



Notes from

# HORNBAKER GARDENS, Inc.

www.hornbakergardens.com  
 email: mail@hornbakergardens.com  
 22937 1140 N. Ave.,  
 Princeton, Illinois 61356  
 (815) 659-3282

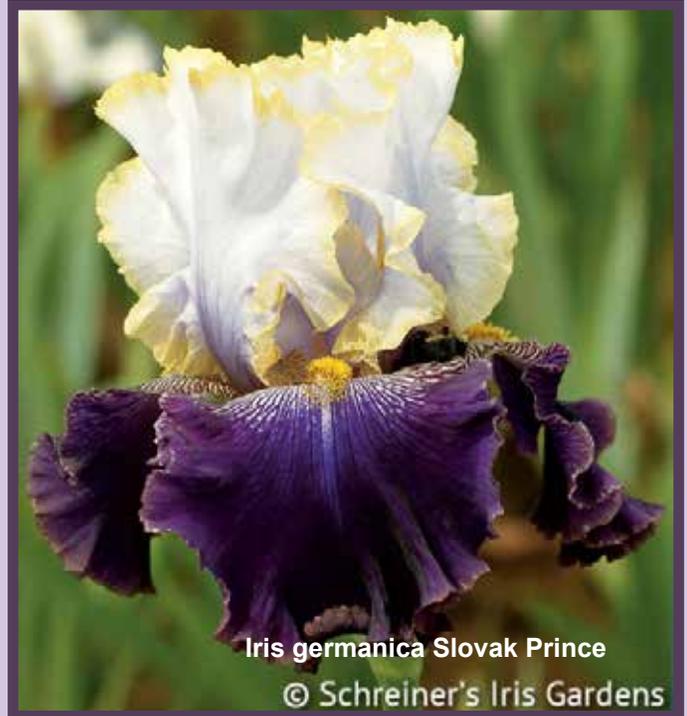


## *Iris Season* Is Here!

Although it just wasn't in the cards for us to continue with the big field of irises that we used to have, we did save back around 125 varieties. We dig and pot up around 30 varieties every year, rotating which ones we pot up so that we can let some multiply, and so that we can offer different varieties than we offered the year before. We also buy in a few new ones (five this year) just to keep things interesting.

There is nothing quite like the show that the tall bearded irises put on in May. They generally

bloom during that last two weeks of the month, depending on weather. Those that we have potted up tend to bloom earlier because they warm up more quickly than those in the ground. Several have set buds already and are on the verge of blooming, so grab them quickly in order to enjoy them blooming in your garden. We do have picture signs for most of the varieties, so you will be able to see what they will look like even if they are not in bloom when you purchase them.



Iris germanica Slovak Prince

© Schreiner's Iris Gardens



## New Sidewalk At The Barn

Dave, Eric and the crew are doing stone work these days, including walkways, driveways, patios, sitting walls and boulder work. They are just finishing up a big job here at The Barn—installing a sidewalk that runs from the front entrance all the way around to the patio in back. They are using Unilock brick and cobblestone pavers that look old and blend in well with the rustic exterior of The Barn. Talk to Eric or Dave if you are thinking about some stone work at your place.

## Kaitlyn Behrends Joins Barn Staff

We are pleased to introduce Kaitlyn Behrends as an event coordinator at The Barn. Kaitlyn is a local girl, having grown up in nearby Tiskilwa. She graduated from Bradley University in December of 2015 with a major in hospitality leadership. While in school, she worked on many small events throughout the year, and several larger events during the summers.

Kaitlyn joined us in early February of this year,

and has been working with Lindsay Esme Funderburg to learn the ropes and be ready for our busy season of weddings and other events on this year's calendar.

Kaitlyn is 23 years old and is getting married this fall. She will be an old hand at coordinating a wedding by then, that's for sure. Congratulations, Kaitlyn, on your upcoming wedding, and welcome aboard The Barn at Hornbaker Gardens!



Kaitlyn Behrends

## Truckload Of Pottery Arrives!



Our truckload of rustic pottery has just arrived, and the crew worked hard all morning to unload it. Just finding the space to put it all is one problem. The area where we usually put the grasses is completely full of pottery. And many of them are in sets that are nestled inside each other. Once those are separated, the space problem is even greater.

The other problem is getting the price tags on them. It's a very

time consuming process, and it's frustrating for both us and our customers when items are not priced. So we will do our best to get prices on everything as soon as possible. Speaking of prices, we can't believe how low we are able to price this pottery. Buying by the truckload results in prices that are around half of what they would be otherwise. (This is starting to sound like a TV commercial.)

# Molly's Perennial Picks



Helleborus True Love



Helleborus Wedding Bells



Helleborus Blushing Bridesmaid



Hosta Island Breeze



Phlox Opening Act Blush



Phlox Opening Act White



Salvia Violet Riot

We asked Molly what new perennials have caught her eye and impressed her. She said she really likes the new Color Spires® series of *Salvias*. 'Crystal Blue' adds a new, sky blue shade to the color range of *Salvias*. And 'Violet Riot' is a vivid violet blue. In addition to their outstanding colors, these varieties have strong, upright, well-branched stems that don't sprawl. They both grow around 20" tall in full sun. Cut back the flower stems after the first spring flush of color has faded, and enjoy another flush of blooms.

Molly is also high on some hybrid *Phlox* in the Opening Act series. These new hybrids, 'Opening Act Blush' and 'Opening Act White', start blooming before the regular tall phlox varieties (thus the name), and continue to bloom for an extended time. They will rebloom sporadically into the fall. They grow 18-20" tall in full sun, and their foliage is mildew resistant.

With us hosting so many weddings at The Barn this year, Molly couldn't help but be excited about the Wedding series of *Helleborus* (generally known as Lenten Rose because it blooms so early). Names in this series of shade plants include 'Blushing Bridesmaid' (double white flowers with pink veining), 'Maid of Honor' (double pink), 'True Love' (double rich maroon red), and 'Wedding Bells' (double white).

Molly also mentioned how well many of the hostas have multiplied over the winter. One in particular that she mentioned is 'Island Breeze'. Besides the bright yellow foliage, this variety features red stems that show off nicely as it emerges in spring.

**HOURS:** From April 10 through July 10, we will be open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 to 5:00 and Sundays 12:00 to 5:00. From July 11 through October 10, we will be closed on Sundays, but will continue to be open Monday through Saturday 8:00 to 5:00.