

The Mid-South Hydrangea Society In Bloom!

Volume 3, Issue 3

June 2007

From the President:

Well, the spring of 2007 won't soon be forgotten! The many shrubs and trees which were so badly damaged from our early April freeze following the unseasonably warm February and March are finally putting on welcome new growth. Everyone was befuddled as to what to do to help their damaged trees and shrubs recover. The main directive of all the articles I read was to be patient, allow new growth to emerge, keep them watered and hold off with the pruners. Due to this late season freeze I've lost the potential for blooms on many of the Hydrangea I grow; however, my Endless Summer is covered in blooms. I have to confess I had not been terribly impressed with the performance of my Endless Summer prior to this, its 3rd year, but I'm changing my tune after this experience.

The International Hydrangea Conference is only 3 months away. The time has rushed by and we'll have 7 members from our society representing the Mid-South Hydrangea Society in Ghent, Belgium this summer. We'll have an ad in the conference booklet along with a poster and table informing attendees about our society. We also plan to make some new speaker contacts and take many, many pictures which will be presented as our October program.

Our 2007 Garden Tour is only a few weeks away and this year we've added a Hydrangea Propagation Workshop for our attendees that will be held at the Pierce home. Make sure you read Anne's detailed synopsis of the garden tour herein. This year each host has received a 3-gallon hydrangea from the Royal Majestic series as a thank you for their generosity in opening and working so hard to prepare their gardens for the MSHS. We'll also have a limited number of 1-gallon hydrangea from the Royal Majestic series for sale at the Pierce home.

Thank you to our members – Julie Morgan, Punk and June Davidson, Bill and Genie Ashworth, Judy Palmer, Cindy Lougee, Connie Caplinger, Joan Hopkins, Jean Norris, Caroline Brown, and Linda Lanier – who have helped in getting our Inspector Hortensia project underway. We're starting small by limiting our research to those Hydrangeas located in the new Hydrangea Garden. If you wanted to participate but were unable to attend, please contact me and I'll make sure you are notified of our next review.

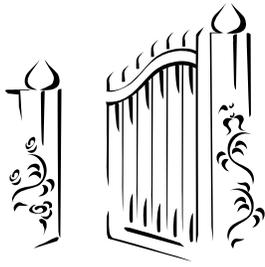
Thank you also to our dedicated members – Claudia Smith, Judy Palmer, Linda Lanier, Caroline Forster, Mary Lou Adams, Lulee Cobb and Kennon Hampton – who helped weed and mulch the new Hydrangea Garden in late May. Your help was immeasurable.

What we call the Hydrangea Walk is now boasting twelve (12) new Hydrangea macrophyllas donated to the Memphis Botanic Gardens (MBG) on behalf of the MSHS by Skeeter McCorkle of McCorkle Nurseries, Inc., Dearing, GA. Take time to drop in to see the newly planted 'Queen of Pearls', 'Princess Lace', 'Mini Penny', and 'Midnight Duchess'. With all these new additions, the MBG will need us to help maintain this bed and the new Hydrangea Garden. Many other local societies support the MBG by maintaining their namesake beds there and I hope our group will follow in their footsteps – so anticipate a spring work day in 2008. The majority of the Hydrangeas are in bloom now so try to get out there and enjoy them!

Linda Orton



Inspector Hortensia Project Begins!



3rd Annual Garden Tour Mid-South Hydrangea Society

Saturday, June 9, 2007
9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The four gardens included in our tour this year are a must see. Prepare to be dazzled by the amount of plant materials and the extraordinary eye toward design. It is recommended that you begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and budget time for each garden. We are sure there will be many questions and our kind hosts have agreed to be available. You may bring one guest per member. And remember to bring water to keep hydrated. Enjoy!

➤ Garden of Mienke Gold

7080 Corsica Drive, Germantown, TN 38138



Mienke Gold is partner (along with Steve Dyer) in the garden design firm, *Garden Perfect*. You are greeted by the wonderful front yard garden with high shade where fern, hosta and hydrangea thrive. Included is an outstanding collection of conifers and Japanese maples. Private garden rooms surround the cottage style home. And don't miss the new white garden. Soon after purchasing the home, she removed the swimming pool adding an astounding garden in its place. Cascading water fills a fish pond. Stone paths circle through woodland. A screen porch provides a restful view. Mienke is especially interested in drought tolerant plants. To deal with the high cost of irrigation, she has almost completely eliminated turf in the garden. The resulting effect is both serene and magic. You won't forget this exceptional garden.



➤ Garden of John & Gina White

6639 Green Shadows Lane, Memphis, TN 38119



John and Gina White's lovely home is fronted with boxwood and laurel in a formal manner. As you enter the iron gate to the right, Gina, who is a member of the Junior League Garden Club and the Little Garden Club really shows her extraordinary gardening talent. White Lady Banks roses in pots drape the house's French doors. Boxwood and hydrangea create a formal planting softening the terrace and pool. Several climbing hydrangea ascend the wall. Pots create charm. A stone path leads to a rose covered arbor that marks the entrance to the perennial garden. Hydrangea give great substance and color to the beds while boxwood provide year round structure. Don't miss the cutting garden (essential for Gina's flower arranging) and the unique rolling herb bed (built by John). Roses finish this fine garden by skirting the back door. A veritable fairy tale of a garden.



Garden of Tim & Diana Oliver
8553 Ravensdale Cove, Germantown, TN 38138



Tim and Diana Oliver have lived in their home for the past 24 years. Initially landscaped as a turf and azalea garden in the early '80's, the garden bug took hold in 1999. At that time, Diana began stone walkways in the west sloped woodland garden. Tim realized where they were going when he spied the work of Mienke Gold. They enlisted her help to develop new pathways as well as reconstruct old ones. The garden comes to life with the addition of wonderful plant materials. They confess to both being avid plant collectors, with Tim in charge of planning pot combinations and Diana the herbs. Each garden area is unique - the steep west woodland garden most unusual for



Memphis, the pool garden with a Japanese maple cascading on its surface, and the new pergola with sitting area. This is a joint labor of love. You will love it too.

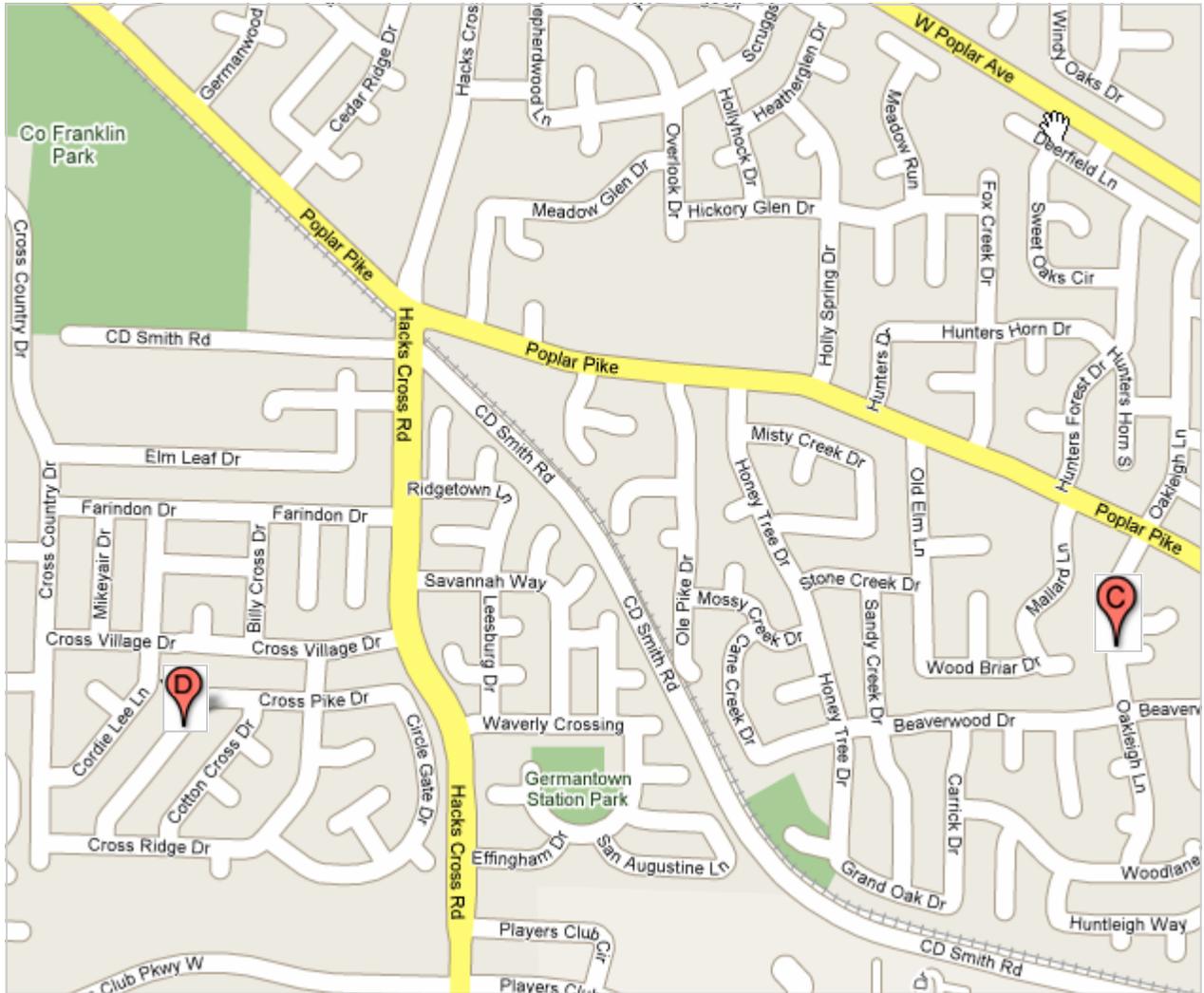
Garden of Gilbert & Barbara Pierce
7898 Cross Pike Drive, Germantown, TN 38138



Barbara Pierce is a member of the Fern, Herb, Hosta & Hydrangea Societies as well as a Master Gardener. Her love of gardening and plans are obvious. After hearing a presentation on "lasagna gardening" she developed one. The resulting sun border at the curb backed by an antique iron fence is a show stopper. In the back, what was once the children's soccer field has become a retreat. The pool is surrounded by a meandering path lined with hydrangea and other shade lovers. Herbs catch the sunniest area and a secret garden is discovered on a smaller path. Can't help but smile at the bottle tree. And the pergola's unique design calls for taking a shady seat and looking up. Barbara and Gilbert's garden is truly a marvelous extension of their home.




Hydrangeas for Sale
 The MSHS will have a limited number and selection of 1-gallon hydrangeas for sale during the garden tour at the home of Gilbert and Barbara Pierce. The varieties available for purchase will be the new introductions, "Queen of Pearls", "Midnight Duchess", "Princess Lace", and the remontant 'Mini Penny'.



Volunteer Help Needed for Hydrangea Sale

We need several members to help with the hydrangea sale on June 9, 2007. We will schedule volunteers for different time periods so they will be free to tour the other gardens.

Please contact Linda Orton at ortonLM@bellsouth.net or 901-383-4433 and leave a message.



FREE HYDRANGEA PROPAGATION DEMONSTRATION

June, Punk and Lee Davidson, MSHS members and Master Gardeners, will be giving a Hydrangea Propagation Demonstration at the home of Barbara and Gil Pierce from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. during our June 9th, 2007 garden tour. You will be given an opportunity to see Hydrangea propagation by cuttings. They will take questions following the demonstration. Depending on the number of participants, an effort will be made for everyone to take home a newly taken and potted Hydrangea cutting. No seating, standing only.

Sara Henderson – April Presentation in Review

Sara Henderson, guest speaker for our April meeting, addressed the many plants we can use to help dress up our Hydrangeas when they are not in bloom or to complement them when they are. As everyone who grows Hydrangeas knows, they are not 'the prettiest girl at the dance' in the winter; however, when summer comes they are the 'belle of the ball'. Of the many suggestions offered by Sara, several caught my eye and imagination.

- 🐞 To help distract from the barren stems of our hydrangeas in winter, think of an edging of dwarf boxwood or *Aspidistra elatior*, the common cast iron plant which we always think of for indoor use, at her feet.
- 🐞 Sara showed us a picture of a flowering Clematis 'Nelly Moser' draped over the beautiful green leaves of a *Hydrangea macrophylla*. I have been experimenting with combining clematis and hydrangeas in my garden and have found that if the hydrangea is grown in front of the clematis it works best not to prune the clematis back hard as you would normally do in the early spring. Let some mature 'wood' of 2 feet or more develop on the vine so that it has a head start of being up higher into the Hydrangea before the shrub starts leafing out heavily and consequently shades the clematis foliage. For those interested in experimenting with this idea, Diane Meucci of *Gardens OyVey* is carrying a good selection of Clematis this spring.
- 🐞 Hostas were also mentioned, with the chartreuse-foliaged varieties appealing to me the most.
- 🐞 To use annual impatiens may occur to many of us as a likely companion planting for our Hydrangeas but what about a hardy impatiens? Take a look at *Impatiens omeiana*, the perennial impatiens, it has striking variegated leaves and was introduced to the U.S. by Don Jacobs, a past speaker for the Mid-South Hosta Society. I do not know of a local source but *Plant Delights* is a mail order source.



Impatiens omeiana

Sara was a kind and knowledgeable guest and I hope you were able to take away some ideas and inspiration from her talk.

Linda Orton

Hydrangea Shopping . . .

Dan West is offering MSHS members a 25% discount on all **hydrangeas** in addition to their VSF 10% discount. Please state that you are a MSHS member PRIOR to having your purchases rung up. They are currently carrying the reblooming *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Mini Penny'. Their allotment was restricted to 20 plants so if you are interested don't delay. Of Dan West's 2 stores the Eads location has the largest selection of Hydrangeas. They are also carrying *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Pinky Winky' and 'Quick Fire'. If you're looking for a dwarf variety (3ft.), check out their *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Color Fantasy' and CITYLINE Vienna. Jim Crowder does an informative e-newsletter. If you would like to subscribe send a request to danwest@birch.net.

Diane and Wolfgang of **Gardens OyVey** are offering MSHS members a 20% discount on the day of our garden tour. They carry a wide range of hydrangea and shade plants and have expanded their Clematis selection this year. www.gardensoyvey.com

Stringers Garden Centers is carrying the Hines Halo series of picotee and bi-colored *Hydrangea macrophyllas*.

the alabama
HYDRANGEA
SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Hydrangea Symposium & Benefit Luncheon

At Aldridge
Botanical Gardens
Friday · June 8, 2007



Symposium 9 am - 12 pm
Luncheon 12:15 - 2 pm

For more information call:
(205) 682-8109 or (205) 663-7700
www.aldridgegardens.com

Membership Cards



The MSHS has issued member-ship cards with our new logo. If you did not receive yours at the April meeting, please contact Linda Lanier at hydrangealady@comcast.net or 901-452-4667 and leave a message.



The Blue Ridge Hydrangea Society, Inc.

Upcoming activities of the Blue Ridge Hydrangea Society in Asheville, NC area:

- ☛ August 25, Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
“Companion Plants for Hydrangeas”
Linda Cobb, author of “A Gardener’s Guide”
- ☛ October 20, Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
“Hydrangeas Dressed for Any Occasion: Ways to Decorate with Hydrangeas Inside & Out”
Sandy Randall

*For more information, contact
Linda Shapiro, Society Founder & President,
at blueflowers@bellsouth.net.*

Membership Update

Welcome to our new Mid-South Hydrangea Society members who have joined since the April newsletter.

Robyn Cox Marcella Grimmett Emily Haizlip Sandra Hayes	Kimberly Kay Jennifer Knight Linda Overton Janet Pitts	Ann Reaves Maxine Tullos
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**THE MID-SOUTH HYDRANGEA
SOCIETY**

635 West Dr.
Memphis, TN 38112

E-Mail: info@midsouthhydrangea.com

2007 Officers

President/ Programs	Linda Orton ortonlm@bellsouth.net 383-4433
Vice-President/ Newsletter	Caroline Brown ckbrown@fedex.com 683-9766
Membership	Linda Lanier hydrangealady@comcast.net 452-4667
Treasurer	Kennon Hampton kennonhampton@aol.com 829-2598
Annual Tour Chair	Anne Riordan mailmanann@bellsouth.net 683-7458

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

- ✓ Friday, June 8 Hydrangea Symposium & Benefit Luncheon
Alabama Hydrangea Society
Aldridge Gardens, Birmingham, AL
- ✓ Saturday, June 9 Mid-South Hydrangea Society
3rd Annual Garden Tour
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- ✓ Saturday, September 29 Road Trip to Hayes Jackson's Garden
Anniston, Alabama
- ✓ Monday, October 8 Mid-South Hydrangea Society meeting
Memphis Botanic Garden, 7:00 p.m.
International Hydrangea Conference Pictorial Review