



Herbal Greetings!!

Wow - it doesn't get any better than our beautiful April weather in central Texas!

The month started with GardenFest at Zilker and what a fabulous event. We appreciate all of you who volunteered at this event. We also appreciate many of our sponsor members who participated as exhibitors selling their herbs and herbal products. Our herb garden was in full glory and the entire park was so beautiful.

The use of fascinating slides and current photos were a clever addition to the wealth of knowledge Molly O. shared with us at the April meeting. And, Molly announced that she and her husband have purchased the Plantmobile. Molly will be setting up a 501c3 and welcomes your request for booking the Plantmobile for your event. It has already participated a recent Art Car Show.

We made a recent trip to the Fredericksburg Herb Farm Herbfest on April 16 to support one of our long-time sponsors. The herbs and flowers at the Farm were in full bloom and the cool breezes made for a delightful day in the hill country. We enjoyed lunch at the Farm (always worth the visit!), music, seminars, wine, lots of herbs and herbal products. We even saw a quick glimpse of the bright red poppies at Wildseed Farms on the way home. Our April field trip on the 23rd included Wildseed, Fredericksburg Herb Farm along with visits to wineries and other farms in the area.

The Vee Fowler Herb Garden has seen some changes this month. Michelle, Eloise, and volunteers worked the weekend of April 9-10 digging ditches to prepare for the installment of the automatic sprinkler system. This is a major and necessary step for the new and existing herb gardens. Thank you to all who assisted this weekend on the important project!

Looking to the month of May, we hope to see all of you at the May 3rd member program as we thank our current board and committee members who gave so much of their time and talent to their position this past year. We also look forward to the year ahead as we serve our second term as co-presidents and introduce our members who have agreed to serve as next year's board and committee chairs.

Mark your calendars for the May 7, AHS member garden tour. This is our annual event and always a great day for visiting and learning in the gardens of our host members. See you there!

Cindy and Jan, AHS co-presidents

Tuesday, May 3

Austin Herb Society, General Meeting, 9:30am to Noon at Zilker Botanical Gardens

John Dromgoole, "New Composting Techniques." John Dromgoole is a long time AHS Sponsor and proprietor of the renowned Natural Gardener. The Natural Gardener offers many fine organic products and a program of free talks on every aspect of gardening. John himself is a nationally renowned speaker. There is a \$3 donation for non-members.

Saturday, May 7

Field Trip: May Garden Tour

Member gardens on the tour are Diana Hyland, Ellen Zimmermann and Pam Bell. Diana is off of Bee Caves Road, and Ellen and Pam are close to each other near the Wildflower Center. Contact Cindy Phillips for more information, a map, and to let her know what food you will be bringing. Cindy's number is 264-2779

Tuesday, May 10

Zilker Park Herb Gardening Day is the 2nd Tuesday of the month starting at 9:30am. Talia Bright is leading the gardening group. If you have volunteered to help with the garden, please come. For info, please contact Talia at 423-1852.

Thursday, May 12

Austin Herb Society, Study Group, 7-9pm Zilker Botanical Gardens

AHS co-president Cindy Boyle will discuss "Stevia, Sweet Herb of the Aztec." For more info, contact Vee Fowler at 345-0719 or Eloise Doherty at 927-8478. There is a \$3 donation for non-members.

Tuesday, May 23

Mayfield Park Gardening Day is the 4th Tuesday of each month starting at 9:30am. Bring your trowel and gloves and come enjoy this wonderful home and garden located off MOPAC & 35th St. Please contact Julie Crouch at 339-0193. Everyone is welcome!

Officers & Committees for AHS 2005-06

Officers:

President - Jan Bland and Cindy Boyle

Past President - Michelle Chaput

3rd VP Membership -

Lela Rinehart

Jan Worth

1st VP Programs – Cindy Phillips

1st VP Field Trips

Sandra Holland

Sara Holland

1st VP Sponsors - Diana Hyland

2nd VP Study Group

Vee Fowler

Eloise Doherty

4th VP Website – Talia Bright

4th VP Editor & PR – Brenda Davis

Secretary – Dephanie Cates

Treasurer - Gayle Engels

AAGC Rep.

Richard Nelson

Alt: Michael Zitz-Evancih

Committees Chairs:

Zilker Herb Garden - Talia Bright

Mayfield Park Herb Garden – Julie Crouch

Historian - Michelle Lofstom

Educ & Outreach-

Lydia Noble

Gwen Sederholm

Speakers Bureau – Kim Lehman

Merchandising – Susan Norwood

Door Prizes – Betty Stahley

Symposium

Gayle Engels

Karen Hayward

Diane Sandlin

Membership Luncheon – Pam Bell

Librarian – Dorothea Mims

Hospitality

Pam Bell

Marsha Paisley

Doris Manning

Brochure – Kim Lehman

Austin Herb Society Member Survey

Your input is valuable for future planning! Please complete our member survey, located on pages 4 and 5 and bring this to the AHS May 3 general meeting or mail to: Cindy Boyle, 380 Kaanapali Lane, Bastrop, TX 78602.

Deadline is May 31.

Reminder: Sign up now for the July 16, 2005 Field Trip to Peckerwood Garden

Sign up at the April meeting to tour the garden. The \$10 fee will need to be collected at the same time. This will be open to members and friends who wish to share in this adventure. For more info, please contact Pat Lewis at 282-0300.

Membership Information

Updated Info: Sara Holland, new email:

herblady@austin.rr.com

New member: Kevin Washington, 6600 Ed Bluestein, #601, Austin, 78723, ph: 923-6302, email:

kevinwashington@netzero.net

AAGC needs your help for 'Ride Through the Gardens'

At the April 12th AAGC Board of Directors meeting an event called "Ride through the Gardens" was announced. It is scheduled for Monday, May 16th. This is an opportunity for club members to visit various areas of the gardens that they have not been able to visit. Golf cart rides will be available from 10am to 2pm. This is a great opportunity to take a fun ride through the gardens while it is in bloom. Please make sure that this is announced to all your members so that can join the fun.

Your help is needed to make this fun adventure happen. I need help with the sponsorship of a golf cart (\$65), and with refreshments. Please call me at 477-7672 ext. 10 to let me know if you can sponsor a golf cart or bring refreshments.

Thank you so much for your help.

Joyce Billings

Information/Volunteer Coordinator

Austin Area Garden Council

at Zilker Botanical Garden

Phone: 477-8672 ext. 10

Fax: 481-8254

Email: info@zilker garden.org



Spreading Dogbane
(*Apocynum
androsaemifolium*)

Dogbane has been used to relieve dyspepsia, constipation, fever, gallstones, and dropsy. Given in large doses, it is cathartic and emetic. When used, it is generally combined with less harsh medications suitable for the intended purpose. Caution: eating the leaves has killed livestock, so beware!

April 9th and 10th Workdays in the Vee Fowler Native Texan Herb Garden:

We had two beautiful days working in the new herb garden. On Saturday, my husband (Jim Chaput) and I arrived early with tools in hand, and a cooler full of water & oatmeal cookies too. We promptly started digging, using pick and shovel and excavated the previously lightly dug trenches and created several new ones too. Eloise came out for a little while to go over the plans and then she went on to the LBJ Wildflower Center for a speaking engagement. While at Zilker we were able to discuss our plans with Todd Williams and Mel Henson who work for the park. At this point in time, we are basically putting in the watering system and Todd will be working directly with us. My husband and I brought PVC tubing and fittings (as requested by the park), sand and pea-gravel to expedite the new system, but after Eloise talked to Todd he said that he would re-think our first choice of copper tubing in this situation. Normally the park only uses PVC for water systems. So, at this point we are holding our supplies back and letting Todd go over our request. This aspect of the garden will be decided soon and I anticipate that the system will be installed before the end of the month. We have to 'lay-in' the lines and have it inspected by the City and then fully connected. We are then going to connect soaker hoses for the existing walled garden and for the future garden.

On Sunday, we came early to excavate a new trench that goes around the back of the existing garden and crosses under the sidewalk. With this, in we can bring water to the final bit of existing rock walled garden. Everything except the 'Rosemary' circle will have water when we finish. You will all be happy that the old valves will be replaced with an easy to operate one and that a hose connection will be provided that is also easy to use and reach! While we were all there, Jim and Eloise proceeded to remove the large stumps left over from old trees. This was very hard work with an ax and shovel but they persisted and got them out! Eloise brought her tiller but it wouldn't start so that will be done at a later date. I want to thank a new member Debbie Hughes who also helped on Saturday.

As many of you know, it's been a slow process to get this new garden started but we have made some real progress this past weekend. I'm not sure of the dates of our next workday(s) but I will really need more hands to help with this project. There will be light work and shoveling to do and we'll need people to pickup stones and smooth the area, so please next time come out and help. I really can't do this by myself! Our next step will be to outline in rock the new rock-walled beds. I'll have rock delivered to build with in the next couple of weeks. Again, I need volunteers to help build this wonderful garden. Without you, it will remain just a piece of dirt!

Good Gardening,
Michelle Chaput

Upcoming events around Austin

7th Annual Lavender Fest

May 21 & 22 at Becker Vineyards.

We are featuring over 30 vendors selling a variety of wonderful products (mostly lavender and gardening related), lavender luncheons by well known local chefs Vickie Bonewitz (My Own Chef Catering) and Steve Howard (Buffalo River Cuisine/Bonterra), speeches and demonstrations on uses of lavender, cooking demonstrations, wine tasting and winery tours, and more. There is more information regarding the Lavender Fest at <http://www.beckervineyards.com/> on our Lavender Page.

Sincerely,

Nichole Bendele

Public Relations Coordinator at Becker Vineyards

Susan Wittig Albert's new book *Dead Man's Bones*

Barnes & Noble in Westlake

Friday, May 6 at 7pm

Susan Wittig Albert will be at Barnes & Noble to sign her new China Bayles mystery, *Dead Man's Bones*. This is also part of their SCN (Story Circle Network) voucher fundraiser. Pick up your voucher on April 30 to buy Susan's book and Barnes & Noble will contribute a portion of your purchase to SCN. Call 328-3652 or 328-3155 for more info.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Saturday, May 14, 12-3pm

Susan Wittig Albert will be on hand to sign her new China Bayles mystery, *Dead Man's Bones*. For more info please visit <http://www.wildflower.org/?nd=calendars> or contact Joe Hammer at 292-4300 or <mailto:jhammer@wildflower.org>. The center is located at 4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin 78739. Also, check out killerplants.com/herbal-folklore/20050314.asp for interesting plant lore.

The Wildflower Trail

For wildflower sightings, maps with detailed descriptions for driving routes and other info, try the following websites:

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/> Provided by TxDOT, go to 'travel services,' click on 'road conditions.' Hot line is also available, 800-452-9292. <http://www.traveltex.com/> Official site of Texas Tourism, search for 'wildflowers.'

<http://www.wildflower.org/> Provided by Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. <http://www.wildflowerhaven.com/> Provided by wildflower photographer and writer Rich Olivieri. <http://www.instar.com/wildflowers/> Provided by Ken Biggs, has sightings and other info. <http://www.tex-fest.com/> Site for Hill Country Wildflower Trail.

<http://www.dewittwildflowers.org/> Info on DeWitt County wildflower activities. <http://www.brenhamtexas.com/> Look under wildflower watch for sightings.

<http://www.wildseedfarms.com/> Site for the nation's largest working wildflower seed farm. <http://www.seedsources.com/> Site for Bill Neiman's Native American Seed company



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Name: _____

Email/Phone: _____

1. Monthly AHS Member Program - suggested topics/speakers:

2. Monthly Study Group - suggested topics/speakers:

3. Monthly Field Trips - suggested topics/speakers:

4. September Kick-off meeting with oregano theme (oregano is herb of the year for 2005.) Suggested speakers:

5. February Annual AHS seminar - suggested topic/speakers:

6. Would you like to be included on an AHS member garden tour? Yes No (circle)

7. Check off which events you may be able to volunteer at:

AHS September kick-off meeting

Gardening at Zilker, Mayfield or Vee Fowler Herb Garden

AHS October HerbFest

Hospitality at monthly AHS program (bring an herbal dish)

AHS February seminar

Future board or committee chair position (2006/2007):

Zilker April GardenFest

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8. Comments (concerns, suggestions or compliments) about AHS:

Sponsor Member - see page two!

For Sponsor Members only:

9. How can we give you more value from your membership?

10. Would you like to participate in a program, workshop or tour? Please be specific?

11. Can you provide a donation? We are always looking for plants and decorations for the Herb Garden at Zilker, as well as prizes and give-aways for meetings and events. (Public recognition is always provided.) Please list type of donation:

12. Do you take advantage of sending news, promotions and sales information to our newsletter, the *Potpourri*?

Austin Herb Society 2004/2005 Sponsors

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1600 W. 38th St., #402, ph: 371-1121

www.acupunctureaustin.com

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Andra H. Millian, M.S. L.Ac. C.H.**

5750 Balcones Dr., #117, ph: 892-0288

<http://home.austin.rr.com/onenamillian>

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www.lucindahutson.com

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www.naturalgardeneraustin.com

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www.wheatville.com

Austin's Community Grocery Since 1976

****10% Discount for AHS members.** Be sure to thank our sponsors when you visit their establishments this year, check www.austinherbsociety.org for news and updates in our sponsor listings.



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