

# The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



Summer, 2021

## President's Letter

By Kathy Kircher, President

**I'm celebrating! Brookside Gardens is fully open!** Visit soon and as often as you can. The bright and vivid colors of the Visitor Center Garden are a spectacular welcome. The Conservatory is open and filled with lush tropical and fragrant flowering plants. Don't miss seeing it. The Butterfly Garden (next to the Conservatory), the Fragrance Garden, and the Formal Gardens (up the hill from the Conservatory) are glowing with orange, lime green and burgundy. The flowers are magnets for butterflies and other pollinators. Take some time to watch them at work and you can feel yourself relax.

**Phil Normandy, Brookside Gardens Collections Manager** since 1979, retired at the end of June. He has been a generous supporter of **FOBG**, helping us with all our activities and especially our plant sales. He was the Master of Ceremonies at our last Silent Auction and has kept us laughing and smiling. Phil knows and loves every inch of the gardens. Fondly known as the "Tree Whisperer", he can tell you the history of each tree at **Brookside**. I'm finding it hard to imagine being at **Brookside** and not seeing him working on something in the Garden.

**Ellen Hartranft, Visitor Services Supervisor**, retired at the end of May after 30+ years at Brookside. If you

took a class, shopped at the Gift Shop, went to an Art show or special event, or had a wedding at Brookside, thank Ellen. Ellen was always in the loop, helping **FOBG** with how to do something or solving a problem. If we had an emergency, Ellen knew what to do. **FOBG** will miss Phil and Ellen – A LOT! We hope they both continue to be involved with **Brookside** and **FOBG** as Friends.

Our **Annual Plant Sale** is Saturday & Sunday, September 11 and 12 on the South Terrace next to the Visitor Center. Please come and bring your friends. We will have lots of special perennials and shrubs. **FOBG** has had a **Fall Plant Sale** every year for the past 25 years. Remember, fall is the best time to plant perennials and shrubs. Watch for the announcement of our special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plant!

A **Tree Dedication** celebrating our 25 years of supporting Brookside Gardens is scheduled for **Thursday, September 23**. Come join us and celebrate as we look to the future. Our membership renewal is in October. If you join or renew now, your membership will continue through October 2022.

Thank You for your support!

See you in the gardens.





Please note that the "News from Brookside" column will return in the Fall 2021 issue of The Brooksider.







Brookside Gardens Visitor Center

South Terrace

1800 Glenallan Avenue

Wheaton, MD 20902

## FALL PLANT SALE 2021



Open to the public

**RAIN or SHINE!**

- ◆ Choose from a variety of Perennials, Shrubs & Trees. Many native plants!
- ◆ Pay by Cash, Check or Credit Card
- ◆ Proceeds benefit Brookside Gardens
- ◆ Final online plant list & details will be posted in mid-August

**Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021 10 AM - 3 PM**

*(Saturday, 8 AM - 10 AM - open to FOBG members ONLY)*

**Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021 10 AM - 1 PM**

*10% discount for FOBG members (Join at Sale!)*

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

# Upcoming Brookside Events



## Free Twilight Concerts are back!

All concerts are 6:30 to 8 pm on the lawn next to the visitor center. Bring your friends and family and don't forget your chairs, blankets, and a picnic (only on concert nights). Or, get dinner at food trucks onsite. The concerts are free and no registration is required.

**Aug. 10:** Sandra Dean Band brings the house down with interpretations of Classic Rock, Blues, and Soul music. From the Rolling Stones to Adele, Stevie Wonder to Bonnie Raitt, the band plays songs for everyone to enjoy.

**Aug. 17:** Crowdaddies infuse Zydeco, Blues, Ska, Roots, Rock, Reggae into an incomparable, groove laden sound that is unquestionably its own. From Baltimore, the band is a regular fixture on the national festival, college, and theater circuit with a strong grass roots following.

**Aug. 24:** Ocho de Bastos (*translation: Eight of Clubs*) plays Latin Pop music for the entire family. Ocho de Bastos, a group of passionate musicians, formed a Latin Pop Band to bring together people of all ages and backgrounds.

For more information, visit: <https://mocoparks.org/TwilightConcerts>



## Path of Pyramids 2021

As you walk in the gardens this summer, see if you can find all 13 of the Wheaton Arts Parade Pyramids. Each of the Pyramid's faces is its own piece of art and together they tell a colorful story.

The Pyramids are on display through September 19. More information, including a map with Pyramid locations is available at [WheatonArtsParade.org](http://WheatonArtsParade.org)



## Facets of Hope Exhibit



Brookside's temporary outdoor art installation remembers Covid-19 victims in Montgomery County by suspending a single strand of crystal for every life lost to the virus. The installation is located on the wisteria arbor in the Rose Garden.

"Facets of Hope" will be on display through September 16, 2021. Read our previous article at [Spring Brookside 2021](#)



Photo courtesy of TimePoints Photography



*The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn - Ralph  
Waldo Emerson*

## ***Please Join Us***

### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tree Dedication**

Thursday, September 23, 2021

3:00 – 4:00 pm

(Rain date September 28)

Brookside Gardens Visitor Center, followed by the dedication ceremony

Registration (free) via Eventbrite - *information to follow*

To commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG)**, Brookside Gardens is dedicating a vigorous white oak (*Quercus alba*) tree in honor of our organization. The tree was grown from a **Brookside** seedling planted in the 1960s.

Why dedicate an established tree? Twenty-five years ago, **FOBG** was a seedling organization, founded by a handful of garden lovers who wanted to help **Brookside**. Over the years, our group grew roots and branches in the form of dedicated Board members, volunteers, donors, and members. Today, we have more than 900 members and have raised over \$1.6 million in the past 25 years to support **Brookside** in the form of plantings, lectures, internships, performing arts, and equipment. And, like the tree, we expect to grow larger and stronger in the next 25 years to keep serving the evolving needs of **Brookside Gardens**.

This oak will stand as a symbol of the enduring partnership between **FOBG** and Brookside **Gardens**, and our shared goal of encouraging a love of nature in the community.

# Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

## A missive on deer tolerant plants

I'm sure most of us are fenceless and defenseless against hungry browsing deer. It only takes one a short time (usually at night when we're sleeping) to do much damage – often nibbling delectable plants to the ground. How many mornings have we walked outside to check the garden and some of our favorite plants have been had!!!! Yes, there are ways of trying to cope, mainly using deer repellents of one sort or another such as stinky sprays, or placing small containers with stink products near vulnerable plants. This works for a while, but just when things seem good, along comes a rain, and the next morning they're back!! And so, yes, an 8' tall perimeter type fence (plastic netting type is ok) would work, but fencing often needs community clearance, sometimes seems out of place or cumbersome, or just requires too much of it. And even then, deer have been known to 'bust through' or find a break when a tree (limb) falls across it.

Anyway, the point of this article is to suggest using as many deer tolerant plants as possible. Deer tolerant plants are those which deer just don't find palatable. And, yes, there are a range of such plants with some being more deer tolerant than others. Sometimes it just comes down to trial and error in your garden and also depends on how hungry the deer are. For example, actually I've found stronger deer browse pressure in the winter (on conifers even though most are listed as deer tolerant, but not *Chamaecyparis* and the like). With respect to dwarf conifers, I've found it effective to place a thin layer of netting over the plants – works well. Back to deer tolerant plants – there are some guidelines that will help with your selections. The first: deer seem to avoid plants with a strong aroma.

There are a number of plants in the mint genre like *Nepeta* (catnip), to *Pycnanthemums* (American mountain mint) or *Agastaches*. I bet deer won't bother most of your herbs!! The second is coarse texture (say, heavy hairiness, or thorns) like *Stachys* (lamb's ears), Chinese rhododendron, cacti, or yucca, etc. And then, there are some plants deer just leave alone (maybe due to bad taste) like boxwoods, daffodils, jack in the pulpits and many irises. There are other plant groups deer tend to avoid, such as ferns and coarse ornamental grasses. I find a few plants tolerate browsing/nipping like azaleas – sort of an 'artful' pruning job. You lose some perimeter flowers, but the shrubs seem to grow back fully.

The point remains, there is a full range of plants that you can use in your garden that will not be devastated by deer. If you have a fair amount of these you can then focus on your 'treasures' using whatever devices you choose. The value of deer tolerant plants is that they shouldn't require special protection. Just plant and enjoy.

There are numerous sources online, in catalogues or books, etc. with many suggestions for deer tolerant plants. The Perennial Farms catalogue annotates each plant with various symbols (say sun tolerance, wetness, etc.) including levels of deer tolerance which they tout as 'deerlirious'!

As a Master Gardener for Howard Co., I sponsor a deer browse trial garden at the entrance to the Alpha Ridge landfill (Marriottsville Road.). Thus, if you have some plants that you've found deer tolerant, I'd be thrilled if you'd let me know. Bear in mind that there are some escapees that are not chewed just because for whatever reasons, deer won't go where they are.



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 Programs	
8/17/2021	Concert Series*	
9/11/2021	Plant Sale* 9/11/2021, 10am-3pm (8am – 10 am: FOBG members only) 9/12/2021, 10am- 1pm	
9/23/2021	25th Anniversary Tree Dedication (Rain date September 28,2021)	
		<b>Course #</b>
Date	Brookside Gardens Adult and Children's Programs	
9/8/2021	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens	127681
9/9/2021	Growing Great Fall Vegetables	127588
9/9/2021	Gentle Yoga at Brookside Gardens*	127666
9/11/2021	Fall Yoga Sprouts!*	127035
9/11/2021	Hands-On Orchid Repotting	127656
9/11/2021	Yoga at Brookside Gardens	127674
9/12/2021	Garden Eco-explorers’ Fall Workshop Series: Stream Safari	127992
9/14/2021	Strolls for Well-Being at Brookside Gardens*	127992
9/18/2021	Children’s Day(s) – “Art in the Gardens”*	127031
9/20/2021	Full Moon Walk	127662
9/22/2021	Behind-the-Scene Greenhouse Tour*	127575
9/23/2021	The New Workhorses of the Garden: Native Grasses and Sedges	127589
10/2/2021	Speaker Series: A Bountiful Year: Six Seasons of Beauty from Brandywine Cottage	127532
10/3/2021	Half-day Mindfulness Retreat at Brookside Gardens	127663
10/3/2021	Garden Eco-explorers’ Fall Workshop Series: Birds of Brookside Gardens	127591
10/9/2021	Dealing with Deer and Other Mammal Pests in Your Garden	127591
10/21/2021	Parking Garden & Sustainable Landscapes Tour	127579
10/23/2021	Extending the Pollinator Buffet into Fall & Winter	127652
10/23/2021	Colored Pencil Drawing with Impact and Confidence *	127521
10/27/2021	Shinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing*	127664
10/28/2021	Glory of Fall Tour*	127662
10/29/2021	BOOtanica Family Fun	127042
11/3/2021	Chrysanthemum Tour*	127583
11/4/2021	Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter	127653
11/6/2021	Speaker Series: Indigenous Food Sovereignty	127561
11/13/2021	Mixed Winter Container	127657
11/18/2021	Horticulture Fact and Fiction: Debunking Gardening Myths	127654
12/4/2021	Herb and Spice Holiday Gift Workshops*	127043



12/8/2021	Festive Fresh Wreaths	127658
12/9/2021	Festive Fresh Centerpieces	127659
1/22/2022	Layered Sand Terrariums	127660
1/22/2022	Wild About Houseplants	127045
1/28/2022	Brookside Gardens Winter Tour*	127585
2/5/2022	Introduction to Plant Propagation – Tropical Houseplants	127661
2/12/2022	Everything You Wanted to Know About Pruning	127655
2/12/2022	Crafty Valentine's Heart's-a-Bustin Workshop	127046
2/18/2022	GreenScapes Symposium 2022	128034

\* - Program Meets Multiple Days

\*\* - Program Meets Multiple Times Per Day

\*\*\* - Early Bird

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](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com)

Web address: [www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org](http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org)

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