

# The **Brooksider**

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**Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.**



**April, 2012**

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

As I sit here admiring the beautiful April day outside my window, I am once more marveling at the growth spring brings us. A walk last weekend at Brookside showed me the growth that has taken place in our beloved gardens. Among the scenes were the new plantings by the Gude Garden made possible by the Friends of Brookside Gardens.

How can we ensure that Brookside Gardens will continue to provide enjoyment to our community? You certainly have done your part with your membership and contributions, but more can be done. Consider forwarding this newsletter to some garden-loving friends with a suggestion that they, too, might want to help Brookside grow. The next time you're pondering an appropriate gift for a person who has everything, consider giving an FOBG gift membership.

Still looking for other ways to help Brookside and the FOBG grow?

- "Like" us on our Facebook page
- Contribute a raffle prize to the upcoming Behnke-sponsored Garden Party in June
- Volunteer to staff the June 2 garden tour

In addition to your membership, FOBG activities raise funds for Brookside. Last month, we held our popular Orchid Show and Sale, under the direction of board member Gloria Sherman, and filled the Visitors Center on both Saturday and Sunday. Many people went home with beautiful orchids, had orchids repotted, or bought the special supplies to take care of their own beautiful flowers. Thank you to Gloria for her leadership and organization; to the FOBG members who helped things run so smoothly; to the Brookside Orchid Club, whose members displayed many beautiful orchids, consulted with new orchid growers and contributed orchids as raffle items; to the vendors who brought so many beautiful orchids; and to Clive Atyeo, who once again provided potting services.

On Saturday, June 2, Brookside Gardens will be holding its second annual private gardens tour. Please see the notice in this issue for more information about what promises to be a special – and exclusive – tour. FOBG will assist Brookside by providing volunteers to be posted at each location. If you're interested in participating, please email us – [friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com) – or leave us a message on our voice mail – 301.962.1435.

*Barbara*

# MOTHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS

## A Spring Tour of Brookside's Gift Shops

With Mother's Day coming up soon – not to mention spring birthdays and other celebrations – you can find a wealth of gift ideas at the shops at Brookside. Marylandica in the Visitors' Center and the shop at the North Conservatory offer jewelry, scarves, artful objects for home and table, books, playful decorations, and a myriad of garden-related treasures. As you choose, keep in mind that FOBG members receive a 10% discount. To make a gift extra special, why not add a membership in FOBG?

Now, let's dive in and tour Marylandica...

A whole family of delicately shaded porcelain boxes and small containers would look as attractive on a dresser as on a desk at the office. The pink cherry blossom design on a turquoise background seems especially fresh. The square box (\$16.95) measures about four inches on a side. Tiny vessels and trays, about five inches long, pair nicely with the boxes, showing off complementary motifs of Japanese-inspired flowers and insects on pale blue or aqua backgrounds.



Brookside's gift shops specialize in hand-crafted pieces, especially by artists in the US. Among the most eye-catching is the line of "table art" by the popular designer Michael



Michaud. The grape leaf ladle and oak leaf pasta server show all the detail of nature, while other compatible serving utensils (ranging from about \$65.00 to \$75.00) represent a leaf of water lily, hosta, or radicchio. A petite spoon with twin leaves and orange blossoms on the handle (\$29.95) would be perfect to swirl honey into tea.

And a set of small spoons whose bowls turn into a peach pit (\$16.95) or pod would be delicate implements for putting fruit preserves on an English muffin. The other utensils,



picture frames, napkin rings, and trivets all literally embody the forms of nature, hand cast from real plants and depicted in gold, silver, or copper over bronze or pewter, sometimes accented with pearls. Not just for Mother's Day, but one of these pieces would make a memorable wedding gift.

Michael Michaud's name is already familiar to patrons of Marylandica because of his exquisite jewelry, hand cast using the same techniques as his table art. Among the most graceful this season is a lavender necklace with three leaves and a spray of pale purple seed pearls for the lavender florets (\$125.00). Matching earrings (\$62.95) complete the delicate, natural look. In a similar style, tiny pearls create the petals on a pair of earrings to match a necklace with a sprig of cherry blossoms.



In another idiom, Australian designer Simon Harrison has created informal earrings (\$19.95-\$25.00) and wire-strung necklaces with lozenges of translucent green or bronze recycled glass. Smoothed pebbles and other natural materials accentuate the glowing glass on the necklaces (\$42.95 to \$52.00). To highlight a small face or tied back hair, tiny enamel-on-sterling earrings with miniature green dragonflies or blue butterflies (\$41.95) would make a tempting gift.



In Rockville, the artists at Nature's Creations design jewelry for all seasons, and Marylandica shows off a wide array of these magical miniatures. Each piece is hand crafted, taking an actual botanical specimen and covering it in copper, then finishing it with a patina or a precious metal. A small geranium leaf turns into an alluring pin (\$26.95), coppery blue-green with burgundy-tinged edges. Equally enchanting are the pins made from ferns and maple or ginkgo leaves, with companion earrings. The life-size acorn with a tie-tack back (\$38.95) would look striking on a coat or suit lapel or holding a silk scarf in place.



And speaking of scarves, one of the new pastel lengths in poly chiffon (\$14.95) would add a spring touch to any outfit. Butterflies or flowers float across the 60-inch scarves. Choose fuchsia, lime, peach, or butterscotch. Loop at the neck, tie around the handle of a purse for a European look, or fold to no-wrinkle handkerchief size for travel.

Gifts of personal accessories are always appropriate, but gifts for the home can be equally enjoyed – and shown off to family and friends. An artful vase, in particular, can display flower-arranging expertise or highlight prize blooms cut from the garden.

For example, a pair of handsome metal vases would make a contemporary statement on a coffee table or a bookshelf alcove. Measuring about 10 inches (\$21.95) and 12 inches (\$26.95) tall, the vases are half polished chrome and half brushed chrome. Available in two styles, one pair has a square opening, and the other is rectangular. Either would welcome

tightly packed variegated tulips or an arrangement in the Japanese style with a single peony and a couple twisted branches of Harry Lauder's Walking Stick. A heavy 9-inch glass cylinder of a vase in deep cobalt but with a clear bottom (\$21.95) could hold hydrangeas to dramatic effect.

For festive table settings or decorative accents, Peggy Karr's glass dinnerware and serveware bring cheer to any table. This season, her brilliant orange, yellow, and red flowers pop open across plates, bowls round or square, and platters. The 8-inch plate (\$36.95) could happily hold a warm-weather salad, and the 10-inch rectangular platter (\$36.95) could serve an assortment of fruit and cheese.



Jim Oliver of Ellicott City is an artist with close ties to Brookside. He fashions splendid hand-turned bowls and platters from wood he collects at Brookside, McCrillis Gardens, and nearby parks. His elegantly thin, footed bowl in cherry (\$65.00) would gleam on a shelf or end table, and his hand-crafted pens (\$28.95) would make a thoughtful gift for purse or desk.

For artichoke aficionados, rectangular melamine serving trays in three sizes (18- or 14- or 9-inch) depict this delicacy along with other veggies. The middle size (\$8.95) with handles is just right for a couple of steamed artichokes with a savory sauce. If there's no time to cook, then just decorate a brunch table with a pair of life-size artichoke-shaped candles (\$7.50 each). Mini artichokes (in a package of six for \$11.95) would make unusual place markers at a summer table. And when the feast is over, clean up with flour sack tea towels printed with artichokes (\$6.95) and other vegetables.



Who says Mother's Day gifts can't be fanciful? For a young child's gift to mom, a cartoon-like plastic apple with a flower or insect (\$6.95) on top that "bobbles" (thanks to a tiny solar cell) would be fun for the giver and receiver alike. For sheer exuberance, pluck one of Steven Cooper's whimsical metal flowers to enliven a porch or patio. The flowers range from 9 to 14 inches (\$21.95-\$25.95), brightly enamelled in yellow, red, lavender, or pink. For extreme fun, consider planting one of the giant red flowers (\$64.95) on its 3-foot metal stake along a garden path.



Fun and also practical, the ceramic “cloquettes” – little clocks – have insects, birds, leaves, or flowers on their glazed tile faces (\$36.95). They’re made by hand in Ontario and come complete with a wooden stand. At just five inches across, square or round, one would be as cheerful in a breakfast room as in a kitchen. Another practical gift that would put a smile on any woman’s face is the flower print stapler (\$9.95) from Pretty Tools. For an equally useful small gift, consider a bookmark from Gardens for Peace, a non-profit promoting gardens as a place of meditation. The brass tree in a square setting (\$9.95) or the long bookmark with red tulips (\$10.95) would satisfy any reader in a comfy chair.



Paper or plastic? Marylandica’s large vinyl shopping bags (\$4.95), printed with flowers or butterflies, can be endlessly re-used, rinsed clean, and they help avoid the new five-cent bag tax. With more subdued, Japanese-inspired graphics, the Envirosax shopping bags (\$9.95) roll up and close with Velcro to stash in purse or the car’s glove box.



Spring means gardening, and who wouldn’t appreciate a Mother’s Day present to give gardening a boost? Hats are an absolute necessity, and the choices include caps and wide-brims. Caps in white with an embroidered spray of cherry blossoms across the front (\$22.95) have a more feminine appeal, while Brookside-logo caps in bright colors (\$15.95) like lime, turquoise, fuchsia, tangerine, and lemon make a bolder statement. Wide-brim hats (\$28.95) in brilliant shades or neutral tan have built-in UV-block and give all around sun protection. To go with the hats, select ladies’ socks (\$10.50) at the North Conservatory gift shop with designs in your choice of pansies, hummingbirds, lady bugs, big frogs, or tulips in red, pink, yellow, or lavender.



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Get a head start on summer flowers by planting seeds from an enticing array of packets (\$2.79-\$2.99): zinnias, morning glories, nasturtiums, sunflowers, love-in-a-mist, and jasmine. Or add to the summer table by planting vegetable and herb seeds (also \$2.79-\$2.99) in artfully designed packs: parsley, mint, baby chard, jewel-toned beets, gourmet kohlrabi, edamame, sweet corn, Armenian cucumbers, and carrots in purple, white, and orange.

If nibbling wildlife is a garden problem, the paperback “Deerproofing Your Yard and Garden” by Rhonda Massingham Hart (\$14.95) might offer the right solution(s), with tips on plants that deer hate, deterrents that work, fencing and netting options, plus an update on Lyme disease.

For a broader view on gardens – and one that doesn’t mean getting your hands dirty – a new book by Barbara Glickman would be a superb gift: “Capital Splendor: Gardens and Parks of Washington DC” (\$19.95). With sumptuous photographs, the book features a section on Brookside Gardens. Brookside is also highlighted in “The Visitor’s Guide to American Gardens,” a paperback by Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp (\$19.99).



Both shops at Brookside have dozens and dozens more wonderful gift possibilities that you’ll enjoy exploring. They’re perfect for Mother’s Day or other spring celebrations, or just for a special treat for yourself. While you’re shopping, be sure to ask for your 10% FOBG discount and have your membership card ready.

## **BROOKSIDE GARDENS SPECIAL TOUR: Private Gardens of Bethesda**

**Saturday, June 2  
10:00 AM to 4:00PM**

Here’s a chance to visit some of the most fabulous private gardens in the Bethesda and Chevy Chase area at the height of the gardening season. Join Brookside Gardens for the second annual private garden tour for your ONLY opportunity to visit several extraordinary, designer showcase properties. They’re guaranteed to provide inspiration to the most avid gardeners and designers as well as garden hobbyists! Discover your inner designer as you gather creative ideas and practical information for your own garden.

Pre-register at [www.ParkPASS.org](http://www.ParkPASS.org) to visit one or all of the gardens on this exclusive tour, including one designed by Oehme van Sweden & Associates. For more information, visit [www.BrooksideGardens.org](http://www.BrooksideGardens.org) or call 301-962-1402.

Fee: \$5.00 Single garden pass (course number 202399)

\$15.00 Three garden passes (course number 202400)

\$20.00 All-garden pass (course number 202401)

**Check-in location: McCrillis Gardens, 6910 Greentree Road, Bethesda, MD 20817**

**FOBG is working with Brookside on this event and is providing two FOBG volunteers for each garden site. Volunteers will be on duty for four hours, morning or afternoon shift, and will serve as “garden monitors” to ensure that visitors treat the gardens gently. A half day shift will leave you enough time to do your own tour in the other half day. If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact FOBG to sign up:**

**Email – [friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com)  
Telephone (voice mail) – 301.962.1435**

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## **Garden Party at Behnke Nurseries Beltsville, MD June 9, 2012**

### **Raffle to Benefit Friends of Brookside Gardens**

(Hoping to top last year’s \$1200 that we raised!)

Hi, Friends!

Who knew I would become a “fund raiser” in my later years? But I love Brookside Gardens, garden clubs, and money. And the June 9 Garden Party is all about raising money for Brookside Gardens. We are looking for your help, which can take many forms:

- Help us gather raffle items from our friends and neighborhood businesses
- Volunteer to process raffle items on Saturday, June 9, 8:00 to 10:00 am at Behnke’s
- Take a shift to staff the FOBG table between 9:00 and 3:00 at Behnke’s
- Spread the word, inviting friends and fellow gardeners
- Tell me if you know a plant society, garden-related vendor, or garden club that might like to participate in this all-day event at Behnke’s
- Bring a labeled plant if you would like to join in the Plant Swap on June 9

Thanks for your support. Let FOBG President Barbara Waite-Jaques know if you can help out ([waitejaques@aol.com](mailto:waitejaques@aol.com)).

Thanks, Carole Galati  
([cagalati@rcn.com](mailto:cagalati@rcn.com))  
Garden Club Coordinator  
Behnke Garden Party

## Garden Party at Behnke's on June 9

### Ideas for the Friends of Brookside Raffle

*Raffle Items Do Not Have to be Garden-Related!*

- ◆ Gift card and certificates from local merchants
  - Local gyms
  - Spa
  - Grocery stores
  - Restaurants, fast food
  - Specialty food: such as Starbucks, Baskin Robbins
- ◆ Gift basket full of new garden items
- ◆ Large plants, small shrubs in healthy, handsome shape (labeled)
- ◆ Tickets to sporting events, shows, concerts, movies, etc.
- ◆ New garden items: whimsy, statues, tools
- ◆ Garden-related services (pruning, pond or yard maintenance, design)
- ◆ New, desirable items (not only garden-related)
- ◆ Wonderful, but just "not you," regifted items
- ◆ Gardening books

## ORCHID SHOW & SALE REPORT



The FOBG annual Orchid Show and Sale, held on March 17 and 18, proved a great success. The event netted about \$2,500, which will be designated to support Brookside programs and plantings. Many thanks to all who volunteered, shopped, sold, and exhibited.



Interested Shoppers



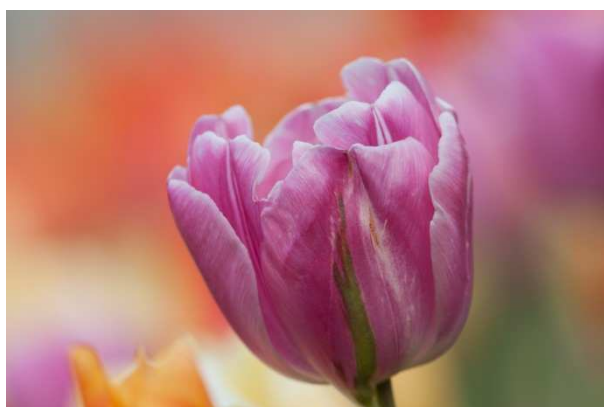
Gloria Sherman, Chairperson



Clive Atyeo, Repotting Expert



# Spring Tulip Mania





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Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

**Friends of Brookside Gardens Inc. Board of Directors**

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