

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



Winter, 2015

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

The first real snow of the season is falling as I write this message. It's another reminder that



our lives and activities are guided by the seasons and that the cycles of nature are consistent and precious.

A day like today is a good one to enjoy the beauty of the snow and to think ahead to the months of spring when all of nature will awaken from its rest.

With this issue of the Brooksider, we welcome Board members **Freddi Hammerschlag** and **Joe Ann Stenstrom** as new co-editors. They have plans for fresh and engaging new features for the newsletter, including book reviews, answers to gardening questions, interviews and special columns. Our thanks to Gene and Julia Horman for their dedicated work on the Brooksider for the past years. **Coriolana Simon** will continue to enhance the newsletter with her stunning photographs.

It's not too early to put several Friends of Brookside Gardens dates on your calendar. As one of the major sponsors of Green Matters, we have high expectations for the February 27th presentation on "Protecting Our Pollinators". Another highly anticipated event is the Orchid Show, coordinated once again by **Gloria Sherman**. It will be at Behnke Nurseries, Beltsville, MD, on March 14th and 15th. During the summer, members of the Friends will be nurturing plants with the guidance of Joan O'Rourke for the Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, September 12th. The fall will be an exciting one as we anticipate the second Friends of Brookside Gardens Gala Silent Auction on November 7th, coordinated this year by **Barbara Schwarz** and **Kathy Kircher**.

Keep up-to-date on all Friends activities, schedules, newsletters and photos by making it a habit to check our website, created by Board member **Nithya Raghavan**. The URL is www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that you will join us in supporting the Gardens we love so much with your enthusiastic support of the Friends of Brookside Gardens!

Suzanne Carbone, President

News from Brookside

By Stephanie Oberle, Director, Brookside Gardens

Even though Garden of Lights wasn't open this season, many people (18,929, to be exact!) came to the Conservatory to enjoy the garden railway exhibit that was installed in partnership with the Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society. A highlight this year was an exhibit of structures from Glen Echo, including a working carousel that filled the room with spritely music.



Work on the design/build contract for a new growing greenhouse began on January 12. A team of Gardens staff including **Joe Kraut**, **Ellen Bennett** and myself will be working with Parks staff and contractors to design an energy-efficient new greenhouse that will be built adjacent to the current Fritz Greenhouse. The design and permits portion of the project is expected to take approximately ten months, and then we will move straight to construction. This project is the first time that Parks has entered a design/build contract for a major CIP project and we hope it will pave the way for faster completion of future projects. The scope of work includes a new glass growing greenhouse with high efficiency heating and ventilation systems; an attached headhouse for propagation, plant maintenance, soil mixing, and storage; adjacent outdoor growing areas for spring and summer annuals and chrysanthemums; a cistern to capture rainwater for use for irrigation, and adjacent parking for staff and volunteers. We are very grateful to **Joan O'Rourke**, founding President of Friends of Brookside

Gardens, whose generous donation made the new greenhouse possible.

The Annual Green Matters Symposium will be held on Friday, February 27 at the Silver Spring Civic Center. The Friends of Brookside Gardens is a major sponsor of this event, and we thank you for your support! This year our attention is focused on Pollinators, those vital partners in the gardens without which we cannot survive. An astonishing 80% of the world's plant species require a pollinator to reproduce: plants that not only feed and shelter us, but are absolutely essential within Earth's ecosystems. This relationship between flora and fauna is being challenged on all sides by habitat loss, pesticides, invasive species, and more. Learn more about the program, the schedule and speakers at: [Green Matters Symposium](#).

Staff News:

Stacy Parsons, Horticulturist I, is retiring at the end of January. Stacy came to Brookside Gardens in November 1991 as a gardener in the Formal Gardens. Subsequently she worked in the Gude Garden and the Azalea Gardens. Six years ago when the McCrillis Gardens gardener retired, she graciously assumed responsibility for McCrillis in addition to the Azalea Garden, working with a dedicated group of volunteers and seasonal staff to keep both garden areas maintained. We wish Stacy all the best.

Nancy Woods joined our staff in early December as the Lead Gardener at McCrillis Gardens, the 5-acre mature shade garden in Bethesda begun in 1941 and acquired by Parks in 1979. She came to Parks in April 2012 as a seasonal gardener to enhance and maintain the display gardens and landscapes at Rockwood and Woodlawn, popular Enterprise rental facilities. Nancy will be performing all the garden maintenance and renovation of the extensive tree and shrub plantings on this site.



Orchid Show and Sale

By Gloria Sherman

Due to the scheduled renovations at Brookside Gardens in 2015, the annual weekend-long **Friends of Brookside Gardens Orchid Show and Sale** will be held at **Behnke Nurseries, Beltsville, MD** on **Saturday, March 14 from 9 am to 5 pm** and **Sunday, March 15, from 9 am to 5 pm**. 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.

Despite their exotic beauty and their popularity with skilled horticulture enthusiasts, not all orchids are demanding or difficult to grow. Many orchids can be grown in average in-house conditions, including *phalaenopsis*, and *cattleytoni*. This event is geared not only to experienced orchid growers but also to beginners who would like to learn to grow orchids. The vendors at the sale will have a number of varieties suitable for novices interested in introducing orchids into their homes and can provide information on cultural requirements and a full range of orchid growing supplies.

In addition, orchid collectors will not be disappointed, as they will be able to choose from among several old favorites and new introductions. Enthusiasts who found themselves first bitten by the orchid “bug” at a previous FOBG Orchid Show and Sale will have the opportunity to expand their collections.

Carol Allen, renowned orchid expert, will be on hand this year to offer her repotting services for a nominal fee along with her advice and consultation. The Rock Creek Orchid Club (formerly Brookside Gardens Orchid Club) will be exhibiting their exotic collections. And, of course, our very popular **RAF-FLE**, in which you could WIN a beautiful orchid. Proceeds from sales will benefit the many valuable programs at Brookside Gardens.

Meet Your Friends

Freddi Hammerschlag is one of two new co-editors for The Brooksider. She was born in Brooklyn, New



York in 1944, went to Skidmore College in 1961 and then obtained an M.S. degree in Plant Pathology (1968) and a Ph.D. degree in Plant Genetics (1979) from the University of Maryland. Freddi met her husband Dick her first

day of graduate school (1965) and they were married one year later. Both careers were interrupted when Dick was drafted in 1966 and they were stationed at Ft. Detrick, Maryland for three years. Following their years with the army, Freddi began working for the USDA/Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Maryland (BARC). Freddi worked in several laboratories at BARC and ended her 37-year career as Research Leader of the Fruit Laboratory. Throughout her career, her research focused on developing biotechnology approaches to generating disease resistance in fruit crops. Freddi was invited to numerous countries (Australia, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Japan, Sri Lanka, etc.) to either lecture and/or to help develop biotechnology programs. Now retired, Freddi volunteers at the U.S. National Arboretum and with Friends of Brookside Garden and with Dick, spends a good deal of time visiting gardens all over the world, landscaping their 2 ½ acre home, and taking classes. Both Freddi and Dick selected their first home on Henderson Ave, Wheaton because the street dead-ended to Wheaton Regional Park. The park and most specifically the gardens gave them many wonderful ideas about garden design and what plants to plant in their own garden. Both are avid plant collectors and Brookside continues to be greatly inspirational to them. Although they moved to Howard County in 1989, they continue to visit and have become involved with Friends of Brookside Gardens. Freddi was

the Chair of the 2013 FOBG Silent Auction and continues on as an advisor to the Chairs of the 2015 Silent Auction.

Joe Ann Stenstrom is also a new editor for the Brooksider. A garden lover, Joe Ann joined the Board of the Friends of Brookside Gardens in April, 2013. She loves working in her garden and invents ways to be outside!



Beyond gardening her interests are many and varied. A retired librarian, she enjoys reading and can't stay away from books and libraries; she substitutes in the Montgomery County Public Libraries and volunteers in her church Media Center. Children's books are high-

lights for sharing with her two-year-old grandson. Music is an important part of her life. She enjoys opera and choral works. A long-time member of the choir at her church, she is highly involved in other areas at Fourth Presbyterian Church. She also is a mentor in the C S Lewis Institute Fellows Program. A volunteer usher for student performances at The Shakespeare Theatre offers a delightful experience that relates to her years of teaching in the elementary school and at the college/university level at University of Maryland and Montgomery College. Born in Colorado, but with early years in Nebraska, Joe Ann grew up in Salem, Oregon. She graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a B.A. degree in Education and the University of Washington with an M.A. degree in education. She then taught elementary school in Seattle and in Rome, New York where her husband was stationed with the Air Force. She received her Master's in Library Science from the University of Maryland (U of MD) and has wide experience in the library world, having been the Assistant Executive Secretary

of the American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association; supervised student teachers in the U of MD program for school librarians; and taught library science and children's literature courses at both U of MD and Montgomery College. She retired as the Assistant Branch Manager of the Rockville Memorial Library, having worked in the Potomac and Bethesda branches. In addition to tending her garden in the summer, Joe Ann is often at Nats Park cheering on the local baseball team, The Washington Nationals, or swimming laps at the pool. She may also be taking care of the 1966 MG B that was her late husband's.

Dick Hammerschlag (editor for the new column Garden Guardian) had an affinity for the outdoors ever



since entering the world in 1941. As a child, he spent most of his vacations in the mountains. Even as a young boy, he was building ponds in his back yard and going for walks in Gwynns Falls Park adjacent to where he lived in Balti-

more. Learning and experiencing the outdoors was enhanced by vigorous participation with the Boy Scouts where he attained the Eagle Scout rank. Career building in college saw him majoring in Botany at Colgate University and then achieving both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Plant Pathology from the University of Maryland. From the midst of graduate school, he was drafted into the army. Fortunately, he was able to get into the Chemical Corps as a Lieutenant and was stationed at Ft. Detrick, MD with wife Freddi and son Dan. Following his army service, Dick returned to the University of Maryland to complete a Ph.D. degree. After attaining this degree, he got a job with the Ecological Services Lab, National Park Service (NPS) in Washington, D.C. His focus was to help the NPS site managers sustain viable landscapes that were heavily used by visitors. This relatively new science of urban

ecology was being learned as he and his team went along. Cases in point were the National Mall, trails in Rock Creek Park and stress on vegetation from impacted soils and related disease. He built a career as Chief of the Lab which faced the major overall NPS dilemma of how to keep NPS lands from the impact of too many visitors. No parklands have greater visitation than those in Washington, D.C. Perhaps of particular pertinence to Brookside Gardens was learning of how to select plant materials that might better survive the urban impacted environment. His last project with NPS involved working with the Corps of Engineers to return fresh water tidal wetlands into the Anacostia Estuary after so much of this habitat had been dredged out. He spent the last years of his career with the US Geological Survey at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He is now retired and involved with some ongoing research in the Anacostia and also volunteers at the U.S. National Arboretum. He pursues his "Green Thumb" interests with his 2 1/2 acre garden where he and Freddi have gardened for 25 years. Dick is pursuing becoming a Master Gardener and will become editor of the new column Garden Guardian (see below) as a way of using his experiences and paying back to the Community.

Garden Guardian

The Garden Guardian column is meant to be a rather low key opportunity for Friends of Brookside Garden members to request guidance on garden and landscape matters. Requests for information will be selected based upon how prevalent the problem may be, how strong a principle of decision making may be involved, practicality, and of course whether a suitable answer can be provided.



Please forward requests for information to **Dick Hammerschlag** by e-mail at peachfrog66@comcast.net. Depending on time, availability, and volume of questions, some requests will be provided directly to the requestor and not in the Newsletter.

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 are available in the [Xperience](#) program guide.

FOBG Sponsored Events

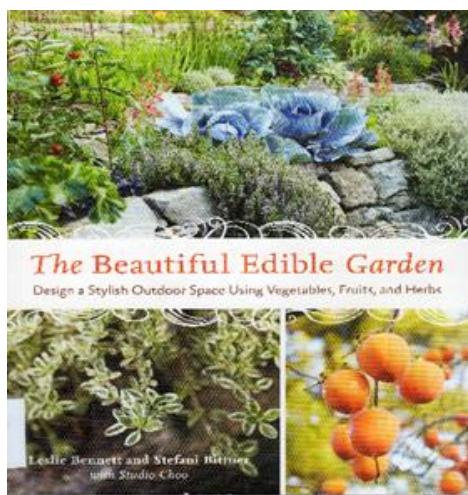
	Date	ParkPASS #
Green Matters Symposium: Protecting Our Pollinators	02/27/15	297058

Brookside Gardens Adult Programs

	Date	ParkPASS #
Calligraphy for Botanicals: Pointed Pen	02/06/15	296756
Terrarium Workshop (also 02/11/15, #296500)	02/10/15	296499
Hearty Casseroles	02/18/15	295404
Everything You Wanted to Know About Pruning	02/19/15	2296549
Art In Watercolor	02/24/15	296755
Philadelphia Flower Show Excursion (Also 03/05/15, #296150)	03/03/15	296149
Botanical Painting	03/05/15	276753
Painting Brilliant Daffodils	03/14/15	316657
Sensational Sides	03/18/15	315949
Introduction to Organic Food Gardening	03/24/15	316450
Rain Garden Workshop (Also 05/27/15, #316099)	03/26/15	316059
A Pansy: Wet & Dry Colored Pencil	03/28/15	316658
Container Gardening Basics and Beyond (Also 04/04/15, #316452)	04/02/15	316451
Grow a Miniature Garden (Also 04/15/15, #316461)	04/14/15	316456
Painting Recap	04/16/15	316650
Make and Take Rain Barrels (Also 04/18/15, #316109)	04/17/15	316108
Visit to a Woodland Garden (Also 04/21/15, #316303; and 04/28/15, #316304)	04/14/15	316302
Earth Day Talks and Tours	04/22/15	
Spring Wildflowers		316299
Woody Natives		316300
Garden Gateway		316301
Colors of Spring	04/22/15	315950
Butterflies, Bees & Botanicals	04/23/15	316662
Asian Collection at the National Arboretum Excursion	04/27/15	316799

***For additional programs, more information and fees,
click this link for the [Xperience](#) program guide or click this link for [ParkPass.org](#)***

Book Review



Leslie Bennett and Stefani Bitner. *The Beautiful Edible Garden: Design a Stylish Outdoor Space Using Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs.*

Berkeley, California: Ten Speed Press, 2013.

Lovers of blending gardens and food will find this book of particular interest. Bennett and Bittner operate an edible landscaping design service in the San Francisco Bay Area: Star Apple Edible + Fine Gardening.

Did you ever think your front yard could be beautiful and productive at the same time? The authors discuss the types of plants to achieve this for both sun and shade. Beauty in this way can also be brought to small spaces in container gardens, too. The authors cover the principles for designing such gardens: pleasing balance, utility and aesthetics, mixing of ornamental and edible plants for year round beauty, and unified design. They emphasize the use of perennials and succession planting to ensure beauty and produce throughout the seasons with focal points to highlight parts of the garden you particular love. Along with beauty of design, best practices and “how-to’s” of gardening and floral design are covered.

Inspiring examples for using your garden’s offerings to create attractive arrangements and floral displays are demonstrated. From Studio Choo, floral designers show how to use wild and natural plantings for stunning effects; thus, beauty in the garden and on the table are inviting.

This book is available from the Montgomery County Public Libraries. 635.048 BEN

Brookside Gardens and Friends of Brookside Gardens are featured on the web page for gardening at the library’s website with helpful listings of organizations and featured gardening books: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/gardening> .

Reviewed by

Joe Ann Stenstrom



Friends OF
BROOKSIDE GARDENS

ORCHID SHOW & SALE

March 14 & 15

9am-5pm

Open to all!

- ◆ Vibrant display by Rock Creek Orchid Club
- ◆ Orchids & merchandise from top area growers
- ◆ Repotting by Behnke's Carol Allen (nominal fee)
- ◆ Advice from orchid experts
- ◆ Popular Raffle of Orchids
- ◆ Thoughtful gifts

Location this year

➔ **Behnke Nurseries**
11300 Baltimore Ave.
Beltsville, MD 20705

Proceeds benefit Brookside Gardens!
www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org

We are beginning a new era of the Brooksider with Freddi Hammerschlag and Joe Ann Stenstrom taking on the daunting task of co-editing the newsletter. Gene and Julia Horman's and Corialana Simon's shoes are pretty tough to fill, but we will do our best to make the newsletter interesting, informative and perhaps inspirational. Our aim is to try to bring the community of Brookside Gardens enthusiasts together by insightful articles about our members. The series of articles will be called "Meet Your Friends". We are also starting another series entitled "Garden Guardian" written by Dr. Richard Hammerschlag, Plant Pathologist, in response to your gardening questions. Contact information is provided by Dick at the end of his biography. We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your comments and suggestions!

Freddi Hammerschlag and Joe Ann Stenstrom, editors

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors

1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902
301-962-1435 (voice mail checked daily)

Email address: friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com

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

Suzanne Carbone, *President* Julia Horman, *Treasurer*

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