



Notes from

# HORNBAKER GARDENS, Inc.

NEWSLETTER No. 75, JUNE 2016

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



## OPEN HOUSE JUNE 10, 11, AND 12

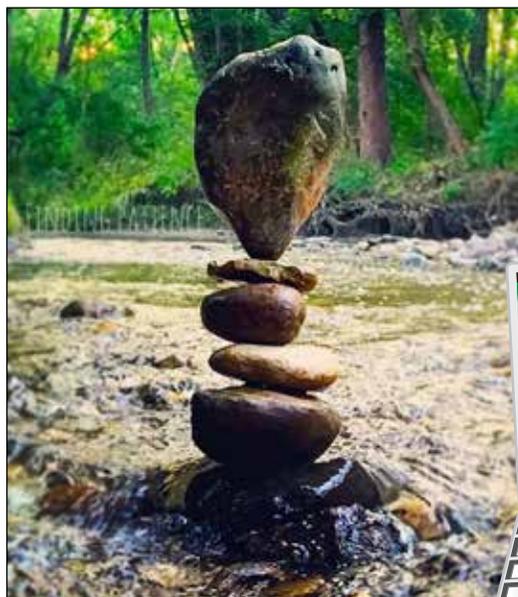
Our annual Open House and Hosta Walk will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 10, 11, and 12. The hostas should be looking great at that time. Refreshments will be served, and drawings for prizes will be held each day. We will be firing up our grill to sell pork chops, brat burgers and burgers for lunch on Friday and Saturday. We will also have a selection of specially priced plants, including a good selection of hostas. Look for specials on some of our Shop items. You never know what we might decide to feature. The Open House specials list will be available on our website by June 9.

**Workshops:** Also, Jane Morris, our former head gardener, will be presenting two workshops on Saturday of Open House. At 10:00, the workshop is entitled Pruning Perennials. Learn how to cut back your perennials now in order to enjoy fuller, stronger and more floriferous plants later in the season. Jane has given this workshop for several years here, and we always get lots of comments on how helpful is. At 1:00, Jane will be talking on Basic Garden Design. Jane is a personable and knowledgeable speaker with a lot of helpful tips to make you a better gardener.



## Art In The Garden

Our annual Artisan Market is happening on Saturday, September 17 from 10 am to 4 pm. This a fun day in the gardens with fine artists, live music and tasty food. We are excited to be partnering this year with our local Princeton Arts Academy to provide children's activities. There will be face painting, tables with coloring pages and an interactive large scale art installation for the kids; all at no charge. Beginning at 10:30 a.m., and continuing throughout the day on the hour, the Arts Academy will host a "Kids with Canvas" class. Check out their schedule when you arrive to get signed up for only \$5. Also new this year, a talented local



rock balancing artist, Matt Denault, will be working throughout the day. Rock balancing is a form of art where stones found in nature are stacked in ways that defy the rules of physics and gravity. Matt's patience and skill are inspirational!



Princeton Arts Academy:  
on Facebook and at  
princetonartsacademy.com

Matt Denault:  
on Facebook  
at Finding Patience

Find out more:

# Vole Problems? Try Bait Jars

We know that many of you are fighting voles because we get quite a few phone calls asking how to deal with the destructive



little critters. Voles look like very dark mice with little or no tails. They burrow underground, often in hosta gardens, and are especially destructive in winter, when they eat the roots of hostas because that is their best and most accessible food source at that time.

You can get on top of the vole

problem now by putting out bait, such as D-Con or Tomcat, but just stuffing bait down their holes may not be the best way to go about it. For one thing, they don't like wet bait, and you don't want your dog or cat possible digging up the bait and eating it. We recently read a helpful article in the American Hosta Society E-Newsletter which told how to use bait jars.

Take a glass pint or quart wide-mouth canning jar, cut a small "V" the size of a quarter in the lid, put a half cup of bait in the jar, and screw the lid on. Place the jar in the garden with the

V side down, placing the jar on a slight mound. The jar should be sloped, with the V side to the downhill side of the slope so that water can't get in. Refill with bait whenever the bait is gone. You may want to place a milk crate over the jar to keep your dog or cat from getting to the jar.

We will have some more information in our next newsletter about a method to use in the fall, using castor oil to repel voles from the area. This method is best done in the fall or early spring rather than now when there is so much vegetation in the garden.

## Perennials To Cut Back Now

Jane Morris will be presenting an outstanding workshop on cutting back perennials at our Open House. This workshop will be helpful for any gardener. Here is a small sample of the kind of ideas she will be talking about.

The *Salvias* are putting on a



*Salvia nemorosa*  
'Caradonna'

great show this time of year. After the blooms have browned out, cut the bloom stalks way back and you will get another flush of blooms. Actually, you can repeat this throughout the season and get several flushes of the showy flowers.

There are quite a few perennials that can be made shorter, fuller, and more compact by cutting them back now well before they go into flower. The plant that many are already aware of, and which benefit from "pinching" or cutting back, is the chrysanthemum, which can be cut back now, and again in very early July, to make them so full that they will branch out in all direction, thereby forming a dome of a plant that is self-supporting. This will also help them to bloom a little later and last longer in the cooler weather of September rather than in the heat of August.

This same principle of cutting back now can also help tall *Asters*. Cutting them back now can benefit them in exactly the same way that pinching back does for mums. Other plants that can be cut back now include the tall *Sedums*, such as 'Autumn Joy' or 'Autumn Fire'. These sedums, especially after they have been in the ground for a few years, tend to flop and open up in the center in the fall when their heavy flower heads develop. Cutting them back now will make them shorter, more compact and self-supporting because of all the extra branching that will develop.

Jane will have a whole boatload of great ideas to help you have a more successful garden, so consider attending her workshop on June 11.

**HOURS:** Through July 10, we will be open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5:00 p.m. We will be closed on Monday, July 4. From July 11 through October 10, we will be open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and we will be closed on Sundays.