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Retail Hours

We are open April 10 through October 10, Monday through Saturday, 8:00 to 5:00. We are closed on Sundays, as well as on Labor Day, September 7. **Please note that we will be open on Monday, July 5, which will be a holiday for many of you, and the daylilies should be in peak bloom at that time.**

An Early Season For Daylilies

A warm April has caused everything to be early this year, and ample rains have been good for gardens in general, and the daylilies have been loving it. Whereas we usually say that the peak of daylily season starts around July 4, it may be more like June 25 or so this year. The daylily field looks great, and we will be able to offer the majority of varieties in clump form.

We sell our daylilies three different ways. First, we have over 50 varieties potted up and available from the time that we open in spring. (We pot most of the daylilies in mini-clump form—4-5 fans in a larger pot. They sell for \$15.00 or \$25.00, depending on variety.) Second, we take orders during the season, and then dig divisions (generally double fans) in August after the bloom season is over. You get them bareroot, so it is important that you get

them planted right away. Orders can be picked up on an agreed upon date, or we can ship them.

The third way for you to buy our daylilies is in clump form. This has become the most popular way for our customers. We dig clumps while you are here to pick them out, dip the roots in water, and drop the clumps in plastic bags. You not only get a great deal, because you get so many fans for the money, but you get the daylilies right away, so that you can enjoy their blooms the rest of the season.

We have to hold back enough of each variety for propagation and to fill orders for divisions, so the number of clumps available for any given variety will depend on our supply. In many cases, we can only spare one or two clumps of a variety. So get here early



Oglesbee, IL, Daylily

for best selection. The daylily season is much longer than the iris season. Some of the varieties will start blooming by the middle of June, and some don't start until late July.



Blue Garden Lady

Glass With Class

We have a new line of garden ornaments created by artist Denise Austin. She stopped in this spring and showed us some of her creations, and we just couldn't resist them. Each is a one-of-a-kind piece of art made out of glass, lead crystal, glazed ceramic and fine porcelain. They are made to be outdoor ornaments, although they would be gorgeous indoors, as well. Denise has been making them for five years, using a bonding agent that holds up outside without breaking down or yellowing.

She calls most of her works of art "Garden Ladies". No two are alike. There are also birdbaths and "candlesticks". The candlesticks are upright geometric chunks of lead crystal, mostly clear, but sometimes topped with a colored piece, stacked in a candle-like spire. They catch, reflect, and redirect the sunlight in wonderful ways, and Denise says she especially likes the looks of the candlesticks in winter, interacting with ice, snow, and sunlight. So far, Denise has been selling her Garden Ladies at garden related shows. We are honored and pleased that she chose our place to be her first retailer through which to offer her art.

Make A Splash With ‘Cool Splash’

Here is a cool shrub that is new to most people. *Diervilla* ‘Cool Splash’ is a variegated Bush Honeysuckle with outstanding variegated green and white foliage. Yellow trumpet flowers cover the plant in mid-summer. It is a compact grower, getting only three to four feet tall and wide. ‘Cool Splash’ definitely needs some sun to be well variegated. In too much shade, it will have little variegation. But some afternoon shade may be best in order to keep the white margins from burning in the hot summer sun.

‘Cool Splash’ is listed as a Zone 3 plant, so it is very hardy. And Pam Horwitz (See an article on her elsewhere in this newsletter.) reports that it is a tough, drought-tolerant plant. She speaks very highly of it.

Beautiful Bubblers

This spring, we got in some new “Pebble Pots”, which are concrete pots with shiny pebbles stuck into the concrete or colorful tiles affixed to the concrete. They come with plumbing fittings already embedded into the bottom, so that they can easily be made into fountains, or “bubblers”. Water bubbles up in the center of the pot and cascades over the side of the pot into a basin that can be buried in the ground or left free standing.

When we saw how cool these were, we figured out how to turn virtually any piece of pottery into a bubbler. Those with some texture on the sides of the pot look especially nice. We also ordered in some carved granite pieces that look great with water flowing down them. There are three different sizes of basins so that we have bubblers for large and small situations. These bubblers are a great way to have a water feature with moving water without the expense and maintenance of a pond or pondless waterfall.



Pottery Bubblers



Pebble Pot

Pam Horwitz—Design Consultation

“Right Plant—Right Place”. That’s the motto of our friend, Pam Horwitz, who offers her professional landscape design consultation services. Pam is originally from Bureau County, and has recently moved back to the area. Prior to moving back, she was head of the tree and shrub department of Gethsemane Garden Center, an innovative and well-known garden center in Chicago. She worked for us for two seasons on Saturdays, helping people with trees and shrubs, as well as perennials, and we received many favorable comments from customers whom she had helped.

She is available to come to your place to give advice and do design work. She does not install. So often, the most difficult or overwhelming part of doing your own landscaping is deciding what plant will look good and do well for you. That’s where Pam’s advice is invaluable. She works quickly and her charges are very reasonable. She can be reached at 815 312-1045.

Open House Prize Winners

We had a very busy three days of Open House. A lot of hostas flew out of here. Thank you all for your business this spring. We’ll have a good stock of plants all summer, and the daylilies are about to explode, so we hope to see you again.

Thursday’s prize winners were Debbie Kaczmarczyk of Willow Springs, IL; Vicki Ilczyn of Itasca, IL; and Christine Dick of Ingeness, IL. Friday’s winners were Sue Wrobel of Oglesby, IL; Sherese Pruss of Custer Park, IL; and Janice Koch of Dixon, IL. And Saturday’s winners were Barbara Bailey of Pontiac, IL; Vicki Thimens of Princeton, IL; and Doug Jurgens of Arthur, IL.