



## HERBAL GREETINGS

**December is a wonderful time of year** to use all those herbs, flowers, and shrubs you've been growing all year long to brighten the home. Making wreaths, hanging dried herbs in the kitchen, sunroom or any room in the house will make the coldest weather go away. Use up that last bit of basil and make a wonderful pesto to put on hot pasta. Create ginger cordial for sipping. Roast and coat pecans with herbs and spices to have something wonderful to offer friends. Your garden will again come 'alive' when you surround yourself with the bounty of your summer and fall garden during the winter months and be sure to share it all with friends! Don't forget that many ideas and beautiful recipes abound in our *Austin Herb Society Cooks* Cookbook, available at our Annual Holiday Bazaar.

Seasons Greetings to All,  
Michelle Chaput  
President, Austin Herb Society

### Ginger Liqueur

From *Austin Herb Society Cooks*

Submitted by Vee Fowler

3 C. vodka    3 C. sugar

1-1/2 C. chopped fresh gingerroot cut in 1/2" cubes

Place all 3 ingredients in large clean glass container. Stir until sugar dissolves. Seal tight and swirl once a week, letting mixture stand for about 6 weeks. The longer it stands the stronger the flavor becomes. Filter, if needed, through a coffee filter into clean glass containers. Be sure to use good vodka. The better you use, the better it will taste.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

There will be **NO** Study Group Meeting, Executive Meeting or gardening at Mayfield Park during December.

#### Tuesday, December 3

##### AHS Annual Holiday Bazaar

Zilker Botanical Garden, 9:30 am – Noon

See page 2 for more information

#### Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

##### AHS Holiday Party

See page 2 for more information

#### Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

##### Christmas Crafts Workshop

Zilker Botanical Garden, 9:30 am

Call Molly Ogorzaly at 481-8256 for information and reservations. You must pay for supplies.

#### Friday, Saturday & Sunday, December 13, 14, 15 Yulefest at Zilker Garden Center, 6-9 pm

The Austin Area Garden Council will be joining the Trail of Lights festivities by hosting visitors at the Garden Center. Our club is encouraged to bring homemade or purchased cookies. Drop them off at ZBG on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. Homemade cookies should be put in packages of 6 small cookies for sale to the public.

#### Monday, December 16

##### Zilker Herb Garden Work Day, 9:30 am.

Bring garden tools and join the fun. Call Mary Ann Sommers at

494-9372 or Sandra Holland, 258-4643, for information.

#### Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

General Meeting, Zilker Botanical Garden, 9:30 am. **Dan**

**Hosage** from Madrone Nursery presents "**Botanists of Texas, 1825 to Present**".

#### Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

Study Group, Zilker Botanical Garden, 7 PM. **Carrie**

**Boyles**, owner of ScentGarden, presents a program on "**Aromatherapy**".

#### Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

**Pressed Flower Note cards**. Learn how to make these lovely cards. Call Ellen Zimmerman at 301-5838 to reserve a spot. Space is limited.

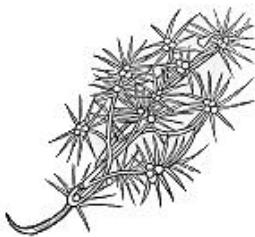
# AHS Holiday Bazaar

For those of you who need a little present or two, our very own members are preparing gifts of all kinds with you in mind. Books, calendars and tote bags will also be available at a discount to club members. All members are encouraged to participate in this annual event. It's lots of fun. If you have something to offer or are just picking up those last minute gifts this is has become a wonderful event. Please come and bring your friends to shop. Most vendors want cash or check, only. If you have questions about the bazaar or want to bring something to sell, please call Cindy Phillips at 264-2779.

Members are also encouraged to bring a favorite holiday dish to share with everyone. Please call Roberta Showerman at 442-8018 and let her know what you're planning to bring!

## Holiday Party!

All Members and their spouses are cordially invited to this wonderful **Holiday event** that will take place in the home of the President, Michelle Chaput. The address is 5804 Ginre Cove, Austin, TX 78759. Directions will be available at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share with the group. Punch and coffee will be provided. BYOB. Please contact Michelle at 343-7677 or [president@austinherbsociety.org](mailto:president@austinherbsociety.org) or Ellen Zimmerman, 301-5838, as soon as possible if you are planning to attend.



## DONATION TO AAGC

Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of Austin Herb Society members we are able to donate \$5000 to The Austin Area Garden Council. Michelle Chaput and Anna Prothro will be presenting our gift to the Council at their December meeting.

## New Gardening Program

Dave Dickson is producing a new garden segment for news8austin, the Time Warner cable news channel. The weekly series will feature Austin gardeners and their gardens. Less about telling folks everything they need to know about gardening

# OPPORTUNITIES

## Get Growing and Keep Going Symposium

In February, AHS will have a booth of ideas for educational activities for children involving herbs. This is a great opportunity to help the Austin Community. Contact Lydia Noble at 266-7174 or [lyd@austin.rr.com](mailto:lyd@austin.rr.com).

## Mayfield Park Gardening Day

Gardening fun is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month starting at 9:30 AM. Bring your trowel and gloves and come enjoy this wonderful home and garden. Contact Anna Prothro at 476-8025. Next gardening day is January 28th. There is **no** gardening day for December.

## SHOP WITH OUR SPONSORS!

As you look for gift giving ideas be sure to consider **offerings from our sponsors**. They can help you find creative ideas your friends and family will enjoy. Perhaps a gift certificate for a culinary treat will delight Aunt Jenny, and gardener Cousin Mary will certainly enjoy some new tools or a gallon of seaweed. That teacher who took extra time to help little Joey when he struggled with algebra deserves a diffuser and selection of aromatic oils. Or how about a gift certificate for an herbal class or a pot of herbs for that dear neighbor who helped when your new kitty climbed a tree and couldn't get down.

Finally, don't forget to include **tickets** to the Zilker Garden Festival in your holiday cards and gift baskets! Although this fun event isn't until March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, tickets are already for sale. Anna Prothro will have them at our December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting or call her at 476-8025 to arrange to pick up some tickets. The advance price is \$3.00. Tickets at the gate are \$5.00!

## SPONSOR NEWS

Carrie Boyles, owner of **ScentGarden**, is proud to announce the opening of a retail shop at 11726 Manchacha Road. Located on the grounds of **It's About Thyme Nursery**, the shop will feature all things aromatic, including oils, soaps, bath products and hand crafted items. Beginning Friday, November 29 store hours are 1-4 on Sundays and 10-6 on Mondays and Wednesday thru Saturday. A **Grand Opening** will be held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 1-4. Stop by and see what delights Carrie is offering. Phone 280-3544.

and more about Austin gardeners in their own gardens sharing their secrets and experience with our viewers. He loves to meet gardeners who would allow them into their gardens and homes. The series is to begin either in late November or December. If you would like to explore this idea please contact Dave Dickson at [davdik@ccsi.com](mailto:davdik@ccsi.com)

## Many Thanks To...

Sharon Maner, Lydia Noble, Gwen Sederholm, Taffy Gauger, Doris Manning and Grandmother, Helen Wahlgren, and Nancy Wackerbarth who met at Michelle Chaput's home on November 7<sup>th</sup> and made herbal holiday ornaments for the tree at Zilker Botanical Gardens. Take the time to say thank you to all these wonderful members for taking the time to do this fun job and take a look our tree and at all the trees decorated by all the garden clubs. They're varied and lovely to see. We will be decorating the tree at ZBG on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Kitchen Shower Held

A kitchen shower benefiting the Zilker Botanical Garden kitchen was held on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Anna Prothro, our AAGC Representative and Michelle Chaput, President of The Austin Herb Society presented a check for \$75.00 to the AAGC as a gift from AHS. Delicious sandwiches and pies, cider and coffee were served at this lovely event. It gave attendees a chance to visit with other members of the Austin gardening community.

## Heritage Community Gardens: Where a community grows

To address the need for increased physical activity and consumption of fruits and vegetables in Williamson County, the Williamson County & Cities Health District (WCCHD), in partnership with the City of Georgetown Parks and Recreation are establishing the Heritage Community Gardens at 2100 Hutto Road in Georgetown. Community gardens are placed in a location accessible to the community and provide opportunities for physical activity, access to fresh fruits and vegetables, social interactions, and neighborhood beautification.

Plots may be adopted for free by families, youth groups/clubs, and community organizations. Ten percent of the harvest will be given back to the community through food banks or similar organizations. Volunteers are needed to help construct the beds, dig holes for fruit trees, establish walking paths between the beds, and much more. Educators will provide information to the community on gardening techniques and environmental awareness issues, such as composting, organic gardening, and native plant growing. Educators will also teach classes on nutrition and healthy cooking.

*Get involved today by adopting a plot or becoming a volunteer!* Heritage Community Gardens is open to

everyone in Williamson County who would like to participate. Those interested in adopting a plot, volunteering time and resources, becoming an educator may call the **Williamson County and Cities Health District at 248-3284 or 248-3272.**

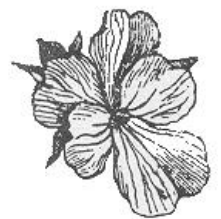
## *Pretty as a Pansy*

*Ann Marie Wilson*

Use cheery faced pansies in winter beds or combined in containers with other cool weather bloomers such as alyssum and snapdragons. These winter plants should be placed in a sunny location; amend the planting bed with blood meal and a bit of bone meal to get your plants off to a good start. The "official" distance between plants is 6-9 inches, but they may be planted as close as 4 inches to provide a quick mass of color. Pansies are heavy feeders so don't forget to fertilize throughout the winter and be sure to pinch off faded blooms to encourage more blossoms.

Gardeners before the 1830's didn't know pansies. Instead they grew sweet violets and tiny violas such as the charming purple, yellow and cream *Viola tricolor* we know as heartsease or Johnny Jump Up. In the hybridizing frenzy of the Victorian era an English gardener developed the first "show pansy" and the competition was on with clubs and societies vying to produce the perfect pansy. We get to enjoy the results of this mania with today's pansy hybrids, *Viola x wittrockiana*.

Pansies are available in a rainbow of colors. Some of the popular varieties that may be found in nurseries are the Crown and Crystal Bowl strains that have solid color faces, the Antique Shades series featuring pastel colors and the Majestic Giants series with bright bicolor blooms up to 4 inches across.



So many pansies, so few flower beds. A number of Austin Herb Society sponsors stock pansies, and while you are shopping, don't forget to look at pansy rings. These flat, doughnut shaped vases are perfect for displaying your flowers indoors.

*The Austin Herb Society, Inc. has been organized exclusively for the purposes of providing education regarding the benefits of cultivating and using herbs to promote better health and well-being, encouraging the growth and use of herbs for many beneficial purposes, and providing charitable and volunteer support to community gardens, libraries and/or other community projects.*

Disclaimer: The information in this newsletter is for educational purposes only. It is not meant to diagnose, treat, or replace the advice of a health professional

## **Austin Herb Society 2002/2003 Sponsors**

### **Acupuncture Medical & Research Centre\*\***

371-1121 [www.AcupunctureAustin.com](http://www.AcupunctureAustin.com)

### **Balcones Acupuncture Clinic\*\***

890-0288

### **Barton Springs Nursery Company**

328-6655

### **Big Red Sun**

480-9749

### **Chez Zee Restaurant**

454-2666 [www.chezzee.com](http://www.chezzee.com)

### **Gardens**

451-5490 [www.gardens-austin.com](http://www.gardens-austin.com)

### **El Interior**

474-8680 [www.elinteriormex.com](http://www.elinteriormex.com)

### **EZ Herbs\*\***

301-0959 [www.ezherbs.net](http://www.ezherbs.net)

### **Gabriel Valley Farms\*\***

930-0923 (wholesale only)

### **Ginger Webb, Certified Herbalist**

476-8422

### **The Great Outdoors Nursery**

488-2992 [www.gardenadventures.com](http://www.gardenadventures.com)

### **Howard Nursery**

453-3150

### **It's About Thyme\*\***

280-1192 [www.itsaboutthyme.com](http://www.itsaboutthyme.com)

### **The Natural Gardener**

288-6113 [www.naturalgardener.austin.com](http://www.naturalgardener.austin.com)

### **Cindy Phillips Painting and Clay Studio**

264-2779

### **Jennifer Phillips, Dog Obedience Trainer**

288-3271

### **ScentGarden**

695-5321 [scentgarden.com](http://scentgarden.com)

### **Wheatsville Co-op**

478-2667

\*\* 10% Discount for AHS members

*Be sure to thank our sponsors when you visit their establishments this year, check [www.austinherbsociety.org](http://www.austinherbsociety.org) for news and updates in our sponsor listings*



### ***The Austin Herb Society, Inc***

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, Texas 78746

[www.austinherbsociety.org](http://www.austinherbsociety.org)