



HerbLetter

July, 2016

Baton Rouge Unit — Herb Society of America

www.hsabr.org

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June 23 meeting on Native Herbs:

Seventeen members, 13 guests, 2 new members and Nashville Herb Society unit guest Angie Smith attended the June 23 meeting. Six new people signed up for the newsletter. These 33 individuals heard a great presentation by Matthew Herron (Capital Area Native Plant Society) on the history and uses of native plants.

- Cathy Scarbrough

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Burden Plantfest, June 18

Although we got rained out by 11 a.m., it was kinda fun! The crowd was more meager this year and a few things could have contributed to that: the weather, the charge of admission, or other events. But there was great food and Bloody Marys!

We made \$120 for our efforts, mostly selling plants.

Helpful hands were Kay Martin, Julie and Kassidy Walsh, Carol Roshto, Cathy and Art Scarbrough, and Kitty Bull. Special thanks to Kitty who donated 5 too-cute handmade felt planter covers and a fairy garden. Kassidy picked a ticket and Bonnie Richard won the raffle for the fairy garden and got her prize just before the rain poured down.

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Southeast District Meeting

Angie Smith reminds us that Nashville Unit is hosting the Herb Society Southeast District Meeting on **September 30 to October 2**. The main event on Saturday starts with the district meeting at 8:30 a.m., followed by programs and speakers. Shop at the Garden Gallery with items from HSA headquarters, bring a gift basket or gently used items for the Silent Auction. Then dinner on our own.



On Sunday several Nashville Unit members will be opening their gardens for our enjoyment. It will be a great experience, informational and a whole lot of fun. We will be organizing car pools so members can go to Nashville for the weekend. The headquarters hotel is the Four Points Sheraton at 760 Old Hickory Boulevard, Brentwood, TN 37027. [Click here](#) to download the registration form and informational brochure. Please contact Vice Chair Mary Williams if you are interested in driving or riding - druid@wi.rr.com, or 414-526-3016.

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Please welcome these New Members and add them to your member directory:

Ken Bosso
2829 Tall Timbers Rd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816-2581
225-937-8328
Travelbug365@hotmail.com

Bonnie Richard
548 Highland Creek Pkwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-939-7936
brich19@hotmail.com

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Upcoming programs:

July 28, 2016: The Bartram Trail Project. Peggy Coates, Executive Director of Hilltop Arboretum, has been involved in the Bartram Trail Project from the start and will talk about the importance of William Bartram and his discoveries and explorations in south Louisiana. 6:30 p.m., Burden Center, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge.

August 25, 2016: Preserving the Herbal Harvest. Peggy Cox, one of this unit's earliest members, and now a Member at Large of the Herb Society, will show us how to keep and use our herbs. 6:30 p.m., Burden Center, 4560 Essen Lane.

September 22, 2016: Holiday Decorating with Herbs and Botanicals. Joel Franklin of [Peregrin's](#) will share his expertise and artist's eye so we can learn how to use natural materials for holiday decorating, indoors and out. 6:30 p.m., Burden Center.

October 27, 2016: Baton Rouge Unit's 25th Anniversary Gala. 6:30 p.m., Burden Center.

Sunday, December 18, 2016: Christmas Party for HSABR members. 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Burden Center.

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From new member Ken Bosso:

"I stopped by to see the Herb Garden at Burden. While I was there I noticed several Black Swallowtail caterpillars on the fennel plant. Fennel, parsley and dill are some of the host plants for the caterpillars and I was glad to see the fennel in the garden. I removed the 2 caterpillars and will raise them at home and release the butterflies in about a month. Thanks for providing a habitat to attract the butterflies as well as a beautiful herb garden."



<https://forestgardenblog.wordpress.com/>

Note from Cathy Scarbrough about Ken Bosso: "Ken just joined the Herb Society and has a major impact on butterflies and moths. He is also active in Master Naturalists and Native Plant Society, and is an all-round nice guy."

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Chair's Annual Report – 2016

Presented at Annual Meeting on May 26, 2016



Unit Chair-elect Art Scarbrough presents Zen Kitty to outgoing Chair Mary Williams in thanks for a job well done!

2015-16 was a year of change and growth for the Baton Rouge Unit. We had our first **Herb Day** in March, 2016, and raised close to \$2000 toward building the next phase of our Herb Garden at the Burden Center. We invited the Capital Area Native Plant Society to partner with us in the Herb Fair. We had 4 classes, a wonderful cooking demonstration featuring Peppers, the Herb of the Year, had a number of vendors, made and sold food, and sold a lot of plants. About 2/3 of our members participated in that big day. The Board decided to hold a second Herb Day, on March 4, 2017, and we will need your ideas and help for that. At least 1,000 people came to our first Herb Day!!

Another first was holding **classes** on 3 Saturday mornings at the Burden Center. One was Making Jams, Jellies, and Marmalades; the second was taught by Chef Christina Nicosia of the Culinary Institute, on Baking Yeast Breads; and the third was on Making Chutneys and Lemon Curd. Each class increased in size. There will be more classes scheduled for fall of 2016 through spring 2017, including Making Relishes and Pickles; Making Herbal Perfumes; Making Insect Houses for Pollinators; and another on Creating Urban Eco-Systems that will be taught in the yard of a family who has a big garden, an orchard, bees, and chickens in Baton Rouge. There may be other classes as requested. Each class is a fundraiser for the Herb Garden, and registration is required.

Committees have been established and are functioning, and will grow in activities in the upcoming year. Members are expected to serve on committees and at events put on by the Herb Society. The committees are set forth in the revised By-Laws which were available as a handout at the June meeting.

We continue to **grow plants for sale**. Plant sales have always been our main source of income, and we participated in the **LSU Garden Show** in April, both the **Hilltop Plant Fest** and their **Plant Sale** in spring and fall, and the **Burden Garden Festival** in June. Julie Walsh also had sales of our leftover herbs in her driveway! Great idea! We hope to have a greenhouse available starting in the fall of 2016 at John Wilhelm's property where we can grow our own herb plants instead of having to buy many from commercial greenhouses. This will save us a lot of money and will need member participation in seeding, growing, and potting plants for sale.

The first “garden room” of the **Burden Herb Garden** is planted. It is called Flavors of Louisiana, featuring all culinary herbs and is fenced, has raised beds, gravel paths, a nice little swing for relaxation, and a watering system. Almost all the plants are perennials, so will be increasing in size over time. We need to maintain the garden. That means members will be asked to sign up for occasional work days to do weeding, trimming, and other garden tasks. You will have a chance to do that tonight. There are 3 more “garden rooms” planned for our big Herb Garden. The next one will have a pavilion and gardens featuring Native American and African American herbs. We will be writing grant requests for the funds for the pavilion, which must be hurricane proof because it is in a public garden and thus will be expensive.

Your Board has been discussing **programming** a lot and decided to have several **crafts** meetings in the next program year in July and August of 2017 instead of having a speaker. And in preparation for the March 4, 2017 Herb Day, our February meeting will be spent making very decorative pots for the Herb Day plants.



New members joining us in 2016

Board members are also working on a **new member mentoring** program that will pair up new members with experienced members. We have found that sometimes new members don't know how they can participate in Herb Society activities. Your suggestions are very welcome. Please tell [Art Scarbrough](#), new Unit Chair, and [Julie Walsh](#) your ideas and suggestions.

There has been interest in forming a culinary group or cooking club. Many other units have such groups, which get together in each other's homes every month or two to make a meal, often with a theme, and eat together. You may sign up to be part of a **Culinary Club** at future meetings.

Deborah Turton and Mary Williams, unit members, attended the **national Herb Society of America 2016 annual meeting** in Asheville, NC on April 29 and learned a lot. Even though it was a one-day event, there were many reasons to extend our visit: tours of Biltmore and its wonderful gardens, and the biggest Herb Fair in the country that same weekend.

In 2017, **May 3 – 7, the national annual meeting will be in Little Rock, AR.** It is the every-other-year Education Conference, and very much worth attending, with garden and historical tours, many classes and programs and activities, and great shopping including herbs.

The Baton Rouge Unit is in the Southeast District of HSA, and the **Southeast District Gathering** will be in **Nashville, TN on October 1, 2016.** They are planning a wonderful time for District HSA visitors, and we will be able to see how their big event, their Herb Fair, works, as that will be

happening while we are there. We can arrange car pools to Nashville this October and to Little Rock next spring so members may attend.

The past almost 2 years have been VERY busy – we have transformed this unit and almost doubled its size and taken on new roles and started new events and raised our profile in the community. Now we will work on making those events and our gardens better and becoming even better teachers and learners about herbs and their uses . . . and delights.

I am honored to have been your Chair for almost 2 years. Thank you.

Mary Bellis Williams
Unit Chair, Sept. 2014 – July 2016

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Herb Society Committees

Just a reminder: Members are expected to serve on committees AND to participate in Herb Society events.

You may sign up for committees at any meeting, or by contacting anyone on the Executive Committee: [Art Scarbrough](#), [Mary Williams](#), [Cathy Scarbrough](#), and [Heli Roy](#). Their contact info is in the member directory. If you want a copy of the member directory, contact [Mary Williams](#).

Chairs of these Standing Committees are members of the Board.

Standing Committees

Communications: Facebook, website, HerbLetter

Ways & Means: Lead unit's creation and acquisition of non-plant items for sale at events. Coordinate crafting committees and workshops. Coordinate classes with Education Committee. Marketing of crafts, preserves, art, etc.

Plants and Horticulture: Lead unit's work growing plants and building and maintaining public gardens. Botanical study of plants. Work with Herb Day Committee.

Membership: Maintain membership records, check in members at meetings and events, implement new member mentor program, maintain and develop new member handbooks.

Publicity: Create and send out press releases for unit programs and special events. Develop and maintain extensive media list and contacts. Arrange for radio and TV interviews for events. Coordinate with Communications Committee for electronic media promotion.

Education: Work with garden clubs, libraries, schools, civic groups, etc. to raise awareness of herbs and their uses. Develop Speakers' Bureau. Develop and publicize classes open to the public.

Program: Find and schedule speakers for meeting programs and special programs like Symposia. Introduce speakers at meetings. Publish yearly program schedule and disseminate it through Communications and Publicity Committees, electronic media, handouts, and local sites like garden centers, garden clubs, etc.

Archives: Collect and maintain Unit's historical documents, making electronic records where possible. Maintain scrapbooks of unit activities and events.

Other Committees/Special Interest Groups

By-Laws Committee

Chair is not a member of the Board. Tasks: Examine and suggest revisions of By-Laws of the Unit. Suggestions will be posted in March each year for consideration in May at annual meeting.

If you need a copy of the By-laws, contact Mary Williams, druid@wi.rr.com or 414-526-3016.

Culinary Club

Interest Group to cook and eat together. Meets in homes as members decide. Members might decide to research Mexican food, or Greek food, or mid-eastern food, or Italian food, or desserts and herbs. Or desserts without herbs.

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Carolyn Bowman in the News

Our long-time member Carolyn Bowman, artist and maker of gorgeous food and quirky cookies, is also very active in opera and theater. Here is a recent article about her talents:

COMMUNITY CHORUS VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

When Opéra Louisiane first held auditions for the Community Chorus in 2011, Carolyn Bowman may have been the first to sign up. She walked into the audition with enthusiasm and a beautiful smile. She said she would like to sing “Un bel di vedremo” from *Madama Butterfly*, an aria that is no easy feat for the most respected sopranos in the business and certainly unexpected to hear in a chorus audition. And then she sang. We were blown away by this beautiful voice. She had easy access to her top most register and comfortably floated Puccini’s most beautiful phrases. Carolyn has been a crucial member of the Community Chorus ever since.



It’s no surprise that Carolyn is an essential part of many other community theater and arts organizations throughout Baton Rouge and Ascension. There is no end to her generosity and community minded spirit. She currently sings with the Baton Rouge Symphony Chorus and performs regularly with Theatre Baton Rouge and Ascension Community Theater. In fact, she was instrumental in the early days at Theatre Baton Rouge. When Managing Artistic Director, Lee Edwards was interested in forming a local Gilbert and Sullivan, he called Carolyn and two others to form a committee to begin the organizational process. As an original member of the Baton Rouge Gilbert and Sullivan Society,

she performed in more shows than there is space to mention.



Carolyn is a rare gem. An actress, artist, community volunteer and supporter. What a gift she is to Opéra Louisiane and our community as a whole.

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Miscellaneous Stuff

Please send recipes, articles, thoughts, musings, questions, or complaints to Mary Williams, druid@wi.rr.com.

Members are expected to report the hours they spent on Herb Society activities every September. Please open and print out the form in the link below and jot down every hour you spend at a meeting, making a craft for the unit, participating in an event, planning a program or activity, weeding the Burden Herb Garden, etc. EVERY HOUR counts and should be recorded.



[Volunteer Hours Report Form.pdf \(Command Line\)](#)