

# The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.

## Winter 2024



### President's Letter

FOBG had a productive year in 2023. We sponsored the GreenScapes Symposium in February, held a BloomBox fundraiser in April, and sponsored the popular summer concert series. Our September plant sale sold over 1,200 perennials, shrubs, and conifers and raised \$8,400. Also in September, we sponsored Children's Day and saw the dedication of the beautiful donor-funded mural under the Overlook. For the first time, we sponsored the Garden Railway exhibit, which delights adults and children across the region.

We closed out 2023 with the successful gala "Brunch with Birds and Blooms." The article on **page 6** provides the details. I want to express my appreciation to the planning committee, the speakers, Brookside staff, and the attendees for making this event bloom!

As we head into 2024, we are seeking volunteer help for two vacant positions: newsletter editor and treasurer. You can read about these positions on **page 5**. Thank you to

former Brooksider editor James Rostron, and to Gale Shannon, who is stepping down as treasurer after four years. We are an all-volunteer club that depends on our members to run the organization, and we need your help. If you are interested in either of these positions, or would like to learn more, please email us at [friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com).

On a sad note, Dick Hammerschlag passed away in December. Dick was a Master Gardener, and the husband of Freddi Hammerschlag, who is on the FOBG Board. Dick authored the Garden Guardian column in the Brooksider for many years. Our condolences to his family. Read more about Dick on **pages 3-4**.

We look forward to another busy year in 2024. The **2024 GreenScapes Symposium** is February 16, so get your tickets to this online symposium to learn about innovative design and maintenance strategies for your garden. And of course, be sure to renew your membership in FOBG if you haven't already done so.

*Anne Roland, FOBG President*



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## News from Brookside

Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens

As we head toward Spring, one of the most charming indicators that warmer weather is on the way are the green tips of bulbs poking their way through soil, leaves and snow. The cycle for planning spring bulb displays starts, no surprise, in Spring! When bulbs are blooming their best in March and April, our Horticulturists are evaluating the displays with an eye towards designing for the following season. They evaluate size, height, shape, color, timing, and fragrance. The seasonal displays are located primarily in three places at **Brookside Gardens**: the front of the Visitor Center, the Fragrance Garden and the Trial Garden. These large planting beds are packed with a mix of bulbs, including tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and are often supplemented in Spring with cool weather annuals like pansies and primroses. A prime selfie spot, these planting beds offer a concentrated burst of

color that changes from year to year. But every year, we also invest in thousands of permanent bulbs throughout the garden, reliable plants that come back year after year, in increasingly large masses that blanket the ground in color. Think of daffodils, snowdrops, blue *Scilla* and *Chionodoxa*, and some species of crocus that are relatively squirrel-proof. The biggest mass of permanent bulbs was donated by the **Friends of Brookside Gardens** to celebrate Brookside Gardens' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019...do you remember planting 50,000 daffodils? Now those daffodil bulbs are a river of gold leading to the Visitor Center. More permanent bulb plantings can be found throughout the Azalea, Camellia, and Winter Gardens. They complement winter-flowering shrubs like Witch Hazels and *Mahonia*. Next time you are in the Garden, enjoy those little pops of color that say, Spring is on the way!





## In Memory of FOBG's Garden Guardian

**Dick (Richard) Hammerschlag**, a longtime FOBG member, volunteer, benevolent patron, and donor, passed away on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He is survived by his beloved wife, Freddi Hammerschlag, loving son and daughter-in-law, two cherished grandchildren and a dear brother. He was also the columnist of the very interesting "Garden Guardian" section of the Brookside newsletter and his last column "A Different Perspective" appeared in the Summer 2023 issue of the Brookside. To read all of Dick's columns in the archived copies of the Brookside please go to the **FOBG website on Newsletters**.

Dick received his BA in Botany at Colgate University in 1963 and his MS in Plant Pathology at the University of Maryland in 1966. From 1966 to 1968, after being drafted, he became a 1st Lieutenant in the Army at Ft. Detrick, MD where he was involved with rice disease studies. Following this tour of duty in the Army, Dick returned to the University of Maryland where he received a PhD in Plant Pathology in 1972. This was followed by a post-doctoral appointment at the USDA in Beltsville, MD in 1972 where he conducted his research on the mode of action of herbicides. Dick was a Biologist with the United States Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD from 1995-2007, but for the majority of his professional career (1974-1995), he served as Chief, Center for Urban Ecology (CUE) for the National Park Service (NPS).

Following retirement, Dick collaborated on several wetlands projects while remaining on board at Patuxent as an Emeritus scientist, serving as a volunteer at the National Arboretum and the Friends of Brookside Gardens. He was also a Master Gardener in Howard County. Dick and his wife Freddi have

designed vast sections of their several acre eclectic home garden with beautiful conifers, unusual perennials, and rare cultivars of many plant species. The amazing thing was that Dick labeled almost every plant specimen they collected with metal tags!! Dick and Freddi have always donated several types of conifers for FOBG's plant sale every year from Foxborough Nursery, Inc. They have traveled extensively both in the US and abroad and have visited many natural wonders and botanic gardens.



Dick had a great sense of humor and was quick to impart wonderful tongue-in-cheek quips of many a thing or situation! Dick's love of the natural world and his mission to preserve it for generations to come made him a unique person. One could ask Dick any mundane gardening question and learn so much from him in a 10-minute conversation!

Dick's wife Freddi Hammerschlag continues to serve on the FOBG board and volunteers for many FOBG sponsored events like the Silent Auction, Plant Sale, etc. She was the editor of The Brookside from 2015 to 2023 and continues to serve as an editorial staff member. She also writes on many interesting horticultural topics for the Brookside.

See the following page for a photo tribute of Dick's activities with the FOBG. Goodbye, our dear Garden Guardian, and may your heavenly abode be filled with gardens galore!!

*Nithya Raghavan, FOBG webmaster*

# A Photo Tribute to Dick Hammerschlag



Freddi & Dick Hammerschlag



Photography - Coriolana Simon & Doug Wolters

## HELP WANTED

If you are interested in either position, or if you would like more information, please contact us at [friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com).



### TREASURER

Are you an excellent **bookkeeper or accountant**? Do you want to get more involved with Friends of Brookside Gardens? FOBG is seeking a member 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.



### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We are looking for an **Editor** for our newsletter, **The Brooksider**. The newsletter is published four times a year - February, May, August, and November. It focuses on FOBG news and activities at Brookside Gardens, as well as stories about garden-related matters. Various FOBG members contribute the articles. The editor is responsible for planning, compiling, and editing the articles using their own publishing software. The editor should be a member of FOBG and be available to periodically join FOBG Marketing Committee meetings and attend events. We will train the new editor.



## 2023 Fundraiser “Brunch with Birds and Blooms”

The FOBG community came together for socializing, brunch, and education at the 2023 fundraiser “**Brunch with Birds and Blooms.**” The ticketed event, held on November 18 at the Brookside Visitor Center, featured a brunch catered by **Simply Fresh**, live classical music on keyboard by Peter Tam, and a 16-item raffle with gift cards and baskets donated by local businesses and private donors. The event raised \$4,900 to benefit programs at Brookside Gardens.

On behalf of FOBG, I welcomed the 85 attendees to the auditorium. Director Stephanie Oberle extended a greeting from Brookside Gardens. Speakers from the **Smithsonian’s National Zoo and**

**Conservation Biology Institute**, Sara Hallager, Curator of Birds and Brian Evans, Migratory Bird Ecologist, gave a fascinating presentation on the world of North American birds, and the new **National Zoo Bird House** (see below).

Many thanks to the planning committee: Suzanne Carbone, Sandy Fleming, Carole Galati, Judy Irwin, Nithya Raghavan, Barbara Schwarz, Janet Senft, and Barbara Waite-Jaques, and to everyone who worked to make this event a success. *Event photos on p8.*

**Anne Roland, FOBG President**



## All about Birds and Blooms .....

The feature presentation at the fundraiser brunch was the integrated talk by the speakers from the **Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute**, **Sara Hallager**, *Curator of Birds*, and **Brian Evans**, *Migratory Bird Ecologist*. They gave the audience an insider's glimpse of the renovated 27,000 sq. ft. **Bird House** that took 6 years to transform. Their talk highlighted how, through various themed portals and interactive features, the Bird House draws one's attention to animal care, outreach, conservation, and research on the complex ecology of migratory songbirds, waterfowl and shorebirds and illustrates their arduous journey to, from and through the Americas.

Here are the highlights of the talk:

- Since 1970, the bird population has declined by 2.9 billion, signaling an ecological crisis and concern.
- Pesticide-free native pollinator gardens

support birds.

- Bird-safe glass can protect birds from window collisions.
- Birds migrate to find food and safe places to rear their young. Providing an appropriate habitat is crucial to their survival.
- Delaware Bay is critical in the shorebird migration in the Americas by providing high energy food in the form of horseshoe crab eggs.
- The "Prairie Pothole" region of central Canada and the US plays a key role in duck migration.
- One half of the birds migrating to the tropics pack into one eighth the size of the breeding range.
- 13 million acres in the American tropics have been cleared of trees to grow coffee! In bird friendly coffee farms, plants grow in the shade of trees thus providing refuge and preserving the biodiversity of wildlife.

**Protecting our ecosystems and critical habitats is key to the survival of all birds.**



To learn more, go to:

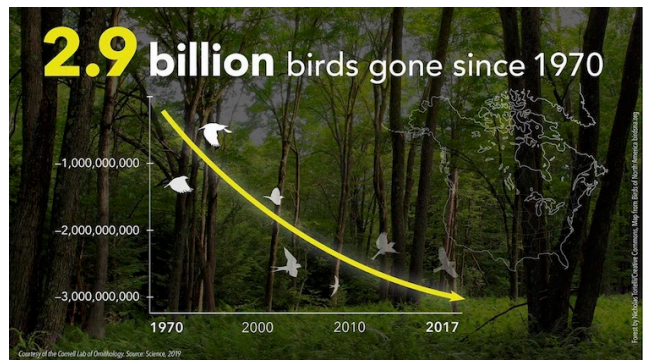
***The Migratory Bird Center***

Dedicated to understanding, conserving, and championing the grand phenomenon of bird migration

1. Turn out lights, and treat windows to keep birds safe.
2. Keep cats indoors to save birds.
3. Plant native plants to shelter and nourish birds.
4. Avoid pesticides for a bird-friendly home.
5. Choose Bird Friendly® food products to protect disappearing habitats.
6. Avoid single-use plastics to protect birds and the planet.
7. Share your sightings on **eBird**.

**Source:** *Migratory Bird Center, Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute*

# 2023 Fundraiser "Brunch with Birds and Blooms"





# 2023 Fundraiser "Brunch with Birds and Blooms"



## POTRAIT OF A PHOTOGRAPHER - Doug Wolters

Doug Wolters, **TimePoints Photography** partner, is a familiar face around Brookside and especially at FOBG events. In the summer, he's often seen in the rose garden at twilight, capturing the magic light on his favorite flowers. At other times, he's documenting our plant sales or member meetings, sometimes standing on a chair or on the side wall of the patio so his camera can take in the whole scene. His pictures are frequently featured on the FOBG web site as well as our Facebook page.

But Doug's a lot more than a guy with a white pony tail who's wielding a camera. In his professional life, Doug is a musician. As a cellist, he's held principal cellist roles in several area orchestras and has often performed as a soloist.

However, he really prefers chamber music to orchestral music, and his home often hosts string quartets. For over three decades, Doug also taught stringed instruments in the Fairfax County School System.

When he retired, Doug took up photography. He quickly developed a real passion for capturing super close-ups of botanical subjects – not just flowers, but also leaves, tree bark, and succulents. His images, for example, of dried leaves and wind-wrapped tulips have won many awards, and his unusual “flower portraits” have been featured in solo exhibits and group shows, both in local as well as on-line galleries.



Images courtesy of Doug Wolters - **TimePoints Photography**

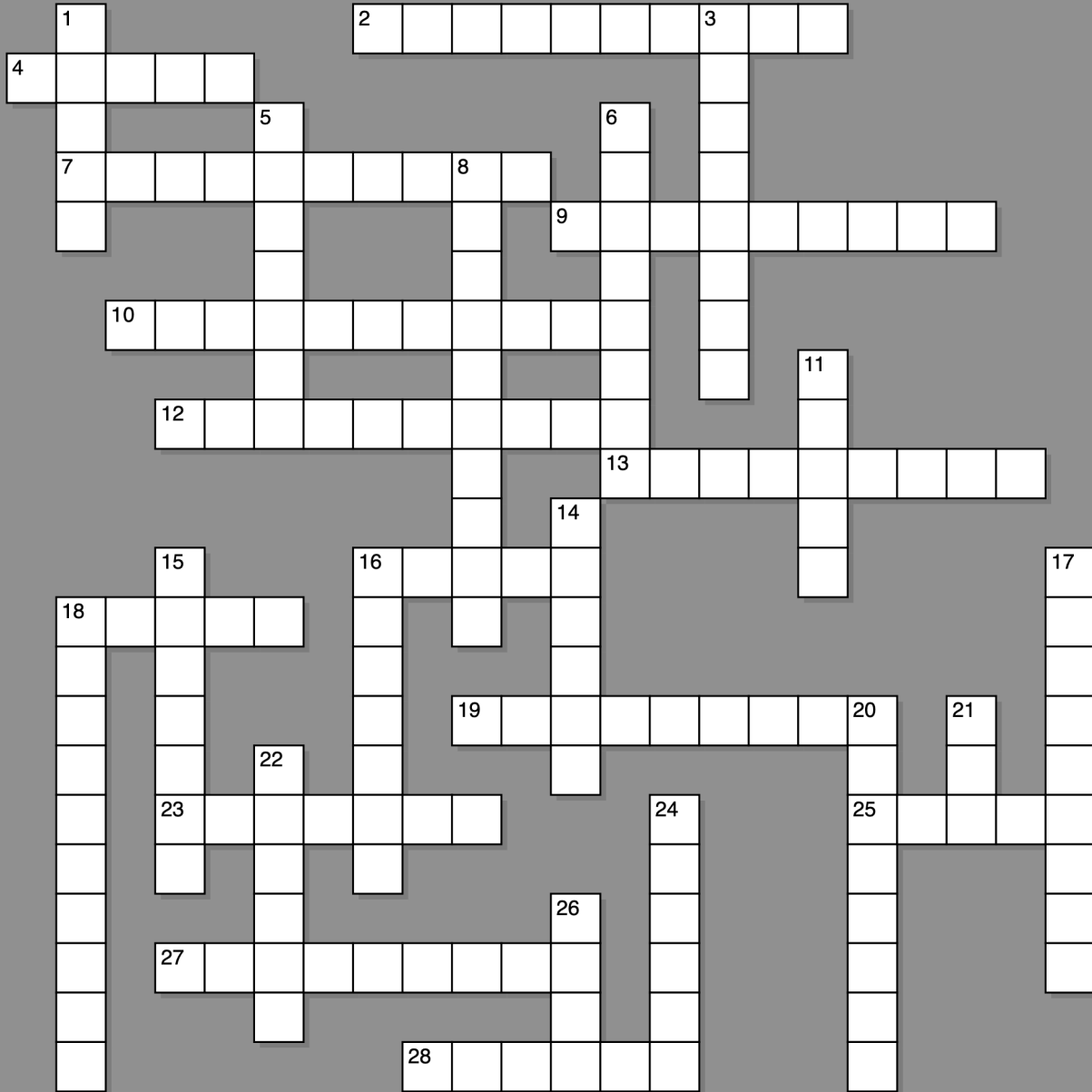
## A CANVAS FROM BROOKSIDE - Doug Wolters



Images courtesy of Doug Wolters - **TimePoints Photography**

## A Plant Themed Crossword Puzzle

Please print pages 12-13 to work on your crossword, seated in your cozy space



**Clues for this puzzle are listed on page 13, answers on page 15**

## Crossword Puzzle Clues

### Across

- 2) Common name for Echinacea
- 4) Often used weed suppressant in gardens
- 7) Moving transplants from small pot to a bigger pot
- 9) A short lived plant that grows briefly only under favorable conditions
- 10) Plant pigment used for photosynthesis
- 12) Controversial chemical in weed killers
- 13) World's largest single bloom flower
- 16) Invasive plant that covers everything
- 18) Lower part of a graft
- 19) Organized plant collection on paper
- 23) Technique of clipping trees and shrubs into specific shapes
- 25) Sacred flower of Buddhist religion
- 27) Genus name of Maryland's state flower
- 28) Leafy parts of the ferns

### Down

- 1) Dark colored broken down organic matter
- 3) State tree of Maryland
- 5) Celebratory edible gardens planted during World War
- 6) Fruit tree trained along horizontal lines
- 8) Common family name of summer salad favorite
- 11) Fused flower whorl consisting of sepals
- 14) Starch storing underground stems
- 15) Name of biodegradable pots made from processed manure
- 16) Small Japanese variety of favorite citrus fruit
- 17) Favorite public garden in Wheaton
- 18) Popular name for Antirrhinum
- 20) Monarch's favorite buffet food
- 21) Dry fruit with a hard shell to crack
- 22) Sap sucking insects
- 24) Seed like bodies under fern fronds
- 26) Best time of the day to water your garden

**Answers for this puzzle are listed on page 15**

## **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: **www.FriendsOfBrooksideGardens.org**

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

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

### **The Brooksider**

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

**FOBG Webmaster:** Nithya Raghavan

**Pantone color of the year 2024 - Peach Fuzz**

**Why?** It radiates warmth & compassion and offers a tactile embrace

# Brookside Gardens

## Adult & Children's Programs

**NOTE:** We will no longer list the programs offered at Brookside Gardens since they are available both on the [FOBG home page](#) and [Brookside Gardens website](#)

Please refer to the **Cultivate** Spring and Summer 2024 magazine to read about the programs offered at Brookside Gardens.

**CLICK HERE** to access the Cultivate magazine

To register for programs, please visit

**Active Montgomery**

**NOTE: Spring Registration begins Monday, Feb. 12, 2024**

**Answers to the Crossword Puzzle**

**Across**

2) Coneflower 4) Mulch 7) Uprighting 9) Ephemeral 10) Chlorophyll 12) Glyphosate  
13) Rafflesia 16) Kudzu 18) Stock 19) Herbarium 23) Topiary 25) Lotus 27) Rudbeckia  
28) Fronds

**Down**

1) Humus 3) Whiteoak 5) Victory 6) Espalier 8) Nightshade 11) Calyx 14) Tubers 15)  
Cowpots 16) Kumquat 17) Brookside 18) Snapdragon 20) Milkweed 21) Nut 22)  
Aphids 24) Spores 26) Dawn