungus). I hope, because I still have new leaves with the 'pox', but again the pox seems to be aphids plus fungus. My plants probably would not hold up with aphids only. Also, as part of the story, Freddi and I have a pretty good diversity of hellebore cultivars – it seemed most were affected. Were others just escapes in this intense infestation??

So, I've had my say. What say ye?????? Please let me know if you HAVE noticed the aphid infestation this year, how bad was it, did you see the bio-control fungus, etc???? Do you think there are any resistant cultivars?? Reply to: peachnfrog66@comcast.net

Meet Your Friends

Nithya Raghavan is the current Secretary and Webmaster for Friends of Brookside Gardens. She is a long time resident of Silver Spring where she lives with her husband Peter FitzGerald, her mother Bhooma,



mother-in-law Monica and her golden retriever Pirate. She has always loved all things floral or garden related and says that her haven is Brookside Gardens. In addition to

her FOBG duties, she volunteers as a conservatory gardener. While gardening is her main passion (especially ferns), Nithya is also an avid photographer (with Brookside as one of her main subjects), loves arts and crafts, cooking, reading and communing with nature.

Nithya was born in India and enjoyed a nomadic childhood, moving to a new city every two years, as dictated by her father's job with the Indian Railways. It was during these formative years that she developed her love of gardens, travel and adventure. Additionally, her frequent relocations throughout India necessitated her mastering 5 of the 22 languages native to India. In keeping with her love of plants, Nithya got her undergraduate degree in Botany, and completed her formal education in India with Masters and PhD degrees in Biochemistry. Her work on the mosquito borne tropical disease, filariasis, gave her the opportunity to come to the United States. Specifically, she spent several months in Beverly, MA undergoing training in recombinant DNA technology at New England Biolabs. It was here that she learnt firsthand how different New England winters (Brrr!) were from those in tropical India. From New England, her scientific career lead her south to Maryland where she spent six years as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases,

National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. Her career continued in the local area where she spent many years conducting research on tropical diseases (filariasis & schistosomiasis) at the School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University and at the Biomedical Research Institute in Rockville. She also held the position of Adjunct Professor at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), Washington DC, where she taught Molecular Biology and Virology.

While working at UDC, Nithya branched out into new areas - meeting organizer and Webmaster - thanks to her involvement in promoting and organizing meetings for Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs). For 10 years she handled the group's publications (meeting program and annual journal) and developed their first website. While she had no formal training in web design or management, she quickly mastered the basics with guidance from her husband Peter, a bioinformatician and avid techie.

In 2010, when her mother (from India) and her mother-in-law (from Ireland) became permanent residents in her home, Nithya quit working to focus on her family. While a frequent visitor to Brookside Gardens, it was only after she quit work that she had the time to focus on her first love, gardening. She joined the FOBG Board in 2013 at the urging of Elaine Dynes, and soon agreed to become the secretary. Later, she volunteered her services to design, develop and administer the FOBG website, which she does to this day. She especially loves working for the FOBG's Annual Plant Sale which involves a lot of planting, nurturing and playing with dirt! She says that it brings her great joy to volunteer for FOBG which is such a stellar organization, run by truly amazing people!! Apart from gardening, she enjoys helping her family, neighbors, the elderly, friends, colleagues and even strangers as much as she can since she wants to live her life according to Dalai Lama's quote "Be kind whenever possible, it is always possible!"

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 and program fees can be found at http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/documents/xper_sp2016.pdf.

Date	FOBG Sponsored Event	Course #
9/10/16	Plant Sale	

Brookside Gardens Adult Programs

8/2/16	Garden after Dark: Cocktail Flower	14887
9/8/16	Drawing Basics D1*	23618
9/18/16	Focus on Butterflies**	23372
9/18/16	McCrillis Gardens Sunday Walk**	23688
9/20/16	Monarch Way Stations	23402
9/21/16	Grow It Eat It Preserve It	23574
9/24/16	Brookside Gardens Saturday Walk**	23679
10/6/16	Rosehips: the Perfect Botanical Study*	23661
10/13/16	Stormwater Solutions: Conservation Landscapes & Rain Gardens	23403
10/17/16	Winter Wonders- Winter Squash	23603
10/19/16	2 for 1 Container**	23471
10/20/16	Gateway to Autumn	23404
10/22/16	Serendipity and Colorful Fall Photography	23674
10/25/16	Garden After Dark: Squash It	23399
10/26/16	Batten Down the Hatches! Winter Garden Prep	23435
10/27/16	Champion Tree Tour	23388
11/1/16	Creative Color Pencil*	24556
11/2/16	Conquering Cool Season Edibles	23458
11/3/16	Botanical Drawing D2*	23646
11/14/16	Nutty and Fruity	23607
11/18/16	Mixed Winter Container**	23476
11/22/16	Thanksgiving Centerpiece	23491
	*Program meets multiple days	
	**Program is offered multiple times	

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors

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