



The Mid-South Hydrangea Society In Bloom!

Volume 2, Issue 3

June 2006

From the President:

I'm eager for our 2nd annual Garden Tour on June 17, but it's not too early to think about next year's garden tour! We are always interested to hear from our members who have hydrangea collections and who would be interested in sharing their garden with our membership. We love to visit all kinds of gardens, and you don't have to have a perfectly manicured estate for other gardeners to enjoy seeing your 'special place'. Gardeners are known for their willingness to share, so think about including your garden in our tour next year. Our focus this year is in East Memphis, but we are also eager to see those gardens further out in the suburbs. So please contact me, or Garden Tour Chair, Anne Riordan. We want to peek behind your garden gate!

Our Treasurer's Report balance is encouraging, especially after all the hard work done by the founding committee and volunteers since our beginning only 18 months ago. There will be a Year End Summary Treasurer's Report at the October meeting. The Michael Dirr event in April was a nice boost for us (almost \$5,000) and we are in a position to bring in some excellent speakers next year that you may not have heard before. We were also able to share the Dirr proceeds with the Memphis Botanic Garden and gave them a check for \$3,789.19. We hope this will help with the much needed development of the Hydrangea Walk at the Botanic Garden, and the Society also has plans to expand the hydrangea collection during planting season later this year. Our income from the Memphis Botanic Garden Spring Plant Sale was \$524.25. (The MBG proceeds from our sales was \$174.75.) We are in contact with the CANR (Center for Applied Nursery Research) and Dr. Dirr to obtain hydrangeas for the Botanic Garden, and anticipate a workday in the Fall for planting. We'll be needing your help and hope to create a spectacular hydrangea collection at the MBG!

Other News: Did you know there will be an International Hydrangea Conference in Belgium in early August 2007? Well, now you do. What an exciting opportunity to meet with hydrangea specialists and enthusiasts from other countries. And Dr. Dirr mentioned that following the conference, he plans to take a group to England to tour some of his favorite hydrangea gardens. I'm already saving up my frequent flyer points so I can be there and hope some of you will plan to attend also! We'll provide more information as it becomes available.

And thank you for all the positive feedback we receive regularly from many of you. We are encouraged that you seem to be enjoying the wonderful things happening in the hydrangea world these days and the efforts of our society to share this with you. We are also pleased to have so many members from outside the Memphis area who travel to our events, or who just enjoy being involved with our group by newsletter. We welcome comments and suggestions from all of you on what you'd like to see and do in the future. And please share with us your special finds or the public gardens you've toured with hydrangeas. It's always nice to hear about a special place to visit on a road trip.

Linda Lanier

Hayes Jackson Featured Speaker for October Anniversary Meeting



Hayes on plant collection expedition
in Thailand & Viet Nam

Hayes Jackson (of “Hayes Starburst” fame), an urban county agent with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service of Calhoun County, will be the guest speaker for our Monday, October 9th, 2006, meeting.

Hayes’ topic will highlight new varieties of our native hydrangeas. He will also share some stories of his 2005 plant collection expedition with Tony Avent (Plant Delights) to Thailand and Viet Nam.

Please make plans to attend our 2nd anniversary meeting at the Memphis Botanic Garden.

‘Hayes Starburst’



Hydrangea arborescens ‘Hayes Starburst’ / *Hayes’ Starburst Mophead*

This variety occurred in the garden of Hayes Jackson in Anniston, AL. Lucky Hayes. Lucky for gardeners Hayes is an avid plantsman who recognized its uniqueness and shared it with others since voles have killed the original. The white flowers are comprised of myriad double, sterile florets some held away from the main inflorescence on longish pedicels, thus “starburst.” It is quite distinct, not at all like ‘Annabelle’ or ‘Samantha’. Flowers proceed through the same cycle of color common with other sterile arborescent hydrangeas, starting green and becoming white as they fully open.
3' x 4'



From Wilkerson Mill Gardens 2006 Catalog
www.hydrangea.com



Hydrangea Walk Designated as Master Gardener Sanctioned Project

The Hydrangea Walk at the Memphis Botanic Garden has been sanctioned by the Memphis Area Master Gardeners. Rules passed down from the state require Master Gardeners to fulfill half of their annual required hours with work on sanctioned projects. This will be of interest to our many members who are currently active in our local Master Gardener program. One of the goals of our society is to expand the current hydrangea collection on display at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Dr. Stan Myers and Rick Pudwell will be advising us where additional shrubs may be placed. We hope to have a design and some direction from them soon. Any future work days for bed preparation and planting will be communicated through our newsletter and future meetings. You may contact the co-chairs for this project, Linda Orton at ortonLM@bellsouth.net and Anne Riordan at mailmanann@bellsouth.net.

CHECK IT OUT. . .

The June 2006 *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine has a nice article and beautiful 8-page spread called "High on Hydrangeas". It features American Hydrangea Society member Gloria Ward, from Atlanta. She grows 75 cultivars and has 200 hydrangeas.

Membership Update

Welcome to our new Mid-South Hydrangea Society members:

Andrus, Jean	Phillips, Cheryl
Dagastino, Barbara	Tindall, Mary Carolyn
Glass, Patricia	Ullerich, Carol
Milbradt, Linda	Vornbrock, Ruth
Owens, Lana	

Speaking of Hydrangeas

Our community's interest in learning about hydrangeas continues to grow. In February Linda Orton spoke to the Hedgemoor Garden Club. On April 5, 2006, Linda Lanier spoke to the Hein Park Garden Club and in March she was invited to speak to the Retired Naval Officer's Wives Club. March programs were also presented to the 21st Century Home and Garden Club and the Germantown Garden Club by Linda Orton. And on May 31 Linda Lanier presented at the Collierville Library.

Upcoming presentations are planned July 10th for the newly formed Wonderland Garden Club of Olive Branch, MS. and August 10th, in Clarksville, TN. for the Master Gardeners of Montgomery County. Honorariums are often received by our Mid-South Hydrangea Society in appreciation for these programs. If your group or association would like to have a program on hydrangeas presented at one of its upcoming meeting, please contact Linda Lanier at hydrangea@midsouth.rr.com or Linda Orton at ortonLM@bellsouth.net



Welcome to the 2nd Annual Mid-South Hydrangea Society Garden Tour

Saturday, June 17, 2006 Gardens Open: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Our second annual garden tour features four diverse and handsome gardens located in East Memphis. We will not be caravanning this year due to the size of our organization (256 and counting). Gardens will be open for viewing by Mid-South Hydrangea Society members and their guests between 9:00 AM and 12:30 PM. Visit at your leisure.

Due to the unseasonable hot weather, we encourage everyone to keep hydrated. Arrive with water. Additional ice water will be available at the Riordan garden and bottled water will be available at the Lee garden.

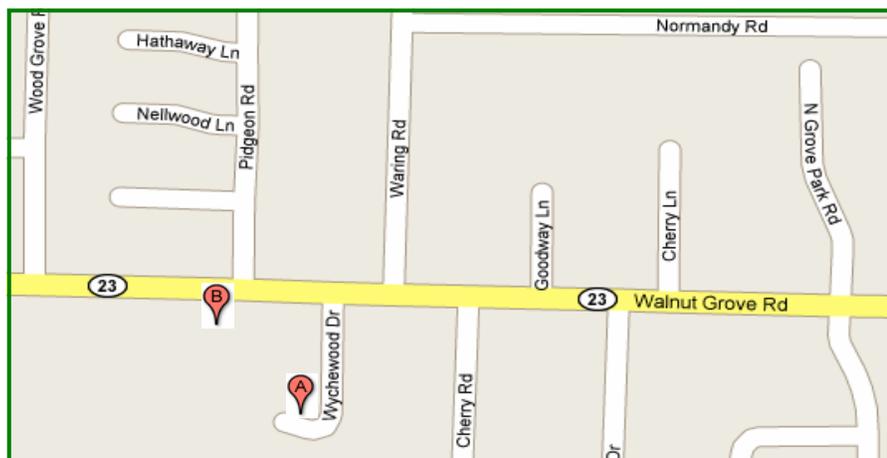
We ask that when parking for the tours be considerate. Avoid blocking the driveway or mailbox of our hosts' neighbors. In addition, do not park on the grass.

Finally, have fun, brag on our hosts and their gardens, and get to know some of our members. And remember in 2007, we will be touring again. May we see your beautiful garden?

Garden of Tommy & Buff Adams

83 Wychewood, Memphis, TN 38117

On tour during the recent American Boxwood Society Conference, this garden uses many varieties of boxwood to add structure formally and informally with a bit of whimsy thrown in. Don't miss it.



We have secured permission to park on the south side of Walnut Grove (from 4285 Walnut Grove to Wychewood Dr.) while visiting the Lee garden. A police officer will be there for your safety. You can also park on Wychewood Dr. Note that the Adams and Lee gardens can be visited together since the properties adjoin at the rear.

Garden of Tom & Lucy Lee

4285 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN 38117

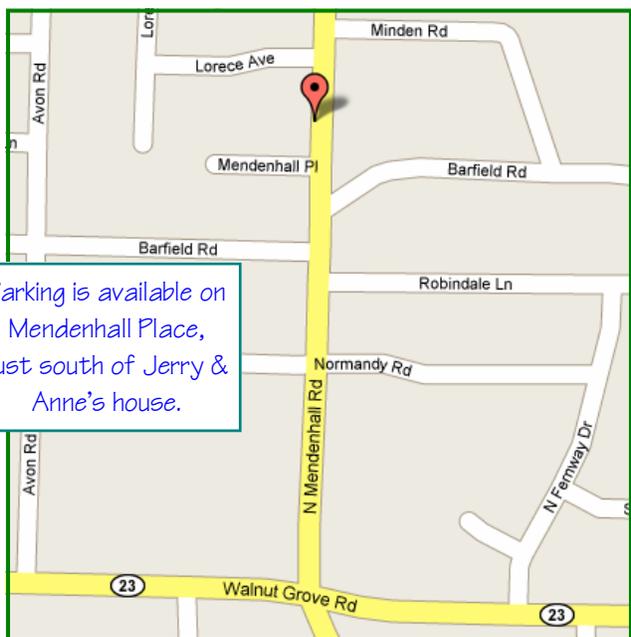
Designed by renowned landscape architect, Ben Page, the Lee's garden boasts exceptional use of plant materials including a wide variety of hydrangeas, espalier fruit, climbing vines, and more. Don't miss this special opportunity.



🌿 Garden of Jerry & Anne Riordan

199 North Mendenhall, Memphis, TN 38117

This garden developed on the property surrounding the old parsonage for Mullins Methodist Church was recently featured on Volunteer Gardener on PBS. Developed into "rooms" in the English style, it includes roses, a parterre, vegetable garden, and more.



DON'T FORGET...

A small selection of hydrangeas will be available for purchase at Jerry & Anne's garden.

🌿 Garden of Alex & Karen Wellford

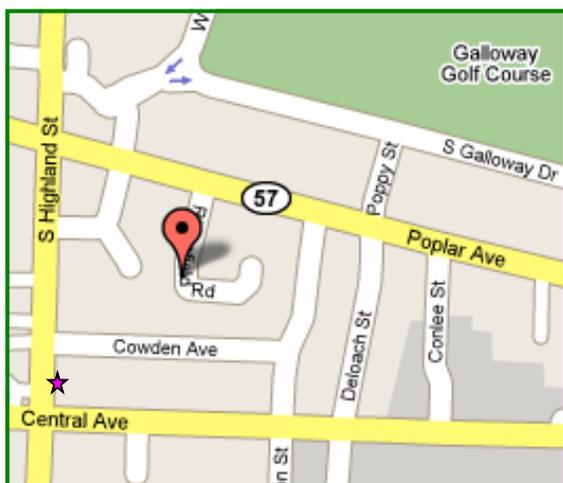
199 Ridgefield Rd., Memphis, TN 38111

This charming garden was recently featured in Mid-South Magazine and was on the local Garden Conservancy Tours. Features sculpture, changes in levels, garden ornamentation, and more. Find exceptional ideas for your own garden.



Hungry After all the Touring?

Did you know that the Wellfords, one of our garden hosts, own a charming antique shop? Recently, they expanded the fun of antique shopping to include an in-house English Tea Room, appropriately named **Crumpets**. Lunch is served from 11:30 until 2:30. And for sweet enticements and a spot of tea, Afternoon Tea is served from 2:30 until 4:30. Wellford's Antiques is located at 262 S. Highland (see map at left ★). Reservations recommended. Call 901-324-1661. Cheers.



Hope to see you there!
For more information call Anne Riordan at 683-7458 or 596-6492



Big Smile™ Hydrangea

Julie Morgan spotted this recent introduction from Hines Horticulture on a recent visit to Atlanta. The Big Smile[®] Hydrangea is currently being offered at select independent garden centers, and a portion of each purchase will benefit the Curing Children's Cancer Fund.

Hines provides the following description: "Big Smile™ Hydrangea has lacecap flowers that open a soft pink and matures to a rich burgundy rose. The foliage is unique with merlot color in the fall with red stems and veins from spring till fall. A compact mounded habit to 3 feet tall and wide, high mildew resistance, and sturdy stems holding the flowers upright on the plant."

To show the marketing description isn't just hype, Julie provided the picture (left) of the one she purchased. Quite nice! Be looking for the Big Smile™ — you'll have a lovely addition to your hydrangea garden while making a contribution to a very worthy cause.



Gardens OyVey Has Hydrangeas

Diane and Wolfgang of Gardens OyVey, Arlington, TN offer many unusual selections of hydrangeas as well as perennials and native plants. Their collection, which includes Ser-ratas, Arborescens, Oak Leaf and Paniculata Hydrangeas, should be **in full bloom through June 11th**. Their Nursery is open Friday and Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 12-4 through June 18th.

For Hours, Directions or Maps, go to www.gardensoyvey.com or call (901) 867 8367.

Visit their Web Site for photos and descriptions.

Website <http://www.gardensoyvey.com/>

Hydrangeas http://www.gardensoyvey.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=1_26

More Hydrangeas <http://www.gardensoyvey.com/Hydrangeas/index.htm>

And some 2006 Hydrangeas http://www.gardensoyvey.com/hydrangea_2006/index.htm

Diane and Wolfgang have specials and open houses throughout their season. We try to cover these opportunities in our newsletter; however, many times our mailings and these offers don't coincide. If you would like to be notified directly by Gardens OyVey of all their specials, please advise Diane by e-mailing her at diane@gardensoyvey.com.



Hydrangea serrata "Kiyosumi"

To Prune or Not to Prune, That is the Question



Do you really need to prune? Not necessarily. Some of us rarely prune, and then just to re-shape a plant that is getting out of bounds for its location. For macrophylla and oakleaf hydrangea (bloom on old wood), the flowers buds develop in the fall and winter on the older growth, and open in late spring and summer of the following year. That is, unless they are killed by severe winter weather. So be careful about pruning after early August in the Memphis area. And then, the advice is primarily to remove any unrepresentable flowers. You don't want to encourage new growth that may not harden off before a frost and injure your plant.

But as is typical with hydrangea, there is an exception for every rule.

Flower buds are formed at the terminal ends of the stem, and this is the bloom you get the following season. However there are often additional flower buds along the entire length of the stem (depending on the cultivar). These usually do not form completely into flowers if the terminal bud develops. But if the terminal flower is killed or removed, the lower flower buds along the stem can now bloom due to a hormonal process called 'apical dominance'. American Hydrangea society founder, Penny McHenry, did her macrophylla pruning in very early Spring (January and February), and reportedly cut back about half of some stems. The results were more compact plants with spectacular bloom.



Study indicates the "best" time for pruning.

In *Hydrangeas for American Gardens*, a 2002 study offered some quantifiable evidence about when to prune. Container grown plants were pruned May until September either to 1) half their length, 2) 2 to 3 inches from the surface of the medium, or 3) left unpruned during that period. The following season (May), the results were assessed with these results:

- ✂ Plants pruned in May, June or July to one-half the stem length or 2-3 inches from the surface of the medium, produced more flowers on average than the unpruned plants (18, 15 and 14 blooms, respectively.)
- ✂ Plants pruned in August and September had similar positive results.
- ✂ The plants pruned May through August had the **most flowers** the following year. September pruning reduced the average number of flowers to only 8 per plant.
- ✂ Unpruned plants resulted in fewer flowers per plant than either pruning treatment, which seems to show that the flowers lower on the stem were never released from dormancy.

Of course some of this depends on your particular cultivar. The study was done on 'Nikko Blue', 'Blue Wave', and 'Hobella'. Some terminal flower-bud-only cultivars, like 'Ayesha', might be better tip-pruned only as the leaves emerge in Spring. You should study your plant so you can learn how the flower buds are formed. The largest bud is usually evident at the end of the stem. However, the half-inch or so plumpish, shiny green, red to brown structures along the stem should indicate the possibility of a greater flower display.

So you decide, or do your own mini-study. Me? I like the unfussiness and ease of leaving my plants be. But this year I think I'll do a little comparison of my own and just see what happens. Hmmm...I wonder what kind of pruning this person did?

Linda Lanier



**THE MID-SOUTH
HYDRANGEA SOCIETY**

635 West Dr.
Memphis, TN 38112
E-Mail: hydrangea@midsouth.rr.com

2006 Officers:

President/ Treasurer	Linda Lanier llanier1@midsouth.rr.com 452-4667
Vice-President/ Program Chair	Linda Orton ortonlm@bellsouth.net 383-4433
Membership/ Newsletter	Caroline Brown ckbrown@fedex.com 683-9766
Annual Tour Chair	Anne Riordan mailmanann@bellsouth.net 683-7458

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

- ✓ **Saturday, June 10** **American Hydrangea Society Garden Tour, Atlanta, GA**
- ✓ **Saturday, June 17** **2nd Annual Mid-South Hydrangea Society Garden Tour**
- ✓ **Thursday, July 13** **Summer Celebration, 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
Agricultural Experiment Station, Jackson, TN
- ✓ **Monday, October 9** **Hayes Jackson**
Mid-South Hydrangea Society meeting
Memphis Botanic Garden, 7:00 p.m.