



POTOMAC POTPOURRI

The Newsletter of THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA. POTOMAC UNIT

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March/April

2018

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Snow, rain, 70 degree weather, all standard for late February in Washington. Snow drops and a few crocus are up, way later and fewer than other years. Are the rabbits getting them? Suzy said she has lots of snow drops and she lives only a few blocks away. Is this fair? The *Hamamelis* is lovely from the office window. I am expecting to go to the Arboretum tomorrow, the first time this year. Chrissy was willing to have us come in a couple of weeks ago, but I think most of us thought it too cold. This can be a wonderful time of year in the garden. It is so fun to take walks out in the garden and see what is sprouting. Everything grows so fast, especially when you get a few 70 degree days thrown in with those in the low 40's. Soon the daffodils will bloom and it will be time to plant peas. My spinach looks like it is surviving the winter. Other greens will go in soon.

As I get into fall/spring cleanup I am thinking about what I should dig up for the plant sale. Maybe some asters that Eugenia Yang brought us a number of years ago for the plant sale. They have multiplied and grown tall and are blocking out the *Lespedeza*. I could move some and pot up a couple. Mary Lou and I have a lot of the same plants, but when she pots them up they are much neater. I am not a neat gardener. Ask Tommy. But I have a fun, pretty garden. We need all kinds of us.

Tommy is recovering from back surgery for his spinal stenosis. He had the miracle cure he was hoping for immediately after the surgery and then the drugs wore off. I think he is better and walking a bit more and in less pain. When he complains his doctor says go for the drugs.

We are both hoping to see everyone at our March meeting on St. Patrick's Day at the Katzen Arts Center at American University. The parking is free on the weekends so don't put any money in the meters. I think it will be a very interesting program and I hope the weather is good so everyone can enjoy the campus that they have turned into an arboretum.

See you in the herb garden.

Penni

NATIONAL HERB GARDEN NEWS AND EVENTS

May 18: NHG Committee garden work day. Potomac Unit members are also welcome. Come when convenient, stay as long as you like. Bring a bag lunch, drinks will be provided and we will meet under the arbor at lunch.

May 19: Multi Unit Under the Arbor on Hops

- Frederick Brewing Company will provide hop-inspired kombucha
- Philadelphia Unit, Hop-infused cider, lemonade or hot chocolate.
- Pennsylvania Heartland: hop candy
- Potomac Unit: Hop pillows and possibly hop greens.
- Billi Parus: a beer infused culinary delight.
- Connecticut Unit (if they can make it): hop tea
- NHG staff: vine vs. bine

June 16: Philadelphia Unit and Billi Parus: Herbal butters/cheeses and/or tussie mussies.

October 6: Chile Celebration.

Under the Arbor programs are presented by Mid-Atlantic Unit, from 1 to 4 pm under the arbor in the National Herb Garden on Saturdays in May, June, September and October. If you to present a program (there are open Saturdays) contact curator Chrissy Moore at Christine.Moore@ARS.USDA.GOV or at 202.245-5093 Penni St. Hilaire

OUR NEXT POTOMAC UNIT MEETING

Will be Saturday, March 17th, 2018, 11:00 am. - 2:00 pm.

Thanks to long-time Potomac Unit members, Jo Sellers and Muriel Turner, Mr. Jim Heins will be our speaker.

"The C&O Canal - the park that almost wasn't. Why this title? Learn about the C&O Canal, a National Park in our own backyard. Do you know what the various parts are that make up the canal? Hear some of the history of this park, why it was built and how it became a national park. Sit back and enjoy the scenes of the canal as it is today."

Our chairman, Penni, has arranged for us to meet at American University. We like going to new and unusual meeting places, and this has the promise of a tour of the Arboretum of American University as well.

Room 210 in the Katzen Arts Center, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, has been reserved for us from 10:30 am. to 3:00 pm. There is parking in the garage under the building, free on weekends; the garage entrance is on Massachusetts Avenue directly across from the main entrance to the campus. After the speaker and the business meeting around 2:00 pm., we are invited to tour the Arboretum with Arboretum Manager, Mike Mastrotta.

HERBAL BEADS

We hope to have our next bead workshop on Friday, March 2, provided winter doesn't upset our plans. We'll meet at 10 at the Arlington home of Eugenia Yang, work for a couple of hours and finish with a potluck lunch. Let me know if you plan to come so I know who to contact if we have to

make a change. I'm writing this with the snow coming down, so winter isn't done with us yet!

Mary Lou Winder
301.384.2566
jmlwinder@verizon.net

TRIPS AND TOURS

The April 12, 20128 trip to ROSEMARY HOUSE located at 118 S. Market St., Mechanicsburg, PA ,a 2 hour drive from DC area, for an herbal lunch followed by a lecture by Susanna Reppert Brill on DO YOURSELF A FLAVOR-NUTRITION VALUE OF HERBS has 4 members (Jo Sellers-Karen Kilday-Pat Kenny-Linda Martin) signed up. The cost is \$30.00 payable Potomac Unit HSA and sent to Jo Sellers, 5831 Fitzhugh St., Burke, VA 22015.

Jo Sellers

FROM OUR MID-ATLANTIC DELEGATE

PLANT SALE

Plant sale, plant sale, plant sale. Tent is ordered, tables and chairs are coming, plants are ordered now we just need volunteers. I will have a sign up sheet at the next Unit meeting for those of you that are willing and able to help. Don't forget this year will be BOTH weekend days with Friday set up. I am including the flyer, for those of you that might like to copy it and distribute it to friends, family, strangers on the street! Many thanks.

HSA ANNUAL MEETING

Herbs in Bloom
Annual Meeting at Tarreytown, NY June 1
Hope to see you there.
Registration information on the website.

2018 MID ATLANTIC DISTRICT GATHERING

Mid Atlantic District Gathering
The Mason Dixon Unit are busy preparing for us. Please mark it on your calendars. Sept. 21-23. It will be held at The Wyndham Gettysburg located at Gateway Gettysburg Complex 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325

- ◆ Greet old friends and make new friends
- ◆ Indulge in herbal goodies
- ◆ Learn more about herbs
- ◆ Visit vendors

NEW PLANT

I popped over to England earlier this month and found a new lavandin (to me anyway) *Lavandula x intermedia* Sussex. Naturally I purchased it and have planted in the garden of my friend who lives in Hursley, Hampshire. Will keep you posted on how it does.....

HSA AWARD WINNERS IN OUR DISTRICT

Congratulations Phyllis!

Nancy Putnam Howard Award for Excellence in Horticulture

Justina Campbell, PA Heartland Unit, Mid Atlantic District

Joanna McQuail Reed Award for the Artistic Use of Herbs

Phyllis Sidorsky, Potomac Unit, Mid Atlantic District

Certificate of Appreciation

Diane Schuster, PA Heartland Unit, Mid Atlantic District

NEW VENUE FOR POTOMAC UNIT SALES

I am delighted to share the news that we will be featured at the Bluemont Fair this year (in the barn) selling rose beads.

The fair is always held the 3rd weekend in September. This years dates are: September 15 & 16, 2018. www.BluemontFair.org

Kim Labash

TIRED OF WINTER? VISIT THE U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN

Chase the winter blues away with a visit to the USBG. The biennial Orchid Exhibit opens Friday, February 23 and runs through April 8, 2018. Thousands of amazing blooms of the world's largest flowering plant family will add some color to your life. A number of programs will be held during late February through early April to complement the orchid theme.

Speaking of color Wall Flowers – a special exhibit of large murals is on display in the East Gallery through October, 2018. Each mural features plants in an interesting interpretation by local artists. One features healing plants including many herbs.

Our annual open house at our production facility will take place on March 10 – this facility is three times the size of the Conservatory and contains our plant collections. You can speak with the gardeners in charge of the various collections. Register soon – spots are rapidly filling

Check out the USBG website www.usbg.gov for a list of programs taking place this late winter and early spring. Hope to see you soon

Laura Anthony

ABOUT OUR UNIT MEMBER OF THIRTY-TWO YEARS - EDWARD HACKAYLO

Dr. Edward Hacskaylo, Potomac Unit member since 1986, peacefully completed his life of ninety-two years January 19, 2018. I think it was Ruth and Ed Smith who met and introduced the Unit to Ed and his wife Peggy, Margaret Masters Hacskaylo, who preceded him in death several years before. Peggy was one of the Unit's grand cooks. When we met them they had an apartment in the Westchester-Tunlaw area of Washington D.C. I think Ruth was Vice-Chairman at that time. Ed gave a talk about his research on mycorrhizae; it must have been 32 years ago and I'm not sure many of us understood the importance of the symbiotic relationship of some plant roots with such fungi. The biological definition says that it "confers increases in fitness to one or both partners" (I think this even describes Ed Hackaylo's mutually beneficial interactions with people he met and encouraged in his lifetime).

In August 2015 Ed was honored as a pioneer in mycorrhizal research and as the founder of the North American Conferences On Mycorrhizae (NACOM) at the International Conference on Mycorrhizae (ICOM) that took place at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. Daughter Peg and partner, Karen, accompanied him as guests. In 1969 Ed had brought together 55 scientists for the first conference; in 2015 there were about 500 participants. He received a standing ovation after receiving his award.

Ed and Peggy also owned two properties at the historic community at Scientists' Cliffs, Maryland

where they built a house and a cabin and hosted one of our annual meetings. (I remember it well because Douglas and I brought a durian for dessert. Ruth and Ed, having lived in Thailand for a while, knew the odorous, yet highly-valued fruit very well and we were instructed to take it outside the house to open it for tasting. We all got an educational taste and kick out of it).

It seems that Ed and Peggy improved things wherever they lived. In addition to that trip to Scientists Cliffs, the Hacskaylos took us to Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Prince Frederick, a nature park in Calvert County Maryland, where they helped the property become the Sanctuary, led to the founding of the Battle Creek Nature Education Society (now the Calvert Nature Society), started an annual herb plant sale, and facilitated the formation of a student intern endowment that continues to assist the funding of summer internships at the Sanctuary and other facilities managed by Calvert County Natural Resources Division. (Ref. Dwight Williams, retired Director/Manager for the BCCSS email 2/10/2018).

Ed and Peggy adopted, educated and set three children on their also extraordinary feats. Because I was a working medical illustrator when we first met, I was told about the artist, son Charles; I was shown some of his amazing student work. Charles went to school in Tucson and Ed and Peggy bought a house in a nice community there, where they could winter. I am more familiar with daughter Peg, who I was able to meet during simultaneous visits with Ed at Scientists' Cliffs whenever Ed would let us know he would be there each summer. At the moment Peg is Founder and CEO of District Alliance for Safe Housing, Inc. (DASH) in D.C. There is another son, whose daughter is named Holly. I think they live somewhere in the Northeast; I'm terrible, I should pay better attention.

The Tucson Botanical Garden and Native Seeds/SEARCH benefited greatly from the memberships and service of the Hacskaylos. Ed was a 22 year volunteer for NS/S and served as Board Chairman for a time. As a retirement present Douglas sent me to Tucson for a week where Ed and Peggy put "a long leash on me" and took me and my camera to every botanical garden site in the area. Those were the days of slide film; every day we took the rolls to be developed, picked them up in a couple hours and I labeled them, using reference books I bought, after Ed and Peggy went to bed. On other trips, after visiting botanical

gardens and study areas, I got to tag along with him as he kept his promises on everyday rounds, shopping at farmers markets where, it seems, everyone knew and valued interactions with him. One year he sponsored a trip where I taught a 5-day World of Herbs summer course at the University. He took Doug and myself out to the NS/S Conservation Farm in Patagonia AZ where we met Chris, another young person he was mentoring.

Charles wrote that there will be a memorial gathering at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 North Alvernon Way, Tucson AZ 85712 on February 17th. Donations in Ed's memory are gratefully accepted by TBG and Native Seeds/SEARCH, 3584 River Road, Tucson AZ 85718. Peg wrote that sometime in the spring, May or early June, she will let us know when Ed will be buried next to Peggy at Christ Church, 3100 Broomes Island, Port Republic MD 20676. I visited there several times with Ed; Douglas and I intend to go. Other members who want to go with us are welcome.

Pat Kenny

CELEBRATION OF LIFE – SALLY STAPLES

Members of the Potomac Unit of HSA are invited to join Sandy Staples and friends for an informal Celebration of my mother's life on **Saturday, March 10th**. I have reserved the multipurpose room in the **Activity Center at the Agricultural History Farm Park**. The address is 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, Md 20855. I have the room for 11 am - 3 pm and anticipate we will eat around Noon. Several people have indicated that they will be busy in the morning, so when you get there is flexible. It is potluck, so bring something to share. My mother, Sally Staples, would be happy to know that we were getting together to share stories and friendship.

Smiles! Sandy Staples 240-447-6468 (text please if I don't answer) or sandyforsally@aol.com

TRAINING FOR HSA BHI

Got a call from Joan Keif this week. Back in the 1990's when HSA restructured the Board Joan and

I were two of the 7 folks selected to serve in the newly created Districts as District Delegates. (She as the West District and myself as the Southeast District) For me it was like being "thrown into the briar patch" . My Potomac Unit was in the Mid-Atlantic District but I was being asked to represent the Southeast, but that is something to write about another time. One of the best and saving things about serving on that Board was that HSA hired a facilitator to train us on how to serve on a non-profit board.

Fast forward to now ---HSA just does not have the money to offer this needed education to the incoming HSA Board. Joan 's call was a plea to help raise the money to do so. I plan to send her a small donation and I'm passing along this plea in hopes that Potomac Unit members will also.

Your check should be sent to Joan Keif at 3445 Calle Bedado, Las Cruces, NM 88007 payable: HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA with the notation in the memo line of HSA BOARD TRAINING-TARRYTOWN 2018

Thanks,
Jo Sellers

MEMBERSHIP

Let's all welcome our new member JUDITH MILI. Please add to your Directory the following information:

Judith Mili
2181 Jamieson Ave. Unit 1406
Alexandria, Va. 22314-0514

Tel: 703-740-6468

Email: jnlmch15@gmail.com

Birthday: August 18

Spring Birthdays are just around the corner.
Enjoy your special day!!!

MARCH

Pat Johnson
Cheryl Peasley
Cyndie Rinek
Ann Beall Schramn
Tina Zaras

APRIL

Shirley Harp
Karen Kilday
Edward Rea
Peggy Riccio
Murial Turner
Sandy Walker

HERB STUDY 2018

Hello Herbsters and
Welcome to Summer (today at least)!

This year we will focus on herbs that are members of the huge Mint Family. A good general information source is **Mints** by Barbara Perry Lawton, which gives an idea of the variety of this large and useful family ... the good, the bad and the impossibly weedy. In honor of the family's namesake, please feel free to bring your favorite adult Mint beverage to any meeting!

Attached is an outline Herb Study calendar for the year 2018. Meetings normally occur from 2-4 on Sunday afternoons. Summer and autumn dates depend on host schedules. We would love a volunteer to host the summer meeting; please give me a call at 703.774.6631 to discuss.

March 11, 2018 Theme: Rosemary
Location: Betsy Reece's in Annandale VA.
Call Betsy or me for RSVP and address.

May 20 (tent.) Theme: Agastache
Location: Mary Schwegler's,
7817 Ridgewood Drive, Annandale.
To confirm date later, call to RSVP.

Summer Theme: Basil
Location and date open. Will confirm at later date.

Autumn Theme: Mountain Mint
Location and date open. Will confirm at later date.

Hope to see you in March. Happy gardening

Mary Schwegler

703.774.6631

WEBSITE UPDATES

The Potomac Unit website
<http://www.potomacunithsa.org>

ENDNOTE

We encourage all our members to help get the word out to all plant interested friends and colleagues that the Potomac Unit is 'here and happening' and eagerly awaiting new people with a similar interest. We now have a variety of membership levels - \$15.00 for the Unit newsletter; \$25.00 for an interim (trial) one year Unit membership as well as the traditional \$60.00 HSA membership. We also have over half our Unit meetings scheduled on an evening or weekend day time to better accommodate those with a customary 9-5 work schedule.

Opinions expressed in the Potpourri are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Herb Society of America (HSA) or the HSA Potomac Unit. Responsibility for the safe use of any herb or herb product lies with the reader.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 2 - Herbal Bead workshop

Mar. 10 - Celebration of Sally Staples' Life

Mar. 11 - Herb Study at Betsy Reece's 11-2

Mar. 2 - Herbal Bead workshop

Mar. 10 - Celebration of Sally Staples' Life

Mar. 11 - Herb Study at Betsy Reece's 11-2

Mar. 17 - Unit Meeting at American U, 11-2

Apr. 12 - Lunch and Presentation at Rosemary House, 11 an

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Submission deadline for the next issue of *Potpourri* is April.20, 2018. News of member and civic or nonprofit horticulturally themed events is welcome. Publication is at the sole discretion of the editor, who reserves the right to edit for brevity or any other reason. Neither the Potomac Unit nor the Herb Society of America endorses any product or event unless the product or event is specifically sponsored by the Unit or Society.

Please caption materials "Potpourri article" and transmit email materials to the editor's personal address wajda.md@gmail.com Articles should be reasonably publication ready; minor typos are not an issue. Single-spaced Arial 10 point font is preferred; conventionally written text without unusual formatting is required. Be kind to your editor!

MATERIAL SUBMITTED IN ALL CAPITALS WILL BE RETURNED.

Apr. 28-29 - FONA Plant Sale

May 18 - NHG workday

May 19 – Multi-unit Under the Arbor "Hops"

June 1, 2018 – Annual Meeting, Tarrytown, NY

June 16 - Under the Arbor on Herbal butter/cheese And/or tussie mussies

Sept. 15&16 - Bluemont Fair

Sept. 21-23 - Mid-Atlantic District Gathering

Oct. 16 - Chile Celebration