

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



Winter, 2017

President's Letter

By Barbara Schwarz, President

Happy New Year to you all! We are energized for a productive, event filled 2017. We are counting on you, the many volunteers and members to help support Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG) functions,



with as much or as little time as you wish! We would love to have you join us on the Board, work with a committee such as Marketing or Membership, work on the Orchid Sale in March and/or the Plant Sale in September. All are fun activities, and all aim to provide

support to Brookside Gardens. You can contact us by phone or the website if you would like to get involved. Please know...we need you! If you are looking for a place to volunteer, to be appreciated, and to make a difference, this is your place!

The Board also thanks you for renewing your membership or for joining as a new member this year. Your dues go directly to support the gardens you love. Brookside has hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, but you are special. You have made the commitment to financially support Brookside by joining FOBG.

For you who are new members, and those of you renewing, this is a reminder of how your money is utilized at Brookside. The Director of Brookside submits a request each year to the FOBG Board to contribute to specific events, plantings and/or staffing. Your dues currently sponsor or support the Green Matters Symposium, the Summer Concert Series, Children's Day, plantings as requested, seasonal gardening staff, the Spring and Fall Lecture Series, Earth Day and summer interns to work in the gardens.

You and we should be very proud of your contribution. With a limited county budget, these are all things on the Brookside Gardens 'wish list', but there would be no funding for many of these projects without FOBG. We engage in fundraising to supplement these and other spontaneous requests, but note that 100% of your dues goes to Brookside Gardens for whatever they request.

As you know, this year we are giving a special gift to the Gardens. Many of you have answered our requests to donate to the stone sphere sculpture by Devin Devine to commemorate FOBG's 20th anniversary. Your response has been overwhelming and we thank you so very much for your donations! We are still sending out promotions to meet our goal, but are

75% there, thanks to you. The sculpture will be dedicated in June. We hope you will join us for this special event! Watch our website and our promotions for upcoming events – Green Matters on February 24th and the Orchid Show and Sale on March 18th and 19th at

the Visitors Center. Please join us either by volunteering or attending!

Even in this frigidly cold weather, we hope to see you at the Gardens we all love!

News from Brookside

By Stephanie Oberle, Director Brookside Gardens



Your voice counts!

Montgomery County is entering the budget planning cycle for the upcoming FY18 fiscal year operating budget, which starts July 1, 2017. Your input can help Brookside Gardens and Montgomery Parks receive the funding we need to continue to offer the beautiful facilities and high quality educational programs and special events you know and love. Both the County Executive and County Council hold public hearings where anyone can sign up to testify and voice their opinion of how tax dollars should be used to fund. If testifying in person is not convenient, written testimony is a valuable way to express your thoughts. The County Executive is holding five public hearings in January and will announce his Recommended FY18 Operating Budget on March 15. The County Council holds public hearings in early April.

What are some of the funding initiatives that are important to Brookside Gardens? We have asked for in-

creased funding to support seasonal staff and supplies to complete plantings in our new Parking Garden; increased funding to support seasonal staff, equipment and supplies to implement more organic turf and landscape practices; new funding to support a college internship program for 12 week and 9 month internships; increased funding to support staff and materials to repair failing infrastructure, like deteriorating paths, steps, and arbors; and funding to install a composting toilet in the parking garden for year round comfort.

Your advocacy efforts show the County Executive and County Council that Brookside Gardens and Montgomery Parks are important to you and our community and should receive full funding (and more!) year after year.

Thank you for your support!

Orchid Show and Sale



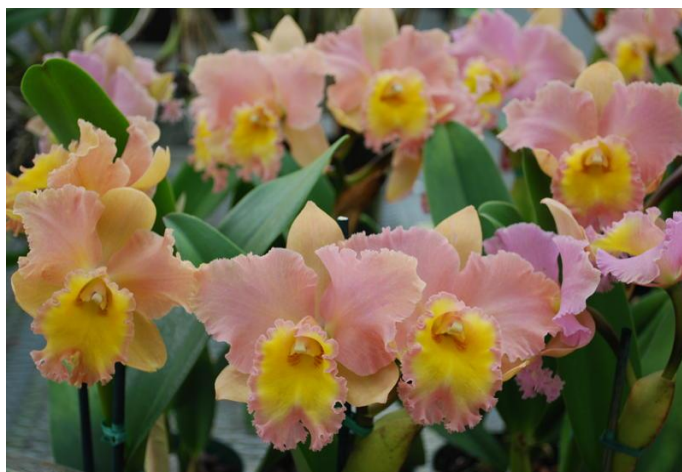
By Joe Ann Stenstrom

Mark your calendar for the 19th annual weekend-long **Orchid Show and Sale** on **Saturday, March 18, from 10 am to 4 pm** and **Sunday, March 19, from 10 am to 3 pm** at the Brookside Gardens Visitors 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 the Rock Creek Orchid Club. They will be displaying their outstanding collections of orchids as well as answering questions you may have.

The festival will also include orchid potting demonstrations by a renowned orchid specialist. For a small fee, he will gladly repot orchids that participants bring from home. Please bring no more than three orchids to be repotted.

Admission to the orchid festival is free. The orchid clinic fees, raffle sales and a portion of the vendor sales will benefit the many valuable programs at Brookside Gardens.



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Orchid Show and Sale

Saturday, March 18 10 am - 4 pm

Sunday, March 19 10 am - 3 pm

co-sponsored by the
Rock Creek Orchid Club



- ◇ Orchids and Merchandise from top area growers
- ◇ Vibrant display by Rock Creek Orchid Club
- ◇ Advice from orchid experts
- ◇ Repotting service
- ◇ Raffle

Free admission!

Proceeds benefit Brookside Gardens

For information, call 301.962.1435



www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org

Brookside Gardens Visitors Center

1800 Glenallan Avenue

Wheaton, MD 20902

Thanks to you, we are well on our way to funding
FOBG's 20th ANNIVERSARY GIFT
to Brookside Gardens!!!

The unique stone sphere will harmonize organically with its natural setting. A creation of eco-artist Devin Devine, the sculpture will cost \$20,000. We hope that it will be installed by late June for a dedication at FOBG's annual meeting



A new or additional donation from you will help us to meet our goal!

You may contribute through the Friends of Brookside Gardens website or simply mail a check.

We leave the amount of your donation up to you, but suggested giving levels are

\$100 * \$250 * \$500 * \$1,000 * *or more*

For every donation of \$100 or more, a new leaf will be added to the "Giving Tree" in the Visitors Center.

Check the Tree often to follow our campaign's progress!

www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org

301-962-1435

GARDEN OF LIGHTS – 2016

By Joe Ann Stenstrom

How delightful to have the return of the Garden of Lights this winter! With the brilliant colors, highlighting and outlining buildings and portraying animals throughout the gardens, it was sheer delight to wander with camera in hand and eyes alert for the next surprise waiting around the corner. The gazebo and other sites took on a wonder of their own as night surrounded the gardens. Hearing oos and ahs from children and adults alike added to the enjoyment of the evening. Following familiar paths transformed

into a wonderland made for a memorable event for all ages.

Professional photographers, Coriolana Simon and Doug Wolters and FOBG Board Members Elaine Dynes and Nithya Raghavan, captured the spectacular sights to share here for those who visited the gardens on those magical nights to remember and those who missed the show to be prompted to mark their calendars for next year's display.



Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener for Howard County

ACAs for Household Orchids

Well, of course the Affordable Care Act itself doesn't apply to orchids (maybe your kids!?!?) but many of its premises do!!!!

The Friends of Brookside Gardens is sponsoring its **annual orchid sale** on March 18th and 19th. As a courage builder and encouragement for folks to feel free to procure orchids, this piece will deal with – well hopefully AVOIDING – pests and diseases of orchids. Corresponding to the central tenet of the ACA, pest and disease PREVENTION will pay larger dividends than actually having to manage a problem. Thus the following are some affordable care acts to consider as you go ahead and grab some orchids!!!

1. Understand the type of orchid you are buying including the growing conditions it prefers especially with respect to where it grows naturally. Primary considerations will involve optimum range of light (have a window area or comparable in mind where orchid(s) will receive bright indirect light – the point is to avoid direct midday sun especially during the summer); humidity (most home conditions are OK but if humidity is consistently low place the orchid(s) on a tray with gravel and water); and temperature (many orchids rebloom in response to certain nighttime temperature regimes and thus may be classified as cool, intermediate or warm types). Keeping your plants HAPPY and vigorous is the key to problem PREVENTION since coping with problems exacts an energy requirement from the plant. When best growing conditions are not met some form of stress will follow. Weaker/stressed plants (much like people) will be the first to succumb to pests and disease.
2. Most horticultural orchids do better with repotting (annual repotting should work) as the potting medium breaks down and the orchids outgrow the pot they're in. A fibrous sphagnum peat moss or orchid bark often make for a good orchid growing media. Remove dead roots, clean-up plants, etc. before repotting in a larger container. Give each orchid some space (as it would have in the wild) – AVOID CROWDING to allow better aeration/air movement over the plants. Best to water early in the day to allow free water (unabsorbed) to dissipate since available moisture on foliage may encourage disease problems.
3. Keep a vigilant eye on your orchid plants for pests such as mealy bugs, aphids, thrips, mites, etc. or possibly the effects of microbial pathogens causing leaf spots, root rots, yellowing of leaves, etc. (Specific information is available via the INFORMATION SOURCES listed at the end of the write-up). The point here is that EARLY DETECTION will yield much better management options than after the problem becomes more advanced. As with ACA and patients you don't want to be in a position of overcoming diseases like say cancer once it has really taken hold!! With small numbers of insect pests you should be able to manage them with a Q tip that has been dipped in rubbing alcohol. Some plant disease situations might be successfully managed by excising the diseased portion. Again, the myriad specific orchid problems should only be dealt with following accurate DIAGNOSIS matched with selection of corresponding BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE.

INFORMATION SOURCES:

1. Northern, Rebecca Tyson, 1990; Home Orchid Growing, Chapter 21
2. American Orchid Society Handbook: Orchid Pests and Diseases
3. Rittershausen, Brian and Wilma, 2003; Growing Orchids
4. GOOGLE: Orchid Pests and Diseases; see Sue Bottom: Diagnostics, Treatments and Prevention
5. University of Maryland plant disease diagnostic lab; can help ID pests and culture for microbial agents.

See you at the **FOBG Orchid Sale** !!!! Orchids for sale there will be ones well adapted for household growth.

Book Review

By Joe Ann Stenstrom



So—you received a gift plant this past holiday season—now, how do you care for it so that it survives to give you the pleasure intended by the giver? In addition to helping you prolong the blooming of this beautiful plant, you may want advice on preserving it for another season. Help can be found in a couple of excellent books giving details of caring and keeping these treasures.

Found in the library at Brookside Gardens is an oldie, but goodie: **KEEP YOUR GIFT PLANTS THRIVING: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO PLANT SURVIVAL** by Karen Solit. A Garden Way Publishing book, it is on the shelf at call number SB 419.S565 1985. One of the most comprehensive books available to meet this need, it is divided into parts dealing with all four seasons, including a fifth chapter on pests and diseases of houseplants. This is a treasure trove of help!

In the section titled "Tis the Season..." plants covered include poinsettia, Rieger begonia, cyclamen, Jerusalem cherry and ornamental pepper, holly, Norfolk Island pine, kalanchoe and Christmas cactus. For the holidays, you may have received winter/spring favorites amaryllis and paper whites, as well. Care of these are dealt with in the "Autumn Extravaganza" chapter which covers such bulb plants. If you have been given early harbingers of Spring, such as azalea, gloxinia, hydrangea, Easter lily, calceolaria, cineraria, caladium and primrose, there is a section devoted to "Plants Offering the Promise of Spring." Paper whites, favorites in both winter and early spring are covered. Part four covers "Year-Round Offerings", perennial gifts of African violets, gardenias, orchids, anthuriums, afelandra, cacti and various succulents and foliage plants.

Each plant is dealt with individually, with descriptions and scientific information, and discussion of light, temperature, watering and fertilizing needs. Detailed

instructions are given, even to the best placement in a room for aesthetic pleasure and health of the plant. When the plant can be preserved indoors or outdoors for another bloom time (even the following year), advice on handling each is outlined in detail.

Another helpful book, THE UNEXPECTED HOUSE-PLANT by Tovah Martin, can be found in the Montgomery County Public Libraries at call number 635.965 MAR. Though the title suggests an unexpected gift, it refers to unusual houseplants. Some of the types one might receive as a gift are covered, along with many more that one would have to seek out rather than receive. Divided into chapters by seasons, the winter section covers bulb plants such as amaryllis and paper whites, and the familiar cyclamen and kalanchoe and orchids. In all sections, unusual and in some cases, exotic plants are covered. A pleasure to browse through, photographs of plants in lovely indoor settings add to the enjoyment of this helpful book.



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 this link: [Xperience](#)

FOBG Sponsored Event	Course #	Date
Green Matters		2/24/17
Orchid Show and Sale**		3/18/17
Orchid Show and Sale		3/19/17
Earth Day		4/22/17
Brookside Garden Adult Programs		
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Pruning	23465	3/3/17
Philadelphia Flower Show**	30263	3/14/17
How to Get Your Orchid to Rebloom	30452	3/18/17
Getting your Garden Ready for Spring	30453	3/23/17
Make and Take Rain Barrels**	30455	3/30/17
Smithsonian Gardens	30400	3/31/17
Introduction to Landscape Design	30457	4/8/17
The Complete Shade Garden: A living Field Lab**	30472	4/11/17
Spring Tulips	30488	4/13/17
Cooking with Herbs	30260	4/17/17
Native Plants in Your Garden: Lessons from Nature and Culture	30443	4/20/17
Brookside Gardens Saturday Walk**	30445	4/22/17
Mt. Cuba Center & Gateway Garden Nursery	30401	4/28/17
Miniature Perennial Garden	30458	4/29/17
Photography for Botanical Artists*	30460	4/30/17
McCrillis Gardens Sunday Walk**	30447	4/30/17
Brookside Gardens Spring Tour	30451	5/3/17
Nature Journaling & Mixed Media	30489	5/4/17
Summer Annual Container	30459	5/6/17
Labyrinth Movie and Meditative Guided Walk	30487	5/7/17
Wings and Wine	30444	5/11/17
Focus on Butterflies**	30481	5/13/17
Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	30484	5/13/17
Growing a Cutting Garden	30480	5/13/17
Roses on Vellum*	30491	5/18/17
Gayle Gee's Peony Garden	30483	5/20/17

Stormwater Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens**	30492	5/31/17
No-Fuss Roses	30724	6/2/17
Hometown Habitat: Lecture and Screening	30718	6/8/17
Growing & Healing with Common Garden Herbs	30747	6/10/17
Exploring Butterflies with Colored Pencils	30754	6/13/16
Creative Graphite & Layering Techniques*	30750	6/17/17
Fruits of Summer	30742	6/19/17
Succulents Container	30726	6/21/17
Burpee's Test Gardens: Fordhook Farm	30737	6/23/17
Small Space Gardening in Urban Settings	30725	6/28/17
Grow Your Own Bog & Carnivorous Container Garden	30727	7/6/17
Canning & Preserving	30728	7/8/17
Full Moon Cocktail Dinner	30719	7/8/17
Start Drawing & Painting**	30752	7/15/17
Tomato Burst	30743	7/17/17
Garden Color Theory	30720	8/2/17
* 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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