

The Brooksider

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January, 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to each of you. It's hard to believe that it's January of 2012, especially since we've had almost no winter. Crocuses and daffodils are already starting to pop up in our gardens, and the forsythia has more than a few open blossoms. If it's January, then our Orchid Show and Sale must be only two months away. Please mark your calendars for March 17 and 18 when our vendors will provide you with beautiful new orchids to chase away the winter doldrums, the Brookside Orchid Club will have talks of interest to new and old orchid enthusiasts, and Clive will again repot your orchids.

We hope that you have had a chance to see our new Facebook Page. If not, follow this link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Brookside-Gardens/290180597671619>. It's a great way to share thoughts about the gardens and introduce Brookside to your Facebook friends and contacts.

Please look at the article below concerning the Garden Gala, which will be held at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville on June 9. Any assistance that you can offer in preparation for the event, participation on June 9, or raffle prizes will be a great support to Brookside. If you'd like to help, please contact us at friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com or leave us a message on our voice-mail: 301-962-1435.

Barbara



GARDEN GALA RAFFLE TO BENEFIT FOBG

By Carole Galati

At the Friends of Brookside Gardens Annual Membership Meeting last November, Barbara invited us to write articles for The Brooksider, so here goes...



Carole Galati & Stephanie Fleming, June 2011

Last June 4th, I worked with Behnke's in Beltsville to put on an event that we called the Garden Gala. There were many participants, including vendors, garden clubs, plant societies, Master Gardeners, and a featured speaker. The activities included a "plant swap," special discounts, and, most important to Brookside Gardens, a raffle to benefit Friends of Brookside. Little did Stephanie Fleming (of Behnke's) and I know that when all was said, done, and raffled we would raise about \$1200 for Brookside! I have crowned Stephanie Fleming the "Queen of the Raffle" because she worked so hard for Brookside Gardens!

This year our Second Annual Garden Gala will be held on June 9 – so mark your calendars! As we reorganize, fine tune, improve, and expand our vision, we are reaching out to garden clubs and especially to you, as FOBG members. Barbara and I would like to form a small committee of people who would be willing to step up and help us with this event. We can do most planning and communicating online and by telephone, but we will also have a few meetings to get this event going as smoothly as possible.

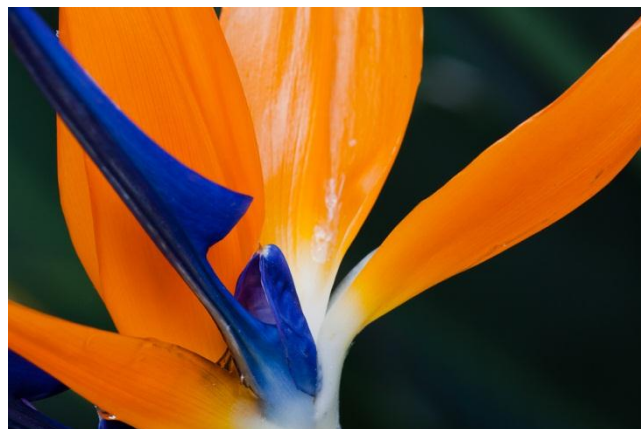
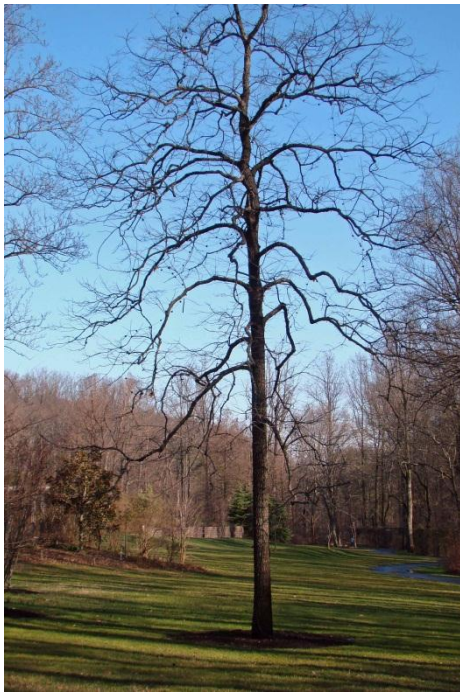
The raffle items are contributed by the participants: garden clubs, vendors, Behnke's, local merchants, and, of course, FOBG and Brookside Gardens. Last May, almost as an afterthought, I went to local merchants and organizations, including Trader Joe, Giant, and the Silver Spring YMCA. When I asked for raffle items to benefit Brookside Gardens, the response was terrific. And the raffle items do *not* have to be garden-related. We even ended up with Redskins tickets! If you are associated with a garden club, or if you know a crafts person who makes/sells garden-related items, please e-mail me their contact information.

Please get in touch at the e-mail address below if you'd like to help out with this exciting event. We need raffle items, help with publicity, and especially help organizing and labeling the raffle items on the day of the event. We also need help with the plant swap. I can send you an information packet if you'd like to know more about the Garden Gala. Also let me know if you have any questions or ideas.

Thanks so much!

Carole Galati (cagalati@rcn.com)

JANUARY CONTRASTS AT BROOKSIDE



**SEED EXCHANGE AT BROOKSIDE:
Saturday, January 28, 12:30-4:00PM**

Washington Gardener Magazine will present the 7th annual Washington Gardener Seed Exchange at the Visitors Center on Saturday, January 28, from 12:30 to 4:00 in the afternoon. Here's how it works: You bring your extra seeds and swap them with other gardeners. Everyone will go home with a bag full of seeds, new garden friends, and expert planting advice. Attendees are also encouraged to bring used or new garden books and seed catalogs to swap.

To learn the details of the seed swap, please follow this link:

<http://issuu.com/washingtongardener/docs/seedexchange2012>.

From the on-line flyer, you can find out what types of seeds will be covered, how to package the seeds you plan to bring to the exchange, and how the actual swap procedure works. You can also find the schedule for numerous gardening talks and more information about the door prizes!

The registration fee is \$15.00, but members of FOBG are eligible to pay the discount rate of \$10.00. To register, follow the link listed above and scroll down to the last page.

See you there!

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

Friends of Brookside Gardens Inc. Board of Directors

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