

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



Summer, 2017

Vice President's Letter

By Joe Ann Stenstrom, Vice President

Welcome to summer in the DC area! On this 96 degree day, we know what season it is! Fortunately, you always have a beautiful sanctuary to help you stay cool. Walk the paths of Brookside Gardens and enjoy the wonders of nature with the abundance of soothing greens and shade.



Joan O'Rourke and Taffy Turner are laboring to help the plants being grown for the plant sale survive this heat. Their team of faithful volunteers have potted, repotted and watered the plants all summer and continue to tend them for a bountiful showing in September. Plan to attend the Plant Sale on September 9 and 10 and select some beauties for your own garden.

During the summer months, FOBG Board members have participated in many Brookside events such as volunteering for Wings of Fancy and Shakespeare in the Garden sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG). In July, the Prince George's County "Shakespeare in the Garden" presented "As You Like It" to a crowd of over 500. FOBG also sponsored the Summer Twilight Concert Series in June which was heavily attended by those who picnicked inside because of rain or outside on a lovely evening.

Plans are underway for other FOBG-sponsored events you won't want to miss in the fall. For details, check our regularly updated website: <http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/>. Please support FOBG and its mission by donating directly on our new online donation site available on our website.

News from Brookside

By Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens

Summer Internship Program



Interns with Ellen Bennett, who manages the internship program, and Jason Guy, our Chesapeake Conservation Corps member who developed the internship program as his capstone project. At Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond.

I am thrilled to report back to the FOBG membership on the status of our inaugural class of the Brookside Gardens summer college internship program. Two of the four positions are funded by Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG). We planned the program to be a blend of hands-on work, independent research, public presentations, seminars on public garden management, and off-site field trips. What we've learned is the exciting potential of our interns to apply their academic knowledge to real life situations and propose viable solutions. Many thanks to the members of FOBG whose support make this program possible.

Celia Tran is a rising senior at the University of Maryland studying landscape architecture. During her rotation with the Rental Program staff, she researched and developed a proposed design for a new green wall in the rental office.

Humon Hidarian graduated in May 2017 from UMBC with a degree in environmental science. He worked in the Gude Garden with Japanese garden consultant John Powell and staff member Josh Demers to reset stones in the Reflection Terrace of the Gude Garden. It was a unique opportunity to learn the philosophy behind Japanese Garden design and the practical methods of moving unwieldy materials with a small crew.

Jay Kinnaman, a rising senior at the University of Maryland is majoring in environmental science and technology. His public presentation highlighted the deciduous conifers in our plant collections, including their geographic distribution, natural history garden uses.

Spencer Adams just finished his freshman year at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is planning to study forestry. He is currently working with the gardens and rental staff to help create a new outdoor "wedding cathedral" in a wooded area adjacent to the Gude Garden.

Our staff is energized by the varied interests and talents our interns have brought to the Gardens this summer.

FOBG's Perennial Plant Sale

By Joan O' Rourke

Saturday, September 9, 2017 – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Preview Sale for FOBG members Saturday 8:00 AM – 10:00AM

Food truck at lunchtime on Saturday ONLY

Sunday, September 10, 2017 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MARK your calendar: September 9th and 10th; join us at the South Terrace of Brookside Gardens Visitors Center for the annual FOBG Plant Sale!

What began in early December as pictures and descriptions in beautiful catalogs was followed by a day long trip to the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) at Baltimore in January. It's was a dilly! All wholesale growers of anything for the garden exhibited their wares at MANTS. This is when FOBG places its order for all the plants.

The tiny starter plants or plugs started arriving in early May and June. The tiny starts were potted, grown and cared for by a wonderful team of volunteers who have now become experts. During the growing period from May to September in the Brookside Gardens nursery facility called the "Hoop House", the plants were repotted, fertilized, pruned and watered by FOBG volunteers. This ensures that the plants you purchase are locally grown and can easily to adapt to the local environment. By September, the mature plants are robust, well established and ready to find their permanent home gardens!!

The day before the sale is hectic – with the help of the FOBG volunteers and additional Brookside staff, the plants are labeled, transported from the nursery to the sale area and displayed.

On the Sale Day, we are ready to help you find those perfect plants for your garden.

If you would like to consider becoming a part of this great group of volunteers, learn a lot about plants and growing them – see me at the Plant Sale!

Watch the FOBG website www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org for plant lists, detailed description of each plant and planting design suggestions. Don't miss our new feature to the Plant Sale – PLANT OF THE WEEK – showcasing an interesting plant from the Plant Sale collection!! **See you at the sale!!**



ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, September 9, 2017 ♦ 10 AM-3 PM

Saturday 8-10 AM - Open to FOBG members only

Sunday, September 10, 2017 ♦ 9 AM-12 PM

Open to Public - Rain or Shine

10% Discount for FOBG Members (Join at the Sale!)

Cash, Checks, or Credit Cards

Food Trucks Saturday



Seasonal favorites ♦ Perennials ♦ Natives ♦ Woodies

See plant list and Plant of the Week at
www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org

Proceeds benefit Brookside Gardens



Brookside Gardens Visitors Center
1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902-1369
FOBG 301.962.1435

GARDEN BOOKS GIFTED TO BROOKSIDE HORTICULTURAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

By **Ana Hurler**, a senior multi-platform journalism major at the University of Maryland, College Park



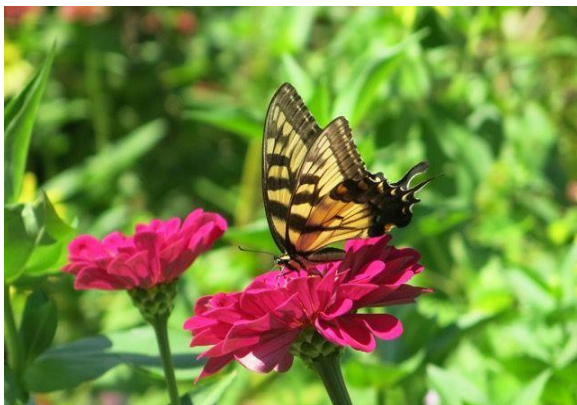
Jason Gedeik, Brookside Gardens Adult Education Manager, accepts the latest book donations from Washington Gardener Magazine

Washington Gardener staff stopped by Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD, on June 28 to drop off a donation of several books to add to the Horticultural Reference Library. Editor and publisher **Kathy Jentz** has featured reviews of several of the books in previous editions of the magazine. The books

cover a wide range of horticultural topics, such as growing vegetables and flowers, creating pots and containers, and food gardening.

The gifted books value \$217.64, added to the previous donations this year for a total of \$684.04. Last year's book donations totaled \$683.01, and in 2015, *Washington Gardener* gave \$534.99 in books. The magazine's largest yearly donation was in 2013, with \$3,070.94 in books donated.

The mission of the Horticultural Reference Library at Brookside Gardens is to be a resource for Brookside Gardens and Montgomery County Parks staff, the citizens of Montgomery County, MD, and any other individual interested in learning about the science and art of Horticulture. The Library is staffed Monday-Friday from 10am-3pm (or by appointment) by volunteer librarians ready to help you find answers to your plant questions.



Life After Death in Wings of Fancy

By Kathy Stevens, Conservatory Manger



Hopefully everyone reading this knows that all the butterflies in 'Wings of Fancy' must always remain inside the South Conservatory. They emerge from their chrysalis and live out the final stage of their life there. Most live a few weeks. Some visitors are shocked to realize that butterflies die in the flight house.

Visitors generally do not want to see a dead or dying butterfly. Sometimes they are concerned if a butterfly isn't moving. 'Wings of Fancy' staff begin each day with care of the live butterflies and collection of the dead ones.

Often, the topic of butterfly end-of-life care starts at the Discovery Station with the touch samples. Touch samples are real butterflies that have died but still look good. We have them for visitors to touch instead the live ones. When doing the daily dead butterfly collection, staff members sort into two categories, those that are touch sample worthy and those that are not. Both groups are put into the twenty below zero Fahrenheit freezer for at least 72 hours. That is long enough to kill viruses, parasites and disease organisms. The USDA considers them decontaminated at that point. The butterflies can then be used for touch samples or in other ways. The tattered or damaged ones are disposed of as solid waste. The touch sample

butterflies are a rare resource. Most of the dead butterflies collected have severely damaged or missing wings or other body parts. Ants are major scavengers and even predators of butterflies and often get to the dead ones before we do.

We are permitted to give the dead, decontaminated butterflies away. In the past, we have focused on educational purposes and have given some to elementary school teachers who created collections for their classrooms. Some have been models for paintings by Brookside Gardens School of Botanical Art students. As is the policy with plant materials, we limit donations to staff and volunteers or others associated with Brookside Gardens. We don't have enough to give to everyone who might want one.

Wings of Fancy staff has experimented with relaxing, spreading and mounting the very best specimens in Riker mount display cases. A Riker mount is a flat container with a glass or plastic cover which holds the specimen in place on cotton wool or some similar material. There are named for Albert Riker, a plant pathologist who lived from 1894-1982. We have a modest collection of good quality specimens and are working with the Gift Shop manager to find display cases for the prepared butterflies that would allow us to have a product to sell in the gift shop. While we have been thinking about this for several years, we are still a good way away from having a product ready for sale. When we do, we will make sure everyone hears about it. We would love to be able to share our butterflies with visitors beyond their experience in the flight house, giving our butterflies life after their death.

FUN SUMMER ENTERTAINING

By Joe Ann Stenstrom

Looking for some ideas for different summer entertaining? Do you love flowers? Wine? Why not combine those two interests?

Do you have a rose garden which blooms all summer long? Have you ever thought of highlighting those beauties by entertaining among them? Showcase them and serve rosé to your guests – “Rosé in the Rose Garden”!

How about combining potted plants with pinot – either grigio or noir? If you have plants to give

away, invite guests to pot them in lovely garden pots to take home while enjoying a glass of pinot – “Pinot and Pots”.

Do your rhizomes need to be divided? If you have iris that need thinning, have a “Reisling and Rhizomes” party. Give each guest a few iris bulbs and serve either a dry or sweet Reisling.

The combinations are endless for garden and wine lovers. Be creative and have fun!



Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

Applying GARDEN Therapy

Wouldn't it be great if we could master a computer app that could somehow assist us with in the garden management? Actually, what I'm dreaming about mostly is one that could remove weeds (since weeding is often per-



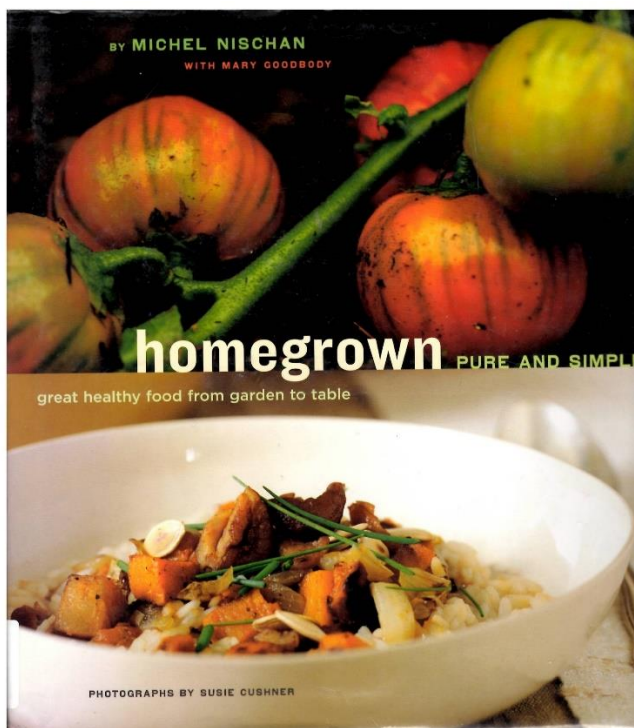
ceived as a 'chore'). Sounds good doesn't it – even hypothetically!!! But actually might that be SELF defeating?? The point is.....just how many of us garden as therapy?? Probably many. Sure there are alternate ways we could devote ourselves to gardening sans weeding. But weeding is an activity-based way for us to get intimate with our garden. And isn't it a substitute for other physical doings such as jogging? I mean how many devoted gardeners jog??? OK, I know – really talented weeders weed and jog through their gardens simultaneously. Yeah, right!! So, to reiterate what I'm

getting at is that contemplating a way to negate weeding could be self-defeating for the ardent gardener. Aren't most of us using gardening as a form of therapy??

A recent article in AARP noted that a high percentage of folks over 70 years of age garden – probably quite a bit more than 50%. Of those, slightly more than half are women. And then there's the recent piece in the Washington Post Local Living by **Shannon Brescher Shea** touting the virtues of gardening for the little ones = children!!!! So, gardening could be therapy for people of all ages.

Anyway, what is it about gardening that fills the claim of being therapeutic?? Obviously, there's the exercise involving walking, kneeling, bending, sweating, etc. Then there's the psychological release often accompanied by swearing!! Weeding can also be a distraction/an escape – an activity that doesn't require much attention. Let the mind wonder. And it's also noteworthy that there really isn't that much pressure – the work can generally be done when and where we choose. Besides – somewhat like hitting your head against the wall – doesn't it feel wonderful when you stop!!! No matter, there'll always be more weeds – so endless opportunity for garden therapy! Bottom line – we would miss having the opportunity to weed.....wouldn't we???

Book Review



Nischan, Michel. HOMEGROWN, PURE AND SIMPLE: Great Healthy Food from Garden to Table. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2005.

Reviewed by Joe Ann Strenstrom

You have successfully nurtured those beautiful edible plants. They are flourishing and you need fresh ideas on what to do with the abundance reaped from your labors. Friends and family members are no longer eagerly waiting for your handouts. Your library can help with cookbooks featuring garden to table recipes to brighten your meals and awaken your appetite.

One such book available from Montgomery County Public Libraries is HOMEGROWN, PURE AND SIMPLE: *Great Healthy Food from Garden to Table* by Michel Nischan and found in the cookery section. "After years of cooking his signature healthful haute cuisine at a variety of upscale restaurants, chef and cookbook author Michel Nischan found that he longed for the simple country cooking his mother had prepared with ingredients straight from the family's backyard

garden." Filled with mouth-watering recipes for foods during the summer months, he includes recipes for jams, tangy salads of autumn greens, sugar snap peas with grilled peach dressing, lemon-herb vinaigrette, berry and sweet pea soups, and roasted asparagus. There is a section for preserving that summer goodness for later months with recipes for peach and caramelized onion jam, pickled eggplant, vegetable marmalade, and oven-dried tomatoes.

Share your bounty with those friends and neighbors who may not want to prepare the foods, but would gladly accept a dish ready to serve and you have the joy of the kitchen, as well as the garden.

This book is available from the Montgomery County Public libraries. 641.563NIS

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 can be found at the following link: [Xperience](#)

Date	FOBG-Sponsored Event	Course #
9/9/17	Plant Sale*	
	Brookside Gardens Adult Programs	
9/10/17	Focus on Butterflies	30736
9/14/17*	Drawing Basics - D1	38647
9/15/17	Chanticleer - A Pleasure Garden	39868
9/16/17**	Yoga at Brookside Gardens	38637
9/17/17**	McCullis Gardens Sunday Walks	38724
9/20/17	Monarch Way Stations: Creating a Butterfly Garden	38626
9/23/17	Hands-on Orchid Repotting	38632
9/23/17**	Brookside Gardens Saturday Walk	38699
9/25/17	Apples & Pears	39906
9/30/17	Cool Season Edibles	38627
10/5/17	Garden after Dark: Uncorked: Wine Paired with Painting	30720
10/10/17	Dried Flower Wreaths	38633
10/14/17	Growing a Healing with Common Garden Herbs	38636
10/24/17	Champion Tree Tour	38645
10/25/17	Glory of Fall Garden Tour	39870
10/25/17	Storm water Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens	38628
10/26/17*	Botanical Drawing - D2	38648
10/27/17*	Autumn Colors and Textures on Vellum	39442
10/29/17*	Close-up Photography with Chrysanthemums	38624
11/1/17	Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter	38629
11/13/17	Thanksgiving Feast	38644
11/18/17	Mixed Winter Container	38635
11/21/17	Thanksgiving Centerpiece	38634
12/4/17	Winterthur - A Yuletide Experience	39904
12/8/17	Holiday Entertaining	39901
12/12/17	Festive Fresh Greens: Festive Wreaths	39151
12/13/17	Festive Fresh Greens: Festive Centerpieces	39152
12/14/17	Garden After Dark: Holly Daze	38625
	* Program meets multiple days	
	**Program meets multiple times	

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors

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