

**HOURS:** From April 10 through July 5, we will be open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 to 5:00 and Sundays 12:00 to 5:00. From July 6 through October 10, we will be closed on Sundays, but will continue to be open Monday through Saturday 8:00 to 5:00.



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## Geranium 'Biokovo' Is 2015 Perennial Of The Year

The Perennial Plant Association has named Geranium 'Biokovo' as the Perennial of the Year for 2015. Prized for its vigorous ground covering effect in partially shaded areas, this plant looks good throughout the season with little maintenance. Pale pink flowers appear sporadically all summer. The glossy green leaves take on reddish tints in late fall.

This variety, like most, prefers moist, but well-drained soil. It is probably best to site it in some afternoon shade to protect

it from scorching afternoon sun. It is hardy to Zone 4.

'Biokovo' is the second geranium to be named as Perennial of the Year. 'Rozanne', a blue flowering variety, was named in 2008. Perennial geraniums are popular because most tend to bloom for a long time. Many can handle full sun, as long as they get some water during drought conditions, and all seem to do well in part shade, especially in the afternoon.



Geranium 'Biokovo'

## New Plants For 2015

Our list of new plants is posted on our website, but here are some to look forward to.

**Hostas:** We have over 25 new varieties for 2015. 'Blackjack' (\$18) is an extra-large hosta with bluish foliage early, changing to dark green by early summer. It has heavily corrugated and unruly leaves with thick substance, and will form a giant mound.

'Cerveza' (\$15) is a large, gold, fast-growing variety with thick substance and fragrant flowers. Besides these

fine attributes, its name means "beer" in Spanish, so that, alone, makes it worth growing. Listed as a medium-large is 'Pie a la Mode' (\$18), whose oval leaves have nicely contrasting dark green centers and wide, white margins.



Hosta 'Orange Star'

'Orange Star' (\$15) is sure to draw your attention. It

is an impressive sport of the popular 'June Fever' and forms a mound of thick foliage with orange-gold centers in spring that change to light yellow by August, surrounded by intense, dark green margins.

Two hostas with unusual variegation are 'Cotton Candy' (\$20), a medium sized plant with heavily misted green and white foliage in the spring, changing to bright green by August; and 'Kaleidochrome' (\$35), a medium-small hosta with green foliage, streaked and mottled with creamy white and golden yellow colors.

We had 'Mini Skirt' (\$20) on our new list last year, but couldn't get our hands on any until late in the season, so it's back on our new list this year. It's a petite and flirty dwarf hosta with wavy, thick, blue-green leaves with creamy yellow to creamy white margins. Guys, you are liking the sound of this one, aren't you?

**Perennials:** We always like new shade plants to grow as companions to the hostas. Two new varieties of *Brunnera* sound pretty nice.

'Green Gold' emerges a glowing chartreuse yellow and turns green by summer. 'Sea Heart' is an improved 'Jack Frost' with more pronounced silvering with green variegation and larger leaves. Both have the typical sky-blue flowers that make *Brunnera* such a great spring plant

### NEW PLANTS

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and are hardy to Zone 3.

Also for shade is *Dicentra* 'Fire Island', a Bleeding Heart with magenta red, heart-shaped, long-lasting flowers. The frosty blue foliage is finely textured, and grows to 12-15" tall. Another very hardy Zone 3 plant.

*Heucheras* love some part shade, especially in the afternoons, and we have three very interesting new varieties.

'Berry Timeless' produces months of continuous bloom. Light pink flowers age to deeper rose above lightly silvered, mint green foliage. One called Dolce® Brazen Raisin shoots up showy, hot pink buds that open to pale pink flowers over nearly matte black foliage. 'Grape Expectations' is notable for its vibrant grape purple leaves with black veins and bright silver overlay in the heat of summer, along with creamy white flowers. All of these new varieties are hardy to Zone 4.

Hybridizers are doing a good job of coming up with smaller, shorter **Butterfly Bushes** (*Buddleia*). Two new entries in the Lo & Behold® series are 'Blue Chip Jr.', which is touted as being a little smaller, at 20-28", and less brittle than 'Blue Chip', and 'Pink Micro Chip', which has orchid pink blooms and grows only 18-24" tall. Both will bloom from mid-summer well into fall.

Three new varieties of *Echinacea* (Coneflowers) are said to bloom all summer. 'Double Scoop Cranberry' has cranberry red, double pom-pom type flowers that don't fade and which stand 24-26" tall. The new Sombrero® series includes Sombrero® Lemon Yellow and Sombrero® Salsa Red, whose names pretty well tell their color. They also stand 24-26" tall. All three varieties are hardy to Zone 4.

We are looking forward to seeing *Leucanthemum* 'Whoops-a-Daisy', a new Shasta Daisy that is an improvement over 'Snowcap'. Large 3-4" white flowers stand 15" tall, above dark green foliage.



*Daylily 'Red Pinnacle'*

**Daylilies:** We have several new daylilies available this year. 'Alabama Jubilee' (Webster 1988) has huge, fragrant, red-orange blooms with a deeper red band and gold throat. 'Red Pinnacle' (Webster 1997) is classified as an unusual form crispate daylily. It produces enormous, 10 inch, garnet red blooms that have long curled and pinched petals with a wide gold throat. 'When My Sweetheart Returns' (Apps 2000) has soft, peachy yellow blooms with a large, rose pink eye, lemon throat, and ruffled petals. All of the above

mentioned daylilies will be available in pots so that you can plant them this spring and enjoy their blooms this summer.



*Acer 'Fall Fiesta'*

A hybrid of English and White oak, it grows in a pyramidal form 30-40' tall, and is hardy to Zone 3.

**Elm** trees are making a comeback! These new varieties are highly resistant to the Dutch elm disease. 'Princeton' is an American elm that is a fast grower with graceful, symmetrical branching. It grows up to 65' tall. 'Frontier' is a hybrid with glossy green foliage in summer and burgundy color in fall, growing to 40' tall. Both are hardy to Zone 4.

New flowering, ornamental trees include *Amelanchier* Spring Flurry®, a **serviceberry** which puts on an absolute flurry of white flowers in spring and has excellent fall orange color. It grows 28' tall with a spread of 20' and is hardy to Zone 4.

Royal Raindrops® has become our favorite pink **flowering crabapple**. This year, we have it in a multi-stem form, as well as in the regular single stem form. It has excellent disease resistance and grows 20' tall with a spread of 15', and is hardy to Zone 4. Sugar Tyme® is a smaller, disease resistant variety that is completely covered with white flowers in spring. It will grow 12-15' tall and wide and is hardy to Zone 4.

One of our favorite panicle **hydrangeas** is Quick Fire®, which can easily grow over 6' tall. Now comes Little Quick Fire®, which is a smaller version of its parent, growing only 3-5' tall, with the same outstanding, early flowers that start pure white, and turn pink, then rosy red.

For something different, try *Exochorda* Lotus Moon®, common name: **Pearlbush**. A profusion of white flowers cover the plant in April. It grows in full sun 4-5' tall with a spread of 3-4', and is hardy to Zone 4.



*'Sugar Tyme'*

**Trees and Shrubs:** I can't get enough of **Sugar Maples** (*Acer saccharum*), and we have two new varieties coming in this spring. 'Fall Fiesta' has outstanding orange and red fall color on a perfectly shaped tree, grows to 50' in height, and is hardy to Zone 3. Flashfire® is touted as having the brightest red fall color of any of the Sugar Maples, grows to 45' tall, and is hardy to Zone 4.

A new hybrid **Oak** called Prairie Stature® is an outstanding landscape tree with reddish purple fall color.

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## NEW PLANTS

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*Rosa 'Boscobel'®*

If you like shrub roses, but have not tried the **David Austin® English roses**, you really should. They tend to have large, fragrant, double flowers. New ones this year are Boscobel®, which has red buds opening to perfectly formed, rich salmon colored, fully double blooms on a plant 3' tall. Lady of Shalott® is touted as one of the most

robust and hardy of the David Austin® roses. It has orange blossoms with salmon pink edges and grows 4' tall. These roses are hardy to Zone 5, and we are getting good reports from customers who have tried them.

The **Serbian spruces** form an outstanding group of conifers. *Picea omorika* 'Pendula', which grows into a good-sized pyramidal tree, is one of my personal favorites. We have three new dwarf varieties on hand this year. 'Expansa' is a gorgeous, silvery blue-green spreader which only grows 1' tall and spreads several feet. 'Kamenz' is another beautiful spreading plant with the typical green and silvery two-toned appearance, touted as being slow growing and easy to maintain. 'Nana' forms a beautiful silvery globe when young, and can develop into an upright pyramidal shape, eventually up to 8' tall and 5' wide. These are all hardy to Zone 4.

A good evergreen for shadier sites is *Microbiota decussata*, better known as **Siberian Cypress**. A new variety this year is Fuzzball®, a very hardy plant with fuzzy, bright green foliage which turns bronzy purple in winter. It grows 2' tall and 3' wide, and is hardy to Zone 2.

## The Barn Becomes A Reality

Yes, our primary focus is still on our nursery/garden center and its accompanying botanical gardens and arboretum. But it's hard not to be excited as something so new—not to mention so big—gets closer to being completed. As this newsletter goes out, the heating and cooling systems are installed, nearly all of the drywall work is done, and much of the interior has been painted. Light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, kitchen equipment, bar equipment, office desks and cabinets, sound equipment, and more will soon be installed.

The Barn will be an event center designed to handle wedding receptions, corporate gatherings, and community events of all sorts. The great hall will seat up to 325 guests, and

the building includes a bride's room, groom's room, coat room, bathrooms, a caterer's kitchen, a bar, and a large covered patio

in back, overlooking the wedding site and the woods beyond. We are also very happy to be moving from the small office in the back of the

house to much roomier offices in The Barn.

The project should be completed by our Open House weekend, so we will be giving tours of the building at that time. Naturally, we are booking events for this summer and beyond. So if you wish to look into the possibility of renting The Barn for an event, please call our event coordinator, Lindsay Funderberg, to arrange for a tour of the building as it is being completed. Welcome aboard, Lindsay!



## R.I.P. Ozzie



We are very sad to report that our good friend, Ozzie, the resident yellow lab, passed away late last summer. He developed lymphoma and had to be put down. It was a very sad day. Ozzie was a friend to everybody, but he was especially loved by children. He would always accompany the school children who came out here for tours near the end of the school year. The children always write thank you notes, and some of them mention seeing pretty flowers, but that which they have seemed to love the most about Hornbaker Gardens was the gentle dog called Ozzie.

## Landscape Design And Installation

Dave seems to be the one in the Hornbaker family with the artistic eye and flair. Combine that with his knowledge of plants, his friendly manner, and a good sense of humor, and the result is a guy who will give you good advice and good landscape design with plants that work. He and his crew work hard and take pride in what they do.

Call our office to make arrangements to have Dave help you with your landscaping, whether it be brand new landscaping or renovations of existing plantings.

Dave also has developed some serious skills as a photographer. Follow us on Facebook to see his art with the camera. Most of the pictures we post are taken by him.

# 'Victory' Is 2015 Hosta Of The Year

Hosta 'Victory' has been named the 2015 Hosta of the Year by the American Hosta Growers Association. It is in the extra-large, or giant, category, and its foliage can grow up to 3' tall and 6' wide.

'Victory' is a sport of Hosta 'Elator', and has the same shiny, light green color as its parent, but with a striking yellow margin, which turns to a lighter creamy yellow as the season progresses. The huge leaves are pointed at the ends, and the clump begins as a very upright mound in the spring, spreading out more

later in the summer. Pale lavender flowers appear on very tall scapes, up to 6' high.

Although 'Victory' is a good grower, it takes a few years for it to reach mature size simply because it becomes such a large plant. Give this one some room and it will become an outstanding specimen. We like to plant spring flowering bulbs around large hostas so that the hosta foliage will cover the spent bulb foliage.



Hosta 'Victory'

## Events for 2015

### Saturday, April 25, at 10 am

*Spring Garden Maintenance:* As the growing season gets started, we'll demonstrate how to divide a variety of perennials, including hostas, daylilies and grasses. In addition, we'll share the proper pruning techniques for various shrubs, including hydrangeas, lilacs, spiraeas, and several others. Free workshop.

### Saturday, May 2, at 10 am

*New Plants for 2015:* The Hornbakers will show off new plants for this year, and share why they are excited about them. Again this year, we want to treat you to breakfast! Join us at 9:30 for a delicious hot breakfast casserole before learning about the new hostas, daylilies, perennials, annuals, and trees & shrubs for 2015! Free workshop.

### Saturday, May 9, at 10 am

*Kids' Containers for Mother's Day:* Back by popular demand! Here's a chance for the kids to come get their hands dirty and create something pretty for Mom or Grandma, right before Mother's Day. We'll give them some ideas, and then help them, as needed, to get something nice potted up. They can bring their own container, and we will have a good selection of inexpensive containers available here. Cookies and lemonade will follow.

### Sunday, May 17, at 1 pm

*Kathy O'Malley on Container Gardening:* WGN Radio personality (of Kathy and Judy fame), avid gardener, and our friend, Kathy O'Malley will share her ideas on container gardening. Kathy is a knowledgeable and experienced gardener and is always fun to listen to. (Catch the Kathy and Judy Show on WGN Radio 720 AM on Saturday mornings from 10:00-12:00.) Free.

### Saturday, May 30 at 10 am

*Miniature Gardens:* This is a hands-on workshop for all ages in which you will learn how to create and care for your very own miniature garden. Molly Hornbaker Blogg will provide information on how to get started and assist you along the way. Fee includes your container, soil, and plants. You pick out and purchase your choice of miniature accessories, at a special 20% discount for workshop participants. Reservations are required, so please call to reserve your spot. Fee: \$30.

### Saturday, June 6, at 10 am

*Flower Arranging:* Learn the basics of flower arranging from Lindsay Esme Funderberg, who is joining our staff as event coordinator this year. She also brings 14 years of experience working in the floral industry. Lindsay will demonstrate how to do a wonderfully simple arrangement in an ikebana vase, as well as more traditional small and large arrangements. We will have a supply of fresh-cut material and some inexpensive florist vases on hand for 20 people to make small arrangements to take home. Please call ahead to reserve a spot. The only charge will be for the vase (something like \$5.00).

### Saturday, June 13, at 10 am

*Pruning Perennials with Jane Morris:* Jane Morris, previously our head gardener for 12 years, says that early June is the ideal time to take out the pruners to pinch and cut back perennials to control height and shape and make for sturdier, more floriferous plants, thus preventing sprawling plants and the need to stake. This continues to be one of our most popular workshops for

our customers, as well as our employees!

Jane has her own business, The Garden Governess, advising clients on pruning and other general gardening techniques and timing. Free workshop.

### Saturday, June 13 at 1 pm

*Basic Garden Design with Jane Morris:* The basics of good garden design are the same whether a person is planning and planting a small intimate area next to the patio, or a two acre property. Learn about form, line, texture, color, repetition, contrast, focal points and more to create an outdoor space you love. Learn how to use all types of plants: annuals, perennials, evergreens, shrubs and trees, and man-made items to bring these design basics to life. Free workshop.

### June 12-13-14 Open House

*Open House and Hosta Walk:* Join us for our annual open house. The hostas should be looking their best at that time! Refreshments will be served, and drawings for prizes will be held each day. We will also have a selection of specially priced plants, including a good number of hostas. Plans are underway to celebrate the grand opening of The Barn during Open House weekend, too. Stay tuned for more details!

### Saturday, September 19th

*Artisan Market at Hornbaker Gardens:* Join us in our beautiful country setting for a day filled with fine art, delicious home baked items, live music, wine tasting, fresh-picked local produce, area food trucks, and more. Mark your calendars now and plan to spend a beautiful, fall day in the country.