



Notes from

HORNBAKER GARDENS, Inc.

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Next time you are here, be sure to wander down into the Hosta Ravine. Dave and the crew have done a remarkable job of renovating our signature garden. The 20-year-old wooden walkway that used to go around the pond at the bottom has been replaced with paths and steps made from huge flat boulders, logs, and thick wooden slabs.

The area at the bottom has been expanded to provide a peaceful spot from which to view the Ravine. Several benches, sitting logs and flat-topped boulders invite visitors to relax and enjoy the serenity. Two streams trickle down into the pond. The large granite tortoise has taken up residence there.

Strike the Japanese bell that hangs from the wooden supports and enjoy the tone as it is slowly absorbed by the plantings. New Japanese maples, along with ferns, hostas and other shade perennials have been added.

Those who don't want to tackle the stairs that lead down to the bottom can enjoy the view from the gazebo.

Renovations of our gardens will now continue as we turn our attention to the stream and gardens in the front yard. We hope that seeing these improvements is as inspiring for you as it is exciting for us.



Hosta Ravine Transformed



Daylilies Explode In July

Although we have reduced the size of our daylily field, we will still be selling clumps out of the field during bloom season. You pick out the clump you want, we dig it, dip the roots in water, and drop it in a plastic bag for you to take home and pop into your garden. We also have a large selection of potted daylilies throughout the season.

The rains this year have been great for most everything

in the gardens. Certainly, the daylilies have loved the moisture and are on the verge of exploding with color.

Half-price sale: When we reduced the size of the field, we potted up a boatload of nice sized clumps that we are selling at half price. We do have picture signs that show what the flowers look like, but most of them will start blooming soon so that you can see them for yourselves.



Daylily 'Tiger Swirl'
compliments of Walters Gardens

Perennials For Summer Color

Daylilies aren't the only perennials blooming in July. The nursery is awash with plants just now coming into bloom. *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Weed), the 2017 Perennial of the Year is eye-popping orange right now, attracting butterflies for weeks to come. *Echinaceas* (Coneflowers) and *Leucantherums* (Shasta Daisies) are blooming beautifully, as are the Tall Phlox. The pink spikes of *Stachys* (Betony) are still blooming.

The *Rudbeckia* (Black-eyed Susans) will soon be blooming, along with the lavender-blue sprays of *Perovskia* (Russian Sage) and the spikes of Lavender itself. The *Salvias*, which bloomed earlier and have been cut back, will send up another flush of deep blue spikes.

The above is just a sample of what is blooming and about to bloom. Now is a great time to come out to our gardens again to see what's blooming at this time of the season.

HOURS:

Through July 10, we will be open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays noon to 5:00 p.m. However, we will be closed on Tuesday, 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 and on Labor Day.



Artisan Market Here In September

The 5th Annual Artisan Market at Hornbaker Gardens will be held on Saturday, September 16th from 10 am to 4 pm.

Plan to join us for an art market with 35 artists, wine tasting, beer from Lionstone Brewing, delicious home-baked items, live music, local food trucks, Sisler's ice cream, fresh-

picked local produce and more. Our local potter, Ann Crosby, will be working her pottery wheel and encourages your hands-on experience.

September is a beautiful time to visit Hornbaker Gardens and the Artisan Market is sure to have something for everyone to enjoy.

Free Admission



Impressive New *Hydrangeas*

Three new hydrangeas have really impressed us. All three have just started blooming, and all are rebloomers, providing new blooms throughout the summer. The first is Invincibelle® Ruby, an *arborescens* type, in the same family as the old standard, 'Annabelle'. Dark red buds open to a two-toned combination of bright red and silvery pink flowers. Dark green foliage and strong stems make for an outstanding addition to this family of hydrangeas.

Expect to see more introductions coming along in the *serrata* family of hydrangeas. These are generally known as Mountain Hydrangeas or Sawtooth Hydrangeas. They grow much like the *macrophylla*, or Bigleaf Hydrangeas, but are touted as being much more bud hardy. We really like Tuff Stuff® Red, whose lacecap flowers start green and red, and mature to an intense reddish-pink. It grows around 3' tall, blooms on new and old wood, and reblooms throughout the summer. For a smaller plant, try Tiny Tuff Stuff®, which grows only 2' tall and has bluish lacecap flowers that mature to an attractive pink.

The third variety that has caught our eye is Let's Dance® Blue Jangles®, a gorgeous blue *macrophylla* (Big Leaf) type. It's a dependable rebloomer and blooms on old and new wood. Flowers will be blue or pink, depending on soil acidity. We have passed this tip on to many of you, but for those who haven't heard it: Try dumping a bag of mulch into the middle of your *macrophylla* hydrangeas in early November, before really cold weather. Let the mulch mound up in order to protect some of those lower buds, which are the buds that will produce next year's early blooms. Don't pull the mulch off until late April or so. The mulch will act as insulation for those buds, just as the snow in Minnesota generally acts as insulation for Endless Summer®, a variety developed in that northern state.



Invincibelle® Ruby



Tuff Stuff® Red



Let's Dance® Blue Jangles®