

# The Brooksider

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Fall, 2022

## President's Letter

By Anne Roland, FOBG President

Summer's end brought beautiful weather and two signature [FOBG](#) events. On September 10, we held our 26<sup>th</sup> annual **Plant Sale**. The successful sale (we sold 95 percent of the plants!) is an important fundraiser for **FOBG**. It is also a great way for our local gardening community to mingle at [Brookside Gardens](#). Many thanks to the committed volunteers who plan, organize and staff this event. A special thanks to **Brookside** staff and gardeners who shared their plant expertise with visitors at the sale.

On September 16 and 17, **Brookside** held its annual Children's Day(s), a free event supported by **FOBG**. Children and their parents learned about gardening through art projects and engaging science activities. What a great way to explore the gardens!

We close out our busy year with two events. Our annual **Membership Gathering and Chrysanthemum Tour** took place on November 2. We are also partnering with online garden store [BloomBox](#) for a fundraiser that runs from November 1-15. Members and friends can order beautiful holiday plants and gifts, and **FOBG** receives 15 percent of the proceeds. For more information, go to our flier in this newsletter.

Finally, the membership renewal season is upon us. All memberships expire on October 31, so do not forget to renew for 2023.

A heartfelt thank you to our members, donors and volunteers who support the work of **FOBG** and **Brookside Gardens**. Because of you, we look forward to a blooming 2023!





Please note that the “News from Brookside” column will return in the Winter 2023 issue of **The Brookside**.



## HOW IT WORKS

- Visit [www.getblooming.com](http://www.getblooming.com)
- Order your holiday decor online from BloomBox between **November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Shop from fresh wreaths, greenery, planters, trees & more
- Choose your delivery time
- BloomBox hand-delivers your decor to you
- **FOBG earns 15% of all sales** placed through our fundraising program

Use our unique code  
**BROOKGARD15**  
at checkout

**Open to everyone!**

# *An Overview of the FOBG Plant Sale 2022*

by Nithya Raghavan

The much-anticipated [FOBG's Fall Perennial Plant Sale](#) took place on September 10<sup>th</sup> on a glorious, sunny day with blue skies and low humidity! We could not have asked for better weather given our area's unpredictable thunderstorms and hot, sultry days. We opted to do a one-day sale, since based on our last year's turnout and popularity of the event, there were not enough plants to sell for a two-day sale. Thanks to the critical planning by the Plant Sale committee (**Joan O'Rourke, Kathy Kircher, Taffy Turner, and Nithya Raghavan**), the many volunteers that pitched in and the **Brookside** staff that helped with the arrangements – the plant sale was a huge success! The plants were outstanding, with more than 50% of the selections consisting of natives. There were 45 different perennials, 20 varieties of shrubs and 13 types of conifers consisting of a total of more than 1300 plants! Most of the plant selections were made based on the recommendations of Plant Sale lead **Joan O' Rourke** and Montgomery County Master Gardener **Taffy Turner**. The plant selections and information were available on the **FOBG** website for about two weeks so that folks could plan their shopping lists. Knowledgeable Master Gardeners and **Brookside Gardens'** staff were on the premises, helping the shoppers make sound decisions on their plant choices.

Once again, we ordered fully grown plants from a wholesaler, Quality Greenhouses & Perennial Farm Inc., Dillsburg, PA, who provided us with retail ready plants a few weeks prior to our plant sale. Once again, although purchasing fully mature plants has higher initial cost outlay per plant, by choosing our plants carefully, we kept the prices reasonable. Thus, we were able to provide high quality, mature plants in one-gallon pots at a much lower cost than retail. Since we ran out of plants early on at last year's sale,

we increased the number of each variety we purchased so that there would be an adequate supply for both the early **FOBG** members who come at 8 am and the general public who start coming in at 10 am.

The plants arrived at **Brookside Gardens** on September 17<sup>th</sup>, approximately 3.5 weeks prior to the sale and were tended by **FOBG** volunteers who took care of the watering and plant grooming. **Brookside Gardens'** staff were instrumental in transporting the plants to the sale area and the **FOBG** volunteers spearheaded by **Taffy Turner** helped in the set up on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, one day prior to the sale. As a benefit to our membership, the sale opened to **FOBG** members two hours prior to the public, as has been done in the past. Once again, the lines started forming at 7:30 am for the 8 am opening, but due to a larger plant inventory, we did not run out of plants. We listened to many of your comments and posts last year when the plants completely sold out by 1 pm, and we increased both the inventory and changed the closing time to 4 pm, thereby ensuring that everyone got their fair share of plant shopping.

Our gross sales for this year were about \$20,715 and since every dollar made from this sale benefits **Brookside Gardens**, we are delighted with the overwhelming success of this sale. We are also pleased with the number of people who joined **FOBG** to avail themselves of their 10% discount. Approximately 35 new members joined **FOBG** which is the highest we have had during a sale!

Long lines and wait times at the **Plant Sale** last year caused disgruntlement among the waiting **FOBG** members and public. We heard you and implemented new technology for the cashiering process this year. We switched to the popular **Square Platform** to accept credit card transactions. This was a

learning process for the **FOBG** volunteers and trainers who had never used this platform. Back end set up of the **Square Platform** and multiple training sessions for the entire volunteer cashiers helped promote a smooth process on the day of the sale. There were four credit card stations and one to accept cash and checks. Thus, there were no lines and only happy customers!! Thank you to all our cashiers for stepping up to this new challenge. Additionally, **Kathy Kircher** who is our organizer extraordinaire, came up with a novel and effective way for the plant sale line helpers to tally the pricing information based on the colored stakes for each product. With that in hand, tallying the prices at the cashiers took no time at all and **NO LONG LINES** occurred. As a sale incentive, people who bought plants for  $\geq \$150$  were given a free five gallon, environmentally friendly *Root Pouch* bag to grow plants.

Being a member of **FOBG** certainly has many benefits, such as early admission to the Plant Sale, 10% discount on the purchases, invitation to members only events, 10% discount at the **Brookside Gardens** gift shop, many **Brookside** classes and programs, and at select area nurseries. **Friends of Brookside**

**Gardens** thrives because of its members who understand the value of how their generosity aids in supporting the mission of **Brookside Gardens**. Please urge non-members to join **FOBG** so that we can all support and leave a legacy of natural beauty that is **Brookside Gardens**.

Once again, **FOBG** would like to thank its members, donors, the public, the **Brookside Gardens'** staff and **Montgomery Parks** for their overwhelming support of **FOBG's Perennial Plant Sale**. This sale not only supports **Brookside Gardens**, but also ensures that you enhance the beauty of your own home and garden with both environmental and pollinator friendly plant choices. We would also like to acknowledge the help and support we received from **Quality Greenhouses and Perennial Farms Inc.** for providing us with a great inventory of plants. **Thank you one and all for supporting FOBG's Fall Plant Sale 2022 and we look forward to seeing you in 2023!!**

For suggestions and comments, please email us at [friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com) OR go to our website at <http://www.friendsofbrooksidegardens.org/contact-us>.



**FOBG member Dick Hammerschlag with Plant Sale Banner**

# *FOBG 2022 Members Meeting*



**Anne Roland, FOBG President**



**Mike Riley, Stephanie Oberle, Brookside Director, and Phil Normandy**



**FOBG founding President, Joan O'Rourke**



**Guest Speaker, Kathy Stevens**



**FOBG members (All photos on this page provided by TimePoints Photography)**

# Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

## Oh (d), *Solidago*

It's not just a European tune, but an ode to the goldenrod genus as they glow in the autumn sun! *Solidago* is derived from the Latin and means "to make whole" referring to the plant's healing qualities (how are your kidneys?).

Goldenrods are a genus of over 100 species of herbaceous perennials in the Aster family and found in Zones 5-9. Often about three feet in height, they are a conspicuous plant, not just due to their autumn brilliance, but also because of abundance, great number of species and a wide range of habitats. Pretty easy to pick out when in flower (late summer-fall) as short-day plants, they may also be sorted by having alternate leaves. The flowers are commonly daisy-like, having distinguishable rays and disc flowers (but not always). The seeds/fruit are wind disseminated. Some common features used for identification include: habitat, whether leaves are mostly similar or differ in size from bottom to top, whether leaves are three-veined or not, degree of plant pubescence (hairiness), shape of flower heads, and even flower color (did you know there is one with



whitish blooms known as *Solidago bicolor* (Photo *S. bicolor*). Another characteristic is that some

flower in the leaf axils, not just at the top of the plant.

Some other factoids about goldenrods include that they do not cause hay fever. They are good for pollinators. Though not known as invasives in the U.S., they are invasive on other continents. You may see galls on goldenrods induced by butterfly larva. These in turn may be invaded by parasitoidal wasps who lay their eggs in the gall tissue and on the pre-existing larva.

Several *Solidagos* have been selected for garden use. Wife Freddi is fond of "Firecracker" (*S. rugosa*). I am a bit partial to the blue-stemmed goldenrod (*S. caesia*) that has clusters of flowers in the leaf axils but perhaps more important is often found in shady, woody areas (most goldenrods are sun loving).

What actually brought our attention to goldenrods for this article was the spectacular display seen in the 'cultivated' meadow at Longwood Gardens (Photo



Longwood). As with the massing of goldenrods, it was not just the brilliant flash of color, but the

myriad forms that we could pick out along the trails. The point is that although casually thought of as a 'roadside weed' by many, surely a number of species and cultivars definitely have a place to brighten our fall gardens (*i.e.*, *S. sempervirens*).

In this and future issues of [The Brooksider](#), we will provide a listing of upcoming FOBG sponsored events and Brookside Gardens adult programs. The list will be updated as information becomes available. We hope this will be helpful in planning how you can take advantage of all that Brookside Gardens has to offer. Additional offerings, such as children’s programs, art exhibits and excursions can be found at: [Cultivate](#).

Date	FOBG-Sponsored and Brookside Gardens Program Name	Course #
11/12/2022	Mixed Winter Container	PBG0064 300001
12/3/2022	Black Flora: Profiles of Inspiring Black Flower Farmers + Florists	PBG0070 400001
12/7/2022	Festive Fresh Wreaths	PBG0065 400001
12/8/2022	Festive Fresh Centerpieces	PBG0066 400001
12/14/2022	Garden After Dark: Holly Daze	PBG0068 400001
1/14/2023	Nature into Art: The Gardens of Wave Hill	PBG0071 400001
1/21/2023	Graphite Mastery*	PBG0076 400001
1/21/2023	Creative Custom Bird & Fairy Houses	PBG0073 400001
1/27/2023	Brookside Gardens Winter Tour**	PBG0061 400001
2/4/2023	Introduction to Plant Propagation – Tropical Houseplants	PBG0016 400001
2/11/2023	Everything You Wanted to Know About Pruning	PBG0063 400001
2/17/2023	GreenScapes Symposium‡	PBG0057 400001

- \* Program Meets Multiple Days
- \*\* Multiple Sessions Offered
- ‡ FOBG-Sponsored Program



Photo courtesy of Nithya Raghavan

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

**Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc. Board of Directors**

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*Happy Holidays*

