
Azalea Gardens

Brookside Gardens Project Update

Brookside Gardens is one part of the Montgomery County, Maryland, public gardens that are "dedicated to serving the public through horticultural display and education," according to the fax cover sheet that came with information from Kerri Nichols, Outreach Horticulturist there. The gardens are ultimately part of the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission Department of Parks and Planning and part of the county's Natural Resources Division. To assist these various administrative agencies, the gardens are fortunate to have an active Friends of Brookside Gardens, Inc., group, which publishes a newsletter, "The Brooksider," from which the following updates were taken.

- On Thursday, July 15, the Friends of Brookside Gardens gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the gardens and to rededicate the Round Garden. One of the three formal garden rooms, dating back to 1969, the Round Garden has taken on a delightful new look. A ring of ten Japanese maples, *Acer palmatum* 'Suminagashi', now replaces the inner circle of insect-ravaged, purple-leafed plums. Ten new containers of varied sizes, tinted to blend with the brick and stone pavings, replace the original cast concrete planters; new teak garden benches match the seating in the nearby Rose and Fragrance Gardens.

- Brookside Gardens is a top resource for avid landscape

gardeners, designers or anyone interested in ornamental horticulture. The gardens cover 50 acres and include a horticultural library. The whole complex is a rare and wonderful combination of plants, with hundreds of landscape design ideas on the ground, in the texts, and in asso-

ciated computer capabilities. To learn more, contact FOBG by voice mail (301-982-1435), or write 1800 Glenallen Avenue, Wheaton, Maryland. The newsletter editor is Fran McClure; the President is Joan O'Rourke.

