

12th Annual Herbal Forum “A Celebration of Lemon-Scented Herbs and Lemon Balm, Herb of the Year.”

SAHS members who would like to attend The 12th Annual Herbal Forum at The International Festival-Institute (Festival Hill) at Round Top, TX March 23 – March 24, 2007 should sign up as soon as possible to insure a room with our group and also a spot in the optional workshops where space is limited. There is information at the website, click on www.festivalhill.org then click on Herbal Forum from the menu. Call Jessica at 979-249-3129 to request a flyer or to make reservations. The flyer contains descriptions of the workshops, lectures, and events. Call SAHS member Diane Lewis at 210-494-6116 for information about carpooling, room-mate leads, or other information.

The authors of “Southern Herb Growing” Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay have tended the herb gardens, directed the food service, and resided at Festival Hill for many years. Festival Hill is about a 2.5 hr drive from San Antonio, we will carpool. There will be an early group that attends optional Friday Mar 23rd workshops and/or visits the grounds/sales and likely a late group that arrives after work on Friday. Arriving early allows more time for shopping the wonderful plant sale where you will find standard and unusual herb cultivars and some other plants for sale 9 am to 6 pm on Friday, and 7:30 to 5 pm on Saturday. Both days Lucia Bettler from Houston has books and gifts for sale and the Herb Society of America has the Thyme Well Spent Shop which benefits herb research. You can donate items, see flyer or website, and you can find great deals on herb gifts, crafts, stationary, plants, seeds, used books, etc. There is an optional Friday night dinner (\$20 in advance) which some of us will attend. It is very delicious, plus offers opportunity to meet the speakers. We will stay two nights and leave late Sun morning March 25th after informally touring the lovely gardens and taking advantage of additional photo opportunities. Those who need to leave earlier can arrange to ride back together. Note: There is so much happening on Saturday that it is difficult to fit in shopping for plants and other items, without missing lectures or demonstrations, so we suggest coming on Friday before the sales close at 6 pm, best selection too.

The Herbal Forum registration is \$75 for Saturday, which includes all lectures, demonstrations, handouts, herbal samples, music and poetry, an exceptionally delicious and beautifully presented herbal lunch, and late afternoon refreshments. You also get all the herbal recipes for the above in your packet. If you come for Sat only, you should arrive by 8 a.m. to get your packet at the registration table, as the introductions and welcoming remarks begin at 8:15 a.m. (leave SA by 5:15 a.m.) Lucinda Hutson celebrated food, garden, and lifestyle writer is one of the featured speakers. She wrote “The Herb Garden Cookbook, The Complete Gardening and Gourmet Guide”. There is usually opportunity to have books signed.

The Sat program and plant sales end at 5 pm but the SAHS members will continue to socialize into the evening. If weather permits, we may chat on the wrap around porch about the day’s festivities and share experiences from the afternoon sessions. We will have informal show and tell about our plant and other exciting purchases. Then we will all gather in one selected room for an appetizer potluck (in place of dinner) and more social time. Please bring appetizers to share, see suggestions below. Bring your choice of wine, or other beverages. Each vehicle or room can coordinate bringing insulated coolers to keep food and beverages chilled. There are no kitchen facilities in our rooms, just the bathroom sinks. You may join us during the social time even if you are just there for the day, but please have a “designated” driver.

The room rate is \$55 per night per person if you share a room with one or two people. This rate includes a lovely continental breakfast on Sat and Sun morning. Each room has three twin beds, lots of space, and a private restroom with a shower and two sinks. The rooms we are booking are in Artist Residence 1 (yellow house) at the Festival Institute. If we need more space we will spill over to Artist Residence 2 (blue house) next if there is space available. Towels, bed linens, and hand soap are provided. These are newer buildings, very nice, some of us stayed there last year. We are not far from the action, you can walk, but carpooling helps for moving plants and purchases (too far to carry much). Room keys must be picked up by 6 pm on Friday or arrange to allow someone to pick up your key for you.

Some of us have already signed up for the optional “Creating Herbal Cheeses” workshop on Friday at 3:30 pm (\$35) with “abundant samples”. There are two other workshops, see website, they each have a limit of 20 participants per session and may fill up fast (each optional Friday workshop is offered at 1 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m.) Check the flyer for what to bring for workshop.

ITEMS TO BRING TO HERBAL FORUM

Map Quest map or GPS with Festival Institute, Round Top, TX at State Highway 237 and Jaster Road as destination

CD's for the trip (optional: favorite traveling or background music)

Comfortable shoes for walking outdoors between buildings and on the lawn

Umbrella (if we are prepared, then it won't rain, right?)

Jacket, cool early morning/night even when warm during the day (layering good)

Sunglasses, sunscreen, and hat for walking in the sun

Water bottle

Camera (film, memory cards, batteries, charger)

Paper or notebook

Pens or Pencils

Tote Bags (very helpful to carry necessities and purchases)

Trash bags or rubber mats to protect vehicle under plant purchases

Baskets/Trays (optional, usually flats or cardboard 6 pack plant carriers provided)

Insulated cooler for perishable foods (one per car and/or room?)

Money or checks only accepted at plant sale

Money, checks, or credit card for books, herbal crafts or gifts

Optional book or crafts like knitting for spare moments (Note: it is a good idea to review your handouts before the events, so you won't duplicate them taking notes and because reviewing recipes ahead of time allows you to enjoy the food even more.)

Picnic lunch for Friday if applicable (or grab on the way if not attending the optional lunch at the Menke House at noon, \$15 in advance)

Dinner for Friday if applicable (or grab on the way, if not attending the Menke House dinner at 6:30 pm, \$20 in advance)

Overnight guests see additional items below

Appetizer Potluck: Bring appetizers to share

Suggestions: breads, chips, crackers, cheese, dips, spreads, fruit, veggies, nuts, seeds, lunch meat, summer sausage, other appetizers prepared in advance herbal or not.

Bring wine or other beverage of choice (to share or not, your choice).

Bring wine openers, can openers, utensils, knives, cutting boards, or serving dishes, plates, and cups needed to serve your appetizer and beverages. Reminder, we only have bathroom sinks, no kitchens. One roll of paper towels per room or car is helpful.

Diane will bring a CD/ cassette player boom box for nice background music.

Overnight Guests

Extra pillow (optional)

Coverlet (optional but cozy for reading before bedtime)

Flash light for evening walks outdoors or getting up at night, or bring a night light

Clothes, toiletries, & personal items (hand soap, towels and bed linens provided)