

The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.

Summer, 2023

President's Letter

As we move into summer, we are getting ready for our annual plant sale, to be held September 9 from 10 am to 4 pm on the South Terrace of the **Brookside Visitor Center**. The plant sale committee, with Joan O'Rourke, Taffy Turner, Nithya Raghavan, and Kathy Kircher, is hard at work planning the sale and ordering the plants. Many other volunteers will pitch in to care for the plants, set up, and run the sale. Be sure to thank our volunteers as you shop for your plants on September 9.

As always, **Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG)** members can enter the sale at 8 am and receive a 10 percent discount. We will have a variety of perennials, shrubs, and trees, including many native plants. You can use the plant list that will be posted on our website in late August to plan your purchases.

FOBG was pleased to welcome two new Board members in April. Joe Ann Stenstrom has returned to the Board after a two-year break. Joe Ann served for many

years as Vice President and continues to volunteer with us on the Marketing Committee. Beverly Tam also joined the Board. She has interests in art and culture and is an expert in floral arrangement. Welcome to Joe Ann and Beverly!

Finally, we are excited about a new fundraising event we will hold on November 18. This event replaces the silent auctions that were held in the past. **"Brunch with Birds and Blooms"** will feature great food and drink, informative speakers, and a raffle. You can find more details on page 5.

Not a current member? You can join now to get all the benefits, and your membership will extend to October 2024. Have a great summer!

- **Anne Roland**
President, FOBG

In This Issue...

President's Letter.....	1
News from Brookside's Director.....	2
Fall Plant Sale.....	3
Fundraiser in November	4
Summer Internship Program.....	5
Garden Guardian.....	7
Fall Program Listing.....	8



News from Brookside's Director

Gardens are an Art Form

Those of us who garden know that horticulture is an art and a science. The creative expression and aesthetic beauty of the garden is supported by the deep knowledge of a variety of disciplines like botany, biology, entomology, hydrology, soil science and more. The landscape, in and of itself an art form, becomes the perfect setting for the visual and performing arts. **The Friends of Brookside Gardens** recognize this, through their support of various activities. **The Summer Twilight Concert Series** each June draws our community together through music. **Shakespeare in the Garden** in July sets classic theatre against the natural landscape.



"Nature Sushi"
by summer camper Frances



Mural in the underlook with artist Osbel Susman-Peña and others

And **FOBG's** gift of a beautiful stone sculpture to celebrate their 20th anniversary in 2017 is a complex yet serene piece that invites study and contemplation.

This summer has seen a variety of artistic expressions, through classes and collaborations. One of our children's summer camps focused on art, finding inspiration in the garden and its natural materials. We've partnered again with **Wheaton Arts Parade** to site eleven pyramid sculptures in the garden, which celebrate the artists and cultures of the Wheaton community. And, thanks to a generous donation to the **Friends of Brookside Gardens**, a new mural was commissioned with local artist **Osbel Susman-Peña** to enliven the **Underlook** with a garden-inspired fantasy of flower forms. And, as always, the **Visitor Center** features a changing display of works by local artists and art associations inspired by gardens and nature. These artistic expressions at **Brookside Gardens** enrich our lives, encourage creativity, and help us make connections to the natural world.

- Stephanie Oberle
Director, Brookside Gardens



"Mirage" by Alexandra Slezak

FALL PLANT SALE 2023

ONE DAY ONLY: Saturday, Sept. 9, 10 AM - 4 PM

Open to the public, **RAIN or SHINE!**

8:00-10:00 AM FOBG Members ONLY.

10% Discount for FOBG Members.

(Not a Member? Come early and join at the Sale!)



- ❖ Choose from a variety of Perennials, Shrubs & Trees. Many native plants.
- ❖ Pay by Cash, Check or Credit Card.
- ❖ Proceeds benefit Brookside Gardens.
- ❖ Plant list and details to be posted in late August.

Brookside Gardens Visitor Center
South Terrace
1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902



www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org

Brunch with Birds and Blooms Fundraiser in November



Get ready for a very special morning when FOBG holds a fundraising gala brunch on November 18, 2023. **Brunch with Birds and Blooms** will feature two outstanding speakers, a catered brunch, and a raffle. The event takes place on **Saturday, November 18** from **10 AM - 2 PM** in the Brookside Gardens Visitor Center auditorium. We will sell tickets in advance via Eventbrite starting September 10. You do not have to be a member to purchase a ticket.

Our speakers will be **Sara Hallager**, Curator of Birds, and **Brian Evans**, Migratory Bird Ecologist, both with the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. They will describe the design and planning of the Zoo's newly refurbished Bird House. The Bird House recreates habitats for

shorebirds, waterfowl, and songbirds that migrate from Canada to the tropics. Sara and Brian will also discuss steps that we can take to conserve native bird species in our own backyards.

Simply Fresh is catering the brunch, which includes a mimosa bar. The raffle will feature gift cards from a variety of local merchants, such as restaurants, garden centers, markets, and a few online vendors. Raffle tickets will be sold on site during the event.

This is the first time since 2018 that FOBG has held an in-person fundraising event other than the plant sale. We are excited to bring our members and friends together to share a meal, learn about migratory birds, and support FOBG's fundraising initiatives to benefit Brookside Gardens.

Tickets for this fun and informative event will cost \$125 per person. Expect your Eventbrite invitation and registration link on September 10, when registration opens. We hope to see you at **Brunch with Birds and Blooms** in November. We always appreciate your generosity and thank you for supporting this fundraiser for Brookside Gardens.

- Anne Roland

Summer Internship Program

Friends of Brookside Gardens (FOBG) was established to support the mission of Brookside Gardens. One important piece of this is the Gardens' summer internship program, which educates and trains the new generation of youth to be advocates and stewards of our parks. The program, established in 2017, was based on the research work completed by an intern hired through the Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC). FOBG has generously funded two of the four internship positions each summer since its inception.

Through the internship program, students or recent graduates experience the kinds of work they might expect to encounter while working in a public garden, and they are exposed to a myriad of career options within Montgomery Parks. The interns rotate every three weeks through various garden sections at Brookside, providing them with broad experience that may help to steer them in the direction of their eventual career. During the 12-week program, interns also complete an independent project that benefits the Gardens. Through several field trips, interns learn about other sections within the Parks Department and other regional public gardens.

Here are the four 2023 summer interns of Brookside Gardens who are very grateful to Montgomery Parks, Brookside Gardens, and FOBG for supporting them:

Ashia Bunkley is an undergraduate from the University of Maryland, College Park, with a degree in Environmental Horticulture. She graduated in December 2021, after which she worked as a nursery/garden center associate at her local nursery for almost two years. She has always had a deep love for mother nature - from the animals, insects, and ocean life to the plants and ecosystems they create. Her gardening experience originated at home helping her mother and later from working on her own garden beds and houseplant collection. She has had an amazing time in the gardens and is truly appreciative for this internship opportunity and would like to thank Brookside Gardens and the support of all the wonderful people working within MC parks.



Laura Crocker majors in Landscape Architecture as well as Plant Biology at the University of Maryland. She spent much of her childhood in museums, aquariums, and running around outdoors, which sparked her love for ecology. When she was in search of a different career path, she stumbled across Landscape Architecture and knew it was everything that she wanted, as it relates to conservation, design, and the interaction between humans and the natural world. She works as an undergraduate research assistant in the University of Maryland Soil Quality Lab and spends her free time running, baking, crocheting, or reading. She could not have asked for a better internship experience than Brookside Gardens and has had great pleasure in getting to know the staff and garden volunteers over the summer. She looks forward to a career designing public spaces that unite people with the ecosystems that surround them.

Continued on next page

Greg Garin is a recent graduate from Howard Community College with a Plant Science degree, though prior to that he was studying the culinary arts with an intention of one day becoming a personal chef! The environment, ecology and sustainability are, to him, of the utmost importance. It is his intention and aspiration to become a teacher, where, if he is lucky, he hopes to inspire individuals to realize that their very own daily choices and habits have a direct impact on the world around them. He is an avid reader of many different books from previous centuries, has a dog who shadows him always, likes to play fingerstyle classical guitar (though not how most people play it), and to fix things. He hopes that this experience at Brookside Gardens will introduce him to aspects of horticulture, the natural world, and environmental stewardship that he has not experienced before.



Jessica Sutter is a rising senior studying Environmental Horticulture at the University of Maryland. She has had only limited experience working in farm settings and some greenhouse propagation, so Brookside was a novel, fun, and exciting place for her to work this summer. She hopes to learn a lot more about ornamental plants, and being at Brookside has inspired her to want to do propagation/production work or garden landscape design in the future. She is very excited to be at Brookside Gardens and hopes to take away as much knowledge as possible while working in the various garden areas, greenhouse propagation and indoor conservatory design and management!

We at FOBG, are delighted how the contributions and donations made by members and donors like you can nurture, inspire, and support future generations of horticulturists, landscape designers, and environmental stewards! **THANK YOU!!**

**- Nithya Raghavan
Webmaster, FOBG**



Garden Guardian

A Differing Perspective

I recently read an article concerning “hellstrips” – defined as difficult planting areas such as strips of land along roadsides. Such areas are rather frequent in our urbanized landscapes, where the pre-existing “normal” soil systems are disrupted by construction processes leaving compacted subsoils that yield extremely challenging conditions for plant growth. Frequent site examples include the area along the sides of our homes where we find highly disturbed soils often littered with construction debris, or along driveways/sidewalks/roadways which have been compacted for structural support, or the National Mall which was filled with “junk” soil and then compacted by construction equipment. The point becomes these hostile, impacted soil systems are a far cry from native soils of almost any kind. It was actually recommended in the article to rely on planting such areas with native plants since some are accustomed to difficult conditions and don’t require soil amendments. The differing opinion is the converse – almost no native plants would do well in “hellstrips” because such areas are far from natural and not site conditions that native plants would have evolved to successfully grow in.

So, what would be a reasonable recourse?

1. One could resort to trying plants that ARE found in such difficult sites such as roadsides. How about chicory, Queen Anne’s lace, daffodils or actually check with the highway departments as to what they use besides turf as roadside plantings – even trefoils, snap dragons, some *Oenothera*, mullein, *Verbascum*, etc.? Another thought would be plants for strip mine reclamation or (somewhat native but not local to Washington D.C. area) those found in shale barrens like *Sedum ternatum*. The point is the plant palette should stray far from reliance on local natives.
2. Of course, if you really want to be gung ho on natives as some folks are, one would have to modify/improve the impacted soil systems. You would need to break up the soil compaction to provide aeration, drainage, possibly improve soil pH and space for root expansion. You’d need to add organic matter to try to rebuild a more native soil. It might be necessary to create a slight mounding to improve runoff and help remove any road salt accumulations.
3. OR, do what is most common and plant turf possibly resorting to more resilient types such as spreading zoysia, or ‘rough’ grasses such as *Pennisetum* or *Calamagrostis*, etc.

Have any of you had success planting a “hellstrip” site? If so, I’d be interested in your experience! Happy Gardening!

**- Dr. Dick Hammerschlag
Master Gardener, Howard County**

Brookside Gardens

Adult & Children's Programs

Date	Program Name	Course #
9/6/2023	Fall Twilight Concert Series**	No registration
9/7/2023	Gentle Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0030 300001
9/9/2023	Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0031 300001
9/9/2023	Strolls for Well-Being**	PBG0033 300001
9/10/2023	Half-Day Mindfulness Retreat	PBG0018 300001
9/13/2023	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0029 300001
9/17/2023	Children's Day	PBG0077 300001
9/20/2023	Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour**	PBG0003 300001
9/23/2023	Native Flowers, Fruits, and Foliage for Fall	PBG0114 300001
9/29/2023	Full Moon Walk	PBG0002 300001
10/7/2023	Elevating Your Garden with Unusual Bulbs, Rhizomes and Tubers	PBG0116 300001
10/21/2023	The Unsung Season: Gardens in Winter	PBG0115 300001
10/26/2023	Glory of Fall Garden Tour**	PBG0059 300001
10/28/2023	Shinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing**	PBG0022 300001
11/1/2023	Chrysanthemum Tour	PBG0060 300001
11/4/2023	Expert Strategies for Winterizing Your Garden	PBG0117 300001
11/8/2023	A World of Discovery: How Science and Heart Can Make You a More Ecological Gardener	PBG0113 300001
11/16/2023	Mixed Winter Container	PBG0064 300001
12/6/2023	Festive Fresh Wreaths	PBG0065 400001
12/7/2023	Festive Fresh Centerpieces	PBG0066 400001
12/13/2023	Garden After Dark: Holly Daze	PBG0068 400001
1/7/2024	New Year Retreat	PBG0018 400001
1/20/2024	Miniature Zen Garden	PBG0118 400001
1/26/2024	Brookside Gardens Winter Tour	PBG0061 400001
2/3/2024	Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement	PBG0119 400001
2/3/2024	Introduction to Plant Propagation - Tropical Houseplants	PBG0016 400001
2/10/2024	Everything You Wanted to Know About Pruning	PBG0063 400001
2/16/2024	GreenScapes Symposium	PBG0057 400001

* Program meets multiple days

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

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

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

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

Website: FriendsOfBrooksideGardens.org

Anne Roland, *President*; **Suzanne Carbone**, *Vice-President*;
Barbara Waite-Jaques, *Secretary*; **Gale Shannon**, *Treasurer*

Directors: Carole Galati, Freddi Hammerschlag,
Joan O'Rourke (founding president), Nithya Raghavan,
Gloria Sherman, Joe Ann Stenstrom, Beverly Tam

The Brooksider

Editor: James Rostron; **Editorial Staff:** Freddi Hammerschlag,
Elaine Dynes, Nithya Raghavan, Gloria Sherman, Joe Ann Stenstrom

FOBG Webmaster: Nithya Raghavan

