



WILD THYMES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

MAY 2009

MAY GREETINGS

Dear Folks,

Have you ever considered the role that “MAY” plays in your herb garden? In my herb garden, MAY plays a very large role.

Oh, were you thinking of the month of MAY with MAY Day, Mother’s Day, the last frost date, herb sales, the beginning of outdoor herb plantings, and MAYing? Well, certainly the month of MAY is an expansive one that offers many prospects. And yes, MAY is a girl’s name. But what a bout “MAY” in its grammar sense and its impact on your herb garden?

With MAY as a tool for seeking permission, I find myself asking on the home front, “MAY I buy more herb plants?~ because you know, one can NEVER have enough herbs, even if the back porch looks like a jungle.” Then, as I consider a contingency, I find myself saying something like, “I MAY need to buy some more herbs to replace the ones that did not winter over”. And then there are times when out of my mouth comes, “When I’m at the herb sale, I MAY buy some more different herbs because I want to grow some herbs that I have never tried before” ~ after all, MAY sometimes is used when opportunity presents itself.

So, in my life, MAY has moved on from being a noun or a time when herbs are planted, to being a verb, a way of thinking about which herbs will grace my garden.

And since “MAY” may be used to express a wish, I shall offer~ MAY you enjoy all the blessings of your herb garden this year.

Diane L.M. Wittig, Editor

MASON-DIXON UNIT WELCOME BAG

By Shirley Smith

A lovely gift bag is given to new members to welcome them to the Mason-Dixon Unit of the Herb Society of America. The welcome bag, which experiences content changes from time to time, contains an assortment of goodies.

Among other items, currently included is a flower shaped sticky pad so that the new members can make notes at the Unit’s meetings (the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M.).

There are also some individually sealed tea bags (ginger peach, strawberry vanilla, and peppermint herbal, for example).

Additionally, there is a beautiful little “Seeds of Love” packet containing seeds for Love-Lies-Bleeding and Lovage that should excite anyone who loves to garden.

The new members also enjoy a hand-sewn sachet made from an embroidered hankie. This treasure is filled with a mixture of two kinds of lavender, Provence and Grosso.

For reading, members are given an informative pamphlet, “All About The Herb Society of America”, as well as a copy of the M-D U’s latest newsletter, **WILD THYMES**.

Finally, in the bag there is a Membership Information and Herbal Interest questionnaire with which the new members can provide information about themselves and share their specific herbal interests with the Unit.

Welcome to all!



Bay Laurel
Laurus Nobilis
Herb of the Year

Did you know . . . that in warm climates where bay seed is produced, seed may take six months to a year to germinate?

BIRTHDAYS:

- *May 14, Phyllis*
- *May 23, Annette*
- *June 25, Jane*

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APRIL MINUTES

By Shirley Smith

-Old Business

Pennsylvania Herb Festival: We made a schedule for unit members to man our booth at the Pennsylvania Herb Festival on April 17 & 18. Members brought in items to display at our booth. Annette and Diane had made an informative and visually delightful tri-fold display board on Bay. Great job Annette and Diane! Annette's "frog" will be keeping an eye on the board and learning about Bay along with the public. Wreaths, garlands, posters, and some beautiful fabric will be used to adorn our booth. M-D U business cards with a bay leaf attached will be handed out to the public. Bookmarks with a wildflower seed disk, provided by Pat H., and HSA literature also will be available to hand out. M-D U cookbooks will be available for purchase. Several issues of our newsletter, **WILD THYMES** will be displayed. Members will wear the M-D U name tags that Pat H. made and their green aprons.

Herbal Liqueurs: We tasted the Bay liqueur which turned out to be very tasty. Pat S. is to give Diane the recipe for the apple liqueur.

In-Common Readings: The books by Susan Wittig Albert, Hangman's Root and Witches' Bane, arrived and were handed out. We will read Witches' Bane and discuss it at the next meeting. Discussion questions were in the April issue of **WILD THYMES**.

Paul Smith Window Showcase: Pat S. and Shirley volunteered to help Annette and Diane set up the display at the library window on May 1. Shirley also volunteered to help Annette take down the display on June 1.

-New Business

Virginia Symposium: Pat S., Pat H., and Diane related their experiences at the Virginia Symposium. Although their first night was spent in a cabin with no hot water, minimal electricity, and no heat, they were still impressed with the food, organization, and creativity of the Symposium itself. They met two wonderful gentlemen from Richmond, Matt and Mark, who invited the Unit to visit their farm in Virginia. We agreed to make plans to visit them on the way to the British Embassy garden. We will tentatively plan this trip for September.

-ongoing Business

M-D U 2010 Symposium Plans: Pat H. had called the Holiday Inn in Gettysburg to inquire about the possibility of having our Symposium there. We would prefer the Gettysburg Hotel since it is within walking distance to nice shops, pubs, antiques, etc., and they also have very nice dining and conference rooms. However, the Gettysburg Hotel still cannot give us definite reservation dates, so we are pursuing alternate plans. We are aiming for October 15 & 16, 2010 for the M-D U Symposium. Having a Civil War Fashion Show is being considered as part of our program. We discussed making and wearing our own Civil War era costumes since we have three members who can sew.

Upcoming Meetings: The date of our June 2009 meeting has been changed to June 11. We will make moon gardens at this meeting. Pat S. reminded everyone to start thinking about purchasing gray foliage plants, white flowers, and/or night scented plants. Members interested in moon flowers for their gardens should purchase them when they see them because these flowers are difficult to find. Additionally, they are very hard and time consuming to start from seed. (The Farmer's Daughter in Shrewsbury, Pa. and Valley View Farms in Cockeysville, Md. plan on having moon flowers in time for Mother's Day).

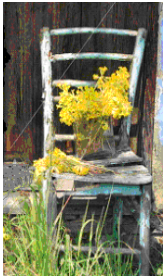


FINANCIAL REPORT

By Pat Herbert

As of 5/1/2009 we have \$463.15 in our account. We wrote a check for \$17.75 for business card paper stock and a check for \$44.98 to purchase a table used at the Pennsylvania Herb Festival and for further use. And we made a \$12.00 apron deposit. We made \$24.50 selling cookbooks at the Pennsylvania Herb Festival. This was an unexpected surprise as one of our previous members, Denise, was at the festival and had copies of our cookbooks. Denise gave us permission to sell them since she is one of the board members on the Pennsylvania Herb Festival committee. We used \$20 of the proceeds to purchase a \$20 birdhouse that Pat S. is going to paint, and we will use this birdhouse as our auction item for the Mid-Atlantic gathering in October 2009. What a savings this will be, and the birdhouse is awesome.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR—PAT SWEETMAN



It has been a very hectic season, and I am busy in my garden.

See you next month!

Pat

CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE FOR FALL 2010 SYMPOSIUM

By Pat Herbert

Still looking for a date to save:



All roads lead to . . . Gettysburg

While the dates of October 15th and 16th were confirmed at the Gettysburg Hotel, and I met with Jen, the Sales Manager on Saturday, May 2nd to go over the details, the prices were just too expensive for us. I am now pursuing the Eisenhower Conference Center as our symposium site and expect to have further updates at our next meeting this month.

MULCH AND WATER

By Pat Sweetman

Since spring is upon us, here are a few ideas that may be of use in your gardens, herb and otherwise.

When putting down mulch, make sure you never put it on dry soil. It is too hard to saturate the ground afterwards, and the soil will dry out!

Use eight sheets of wet newspaper under the mulch. This material works well to keep out weeds, and it goes back into the soil over time . . . many times before the next spring.

Saw dust is an attractive mulch, but it pulls out the nitrogen, so you may have to add a bit of fertilizer. If you do use saw dust, it does not break down quickly, so it will last longer than other mulches.

Soil testing is not as accurate in the spring as it is in the fall.

And, if we ever get to a point that we need to water this summer, remember that per every square foot of soil you will need two to three gallons of water to equal one inch of rain.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED- THE MAY 16 YARD SALE

By Pat Herbert



The New Freedom Yard Sale was very successful. Candy, Shirley, and I stayed all day at the booth. We gave away lots of the bouquet garni business cards, and we believe that we had some people very interested in our herb unit. Hopefully they will show up at our Thursday night, May 21, meeting. I will share the total profits at the Thursday meeting after I finalize the numbers.

Many thanks to Pat H. for all her behind the scenes efforts.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED- PA HERB FESTIVAL ED BOOTH

By Pat Sweetman

Another PA Herb Fair has come and gone, and I think we can say that we did a great job with our booth this year.

Hats off to Diane and Annette who worked really hard at putting the design together at home. It adapted well at the booth with only one emergency run to Sam's for a table the unit bought. (Having our own table is a small thing and smallish investment of \$45, but it helped in the layout of the booth and will come in handy for other activities- including the herb sales.)

We talked to a lot of people, handed out a lot of business cards, and may have sparked interest in a few people who seemed in need of an herb group. Hopefully they will remember us, attend a meeting, and join.

Setting up and taking down went pretty easy as well. I'd say "well done job" to us all.

AND a big "thanks very much" from your chairman!

A VISITOR'S IMPRESSION OF THE PA HERB FESTIVAL

By Jeanette Botti

April 17th was a clear day and the landscape was beautiful as I made my three hour trek to York for the 11th Annual Pennsylvania Herb Festival. While I had looked at the website before deciding to come to Pennsylvania, seeing all the vendors, speakers, herbs, and workshops in one place was quite impressive. Since I knew two of the Mason-Dixon Herb Unit members, I went to the unit's educational/informational booth upon my arrival.

The booth was visually appealing to the casual passerby and offered a great deal of information about Bay, the 2009 Herb of the Year. The table closest to the walkway had business cards, which included the M-D U meeting details on one side and the recipe for Bouquet Garni on the other, with a real bay leaf attached. These cards were generously distributed to those who were walking by the booth. Also, colorful flyers with the particulars of the unit's upcoming two herb sales were on this table and given out. Additionally, on this table were several issues of the attractive *Wild Thymes* newsletter, which were there for the public to peruse.

The other front table displayed a copy of *The Herbalist* and a frosted arched window that had herb stencils on the panes. I wish the group had been selling copies of this window. It would make a great kitchen wall hanging.

While I read the display board, along with a tall frog, which was on its own table, I saw many attendees talking with the club members who were taking turns greeting the public, sharing the Bouquet Garni cards, explaining about their herb unit and the Herb Society of America, and pointing out various aspects of the information on the display board. It was apparent that a great deal of thought and planning had gone into the creation of the many booth components!

After reading the Bay board, I headed off to hear Barb Steele of Alloway Creek Gardens speak about Bay. This was a very informative talk. Then I simply wandered around the large hall to get a feel for the festival. It was not crowded, so it was easy to look at the wares of the vendors. I next headed off to enjoy Nancy Putt's presentation about attracting bluebirds. While I had been at the festival for six hours, by 7:00 PM I was looking forward to being back the next day, even though 8:00 AM was a lot earlier than this retiree would have chosen.

On Saturday morning, after wandering for the first two hours, I participated in Susan Eggleton's wreath-making workshop. I had a wonderful time making my wreath with a German Stativ base. Susan was pleasant, attentive, patient, and helpful to everyone. These are definitely important qualities of an excellent teacher!

At noon, I listened to Susan Wittig Albert discuss the Shakers as well as their knowledge and contributions to the herb culture. She was interesting to listen to and very well prepared. Furthermore, since my friend's married name is the same as Susan's middle name, the three of us talked for a few minutes and laughed about this name. Because Susan needed to eat before she began her book signings and knew no one to eat with, we bought our tortellinis and wraps from the luncheon vendor and the three of us shared our lunchtime together. This was a very delightful meal to be sure.

I do not know how the vendors keep their long hours. While I was happy to be at the festival, listening to the speakers and making my wreath, I was exhausted by 2:00 PM and headed off to Diane's for a nap.

Thinking about the experience I had at the 11th Annual Pennsylvania Herb Festival, I knew it was like none that I had ever had before, and I am looking forward to attending the 12th Annual Pennsylvania Herb Festival next year.

Jeanette is a retired New Jersey elementary classroom school teacher who enjoys making pies, dabbling in water and oil painting, and playing with and tasting herbs. As an herb novice, she chose to visit the Pennsylvania Herb Festival last month and kindly offered to share with us her observations related to the event. Thank you Jeanette!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED—

By Annette Steger

Friday morning, May 1, Shirley, Diane and Annette met at the Paul Smith Public Library at 10:00 AM. The window was empty, unlocked, and all ready for us. We were prepared with items from our booth at the Herb Festival several weeks before, with Froggie who had traveled separately, and some other ideas. We quickly found Anne behind the desk. She joined us as soon as she was finished serving library patrons.

Anne was very helpful. She provided us the blue goo and the substitute white goo, which she has found to be very useful to tack materials up. She showed us a very well supplied workroom where we could safely make some needed cuts to the display board to allow it to fit between the shelf brackets. Anne truly appreciated the fact that someone was placing the display and she would not have to.

We soon discovered that the natural wood within the window and our black material and holders for various items complemented each other. We draped the black material to conceal the metal brackets. We could not use all of our



Display items, so we selected those that fit in the space in a pleasing way. One lady stopped to look while we were working and took one of the business cards we had made for the Festival. We did observe a large amount of traffic while we were there.

We feel that the Mason-Dixon Unit of the Herb Society of America is well represented by the display. Anne agreed to put out a few of our business cards at the desk and to keep more behind the counter in case someone asked about the Unit's display and the Unit. We had forgotten a camera, but Anne came to the rescue again. She took some pictures of us in action (see below) and we have several shots of the completed project (see blow) from different angles. She promised to email these to Diane, which she promptly did. In appreciation, we presented Anne with the April issue of **WILD THYMES**. We also encouraged her to join us for a meeting since she had worked for a plant wholesaler at one point in her life.

By 12:30 we were done and hungry. We celebrated with lunch at the Mason-Dixon Restaurant.



Decorating a showcase window is not for the faint of heart as Shirley (l) and Annette (r) demonstrate.

COMPOSTING IS NOT JUST FOR EARTH DAY

By Diane L.M. Wittig

I have known about composting and many of its benefits for a long time. However, I have never been a composter.

Concluding that I needed to make composting part of my herb gardening way of life, I decided that as my Earth Day contribution, I should not only learn more about the process, but actually participate in composting. So, on Tuesday April 28, 2009, at 4:30 PM, I had the privilege of attending a composting class at the York County Extension office, which was hosted by the Master Gardeners, and presented by John and Lisa.

In addition to useful handouts, John gave an interesting composting overview and a detailed powerpoint presentation on the topic. As part of the hosting, we were provided pretzels, cookies, tea, lemonade, napkins, and cups. Why would I mention these six items in the same sentence? Because each item is consumable-the first four are consumed by people, and the biodegradable last two are consumed by the workers in the compost pile. So, as we each took our cup and napkins home, there was no waste for landfills after we ate.

The next day, when I was talking with Pat H., who had attended the 6:30 presentation, she reminded me of the landfill discussion during the class. Did you realize there are no plans for making any more landfills in Pa, that neither New Jersey nor New York has any open landfills, and that Winsor, PA is where all three states send their trash? This is a scary thought because even if compostable material is put in the trash, it will take a very long time to decompose, whereas if the compostable materials are composted, we will have less in the landfill and the opportunity to use compost in a relatively short time. Presently, trucks sit in long lines to dump their trash. As Pat pointed out, "if we don't all consider composting, our children and grandchildren could see the day when there is no place to take trash."

If we don't all consider composting, our children and grandchildren could see the day when there is no place to take trash.

~Pat Herbert~

In addition to the necessity versus luxury mind-sets regarding the value of composting, there were four other important take aways from this presentation. The first two were cognitive-the hows of composting and the difference between the browns (formerly living items-such as leaves) and the greens (recently living items like grass). The last two take aways were physical. Each attendee at this complimentary lecture received a free composter and a compost collecting pail. When John finished his indoor presentation, we went outside where Lisa answered questions and demonstrated how we would assemble our composter. We then went to our cars, drove up to the loading stations, and left with our composters.

Have you ever considered the variety of sizes, shapes, and colors of composters? Prior to moving to Glen Rock, I had only known of composting as a pile of decomposing stuff on the ground. Then I visited Pat S. and saw her rotating composter model. Today, my husband helped me take my composter out of the trunk. To give you some insight into what my composter looks like, let me tell you that Kurt modeled the composter, saying, "I am Darth Vader. I am from the dark side." Our composters are black and do resemble an over-sized Star Wars helmet. For a quick look and some additional information about "The Earth Machine" Composter, click on this link: <http://earthmachine.com/>

If you missed this opportunity to attend the composting class, know that there are more planned in the near future. Pat S. spoke with John who says that there is going to be a composting class for York County residents at the Paul Smith Library on Saturday, May 30, 2009. If you have the time and enjoy valuable presentations, this could be a great experience for you. Seats go quickly, so call (717) 840-7408 right away to register for this wonderful opportunity.

FAMILY STORIES FROM A FARM GIRL

By Annette Steger

My father passed away in January 2008 of a short illness (3 months) in a long life (90 years.) My only sibling, a sister, and I, and our husbands bonded to work on clean-up of the farm house and buildings. One of the things we found was a big folder of items from a landscaping course our mother had taken after high school. I did not know that my mother had done this. My sister had knowledge, but had never seen any of the written information. As it turned out, Sarah Mae Heberling met John Lanuti at this class. They married and got into dairy farming in northeastern Pennsylvania. We always had a large vegetable garden, and there were lots of flower beds as well as many house plants.

Another item we found was a letter our mother had sent to a magazine about a special plant in her life. She had received a gardenia corsage at some point in her young life. She was able to root it and plant it. Over the years it was transplanted from pot to larger pot. It became a real project to wash the leaves, which she did several times a year. This was a story which neither Kathie nor I had ever heard from either of our parents.

With the passing of my father, I've been thinking about legacies. Perhaps I will write some more about my farm girl life to share my legacy with others.

GOOD READ—“SOCIAL SECURITY”* *By Barbara Bolz*

She knows a cashier who
blushes and lets her use
food stamps to buy tulip
bulbs and rose bushes.

We smile each morning as I
pass her - her hand always
married to some stick
or hoe, or rake.



One morning I shout,
"I'm not skinny like
you so I've gotta run
two miles each day."

She begs me closer, whispers
to my flesh, "All you need,
honey, is to be on welfare
and love roses."

*This piece was submitted by Shirley Smith who found it years ago in the book, [When I Am An Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple](#).



AN ONLINE GOOD READ— “SILVER HERBS—PLANNING A MOON GARDEN”*
By Sandra Henry

*Imagine walking through your garden, one peaceful moonlit night,
Everything is awash with shimmering, glowing light.
You stop and wait, scarcely daring to even breathe,
Did you hear the fairy laughing beneath the silvery leaves?*

*Pat Herbert submitted this quote which is found at the beginning of the article, “Silver Herbs-Planning a Moon Garden”, by Sandra Henry, at the Richter’s website: You may read the entire article by clicking on or copying and pasting into your browser:

http://www.richters.com/newdisplay.cgi?page=MagazineRack/Articles/moongarden.html&cart_id=81.1496



ADDITIONAL ONLINE GOOD READS

Richter’s website has other articles of herbal interest in their Magazine Rack Archives. To access these articles, click on or copy and paste into your browser:

http://www.richters.com/newdisplay.cgi?page=MagazineRack/MagHome.html&cart_id=1265068.28296

WILD THYMES— RESULT OF MANY'S EFFORTS

By Diane L.M. Wittig

In January, 2009, **Wild Thymes** was simply an idea seeking direction and content. With this issue, we are into the newsletter's fourth month of publication. Its direction? Just as the HSA is dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use and delight of herbs, so too, is the newsletter dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use, and delight of herbs.

And the newsletter's content? In each issue, readers are informed through regular features written by individuals in their official capacity including the secretary (minutes), treasurer (financial report), Chairman of the Unit (notes from the chair), editor of the newsletter (greetings), and coordinators and chairs of on-going projects (updates). Additionally, sometimes readers are informed by individuals who write about delight during an herb or garden related experience and send the article along for inclusion. Some members submit other's writings, quotes, prose, and/or poetry. Also, members submit recipes of foods which have been eaten at M-D U meetings or recipes which use the herb of the year.

In the first three newsletters, the content for all the articles was submitted by M-D U members. The resources for newsletter readers have now expanded. With this current issue, there is an article written by a guest writer, an individual who is not a member of the Mason-Dixon Unit, but who has taken the time to write an herb-related piece and send it for publication.

And how is the direction guiding the future content of the newsletter? The newsletter is still promoting the knowledge, use and delight of herbs through both members of M-D U and non-members. In addition to submitting herb or garden related experience articles and garden related quotes or book reviews—which can be part of the “Good Reads” page, from now until the end of 2009, individuals are encouraged to send in recipes which use Bay (the 2009 herb of the year). The sooner herbies send recipes (and any other articles, for that matter), the easier it is to fit them into an issue. Also, email pleas for help from the editor will be minimized. As an alert, individuals who have facts and recipes using dill, the 2010 herb of the year, may even submit them now. They will be used in preparation for a display board, the symposium booklet, and subsequent newsletters.

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as your editor. Many thanks are extended to all the members of the M-D U for their encouragement, help, submissions, ideas, direction, and content regarding the newsletter. To ensure that **WILD THYMES** continues to be an interesting volume, promoting the knowledge, use and delight of herbs, yet representative of its membership's interests and passions, please keep the additional direction and content coming.

IN OUR GARDENS

BUGS IN THE GARDEN . . . WITH US

By Pat Sweetman

I was reading in my latest Prevention Magazine about insect repellants.

As you know, if you are in the garden and you are being attacked by miserable little bugs, you can rub rosemary or lavender leaves on your exposed areas, and the bugs will stay away for a while.

Most purchased insect repellants usually are ones containing DEET. They are safe *AS LONG* as they are applied *properly*.

BUT Geraniol, a compound derived from the geranium plant repels a variety of insects. Candles containing it were five times as effective as citronella candles (Which are a **BIG** waste of money) at preventing mosquito bites. As an FYI . . . Citronella oil only lasts less than 10 minutes and Skin So Soft . . . what our moms all used on us . . . only lasts 10 minutes or less.

The CDC recommends another plant based repellant . . . oil of lemon eucalyptus. It keeps mosquitoes *AND* deer ticks away, which is so important in our neck of the woods since we are a Lyme disease red zone. The name of the safer insect repellant, which lasts up to 6 hours, is Repel.

Good luck this summer . . . and remember . . . unless you are gathering them for your pet frog . . . There are no good mosquitoes like dead mosquitoes . . . and likewise for deer ticks.

FAIRIES IN THE GARDEN

By Pat Sweetman

May 1st has come and gone.

Normally the fairies would have come out of hibernation and been dancing in the moonlight that night, but at our house, it was raining cats and dogs and as cold as could be. Kathryn, Grace, and I were out many times after dark looking for fairies . . . checking out the thyme patches, looking around the hawthorn tree for the Garden Queen, and looking at the Solomon's Seal for missing flowers (which are lovely fairy-sized hats). But nothing was amiss. I think it has been too cold and rainy for any of them to come out and celebrate spring.

We can only hope that by the time you receive this newsletter the weather will have become nicer, fairies will be dancing in the moonlight, and starting the big enchantment of our gardens for this summer.

GREAT EATS WITH BAY—ASPARAGUS BRAISED WITH FRESH ROSEMARY AND BAY*

Submitted By Annette Steger

PREPARATION AND YIELD:

Start to finish: 15 minutes

Servings: 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pounds fresh green or white asparagus, bottoms trimmed, peeled if tough
- 1 Tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon coarse sea salt
- 3 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 3 bay leaves, preferably fresh



You can see the asparagus, fresh rosemary, and bay braising in the large Earthy-ware Frying Pan, can't you? Doesn't it smell wonderful?

DIRECTIONS:

In a skillet large enough to hold the asparagus in a single layer, **combine** the asparagus, oil, salt, rosemary, and bay leaves. **Sprinkle** with 3 tablespoons of cold water. **Cover and cook** over high heat just until the oil and water mixture begins to sizzle.

Reduce the heat to medium and **braise** the asparagus, covered, **turning** from time to time, until the asparagus begins to brown in spots— about 8 to 10 minutes. Note: cooking time will vary based on the thickness of the asparagus.

*This recipe, which appeared in the newspaper, is from Patricia Wells' Vegetable Harvest (Morrow Cookbooks, 2007).

ANOTHER GREAT LIQUEUR RECIPE—NEEDED

To continue our adventure of making liquors monthly, in preparation for our 2010 symposium, we need more recipes as well as ingredients. Pat will have the vodka and sugar syrup ready at each meeting. So, if you have a recipe that you think will be tasty, bring along all of the other ingredients. And if you are a really organized person who has multiple recipes and ingredients, bring everything, and we will have a storage place for the ingredients until the following month.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE MAY MEETING

Old business will include the Lessons Learned from our participation at the April Pennsylvania Herb Festival in York, ordering of herbs from two sources, and the May 16 New Freedom Yard Sale/Herb Sale. Also, we will make the final preparations for the May 30th Herb Sale.

New business will include investigating a survival kit for new herbies and an informal plant exchange (see article below for details).

Part of our ongoing business will be discussing our new Susan Wittig Albert book, Witches' Bane, planning more of the Fall 2010 Symposium, and making another liqueur.

INFORMAL PLANT EXCHANGE

By Pat Sweetman

This is the time of year we are out in the garden. May, like September, is a great month for separating many perennials. So if you have any plants you want to share, bring them along to the May 21st meeting, and we can have an informal plant exchange.

Try to pot your plants about a week to five days before the meeting so they are over transplant shock. Identify the plant, by name and sunshine preference, to help everyone out as to where it might go in their garden.

I know we are a small group, and we don't want to be a 'garden club', but it is spring, and each of us has an abundance of plants . . . so let's just share what we don't want, herbal or not. And consider that since we may have visitors at this meeting, if your garden truly is overflowing with plants, you'll have the opportunity to share with the visitors, also.

NOTES TO MYSELF

For the May 21st meeting, I will write my responses to the following questions as I make them.

What are some of the “Lessons Learned” from the PA Herb Festival, ordering herbs from two sources, and the May 16 herb sale?

Have I set my calendar to undress the show case window?

Have I bought any plants for my moon garden?

What hours am I committed for the May 30 herb sale? What else do I need to provide?

ONGOING THOUGHT: What are ideas we can plan for Saturday evening as another get-together with all our herbie members for the Fall 2010 Symposium?

THINK AHEAD~What information do I have to submit for the **WILD THYMES** June 5th deadline, and when will I submit it?

What questions do I have?



WILD THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASON-DIXON UNIT
OF
THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA

SNAIL MAIL: Mason-Dixon Herb Unit
C/O P. Sweetman
2595 Rehmeys Hollow Road
Stewartstown, PA 17362

PHONE: (717) 235-2823

EMAIL: inquiry@mdunithsa.org

WEBSITE: www.mdunithsa.org

HSA MISSION STATEMENT

The Herb Society of America is dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use and delight of herbs through educational programs, research, and sharing the experience of its members with the community.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 21 **Monthly Meeting of Mason-Dixon Unit at 7 pm**
2595 Rehmeys Hollow Road, Stewartstown, PA
Information: Pat at 717-235-2823
- May 23 **22nd Baltimore Herb Festival**
Information: <http://www.baltimoreherbfestival.com/>
- May 30 **Mason-Dixon Unit Herb Sale at O'Sheas Lumber**
11425 Susquehanna Trail, Glen Rock, PA
- June 1 **Paul Smith Library Window Display Undressing**
80 Constitution Avenue, Shrewsbury, PA
Information: Annette Steger at stegeraj@aol.com
- June 6-8 **HSA Educational Conference**
Grand Rapids, MI
Information: <http://herbsociety.org/confer.php>
- June 14-16 **27th Annual Herbal Delight Symposium**
Conrad Weiser HS, 347 E. Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA
Information: Barb Jefferis at 610-375-8061 or Priscilla Plucinsky at
- July 18 **Fourth Annual Covered Dish Tea Luncheon**
1129 Dunkard Valley Road, Loganville, PA
Information: Shirley Smith @sasjgr@aol.com
National Herb Garden Experience
Information: To be forthcoming
Virginia Garden and British Embassy Garden Tours
Information: To be forthcoming
- Oct. 2-4 **Mid-Atlantic District Symposium**
Hosted by Roanoke Valley Unit
Information: To be forthcoming

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MASON-DIXON UNIT

- Cathy Dircks.....music@nfdc.net
- Jane Harrison.....fawnumcpastor@verison.net
- Pat Herbert (Treasurer).....patricia.e.herbert@bankofamerica.com
- Candy Riddle.....criddle@bcps.org
- Shirley Smith (Secretary).....sasjgr@aol.com
- Annette Steger (Liaison to HSA).....stegeraj@aol.com
- Phyllis Strunk.....buck635fr@comcast.net
- Pat Sweetman (Chairman).....sweetman@stonehausfarm.net
- Diane L.M. Wittig (Hospitality, Newsletter Editor).....dianelmwittig@hotmail.com

THINK NEW MEMBERS... THINK NEW MEMBERS... THINK NEW MEMBERS... THINK NEW MEMBERS