

The Brooksider

Published by

Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc.



Holiday Issue, 2012

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

The holiday season has just begun, and, for me, it's the time of year to think of all the people and places for which I am thankful.

On November 4 at our annual meeting, we had the opportunity to thank in person many of the Friends who have made it possible to help our gardens stay beautiful. We were treated to the music of the ensemble Painted Trillium, we enjoyed the refreshments organized by Diana Sullivan, and we were updated on the Brookside Gardens Master Plan by director Stephanie Oberle. Each FOBG member in attendance took home a door prize, thoughtfully organized by Gloria Sherman.

As this issue of the Brooksider goes to press, final preparations for our Holiday Green Sale are being made by Taffy Turner and Joanie Palmer, the chairs of the Holiday Greens committee. On the Monday after Thanksgiving, they plucked boxwood at the M-NCPPC Woodlawn facility. Then, their trusty crew constructed wreaths, greens centerpieces, and boxwood mini-trees. The final products are being sold on Saturday, December 1 from 9 to 4 at the Visitors Center. The next time you see Taffy and Joanie, let them know that you, as do I, appreciate their vision, execution, and hard work in making this sale an outstanding success.

Another hardworking director, Gloria Sherman, has just begun the preparations for the FOBG Orchid Show and Sale. It's scheduled for March 16 and 17 at the Visitors Center,



just in time for you to put some color in your life after the long gray winter. Please contact us by voicemail at 301-962-1435 or by email at friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com if you'd like to participate in the set-up or sales at this show.

We are in the process of finalizing the FOBG board for the next fiscal year, which begins on April 1, 2013. If you would like to be considered for a position on the board, please contact us by voicemail or email.

In this newsletter, you will find a list of contributors beyond the basic membership categories for the last fiscal year (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012). If you have contributed after the March 31, 2012 date, you will be listed next year. Thank you, Friends!

Finally, and most important, thank you for your continued support of Brookside Gardens. Please enjoy the holidays, and may your New Year be a happy and healthy one.

Barbara

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Something for Everyone at Marylandica!

The holidays come all too soon each year, and many of us leave gift shopping till the last minute. A quick trip to Marylandica, the gift shops at Brookside, can simplify your task and delight you with unexpected treasures. All the better if the friends, colleagues, and relatives on your list are nature lovers!



To decorate your Christmas tree with a nature theme, the heavy glass pine cones in gold, silver, green, or orange (\$6.95) would attract attention, sparkling with a reflective underlay. There's also a bright red strawberry (\$6.95), and the whimsical cloisonné squirrel

(\$22.95) could hang nearby. For a more elegant look, mistletoe ornaments in white or copper with glittering berries are punctuated by a crystal drop the size of a plum (\$13.95). To round out the nature theme on the tree, add some reindeer in clear



(\$16.95) or sparkly (\$5.95) acrylic. Enhance the winter mood with 5-inch clear snowflakes (\$5.95). For tree or table, you can find artfully decorated conical trees



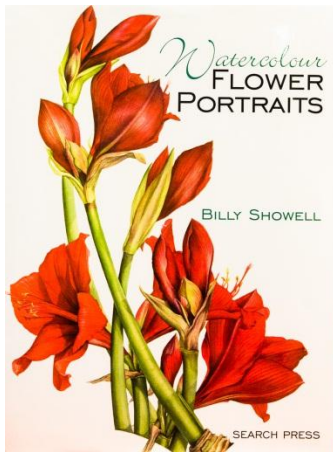
in red or green (\$15.95 for the 4-inch variety with a hanging loop) or gold and silver (\$8.95). The 8-inch or 10-inch versions (\$15.95 and \$22.95 respectively) come in a tall, thin style or a short, round style and have stable bases.

If you hurry, you can still get amaryllis bulbs, already sprouting and ready to bloom in a few weeks. The jumbo Red Lion and pink and white Apple Blossom are \$24.95, while smaller varieties are \$13.95. If growing live amaryllis isn't for you, why not pick up a cluster of realistic silk blooms? In red or pink tones at \$11.95, you can clip these amaryllis on a Christmas tree or set their long stems in a festive vase.



While we're still thinking of bulbs, Marylandica also has hyacinths in purple, white, or pink for \$1.98 and paperwhite bulbs for \$1.35. What about hyacinths outdoors this winter? It's not so far-fetched! You can "plant" a row of flower lights along your walkway for a different interpretation of holiday decorating. The tall hyacinths come individually boxed, can be used indoors or outdoors, and you can connect up to 10 sets. At \$14.95, they're available in white, red, green, peach, or lavender.

For serious gardeners, Marylandica offers useful and beautiful books. Especially intriguing – both for its photography and its botanical information – is *Seedheads in the Garden* (\$29.95), by Noel Kingsbury. The author conjures up eye-catching plants to give texture, shape, and delicate tone to your garden after the flowers have faded. An award-winner chosen by the American Horticultural Society is *Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide*, by C. Colston Burrell and Judith Knott Tyler (\$34.95). With all the new varieties now being developed, this book is sure to please lovers of these early spring flowers. If someone you know wants to try his or her hand at painting, the perfect gift would be *Watercolor Flower Portraits* by Billy Showell (\$35.00). This



attractive volume explains in detailed steps how to represent flowers' shapes and textures.

This season, you might think of special candles to anchor a centerpiece. Stout scented cylinders

from the Habersham Candle Company (\$23.95) come in a candy cane or peppermint drop design or in red / green / white layers with inclusions of natural seeds and berries. To accompany the botanical candles, Habersham makes scented wax vessels and spheres that do not burn. For a different look, the sparrow-shaped candles in red, cream, or slate grey (\$7.95) could form a small flock on mantel or table. Other candles, about six inches tall, are formed in the shape of pine trees and come in white or dark



green (\$14.95). In the gift shop at the North Conservatory, you'll find a whole box of tiny hive-shaped natural beeswax candles. Created in red, green, or white (\$1.50 apiece), each has a bee perched near the top. To hold traditional tall tapers, place a pair of silvery reindeer (\$34.95) on the table. For a bolder look, use one or two or three larger reindeer (\$26.95 each), accented by medium-sized and small cousins (\$15.95 and \$9.95), standing or lying down.



If someone on your gift list excels at flower arranging, you'll find vases and containers at Marylandica of glass, ceramic, and even wood. A detailed glass lily blossom the size of your palm (\$14.95) would be striking with a spray of red or silver berries and could be used year-round with dried or fresh flowers. The Wall Flower hanging vase (\$10.95) is just one of a variety of very small vases for a couple of buds or a single bloom. With its strong suction cup, it could brighten a breakfast nook or an office cubicle. A small scale and very handsome wood vase (\$18.95) has a glass insert to secure miniature irises or some button mums. Circle of Friends Glass Art in Rhode Island creates small hand blown vases in assorted sizes and colors such as aqua, amethyst, orange, yellow, and green (\$18.95-\$23.95). For



a somewhat larger arrangement in the oriental style, experiment with the simple folded slab ceramic container with a built-in kenzan or "frog" to hold flower stems secure (\$44.95).

Handmade by a US artist, the containers come



in natural earth tone glazes such as parchment and a soft blue-green.

To make flower arranging extra easy, you might choose the tiny boxed

set with vase and a selection of glass flowers and leaves, including one

with a lady bug (\$16.95). To accompany a gift or to give as a set, consider greeting cards with brilliant original photos by Daniel B. McNeill (\$3.95 each). Choose amaryllis, orchids, roses, or lilies.



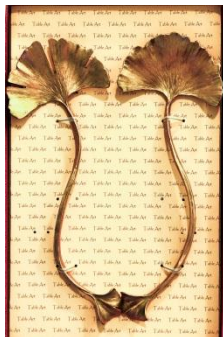
DON'T FORGET: FOBG MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT AT THE GIFT SHOPS!

Decorating the holiday table for a dinner,



brunch, or party always gives a special pleasure. To really make a statement – and generate plenty of compliments –

show off some of the magnificent hand cast Table Art serving pieces by Michael Michaud. The trivet of ginkgo leaves (\$69.95) would be stunning accompanied by the ginkgo leaf serving utensils (\$64.95 for the set). Equally striking are the grape leaf servers and the elegant trivet of bay leaves (\$69.95).



For a whimsical spirit, group a family of glass penguins in the center of the table (\$15.95 for the large and \$6.95 for the baby). If you prefer art glass that can grace the table year round, Tiffany style iridescent bowls look splendid in greens and blues shot with red or purple swirls with flashes of green. In tall or low styles (\$48.95), the hand



crafted pieces all contain ash from the Mt. St. Helens volcano eruption. On a free-form mirror in the center of a table or buffet, you could set several glass paperweights with magical interiors – a classic teardrop shape in shades of blue with floating air bubbles (small \$34.95, large \$44.95) or a fat spiral in greens and gold (\$22.95). For the richness and warmth of wood, the hand crafted pieces by Jim Oliver are just the answer. Based in Ellicott City, Oliver gathers his wood from



Brookside, McCrillis, and other gardens. This season, he's added small, practical pieces to his larger plates and bowls. You

might choose a small vase in cherry for a dried arrangement (\$40.00), a lunch-sized platter of Chinese oak (\$65.00), or a small bowl in curved sycamore (\$46.00).

If you're looking for a more personal gift for a guy who's a nature-lover or birder, you can't go wrong with a museum-quality silk tie covered with bright likenesses of familiar birds (\$26.95).



For the special female on your list, you might select a sterling silver butterfly pin, accented with fine cloisonné enamel in deep purple and mauve (\$94.95). Finding a holiday present



for a young boy or girl is easy at the North Conservatory's gift shop. Who wouldn't love brightly colored socks that are mismatched on purpose! Solute Sox are locally made, eco-friendly using 100% recycled yarns (\$19.95). And for fun from fingers to toes, team up the "sox" with "magic" gloves that stretch to any size and sport fingertips in primary colors (\$3.50). If your favorite young person is a budding gardener, encourage the



passion with child-scaled garden tools and garden gloves (\$6.95). Of course, garden gloves for grown-ups are just as practical, and Marylandica offers all-purpose, stretchy, padded gloves in green or rust (\$17.95). Best of all, they're machine washable. A longer style in a water-resistant fabric has dot-grip palms and comes in sky blue, red, purple, or green (\$22.95). If you're thinking of



waiting until spring to get back to your garden, why not liven it up now with a suet feeder shaped like a snowman's face (\$21.95)! Then sit back and watch from a window while the birds fly in for a feast.

For your holiday gift shopping, if it's something whimsical, practical, informative, or beautifully crafted, you'll find just what you're looking for at Marylandica. And remember: FOBG members get a 10% discount when you show your card at the register.

FOBG HOLIDAY GREENS SALE

Find a boxwood mini-tree, wreath, or centerpiece to bring natural beauty to your holiday decorations!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, FROM 9:00 – 4:00
In the Visitors' Center

WHO'S IN THE GARDEN?

PROFILE: ARTIST MARA BERMAN

A dab of vivid red. Another. And another, until the canvas is dotted with what will become a mass of petals. Propping the canvas on her knee as she paints in the formal garden, Mara Berman has just started another of her inspired



acrylic interpretations of Brookside's beauty. From spring through fall, Mara can be found on a bench with her paints and a handful of brushes, often toward day's end to take advantage of the long, golden light. Now in winter, she takes stock of the past seasons' paintings and dreams of what next spring will bring.

Mara never considered *not* being a painter. She began painting at age four and says it must be due to her artistic genes. Both parents were in the arts and encouraged her passion. Later, school shaped her natural talent, while she worked on a BA in studio art. For her creative process, Mara says she starts a painting by observing her surroundings – the colors of a sunset, or of leaves or flowers – and then “by stepping into the universal flow of energy.” As she explains it, “The act of painting outdoors, or in-

doors with an abstract inward environment, evolves into reaching inside the mind to bring creative intensity of color and new paths of compositions.”

When she was 18, Mara came to Brookside with a painting class. But soon after that, she turned to abstracts. It wasn't until 2009 / 2010 that she returned to Brookside to paint with a new eye. Since she lives nearby, Mara visits often, not just to paint, but also to walk in the gardens and to meditate. She says, “When I come here and start walking through the gardens, I feel like a queen! It's like being a member of royalty to be surrounded by so much beauty.” She adds, “In my own back yard, if the plants get moldy or if the flowers die mid-summer, I don't worry too much about it. I can come to Brookside. We all share that proprietary feeling of being a part of Brookside Gardens.” In spring, Mara favors the azaleas; in early summer, the roses; in fall, the black-eyed susans and the brilliant colors of the trees. But in winter, Mara says Brookside is a “real gift”: the winter sweet, the witch hazels, then the early flowering plums, the beds of hel-lebores...“By late winter, I feel as though everything is blooming!”



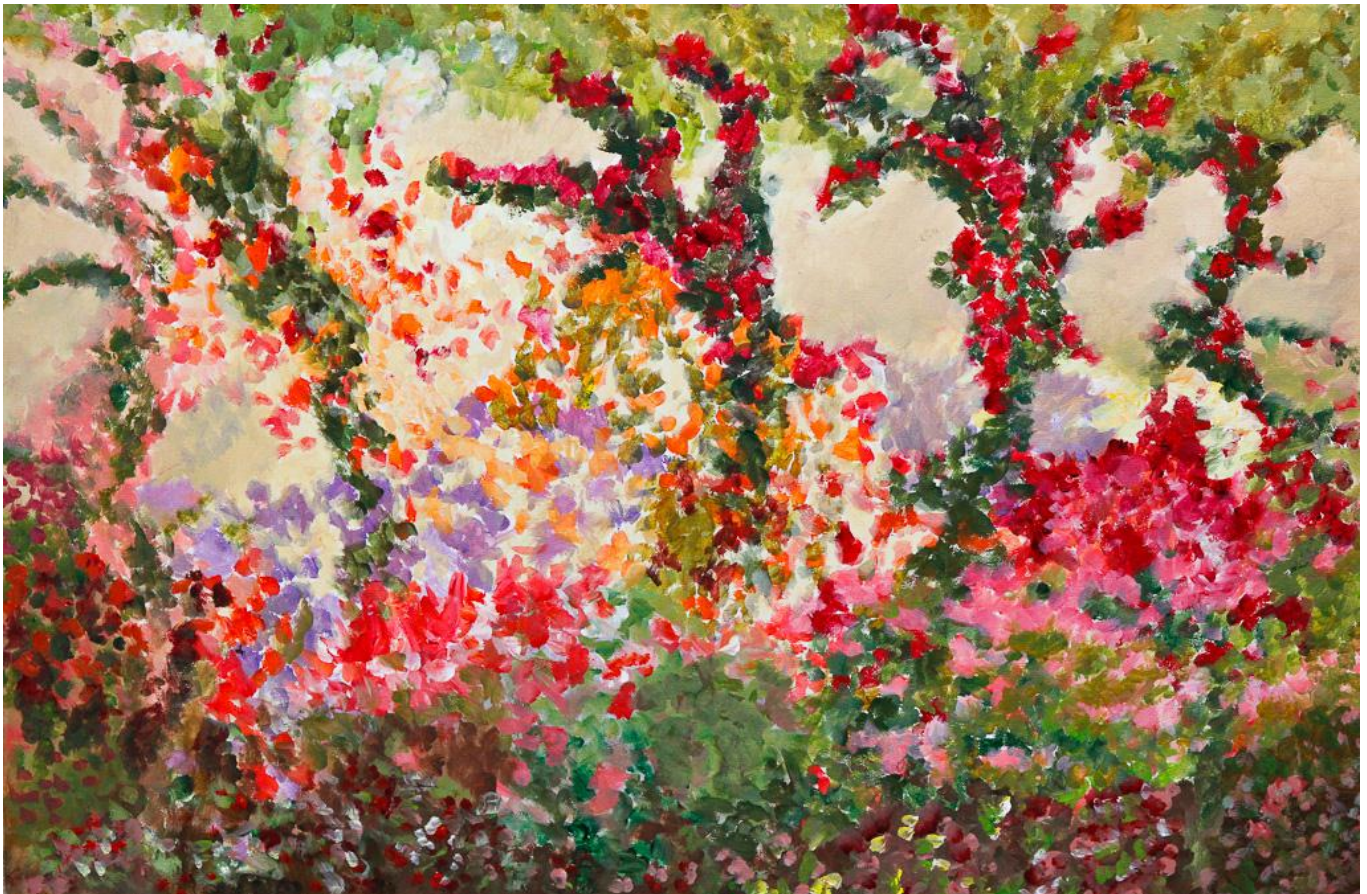
Mara's paintings convey a liveliness and a cheerful sense of freedom, reflecting in a certain way her eye for abstraction. She says she "goes for bigger movement" and doesn't agonize over tiny, polished details. She looks to absorb and then communicate the "most" of a subject, creating a composition that's very full and that pulls the viewer's eye into the play of color against color.



From spending so much time at Brookside and studying the gardens from a painter's perspective, Mara has some suggestions. She'd love to see more flowering trees and especially a cherry blossom walk, perhaps near the tea house. She can envision a painter's approach to the plantings in the upper formal garden, a bold use of pattern and color to unify the space organically.

Right now, Mara's not painting outdoors. But in the spring, you can find her on many an afternoon, canvas set at an angle in her lap, water jar nearby, and brushes busy interpreting Brookside's beauty.

For more information about Mara Berman's paintings, please contact the editors of The Brooksider by email at friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com.



START PLANNING NOW!
“Holidays and the Garden”
FOBG Silent Auction
November 9, 2013

FOBG members and garden lovers take note: Next year, if you're looking for an item for your garden, a bit of nature to bring indoors, or just something special for the holidays, you'll be sure to find a treat that appeals to you at the FOBG Holidays and the Garden Silent Auction. It will be held on the evening of November 9, 2013 at the Visitors' Center. We've planned the auction to take place during the holiday season and to reflect the spirit of Brookside Gardens, and so we've chosen the theme as "Holidays and the Garden."

In the coming months, FOBG will be collecting items for the auction. Freddi Hammerschlag, who co-chairs the auction with Barbara Waite-Jaques, explains that we are using a theme to give a focus to the types of donations that will be auctioned. We took a similar approach for our very successful 2009 silent auction. Potential donations include anything from new garden items, to fine nature books, to art work, to certificates for landscape advice or to restaurants, or even to tickets for the theater or sports events. We will accept donations from florists, garden/landscape centers, and other local businesses... and the donation of a vacation home

for a week or weekend would be welcome. Opportunities to donate are open to the general public as well as to FOBG members. Past donors have included individuals, garden clubs, and businesses.

The proceeds from the auction will benefit FOBG's core efforts to support the plantings and programs at Brookside Gardens. In addition, they will help us fund Brookside's Master Plan to improve and update the gardens. This source of funding is increasingly important in these times of shrinking budgets for parks projects.

FOBG members can expect to see flyers in the coming months posted at Brookside Gardens and then distributed to the public. FOBG supporters are encouraged to spread the word and to help make the Holidays and the Garden Silent Auction become our most successful auction yet.

Individuals or groups who are interested in donating items for the auction can leave a message at the FOBG voicemail, 301-962-1435, or send an email to:

friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com .

Contributions Received April 1, 2011 thru March 31, 2012

Contributors

Alderks, Cathie
Alpert, Ruth
Anderson, William & Jane
Atlee, Anne
Auerbach, Margery
Barnes, Bruce
Beadle, Brent
Beaulieu, Andrew
Bennett, B C
Berg, Jane
Bigford, Thomas
Bishop, Ethelyn
Blackford, Juliet
Borodinsky, Michelle R
Bosworth, Barry
Brathauer, Ann D
Bruce, Marney
Buchbinder, Rona
Butler, William & Anna-Marie
Cain, Karen M
Churchill, Betty
Cianci, Marlene
Coates, Paul
Cochran, Betty
Cole, Eileen
Cook, Elaine
Cowan, Carrol
Crocetta, Jacqueline
Cunningham, Edward
Cutlip, James
Dinwoodie, John & Christine
Dunn, Barbara
Engler, Renata
Fee, Florence C
Foster, Joan
Franklin, Jude
Freishtat, Sheryl & Steve
Fuller, Jef & Kim
Galen, Barbara A
Gish, Donald
Glocklin, Vera
Goldman, Aileen
Hahn, Carl
Hammond, John
Hardman, Anne
Herson, Jay & Linda
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Hyatt, Judy
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Koppes, William
Korvick, Joyce
Krajeski, Patricia D
Krishna, Gouri
Krzek, Dr Donald
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Novak, Roman
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Owsley, Beverly
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Paley, Louis
Pechacek, Helen
Petersen, Eunice
Postman, Martin & Marcia
Primack, Karen
Qubeka, Nomvuyo
Raphael, Coleman
Rappolt, Lydia
Rawcliffe, Thomas
Read, Elizabeth
Reilly, Lynette
Ridgway, Whitman H
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Shepherd, Beth
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Stonebraker, Nobuko
Sullivan, Robert

Taylor, Gail
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Moran, Meryl
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Society
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Nordahl, Karen
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Polk, Sarah
Raghavan, Nithyakalyani
Randa, Nancy E
Reed, Arthur
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Salisbury, Carolyn
Satrom, Heather & John
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Schwarz, Roger & Barbara
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Smith, P A C
Snyder, Edward L
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Thomas, Betsy W
Thompson, Kathleen
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With this holiday issue of *The Brooksider*, co-editor Coriolana Simon bids farewell to her newsletter position. She has greatly enjoyed taking *The Brooksider* to a new level and thanks FOBG members for their encouragement.

*Happy holidays and best wishes
for beautiful gardens in 2013!*

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

Friends of Brookside Gardens Inc. Board of Directors

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