



Winter, 2020

## *President's Letter*

By Carla Adam, President

Thank you for your continued support to **FOBG** and **Brookside**. **FOBG**, with the support of our members and donors, achieves many goals and accomplishments. We raise funds through memberships and fundraising activities to support Brookside programs and in December 2019, the **FOBG Board** approved \$83,000 for **Brookside-Gardens'** projects for FY 21. The **Brookside** programs supported by this funding include: the seasonal gardening staff for \$35,000, funding for two out of four summer interns for \$15,000, spring and fall lecture series for \$5,000, Children's Day in September for \$4,000, Green Matters in February for \$2,500, Earth Day in April for \$3,000, Summer Concert Series for \$5,000, plants for \$10,000 and Shakespeare in the Garden for \$2,500.

Thank you for renewing your membership and donating to **FOBG** in 2019. Friends received more than \$21,000 in donations last year, in addition to membership dues and other fundraising activities. How does your support help **Brookside** and enable **FOBG** to continually support and provide funds to **Brookside**? Membership renewals and

new memberships raise approximately \$60,000 annually which is about 75% of **FOBG** funding. The other approximate 25% comes from our fundraising activities and your donations.

Please read Stephanie Oberle's, Director of Brookside Gardens, enclosed letter and consider taking a few moments to write to Montgomery County Council to support the Parks Department's Capital Budget.

The current 2019 **FOBG** campaign "Color Our Future" goal is to raise \$7,000 to enhance the Azalea Gardens at **Brookside Gardens**. We've raised approximately \$3,000 and will continue collecting for this through June 2020.

We're looking forward to seeing many of you at the **FOBG Orchid Show** on March 14 and 15 and hope you come to enjoy the beautiful orchids. Please invite your friends and family.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you and your family a very happy and healthy 2020.

# *News from Brookside*

By Stephanie Oberle, Director Brookside Gardens



## Master Plan Updates

If you've been to **Brookside Gardens** recently, you may have noticed a new construction project outside of the Visitor Center Auditorium. Thanks to a generous donation, we have been able to implement a portion of the Brookside Gardens Master Plan. An ADA compliant sidewalk leads from the Parking Garden to the rear of the Visitor Center and the Visitor Center Lawn, creates a new terrace for events in the Auditorium, and enlarges the patio at the intersection of the Children's Garden and rear entry to the Visitor Center. We are excited to be able to implement this important link that will improve access, safety and activities.

We are also in the middle of the County's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget process for FY21-26. Three elements of the Brookside Gardens Master Plan have been approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board: 1) Rose Garden renovation; 2) Formal Garden renovation for ADA compliance and infrastructure repair (Perennial Garden, Yew Garden, Maple Terrace

and Wedding Gazebo); and 3) Facility planning money for a new Conservatory adjacent to the Visitor Center. On January 15, the County Executive released his proposed FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program, which if approved by the County Council will require reductions of approximately \$21 million in the Parks Department's capital budget request. These cuts will affect our ability to acquire parkland, complete critical parks projects, and maintain aging infrastructure.

As a supporter of Brookside Gardens, I encourage you to share your support for the Parks Department's capital budget by submitting written testimony. Oral testimony occurred during the County Council's public hearings on the CIP scheduled on February 5 and 6. If you weren't able to testify in person, please consider submitting written testimony to [county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov). Please let me know if you have questions, and thank you in advance for your help and support.

# *Orchid Show and Sale – 2020*

**By Gloria Sherman, Orchid Show and Sale Chair**

Mark your calendar for the 22nd annual weekend-long **Orchid Show and Sale** on **Saturday, March 14, from 10 am to 4 pm** and **Sunday, March 15, from 10 am to 3 pm** at the **Brookside Gardens** Visitor Center. Participants will have the opportunity to consult with orchid experts, enjoy the vibrant displays, and purchase orchids either to add to their collections—or to get a collection started.

We are fortunate to have joining us once again the North American Orchid Conservation Center displaying their native orchids, and selling their 3D orchid-gami -cut outs of native orchids as well as answering questions you may have.

The festival will also include orchid potting demonstrations and, for a small fee, orchids that participants bring from home may be repotted. Please limit to 3 pots per customer at a given time. If you have more than three, you may go to the back of the line and get the next three plants repotted. This is done to give everyone a fair chance to get their plants repotted.

And, of course, returning this year, our very popular **RAFFLE** in which you may WIN a wonderful prize!

Admission to the orchid festival is **free**. Proceeds from sales and orchid clinic fees will benefit the many valuable programs at **Brookside Gardens**.

**Note:** Details of the Orchid Show are available at [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org).



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# Color Our Future!

Since Brookside Gardens first bloomed 50 years ago, azaleas have delighted garden visitors. Starting this year, the Friends of Brookside Gardens hopes to make the azalea garden even more vibrant. You can help **color our future** by donating now. Your donation will help Brookside to add azaleas and companion plants. With your support, the next 50 years at Brookside will be even more colorful!

To help renew and refresh the azaleas at Brookside Gardens, contribute online by visiting [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/color-our-future](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/color-our-future) or mail a donation to:

**Color our Future**  
**Friends of Brookside Gardens**  
**1800 Glenallan Avenue**  
**Wheaton, MD 20902**



***Thank you!***



# Letter from the Chairs of the Fall Gathering

By Barbara Waite-Jaques and Judy Marcum; photography by Coriolana Simon

To those of you who were present our Fall Gathering on November 2, 2019, we are grateful for your support and attendance, and to those who could not attend, we are grateful for your support and hope to see you next time!

The day dawned early for the board members. When Barbara Waite-Jaques arrived at the Brookside Visitor Center at 8:30 am, **Judy Marcum** was there with food and supplies. **Betsy Thomas** and **Suzanne Carbone** were arranging fruit, pastries, yogurt, cheese and crackers appetizingly on trays. **Kathy Kircher** was doing her magic on the tables with her creative centerpieces of photos and tissue poufs. **Carole Galati** and **Freddi Hammerschlag** were artfully displaying the door prizes. On the screen was a presentation created by **Nithya Raghavan** to entertain the **FOBG** members as they arrived. By the time that Barbara **Schwarz** arrived from Olney with the Panera coffee, **Betsy** and **Carole** were checking the members in and giving them their door prize slips while **Coriolana Simon** was roaming the room photographing it all.

President Carla Adam brought the meeting to order and welcomed our members who were enjoying the refreshments and visual presentation. After introducing **Mike Riley** of Parks and **Katie Rictor** of the

Parks Foundation, she invited **Joan O'Rourke**, our founding president, to say a few words. In typical Joan fashion, she had everyone laughing as she gave advice for the planting and care of the special party favors.

**Carla Adam** then gave the members insight into how their memberships and donations were supporting Brookside Gardens. **Stephanie Oberle**, Director of Brookside Gardens, gave a slide presentation: Brookside Past and Future which showed the beginnings and progress of the gardens side by side with its current appearance and future plans. We all learned so much about **Brookside**.

The door prize winners were announced by **Carole**. Members were encouraged to meet **Stephanie** at the Gude Garden and check out the chrysanthemums which were on display in the conservatory and throughout the gardens. Happy members left with their special party favor, spider plants, provided by **Joan**.

The fall gathering is your opportunity to see how much your contributions to **Friends of Brookside Gardens** help to "Make Brookside Bloom!"

Happy New Year!



Mike Riley



Katie Rictor

# *Garden Guardian*

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

## **Gardening Acts to Combat Climate Change**

Yes, gardening acts to combat climate change AND there are gardening acts to reduce climate change!!! The following are some simple straight forward ways in which you, the gardener, can do your thing to help reduce global warming impacts. As with so many things, your particular contribution may seem small but the aggregate of many of you gardeners will be significant!!! The **BIG** thought is that gardeners with their allegiance to the natural world become obvious candidates to help protect our environment. **“Think globally, act locally”**.

Since carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a major cause of global warming, things that you can do to restrict CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from your garden will help – mostly via carbon sequestration:

1. Plant more perennials, especially trees. CO<sub>2</sub> through photosynthesis gets tied up as part of plant tissues – like cellulose and lignin. So the idea is to reduce impervious and grassy areas replacing with longer lived plant materials. In terms of gardening, this could mean sustaining/promoting perennial beds but planting trees where possible especially around the perimeter of your yard. Denser, slow growing trees are better sequesters over the long run. Ultimately, large trees tie up quite a bit of sourced CO<sub>2</sub>. Yes, plants die and CO<sub>2</sub> is then slowly returned to the atmosphere but replanting should more than balance/compensate that release. More CO<sub>2</sub> is tied up in photosynthesis than released through respiration.
2. Build as much organic matter = humus in your soil as possible. Your soil quality/health will be improved and humus holds quite a bit of carbon compounds – it is a major carbon sink. Yes, some compounds are slowly broken down via biological activity but much will remain for quite a while. Given that there is some decomposition, it is vital to periodically add more humus to your soil = replenishment. If you don't, the sequestration factor will get diminished by releasing more CO<sub>2</sub> than tying up.
3. Consistent with #2 is the concept of minimizing soil disturbance. Opening up large chunks of soil will lead to oxidation of much of the organic matter. This no-till concept just means minimizing disturbance of existing soil structure as much as possible. After all, turning over soil does bring weed seeds to the surface and will impact much of the soil biota – plus it's a lot of work!
4. There are other considerations that are more abiotic like using power tools as little as possible thereby reducing emissions; AND conscientiously planting trees, etc. in appropriate locations to reduce heating/cooling demands for your home. This could take the form of more shade or maybe as a wind break.

Then, there's always the 'feel good' factor. You can puff out your chest and think how you're doing your bit to salvage the earth!! You'll even sleep better at night!!!!

**Recommended reading:** The Climate Conscious Gardener; Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook.

# ***WINTER IN THE GARDEN? – DON'T PUT YOUR GLOVES AWAY YET!***

***By Joe Ann Stenstrom***

It's cold and dreary – winter is here and the garden is dead! But is it, really? Even though the flowers are gone and the plants are looking less than beautiful, there is still joy to be had in the garden. With the foliage and flowers gone, the bare bones of the garden allow you to see what might be missing from the whole. You can see where a plant is needed or one needs to be moved later. This is the time to prepare for spring when the garden will come alive. And yet, it is still alive, just under cover of snow, leaves and grey skies. As a gardener, your work is not done – ever!

You could sit by the fire with a cup of tea and peruse plant catalogs; planning is so much a part of the fun of winter for the gardener. Then, you could go outside and clean out those beds as you dream of filling them with color in a few months. Clean out beds, cut back and trim where needed, such as rose bushes; it's easier to see broken branches and dead limbs. Weeding is never done. Those warm, sunny days still promote weed growth; catch them now before they get any

larger, saving you time and frustration later. Spreading a little mulch will keep the weeds down, too. It's a good time to work your soil, even turn it if the ground is not too hard.

For those eager to begin growing from seeds and cuttings, there are miniature "green houses" to be made from recyclable materials such as milk and cat food jugs or clear plastic containers. There are many websites showing how to construct such a mini-greenhouse. For instructions, look up "Winter Garden Tips" or "Winter Gardening". There are YouTube videos showing just how to do it. Materials needed are simple: the jug or container, potting soil, trowel, seeds.

Don't forget your garden tools. Now is the time to clean and sharpen them so you are ready for those first days when you begin to put together the glorious garden you have envisioned all winter long. Happy Winter Gardening! Don't put your gloves away yet – you are not done!



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: [Cultivate](#).

Date	FOBG-Sponsored Program	Course #
2/21/2020	Green Matters (see below)	
3/14/2020	Orchid Show and Sale* (2 days – 3/14 and 3/15)	
Date	Brookside Gardens Adult and Children's Programs	
2/14/2020	Everything You Wanted to Know About Pruning	71583
2/21/2020	Green Matters: Practical Solutions for Ecologically Sustainable Landscapes	71640
3/3/2020	Philadelphia Flower Show - Riviera Holiday*	71637
3/9/2020	Flower Buds*	76569
3/14/2020	How to Get Your Orchids to Bloom	78573
3/17/2020	St. Patrick's Day Green and Growing Scavenger Hunt	76585
3/20/2020	Garden After Dark: Wild at Home with Hilton Carter	79811
3/21/2020	Landscape Design I & II*	78754
3/22/2020	Garden Eco-Explorer Series - Papermaking	76581
3/22/2020	Testing the Limits: Adventures in Zone-Pushing	79438
3/24/2020	Traditional East African Cuisine	79662
3/27/2020	Creating Your Own Paper tufa Planter	79486
3/29/2020	Garden Eco-Explorer Series - Pollinators	76582
3/29/2020	Make & Take Rain Barrels*	78761
4/1/2020	DC Environmental Film Festival*	
4/5/2020	Garden Eco-Explorer Series - Stream Safari	76583
4/6/2020	Buds are Bursting Spring Break Camp	76586
4/12/2020	Garden Explorer Series - Bird Songs	76584
4/18/2020	Selecting and Sourcing Native Plants of Your Garden	79481
4/18/2020	Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour*	78744
4/18/2020	Brookside Gardens Saturday Walk*	78738
4/18/2020	Introduction to Propagation Houseplants & Summer Annuals	79339
4/19/2020	Montgomery County GreenFest	78703
4/20/2020	Spring Yoga Sprouts*	79508
4/21/2020	Fredericksburg Garden Day	79398
4/23/2020	Shrinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing*	79680
4/23/2020	Succulent Container	78758
4/24/2020	Advanced Techniques with New Graphite Media*	79688
4/25/2020	Wild Foraging: Discovering the Benefits of Backyard Plants	79679



4/26/2020	Afternoon Tea at McCrillis Gardens*	79797
5/2/2020	Hanging Baskets	78768
5/2/2020	Yoga at Brookside Gardens*	78773
5/2/2020	Focus on Butterflies*	78719
5/3/2020	McCrillis Gardens Sunday Walk	78742
5/3/2020	Storm water Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens*	79330
5/3/2020	Speaker Series: Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden	78979
5/5/2020	Azalea & Rhododendron Tour	78748
5/6/2020	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens*	78792
5/7/2020	Garden After Dark: Wings & Wine	78710
5/9/2020	Discovering the Fascinating World of Ferns	79448
5/13/2020	Homestead Gardens & Local Nursery Shopping Trip	79453
5/16/2020	Summer Annual Container**	78759
5/17/2020	Designing with Native Plants	79687
5/27/2020	Miniature Perennial Container	78770
5/28/2020	Shofuso Japanese House & Bartram's Garden	79399
	* - Program Meets Multiple Days	
	** - Program Meets Multiple Times Per Day	

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

## Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors

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Joe Ann Stenstrom, Betsy Thomas – ex officio, Barbara Waite-Jaques

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Editorial Staff: Gene Horman, Elaine Dynes, Nithya Raghavan and Gloria Sherman  
FOBG Webmaster: Nithya Raghavan

# *Think Spring!*



**Hellebores niger (Christmas Rose) – photo by Dick Hammerschlag**