



**Winter, 2016**

## **President's Letter**

**By Suzanne Carbone, Acting President and Barbara Schwarz, President Elect**

Happy 2016 to you all! What an exciting year we have ahead! This will be a year of celebrations. FOBG is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we will be presenting Brookside with a special gift honoring the occasion. We will also be celebrating, with Brookside, a grand 'reveal' of the new garden gateway in April. We are enthusiastically moving ahead with our annual events: Green Matters, the Orchid Sale, the Silent Auction, an open membership meeting in June, and our big Plant Sale. New this year will be a 5K Run/Walk to occur in October. We are also establishing a new program where you can have a card mailed by us to honor a birthday, anniversary, birth, retirement, or in memory of. All of the money raised goes to our wonderful Brookside Gardens. Accessing our informative and always current web site will keep you abreast of all these events. **Please stay in touch with us!**

Your support of FOBG helps make this all happen. There is no event that brings in funds as much as your membership. We appreciate each and every one of you! Everyone paying dues is important, but this renewal period has shown the largest increase in Patron and Benefactor members. You can support Brookside by your FOBG membership, your attendance at

events, by volunteering for as few or as many hours as you wish, by talking about Brookside and encouraging your family and friends to join us too. You are our first line of support!

We will be calling on you to volunteer at the Silent Auction on April 16. **Gala in the Garden** promises to be a fun evening and all those who volunteered in the past have thoroughly enjoyed it. Please check our web site, or leave an email or phone message for us if you would like to help. We are still soliciting donations as well. To supplement all the wonderful donations we have received to date, if you have a favorite restaurant or service provider, we would love to have a gift certificate for them. If you have access to tickets to any sporting event or family entertainment facility, please consider donating them. These are only a few suggestions. You can read how to donate and attend the Silent Auction in the article in this newsletter or on the website. All donations are tax deductible!

For those of you who came this year to the Garden of Lights and fabulous train exhibit at Brookside, you saw and felt the excitement of all those around you. How wonderful to have this jewel in our community. How proud we can all be to say we go the extra step and actively support Brookside Gardens!

# News from Brookside

**By Stephanie Oberle, Director Brookside Gardens**

Roses in December? With the very mild winter weather, we all have noticed a number of plants confused and blooming out of season: daffodils and Lenten roses (see below), snowdrops and forsythia. I also noticed one of my least favorite invasive plants, the despised Garlic Mustard. This biennial (which means it seeds one year and flowers the next) grows in abundance in the shady woods around our office. Staff routinely pull handfuls of them as we walk to and from our cars. The mild late fall weather encouraged their growth and it wasn't too onerous to spend some of the sunny 70 degree weather outside removing them, getting a jump on a task we usually tackle in March. Another unwelcome invasive pest to be concerned about is the Emerald Ash Borer. If you haven't already heard of it, these shiny green beetles were introduced unintentionally from Asia to Michigan in 2002 and have spread eastward, killing millions of our native Ash trees, a common woodland species. Once symptoms are observed, tree health can decline rapidly. Some symptoms include branch dieback and crown thinning; bark-splitting; d-shaped exit holes;

and woodpecker damage. For more information, check out these websites:

<http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/eab.aspx>  
<http://sentinelpn.vt-host.net/eab>

At Brookside Gardens, we have a few specimen Ash trees planted in our collections, which we monitor for signs of infestation. Within Montgomery Parks, it is a larger problem, since we manage tens of thousands of acres. We share our knowledge at events like Green Matters Symposium and Earth Day, both sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens. Programs like these bring local environmental issues to the attention of our visitors and give us all tools to become better stewards of our shared environment.

Happy upcoming spring!



**Lenten roses**

# Orchid Show & Sale

Saturday, March 19 10am-4pm  
Sunday, March 20 10am-3pm

- FREE admission
- Display of exotic orchids by the Rock Creek Orchid Club
- Orchids and merchandise from top area growers
- Repotting service (nominal fee)
- Advice from experts
- Benefits Brookside Gardens

For more information:  
301.962.1435 or  
[www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org)

Back at Brookside Gardens  
Visitors Center this year!  
1800 Glenallan Avenue  
Wheaton, MD 20902



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



# *Gala in the Garden*

A Silent Auction to Benefit Brookside Gardens

Art • Dining • Travel • Entertainment • Garden Items • Raffle • More!

**Saturday, April 16, 2016**

**6:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Brookside Gardens Visitors Center**

1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902

**\$40 per person**

**\$35 for FOBG members before March 23**

**Light Refreshments and Live Music**

For Information and Online Registration:

[www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/auction](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/auction)

[friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com) • 301.962.1435



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens

# *Gala in the Garden*

**Saturday, April 16, 6:00 to 9:00 pm**

It is happening!! Mark your calendars now! **FOBG's Silent Auction, Gala in the Gardens**, will be held on **Saturday, April 16** from **6:00 – 9:00 pm**. Join friends for an evening of fun and festivities to benefit Brookside Gardens. All auction proceeds go to support Brookside Gardens and its wonderful programs.

**PARTICIPATE** Bid on beautiful, interesting and useful auction items. We have decorative and practical garden items; beautiful artwork including pieces from local artists, a trip to Disneyland; vacation rentals; jewelry; hand-made crafts; items for children; hand-painted gourd bird houses; gift certificates for restaurants, services, and entertainment; and more. Enter the raffle to win unique evergreens and plants just in time for spring planting. Preview auction items on our website.

**ANNOUNCE** Forward auction information to your friends and community & garden club list serves.

**DONATE** Perhaps you have sports tickets, a vacation home rental for a week or weekend, garden items, are a crafter or artist and have some pieces to donate. We are looking for more great things. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed. **Make a direct donation.** Every penny we raise goes directly to support Brookside Gardens.

**VOLUNTEER** We need help at the event and with auction planning. FOBG is your team. We guarantee a feeling of satisfaction from working with us to support Brookside.

## **To register, donate, or volunteer:**

- Visit our auction website : [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/auction](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/auction)
- Call our voicemail at 301-962-1435
- Email us at [Friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:Friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com).
- You can also call **Barbara Schwarz** at 301-570-1140 or **Kathy Kircher** at 301-585-3334.



## 2015 BROOKSIDE GARDENS WINTER TRAIN DISPLAY

By Joe Ann Stenstrom

The train display was a treat for every one! Young and old enjoyed the charming layout of three Large Scale (G-Scale) garden trains on three tracks running through a town and country setting depicting life in the 1960's in Montgomery County. Train lovers could waft nostalgic at the sound of the engines chugging around the tracks. Car buffs marveled at the collection of vintage models. Garden lovers admired the lovely plantings supplied by Brookside Gardens to enhance the setting that even boasted a model of the greenhouse. Children were thrilled at the sight of Thomas the Engine and his pals coming around the bend. They also had fun searching for favorite cartoon characters hidden among the wonders of the display using a scavenger list provided by the Society members. Miniature modelers marveled at the detail in the city and village scenes while history lovers enjoyed the replicas of well-loved areas and landmarks in the County, such as The Cider Mill, The Kensington Train Station, and the Maryland Motors building. The separate Cabin John Trolley Line display depicted the

line running to Glen Echo, complete with models of the Denzel Carousel, the Ferris wheel and the bumper car building and an explanatory note on the history of the line and the park. Designed, built and installed by members, the display is owned by the Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society. Many replicas in the display were hand-built by its members, several of whom have their own year-round outdoor displays and often bring trains from their collections to be "guest trains" for the day. According to their informative handout, it takes "approximately 200 person hours to plan and design with another 874 person hours required to build this display." Much of it is stored at Brookside Gardens during the year; however, throughout the year exhibits can be seen in other locations in the area. For information consult the Society's website <http://www.wvmgrs.org>.

If you missed it this year, be sure to put it on your calendar right now for a pleasurable family outing in December 2016/January 2017.



# Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener Howard County

In case you hadn't noticed, we experienced spring in December!! In stark contrast to last winter's hard chill, this strong El Nino influenced year has brought about a completely opposite plant reaction in response to the unseasonable warmth!! (at least as of this writing on Jan. 1, 2016!!). Last year we were lucky if a few *Helleborus niger* (Xmas rose) dared show themselves before being iced out, this year a whole swarm of Xmas roses and relatives are in full glory – in fact several have gone from white to faded green already!! But – not only are these *H. niger* forms in full show, many of the *Helleborus* (Lenten Rose) plants are actually in bloom or threatening to. Equally obvious have been the *Prunus x hybridus autumnalis (subhirtella)* cherries that typically bloom in early Spring and occasionally throw a few autumn blooms but this year are almost in full bloom!! Then there are the daffodil greens, the snow drops, the forsythia (and jasmine), *Iris unguicularis* (pictured), even a Daphne, etc.

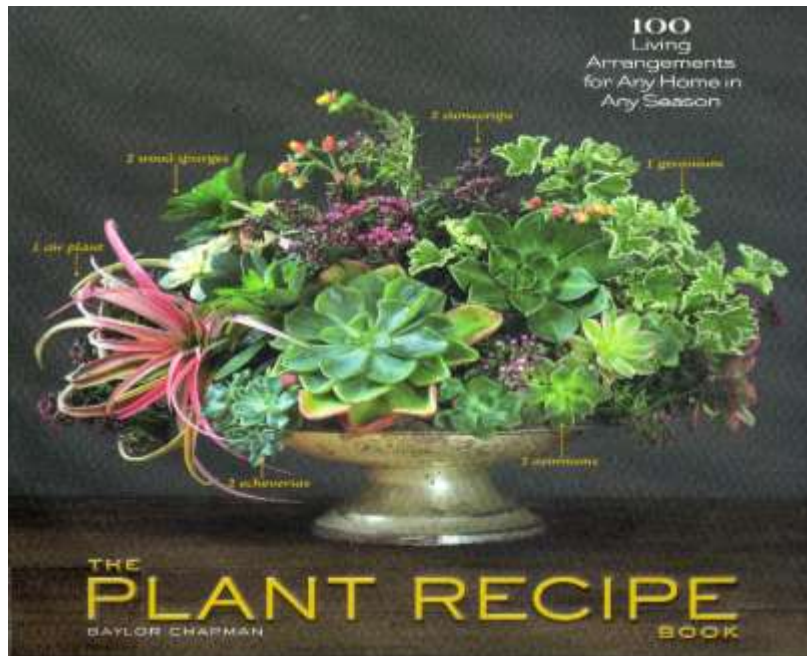
It feels like mid-March!! So many plants that have low chill requirements are forcing – in the lexicon of the day 'may the forces be with us' so to speak. What do you have in your garden (wallet)?

A concern might well be – how much collateral damage will occur when the inevitable deep freeze moves in?? How many of these plants have hardened off? Hopefully just the flowers will disappear and perhaps some shoot tips get nipped. So maybe many of you will be observant and be in a position to provide feedback as to how much this pre-spring tease actually predisposes our gardens for a small disaster. Will this abnormal early bloom reduce the impact of the later true spring emergence?? Whatever, it is abundantly clear that spring will arrive considerably earlier than last year.



*Iris unguicularis*

# Book Review



**Chapman, Baylor.** PLANT RECIPE BOOK: 100 Living Arrangements for Any Home in Any Season. New York: Artisan, 2014.

## Reviewed by Joe Ann Stenstrom

While gardeners cannot dig in the dirt just yet, there are some creative and fun activities to do indoors while waiting for spring. You may find yourself doing these year-round!

This book, organized like a cookbook with specific “ingredients” and “instructions”, will have you scouring your cupboards and shelves, even the garage and gardening storage, for everyday and unusual items with which to make attractive and intriguing arrangements. That old watering can, the abandoned wooden box, or the pedestal cake plate you no longer use can bring sparkle and interest to ordinary and extraordinary plants. Many of these arrangements can be as long-lived as the contents or as short as needed for a special occasion. Some of the author’s suggestions include some of the following ideas:

Instead of that Christmas amaryllis standing rigidly lonely in its container, enhance it with the addition of

some peperomias and perhaps a calla lily in a wooden salad bowl. It’s nearly time for hyacinth bulbs to make an appearance. The author suggests planting them in four shallow bowls of the same or complementary colors and varying sizes, clustering them in a tabletop arrangement. A variety of miniature cacti would look especially appealing in that discarded wooden box with contrasting material for mulch – try black sand. That same box could contain your indoor herb garden using a variety of plant shapes and colors. The red plastic bowl for which you have no use can be the start of a display for the red tulip bulbs that did not get planted outdoors last fall; use some grape ivy and shamrock for contrast. The old copper pot you no longer use in the kitchen would make a lovely container for a combination of begonia and primrose with ivy twining on the handle.

This book is available from the Montgomery County Public Libraries. 635.965 CHA



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 <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/documents/FinalFW15.pdf>.

Date	FOBG Sponsored Event	Course #
3/19/2016	Orchid Show and Sale*	-----
4/16/2016	Silent Auction	-----
6/23/2016	Annual Meeting	-----
	<b>Brookside Gardens Adult Programs</b>	
3/12/2016	An Introduction to Botany*	16460
3/16/2016	Spring Roots	14873
3/31/2016	Dealing with Deer and Other Mammal Pests in Your Garden	14868
4/1/2016	Make & Take Rain Barrels**	14870
4/3/2016	Native Plants of the Mid-Atlantic	14878
4/7/2016	The Art of Botany*	14862
4/8/2016	Green Matters: A Garden Gateway	14881
4/13/2016	Top to Toe	14874
4/20/2016	Fleeting Flora	14882
4/23/2016	Brookside Gardens Saturday Walks**	14905
4/26/2016	Plants of the Garden Gateway	14919
4/28/2016	Painting on Vellum*	14863
5/1/2016	McCrillis Gardens Sunday Walks**	14901

5/6/2016	Hanging Baskets**	14889
5/11/2016	Mighty Alliums	14875
5/12/2016	Container Gardening Basics and Beyond**	14891
5/14/2016	Hometown Habitat: Lecture and Screening	14879
5/14/2016	Focus on Butterflies**	14909
5/14/2016	Fibonacci Spiral Patterning	14864
5/18/2016	Best of Brookside**	14893
5/19/2016	Stormwater Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens**	14895
5/24/2016	Maryland Natives: On Land and By Sea	14883
6/1/2016	Summer Sweets	14876
6/3/2016	Painting Peonies*	14865
6/8/2016	Grow a Miniature Garden**	14897
6/10/2016	Floral Arranging from the Garden	14899
6/16/2016	A Delaware Gardens Sampler	14884
6/18/2016	Butterfly Photography**	14900
6/21/2016	Native Bees in Your Garden	14880
6/30/2016	Behind the Scenes: Wings of Fancy	16461
7/7/2016	Wings and Wine	14886
7/12/2016	Start Drawing and Painting*	14866
7/13/2016	Marvelous 'matoes	14877
7/21/2016	Some Like it Wet... the New Marsh Garden	16462
8/2/2016	Cocktail Flower	14887
	*Program meets multiple days	
	**Program is offered multiple times	

**For additional programs, more information and fees, click link <http://www.montgomery-parks.org/brookside/documents/FinalFW15.pdf> or click link <https://apm.activecommunities.com/montgomerycounty/Home>**



Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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