

	Editor –Linda Alderman ewalderman@comcast.net
June 2017 Calendar	
June 13, Tues. at 10 a.m.	Day Meeting – <i>Picnic in the Park</i> at Evelyn's Park at the corner of Bellaire Blvd. and Avenue B in Bellaire, TX 77401. Contact Lois Jean Howard , 713- 771-0172, for more information. Bring a sack lunch or buy it from the concession stand .
June 21, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.	Evening Meeting at the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion in Hermann Park (1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004), Hosted by Lucia Bettler and Kerry Madole. Program: "Super Herbs and Super Spices - Chia", presented by Haley Bowen. Bring your plate and napkin and a dish to share.
July 2017 Calendar	
July 11, Tues. at 11 a.m.	Day Meeting – Annual Restaurant Trip, this year the Kemah Boardwalk, with optional trip to Maas Nursery after lunch. Carpooling is suggested, bring money for lunch, and contact TBD.
July 19 , Wed. at 6:30 p.m.	Evening Meeting at the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion in Hermann Park (1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004), Hosted by Susan Wood and Sarah Diaz. Program: "Herbs in the Headlines", presented by Karen Cottingham. Bring your plate and napkin and a dish to share.
	Newsletter deadline: 25 th of every the month





22- Tamara Gruber



Herbs Needed for Teas!

Lois Jean Howard asks you to harvest the following herbs for teas for Herb Fair.

- Red Stem Apple Mint
- Mexican Mint Marigold
- Lemon Verbena
- Lemon Grass
- Lemon Balm



Chairman's Corner

A very special and sincere thank you for the herbal wreath-shaped trivet made of hand- finished pewter. I will greatly enjoy using it and remembering each of your unique friendships and your incredible support during my years as the chair of the HSA-South Texas Unit. The Herbs in the design appear to be bay, basil, marjoram or oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage and thyme.

The message in this piece of table art is overwhelming when one examines the symbolism that history has afforded these plants. With Bay laurel you have honored me by the undeserved acknowledgement of success. You have expressed love with Basil. You have conveyed joy with Oregano, and with Parsley you have expressed gratitude. With Sage you have honored me with another undeserved compliment of possessing wisdom and with Thyme you flattered me with the praise of having courage. Rosemary symbolizes remembrance, which is the very message of the gift. A very humble thank you!

Sir Thomas More, the sixteenth century advisor to Henry VIII wrote, "As for rosemary, I let it run all over my garden walls, not only because my bees love it but because it is the herb sacred to remembrance and to friendship, whence a sprig of it hath a dumb language..." Legend claims that rosemary will grow only in the gardens of the righteous. We know, however, that it is a versatile and adaptable plant.

Sage was a favorite of Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor from AD 161 to 180. In medieval times it was reputed to be able to impart wisdom and improve memory. The word 'sage' also describes a wise man. According to the medieval language of flowers, sage means domestic virtue. The superstition flourished that a sage plant will be healthy when all is well, and will wilt when things go badly.

In Greco-Roman times wreaths of bay laurel were used as an adornment that could represent one's accomplishments. The use of this wreath comes from the Greek myth involving Apollo, Zeus' son and the god of life and light who fell in love with the nymph Daphne. When he pursued her she fled and asked the river god Peneus to help her. Peneus turned her into a laurel tree. From that day, Apollo wore a wreath of laurel on his head. Laurel wreaths became associated with what Apollo embodied: victory, achievement and status and would later become one of the most commonly used symbols to address achievement throughout Rome. South Texas Unit Annual Meeting Highlights May 17, 2017 Submitted by Beth Murphy

*Proposed Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2018 (1 July 2017-June 2018) was approved by membership, after addition of Herbarist Ad (\$275)

*Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates and the membership elected:

Chair – Donna Yanowski Vice-Chair – Karen Cottingham Secretary – Mary Sacilowski Treasurer – Janice Stuff

*HSA-STU Donations for 2017-2018 Members may prepare a brief presentation regarding a proposed organization at the June 21 meeting. Voting on nominated organizations will be at the July 19 meeting.

*Group discussions focused on future Unit activities. Some suggestions were:

- Delay start of business portion of meeting until 7:30 pm to give members and guests more time to eat dinner and visit.
- Limit the program to 30 minutes with a few minutes for the speaker to answer questions.
- Fundraisers such as Silent Auctions.
- Members commit to mentor a new member.
- Teaching sessions in our gardens.
- Field Trips



Herbs Make Scents – June 2017

Warmly, Sally Luna Unit Chair



South Texas Unit Board Meeting Highlights May 10, 2017 Submitted by Beth Murphy

*Operating Budget 2017-2018 presented and accepted for presentation at Annual Meeting on May 17, 2017

*Memorial for Linda Lain will be \$500.00 donation to Herb Society of America. South Texas Unit will designate the main speaker of Herb Day as the "Linda Lain Lecturer"

*Proposed policy change for representation at HSA National Meeting: If Chairperson can't attend, the Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, or Secretary may attend instead. If no officer can attend, the Board may select someone to represent the Unit. This policy change will be put before the membership at a future meeting.

*Herb Day 2017 evaluation forms gave positive feedback—many people wrote "Fantastic" on their forms.



Lost –

White Corelle plate with Blue snowflake pattern, luncheon size.

Left at Wed. night Meeting, May 17 by Janice Stuff.

Please check the Unit storage bins, and your containers and belongings.

Thanks,

Janice Stuff jestuff@pdq.net









From the Treasurer's

Desk: Janice Stuff

Budget Update

- On May 17 membership meeting, we approved an amended budget; the Amended budget added a donation for *The Herbarist* publication, \$275.
- The donation of \$700 for local donations was unspecified. We agreed to bring suggestions (to June evening Meeting) to be considered for this donation. The Gardens or groups suggested by a member should have description of their mission and background.
- At the membership meeting we discussed one source of our income, membership dues. For clarification, dues are not only collected from Active members, but also from Sustaining, and Affiliate members which adds revenue to this source of income.
- Vary night program format from lecture style to include one with an interactive hands-on activity

Remit your membership dues during June and July, deadline August 1.

\$67.50, single \$98.75 joint membership \$80.00 Sustaining Mail to Janice Stuff, Treaurer P.O. Box 6515 Houston, TX 77265-6515 Questions? jestuff@pdq.net

Herbs Make Scents – June 2017



Herbs Make Sense

June 2017

About Our Meetings ...

Albert Ramos

The Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 was one of the most member-attended meetings we've had since I've been keeping track. Twenty-nine members gathered for an evening filled with flowers, food, and fun. We also enjoyed seeing a few guests, most of whom are family to our members and one who is about to become a new member.

Mother-daughter team Donna and Dena

Yanowski were hostesses and organized a couple of others to help them cover all the tables with blueand-white-checked tablecloths. This made the tables a friendly and inviting place to display the dozens of colorful and fragrant flower arrangements that all the members brought to share.

Since this was the annual business meeting, we did not have the usual educational program. We made up for it, however, with our festive, shared meal. The food was as good as we've ever had. The HSA-STU provided the entree of delicious chicken tenders, and members brought potluck dishes based on their favorite program of the last two years. There were so many fabulous dishes that any one of them could have taken first prize on a "top chef" television show. I wish I could remember them all; but since I can't, I'll have to rely on the food stains on my overalls to remind me!

Several people were inspired by the program on fermenting. They prepared a variety of ferments that positively bubbled over with a pleasing range of flavors. One delicious dish by **Karen Cottingham** featured elements of three of our most interesting programs: fermented food (kimchi), foraged food (dandelions), and capsicum (chili peppers) together with garbanzo beans and feta cheese.

Jenna Wallis made the most wonderful Brazilian Cheese Popovers you've ever tasted. She was inspired by a recipe in the **Herb Day** folder, but she used her own recipe. And if you are ever inspired to make popovers, call me and I'll be delighted to pop over to help you evaluate them!

Bobby Jucker couldn't stay for the meeting, but he helped us "get down and dirty" with a chocolate cake inspired by his favorite program, Farm Dirt. The cake was made to look like rich compost and was even embellished with gummy earthworms! This culinary arts cake brought a smile to everyone's face who saw it, and the rich chocolate goodness elicited verbal expressions of joy from those who indulged (and now bulge)!

Donna Yanowski added a sublimely flavorful Earl Gray Tea Cake to the dessert board. She was celebrating the 2015 program on tea that was presented by **Kim McHugh** of *McHugh Tea Room*.

I have to say that my favorite food of the evening was a dessert, **Pam Harris's** individual blueberry pies inspired by the memorable indigo program. The pies were so good that I couldn't help eating dessert before I ate dinner. Thank you, Pam!

A new feature we instituted for this meeting was a "Give & Take" table. Members brought herb garden- and kitchen-related items that were gently (or never) used but that they no longer needed. Then other members were happy to take them home! It was a great way to recycle and to add a fun dimension to the annual meeting.

The annual meeting also gave us an opportunity to express our gratitude to our 2015-2017 HSA-STU Chair, **Sally Luna**. In this short time, Sally has done tremendous and prodigious work on our behalf. Our successes in gaining new members, reinvigorating our meetings, and finding an excellent meeting space are due to her efforts and innovations. *Thank you, Sally*, for ushering us into a new period of membership growth and herbal education excellence.

Our HSA-STU is now 51 active members strong and has 6 affiliate members to round us out. That's a good number, and it's getting stronger every year; but we need more members to sustain the organization for the long-haul. All of us have friends interested in herbs, and we often have opportunities to meet new people with an herbal interest as well. Let's make a special effort to invite guests to our June and July meetings. Our goal is to gain more new members who will join us in our mission to promote the knowledge, use, and delight of herbs.

Continued on next page



The June 21, 2017 meeting, *Super Herbs and Super Spices - Chia*, will be of great interest to members and guests alike. **Haley Bowen**, who is a yoga instructor, artist, health coach, and nutritional counselor, will separate the truth from the fiction (or the chia from the chaff) behind the health benefit claims for chia seed (*Salvia hispanica*). Learn how to incorporate chia into your diet and enjoy the samples of the delicious and nutritious foods and beverages that Haley will prepare for you.

Haley has been a guest in the past and is on her way to becoming a member; so plan now to attend the June evening meeting to meet this interesting young lady. Her presentation will be the first of a series of programs on *Super Herbs and Super Spices*. It would be super to see you there!





Beth Murphy presents Mountain Mint

From Thelma Rowe and Linda Alderman

The day meeting, held on Wednesday, May 11, 2017, at the Cherie Flores Pavilion in Hermann Park, was hosted by **Linda Alderman**. Thank you for bringing the delicious raspberry lemonade. It's truly a great program when, it was, surely, a record number of members in attendance! **Beth Murphy** expertly led us through a study of *Mountain Mint*. We ended the program with a special treat from Beth's husband, Jim. He potted several different cuttings of plants from their garden, and Beth asked us to be sure to find a home for them in our gardens! Some of us took home little pots of beautiful coleus.

HSA Annual Meeting Business Meetings

Janice Stuff

As requested by the South Texas Unit Board, I represented the South Texas Unit at all business meetings of the Educational Conference of The Herb Society of America, in the absence of our Chair or Vice-chair. The conference was held May 4-7, in Little Rock, AR. First, The Annual Meeting of Members was conducted by President Rae McKimm. Her introductory remarks included a special and loving tribute for past President of the HSA, Linda Lain. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were approved. The Treasurer presented a detailed financial report and outlined the financial goals. Staffing hours for some staff at the HSA have been reduced to meet budget expenses. The President outlined the breadth of the educational offerings posted on the HSA website: Herb of the Month, Herbal Fact Sheets, Essential Herb Guides. National Herbal Bytes, Webinars, and District and Unit Newsletters. The HSA recently updated their website, please check it out!

http://www.herbsociety.org/

The Herbarist continues to be an outstanding annual publication featuring articles, illustrations and photographs about herbs. **Lois Sutton** will resume a role on the publication committee of *The Herbarist.* Membership of the HSA has grown slightly this past year. The importance of reporting every unit's volunteer hours was emphasized. For 2016, 40,636 volunteer hours were reported from 19 units and the Members at Large. At the conclusion of the meeting, The HSA President introduced the HSA Board and district delegates. She announced that the next HSA Educational Conference will be held on June 1, 2018, in Tarrytown NY and in 2019 in Madison, Wisconsin (tentatively).

In the Chairs meeting, the Chair or a representative from every unit updated the unit's contact information. The HSA Vice-President facilitated the chair's meeting and stressed the importance of communication and problem-solving together. She reviewed the list of required reports that must be transmitted from each Unit (Unit Dues Transmittal, Membership Roster, Volunteer Hours, Unit Profile and Contact information). To facilitate



communications and training of Chairs, a webbased conference call is being planned. To address the priority of HSA to increase membership interest and recruitment, several actions are underway: to produce membership guidelines, to produce a Handbook of new members, and to provide recruiting guidelines and suggestions. Another activity is to provide guidelines for a mentorship program.

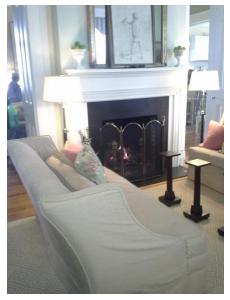
The South Central District meeting was conducted by district representative Mary Doebbeling. We approved a recommendation to name one of the HSA awards in honor of Madalene Hill that will recognize a person who has furthered the educational knowledge and awareness of Herbs; this recommendation must be approved by the HSA Board. Again, communication is important and any membership rosters or changes need to be copied to the District representative. We are planning a District Meeting and field trip to Kleberg, TX in the fall (late October). Watch for announcements. The South Central District sponsored one of the EdCon speakers, Tina Marie Wilcox, "The Widow Wilcox of Rattlesnake Ridge", and co-sponsored the Rosemary Circle Honorees Luncheon.

Short Review --- Selected Tours and Speakers 2017 HSA Educational Conference

Janice Stuff

P. Allen Smith is an author, conservationist and TV host of "Garden Home" and "Garden Style." We toured his home, Moss Mountain Farm, which has sweeping vistas of the Arkansas River, a oneacre vegetable and lush rose gardens and an ecofriendly 1840s-style farmhouse. We gathered in a tent on his property for tea and introductions. Smith explained the philosophy and story of building his garden home and gardens. Although weather was cool, windy, and raining, we managed to walk through the marvelous vegetable garden that had herbs and flowers planted on the borders. As his property slopes down towards the Arkansas River, terraced beds are planted with flowers and other plants, finally the terraces terminate into a formal rose garden, where weddings may be scheduled. His beautiful Georgian-style farm home (recently built in the style of homes built in the area in the 1840's) was fully opened to our tour and we were allowed to visit every room, noting the thoughtful and artful decoration.





Living room setting of farmhouse at Moss Mountain, AR

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We had a seated and delicious luncheon; the menu included recipes from Smith's latest cookbook, and other cookbook editions.



Table setting and decorations for luncheon at Moss Mountain tour

Smith also made a presentation to HSA EdCon in the Little Rock Convention Center the following day. He shared many stories and detailed background about the choice of plantings, and why a variety of a plant was chosen, and tested in his gardens. In addition to plants, he has specialized in raising unique varieties of chickens, and maintains some goats and horses.

A Preconference Dinner was held in the Grand Hall of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion.



Centerpiece crafted by the Arkasas Herb Society for the Preconference Dinner at the Arkansas Governor"s Mansion

The centerpiece of the room is the "Arkansas Chandelier." It contained diamond-shaped crystal prisms symbolic of the state's <u>diamond mining</u> history; and two large native crystal pieces mined in <u>Garland County</u>. On the floor of the hall beneath the chandelier is a wooden version of the official state seal, which was laser-cut using the wood of fifteen native hardwood trees. Outside on the grounds of the mansion the landscaping includes a vegetable garden maintained y the Master Gardeners of Little Rock, an herb garden started by <u>First Lady Betty Bumpers</u> in 1972 and maintained by the <u>Arkansas Unit of the Herb Society of</u> <u>America</u>, a rose garden that produces seasonal cut flowers for the house, and the front entry garden

with its centerpiece fountain. The dinner contained herbal specialties prepared by the Governor's Mansion Culinary Team, and these staff made a presentation on the Educational Conference on cooking with herbs and spices.

Theo Witsell, Botanist and Ecologist Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, presented "Wild Plants and Wild Places of the Natural State. His talk was heavily illustrated with outstanding photography of plants and scenery. It provided an overview of the ecology and native vegetation of Arkansas, and highlighted plants that were used by Native Americans, early settlers, and people today. It explored a variety of habitats important to the native flora of the state including prairies, glades, barrens, woodlands, forests, and wetlands. <u>http://www.naturalheritage.org/</u>

Tina Marie Wilcox, the Widow Wilcox of Rattlesnake Ridge, presented a talk of **Ozark Wisdom Rooted in Bristol, England.**



Tina was fully dressed in clothing of blouse, long skirt, and a bonnet, the style of mid-1800 rural Arkansas. She delivered her talk in a storytelling dialogue and began her talk saying,"My momma was a granny woman." She told stories about her grandmother who was a wise woman and spinner who lived near Bristol, England. "My momma learned to spin, to garden and to gather wild herbs for helping folks with their ills from her momma. Her momma learned this work from her momma. I learned this work from all three." Throughout the talk, Tina Marie related stories about learning to grow and use mint, flax, chaste tree, sage leaves and soapwort, as well as making soap from lye and hog lard. Her talk was very entertaining and informative



<u>Herbs Make Sense</u>

What's Coming Up Next?

DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!

THE HERB IN THE TIME CAPSULE

Karen Cottingham

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It sounds like the title of a Jules Verne story... "THE HERB IN THE TIME CAPSULE", but its really just life in the Big City. Caught up in the Y2K frenzy of 1999, The New York Times sponsored a competition for top international architects and artists to design the ultimate time capsule for the next millennium. Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava's winning design consisted of sinuous, symmetrically folded stainless steel spheres which cleverly created a series of interior hollow chambers. The chambers were then filled with the artifacts and documentary materials felt to most accurately depict life in America at the end of the twentieth century. Assuming no intervening apocalypse occurs, the sealed Time Capsule will be opened in the year 3000 by future historians curious about what we valued enough to place in this shiny reliquary.

I'm kind of glad I won't be there when the capsule is opened and the "snapshot" of our civilization is revealed. Imagine the puzzled reactions of our future cultural historians when they pull out a can of Spam, a gold nose ring, a Beanie Baby unicorn, a plastic anti-shoplifting device from WalMart, and a strand of barbed wire - from among a hundred or so other items! And these are just the objects I can list in a family newsletter!

Oh, yes... back to the *Herb* in the time capsule. You may be as surprised as I was that marijuana didn't make the cut, and neither did the deadly poppy seed despite its pervasive impact on society. So what herb or herbal product do you think had the cultural resonance and iconic status needed to represent civilization in the year 2000? How many of you guessed the Chia Pet? You know, "Ch-chch-chia – the Pottery that Grows!" A new version shows up every Christmas season in Kmart stores and chain drugstores along with that unforgettable television jingle.

You know the routine. Just soak the terra-cotta pot, spread a paste of chia seeds in the pottery's grooves, and keep it watered. In a couple of weeks

there will be lush, curly, bright-green chia "fur", "hair", or "whiskers", depending on the pet design. I wish I could tell you which rendition of the Chia Pet captured the hearts of the judges - perhaps the iconic Chia ram, the adorable Chia Teddy Bear, or even the clown-like original Chia Guy - but I'm afraid we will have to wait until the year 3000 to find out.

But hopefully, just knowing that there is a Chia Pet in the Time Capsule has piqued your interest in chia and you are marking your calendar right now to learn more about this fascinating herb. Join us on June 21, 2017 for the first of several programs on "Super Herbs and Super Spices". **Haley Bowen**, a nutritional counselor, yoga instructor, and artist (and soon-to-be member of the HSA-STU!) will discuss chia's history and its nutritional benefits and provide chia snacks, beverages and recipes. Come and find out why chia is an herb, not just a seed that happens to be very nutritious.

You'll also get to see one of this past holidays season's Chia Pets, an emoji named "Winky" who is "designed for those who like to express themselves." I'm not exactly sure what I will be expressing through "Winky", except possibly a lot more Chia Pet trivia.

Between now and June 21, have fun experimenting with chia in your kitchen. If you can, bring a chiaenhanced dish or a dish inspired by the cultures of Meso-America or the desert Southwest of North America where chia has been foraged or cultivated for thousands of years.

The meeting will be held in the beautiful **CHERIE FLORES GARDEN PAVILION** at 1500 Hermann Dr. The entrance to the Pavilion's parking lot is where Crawford Street T-intersects with Hermann Drive. The spacious meeting room is reserved for us from 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm to allow us plenty of time to set up, socialize, eat, meet, and clean up. We'll see you on Ju-Ju-Ju-June 21!



Herbs Make Scents – June 2017



<u>Herbs Make Sense</u>

Herbally Speaking...

... from the desk of Linda Alderman

Parsley doesn't seem like one of the most exciting herbs, but when my friend, a native of Argentina, introduced me to Chimichurri Sauce and the way her country serves it with beef, I got very excited! I'm grilling a steak tonight, so this will be the perfect accompaniment.

Parsley Petroselinum crispum Apiaceae

(Umbelliferae)

Description: In the U.S. there are three common types of this bright green biennial: flat leaf (Italian), curled-leaf, and parsnip- rooted. Its flowers grow in an umbel. Each flower is tiny

Italian

with five greenish-yellow petals & stamens. The leaves are divided pinnately into feather-like sections that lay flat like celery leaves, or curl into small, frilly leaflets, depending on the variety. The fruit are small oval, gray-brown, ribbed seeds.

A little History: Long before parsley served merely as a garnish, the ancient Greeks used it in funeral ceremonies. The Greeks associated parsley with death because, according to legend, parsley sprang up where the blood of the Greek hero Archemorus was spilled when he was eaten by serpents. Parsley appeared in wreaths given to winning athletes because the Greeks also believed Hercules had chosen parsley for his garlands. By the Middle Ages, parsley was found in herbal medicines. It's been given credit for curing a great range of human ills. Today, many of us have heard it is used to aid digestion.

Cultivation: While parsley is a biennial, it's often grown as an annual. Not only does it bolt and set seed in the second year, the foliage tends to be bitter. Years ago I spoke with Madalene Hill about my troubles with parsley. She taught me several things! I was planting it a little late and it was suffering in the heat. Set out plants in the fall and parsley will grow well throughout the South's usual winter. It can survive our hot summers if it has some shelter from our hot afternoon sun and good mulch. Parsley can be grown from seed, but it is extremely slow to germinate - up to six weeks. I guess this explains the legend that parsley goes to the devil seven times before it grows. You know this impatient gal isn't going to wait for that! I planted about 6 plants, set approximately 8 inches apart, and I had a good supply of parsley. Madalene also reminded me I had to do a little work to keep it productive. When it blooms, it dies; I needed to pinch off that bloom stalk as it came out of the plant's crown. I also found that weeding it often and frequently cutting back the full length of the outside stems kept the parsley coming!

Some Uses: culinary

- Middle Eastern tabbouleh features parsley and mint
- Dry or freeze parsley leaves to preserve them
- *Persillade*, a French sauce, is a mixture of parsley and garlic
- Curly leaf parsley has a milder flavor than flat-leaf types
- Use parsley leaves, but compost the stems, which tend to be bitter.

Chimichurri Sauce

1 c. finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves, firmly packed
2 Tablespoons finely chopped cilantro leaves, firmly packed
1 tsp finely chopped fresh marjoram or oregano leaves, firmly packed
4 cloves garlic minced
½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
¼ cup red wine vinegar

- 1/2 to 1 tsp hot red pepper flakes
- 1 tsp salt

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Taste and adjust seasoning as desired. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour to allow flavors to meld. Use within 1 week.

Resources:

⁻Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs

⁻Southern Herb Growing by Madalene Hill & Gwen Barclay

⁻Herbal Gardens 2017 Calendar by Maggie Oster

The South Texas Unit is a non-profit educational organization incorporated under the State of Texas. The South Texas Unit has no paid employees. Our activities are accomplished through the efforts of our volunteers.

The Herb Society of America South Texas Unit P.O. Box 6515 Houston, TX 77265-6515



Find our Unit on the web at: www.herbsociety-stu.org

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

