



Notes from

# HORNBAKER GARDENS

*"The Princeton Perennial People"*  
22937 1140 N. Ave., Princeton, Illinois 61356

NEWSLETTER No. 18

(815) 659-3282

MAY 2002

## Annual Open House June 7, 8, 9

Our fifteenth annual Open House and Hosta Walk will be held on June 7, 8 and 9. The hostas will be looking great, refreshments will be served, and drawings for prizes will be held each day. We also promise to have a great selection of specially priced plants. And if we are lucky, the new pond and stream will be all landscaped.

### Starting In 2003:

## Closed Sundays

We have made the decision that, starting next year, we will be closed on Sundays. Sundays have always been good days for us, and we know that many of you especially like coming here on Sundays. But seven days a week is not healthy for anyone, including us. So we are trying to give you as much notice as possible, so that you don't make a long trip on a Sunday next year, only to find that we are closed. A gate will be installed at the end of the lane, which will be closed on Sundays, as well as at the end of each day during the week.

Thank you in advance for your understanding. We hope you can arrange your time so that you can get here during our regular Monday through Saturday hours next year.

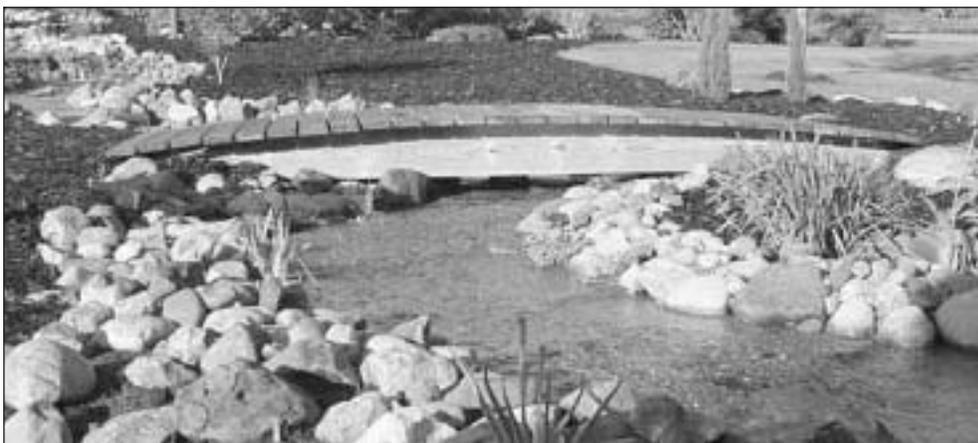
## Cool Spring Slows Iris Season

This cool spring weather has held the irises back a little, but the tall bearded varieties are starting to bud up, so it won't be long until we'll have a field in bloom. The early, dwarf varieties have been blooming since the first of May, pretty much right on schedule, but the rest of the field was slowed up by the cool temperatures in early May.

We estimate that the peak of the season will be from May 23 through the first few

days in June, assuming that it starts to warm up a bit now. With the four inches of rain that we had on Mother's Day weekend, there certainly is enough moisture in the ground to make them pop with some warm weather.

Just a reminder that we will be open our regular hours on Memorial Day weekend. That is, we will be open Saturday 8:00 to 5:00, Sunday 12:00 to 5:00, and Monday 8:00 to 5:00.



*A bridge over the new "river."*

## 1-Step, 2-Step

The bagged compost/mulch material that we are carrying this year is known as "1-Step". It is essentially the same as the bagged pine bark blend that we carried last year, except that it is not quite as coarse. It has a balanced Ph and a slight nutrient charge. The name "1-Step" refers to the fact that with one product, you get something that is perfect for tilling into the soil in order to improve the organic content, and for mulching.

We think that the name ought to be "2-Step", because with one product, you get something that takes care of two steps in the gardening process—soil improvement

and mulching. Whatever you call it, our customers love it. It spreads easily, unlike the muckiness that often accompanies mushroom compost. We like it as a mulch because it stays dark-looking and holds up longer than mushroom compost.

We still carry the pine bark blend in bulk for \$35.00 a cubic yard for those of you who wish to fill your pick-up. We can load you anytime during the week, but it sometimes gets a little crowded and crazy on the weekends, so we ask that those of you who want a load for the weekend show up early on Saturday morning in order to avoid the busy times.

# Hosta Clump House

We are potting so many hostas in clump form this year that we don't have room to display them all in our regular retail set-up. So last fall we built a new hoop house to devote to just hosta clumps. The house closest to the main parking lot is jammed full of big clumps of hostas. It is marked as House B, but it won't be hard to find.

As I write this, I don't even know how many varieties we have in clumps, or how

many total clumps are in there, but it's a lot. They range in price from \$15.00 to \$50.00 each, and they are gorgeous. They are bargains, both in terms of the number of shoots in a pot, and in terms of the maturity of the plants. These clumps will save you around three years of growing, compared to the gallon-sized plants. Take a stroll through House B; you'll like it.

## Granite Galore

We just received another load of granite, so we are well stocked with beautiful Japanese lanterns, benches, birdbaths, bowls, and fountains. These pieces are hand carved in China and purchased by us at prices that allow us to sell them very reasonably.

One of our personal favorites is the Shizedourou Rustic Lantern, pictured here. It is 36" tall, weighs 450

pounds, comes in beige or rose granite, and sells for \$480.00. Its primitive look is copied from rock carvings thousands of years old. Now there is a new, smaller version of the Shizedourou, standing 24" tall, and selling for \$330.00.

We're talking granite here. This stuff is going to last forever, and will only improve in appearance and get more valuable with age.

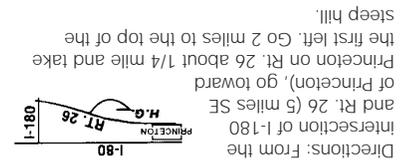


# Trees To Die For

Our selection of trees and shrubs is, by far, the best we have ever had. Despite the "fall is for planting" campaign that you see every September, spring is the best time to plant trees and shrubs, so that their root systems can develop and get well established in your soil for a whole growing season before the first winter.

We still have some Tri-color Beeches and a couple of Fern-leaf Beeches; several weeping Larches, Pines, Spruces, and Hemlocks; Ginkgo trees, and even a couple of Katsura trees; lots of dwarf conifers; and an incredible selection of flowering shrubs.

For a complete listing of our trees and shrubs, check out our website, [www.hornbakergardens.com](http://www.hornbakergardens.com). We are finding that many customers have found our website and downloaded price lists before coming to see us.



**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE**



We accept

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