



Winter, 2018

President's Letter

By Carla Adam, President

First, we would like to wish all of you a happy and healthy year ahead! We hope you are enjoying the beauty of winter and are looking forward to spring! Many thanks to all of you for your contributions last year. FOBG had a great year with many very successful fundraising campaigns including our Orchid Show, Plant Sale, membership dues, and the 20th Anniversary Gift. We hope you have all renewed your memberships as your dues are the major portion of our contribution to Brookside Gardens.

In November, we had a Fall Membership Gathering attended by more than 115 members and guests. Speakers included Joan O'Rourke, FOBG Founding President; John Nissel, Deputy Director of Parks Operations; Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside; and Devin Devine, stone artisan and creator of our new sphere sculpture. Following the presentations, the attendees went down to the Fragrance Garden for the dedication of the stacked stone sphere. Pictures of the event can be found at the FOBG website: www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/.

This year, we are getting ready to celebrate **Brookside Gardens 50th Anniversary** which will occur in 2019. Brookside would like to see 50,000 blooming daffodils in the spring of 2019 to commemorate this occasion. The bulbs will need to be purchased and planted by the fall of 2018. FOBG has started collecting funds to make this happen. More information about this program can be found in this **Brooksider** and on our website.

Upcoming FOBG events include our annual **Orchid Show and Sale**, the weekend of March 17 and 18, and **Trio on the Terrace**, on the evening of Tuesday, May 15. The Trio on the Terrace is a new event and is a joint partnership with the National Philharmonic and FOBG. We hope you will join us for this sunset garden party this coming May.

We are also getting ready to host our "**Holidays in the Garden**" **Silent Auction** on the evening of Saturday, November 10, 2018. Don't miss this exciting event.

Thank you again for all your contributions!

News from Brookside Gardens

By Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens

Did you know a new propagation greenhouse is being built in the Brookside Gardens' maintenance yard? Brookside Gardens' staff have been working with Parks staff and contractors to make this paper dream a sparkling glass and aluminum reality! This state of the art facility will greatly increase our capacity to grow plants for garden displays indoors and out, while being more energy and water efficient. There will be four growing zones: a propagation zone with benches that have mist irrigation and bottom heat for starting plants by seed and cuttings; a large zone with growing benches for annual crops; a zone for plants for the Wings of Fancy live butterfly exhibit, which are grown pesticide-free; and a zone to hold and overwinter large potted specimen plants, like palms, *Datura*, citrus and tender azaleas which are used in the gardens and the Conservatory. Like the Parking Garden, the new greenhouse is just one phase of the fifteen

phase Brookside Gardens' Master Plan, which is funded by the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund. And, also like the parking garden, this project would not have been possible without a generous donation which supplemented the CIP budget. The County Executive is reviewing the Parks CIP budget request for fiscal years 2019-2024 right now. It includes three projects for Brookside Gardens: planning money for a new Conservatory (!!!!!), planning money for a renovation of the Formal Gardens to address failing infrastructure and non-compliance with ADA, and funds to renovate the Rose Garden, a project that will also be supplemented by donor funds. County leadership, both the Executive and the Council, welcome input from residents on the CIP budget. Consider writing a letter to your elected officials or testifying at a public hearing to support Brookside Gardens' projects.



Orchid Show and Sale - 2018

By Gloria Sherman, FOBG Board Member

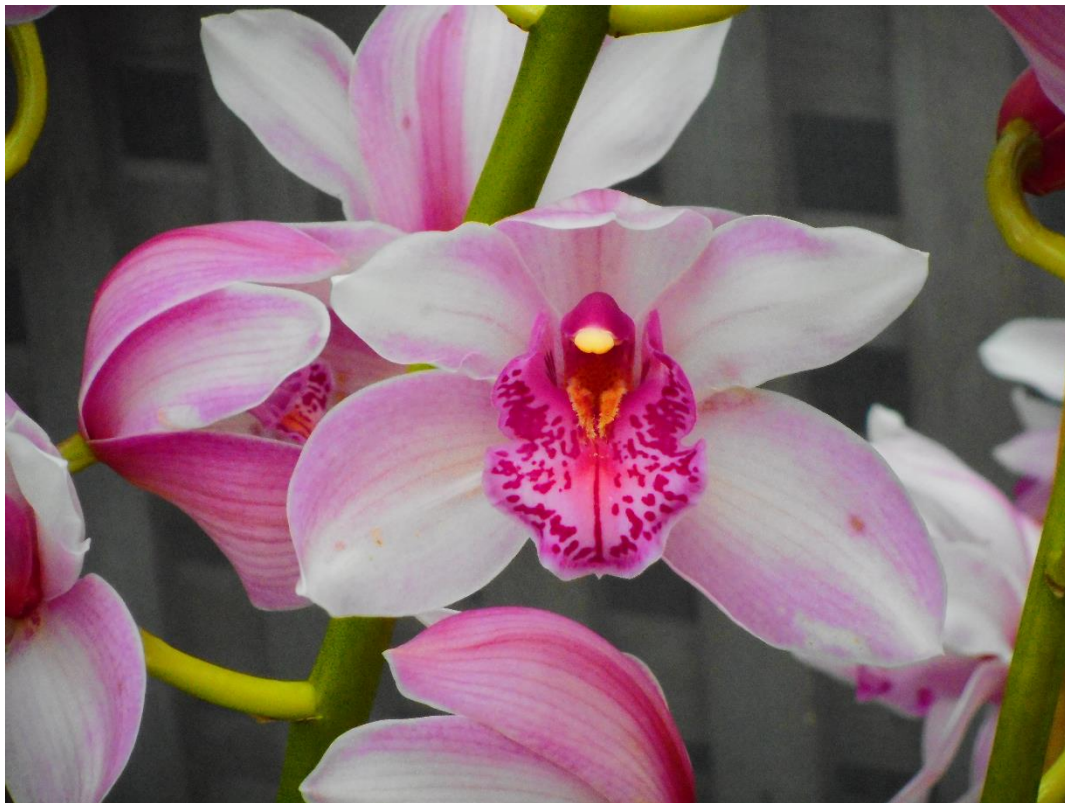
Mark your calendar for the 20th annual weekend-long **Orchid Show and Sale** on **Saturday, March 17, from 10 am to 4 pm** and **Sunday, March 18, from 10 am to 3 pm** at the **Brookside Gardens Visitor Center**. Participants will have the opportunity to consult with orchid experts, enjoy the vibrant displays, and purchase orchids either to add to their collections—or to get a collection started.

We are fortunate to have joining us 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 and, for a small fee, orchids that participants bring from home may be repotted.

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

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



SILENT AUCTION SPECIAL EVENT at Brookside Gardens

By Suzanne Carbone, Chair 2018 FOBG Silent Auction

This is the time of year when many of us look ahead to make plans for participating in special events. It's not too early to mark your calendars for the Friends of Brookside Gardens November 10, 2018 "Holidays in the Garden" Silent Auction. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. The entire evening will be great fun, offering light refreshments, live music, and an auction filled with a wide range of

gift certificates for restaurants, entertainment, travel and vacation homes, as well as artwork, jewelry, garden-related items and children's gifts. All proceeds benefit Brookside Gardens! We hope you will join us on November 10th. If you would like to become involved or volunteer to assist with the auction, please send an email to: friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com.



Happy Golden Anniversary, Brookside Gardens!

By Barbara Waite-Jaques and Barbara Schwarz, FOBG Board Members, and Elaine Dynes, ex officio Board Member

July 13, 1969 was Brookside Gardens' opening day. Fifty years later, **Friends of Brookside Gardens** plans to contribute a living gift as Brookside Gardens prepares to celebrate its **Golden Anniversary** in 2019.

What better way to celebrate this special event than by making Brookside bloom with 50,000 daffodils planted throughout the Gardens?

Fifty thousand golden daffodils will carpet the slopes and beds of Brookside in sunny recognition of the role the park plays in the lives of almost half a million visitors each year.

Please join FOBG in making this celebration spectacular! Donate to the **"Gilding the Garden"** Campaign and make Brookside's anniversary wish come true. Your sustainable, earth friendly, green gift to Friends of Brookside Gardens will be a wonderful way to join in the kickoff of the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the gardens we all love!

*50th Anniversary...50,000 Golden Daffodils...
500,000 Visitors!*

Please contribute to "Gilding the Garden" today!

All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.





Kathy Caisse: Gift Shop Manager and “Brookside Native!”

By Joe Ann Stenstrom

Indeed, **Kathy Caisse (photo left)** is a “Brookside Native” – she grew up across the street from Brookside Gardens and during college was a volunteer at Brookside Nature Center. She joined the staff in May 2017, as the buyer/ manager of both gift shops at the Visitors Center and the Conservatory. Prior to assuming that position, Kathy spent over 20 years in independent retail, largely in children’s products and books. Her goal for both shops is to help people create memories and she views the shops as destinations. She loves working with her staff and volunteers who, like her, want to enrich the visitor’s experience.

When Kathy and **Assistant Manager, Margaret Myers (photo right)** attend trade shows to select merchandise, they keep in mind what they have heard from customers, collecting ideas as they interact with them. Staff members are also encouraged to have input into what would be exciting to sell. They are asked what they might want to use in their work or gift to friends. The horticulturists also offer suggestions of products to consider. The criteria for purchase is that everything be functional and thoughtful with good value and quality. Managing both shops entails buying for different clientele in each. Customers in the Visitors Center tend to be those who are at Brookside for classes and events and want more artisan gifts and memorabilia.

At the Conservatory, customers are families who have visited the Conservatory exhibits and are walking the gardens. That shop is more oriented toward gardening, and nature, and accommodating young children.

One of Kathy’s goals for the shops is to incorporate locally made items, especially those from Maryland. This fulfills her idea of gifts that make memories featuring Brookside Garden. She plans to eventually have such things as calendars with photographs of the gardens. For the 50th Anniversary of Brookside Gardens, she plans to have items showcasing the gardens. Fair trade independent artists and craftsmen are featured on the shelves with quality, well-made products. The jewelry collection is particularly unique. With an artist sister who makes jewelry and a background of working at trade shows, Kathy has an eye for quality and value. The shops are promoted through the Parks website, **Xperience**, and the beautiful displays.

Something different is coming: watch for a wall of houseplants which Kathy hopes to bring to the Visitors Center Gift Shop for those customers who don’t have a large garden but still want live plants in their home or office. This is just one of her ideas to enhance the experience of shopping at Brookside.

Nature Domesticated:

Re-interpreting Nature in 17th century Dutch Still Life Paintings



By Joe Ann Stenstrom

Coriolana Simon, ex officio board member of **Friends of Brookside Gardens** and professional photographer, recently had an exceptional exhibit! This breathtaking, collection of her photographs was on display in the Visitors' Center Atrium at Brookside through January 20.

Her "re-interpretation" of Dutch still life paintings is so compelling the viewer wants to walk right into the scene depicted. The shimmer of liquid in crystal, the enticement of a bowl of fruit, the "just-so" folds of the tablecloths and napkins are so inviting. One can almost catch the fragrance of the flowers, often tulips, and the fresh cheeses and other foods. Her composition and lighting enhance the sense of reality, while the use of the dark frames and dark backgrounds draws the eye to the objects intended for focus.

Long a student of the 17th century Dutch still life paintings, Ms. Simon uses her camera to show these views of Dutch culture and utilizes her fantastic collection of objects to help depict that culture. In her own words she "re-interprets the

original themes with her camera and applies classic composition and lighting techniques to arrangements of her historic objects." Some of these objects fade into the background, yet enhance those of primary focus.

To describe the presentation of her still lifes, Ms. Simon has this to say: "Framed in dark wood in the style of their original Dutch counterparts, the images look more like paintings than photographs. And conversely, the 17th century Dutch paintings were created in a photo-realist style, so they look more like photographs than paintings."

Ms. Simon poses the question of comparing the 17th century Dutch culture with our own. They portray the abundance of material comforts, yet their impermanence. Food for thought in the 21st century.

If you could not see these magnificent works at Brookside, Ms. Simon has another showing entitled "Be Still" February 2 -21, 2018, at the Artists and Makers Studios on Parklawn Drive in North Bethesda.



Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

Garden(s) in the Dead O'Winter

OK, so how does your garden glow in the dead of winter? Is it a dead sad sack or have you given it life? After all, the best gardens have interest year-round!!!

The hefty winter garden often will include such flowering items as *Hellebore x ballardiae* Cinnamon Snow (**middle photo**) which will push in early winter if there's been a good prior cold snap, the native *Hamamelis virginiana* which may color at any time, snow drops especially *Galanthus* forms such as *nivalis* and *elwesii*, and yes, later on a couple of other shrubs may perform such *Chimonanthus* (wintersweet), *Mahonia X media* Winter Sun, or *Stachyurus*. And yes, there are a great suite of berried plants including *Ilex* (winterberry cultivars such as Winter Red or the hybrid Sparkleberry), *Viburnum dilatatum* spp. that will retain their colorful fruits well into winter – even with the birds.

That being said – obviously, depending on flowering things in winter is pretty much hit or miss, exciting when successful but disappointing when wracked by winter cold. So, what else? Well, one could start with conifers, which will provide winter coloration beyond the greens. How about blue cast plants such as the Colorado blue spruces, *Cedrus atlantica glauca*, or maybe *Abies concolor*? How about yellowish or variegated forms of which there are so many to brighten up your garden: *Pinus contorta* Chief Joseph, *Sciadopitys* Ossorio's gold, *Pinus parviflora* Goldilocks, or the innumerable such forms including variegations on *Chameacyparis* and *Thuja*.

That being said - what I'd really like to emphasize are the stem and bark forms of woody plants. Why - because these are often overlooked or not worked on enough. How many of you plant for colorful/interesting bark forms such as *Pinus bungeana*, *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, *Cornus*

alba and/or *stolonifera* for red and/or yellow twigs, *Acer palmatum* sango kaku (red stem), *Acer palmatum* bijou (yellow stem, **right photo**),

Acer palmatum ibo can (cork bark), *Acer pennsylvanicum* (striped bark), *Acer griseum* (flaky bark, **left photo**), winged *Euonymus* (winged bark), *Carpinus caroliniana* (smooth barked ironwood), Sycamore (mottled bark), various crepe myrtles etc. Point is – LOTS of choices for different winter looks just with an eye on the leafless trunks/stems!!!!

That being said – how about the winter forms or silhouettes of trees and shrubs. Clean forms may be to your taste but they do need your gardening expertise to prune out dead, crossing, unneeded, etc. branches. This is a way for you to take proactive personal pride in managing the look of your winter garden.

That all being said – is your garden alive in the dead o'winter?? There really are many, many ways - maybe more than you thought about -to give your garden winter life and contribute to your year-round garden experience!!! **Go for it!!!**



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: [Xperience](#).

Date	FOBG-Sponsored Programs	Course #
3/17/18	Orchid Show and Sale*	
5/15/18	The Trio on the Terrace	
	Brookside Gardens Adult Programs	
2/10/18	Botanicals in Colored Pencil on Drafting Film	39443
2/12/18	Chocolate Decadence	39896
2/16/18	Everything you wanted to know about Pruning	38631
2/23/18	Green Matters Symposium	40522
3/6/18*	Philadelphia Flower Show*	39934
3/8/18	Painting Basics - P1*	39341
3/10/18	Landscape Design I	45540
3/17/18	How to Get Your Orchid to Rebloom	45542
3/21/18	Make and Take Rain Barrels**	45548
3/29/18	Botanical Painting - P2*	39842
3/29/18	The Art of Seed Stewardship	45556
4/7/18	Gardener's focus: The Biology of Native Seeds & Wild Collection	45545
4/14/18	Landscape Design II	45541
4/16/18	Herbs 'n' Spices	45557
4/19/18	The Layered Garden: Design Lessons for Year-Round Beauty from Brandywine	45555
4/21/18	Brookside Gardens Saturday Walk**	45505
4/25/18	Miniature Perennial Garden	45550
4/25/18	Brookside Gardens Spring Tour	45514
4/27/18	Advanced Graphite Workshop*	45568
4/29/18	McCrillis Gardens Sunday Walk**	45509
5/2/18	Stormwater Solutions: Conservation Landscapes and Rain Gardens**	45543
5/4/18	David Culp's Brandywine Cottage Tour	45553
5/8/18	Designing for Dry Shade	45546
5/9/18	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens**	45561
5/9/18	Garden after Dark: Wings & Wine	45558

5/10/18	Botany for Artists - B2*	39404
5/11/18	Hanging Baskets	45551
5/12/18	Focus on Butterflies**	45494
5/12/18	Yoga at Brookside Gardens	45559
5/15/18	Local Maryland Nursery Tour & Shopping Tour	45554
5/19/18	Summer Annual Container	45552
5/22/18	Designing with Big Leaves for a Tropical Look	45547
	*Program meets on multiple days	
	**Program meets multiple times	

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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