

# Cultivate

Spring &  
Summer  
2025

Bloom with  
Brookside Gardens!



MontgomeryParks.org  
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL  
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION



## Brookside Gardens

1800 Glenallan Avenue  
Wheaton, Maryland 20902  
BrooksideGardens.org

### Hours

Gardens: Sunrise–Sunset

Conservatories: Mar. 1–Oct. 31:  
10:00 am–5:00 pm  
Nov. 1–Feb. 28  
10:00 am–4:00 pm

Visitor Center: Mar. 1–Oct. 31:  
9:00 am–5:00 pm  
Nov. 1–Feb. 28  
9:00 am–4:00 pm

### Accessibility

MoCoParks.org/BG-Accessibility

### Master Gardeners – Plant Clinics at Brookside Gardens

April–Nov.: Wednesdays 10:00 am–1:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am–1:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00–4:00 pm

### The Shop at Brookside Gardens Through February 28:

Tues.–Thurs. 10:00 am–3:30 pm  
Sat.–Sun. 10:00 am–3:30 pm  
Closed Mondays and Fridays

### Starting March 1:

Daily 10:00 am–4:30 pm

### McCrillis Gardens

6910 Greentree Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

### Friends of Brookside Gardens

1800 Glenallan Avenue  
Wheaton, Maryland 20902  
FriendsofBrooksideGardens.org

**Cover:** *Calliandra haematocephala* (Scarlet Powder Puff Tree)

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# Letter from the Director:



Brookside Gardens has been open to the public free of charge for its entire 55-year history. All members of our community and beyond are welcomed to visit and enjoy the beauty of the carefully crafted designs and meticulously maintained plants, often drawing inspiration for their own landscapes. However, we can always do better, and so have been consciously improving in the areas of accessibility and inclusion. As you will read on page 8, over the past year our Community Engagement Fellow researched ways to serve individuals with disabilities, developing a very successful and joyful event that celebrated artists of all abilities.

She also explored IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) initiatives at other similar facilities, generating ideas for the Gardens to pursue in the future. In addition, we are in the process of strategic planning, with an emphasis on the themes embodied in the IDEA movement. We hope to complete our strategic plan this spring, resulting in an assortment of new ideas for growing and improving the Gardens in the coming years.

Our summer camps, led by experienced garden educators, provide children a variety of outdoor education opportunities that accommodate a diversity of learning styles. A low ratio of campers to staff allows Brookside Gardens to provide an inclusive space that cultivates a love of nature and a sense of teamwork. We acknowledge that some visitors may be overwhelmed by crowds and noise at our public events. One solution we offer is a sensory tent, where those who need a break from the action can find peace and quiet along with some calming activities.

Physically, we are continually striving to improve the ways our visitors navigate the gardens, overcoming barriers wherever possible. In the Visitor Center, an existing restroom was enlarged to accommodate families and individuals who may need assistance, as well as offering a gender-neutral option. You may notice a new feature in the Gude Garden: the new Viewing Platform overlooks the large pond and provides broad views of the landscape. This new garden area was designed specifically to allow all visitors to view the Gude Garden from a perspective that feels very similar to that of the Japanese Tea House, without having to navigate rocky steps. See more about this feature on page 7.

We welcome all to Brookside Gardens and hope this special place continues to provide peace, comfort, beauty, and inspiration as it has for more than half a century.

Happy Gardening!

**Stephanie Oberle**

*Director, Brookside Gardens*



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# Staff Updates



**Eric Evans** is the new horticulturist responsible for the Parking Garden and areas surrounding the Visitor Center. Before doing a residency at Chanticleer Garden, he was a horticulturist at the San Diego Botanic Garden and got his start in historic gardens in Annapolis. As a “plant-blind” person for much of his life, he came to horticulture after an academic background in philosophy, classics, comparative literature, and

the history of math and science, and now plants inform his work. He is committed to sharing his love of plants and the art of garden making, and creating conversations about what we ask our gardens to do. He is particularly interested in marrying the artistic and technical sides of horticulture to forge new creativity and tell new kinds of stories in plants.



**Gabrielle (Gigi) Gilliam** joined Brookside Gardens as the wellness and advancement program specialist in August. She is a community wellness and social justice advocate with a deep love for nature. She has years of experience managing food access and farmer support programs, as well as yoga and mindfulness education across a wide range of demographics and environments. Gigi went to a Quaker school for K-12

schooling and attributes her love of mindfulness, justice, and simplicity to that aspect of her education. She received her undergraduate degree from University of Delaware and moved to the DMV soon after. She enjoys hiking, trying new restaurants, and learning about holistic health.



**Karl Quimby** is the new horticulturist at McCrillis Gardens, Brookside Gardens’ satellite garden in Bethesda. Karl is a lifelong gardener and career horticulturist with a passion for woody plants and urban ecology. He began his career at American Plant in Bethesda, then went on to study horticulture and arboriculture at Penn State University. Since graduating in 2011, he has worked across the country, learning the palettes and

peculiarities of many unique ecosystems, including Denver, New York City, Southern California, and Piedmont. But the Mid-Atlantic is still his favorite. On weekends, you can find him fly fishing the nearest river or taking a long afternoon nap with his cats.



**Carlos Rodriguez** is Brookside Gardens’ new conservatory horticulturist. Carlos was born in Mexico and moved to the US when he was seven. He has always loved the outdoors, but initially pursued medicine, studying biology in college. His senior year he made the change to horticulture and joined the Longwood Gardens Professional Horticulture Program. He loves nature and often tries to find reptiles, amphibians,

and birds when he is outside. He loves working on crafts like knitting, painting, and enjoys playing instruments in his spare time.

# New Directions in the Conservatory



**Before**

Brookside Gardens' historic conservatory has been undergoing a series of exciting transformations, and there are more on the way! With fresh perspective, we are looking to the future by maximizing the potential of our gardens under glass. This begins with clear intentions for the space. Our primary objectives include conservation, education, and the creation of extraordinary visual displays. Because we have a relatively small area to work within, we must be deliberate in allocating space for each of these objectives. For instance, the west wall of the North Conservatory has long been used for rotating seasonal displays of annual plants. However, after examining the ways in which those temporary displays were negatively impacting the health of our permanent plantings, we decided to move all seasonal displays exclusively into the South Conservatory. A new design for this area will be installed early in 2025 which will grant us the space to showcase rare tropical and subtropical species that match the climactic needs of the rest of the garden, enhancing the health and value of our permanent collections.

This innovation allows us the opportunity to start building upon collections of plant families that we will rotate on and off display at different times of the year. Curating these collections means choosing plants that are not only aesthetically pleasing, but that also hold importance in terms of conservation and our growing educational narrative around them. One such collection is of Orchid species. For this collection, we've had the exciting opportunity to partner with the US Botanic Garden, Smithsonian Gardens, and Longwood Gardens. Collaboration between botanical institutions is important, not only



**After**

for the shared knowledge, but it also means an increased likelihood of success in conserving threatened and endangered species when sharing germplasm and keeping species growing in multiple locations.

Thoughtfully redesigning existing conservatory areas to replicate climactic regions from around the world is another transition you may have already noticed. Replacing existing soil with different types of growing media for improved root health in different plant species, and then placement of the chosen plants to create naturalistic vignettes will help us to educate our visitors on how these exotic plants may be found growing in their native habitats. (See the before and after photos of our prehistoric bed above).

Additionally, we believe that creating rich, immersive environments to support the health of our plants also complements and supports human health. When our visitors escape the chill in the air and sit to listen to the flowing waterfall, or observe dazzling flowers from around the world, they may feel the proven benefits of sensory experiences in nature, including reduced effects of stress, anxiety, and depression. Providing this wonderful resource for our community gives us a tremendous amount of pride. And so, we shall press on, always trying to improve upon our lovely conservatory as our way of impacting the world for the better.

**Raymond Carter**, *Conservatory Manager*





## A Rock Ballad

Earlier this year, a few rocks appeared in the Idea Garden. And if you've visited recently, you know that's an understatement! The idea was to create an environment to sustain plants adapted to cramped, dry conditions. With this goal in mind, a gritty, sandy, friable soil mix was placed between the rocks as growing medium. As the area develops, we are planning a four-season display of plant species from barrens, mountaintops, and even temperate deserts.

Inspiration for the rock garden design came from the Shenandoah Mountains and Great Falls National Park in Maryland. The crevice section was constructed using techniques from *The Crevice Garden* by Kenton Seth and Paul Spriggs. For large boulder placement we took inspiration from Zen gardens that originated in Japan. Side by side, these were potentially discordant styles; however, by using stone from the same local quarry and lining up the strata, we unified the design.

For the first season, we chose to display a mix of colorful but tender succulents like: *Euphorbia tirucalli* 'Sticks on Fire', *E. milii*, *E. trigona* 'Rubra', *Echeveria runyonii* and *Aloe dorotheae*. Though the temporary summer display of cold-sensitive plants was fun, we are replacing them with perennial chasmophytes (plants that grow in cracks and crevices of rocks) and cold hardy succulents. Once the permanent plants take root, we are looking forward to a display with more aesthetic, ecological and educational value.

The prospective plant list includes: *Opuntia davisii* x *kleinii* 'Golden Lion', *Echinocereus triglochidiatus* v. *gonacanthus* 'White Sands', *Asphodeline taurica*, *Yucca gloriosa* 'Spotted Tiger', *Eriogonum allenii* 'Little Rascal', *Iris cristata*, *Agave ovatifolia*, *Scutellaria resinosa* 'Smoky Hills' and more. Though it was difficult to miss a whole growing season that could have been used to get a head start establishing these plants, this planned delay was helpful for a number of reasons.

A year of observation using temporary plants gave us an opportunity to correct and better prepare the area for the perennials. This fall, we excavated several sections and incorporated an additional 10 - 20% calcined clay pellets into the mix for better drainage. The original mix was too dense for cold, winter moisture and may have resulted in continually saturated soil, which is the leading cause of damage to these dry-loving plants.

The **Potomac Valley Chapter (PVC)** of the **North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)** was very generous with sharing knowledge and plants. This ongoing experiment has been fun and informative, and we are looking forward to the continued evolution of the rock garden.

If you enjoy xeric or chasmophytic plants but aren't quite ready to take a trip to the Mohave, Sahara or Alps, there are local alternatives. Here are a few: The shale barrens of **Green Ridge State Forest** (in Flintstone, MD); **Great Falls National Park's** Billy Goat Trail; **Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area** (in Owings Mills); and the desert house at the **U.S. Botanic Garden** (in Washington, DC). Also, please make a trip to the new xeric bed in the conservatory and the new rock garden by the upper aquatic pond at Brookside Gardens. Check in with PVC-NARGS for more information (<https://pvc-nargs.org/>).

**A. Thomas Crawley**, *Horticulturist 1*



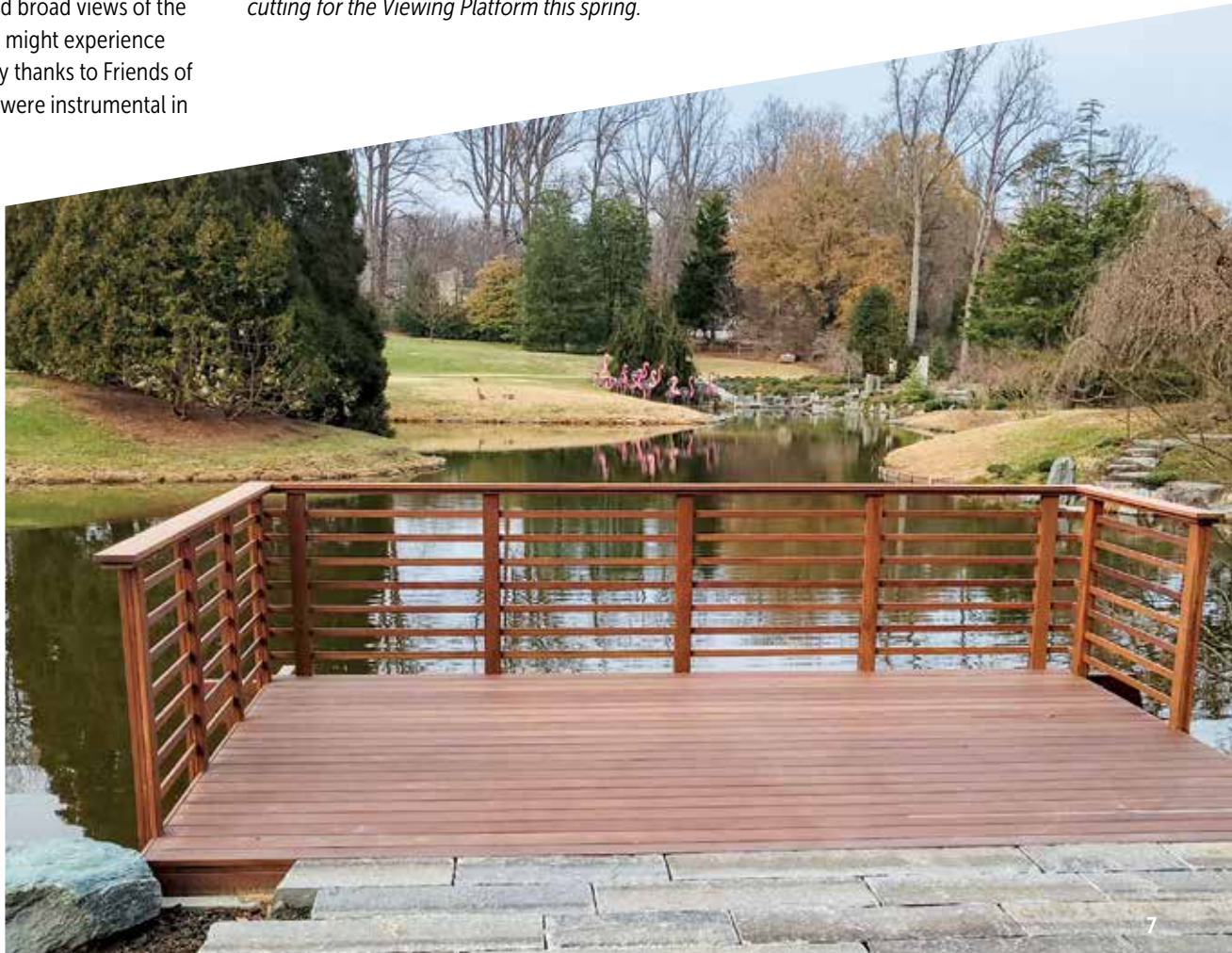
# New Gude Garden Feature

Longtime Brookside Gardens friend and supporter, Joan O'Rourke, generously donated funds to create the new Gude Garden Viewing Platform. This garden feature was developed to provide an experience similar to the Japanese Tea House on Gude Garden Island. The original design of the island and the Tea House prevents visitors with limited mobility from fully accessing these garden elements. However, with Joan's thoughtful gift, Parks' landscape designer, Ching-Fang Chen designed a new destination that features ipe wood decking overlooking the Gude Garden pond. Ipe is a sustainably harvested wood that is extremely strong and resilient, not to mention, beautiful! Large flat stones provide a striking, yet accessible, path to the deck, and new plantings surround the space. Visitors to the Viewing Platform will enjoy views of the pond, its inhabitants (including many turtles and fish, not to mention birds, like the great blue heron!), and broad views of the Gude Garden, just as one might experience from the Tea House. Many thanks to Friends of Brookside Gardens, who were instrumental in

securing a donor for this project. In addition, our fundraising partner, the Montgomery Parks Foundation facilitated the contract with the craftsmen who created this remarkable feature.

Joan O'Rourke was the founding president of the Friends of Brookside Gardens. She volunteered in many roles at the Gardens, including children's programs, the production greenhouses (in fact, Joan donated the O'Rourke Production Greenhouse, which opened in 2018!), and teaching in the adult education section, where she amassed a large following of dedicated students.

*Sadly, Joan passed away in December 2024. Her staunch and unwavering support of Brookside Gardens are a legacy that will be deeply appreciated by staff and visitors for many years to come. She will be sorely missed. We will honor Joan's memory with a ribbon-cutting for the Viewing Platform this spring.*







## Reflections on Brookside Gardens' Community Outreach Fellowship

November 2024 marked the conclusion of my year-long fellowship on accessibility at Brookside Gardens. Reflecting on the past year, my favorite parts of the fellowship were reaching out to community organizations that serve individuals with disabilities to develop engagement projects and researching I.D.E.A. (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) initiatives at other public gardens and nature centers.

I enjoyed visiting sensory trails and gardens throughout the Greater Washington area. These spaces are designed to engage one or more of the five senses: sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. One space that stood out, Patapsco Valley State Park's Sensory Trail in Ellicott City, showcases accessible educational and interactive features, such as tactile signage like braille, raised lettering, illustrations, and vertical musical instruments for both standing and sitting visitors, along with raised herb beds. These elements come together to create a lasting multisensory experience for all visitors.

As I was developing ideas for programs to engage the organizations I contacted, I realized many of these organizations are art-based. With this in mind, I considered creating an event that involves different art mediums, connecting to a variety of interests. This led me to organize Brookside Gardens' first *Poetry and Music Open Mic* that highlighted musicians, writers, and poets with disabilities.

The event had a great turnout and was filled with wonderful stories, poetry, and music from artists of all abilities.

These and other experiences made the fellowship an amazing learning experience. I traveled to different public gardens, participated in behind-the-scenes tours, spoke to Brookside Gardens' visitors, volunteers, staff and learned just how important Brookside Gardens is to the surrounding community. I was also able to speak to accessibility coordinators from several other cultural institutions and see firsthand their dedication to making their institutions more inclusive for people of all backgrounds and abilities. It has been an honor to be a small part of that mission for Brookside Gardens this past year.

**Mary Joy Mulumba**, *Community Outreach Fellow*





# Thank You Donors!

The Montgomery Parks Foundation and the Friends of Brookside Gardens would like to thank all the generous donors to Brookside Gardens from December 15, 2023 – June 1, 2024. Your gifts have been invaluable in providing resources, programming, and additional support to the Gardens. To learn more about making a donation to support Brookside Gardens, please visit [MontgomeryParksFoundation.org/donate-now/](https://MontgomeryParksFoundation.org/donate-now/) or [FriendsOfBrooksideGardens.org](https://FriendsOfBrooksideGardens.org)

## GENERAL SUPPORT

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## PROGRAM SUPPORT

**Children's Day**  
Friends of Brookside Gardens

## Community Outreach Fellowship

Friends of Brookside Gardens

## Garden Railway Exhibit

Friends of Brookside Gardens

## Greenscapes

John Courtney  
Vince Drader  
Lila Fendrick Landscape Architecture  
Friends of Brookside Gardens  
Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Assoc.  
Swamp Rose Cooperative LLC  
Takoma Horticultural Club

## Lecture Series

Friends of Brookside Gardens

## Seasonal Garden Staff

Friends of Brookside Gardens

## Summer Internship

Friends of Brookside Gardens

## Summer Twilight Concert Series

Friends of Brookside Gardens

## Harry Dewey Memorial Garden

Tom Comstock

## TREE TRUST

**In Memory of Donald Edward Hill**  
Joseph Gallelli

**In Memory of Joseph Begg**  
John & Annie Silk

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

**In Memory of Nina L. Adler**  
Carole Kuritzky

**In Honor of Cynthia Gewain**  
Rock View Elementary School

**In Appreciation of Jen Gibbons**  
Sandy Kingsley

**In Memory of Gene & Marilyn Ruth Hinman**  
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**In Memory of Larry Kern**  
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**In Memory of Alan Marx**  
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Barbara Schwarz  
Gloria Sherman  
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**In Celebration of Joyce Waugh**  
Linda Eisenstadt

## TRIBUTE BENCHES

**In Memory of Martha Bennett**  
Francois Bikamba

**In Memory of Prof. Komala Venigalla**  
Naveena Hemanth

**In Memory of Bunny & Marty Greenberg**  
Terrie Lynn Rosengarden

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Fred Schlesinger

**In Memory of Maria E. Scott**  
Shirlea North

**In Memory of Keith A. Searls**  
Sallee Garner

**In Honor of John H. Waite**  
The Waite Family





### ❖ DC Environmental Film Festival – Screening & Panel Discussion

*Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens*

**Saturday | April 5 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**FREE; registration required**

**#PBG0134 100001**

#### **Auditorium**

Brookside Gardens and the DC Environmental Film Festival partner to present a screening of *Family Tree*. This new documentary highlights the stories of two Black families fighting to preserve their land while balancing economic potential with environmental protection. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion of experts exploring the conservation challenges of protecting forests and their role in fighting climate change.

### ❖ Brookside Gardens Plant Sale

**Sunday | April 27 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

#### **South Terrace**

Get a head start on spring gardening! You'll appreciate the high-quality perennials, shrubs, and small trees grown at Montgomery Parks' Pope Farm and local nurseries. Enjoy a wide selection of plants, including native ecotypes, and get expert advice from staff horticulturists. Proceeds support ongoing efforts to beautify Brookside Gardens.

### Shakespeare in the Garden – A Comedy of Errors

**Tuesday | July 1 | 7:00 – 8:45 pm**

**\*Rain date: Wednesday | July 2**

**7:00 – 8:45 pm**

**FREE; no registration required**

Delight in the Gude Garden's transformation into an open-air theatre, where you'll embark on a journey filled with shipwrecks, mistaken identities, and above all, the power of family. Whether you're new to Shakespeare or a practiced pedant, this play offers something for everyone! Bring a picnic or enjoy a meal from the on-site food truck.

### Plant Society Shows & Sales

#### **Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley Camelia Show & Sale**

**Show: Saturday | March 29 | 1:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Sale: Saturday | March 29 | 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

#### **Silver Spring Garden Club Garden Mart**

**Saturday | May 10 | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

#### **Northern Virginia Daylily Society Daylily Show**

**Sunday | June 29 | 1:00 – 4:00 pm**

### National Capital Cactus and Succulent Society

#### **Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale**

**Saturday | August 2 | 12:00 – 4:00 pm**

### Art Exhibits and Sale\*

Brookside Gardens Visitor Center

See inside front cover for hours.

#### **Takoma ARTery | Mixed Media**

**January 27 – March 24**

#### **Washington Watercolor Association | Watercolor Painting**

**March 24 – May 5**

#### **Olney Art Association | Multimedia**

**May 5 – June 16**

#### **Botanica | Botanical Illustrations Botanical Art Society of the National Capital Region**

**June 16 – July 28**

#### **Bruce Campbell | Oil Painting William Michaels | Nature Photography**

**July 28 – September 8**

\*Visit [BrooksideGardens.org](http://BrooksideGardens.org) under *Special Events* for updates on art receptions!



## Summer Twilight Concert Series

*Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens*

**Tuesdays in June | 6:30 – 8:00 pm | Free; no registration required | Visitor Center Lawn**

Dance the night away with this series of musical performances set in the beauty of the Gardens! Bring your friends and family, and don't forget your chairs, blankets, and picnics (allowed in the Gardens on concert evenings only). Alcoholic beverages of any kind are prohibited. Food trucks will also be available for your dining pleasure.

#### **Zydeco Hot Peppers**

*Luisiana Blues, Zydeco*

**Tuesday | June 3**

#### **David Bach Consort**

*World Contemporary/Jazz*

**Tuesday | June 10**

#### **Moose Jaw**

*Bluegrass*

**Tuesday | June 17**

#### **René Ibañez & Cubano Groove**

*Latin/Cuban*

**Tuesday | June 24**





## REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 18

### VIRTUAL, LIVE CLASSES

**V** This symbol indicates classes that are offered virtually as live, online webinars through the Zoom platform with audience Q & A. After registering, a link will be emailed to you 24 hours prior to the live webinar. Recordings will be made available to students. Please ensure your Active Montgomery account is updated with your correct email address.

### FRIENDS OF BROOKSIDE GARDENS (FOBG) DISCOUNTS

Look for special FOBG program pricing on many adult classes for members of the Friends of Brookside Gardens, a nonprofit organization established to support the mission of the Gardens. For information about joining the Friends of Brookside Gardens, visit [www.FriendsofBrooksideGardens.org](http://www.FriendsofBrooksideGardens.org) or call 301-962-1400 to request a brochure.

### SPECIAL FOCUS TRACKS

Look for the following symbols highlighting specific tracks designed to offer more in-depth educational opportunities:

- ★ **Sustainability Programs** – a focus on making our homes and gardens “greener.”
- ✿ **Gardener’s Focus** – for experienced gardeners who want to increase their knowledge through advanced cultivation and management techniques.
- ◆ **Landscape Design** – for those wishing to develop skills to compose beautiful and functional garden spaces through the artful juxtaposition of plants and hardscape elements.
- ✿ **Earth Month Programming** – Celebrate Earth Month with Brookside Gardens and learn ways to protect our environment.

## Speaker Series

*Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens*  
**Programs free; registration required**

Each year Brookside Gardens welcomes nationally and internationally well-known horticulturalists, botanists, authors, and speakers to explore a wide range of topics.

**V ★ Cultivating a Sustainable Future: Cornell Botanic Gardens’ Native Lawn**  
**Thursday | March 20 | 7:00 – 8:30pm**  
**FREE | #PBG0176 100001**

*Todd Bittner, Director of Natural Areas, Cornell Botanic Gardens & Lecturer, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University*  
Traditional turfgrass lawns offer no native biodiversity, are sources of air and water pollution, and require significant maintenance. Bittner will discuss a visionary lawn paradigm shift – one where lush, low-growing native grasses and forbs take center stage. We will

explore the journey behind Cornell Botanic Gardens’ native lawn, from its inception to the multitude of benefits it brings, and the invaluable lessons it can teach us.

**✿ The Lost Trees of Willow Avenue: A Story of Climate and Hope on One American Street**

**Wednesday | April 16 | 7:00 – 8:30pm**  
**FREE | #PBG0177 100001**  
**Auditorium**

*Mike Tidwell, Executive Director of Chesapeake Climate Action Network*  
Join Tidwell as he shares insights from his latest book that explores the growing impacts of climate change on his one urban block in Takoma Park, Maryland. A love letter to the magnificent oaks and other trees dying from record heat waves and bizarre rain, Tidwell’s story depicts the neighborhood’s battle to save the trees and combat climate change.

**Piecing Together Nature’s Puzzle - The Interconnectedness of the Natural World**  
**Saturday | May 3 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**  
**FREE | #PBG0183 100001**

### Auditorium

*Alonso Abugattas, Natural Resources Manager, Arlington County Parks & founder, The Capital Naturalist*

Join Abugattas for an interesting examination of how pieces of the “nature puzzle” fit together, focusing on our native flora and wildlife. You will be amazed at the interdependency of plants, fungi, insects, wildlife and even humans. We will look at host plants, oligolectic bees, ethnobotany, and other wildlife interactions. You will not look at our natural world the same way again!

## Local Field Trips

**✿ Rachel Carson Conservation Park – Spring Tour**

**Thursday | April 10 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**\$30 | FOBG \$27 | #PBG0086 100001**

### Meet at Rachel Carson Conservation Park

*Ryan Colliton, vegetation ecology & management unit leader, Montgomery Parks*  
Enjoy the peak of spring ephemerals as you stroll through woodlands vibrantly leafing out. You’ll appreciate the rich biodiversity of native plant specimens including Virginia bluebells, wild geranium, rue anemone, mayapple, Solomon’s seal and ferns. Bring binoculars to see the wonderful variety of birds including warblers, hawks, woodpeckers, and thrushes!

### Pope Farm Native Plant Production Tour

**Monday | June 9 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**\$30 | FOBG \$27 | #PBG0135 200001**

**Address and parking logistics will be sent after registration.**

*Rochelle Bartolomei, native plant program manager, Pope Farm*  
Enjoy this behind-the-scenes tour of Montgomery Parks’ production facility that grows more than 60,000 native plants annually. See how staff responsibly collect seed from over 200 native ecotype plants and then clean, prepare and store for future growing. Learn how these plants benefit important initiatives ranging from habitat restoration projects to local plant sales.





## Rachel Carson Conservation Park – Summer Tour

**Tuesday | July 15 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am**  
**\$30 | FOBG \$27 | #PBG0086 200001**

**Meet at Rachel Carson Conservation Park**

*Ryan Colliton, vegetation ecology & management unit leader, Montgomery Parks*

Rachel Carson was a pioneering environmentalist who called Montgomery County home. Explore her namesake park to learn how Montgomery Parks' restoration projects protect these natural habitats. Journey through colorful meadows housing native perennials like beebalm and black-eyed Susan while discovering a prime example of a chestnut oak forest. Prepare for this active hike with sturdy shoes and a water bottle!

## Garden Tours

**Registration required for all tours.**

### Azalea & Rhododendron Tour

**Wednesday | April 23 | 1:00 – 2:15 pm**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0001 10001**

**Meet at Visitor Center Entrance**

*Keely Shaughnessy, Brookside Gardens staff*

Join us for a walking tour of Brookside Gardens' late spring blooming shrubs and deciduous plants. Explore our colorful collection of azaleas and rhododendrons while learning how to incorporate them into your own home garden.

### Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour

**Thursday | April 24 | 2:00 – 3:15 pm**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0003 100001**

**OR**

**Wednesday | April 30 | 10:00 – 11:15 am**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0003 100002**

**Address and parking logistics will be sent after registration.**

*Nate Roehrich, Brookside Gardens staff*

Opened in 2018, the O'Rourke Greenhouse consists of four growing areas totaling 10,000 square feet under glass. Participants will take a closer look at the state-of-the-art technology that enables the greenhouse staff to grow a variety of beautiful plants year-round while getting a sneak peek at the thousands of plants being grown for the garden displays.

### Guided Bird Walk

**Saturday | May 3 | 8:00 – 9:30 am**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0133 100001**

**Or**

**Tuesday | May 6 | 8:00 – 9:30 am**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0133 100002**

**Meet at Visitor Center Entrance**

*Emily Williams, avian ecologist*

Did you know that 168 bird species have been sighted at Brookside Gardens? Marvel at the spring migration and bring your binoculars to look for warblers, Baltimore orioles and orchard orioles, red-winged blackbirds, and many more!

### Guided Bird Walk – Celebrating Black Birding Week

**Wednesday | May 28 | 8:00 – 9:30 am**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0186 100001**

**OR**

**Saturday | May 31 | 8:00–9:30 am**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0186 100002**

**Meet at Visitor Center Entrance**

*Maria-Elena Montero, vice president, programming, DC Bird Alliance*

Join Brookside Gardens and the DC Bird Alliance as we celebrate Black Birding Week, supporting and increasing the visibility of black birders. Learn about the amazing variety of birds that make their homes in these gardens while helping to build a welcoming community.

### 🌱 Rose Garden Tour – Redesign Updates

**Thursday | June 12 | 10:30 – 11:30 am**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0182 200001**

**Meet at Conservatory Entrance**

*Kristin Davey, Brookside Gardens staff*

This tour will highlight updates in the Rose Garden one year after its redesign and replanting. You'll learn how Brookside Gardens has shifted to an organic approach with managing disease and insect prone plants like roses. Explore the design concepts used to mix native perennials with traditional non-natives.

### 🌱 Pollinator Meadow Tour

**Monday | June 30 | 1:00 – 2:15 pm**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0043 200001**

**or**

**Wednesday | July 2 | 10:30 – 11:45 am**  
**\$12 | FOBG \$10 | #PBG0043 200002**

**Meet at the bottom of the stairs leading to Brookside Nature Center (1400 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902)**

*Brookside Nature Center & Brookside Gardens staff*

Celebrate National Pollinator Week as we wander through an open meadow of beautiful perennials swarming with pollinators. Learn about mid-Atlantic native plants you can garden with to help support beneficial insects while adding beauty.

## Living Field Lab Series

Join us for this learning series that aims to fill in the gap between theory and practice. Tours of home gardens serve as real-world case studies of landscape projects. Onsite discussions with homeowners and Brookside Gardens staff will offer applicable lessons in design and maintenance. Plant lists provided for each Field Lab.

### 🌟 A Woodland Garden: Spring Ephemerals and Understory Plantings

**Tuesday | April 15 | 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
**\$25 | FOBG \$22 | #PBG0142 100001**

**North Potomac, MD (address sent after registration)**

Enjoy an abundance of spring ephemerals while learning how to design with shade tolerant plants for woodland gardens and shaded borders. Explore creative ways to weave ground covers, shrubs, and understory trees for year-round interest. Expand your plant palette by seeing firsthand more than 40 different species of holly and a variety of evergreen perennials and unique bulbs.

### 🌟 Creative Gardening Solutions with Layered Designs & Containers

**Thursday | June 5 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**\$25 | FOBG \$22 | #PBG0142 200001**

**Silver Spring, MD (address sent after registration)**

This part-sun and shade garden offers design lessons in layering plants to create dynamic landscapes. Learn how to make a small yard feel big with innovative uses of garden beds and plant selections. You will enjoy examples of creative gardening solutions that leverage a myriad of containers to liven up garden spaces.

## Horticulture Classes

### Registration required

Note: All horticulture classes will be held online using Zoom unless otherwise noted. Recordings of online lectures will be made available to students. After registering, a link will be emailed to you 24 hours prior to the live webinar. Please ensure your Active Montgomery account is updated with your correct email address.

### V ♦ Introduction to Landscape Design I & II

*Jason Gedeik, Brookside Gardens staff*  
Whether you're looking to upgrade your existing garden or develop an entirely new area, you'll learn the fundamentals of landscape design to create functional, enjoyable, and beautiful outdoor spaces.

#### Session I

**Saturday | March 15 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0012 100001**

Learn practical steps to approach the design process, including site analysis, creating a concept design, and determining the functional goals for your space. You'll understand why the environmental conditions of your landscape are key to a successful design that keeps your plants healthy, minimizes garden maintenance, and reduces costs. Real-world case studies will bring these concepts to life.

#### Session II

**Saturday | March 29 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0013 100001**

Learn to implement core design elements like color, texture, form, line, and scale to create a beautiful and functional landscape. Design concepts like seasonality and layering will also be explored. Plant combinations and lists will be examined that address site-specific challenges like sun vs. shade and dry vs. wet conditions.

### V ☆ Ecological Gardening: Supporting Native Habitats in The Home Landscape

**Wednesday | April 9 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm**  
**\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0130 100001**

*Christopher Elenstar, Brookside Gardens staff*  
Whether you're looking to create a new garden or blend in plants with your existing one, this lecture will help you develop a habitat that attracts and supports a range of wildlife year-round. Learn how to make informed plant selections based on their characteristics and how they uniquely sustain birds, butterflies, and pollinators. A deeper understanding of local ecosystems will inform design strategies for layering plant combinations and placement to create a functional and beautiful landscape. Plant lists provided.

### V ☆ Native Plant Solutions to Familiar Landscape Challenges

**Thursday | April 24 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm**  
**\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0178 100001**

*Shannon Currey, Education and Outreach, Izel Native Plants*

Native perennials offer solutions for challenging landscape areas, such as under established trees and on slopes. We will address how to choose plants for the variable shade underneath trees, while providing "soft landings" for beneficial insects to complete their life cycle. We'll also cover plant attributes that are helpful for reducing erosion on slopes. Discover regionally native perennials that provide beautiful solutions!

### ☆ RainScape Your Yard: Sessions I & II

*Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection staff*

A RainScape is a landscape or design technique that helps reduce stormwater runoff from individual properties, including rain gardens, conservation landscapes, green roofs, and permeable pavements. The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection offers a rebate program for approved RainScape projects for homeowners. To be eligible for a rebate, participants must







apply and be approved for installation based on a submitted plan before projects are installed. These two sessions are intended to help homeowners create a RainScape design plan. Classes are open to anyone regardless if applying for a RainScape rebate.

## **V** **Session I: Evaluating Stormwater Solutions for Home Landscapes**

**Thursday | May 8 | 7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
**\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0015 100001**

Learn how environmentally friendly landscapes, such as conservation sites and rain gardens, can help manage stormwater issues on residential properties. We will review steps to planning a RainScape including site evaluation and determining the type and scale of project that best suits your needs.

## **◆** **Session II: Plants & Landscape Design for RainScape Gardens**

**Saturday | May 17 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**\$25 | FOBG \$22 | #PBG0015 100002**

### **Adult Classroom**

Explore strategies to properly size a garden project, estimate plant quantities, and create an effective planting plan. Study the range of native plants for managing water runoff and supporting pollinators and wildlife. Learn the steps to develop and submit a plan that qualifies for the RainScapes Rewards Rebate. Registrants will receive a selection of free native plants to take home.

## **V** **✿ Creating Healthy Soils Through Regenerative Gardening Practices**

**Wednesday | May 21 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm**  
**\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0179 100001**

*Chuck Schuster, Senior Agent Emeritus, County Extension Director, University of Maryland Extension*

Explore practical strategies to foster healthy soils in your garden. We will cover composting, organic fertilizers, soil amendments and the critical role of beneficial microorganisms. Study regenerative gardening practices that improve drought tolerance, increase nutrient uptake, promote disease resistance, and grow more flowers. You will experience thriving plants, effective designs, and a garden that's more environmentally friendly.

## **V** **◆ The Spirit of Stone – Practical and Creative Stonescaping Ideas for Your Garden**

**Saturday | May 31 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**  
**\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0180 100001**

*Jan Johnsen, author and landscape designer*  
Rediscover this often-overlooked element in the landscape and most ancient of materials – stone! Johnsen will share creative and practical ways you can use natural stone in the garden: from rock gardens to dry streams, as benches, standing stones, paths, and more. Stone's durability and sustainability make it appealing to both homeowners and designers. You will never look at natural stone the same again!

## **V** **✿ Managing Garden Pests & Diseases**

**Wednesday | June 18 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm**  
**\$15 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0191 200001**

*Maria Rojas, Independent IPM consultant, Borders and Butterflies*  
Are organic pesticides always safer than synthetic ones? Are there better, more sustainable ways to manage problems in your garden? Can you tell the difference between a good bug and a bad one? Let's bust some myths and talk about what really works and what doesn't, which insects and diseases are common in our landscapes, and how to prevent them from becoming a problem in yours!

## **Hands-on Workshops**

### **Registration required**

Note: All hands-on workshops will be held in-person at the Visitor Center.

### **Succulent Container**

**Thursday | May 15 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**  
**\$55 | FOBG \$50 | #PBG0046 100001**

### **Adult Classroom**

*Angelus Bullock, Brookside Gardens staff*  
Native to arid regions, succulents store water in their fleshy leaves enabling them to resist drought and extreme temperatures. These hardy plants require little watering and do well both inside the home or outside. Plant your own colorful and resilient container garden using specially selected low maintenance, yet gorgeous, succulents.

## **Spring Sketchbook in the Garden**

**Friday | May 2 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
**\$60 | FOBG \$54 | #PBG0187 100001**

### **Adult Classroom**

*Sue Fierston, teaching artist and president of the International Nature Printing Society*  
Delight in drawing and painting amidst springtime flowers at Brookside Gardens. Learn how to bring your drawings to life in the classroom with techniques for contour drawing and watercolor mixing. We will then go outside and capture a spring still life or landscape in your new watercolor sketchbook. Supplies included.

## **Capturing Summer in Botanical Leaf Prints**

**Saturday | July 12 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
**\$60 | FOBG \$54 | #PBG0188 200001**

### **Adult Classroom**

*Sue Fierston, teaching artist and president of the International Nature Printing Society*  
Vines, leaves, and vegetables make for beautiful prints. You will learn hand printing and portable walking press techniques to create frameable art with two types of cloth (muslin and metallic) and on rice paper (both supplied). In addition, you may bring your own cotton or silk item to print on such as a scarf, apron, child's onesie or tote bag. Items washable after a heat setting.

## **Miniature Zen Garden**

**Saturday | August 2 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**  
**\$55 | FOBG \$50 | #PBG0118 200001**

### **Adult Classroom**

*Kathy Jentz, Washington Gardener Magazine*  
Bring a sense of peace and calm to your home by creating your own miniature Zen Garden. This therapeutic and educational activity includes a tray, sand, pebbles, small plants, as well as Japanese-inspired ornaments. Find serenity by creating and changing patterns in the sand. You will receive tips on growing and maintaining your new garden.

## Health and Wellness

Registration required. No walk-ins accepted.

### Yoga

**Saturdays | March 1 – August 16**

**9:30 – 10:30 am**

**\$14 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0031**

**Visitor Center (March – April)**

**Or Japanese Tea House (May – August)**

*Tanory Ateek*

Designed to increase flexibility and physical strength and to cultivate mental focus, these classes are a beautiful and relaxing way to begin your weekend. Mats are not included.

### Tai Chi

**Wednesdays | March 5 – August 13**

**9:00 – 10:15 am**

**\$14 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0029**

**Visitor Center (March – April)**

**Or Japanese Tea House (May – August)**

*Charles Votaw*

Tai Chi is an ancient, Chinese form of exercise perfect for adults seeking stress reduction while strengthening muscles, improving balance, and increasing flexibility. The Forms are repetitive patterns that emphasize slow, flowing motions and controlled movements. Classes will help beginners to learn the Forms while providing regular practitioners with the guidance of an experienced instructor.

### Gentle Yoga

**Thursdays | March 6 – August 21**

**10:00 – 11:00 am**

**\$14 | FOBG \$12 | #PBG0030**

**Visitor Center (March – April)**

**Or Japanese Tea House (May – August)**

*Sherry Weber*

This series of classes features foundational yoga poses that are designed to support better breathing, walking, and space orientation. Yoga movements help build muscle, bone density and core strength while improving balance, posture, and flexibility. Mats are not included.

### Guided Mindfulness Walks

**\$28 | FOBG \$25 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm**

**Meet at South Terrace**

*Tania Lanning, integrative therapist*

Tania will lead a series of special walks focused on mindfulness in nature. Participants will receive a small blank journal and should dress for the weather and be comfortable walking and sitting on grass. Sign up for one or all three!

#### Walk 1: Family Mindfulness and Nature

**Thursday | March 20 | #PBG0168 100001**

Strengthen family bonds and foster emotional well-being with this immersive workshop focused on mindfulness and nature exploration. Engage in fun, mindful activities designed to deepen connection, communication, and presence within your family. Children of all ages with their family are welcome.

#### Walk 2: Connections in Nature

**Saturday | April 5 | #PBG0108 100001**

Uncover the links between yourself and the environment around you in this guided walk through the Gude Garden. Through gentle movement, discussion, journaling, and meditation, you will explore what it means to connect with yourself, with others and with the natural world.

#### Walk 3: Motherhood in Nature

**Thursday | April 17 | #PBG0125 100001**

Reconnect with yourself and the natural world in this workshop designed to support mothers in cultivating mindfulness, self-compassion, and resilience. Through guided movement and mindfulness practices, nature connection, and shared reflection, discover tools to nurture both yourself and your role as a mother. Babies in strollers are welcome.

### Strolls for Well-Being

**\$75**

**Saturdays | April 19, May 10, June 7**

**10:00 am – 11:30 pm | #PBG0033 100003**

**Tuesdays | April 22, May 20, June 17**

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm | #PBG0033 100001**

**Wednesdays | April 23, May 21, June 18**

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm | #PBG0033 100002**

**Adult Classroom**

*Brookside Gardens Staff*

Soak up the healing and wellness wisdom of nature in this evidence-based mindful walking program. Over eight weeks, complete twelve solo garden walks on your own schedule, guided by a beautiful journal with themed readings and writing prompts encouraging presence and reflection. Those struggling with difficulty, stress, or transition may particularly benefit. Dates are for group meetings where you will receive important materials and share insights with others. Further information: **BrooksideGardens.org/wellness.**

### Shinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing

**Saturday | May 3 | 9:30 – 11:30 am**

**\$35 | FOBG \$30 | #PBG0022 100001**

**OR**

**Sunday | May 25 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**\$35 | FOBG \$30 | #PBG0022 100002**

**OR**

**Saturday | June 21 | 9:30 – 11:30 am**

**\$35 | FOBG \$30 | #PBG0022 200001**

**Meet at Visitor Center Entrance**

*Ana Ka'ahanui, certified forest therapy guide*  
Connect with nature through a forest bathing walk among beautiful blossoms, remarkable trees, and rich fragrances. Stroll the grounds and neighboring forest at a measured pace that allows you to notice the small miracles of nature unfolding. We will close the walk by enjoying hot tea and healthy snacks.

### Half-day Mindfulness Retreat

**Sunday | May 18 | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**\$70 | FOBG \$63 | #PBG0018 100001**

**Meet at Visitor Center Entrance**

*Tanory Ateek*

With her signature curiosity and playful approach, Tanory will guide you through a half-day of stress relieving practices, including gentle yoga; walking and seated meditation; and the meditative way of the labyrinth. Whether you are new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, this retreat will provide a chance to slow down, connect to nature in new ways, and rekindle a deeper sense of peace and wonder in your life.





**\* Earth Month Family Celebration**

*Sponsored by Friends of Brookside Gardens*

**Saturday | April 26 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Free | #PBG0128 100002**

Celebrate Earth Month at Brookside Gardens on April 26 with activities geared toward children and their families. Explore the science and art of sustainability through child-driven projects, plantings, and crafts. Registration is encouraged but not required.

**Seed Design Challenge**

**Sunday | March 16 | 10:00 – 11:00 am  
\$10 | Ages 8 - 12 | #PBG0172 100001**

**Children’s Classroom**

Seeds are amazing. They can float, fly, explode, and hitch a ride across vast distances. Do you think you have what it takes to engineer a new type of seed that can travel farther than our local species? Come to this engineering design challenge and find out. This is a hands-on workshop which will include both indoor and outdoor components. Come ready to work collaboratively and troubleshoot together as you create a prototype and test your creation. Participants will also make and take native seed balls back home, so that you can keep spreading seeds in your community even after the program is over.

**\* Youth BioBlitz**

**Saturday | April 19 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Free - registration required | Ages 13 - 18 |  
#PBG0171 100001**

**Check in at Visitor Center Info Desk**

If you like being outside, taking pictures, and hanging out with your friends, this is the BioBlitz for you. We need your help to collect real data and take a snapshot of the biodiversity in the Gardens. Get permission to bring your smartphone to the BioBlitz and download the iNaturalist app so that you can help us identify plants and wildlife (a few devices will be available to borrow). Dress for the weather.

**Birding in the Garden**

**Saturday | May 17 | 10:00 – 11:00 am  
\$10 | Ages 8 - 12 | #PBG0173 100001**

**Check in at Visitor Center Info Desk**

Take a bird walk with an expert instructor and learn the basics of using binoculars, listening

for bird calls, using field guides and digital tools, and looking carefully in all directions. Stop at the spots in the garden that are most attractive for local birds and learn more about them. Borrow a pair of our binoculars or bring your own (optional). Dress for the weather.

**\* Eco-Friendly Planters**

**Saturday | April 5 | 10:00 – 11:00 am  
\$10 | Ages 8 - 10 | #PBG0175 100001**

**Check in at Visitor Center Info Desk**

Celebrate the weeks leading up to Earth Day by creating a planter from upcycled materials and transplanting a seedling grown at Brookside Gardens to take home. Learn about the specific plant and take a garden walk to find it growing outside. Plant care instructions will be provided.

**Youth Nature Photography**

**Saturday | March 22 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm  
\$10 | Ages 13 - 18 | #PBG0174 100001**

**Check in at Visitor Center Info Desk**

Take a closer look at the natural world through the lens of a camera in this beginner-friendly program. Learn tips and strategies for getting the most out of your outdoor photos and learn about nature along the way. Bring your camera (phone cameras count) or borrow one of ours. Dress for the weather.

**School’s Outside for Teens**

**\$45 | Ages 11 – 14 | #PBG0167  
Children’s Classroom**

A day off from school is the perfect time to go outside - join us for a full day of garden fun. Each session will include a variety of indoor and outdoor activities including games, hands-on botany, arts and crafts, and garden walks. Bring a lunch and refillable water bottle. Required sign-in procedures and forms will be emailed to guardians prior to program start date.

**Monday | March 31 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
#PBG0167 100001**

**Monday | April 14 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
#PBG0167 100002**

**Tuesday | April 15 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
#PBG0167 100003**

### Yoga Sprouts!

**Saturdays | April 19 – June 7**

**(no class April 26)**

**10:00 – 10:45 am**

**\$7 | Ages 3 – 9 | #PBG0078**

**Meet at South Terrace; class in Woodland Chapel**

Bring your little ones to this series of fun, garden-related yoga movement classes. Physical exercise and mindfulness will awaken your senses, boost your energy, and give you good garden vibes to start your day. Classes are outdoors and will be moved indoors or canceled in cases of inclement weather. Bring your own mat or borrow one of ours. Adults must accompany children. After meeting in the South Terrace, you will walk with the instructor to the outdoor class location in the Woodland Chapel.

### Storytime in the Garden

**Select Saturdays in March &**

**Select Sundays in May**

**10:00 – 10:45 am**

**\$5 | Ages 3 – 7 | #PBG0111**

**Outdoor Classroom (in Children's Garden)**

Join us for an interactive story time followed by an outdoor exploration or activity. This is an outdoor story time, weather permitting. Adults must accompany children. Dress for the weather.

**Saturday | March 8 | #PBG0111 100008**

**Saturday | March 15 | #PBG0111 100009**

**Saturday | March 22 | #PBG0111 100010**

**Saturday | March 29 | #PBG0111 100011**

**Sunday | May 18 | #PBG0111 100012**

**Sunday | May 25 | #PBG0111 100013**

### Butterflies of Brookside (outdoors)

**Saturday | August 23 | 10:00 – 11:00 am**

**\$7 | Ages 8 – 12 | #PBG0127 200003**

**Check in at Visitor Center Info Desk**

As the summer winds down, monarchs, swallowtails, and other butterflies are busy outdoors in the gardens. Stop at the "hot spots" along the trail to identify different butterfly species, snap a few photos, and record observations in the nature journal provided. Dress for the weather.

### 🌱 Exploration Cart – National Pollinator Week

**June 16 – 18 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**FREE – no registration required**

**Children's Garden**

Celebrate National Pollinator Week with us and learn more about pollinators, their importance, and the plants they love. Enrich your garden visit with a fun pollinator scavenger hunt. Just stop by the Exploration Cart next to the Children's Garden.

### 🌱 Exploration Cart – First Weekend of Summer

**June 21 – 22 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**FREE – no registration required**

**Children's Garden**

Celebrate the start of the summer season with our community partners, **ecoLatinos**. Join us in learning more about our environmental community work and ways that you can become involved to help protect the environment in your daily life. We have materials available in both English and Spanish. Make a written pledge to hang on our tree to save the Earth. Just stop by the Exploration Cart next to the Children's Garden.

### Summer Camps

All summer camps meet in the Children's Classroom. Prior to camp, a detailed email will be sent along with the necessary camp forms required for each participant.

#### Garden Investigators Camp

**June 23 – 27 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**\$350 | Ages 6 – 8 | #PBG0082 500001 and**

**July 14 – 18 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**\$350 | Ages 6 – 8 | #PBG0082 500002**

Curious campers will investigate and explore Brookside Gardens to discover the fascinating

plants and animals that make their homes here. Arts and crafts, games, and gardening are all in a day's fun as we spend time indoors and outdoors connecting with nature.

#### Art Adventures Camp

**July 28 – August 1 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**\$350 | Ages 9 – 11 | #PBG0083 500001**

Calling all creative children who love to make art and do not mind getting dirty! Explore the garden from an artist's perspective through different artistic techniques and various media each day. From painting to gardening, campers will unleash their imaginations and craft works of art inspired by horticulture and nature.

#### Summer Science Camp

**July 7 – 11 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**\$350 | Ages 9 – 11 | #PBG0084 500001**

Let us cultivate your children's interest in the natural sciences with hands-on, inquiry-based experiments and activities in a beautiful garden setting! Each day, campers will unlock the scientific mysteries found in the gardens through experiments, observations, games and more.

#### 🌱 Climate Action Camp

**August 4 – 8 | 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**\$350 | Ages 11 – 14 | #PBG0085 500001**

Take action and understand our impact on climate and the environment in this week-long camp. Campers will examine different environmental issues through indoor and outdoor activities with a focus on actions you can take to make a positive change in the world around you. Campers will earn 10 SSL hours based on participation in the service component each day.





# PROGRAMS BY DATE

Date	Program	Course #	Fee	FOBG	Page No.
5/15/2025	Succulent Container	PBG0046 100001	\$55	\$50	14
3/8/2025	Storytime in the Garden**	PBG0111 100008	\$5	\$5	17
3/15/2025	Introduction to Landscape Design I	PBG0012 100001	\$15	\$12	13
3/16/2025	Seed Design Challenge	PBG0172 100001	\$10	\$10	16
3/20/2025	Guided Mindfulness Walk **	PBG0168 100001	\$28	\$25	15
3/20/2025	Cultivating a Sustainable Future: Cornell Botanic Gardens' Native Lawn	PBG0176 100001	FREE	FREE	11
3/22/2025	Youth Nature Photography	PBG0174 100001	\$10	\$10	16
3/29/2025	Introduction to Landscape Design II	PBG0013 100001	\$15	\$12	13
3/31/2025	School's Outside for Teens**	PBG0167 100001	\$45	\$45	16
4/5/2025	DC Environmental Film Festival – Screening & Panel Discussion	PBG0134 100001	FREE	FREE	10
4/5/2025	Eco-Friendly Planters	PBG0175 100001	\$10	\$10	16
4/9/2025	Ecological Gardening: Supporting Native Habitats in The Home Landscape	PBG0130 100001	\$15	\$12	13
4/10/2025	Rachel Carson Conservation Park – Spring Tour	PBG0086 100001	\$30	\$27	11
4/15/2025	A Woodland Garden: Spring Ephemerals and Understory Plantings	PBG0142 100001	\$25	\$22	12
4/16/2025	The Lost Trees of Willow Avenue: A Story of Climate and Hope...	PBG0177 100001	FREE	FREE	11
4/19/2025	Youth BioBlitz	PBG0171 100001	FREE	FREE	16
4/19/2025	Strolls for Well-Being * **	PBG0033 100003	\$75	\$75	15
4/23/2025	Azalea & Rhododendron Tour	PBG0001 100001	\$12	\$10	12
4/24/2025	Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour**	PBG0003 100001	\$12	\$10	12
4/24/2025	Native Plant Solutions to Familiar Landscape Challenges	PBG0178 100001	\$15	\$12	13
4/26/2025	Earth Month Family Celebration	PBG0128 100002	FREE	FREE	16
4/27/2025	Brookside Gardens Plant Sale	No registration	FREE	FREE	10
5/2/2025	Spring Sketchbook in the Garden	PBG0187 100001	\$60	\$54	14
5/3/2025	Piecing Together Nature's Puzzle – The Interconnectedness of the Natural World	PBG0183 100001	FREE	FREE	11
5/3/2025	Guided Bird Walk at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0133 100001	\$12	\$10	12
5/3/2025	Shinrin-yoku: The Art of Forest Bathing**	PBG0022 100001	\$35	\$30	15
5/8/2025	RainScape Session I: Evaluating Stormwater Solutions for Home Landscapes	PBG0015 100001	\$15	\$12	14
5/17/2025	RainScape Session II: Plants & Landscape Design for RainScapes Gardens	PBG0015 100002	\$25	\$22	14
5/17/2025	Birding in the Garden	PBG0173 100001	\$10	\$10	16
5/18/2025	Half-day Mindfulness Retreat at Brookside Gardens	PBG0018 100001	\$70	\$63	15
5/21/2025	Creating Healthy Soils Through Regenerative Gardening Practices	PBG0179 100001	\$15	\$12	14
5/28/2025	Guided Birdwalk—Celebrating Black Birding Week**	PBG0186 100001	\$12	\$10	12
5/31/2025	The Spirit of Stone – Practical and Creative Stonescaping Ideas for Your Garden	PBG0180 100001	\$15	\$12	14
6/3/2025	Summer Twilight Concert Series**	No registration	FREE	FREE	10
6/5/2025	Creative Gardening Solutions With Containers and Layering Designs	PBG0142 200001	\$25	\$22	12
6/9/2025	Pope Farm Native Plant Production Tour	PBG0135 200001	\$30	\$27	11
6/12/2025	Rose Garden Tour – Redesign Updates	PBG0182 100001	\$12	\$10	12
6/18/2025	Managing Garden Pests & Diseases	PBG0191 200001	\$15	\$12	12
6/30/2025	Pollinator Meadow Tour**	PBG0043 200001	\$12	\$10	14
7/1/2025	Shakespeare in the Garden – A Comedy of Errors	No registration	FREE	FREE	10
7/12/2025	Capturing Summer in Botanical Leaf Prints	PBG0188 200001	\$60	\$54	14
7/15/2025	Rachel Carson Conservation Park – Summer Tour	PBG0086 200001	\$30	\$27	12
8/2/2025	Miniature Zen Garden	PBG0118 100001	\$55	\$50	14
8/23/2025	Butterflies of Brookside (outdoors)	PBG0127 200003	\$7	\$7	17
3/1 - 8/16	Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0031 100001	\$14	\$12	15
3/5 - 8/13	Tai Chi at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0029 100001	\$14	\$12	15
3/6 - 8/21	Gentle Yoga at Brookside Gardens**	PBG0030 100001	\$14	\$12	15
4/19 - 6/7	Yoga Sprouts!**	PBG0078 100001	\$7	\$7	17
6/16 - 6/18	Exploration Cart – National Pollinator Week*	No registration	FREE	FREE	17
6/21 - 6/22	Exploration Cart – First Weekend of Summer*	No registration	FREE	FREE	17
6/23 - 6/27	Garden Investigators Camp*/**	PBG0082 500001	\$350	\$350	17
7/28 - 8/1	Art Adventures Camp*	PBG0083 500001	\$350	\$350	17
7/7 - 7/11	Summer Science Camp*	PBG0084 500001	\$350	\$350	17
8/4 - 8/8	Climate Action Camp*	PBG0085 500001	\$350	\$350	17

\* Program Meets Multiple Days \*\* Multiple Sessions Offered



\* Required Info **REGISTRATION FORM**

Check here if this is a new address, phone number or email address since your last registration. Please print or type. This form may be copied.

PARENT/GUARDIAN				
Last Name*	First Name*	Email*		
Address*		City*	State*	ZIP*
Home Phone *	Work Phone	Cell Phone	Birthday (mm/dd/yy)*	

EMERGENCY CONTACT For participants under 18		
Name	Relationship	Phone

Participant's Name (Last, First)	Birthday (mm/dd/yy)	Gender	Activity Name	Activity Number	Fees*
<b>Total Program Fees:</b>					

**To which race do you identify most?**

Asian  
 Black  
 Caucasian  
 Native American  
 Pacific Island Alaskan  
 Other

**Are you Hispanic or Latino?**     Yes     No

**PAYMENT OPTIONS\***

Total Programs Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Resident/Other Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Check# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Fees Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: ActiveMONTGOMERY. No cash payments.**

**Will you need an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) disability accommodation (trained support staff, sign language interpreters, companion, Braille/large print, adaptive equipment, assistive listening/auxiliary devices, and/or audio description?)**

Yes     No

**If YES, please see below:**

**ADA Requests for Montgomery Parks**  
 To request an accommodation for M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks programs you must contact the Program Access Office at 301-495-2581 or email [ProgramAccess@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:ProgramAccess@montgomeryparks.org)

**IMPORTANT: Request should be made before the program begins.**

**\*SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED\***  
 Participant or Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The participant assumes all risks associated with participation in the program; Montgomery Parks/M-NCPPC does not assume any liability for injury or damages arising from participation in the program. Due to the strenuous nature of some activities, each participant is encouraged to consult his or her physician concerning fitness to participate in the program. The participant consents to emergency treatment. The participant also consents to Montgomery Parks/M-NCPPC's use of the participant's image and likeness as shown in any photographs, videotapes, motion picture film, or electronic images, and any audio recordings made of the participant's voice in whatever way Montgomery Parks/M-NCPPC desires, including television, print and Internet websites. Furthermore, the participant consents that such photographs, films, recordings, electronic images shall be the sole property of Montgomery Parks/M-NCPPC. If the participant is a minor, the parent of guardian approves his or her participation in the program. Neither the instructor nor any staff are responsible for children prior to or after scheduled program.

## Important Registration Information

1. You must open an ActiveMONTGOMERY account in order to register for any program.
2. We regret that it is not possible to include babies or children in classes designed for adults, unless specified.
3. All programs will run rain or shine, unless a rain date is listed; for cancellation information call **301-962-1451**.
4. FOBG members should enter the discounted FOBG rate in the Fee column. For information about joining FOBG, call 301-962-1435 or check [brooksidegardens.org](http://brooksidegardens.org).
5. Confirmation of your registration will be made by mail or email. If an event is filled to capacity, your check will be returned and your name placed on a waiting list. You will be contacted by phone if an opening occurs.
6. Deadline for registration is 7 days prior to event date, unless otherwise stated. Participants will be enrolled in the order received.

**Refund Policy:** For details regarding the refund policy, please visit <https://MontgomeryParks.org/classes-camps/activity-withdrawals-and-refunds/>



**The  
Butterflies  
are Back!**

## *The Butterfly Experience at Brookside Gardens*

### Live Butterfly Exhibit

April 10 – September 21  
Brookside Gardens South Conservatory

April 10–June 30  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm daily

July 1–August 31  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm weekdays  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm weekends

September 1–21  
10:00 am–4:00 pm daily

PLAN IN ADVANCE! Online tickets  
available starting March 3.  
Same day tickets available on  
a limited basis.

Ages 13+ \$14  
Ages 3–12 \$9  
Ages 0–2 Free

Visit BrooksideGardens.org for more information and to purchase tickets.



*We regret that we are unable to  
accommodate strollers in the exhibit.*