

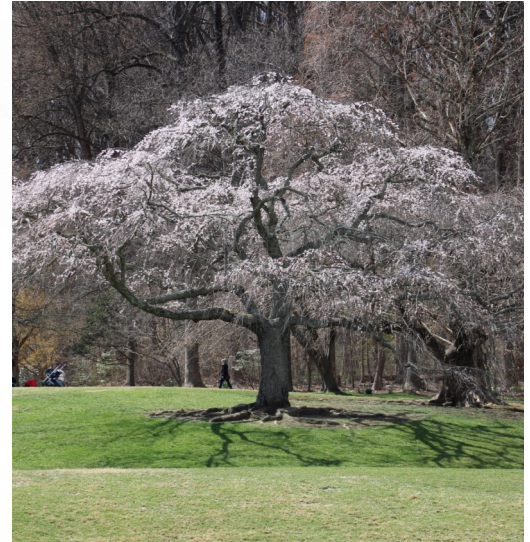
The Brooksider

Published by Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.

Spring, 2023

President's Letter

by Anne Roland



Spring is here, and there is a lot happening in the gardens. In addition to the stunning flowers and shrubs growing at **Brookside**, we are excited about two **FOBG** projects that are also in bloom.

There is an exciting new mural on the wall of the **Underlook**, down the steps near the **Visitor Center** and the **Aquatic Garden**. Funded by a memorial donation to **FOBG**, the mural is composed of colorful painted layers of plants and patterns. The artist is Osbel Susman-Peña, a Havana-born visual artist and designer. Stop by and admire the mural during your **Brookside** wanderings.

The native azalea garden is taking shape in the strip of land between the **Visitor Center** entry drive and the **Aquatic Garden**. **FOBG** funded the purchase of native azaleas through the

2019 "**Color Our Future**" fundraising campaign, but the pandemic delayed plans for the garden until last fall. We look forward to watching how this new garden will grow and expand.

Unfortunately, **GreenFest in the Gardens**, part of Montgomery County's Earth Day festival, was canceled this year due to stormy weather. We plan to continue to support future **GreenFests**.

Up next is the **Twilight Concert Series** in June, followed by **Shakespeare in the Garden** in July—all supported by your memberships and donations. Check the Spring/Summer [Cultivate Magazine](#) for more information on these events, as well as the speaker series, classes, and workshops. And, of course, we are getting ready for our **annual plant sale**, to be held on September 9. I hope to see you in the **Gardens**!



The Philadelphia Flower Show

by Barbara Waite-Jaques

The Philadelphia Flower Show is the largest and longest running horticultural show in the United States. It is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. With exceptions during World Wars I and II, the show has been held continuously since 1829. For 2021 and 2022, the show was held outdoors in June at FDR park in Philadelphia. That's right, there was no Covid break for the flower show! And, judging by the crowds in those years, people were hungry to get their flower show fix. In 2023, the show moved back to the Philadelphia Convention Center, its long-term home, in March, its traditional month, with more than 250,000 attendees showing their approval.

In 2023, the theme for the show was "The Garden Electric." The Entrance Garden to the show was a spectacular space enclosed by a rounded transparent mesh scrim filled with a fragrant mixed media floral installation of tropical flowers and foliage, flashing vibrant colored lights, and electronic music. A winding promenade led the visitor to the gardens created by noted designers ranging from 2200

to 2900 square feet, the largest gardens created in the history of the event. The designers were locally, nationally, and internationally known, up-and-coming and veteran artists. One garden was titled "In Search of Peace," which told the tale of a peace fairy who calmed children living in war-torn Ukraine. A more lighthearted exhibit, "Eye Candy," displayed mannequins dressed in candy-colored costumes with heads formed with flowers. An intriguing display, "Brain Forest," featured a bare-branched tree with exposed roots atop a flower covered model of a brain illustrating right- and left-brained characteristics. "Studio Exotica" won the Best in Show Cup for its creation of a nightclub overtaken by flowers with floral dancers, bartender, and DJ.

As a break from the crowds, the entertaining florist and restaurateur, Tu Bloom, hosted a potting party. The participants created a take-home arrangement planted in a fabric grow pot, while encouraged, teased, and entertained by Mr. Bloom.

Continued on next page



Flower Show, continued...

The PHS Hamilton Horticultur offers another competitive aspect of the show -- juried displays of numerous botanical categories. Here, the blue-ribbon specimens give amateur growers a standard to which they can aspire. The plants range from *Amaryllis belladonna* to *Zamioculcas zamiifolia*. Two new classes were added to the competitive plants that were judged in the Horticultur: *Cut Branches* and *Citruses*.

Educational exhibits at the show were provided by local high schools, community colleges, and universities. These displays showed horticultural skill and knowledge, sustainable gardening practices, and the use of a variety of plants in a unique fashion.

The Design Gallery includes the Miniature Settings, where the exhibitors created vignettes within a twelve by eighteen-inch showcase. Design classes had displays of balconies, windowsills, and container gardens. There were competitions in ikebana design and botanical illustrations.

And then, to finish off the day and be inspired by all of the wonderful exhibits, one can spend hours in the Market Place. Vendors entice one to buy plants, bulbs, tools, botanically based cosmetics, specialty foods, you name it!

If the above are intriguing to you, set aside March 2-10, 2024, for the next Philadelphia Flower Show!



Save the Date

FOBG 2023 Fundraiser

Brunch with Birds and Blooms

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 10 am - 2 pm

Brookside Gardens Visitor Center

Speakers! Brunch! Raffle!

Mark your calendars

Details to follow

Garden Guardian

by Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

Go To Hellebores

OK, we all probably have planted a few hellebores in our gardens, but how much do we really know about them and maybe we might want to plant some new ones? So, let's take a look at an overview of the virtues of hellebores.

1. Hellebores are winter/spring bloomers, so you might have a continuous hellebore bloom from a series of different cultivars from at least Xmas to Easter.
2. Each hellebore plant is capable of supporting numerous flowers for up to several weeks. The five to multi-petaled flowers are inches in size.
3. Like irises, hellebores can be found in almost any color. Some also have patterns. Others may be double or multiple petaled.
4. Hellebores can be unevenly sorted into two structural groups. The much more prevalent acaulescent forms possess leaves and flower stems that rise directly from rootstocks underground. Several caulescent hellebores have leaf stems and flowers coming directly off an aerial central stalk. Some hellebores have plain leaves, whereas others have strongly mottled ones.
5. The most prevalent hellebores are Lenten Rose hybrids = *Helleborus* X hybrids. Some of these produce a mass of seedlings to the point that one needs to be careful not to be overrun by them.
6. Like Epimediums (see concurrent article in this newsletter), hellebores are shade tolerant and are avoided by deer.
7. Hellebores have a tight root system which makes them relatively easy to transplant. In fact, you can probably do well in transplanting them whenever they are not in flower and it is not too hot.
8. Hellebores are relatively disease resistant. They are susceptible to some viruses reportedly spread by aphids.
9. New hellebores are continually being produced. Some popular newly registered series are: *Helleborus* Frostkiss (Anna's Red, Dorothy Dawn, Moondance, Penny's Pink, Molly's White, etc.), *Helleborus* X hybridus Winter Jewels (Apricot Blush, Black Diamond, Golden Lotus, etc.) and *Helleborus* X HGC Ice N Roses (Roses Picotee, Roses Red, Roses Rose, Roses White). Still in demand is the Xmas Rose *Helleborus niger* which generally delivers pure white blooms at Xmas time.
10. Of particular interest is that the early blooming plants can be seen being pollinated by bees in February and March when little else is in bloom and when the temperature reaches about 50 degrees F or more.
11. Yes, the price of hellebores has steadily risen – partially due to demand, but also because it takes about three years to produce a plant of sellable size.
12. Thus, hellebores have recently become a garden staple for all the reasons above and more.

Are you ready to add more hellebores to your garden??? Check out *Hellebores, A Comprehensive Guide*, by C. Colston Burrell and Judith Knott Tyler, Timber Press, Inc.; ISBN 13:978-0-88192-765-8.

A Perfect Spring Flower

by Freddi Hammerschlag, The Brooksider Editorial Staff

Epimediums (Bishop's Hats, Barrenworts and Fairy Wings) are a perfect spring flower for dry shade gardens. I can't emphasize enough how useful and wonderful epimediums are for our mid-Atlantic region. They tolerate shaded, dry woodland soils and are not attractive to deer. Once in and established, they are very easy to maintain. What more can you ask for? Several began blooming in my garden in late March (*E. grandiflorum* 'Purple Prince', *E. sempervirens* 'Sunshine Lake' and *E. 'Lilac Cascade'*), whereas others began to bloom in mid-April (*Epimedium* 'Peachie' and *Epimedium x youngianum* 'Marchacos Sprite'). Most of the blooms last for at least one week. Some epimediums are deciduous, whereas others are evergreen. Some are spreaders and others form a tight clump. They are not only known for their flowers (range of color and shape), but also for their leaf shape and color in the spring and/or fall.

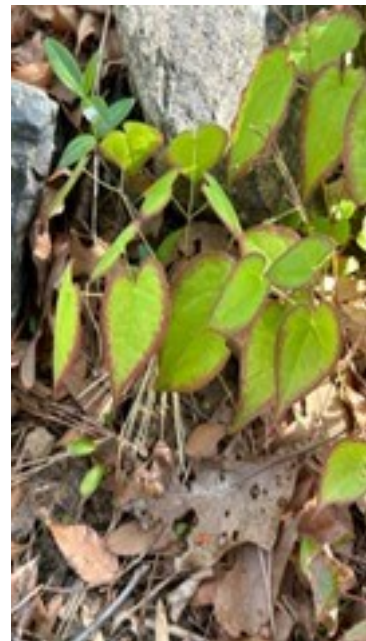
I now have over one hundred different varieties of epimedium and have been planting them as border plants all around my 2.5-acre property for the past 10 years. I purchased most of my varieties from Garden Vision Epimediums, which unfortunately has closed, but I still find new varieties at plantdelightsnursery.com and arrowheadalpines.com. For more detailed information, check *The Plant Lovers Guide to Epimediums* by Sally Gregson, Timber Press, Inc., ISBN 978-1-60469-475-8.



Epimedium sp. nov. Tarantula



Epimedium 'Pink Champagne'



E. sempervirens 'Candy Hearts'

DONORS 2022 – *Thank you for your support!*

Benefactor \$500+

Alderman, Rhoda
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Brownrigg Charitable Trust
Byrne, Sarah & Terence
Cannon, Maureen & Arnold Levy
Carbone, Suzanne
Cianci, Marlene
Cronin, Leslie
Erdahl, Robert & Ann
Gingrich, Julie & T E
Harrison, Robert & Linda
Hammerschlag, Freddi & Dick
Helsel, Susan
Jones, Kenneth
Kircher, Kathy
Narayanan, K S & Annelie Wilde
Newcomb, Dr & Mrs Robert
O'Rourke, Joan
Robitaille, Mary
Schaaff, Kevin
Schwartz, Gretchen
Schwarz, Roger & Barbara
Sherman, Gloria & Richard
Smith, Patricia
Stogis, Joan
Teigen, Philip & Marlene
Tretter, Steven
Williamson, Mary Louise
Zurer, Pamela

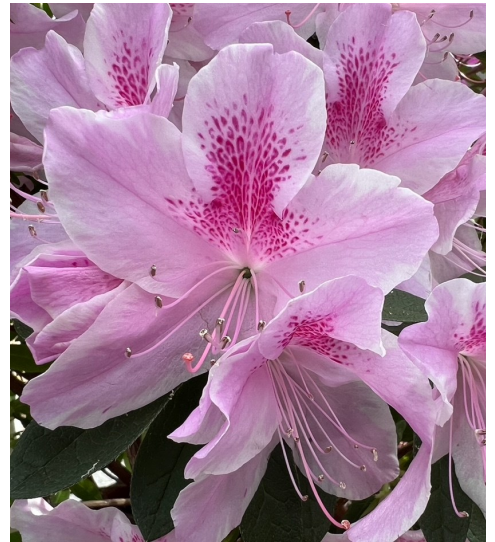
Patron \$250-\$499.99

Ambler, Anne
Anderson, Linda
Bethesda Community Garden Club
Bratthauer, Ann
Calvert, Christopher & Jeffrey
Splitstoser

Cowan, Donald & Anita
Dargel, Robert
Devine, Kenneth Lavish & Janice
Diemer, Margretta
Dynes, Elaine
Foster, Joan
Freishtat, Sheryl & Steve
Gillespie, Duff & Joanne
Holmes, Julia
Horman, Julia & Gene
Keller, Mary Ruth
Locke, Dr Diana
London, Joanne
Mason, Mr & Mrs Dwight
McGuire, Charles & Gail
Mueller, Bob & JoAnn
Network for Good
Pabon, Chris
Raghavan, Nithya &
Peter Fitzgerald
Reed, Mr & Mrs Arthur
Rhomberg, Lynn
Roland, Anne
Senft, Janet
Turner, Stephanie (Taffy)
Waite-Jaques, Barbara
Winder, John & Mary Lou

Sponsor \$100-\$249.99

Amos, Harold
Audet, Michael
Behrmann, Joseph & Barbara
Beitzel, Brett
Bingham, Raymond
Bloom, Leslie & David
Bowman, John
Broome, Jennifer
Bucherer, Joseph
Busch, Susan



Carrubba, Lisamarie
Coates, Paul & Vivian
Cohany, Sharon
Cutlip, William
Derr, Janice & John Ord
Dicker, Lois & Marvin
Dine, Richard & Sarah
Disogra, Lorelei
Dorman, Kathleen
Dulaney, Charles & Donna Olsen
Farnsworth, Bradley
Favre, Dianne
Fei, Jane Li
Fisher, Joyce
Fitzpatrick, Wyn
Fleming, Sandy
Franklin, Marty & Kirk
Freeman, Lucile
Friedman, L & R Passamaneck
Fuller, Jef & Kim
Furash, Judith & Mark Mattucci
Gertzman, Marjorie & Stanley
Gilley, Kathie
Give Lively Foundation
Goldstein, Bobbie
Gray, Helen

Sponsor \$100-\$249.99

(continued)

Griffin, Ann
Hallberg, Paula Jean
Hardman, Anne
Hatchett, Diana
Heermann, Karl
Hoff, Mr & Mrs Joshua
Honsa, Jeanette
Isaacs, Amy
Jackson, Shelton & Lily
Karacki, Susanne
Keiser, John
Keller, Christopher & Henrietta
Kennedy, Jonathan
Kennedy, Wade
Kent, Chris & S Thalheimer
Kingery, Elizabeth
Korenman, Julia
Knable, Cynthia
Kover, Steven
Lambert, George
Lewis, Bette
Liang, Lusha
Limberger, Ed & Linda
Lu, Sylvia
Luksenburg, Lillian
Lueders, Kira
Lynch, Patricia
Major-Ryan, Douglas
McClain, Matthew
McKerrow, Melissa

McNellis, Tim
McNeilly, Caryl
McNerney, Christine
Melvin, Nancy
Melzer, Philip & Victoria
Mills, Elaine
Metalitz, Steven and Catherine Gage
Mitchell, Winnie
Moglen, Glenn
Moore, June
Moran, Janis
Moricle, Lea Ann
Moulden, John
Mueller, Bill & Pat
Musil, Bob & Carin McTighe
Nordahl, Karen
Novak, Roman
O'Herron, Tom & Mary
Osborn, Erika
Paniati, Kimberly
Parada, Vincent & Sue
Parker, Kevin
Pau, Alice
Pechacek, Helen
Polhamus, Marcia
Potomac Valley Chapter NARGS
Quinn, Elizabeth
Reiter, Jeffrey
Resop, Jonathan & Sharon
Roark, Raymond Angelo & Jill
Rosenberg, Gabriele
Ross, Ellen
Rushing, Kathryn

Sachar, Carol
Schaible, M Jean
Shappert, Susan
Schreiber, George & Angela
Schridder, Nancy
Serenio, Edgel
Shapiro, Lenore
Shields, Marilyn
Siegel, Abby
Simon, C & D Wolters
Sirkin, Arlene Farber
Sit, Elaine
Sloger, Marcia
Smith, Kathleen
Smithson, Frances
Somerville, Gerlinda
Stoner, Nancy
Swick, Craig
Takoma Horticultural Club
Teasley, Gloria
Tycko, Robert
Urban, Ted & Janet
Waldron, Andrew
Walton, Jason
Walstein, Vicki
Warman, Barbara
Weis, Barbara
Wheeler, Jon and Val
Wilson, Elaine
Wion, Ann
Whitcomb, Wendy
Wong, Nancy
Wyrsh, Claire
Zucker, Deborah Ann

Commemorative Donations

Larry Endo and Caron Bove, in memory of Mrs. Anna Wen Chao
Matthew McClain, McClain and Associates, Inc. in memory of Mary McClain
Sheldon and Audrey Katz Foundation, in memory of Audrey Katz, Betsy Thomas and Helen Patton
Schwarz, Roger & Barbara, in memory of Gary Dynes

Brookside Gardens Adult & Children's Programs

Date	Program Name	Course #
5/3/2023	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens** (weekly sessions)	PBG0029 100010
5/4/2023	Gentle Yoga at Brookside Gardens** (weekly sessions)	PBG0030 100010
5/4/2023	McCrillis Gardens Spring Tour	PBG0020 100001
5/6/2023	Yoga Sprouts** (weekly sessions)	PBG0078 100008
5/6/2023	Afternoon Tea at McCrillis Gardens**	PBG0021 100001
5/7/2023	Half-Day Mindfulness Retreat	PBG0018 100001
5/12/2023	Miniature Perennials	PBG0023 100001
5/18/2023	The Amazing Journey: Bringing New Plants to Market	PBG0098 100001
5/20/2023	Shinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing**	PBG0022 100002
5/20/2023	Summer Annual Container	PBG0024 100001
5/24/2023	Gardening for Dry Shade	PBG0090 100001
5/31/2023	Rachel Carson Conservation Park Walking Tour	PBG0086 100001
6/6/2023	Summer Twilight Concert Series**	No registration
6/15/2023	Miniature Hostas	PBG0092 200001
6/17/2023	Sustainable Gardening Practices	PBG0045 200001
6/17/2023	Introduction to Botanical Illustration with Watercolors*	PBG0095 200001
6/20/2023	Pollinator Meadow Tour**	PBG0043 200001
6/24/2023	How Native Plant Cultivars Affect Pollinators	PBG0096 200001
6/26–6/30	Garden Investigators Camp**	PBG0082 500001
6/29/2023	Glenstone Museum & Gardens	PBG0094 200001
7/9/2023	Shakespeare In the Garden	No registration
7/10–7/14	Art Adventures Camp*	PBG0083 500001
7/15/2023	Common Garden Pests & Diseases	PBG0097 200001
7/17–7/21	Summer Science Camp*	PBG0084 500001
7/22/2023	Botanical Tile Casting	PBG0093 200001
8/7–8/11	Climate Action Camp*	PBG0085 500001

* 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

