



Notes from

HORNBAKER GARDENS, Inc.

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Majestic Oaks

Sometimes it helps to look at a tree's winter silhouette to really appreciate what a majestic specimen it is. And "majestic" is the word that comes to my mind when I (Rich here) think about oak trees. I planted the red oak (*Quercus rubra*) shown here 43 years ago when it was three feet high and had a caliper the size of a pencil. A few years later, when it was six or seven feet tall, our pet geese chewed off the bark all the way around the trunk a foot off the ground. I cut the trunk off just below where the geese had chewed, and a new shoot emerged from the stub and grew into this beauty in the front yard. I would guess it at 40 feet tall and 30 feet wide now, and it's only going to get bigger.

Maples tend to be popular because of their fall color, but for impressive size and majesty, it's hard to beat an oak. They make great shade and are strong, hardy and long lived. We have six different varieties on hand: red oak, scarlet oak, white oak, swamp white oak, bur oak, and a fun, slender hybrid called Kindred Spirit® that grows 30' tall and only 6' wide.

Ask Dave or Rich for a ride on a cart to take a look at some of the mature specimens planted in our arboretum (And while you are at it, check out the beech trees.)



PLAN TO HAVE LUNCH AT THE GARDENS!

May 7 th	Jimmy's Wood Fired Pizza
May 14 th	Grandma Rosie's
May 21 st	Didough's Pretzel Truck
May 28 th	Grandma Rosie's
June 4 th	Dos Vatos Tacos
June 10 th	Cows Coffee & Hornbakergardens Grilled Sandwiches
June 11 th	Didough's Pretzel Truck

Hosta Expert

HERE JULY 24



Bob Solberg was one of the first people Rich and Kathy met when they started attending the annual conventions of the American Hosta Society in 1988. At that time, he was already a driving force in the world of hostas. After graduating from college with a B.S. in Biology in 1973, he did graduate work in Botany at UNC in Chapel Hill, NC. Bob established Green Hill Farm, Inc. in North Carolina as a hosta nursery in 1981, and has been introducing great new hostas ever since.

Bob will join us on Sunday, July 24th to present “When the Hosta Bug Bites”, a humorous look at buying hostas. We will have a raffle, fun contests, and a \$2 hosta discount that day. More details to come in the next newsletter. Reservations are required at our website. The garden center will be open from 9 am to 4 pm.

JULY 24TH SCHEDULE

- 9 am to 4 pm – Garden Center Open
- 10 am to Noon – Meet and Greet with Bob
- 10 am to 1 pm – Grandma Rosie’s Food Truck
- 1 pm – Bob’s Presentation



FRIDAY NIGHT FUN

On Friday, June 10th, we will host a sip and stroll from 5-7 pm as part of our annual Open House & Hosta Walk. We will have live music from Al & Jeannie Brown, the Hornbakers will be grilling sandwiches, our mini bar will be open serving adult beverages, and you can shop all the specials for the Open House. This would be a fun date night, girls’ night out, or family Friday evening fun.

RETURN YOUR POTS



Due to supply chain challenges, we are anticipating shortages and delays next spring of the pots we use when planting our hosta and perennial plugs. We are encouraging customers to bring back pots for us to reuse. Please limit the pots you bring back to the 1-2 gallon size, plain black pots that were purchased here at Hornbaker Gardens. We can also recycle larger tree pots, 10-25 gallon in size. We cannot reuse the various smaller pots from annuals, herbs, veggies, etc. Thank you for helping us recycle some of our pots!



'Mac's Gold'

PUTS ON A SHOW

We can't say enough good things about this wonderful conifer. 'Mac's Gold' (*Picea glauca* 'Mac's Gold') is a selection of white spruce with small, dark green needles that are not prickly at all. It forms a dense, full pyramid that will be around 20' tall and 15' wide in 20 years. And it's a very hardy Zone 3 plant.

But what really makes this plant so great is the show it puts on in the spring. The new flush of growth emerges bright yellow, lighting up the landscape like a beacon. The yellow gradually turns dark green. As the attractive tree matures, the spring show just gets bigger and better.

We were lucky to get a dozen of this outstanding variety this year, so come take a look.

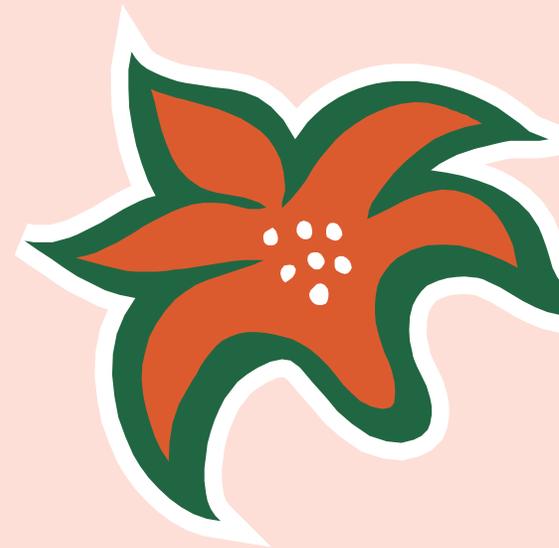
Hours:

Through July 10, we will be open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm, and Sunday Noon to 5 pm. From July 11 through October 10, we will be open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm, and we will be closed on Sundays. Closed July 4 and Labor Day.

HORNBAKER *Happenings*

(Get more details on Facebook or our website)

Saturday, May 7	Kids' Containers for Mother's Day
Saturday, May 7, 14, 21	Yoga in the Gardens
Monday, May 9	Cultivating & Cooking Herbs
Saturday, May 14	Spring Container Workshop
Monday, May 16	Sensational Succulents Workshop
Saturday, May 21	Terrarium Workshop
Monday, May 23	Flower Arranging Workshop
Saturday, May 28	Macramé Plant Hanger Workshop
Saturday, June 4	Kids' Dragon/Fairy Garden Workshop
June 10-11-12	OPEN HOUSE and HOSTA WALK
Friday, June 10	Friday Night Sip and Stroll
Saturday, June 11	Plant Anatomy Workshop
Saturday, June 11	Hypertufa Container Workshop
Sunday, June 12	Arboretum Walk
Saturday, June 25	Pollination Workshop
Sunday, July 24	Bob Solberg Hosta Event
Saturday, September 17	9th Annual Artisan Market



MINI BAR OPENS

Enjoy a beer or glass of wine as you stroll our gardens. The mini-bar will be open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons in May and June.



HG NATURE RANGERS

We are excited to expand our offerings for our youngest gardeners. We ask that adult buddies stay with their kids to join them on these adventures.

Monday, June 6 at 8 pm

Night Hike: Join our staff for a walk around the grounds at dusk as they point out beneficial insects or watch the show the lightning bugs are sure to put on in our prairie this time of the year. Come as a family and enjoy a sunset over our prairie before setting out on this short hike.

Thursday, June 30 from 3 to 5 pm

Pond Discovery: Staff member Carol will point out all of the fascinating water plants and insects that are found in a healthy pond. Participants are sure to spot some fish and frogs as well. Dress to get wet.

Thursday, July 21 from 9 to 11 am

Prairie Discovery: We will have bug nets and magnifying glasses for kids to do their very own prairie sweep.

Nature Journaling- 4 week series

Tuesday, July 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 9 am

Kids aged 7 to 10 can explore their senses in this 4-week series. Every Tuesday morning in July, kids that sign up for this 1-hour group will gather in the gardens, observe the space around them and write or draw what they see, hear, and feel. Reservations required. Fee: \$20, limit 20 participants.