



# POTPOURRI

AUGUST, 2005

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[WWW.AUSTINHERBSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.AUSTINHERBSOCIETY.ORG)

## Herbal Greetings!!



**The Austin Herb Society's  
Oregon Themed Annual  
Membership Luncheon**  
Tuesday, September 6, 2005,  
9:30am – 12:30 pm  
Gwen Barclay and Madalene  
Hill will speak on the herb of  
the year - **Oregano**.

The luncheon will be held at  
Austin Area Garden Center

located at Zilker Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs  
Road. Due to limited parking carpooling is encouraged. There  
is additional parking under the bridge (MoPac) behind Zilker  
Botanical Gardens, which you can access the botanical gardens  
through the back entrance.

**All seating is reserved, plus there will be no cost this year  
for the luncheon. All members will need to bring a covered  
dish to share. Prospective members are welcome!!**

**RSVP by August 30<sup>th</sup> to reserve your seat.**

To RSVP with the number attending and dish you will be  
bringing, contact Pam Bell at 894-0767.

**Tuesday, August 9**

**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.

**Tuesday, August 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!

**HerbFest 2005 (FREE Event!)**

**Saturday, October 8, 9:30am – 1:00pm**

AHS HerbFest, in partnership with the Sunset Valley  
Farmers Market, located at the Burger Center, off 290 (between  
Brodie Lane and Westgate).

October marks Herb Awareness Month with activities  
throughout the city, including our beloved HerbFest on  
October 8. This is the second year to partner with the Sunset  
Valley Farmers Market (previously known as the Westlake  
Farmers Market). They are a great group and have welcomed us  
with lots of support and good will. So come out and have  
some herb-loving fun. It's a free public event with plenty of  
parking. Shop the many booths or sit back and enjoy great live  
music and family-friendly entertainment.

Check out our fabulous vendors:

- Fresh Herbs and garden plants
- Herbal health and beauty care products, aromatherapy  
products, soaps, balms and tinctures
- Herbal cooking products, teas, condiments, demonstrations  
and tastings
- Herb-related gift items, handmade jewelry, decorative crafts  
and garden art
- Gardening books, cookbooks and herbal advice

The Sunset Valley Farmers market generously donates our  
vendor fees to the AHS. The funds will help support the herb  
garden expansion at Zilker Garden Center and other AHS  
projects. **If you would like to be a vendor, please contact  
Diana Hyland at [hylandinc@austin.rr.com](mailto:hylandinc@austin.rr.com) or 402-9697.**

### **El Interior, Now until September 5, 2005**

Visit El Interior with your traveling friends and receive a discount! El Interior appreciates your making us one of your sightseeing stops with out-of-town visitors. Just to say "thanks," we are offering you and your visitors a 10% discount on any store merchandise through Labor Day, September 5, 2005. Located at 1009 West Lynn St., ph: 474-8680  
[www.elinterior.com](http://www.elinterior.com)

### **The Red Planet (Mars), July and August**

*submitted: Cindy Phillips*

The Red Planet is about to be spectacular! This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287. Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m. By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30a.m. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history. So, mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month. Share this with your children and grandchildren. NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN!

### **Children's Basilfest, August 8 – 13, 9am to 1pm Ronda's Montessori Garden**

The primary children in Ronda's Montessori Garden are hosting their annual Children's Basilfest. Learn everything you ever wanted to know about *Ocimum Basilicum*. Festival includes: tasting exercises, Basil recipes, history, double-digging technique of gardening demos and how-tos. There will be T-shirts available, tours of the children's Basil gardens plus herbs for sale. It takes a garden to grow a child.

Please include this fun and educational children's activity in your schedule of events for August 2005. The children's Basil is certified organic by TDA and the different varieties are Blue Ribbon winners from the Men's Garden Club of America. Ronda and children who love to get their hands dirty!

Ronda Dizney  
Ronda's Montessori Garden  
4300 Mt. Vernon Drive, Austin 78745  
512 707 8635 or [rondasgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:rondasgarden@yahoo.com)

### **Fredericksburg Herb Farm's Lavender Ice Cream**

6 cups whole milk  
4 cups heavy cream  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup Fredericksburg Herb Farm Honey  
6 egg whites  
6 egg yolks beaten  
2 teaspoons dried lavender flowers (or 4 teaspoons fresh)

In a saucepan over medium heat, combine milk, cream and half of the sugar and honey. Don't boil, instead use a candy thermometer and bring to about 180 degrees. While the mixture is on the stove, in a mini food processor crush the lavender flowers and half of the sugar, then blend into the mixture with the egg whites and yolks beaten. Be sure the entire mixture is stirred well and cooked to a 180 degrees.

Take off the stove and cool in a large bowl with ice and water around the sauce pan and making an icewater bath. Cool down about 30 minutes before putting in your ice cream machine, and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Makes about a gallon.

Garnish with fresh or dried lavender blossoms.

## **Austin Herb Society 2004/2005 Sponsors**

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

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

[www.acupunctureaustin.com](http://www.acupunctureaustin.com)

*Acupuncture Medical Services*

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

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

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

*Acupuncture, Nutritional & Herbal Therapy,*

### *Qi Gong*

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*Ana's Herbs--Makes good cooks great!!*

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[www.bigredsun.com](http://www.bigredsun.com)

*Retail Gardening Center*

**Cindy Phillips Pottery & Painting Studio\*\*** 25008

Pedernales Canyon Trail, ph: 264-2779 *Hifire*

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[www.ezherbs.net](http://www.ezherbs.net)  
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**Fredericksburg Herb Farm**  
402 Whitney St., Fredericksburg ph: 1-800-259-4372  
[www.fredericksburgherbfarm.com](http://www.fredericksburgherbfarm.com)  
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[www.gardenadventures.com](http://www.gardenadventures.com)  
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**The Herb Garland**  
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*Complete Gardening Center: Herbs, Antique Roses, Perennials*  
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1-800-267-3925  
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**Lucinda Hutson**  
4612 Rosedale Ave., ph: 454-8905  
[www.lucindahutson.com](http://www.lucindahutson.com)  
*Cookbook author/ Gardening/Decorating Events Consultant*

**The Natural Gardener**  
8648 Old Bee Caves Road, ph: 288-6113  
[www.naturalgardeneraustin.com](http://www.naturalgardeneraustin.com)  
*Austin's Organic Gardening Headquarters*  
**Nature's Healing Herbs \*\***  
Cindy Burrows--ph: 707-6782  
<http://www.herbalagogo.com/>

*Unique Green Tea Food Line and Herbal Infusions*  
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[www.wheatsville.com](http://www.wheatsville.com)  
*Austin's Community Grocery Since 1976*



**The Austin Herb Society, Inc**  
Zilker Botanical Garden  
2220 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, Texas 78746  
[www.austinherbsociety.org](http://www.austinherbsociety.org)