

Fall, 2023

## President's Letter

**FOBG** runs on volunteer power. I am always impressed with the willingness of **FOBG** members to go above and beyond to support our organization. From Carole Galati, who held a yard sale to benefit **FOBG** (see article on p. 5), to the hard-working plant sale's committee, we could not accomplish as much as we do without the efforts of many individuals. Thank you!

Here's a fall reminder: it's membership time! Be sure to renew [online](#) or by mail to continue receiving **FOBG** benefits such as discounts, special events, and early admission to the plant sale. Another person who goes above and beyond is membership chair Kathy Kircher. Each year she organizes the renewal mailing, a big job and a vital project for our group.

**Brookside Gardens** is part of the Montgomery Parks system (Parks). There will soon be new leadership at Parks, and we will bid farewell to two friends. Director Mike Riley is retiring at the end of the year. Mike has been with Parks for 38 years and was named Director in 2014. He is a great supporter of **FOBG** and was a

frequent attendee and speaker at our events. Good luck with your next adventure, Mike.

In October, David Vismara, Montgomery Parks Division Chief for Horticulture, Forestry and Environmental Education, retired. He was Director of Brookside from 1994-2008. David is also a great supporter of **FOBG**. He was most recently spotted at the September plant sale. Enjoy your retirement, David.

I hope you have purchased your tickets to our gala winter event. **Brunch with Birds and Blooms** features two outstanding speakers, a catered brunch, live music, and a raffle. The event takes place on Saturday, November 18 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Visitor Center.

And finally, for the first time, **FOBG** will be a sponsor of the popular **Garden Railway** exhibit in the Conservatory this year. The exhibit is open from November 25 to January 1, 10:45-3:45 pm. We hope to see you and your family there.

- *Anne Roland*  
*President of FOBG*

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# ***FOBG's Perennial Plant Sale 2023***

***They came - They saw - They shopped!*** **FOBG's 2023 Perennial Plant Sale** on September 9<sup>th</sup> took place under sunny, blue skies with a teeming crowd forming lines at 7:30 AM! Luckily, the storm clouds held off till 4 PM after which a torrential storm moved in. The Plant Sale Committee, comprised of Joan O'Rourke (team leader), Kathy Kircher (organization and set up), Taffy Turner (volunteer coordinator and plant selection) and Nithya Raghavan (plant ordering, Square training, website), started planning in June. With excellent assets in the form of **Brookside Gardens'** (BG) and **Montgomery Parks** horticultural staff that helped the public with the plant selections and advice, the Visitor Center staff, Master Gardeners and the unflagging and ever-enthusiastic **FOBG** volunteers and board members, the plant sale was a resounding success!

Once again we ordered fully grown plants from Quality Greenhouses & Perennial Farm, Inc., Dillsburg, PA who provided us with retail ready plants. Although the plant prices had gone up a lot since last year's sale, we kept the prices reasonable without having to hike up the costs. Many of our plants – based on their size and maturity – were equivalent to or less than retail prices. Such quality/cost would not have been available from a local nursery or box store. In some cases, especially with the shrubs and some of the unusual perennials, the costs were way below retail. We had an adequate supply of plants both for our early-bird sale at 8-10 AM for **FOBG members** and for the general public at the 10 AM opening.

The plants arrived at the BG hoop house on August 22<sup>th</sup>, approximately 3 weeks prior to the sale and were tended by **FOBG** volunteers who took care of the watering and plant grooming. The plants had to be watered every day this year due to above-average temperatures and hot, sunny days with no rain! **BG's** staff and **FOBG** volunteers,

spearheaded by Taffy and Kathy, helped with the setup on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, one day prior to the sale. We also had an excellent cashiering team trained in the use of Square, for credit card processing.

The plants were mostly in 1-G containers with more than 50% of the selections consisting of natives. There were more than 1,216 plants available for sale: 48 different perennials, 16 varieties of shrubs and 10 types of conifers. Information about the plants was available on the **FOBG** website for two weeks prior to the sale so that folks could plan their shopping lists. Knowledgeable Master Gardeners and **BG** staff were on the premises, helping the shoppers make sound decisions on their plant choices.

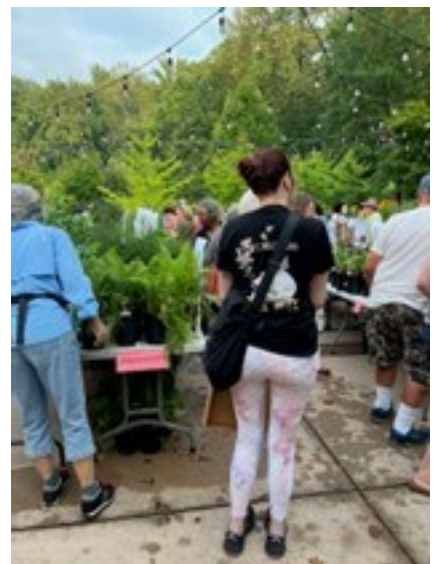
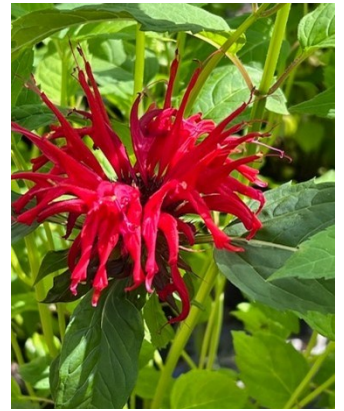
Our gross sale for this year was about \$17,107, while the net income after subtracting the purchase cost of plants, supplies, 10% discount to **FOBG** members and the 6% MD sales tax, was \$8,474.80. Every dollar made from this sale benefits **BG**, and we are very happy at the overwhelming success of this sale. We had 61 plants (5%) left after the sale, which were donated to the USO's healing garden at **Walter Reed** and **BG**. Next year, you may recognize some of these plants at BG during your walks!!

Once again, **FOBG** would like to thank its members, donors and the public/non-members for their overwhelming support and the **FOBG** Board, volunteers, **Brookside Gardens** staff and **Montgomery Parks** for their continued support in helping with **FOBG's Perennial Plant Sale**. We would also like to acknowledge the help and support we received from Quality Greenhouses and Perennial Farm, Inc. in providing us with a great inventory of plants. **Thank you one and all for supporting FOBG's Fall Plant Sale 2023 and looking forward to seeing you in 2024!!**

*- Nithya Raghavan  
Board Member of **FOBG***



# Photos from the 2023 Plant Sale





# More Plant Sale Photos...





## *Dream Come True: Inspired by Love*

Several years ago, a friend organized a neighborhood yard sale in Takoma Park to raise money for the **Centennial Garden**. This is a public garden that the **Takoma Horticultural Garden Club** had carved out of a triangular piece of public land, full of weeds, trash and who knows what else. This sale was a lovely gesture and a great idea. She raised over \$700! This was an impressive sum!

This neighborhood yard sale idea percolated with me. For five years I organized and helped stage the Garden Party at Behnke's Nursery, which raised money for **FOBG** with our raffle. After the Behnke Nursery closed and the Garden Parties stopped, I joined the **FOBG Board of Directors** with the encouragement of our founder, Joan O'Rourke. That's when my efforts became official: raising money for **FOBG** to benefit **Brookside Gardens**.

Last year I had a dream to have a yard sale of my own to raise money for **FOBG**, but it seemed too big for my energy level and my yard. In May I got an idea: I asked a friend in Warrenton, VA to come help me with a fundraising yard sale. She came two days before the sale and helped me organize and sort my years of accumulated treasures. I "borrowed" my neighbor's driveway. I also asked two other friends to help sell plants and other garden items the day of the sale. Thanks to friends Kathy, Melanie, and Elizabeth, my dream became a reality.

I was confident about handling the PR since I am associated with six garden clubs. Thankfully, many club members and friends contributed wonderful garden-related items to the sale. People came in droves. Most items were not priced. We used a "gentle bargaining" approach. People really do love Brookside Gardens and they opened up their wallets all day long!

By day's end, we raised over \$2,000 for **FOBG**: an unimaginable total! Looking back, my favorite story is about a man who I did not know. At the sale, he admired the poppies growing in my garden. I said he was welcome to come back and dig some up. Two days later he did come back, with shovel in hand. He dug up some poppies and handed me a check for \$100! With a big smile, he said, "We love Brookside Gardens." It was jaw-dropping. I replied, "Thank you. So do I!"

Maybe my experience will inspire others to try some creative ways to raise money for **FOBG**. Any effort requires work, but with **Brookside Gardens** as your inspiration, your efforts will be fulfilling and rewarding in ways that you cannot even imagine. Every little bit helps!

- *Carole Galati*  
**Board Member of FOBG**

## *Winning Photograph from Brookside*

**Brookside Gardens** was the source for a stunning botanical photograph that won a “Highly Commended” award in the 2023 **International Garden Photographer of the Year** (“IGPOTY”) competition. The photographer, David Terao, explains that this honor was awarded in the “Macro Art” (i.e., close-up) category. Titled “Dew Drops on a Celandine Poppy,” Terao says, “I found this wonderful subject and created the image on an early, misty morning last spring at Brookside.”



The International Garden Photographer of the Year competition, with the support of the **Royal Botanic Gardens** in Kew, London, is one of the world’s most respected photography competitions. Open to photographers across the globe, both amateur and professional, the competitions attract thousands of entries. With deserved pride in their photographs, winners achieve prestige as well as publicity.

IGPOTY is best known for the genres of garden, plant, flower, and botanical photography. Interestingly, IGPOTY takes a broad definition of “garden,” so that the term could be interpreted as anything from a balcony garden to a forest, with a backyard or a local park or even a wide landscape in between. The overall competition is sub-divided into competitions on specific themes. Each year, particular categories cover various topics such as “macro” (or close-up), abstract views, botanical still life, the world of fungi, wildlife in the garden, plants and planet, and others. Awards are given in the following rankings: top winners, finalists, highly commended, and commended.

Once the winners in the various categories are selected, IGPOTY presents an exhibition at Kew, along with a rolling program of touring exhibitions that travel within the UK and around the world.

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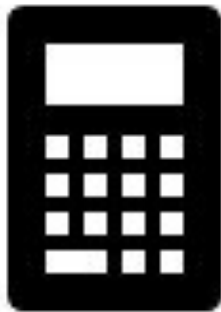
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The photographer who created “Dew Drops on a Celandine Poppy,” David Terao, is a Silver Spring resident. As a retired engineer of the nuclear power industry, his 40-year career ranged from designing nuclear power plants to working at the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Terao first became interested in photography in 1975 and has won many awards in recent years. Although his work can cover ballet dancers, street photography, birds, and other subjects, he specializes in macro and close-up photography. He especially likes exploring for “hidden” subjects at Brookside – in any season, any weather, and any time of day or evening.

**- Coriolana Simon**

*Coriolana Simon is a photographer and artist. Her still life photographs in the style of classical Dutch paintings will be on exhibit in a solo show at the Strathmore Mansion from November 18 through January 14.*

## **FOBG is Looking for a New Treasurer**



Are you an excellent bookkeeper or accountant? Do you want to get more involved with Friends of Brookside Gardens? FOBG is seeking a volunteer with bookkeeping/accounting experience to fill the position of Treasurer. We use QuickBooks accounting software. The Treasurer is elected to the Board for a one-year term, as well as consecutive terms. If you are interested in this position, or if you would like more information, please contact us at [friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com).

# Add Some Fall Color to Your Garden

We all tend to think of spring and summer as the prettiest times in the garden. However, if you have planted plants that either change color in the fall or produce colorful fruits in the fall, your garden can be quite exceptional, even in the fall!

My favorite fall plant is *Acer monumentale* (top right). This columnar sugar maple whose leaves turn a golden yellow, can reach 30 ft, but take very little space in the garden. Mine is now about 20 ft and still growing.

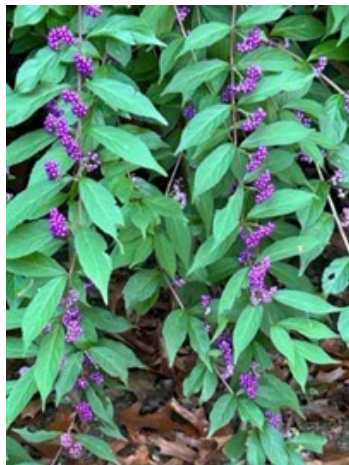


For the past 5 years, I have been adding epimediums to my garden as a border plant. They produce fairy-like flowers in mid-April, but some, like *Epimedium versicolor* 'versicolor' (top left) have beautiful, reddish leaves in the fall.

*Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Ruby Slippers' has been a reliable spring flowering shrub (5 ft x 5 ft) with beautiful lobed leaves. These leaves turn a bright red in the fall (bottom right).



I have many hostas in my garden, and I select them more for their leaves than their flowers. Some, like 'Age of Gold' and 'After Glow,' turn a beautiful gold color in late September.



Last, an example of a fall fruiting plant is Beautyberry or *Callicarpa* spp. These species are grown for their clusters of small but often highly colorful, spherical beadlike fruits. Mine is *Callicarpa dichotoma* (bottom left), which produces bright purple fruit and is an excellent shrub border plant.

These are but a few of the many interesting, colorful plants to add to your garden. Check out the many fall plant catalogs such as [PlantDelights.com](http://PlantDelights.com) to give you some ideas about what to plant in your garden!

- Freddi Hammerschlag  
Brookside Editorial Staff



## *Brookside Gardens Adult & Children's Programs*

Date	Program Name	Course #	Fee	FOBG
11/1/2023	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens*	PBG0029 300008	\$14	\$12
11/1/2023	Chrysanthemum Tour	PBG0060 300001	\$12	\$10
11/2/2023	Gentle Yoga at Brookside Gardens*	PBG0030 300009	\$14	\$12
11/4/2023	Shinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing	PBG0022 300002	\$35	\$30
11/4/2023	Storytime in the Garden	PBG0111 300002	\$5	\$5
11/8/2023	A World of Discovery: How Science and Heart Can Make You a More Ecological Gardener	PBG0113 300001	FREE	FREE
11/16/2023	Mixed Winter Container**	PBG0064 300001	\$75	\$67
12/6/2023	Festive Fresh Wreaths	PBG0065 400001	\$55	\$50
12/7/2023	Festive Fresh Centerpieces	PBG0066 400001	\$55	\$50
12/13/2023	Garden After Dark: Holly Daze	PBG0068 400001	\$55	\$50
1/6/2025	Yoga at Brookside Gardens*	PBG0031 400001	\$14	\$12
1/7/2024	New Year Retreat	PBG0018 400001	\$75	\$68
1/20/2024	Miniature Zen Garden	PBG0018 400001	\$50	\$45
1/26/2024	Brookside Gardens Winter Tour*	PBG0061 400001	\$12	\$10
2/3/2024	Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement	PBG0119 400001	FREE	FREE
2/3/2024	Introduction to Plant Propagation - Tropical Houseplants	PBG0016 400001	\$45	\$40
2/10/2024	Everything You Wanted to Know About Pruning	PBG0063 400001	\$15	\$12
2/16/2024	GreenScapes Symposium	PBG0057 400001	\$60	\$50***

\* Additional sessions offered, see [Active Montgomery](#)

\*\* This class is full, but there is a waitlist option when registering.

\*\*\* Early Bird Fee

Program details can be found at [Cultivate](#)

To register, please visit [Active Montgomery](#)



Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

