A History of
The Pennsylvania Heartland Unit

Pennsylvania Heartland Herb Society

A Unit of the Herb Society of America

Revised December 2016
Period Covered: April 1985 through March 2016
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OFFICERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HEARTLAND UNIT

1985 – 1988
Chairperson: Marion Bates
Vice Chairperson: Maggie Keeler; 9–86 Dale Keenan
Secretary: Jeanne Esser (day), Judy Sargent; 9–86, Mary Ney (evening)
Corresponding Secretary: Marsha Green, 9–85 Kathy Yoder, 1–88 Harriet Moore
Treasurer: Sylvia Lloyd; 9–86 Judy Sargent

1988 – 1990
Chairperson: Harriet Moore
Vice Chairperson: Dale Keenan; 4–89 Yvonne Snyder
Secretary: Mary Ney
Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Noonan
Treasurer: Elizabeth Hartinger

1990 – 1992
Chairperson: Yvonne Snyder
Vice Chairperson: Joyce Brobst
Secretary: Billie Beadle
Corresponding Secretary: Addie Bauman
Treasurer: Linda Rider

1992 – 1994
Chairperson: Joyce Brobst
Vice Chairperson: Billie Beadle
Secretary: Sherry Heim
Corresponding Secretary: Addie Bauman
Treasurer: Linda Rider

1994 – 1996
Chairperson: Billie Beadle
Vice Chairperson: Barbara Angstadt
Secretary: Jeanette Lanshe
Corresponding Secretary: Gail Seeley
Treasurer: JoAnn Lawrence

1996 – 1998
Chairperson: Barbara Angstadt
Vice Chairperson: Kelly Wisner
Secretary: Jeanette Lanshe
Corresponding Secretary: Gail Seeley
Treasurer: JoAnn Lawrence

1998-2000
Chairperson: Kelly Lynn Wisner
Vice Chairperson: Lori Schaeffer
Secretary: Winnie Hayik
Corresponding Secretary: Peggy Conway
Treasurer: JoAnn Lawrence

2000-2002
Chairperson: Lori Schaeffer
Vice Chairperson: Priscilla Plucinsky
Secretary: Winnie Hayik
Corresponding Secretary: Pat Kerber
Treasurer: JoAnn Lawrence

2002-2004
Chairperson: Priscilla Plucinsky
Vice-Chairperson: Gail Seeley
Secretary: Winnie Hayik
Corresponding Secretary: Pat Kerber
Treasurer: Amy Willard

2004 -2006
Chairperson: Gail Seeley
Vice Chairperson: Diane Schuster
Secretary: Winnie Hayik
Corresponding Secretary: Terry Sweitzer
Treasurer: Amy Willard

2006-2008
Chairperson: Diane Schuster
Vice-Chairperson: Jane Brubaker
Secretary: Pat Magala
Corresponding Secretary: Pat Kerber
Treasurer: Amy Schiavone

2008 -2010
Chairperson: Jane Brubaker
Vice Chairperson: Dawn Fry
Secretary: Theresa DeTemple
Corresponding Secretary– Terry Sweitzer
Treasurer– Amy Schiavone

2010 -2012
Chairperson: Dawn Fry
Vice Chairperson: Sherry Davis
Secretary: Theresa DeTemple
Corresponding Secretary: Terry Sweitzer
Treasurer: Amy Schiavone

2012 -2014
Chairperson: Sherry Davis
Co Chairpersons: Courtney Stevens & Marcia Fehl
Secretary: Kim Brown
Corresponding Secretary: Terry Sweitzer

2014 -2016
Co Chairpersons: Marcia Fehl & Mary Ellen Johnston
Co Chairpersons: Barbara Mills & Gail Seeley
Secretary: Kim Brown
Corresponding Secretary: Terry Sweitzer
The Early Years

The Pennsylvania Heartland Unit of the Herb Society of America had its beginnings through the leadership of then Member-at-Large Marion Bates. After moving to Berks County, PA, Marion began teaching classes about herbs as part of the continuing education program at Albright College and at the “Herb Haus,” her 18th century stone home.

After speaking at the Second Herb Symposium at Hiram College in Ohio, sponsored by the Members-at-Large in the Ohio Region of the Herb Society of America, Marion was so inspired that she invited her former students, and the Members-at-Large from Region II to meet and consider giving a one–day herbal symposium in Reading. The group was equally excited about the prospect and the first “Herbal Delights Symposium” was presented Wednesday, June 2, 1982, at Albright College. A follow-up meeting was held in September to evaluate and review the Symposium.

Locally, Marion was continually being asked by Jeanne Esser if we were going to become a study group. It was at this time that the “Herb House Study Group” was formed to actively pursue the study of herbs. Joint meetings (day and night meeting groups) were held during the months of September, December, and April, and day and night study meetings were held in October, November, January, February, and March. In addition to the study meetings, a plant exchange and pot–luck dinner was held in April, a Christmas party and cookie exchange in December and an herb related tour in May.

Membership grew, and under Marion’s capable guidance, plans were made to become the Pennsylvania Heartland Herb Society in September of 1984. In November of that same year Betty Stevens, an Herb Society of America member from Connecticut serving on the National Board of HSA, visited the group and explained the benefits of Unit membership in the Herb Society of America. On January 2, 1985, our formal application to become a Unit was submitted to The HSA. In addition to Marion Bates, the other charter members who were already members of The Herb Society of America included Marsha Green, Yvonne Snyder, Bertha Reppert, Leona Woodring Smith, and Vera Cox. These Herb Society members working with our group to establish firm foundations have successfully guided this unit into one presently consisting of approximately 75 very active members.

An interesting part of our history was the initial group structuring. There were clusters of active participants from the Lancaster Area (called the Ringelblumen), as well as from the Reading Area (called the Lavendels). These groups met separately two meetings per month (one morning meeting and one evening meeting per group), and members could attend any meeting at any time. When we were chartered as a unit of The Herb Society of America the two groups combined into one, but retained many of the original meeting features and activities which evolved during our growth from an Herb Study Group to the Pennsylvania Heartland Unit of The Herb Society of America.

Our meetings are now held on the third Tuesday (7 p.m.), and third Thursday (9:30 a.m.) of each month in October, November, January, February, and March. In September we have a combined pot–luck dinner meeting. In December we have a Christmas luncheon meeting (with cookie and gift exchanges), and in April we have our annual meeting and plant exchange. May has become our tour month, and June the special time for the “Herbal Delights” Symposium where we share herbal learning with approximately 235 participants each year.

The following quotation describing our membership, taken from the original charter application, helps to illustrate what has been explained above, and clearly shows the membership’s diversity of interest which continues to exist:

“Our membership extends northeast of Reading and northwest of Lancaster. The active members are within a 50–mile radius and consist of:

30 active day Lavendels and 8 Provisional,
31 active night Lavendels and 9 Provisional,
8 active day Ringelblumen and no Provisional,
8 active night Ringelblumen and 2 Provisional,
3 active from the Allentown area
A Total of 80 active members and 19 Provisional”
We have six associate members who live too far away to attend meetings but actively support the Symposium and participate in trips, tours, and workshops. These six do not affect our 100 limit which is imposed because of lack of space.

Every member has an herb garden
- 4 are garden writers in newspapers and magazines
- 9 have nurseries featuring herbs
- 6 have herb shops
- 10 have their own businesses, some related to herbs
- 2 teach herb classes
- 16 are speakers
- 2 have published books
- 4 have published articles
- 13 are involved in public gardens
- 3 have their Ph.D.’s
- 6 are social workers
- 25 are teachers (4 Home Ec. and 4 Biology)
- 9 are nurses
- 1 is a Federated Garden Club Judge
- 2 have taken the Master Gardener’s course at Berks Co. Agricultural Center
- 3 are taking the Horticulture Course at The Barnes Arboretum
- 5 have been on TV regularly talking about herbs
- 7 have been on radio regularly talking about herbs

Our primary interest is in growing and studying the herbs. There is a great interest in the culinary arts and many enjoy herbal crafts. Because of our desire to share, we have the “Herbal Delights” Symposium where we have established scholarship activities. We do not have an herb sale although we have a Ways and Means Herbal Craft Shoppe at the Symposium whose proceeds make up our scholarship fund. Any other moneys earned are for the Society’s running expenses. Some of us are involved with historic gardens but not as a unit.”

There are four unique features threaded throughout the history of our unit; our Symposia, our scholarship program, our yearly tours, and our Unit-supported gardens.

The “Herbal Delights” Symposium has been not only the highlight of our herbal learning each year but, also, structured as our unit’s primary fund raiser and supports all of our local projects, scholarships, and donations made periodically to the Herb Society of America or to the National Herb Garden, Washington, D.C.

In the following section of this history, the highlights of these four special activities will be briefly summarized

Note – “The Early Years” was written in 1994 for the unit history booklet by the following committee:

Joyce E. Brobst, Chairperson    Elizabeth LeLacheur
Marian Bates                  Arlene Linderman
Billie Beadle               Betty Jane Paris
Anne Hechler                     Yvonne Snyder
The Symposia

“Culinary Herbs”
First Annual Symposium
Wednesday, June 2, 1982

Chairperson: Marion Bates
Place: Albright College
Tours: Houses and gardens of Marion Bates and Marsha Green in the Oley Valley via individual cars
Foods: Registration Repast, Mill Acres; Snack Bread, Nice’N Spicy (Jane Leader); Box Lunch, The Widow Finney’s Dinner, The Colebrookdale Inn
Herbal Craft Shoppe: Proceeds contributed to Scholarship Funds of The Herb Society of America and Albright College

(Howard for Cell Culturing Experiments)

“Herbal Horticulture”
Second Annual Symposium
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
June 27, 28, 29, 1983

Chairperson: Marion Bates
Place: Albright College
Tours: Monday, June 27, half-day to Donegal Mills Plantation (German Four-Square Garden), Mt. Joy, PA, and Nissley Winery, Lancaster Co.. Tuesday, June 28, Private Gardens of Marilyn Griffin, Laureldale; Yvonne Guinta, Honeybrook; and Marion Connelly, Whitfield. Wednesday, June 29, Well-Sweep Herb Farm, Port Murray, NJ
Dinner: Three Centre Square, Maytown, PA

“The Fragrant Herbs”
Third Annual Symposium
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,
June 27, 28, 29, 1984

Chairperson: Marion Bates
Place: Albright College
Tours: Wednesday, June 27, half-day to Garden of Joanna Reed, Malvern, PA and Tyler Arboretum (Jean Shumaker, docent), Lima, PA. Friday, June 29, Two buses to Winterthur, Wilmington, DE; Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA; and Good’s Greenhouses (one bus only)
Food: Refreshments Wed. provided by Joanna Reed. Wednesday luncheon catered by Widow Finney’s; Dinner Wednesday, Duling–Kurtz House and Country Inn, Exton, PA

“The History of Herb Gardens”
Fourth Annual Symposium
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
June 25, 26, 27, 1985

Chairperson: Marion Bates
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Lavender
Tours: John B. Goode House (Sandy Lane), Bowmansville, PA; Village Herb Shop (Pat Dyer & Dorothy Weaver), Blue Ball, PA. Folk Craft Center and Gardens, Witmer, PA. Litzit Herb Shop and other shops, Ann Yeagley’s private garden, 115 E. Market St. Litzitz, PA. Private Reading City Gardens (used vans): Greg Funk, 1015 Douglas St; Shirley Snyder, 514 Elm St., Linda McCormick, 441 Oley St.; Bob and Cheri Large and next-door neighbors Mary and Norman

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Schmidt on Alsace Rd.; Arlene Ratajczak, Anna Katrinak, Joe, at 436, 438, and 440 Bingaman Court

Buses: Lavender, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme

Food: Catered Lunch, Berks County Historical Society, Reading; Dinner, Doneckers, Ephrata; Tea at Widow Finney’s and a box lunch by Sandy Witmer of “Simply Scrumptious”

Special Feature: PA Dutch Poetry and Stories by Elsie Gehman

Potter: Steve Witmer

“Bloomin’ all Around”
Fifth Annual Symposium
Friday, Saturday, Sunday (optional),
May 30, 31, and June 1, 1986

Chairperson: Marion Bates
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Calendula


Tours: The Loom Room owned by former PA Heartland Member Mary Smith, Bernville, PA; public and private gardens featuring greenhouses: Sycamore Springs (Mary Haldeman), Leesport; June Yeagley Private Garden, Wyomissing; Sam Gundy Private Garden, Lincoln Park; Shanti gardens (Anne Hechler), Amityville; Greenhouse: Garr’s, Breininger’s and Reider’s (featuring roses); and the City Park Greenhouse in Reading. Optional Tours Sunday included the following Berks County Sites: Daniel Boone Homestead, The Heritage Center, Hopewell Village, and Mouns Jones House

Buses: Calendula, Lavender, Rosemary, Thyme
Food: Dinner – Conference Center of Penn State University, catered by Steve Bonner

Potter: Gerald Yoder and Bill Logan (apprentice)

“Our German Heritage”
Sixth Annual Symposium
Wednesday, Thursday,
June 24, 25, 1987

Chairperson: Mary Ney
Place: Albright College
Signature Herbs: Sage


Tours: Skippack Village, “The Bittersweet Herb Shop and Garden” (Gerry Kilpatrick); Private Garden of Peggy Frain, Pottstown, PA; Private Gardens of PA Heartland Unit Members Barbara and Jane Brouse, Helen Haring, Marion Bardman, and Sheila Weber

Buses: Sage, Dill, Woodruff, Chamomile
Food: Lunch, Box lunch by Steve Bonner, Boscov’s. Dinner, The Jefferson House, Norristown, PA

Special Feature: Recitations by Elsie Gehman

Potter: Lester Breininger

“Renaissance – An Herbal Remembrance”
Seventh Annual Symposium
Tuesday, Wednesday,
June 21, 22, 1988

Chairperson: Joyce E. Brobst
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Rose


Tours: Private gardens of PA Heartland members Evie Braun, Temple, PA, and Marilyn Griffin, Laureldale; Joanne Helsey’s garden and dried flowers; Jeff and Karen Fry’s Herb Farm, Manheim; Gardens of Bob and Nancy Varnes and Terry and Bridget Miller, Manheim;

Buses: Lavender, Rosemary, Rose, Violet
Food: Buffet Brunch at Stokesay Castle, The Queen’s Renaissance Feast, Mt. Hope Winery, Lancaster Co., PA
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Potter: Ned Foltz

“Heartland Holidays For All Thymes”
Eighth Annual Symposium
Tuesday, Wednesday, June 20, 21, 1989

Chairperson: Elizabeth LeLacheur
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Thyme
Tours: Private gardens of PA Heartland member Betty Denlinger, Paradise; Millwood Country Flowers and Landscapes owned by Sandy and Don Mylin, Willow Street; Pequea Trading Company Herb Shop owned by Susan Thomas (Including a Bonsai display) and other shops in Strasburg; Private gardens of Yvonne and Carl Beck, Thomas Martin, Linda Arnold and a drive–by of the garden of Darlene and Steven van Ormer, and Nietlje Hain, Strasburg

Buses: Rosemary, Parsley, Sage and Thyme

Food: Lunch at Willow Valley Family Resort (The Palm Court), Willow Street
Potter: Courtney Gallagher

Gardens for All Ages”
Ninth Annual Symposium
Monday, Tuesday, June 24, 25, 1991

Chairperson: Elizabeth LeLacheur
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Sage
Tours: Bethlehem Herb Garden Tour Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the City of Bethlehem; Private Gardens of John and Violet Uliana, James and Rita Sullivan–Smith, George and Fawn Brittenburg and Robert and Gail Nelson; Historic Bethlehem gardens: The Sun Inn; Garden at Luckenbach’s Mill (Bethlehem Garden Club); Miller House Garden; Dorothy Jones Knot Garden near the Apothecary Shop

Food: Box lunch in the Moravian Church Christian Education Building prepared by McDoles Catering, Bethlehem
Dinner – Albright College’s excellent cuisine with herbs
Special Feature: Holiday Saints Tableau with Heartland Players
Potter: Lynn Gilbert, and Becky Mummert

“Colonists and Their Herbs”
Tenth Annual Symposium
Monday, Tuesday, June 22, 23, 1992

Chairperson: Barbara Angstadt
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Monarda
Tours: Heritage Center and Canal Museum, Gruber Wagon Works; Private Gardens of Richard and Joyce Greener, Tulpehocken, Manor Farm of 1748; Francis and Priscilla Plucinsky; The Oaks, Old Fritztown Road; and Lucy Rucchio, Garden and Owl’s Nest Greenhouse, Wyomissing; Cedar Hill Gardens of David and Debbie Bertoldi (organic gardens); Old Dry Road Farm; Unit Herb Gardens at Berks Campus of Penn State University and Albright College

Buses - Monarda, Bergamont, Bee Balm, Oswego Tea

Food: Box lunch at the Heritage Center; Lunch and Dinners at Albright College
Special Feature: Fashion Show, Colonial Ladies from Altoona, “Bosom Buddies to Bustles”
Potter: Brian Kunkelman

“East Meets West”
Eleventh Annual Symposium
Monday, Tuesday, June 21, 22, 1993

Chairperson: Barbara Angstadt
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Feverfew
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Tours: “Dans La Foret” (Zen Japanese Moss Garden), owned by Jack and Carmen Miller, Collegeville, PA; Herb Farm of PA Heartland member Yvonne England, Honeybrook, PA; Grist Mill Studio and Japanese Garden of Howard and Karalee McNeal with a large Bonsai collection, Douglassville, PA (near Yvonne England); Waterloo Gardens, Exton

Buses: Cilantro, Ginger, Perilla, Patchouli

Food: Box lunch in Hibernia County Park, Chester, PA, prepared by PA Heartland member Sally Kramer

Special Feature: Japanese Dancers and Vocal Duet at banquet

Potter: Dana Hossler (hearts only)

“Lavender and Lace”  
Twelfth Annual Symposium  
Monday, Tuesday, June 27, 28, 1994

Chairperson: Priscilla Plucinsky  
Place: Albright College

Signature Herb: Lavender


Tours: Historic Centre Park Gardens of Chris Miller, Jeff Shannon, Peter Mullenberg, Fritz Rothermel, and PA Heartland member Barbara Jefferis, Reading; PA Heartland member gardens of Linda Rider and Billie Beadle; Restored Rose Garden, City Park, Reading; Private Garden of Dorothy and Frank Gajewski, Reading; Ontelaune Estates Gardens of Marcia Fehl and Floyd Hutter, her brother neighbor next door Sycamore Springs Greenhouse and Gift Shop

Buses: Queen Anne, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary, Queen Victoria

Food: Herbal dinners at Albright; Box lunch at Vista Pavilion, Blue Marsh Lake, prepared by PA Heartland member Sally Kramer.

Potter: Courtney Gallagher

“Gardening Through the Eyes of Children”  
Thirteenth Annual Symposium  
Monday, Tuesday, June 26, 27, 1995

Chairperson: Priscilla Plucinsky  
Place: Albright College

Signature Herb: Sunflower

Principle Speakers: Jane Taylor- “In a Child’s Garden…Imagination Grows”; Dr. David Sanford- “Establishing and Maintaining a Wildflower Meadow”; Sharon Lovejoy- “Beyond Tradition: Creative Approaches to Gardening”

Tours: York, Penna. Area including: Eugene Ball featuring the Springettsbury Mountain Short Line Miniature Railroad; PA Heartland member gardens featuring Peggy Conway’s reconstructed 1765 log home; Yvonne Snyder’s ten acre garden and pond area; the noteworthy 50 acre estate garden of Louis Arpelles. Shopping was provided in historic Ephrata at the marketplace of the artists’ studios and Donecker’s fashions.

Buses: Bee Balm, Catnip, Foxglove, and Lamb’s Ears

Food: Herbal dinners at Albright College and Donecker’s Ballroom; Box Lunch at the Carousel House in Brookside Park, Dover, Pa.

Potter: Jeff Dietrich, Kutztown

“Wild Wonderful Herbs”  
Fourteenth Annual Symposium  
Monday, Tuesday, June 17, 18, 1996

Chairperson: Gail Seeley  
Place: Albright College

Signature Herb: Columbine


Tours: Orwigsburg Area. Ellen Spector Platt, Meadowlark Farm, garden and barn; Sculps Hill, a 13 acre homestead with a regional specialty garden and PA Four-square garden, a country estate with water garden, stream and pond and a restored barn. Private backyard garden with lots of unusual trims and gingerbread items. Market Street where antiques, annuals and perennials adorn the garden of a grand old 1873 Victorian Home. The County Seat Gift Shop provided a browsing and buying opportunity. Schuylkill Haven Area- 1800 farmhouse with an array of island beds.

Food: Herbal meals were prepared Albright College Box lunches at the Red Church picnic grove

Buses: Oswego tea, Columbine, Coneflower and Angelica

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Potter: Rise’ Long

“Herbal Odyssey”
Fifteenth Annual Symposium
Monday, Tuesday
June 23, 24, 1997

Chairperson: Gail Seeley
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Rosemary
Tour: Rodale Institute featuring a large demonstration garden, “Persephone’s Garden” where Brenda and Merick Boyer raise and design dried floral creations; Meadowview Farm in Bowers with their huge collection of hot peppers. Corriedale Farm with fields of everlasting and flocks of sheep. Mertztown Farm of Judith Murphy PHHS member with stone dwellings from 1760, 1804, and 1830. There is a wild path along the stream. In Landis Store, Eileen Weinsteiger has developed a natural ecosystem on her one acre country property. A small pond houses aquatic plant, frogs, toads and birds.
Food: Mediterranean lunch was served at the Blue Orchid in Mertztown or Bowers Hotel. Both buildings are county landmarks and date from early to mid-1800’s. The other meals were enjoyed at Albright College.
Buses: Basil, Rosemary, Fennel and Oregano
Potter: Rise’ Long of Wernersville

“Celestial Herbs”
Sixteenth Annual Symposium
Monday, Tuesday
June 22, 23, 1998

Chairperson: Gail Seeley
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Saint John’s Wort
Tours: Lori and David Schaeffer’s pre-Civil War stone house with garden of herbs and ornamental grasses; Sherri Downie, an 1813 farmhouse with a friendship garden; Doris Reher, beautifully landscaped property with ideas for shaded areas; Wolf Run Nursery, home of Karen and Mark Priebe; Shopping at Homestead Antiques and Mariah’s herb and pottery shop.
Food: Daniel Boone Homestead, the site of the legendary pioneer’s birth in 1734, we enjoyed lunch from the Butler’s Pantry. All other meals were prepared by Albright College.
Buses: Chamomile, St. John’s Wort, Mentha and Valerian
Potter: Rise’ Long made moons, stars and suns. Christine Wert crafted the bowls.

“Christmas Thyme Around the World”
Seventeenth Annual Symposium
Monday & Tuesday
June 28 & 29, 1999

Chairperson: Priscilla Plucinsky
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Thyme
Principle Speakers: Eugene Burkhart Jr., “Pressed Flowers with a Flair”; Marge Clark, “Christmas Thyme with Marge Clark”; Betsy Williams, “Herbs and the Season of Christmas”
Tours: an eight mile stretch of route 422 between Sinking Spring and Womelsdorf featuring the homes of: Charles and Vicki Lavigna, owner of Green Valley Nursery and their Williamsburg Garden; Gardens of PHHS members, Kelly Wisner, Sybil Bankes and Cynthia Kern (owner of the Victorian Garden Herb Shop); George & Maryann Ruth and their one acre English Garden; Lester Breininger and his PA Dutch Herb garden & Pottery Shop; Shopping was available at the Green Valley Nursery, Murdough’s Christmas Barn, Breininger’s Pottery Shop and Cynthia’s Victorian Garden Herb Shop.
Food: Lunch, Dinners and Sunday Social at Albright College; Bus tour lunch was catered buffet by Konopelski Caterers at Willow Glen Park
Buses: Dasher-Dancer, Prancer-Vixon, Comet-Cupid, Donnor-Blitzen
Special Feature: Dawn Fry told many Christmas stories notably three versions of “The 12 Days of Christmas”

“Herbs for the New Millennium”
Eighteenth Annual Symposium
Monday & Tuesday
June 26, & 27, 2000

Chairperson: Anita Bradley
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Echinacea


Tours: Historic Marietta on the Susquehanna River has many “Secret Gardens”. We toured the private homes of: Lynn & Tony Wonsick, Marian Miller, Mary & Larry Nell, Joan & John Mohr, Rick Stoutzeberger, Margaret Thompson, Ed & Mary Aquino, Joyce & Bob Heiserman, Carol& Keith Shadle, Jeff & Stacy Hess, George Haddad and David Thompson. There were garden craft boutiques at each home for shopping pleasure.

Food: Outstanding herbal meals were prepared by Albright College (Dave Tanger) and staff. Tour lunch was at Josephine’s French restaurant in Marietta.

Workshops: Echinacea; Floral Herb Sign on Slate; The Power of a Drop; Herbal Medicine Bags; Spice Up your Life; Soapmaking; Try Terrific Tofu; The Lemon Herbs.

Buses: Joe Pye, Queen of the Meadow, Valerian, Sweet Grass

Potter: Ned Foltz; hearts and the plates were decorated with a choice of Beeskeps, Sunflowers, or Blackbirds

“Art In The Garden”
Nineteenth Annual Symposium
Monday & Tuesday
June 25 & 26, 2001

Chairperson: Anita Bradley
Place: Albright College
Signature Herb: Rosa species


Tours: A day in Lititz with optional visits to public gardens, and the private gardens of Kathy & Michael Yoder, Barb & Dave Singer, Rachel and Wilbur Siegrist. Shopping at Esbenshade’s Garden Center with a mini-water garden lecture.

Buses: Sweet Briar, China Rose, Rosa Rugosa, Damask Rose

Food: Delightful herbal and floral meals at Albright and a Victorian Picnic lunch in the park in Lititz.

Workshops: Shady Lady Paramours, Art of Nature Printing, Culinary Art, Welcome Basket, Roses for the Herb Garden, Artful Flowers, Stenciled Tea Mugs, Herbal Twig Chair, Create Your Own Sundial, Topiaries and Rosebeads.

Potter: Nolde Forest decorated hearts with red and blue roses. Plates had a rose topiary.

“Everything Old Is New Again”
Twentieth Annual Symposium
Saturday, June 22, & 23, 2002

Chairperson: Dawn Fry
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb: Rosemary


Tour: A self-guided tour on Sunday included the four-square garden at Old Dry Road Farm, The Penna. Heartland Unit garden at the Berks-Lehigh Valley campus of Penn State. The private gardens of unit members Sybil Bankes, Dawn Fry, Priscilla Plucinsky and Kelly Wisner.

Food: Unit members baked morning and afternoon snacks, boxed lunch was served in the Cafeteria

Workshops: New Plants for 2002; The Pleasures of Pelargoniums; Native Plants in the Landscape; Plant Tissue Culture Lab.; Basil: An Herb Lover’s Guide; Pennsylvania Wildflowers; Rosemary; Aromatherapy-The Power of a Drop Herbal Wines and Liqueurs

Potter: Diane Fox
“Herbs of the Blue and Gray”
Twenty-first Annual Symposium
Sunday and Monday - June 22 & 23, 2003

Chairperson: Dawn Fry
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb: Sage


Tour: A Self-guided tour on Sunday in the Lebanon area included: The Stone House, private home of Gary and Lucinda Matthew Brasenhill; private home of Kaj K. Skov; The Chestnut Street Log House; the private gardens of James Diemler, Steve & Tammy Smith, Chuck Wertz, Mary and Jim Pennypacker, Connie and Steve Thompson

Food: Sunday night “The General’s Banquet” was held at the high school followed by Jim Long’s lecture. This dinner was catered by unit member Harriet Boyer.

Workshops: Witness Trees; Plant Tissue Culture Lab; Handkerchief Dolls; Herbal Honey; Plant Dyeing; Don’t You Just Love Herbal Gnocchis? Civil War Needle Crafts; Native Plants in the Landscape; Promising Plants for 2003.

Potter: Becky Mummert

“Herbal Tales”
Twenty-second Annual Symposium
Sunday and Monday - June 27 & 28, 2004

Chairperson: Marcia Fehl
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb: Mint


Tour: A self-guided tour of the Hershey Gardens on Sunday

Food: Sunday banquet (Mint inspired meal) and Monday lunch were catered by unit member, Harriet Boyer; Monday breakfast and snacks were prepared by unit members.


Potter: Bujno Pottery from Adamstown

“Celebrate Herbs”
Twenty-third Annual Symposium
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
June 26, 27, & 28, 2005

Chairperson: Marcia Fehl
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb: Calendula


Workshops: Sunday afternoon, "Children Grow In Gardens, Too!" Nature Prints, Prepare Snacks for Tea Party, Tea Party and Story Telling, Plant an Herb Garden, and Make a Worm Farm, Monday afternoon, Promising Plants for 2005, Herbal Cleaning, Please Don't Eat the Daisies, Tussie-Mussies; Herbal Makeover; Pop-up Garden Cards; Calligraphy, Authorship and Books, Healing Gardens; and Beyond Tea.

Tour: Tuesday' Schuylkill County: Toni Groff’s eclectic garden; Skip and Anita Bradley's property located on the Blue Mountain Ridge; Joseph and Arlene Quesada's Briar Hill property; Barbara Gill's "Edenbower"; Kay Ost's garden & working studio of silver and gold crafts; Garden Shops visited: Martin's Farm Market and Farm House Shops.

Food: Monday lunch catered by PHHS member Harriet Boyer. Tuesday lunch catered by member Harriet Boyer; Tuesday banquet held at VIVA with choice of Chicken Picatta or Amaretto Flounder.

Potter: Denise Wilz, Wilz Pottery
"Going Global With Herbs"
Twenty-fourth Annual Symposium
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
June 18, 19 & 20, 2006

Chairperson - Pat Kline
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb - Pelargonium

Principal Speakers: Monday morning: Pat Crocker, "Leaves of Life - Global Greening"; Jim Lesniak, "Herbs Applied in Three Courses"


Tour (Tuesday): Northern Berks County private gardens and garden shops; Bob and Marcia Fehl's "Grammy's Garden"; Bill and Louise Eaken's property with water feature, garden accessories, herbs and perennials; Peter and Elaine Tarapchak's colonial garden; The Gores historic 1860 farmhouse was the site of lunch under the sycamore trees. There are many theme gardens, including Asian garden; David and Pamela Smith's property, is a mix of trees, shrubs, perennials, herbs, and annuals; Sam Borrell's garden landscaped to stress the avoidance of parallel lines; Michael and Synthia Angelone's intimate garden is small and full of herbs, perennials and annuals. Garden shops visited were Countryside Gardens and Sycamore Springs.

Food: Monday lunch catered by PHHS member Harriet Boyer. Tuesday box lunch catered by "Lunch to You"; Tuesday banquet held at ViVA with a choice of Baked Salmon En Papillotte or Mediterranean Chicken Roulade

Potter: Tammy Zettlemoyer

“An Herbal Jubilee”
Twenty-fifth Annual Symposium
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
June 17, 18 and 19, 2007

Chairperson: Pat Kline
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb: Lemon Balm

Principal Speakers: Monday morning - Susan Belsinger & Tina Marie Wilcox, “The Creative Herbal Home”

Workshops: Sunday afternoon - “Grazing in the Garden” Introduced children to plants in the garden/yard considered to be weeds but are indeed edible. Children decorated a tote, had a scavenger hunt, edible weed snacks and made a garden container of edible weeds to take home. Monday afternoon - Edible Fruit Bouquets, Pressed Flower Designs (Eugene Burkhart), Dabbling In Design, Lovely Lemon Herbs, Come See My Roses, Xeriscape Gardening, Promising Plants for 2007, Landscape Laboratory, Fairy Flora

Tour (Tuesday): Seven northern Berks County gardens and two garden shops. Kathy and David Glasers garden and Kathy’s Primitive Shop, Owen and Sharon Jones’ garden, David Shalter’s garden, Gail Sceley’s garden, Evergreen Place, Sue and Roger Eichlin’s garden, the Reading Museum grounds, Centerton Nursery and Spayd’s Garden Center.

Food: Monday-box lunch at Conrad Weiser High School; Tuesday evening banquet at Viva in Wyomissin, PA

“Gardening for the Soul”
Twenty-sixth Annual Symposium
Monday and Tuesday
June 16 & 17, 2008

Chairperson: Marcia Fehl and Dawn Fry
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb: Borage

Principal Speaker: Monday- Pat Stone of Green Prints Magazine, “The Greatest Garden Stories Ever Told”.

Tuesday Tour: Motor Coach to Lancaster, PA. The Five Points Neighborhood in Old Town Lancaster, Holy Trinity Church, The Demuth Garden, Herbs from the Labyrinth at Radiance, Space to Grow, Central Market, Wheatland, Louise Arnold Tanger Arboretum, Sarah and Will Campbell’s Garden, Conestoga House, Kegel’s Produce, Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ. Lunch included.

Tuesday Banquet: Annie Bailey’s Irish Pub, Lancaster, PA. Mixed Green Salad, Choice of Chicken Madeira, Grilled Vegetable Cannelloni or Crab Cake, New York Cheese Cake, Beverages.

Potter: Denise Wilz, Wilz Pottery

“Bee My Honey”

Twenty-seventh Annual Symposium
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
June 14, 15 and 16, 2009

Chairperson: Priscilla Plucinsky
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb: Nepeta
Principal Speaker: Monday morning: Jim Bobb “Sex in the Garden” Monday afternoon, Tina Sams and Maryanne Schwartz
Workshops: Sunday afternoon: “Bee My Honey” for children-Education about bees, see a working bee hive, prepare honey snacks, bee craft and plant an herbal pollinating container garden. Monday afternoon: Promising Plants, Queen Bee, Gourd Birdhouses, Beneficial Insects, FFA Bee Demonstration, How Weather Affects Your Gardening, Attracting Bees to Your Garden, Honey Bee Collapse Disorder, Invasive Plants, Monarch Butterflies, Recycling for a Greener World, Pollinating Plants and Nepeta, Catnip or Lavender Sachet Mouse, and Potpourri Make and Take.
Tuesday Bus Tour: Private gardens in Chester County-Michael Bowell; Caroline Amidon, Dru and Maurice Kring; Susan and Michael Hess; Dr. Doris Rowe Schoel; Janet Maki.

Garden shops: French Creek Vineyards, Michael Bowell’s “Create a Scene”

Food: Monday lunch catered by Luke’s of Robesonia, Tuesday’s lunch catered by and enjoyed at Welkenweir; Tuesday’s banquet held at Toscani’s.

“Spice Up Your Life”

Twenty-eighth Annual Symposium
Monday and Tuesday
June 21 and 22, 2010

Chairperson: Mary Ellen Johnston
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb: Pepper
Principal Speakers: Monday morning: Pat Crocker “Herbs of the Kasbah”; Monday afternoon: Jerry “the Spice Man” Kahan “Spice: A World of Flavor”


Tuesday’s Bus Tour: Private gardens in Western Berks County: Patty and Charles Minehart, George Balthaser; Danielle and Dennis Mulally, Mary Smith, Becky and Dave Johnson, Sandy and Matt Grajewski; Linda and Matt Barnhart, Almosta Ranch Alpacas. Garden shops: Almosta Ranch Alpacas, Green Valley Nursery.

Food: Monday lunch catered by Luke’s. Tuesday lunch catered by The Tom Cat Café and served at Blue Marsh Dam. Tuesday banquet at Toscani’s Wood Fire Grill.

“Landscaping – From the Ground Up”

Twenty-ninth Annual Symposium
Monday and Tuesday
June 20 and 21, 2011

Co-chairpersons: Mary Ellen Johnston and Nola Gildin
Place: Conrad Weiser High School
Signature Herb: Basil
Principal Speaker: Don Haynie


Tuesday’s Bus Tour: Private gardens in Northampton County; Judy and Dan Bauer; Linda and Rich Spangler; Sharon and Ron Donchez; Governor Wolf Historical Society; Garden shop-Point Phillip Perennials

Food: Monday lunch catered by Luke’s. Tuesday lunch catered by The Daily Grind and served at the Wolf Academy; Tuesday banquet The Inn at Reading.

“A Rose by Any Other Name”

Thirtieth Annual Symposium

Monday and Tuesday June 18 & 19, 2012

Co-chairpersons: Nola Gildin and Jane Brubaker

Place: Conrad Weiser High School

Signature Herb: Rose Geranium

Principal Speaker: Sue Weiser, the Floral Studio “A Rose in Any Other Way”


Tuesday’s Bus Tour: Private gardens in Southern Berks, Northern Lancaster and Chester Counties; John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Roger and Cindy Harris, Gene and Mary Lowry; Larry and Marion Mowrey, Carole and Arthur Burt. Garden shops-Esbenshade’s Garden Center-Mohnton; Vendors at lunch provided by the JP II Booster’s Club

Food: Monday’s lunch was a High Tea catered by Cloud 9. Tuesday’s lunch catered by Russo’s and served at the JP II Center. Tuesday’s banquet held at The Inn at Reading.

Potter: Martin Hozella

Thirty-first Annual Garden Bus Tour

Tuesday June 11, 2013

Coordinator: Jane Brubaker

Garden Tour: Priscilla Plucinsky and Darlene Hemming

Bus Tour: Mohnton and Morgantown Area

Private gardens: Tony and Melissa Azzarello’s garden featured herbs, PA natives, annuals, perennials, vegetables and tropical plants in a small patch of land. Deborah and David Bertoldi’s; Bill and Kathy Steckiel’s garden featured boulder terraced slopes. Flowering plants in bright colors attract birds, bees and butterflies; John and Dorothy Daily’s Tangled Wood Cottage featured a free form wall made of Cob (an earthen concrete) that was artistic and unbelievable.

Shops visited: Sugarbush Nursery, Graybuck Country Home and Garden

Lunch: Catered by Weaver’s and served at Weaver’s Orchard.

“Autumn Holiday Luncheon”

Thirty-first Annual Symposium & Luncheon

Tuesday October 8, 2013

Coordinators: Jane Brubaker, Doris robb

Location: Stokesay Castle

Signature Herb: Monarda fistulosa

Principal Speakers: Willie Brockington, Executive Chef, Stokesay Castle; Andrea Heinly, Executive Chef, The Peanut Bar, Reading

Vendors: Handcrafted items available including woodworking, jewelry, children’s books, garden accessories and crafts, lavender products and pottery

Presentations: Seasonal dishes for the holidays

Lunch: Prepared and served by the Stokesay staff

Scholarship Raffle & Door prizes
Thirty-second Annual Garden Bus Tour  
Monday June 16, 2014

*Coordinators:* Shirley Dautrich, Pat Hansbury, Nola Gildin  
*Bus Tour:* Oley Valley Area  
*Private gardens:* Nancy Boyer’s garden featured copper and iron gate created by sculptor Greg Leavitt of Boyertown. This gate was on exhibit at the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show; Katherine and Norman DeLan’s French inspired garden featured a sunken garden and garden rooms with French statues; Dr. David and Doreen Duncan’s property; Gretchen and John Lea’s 22 acre farmette; Joanne and Joseph Ruth’s 18th century farm “Friendly Acres”; Mike and Barb Dietrich of Oley Valley Organics gave a tour of their farm.  
*Shops visited:* Glick’s Greenhouse, Manatawny Creek Farm and Pikeville Antiques.  
*Lunch:* Catered by The Market Café of Topton and served at the Oley Fair Center in downtown Oley.

“Herbal Holiday Luncheon”  
Thirty-second Annual Symposium & Luncheon  
Tuesday October 14, 2014

*Co-chairpersons:* Jane Brubaker and Doris Robb  
*Place:* Stokesay Castle  
*Signature Herb:* Redwing milkweed  
*Principal Speaker:* Debbie Mosimann  
*Vendors:* Handcrafted items available including woodworking, jewelry, children’s books, garden accessories and crafts, lavender products and pottery  
*Presentations:* Tablescape and place settings, Mary and Don Haldeman; Culinary Ideas for Holiday Entertaining, Debbie Mosimann; Herbal gifts demonstration, Priscilla Plucinsky and Pat Magala  
*Food:* Choice of: Asian Sesame Chicken Salad, Shrimp with Garlic Herb Salad, Mediterranean Grilled Vegetable Salad served by Stokesay Staff  
*Scholarship Raffle & Door prizes*

Thirty-third Annual Garden Bus Tour  
Monday June 15, 2015

*Garden Tour Coordinators:* Anita Bradley and Wendy Steensland  
*Bus Tour Coordinator:* Nola Gildin  
*Registration:* Diane Schuster  
*Bus Tour Designation:* Kutztown Area gardens  
*Private gardens:* Carol and Ron Bogansky, Joanne Lapic and David Miller, Russ and Carol Schulley, and Kristen Tuerk’s small in-town garden.  
*Shops:* Countryside Farm and Greenhouse  
*Public Gardens:* The Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University and The Rodale Institute  
*A Buffet Lunch* was served at the Kutztown Fire Company’s Banquet Hall.  
*Scholarship Raffle* prizes were distributed to winners as busses returned at end of tour.

“Herbs for All Occasions”  
Thirty-third Annual Symposium & Luncheon  
Tuesday October 6, 2015

*Coordinators:* Doris Robb and Phyllis Stabolepsy  
*Place:* Stokesay Castle  
*Signature Herb:* fine herbes (parsley, chives, tarragon and chervil)  
*Speakers:* John Moeller, former White House Chef, Experiences as a White House Chef, questions and answers, cooking demonstration and book signing of his *Dining at the White House: From the President’s Table to Yours.*  
Barbara Mills, Charter member of PHHS, “Versatile Fines Herbes”  
*Vendors:* Handcrafted items available including woodworking, jewelry, children’s books, garden accessories and crafts, lavender products and pottery  
*Luncheon:* prepared and served by the Stokesay staff.  
*Scholarship Raffle & Door prizes*
**Our Scholarship Program**

From the inception of our herbal study, the idea of a scholarship was of great importance, and money from our very first symposium, and from most of those following, was donated to Albright College to improve its educational program or learning environment in some way.

In 1992 we awarded our first scholarship to a college student pursuing studies in the field of horticulture. The amount of this annual award is determined by the profits made from the raffle of gifts donated to the symposium, plus the interest earned on our CD investment. The award has been made available each year since 1992 to students from Delaware Valley College, Penn State University, or Temple University who apply for the award.

**Recipients of the award:**

1992: Anne Brennen – Penn State University  
1993: Jeff Botta – Delaware Valley College  
1992: No applicants  
1994: Kathleen McBride-Temple University  
1995: Kathleen McBride-Temple University  
1996: Gregory Funk-Temple University  
1997: Jill West-Penn State University  
1997: Wendy Benson – Penn State University  
1997: Craig Houp- Penn State University  
1998: Greg Schaab- Penn State University  
1999: Andrea H. Smith-Temple University, Ambler  
2000: Tara Claghorn- Temple University  
2001: Anne Bond-Penn State University  
2001: Nancy Lynn Hoffman-Delaware Valley College  
2002: Katrina Joelle Getz- Penn State University  
2003: Amanda L. Schott-Penn State University  
2004: Thomas J. Brooks- Delaware Valley College  
2005: Thomas J. Brooks-Delaware Valley College  
2006: Jeffery Erb-Penn State University  
2007: Brian Aynardi-Penn State University  
2008: Kelby Taylor-Penn State University  
2009: Hillary Snavely-Delaware Valley College  
2010: Melissa Miller-Penn State University  
2011: Julie D’Agostino-Temple University-Ambler  
2012: Ryan P. Moraski-Penn State University  
2013: Denise Snook-Temple University-Ambler  
2014: Julie Schubert-Penn State University  
2015: Katherine Beekman-Delaware Valley University

**Recipients of the Linda Rider Scholarship:**

2007: Kelby Taylor-Penn State University  
2008: Josh Nimmerichter-Temple University  
2009: Hillary Snavely-Delaware Valley College
**Herbal Unit Tours**

Our unit has typically arranged a garden tour the third Thursday in May, and they have all been very special. A listing of the primary sites for these tours follows:

**1982** – A two day trip to the New England area including a garden in New York, a Nature Center in Connecticut (Bunny Foster joined the group), and visits to Joy Logee Martin and Adelma Simmons.

**1983** – A bus trip to Ann and Bill Stubbs Herb Farm in Elkton, MD. In May, unit members traveled by car to the Ashwood Greenhouses (Philip and Sara Avila) in the Oley Valley, PA.

**1984** – A tour with Joanna Reed in her garden in Malvern, PA. Groups were served dinner on May 22, and a luncheon was arranged for May 24.

**1985** – On May 15, a caravan of cars and van traveled to Lancaster County to see the gardens of Vera Cox and Barbara Selka in Mt. Joy, “Lavender Patch” herb shop and garden of Marion Brenneman at Donegal, lunch at Terri Maclay’s “Nature’s Harmony” in Lewisberry, and finished at the “Rosemary House” with Bertha Reppert in Mechanicsburg. On October 24, we took a van trip to Herb Day at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

**1986** – Three trips were planned during this year: Thursday, April 24, a bus took unit members to the McCormick Spice and Tea Company, Baltimore, MD, and shopping followed at the Light and Pratt Pavilions at Baltimore’s Harbor Place.
   Saturday, June 7, a bus trip was planned for touring Elisabeth Woodburn’s garden and farm (Book Noll) in Hopewell, NJ, and Delaware Valley Unit’s Herb Garden at the “Old Prallsville Mill and Industrial Herb Garden” in Stockton, NJ.
   Saturday, October 4, a bus traveled to Millersburg, PA to Katy Olinger’s Tea Room for an herbal luncheon and lecture by Bertha Reppert, “Herbs That Were Here”.

**1987** – On Wednesday, May 20 the group traveled to the York area in a mini–bus, van, and car to tour the gardens of our unit member Lois Schetky, Hallam, and nearby HSA Susquehanna unit member, Yvonne McConkey. Rain gave us the opportunity to enjoy Yvonne’s historic home, antiques, and personal artwork. We ate lunch at Mackley’s Mill and then traveled to the Gate House at Plough Tavern in York for the museum and garden tour. Nancy McFall’s historic home and garden were next and finally to unit member Yvonne Snyder’s extensive gardens in Dover.

**1988** – Thursday, May 19, our unit traveled to the Oley Valley area via the Boyertown trolley bus in a downpour at the beginning, with visits to the gardens of PA Heartland members Mary Ney, Darlene Henning, and Marsha Green. Other stops included the nearby restored Grist Mill and garden of “Flitzie” Kindig, the Urban’s farm, and the dried flower and historic farm of Susan Hollowbush. Shopping followed at Duckenfield’s General Store with a champagne lunch at Blair Creek Inn. Additional shopping occurred at the New Jerusalem Sewing and Craft Shop, which had just planted an elaborate herb garden with an arbor.

**1989** – On Thursday, May 18, the group visited the wildflower hillside at the home of Joanne Krall, Chestnut Ridge Drive, near Lancaster along Rt. 30, and then traveled to Littlestown to the “Alloway Herb Gardens,” which are owned and operated by unit members Barbara Steele and Marlene Lufriu. A box lunch was served at “Alloway Gardens” and a bus snack prepared by Mary Spaeth, chef at Green Valley Country Club.
1990 – On Thursday, May 17 five cars traveled to the Conestoga House in Lancaster, with additional visits to the gardens of Susquehanna Unit members Dawn High of New Holland Pike, Sherron Thiry of Old Saybrook Road, and Joanne Poole of Hunsecker Road, all in Lancaster County. Lunch was at the “East of Eden” restaurant decorated with abundant hanging greenery.

1991 – The Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York was the focus of this bus tour on Thursday, May 16.

1992 – On Thursday, May 24, the group traveled to the Washington, D. C. area with tours at the National Botanic Garden by Holly Shimizu, the Enid Haupt Memorial Garden at Smithsonian, and the National Herb Garden with Janet Walker. Lunch was in Arlington, VA, at the Sequoia Restaurant at the Harbor on the Potomac River. Nancy Harding, a professional tour guide, met our bus when we arrived in Washington and traveled with us throughout the day. An afternoon visit with Tom DeBaggio, Arlington, VA, concluded the tour.

1993 – Thursday, May 20, was the day of our tour to the Malvern, PA area including stops at the Devon Waterloo Gardens, the Robert Montgomery Nursery and the gardens of Joanna Reed where we enjoyed a catered box lunch.

1994 – A trip to LaDew Gardens, Monkton, MD, with stops at the nearby Robert Schultz nursery and private garden, and a stop on the return home at the garden of PA Heartland member, Peggy Conway, in Hallam, York Co., PA.

1995 – Thursday May 18, our group toured the 70 acre estate of Adolf Rosengarten named “Chanticleer,” in Wayne, Pa. and then went on to historic Bartram’s Garden in Philadelphia where a delicious box lunch was served prior to our guided garden tour. Shopping was enjoyed at the Exton, Waterloo Gardens Nursery.

1996 – On Thursday, May 16, our group traveled by bus to the Brandywine Conservancy River Museum with a lecture and tour of the Wild Flower Gardens followed by lunch while overlooking the river. Then onto the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania where we were treated to a tour and lecture.

1997 – May 15, we traveled to the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. to visit our HSA garden. The next stop was the Hillwood Museum, the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. We toured the gardens, museum and dacha. The Potomac Unit was our host at the arboretum. Breakfast and dinner was catered by Ted & Carl Caterers.

1998 – Our May jaunt took us to the Rosemary House in Mechanicsburg where Bertha Reppert spoke on herbs followed by a full herbal luncheon prepared by Nancy Reppert. We visited three private gardens including that of Terri Maclay and Gail Kephart, unit members. Shopping at Ashcombe Farm and Greenhouse completed our trip.

1999 – May 20 found us on a bus trip to Barbara Steele’s Alloway Creek Gardens and Herb Farm (Barb is an associate member of PHHS) where we had the thyme of our lives shopping and basking in the warm weather while eating our delicious boxed lunch. Shopping onsite at Alloway included; Rosemary House and Willow Pond. We also visited two of Barb’s friend’s private gardens- Doris Lease and Ellie Bennet.

2000 – May 11, Peggy Conway arranged a delightful tour of the Dover, PA area. Becky Roberts was our first stop where we had the opportunity to purchase some of his exciting Irises. Before lunch we had a short visit at the Lauer’s Garden. Later we walked to Peggy Conway’s wonderful Mediterranean Southwestern Garden and enjoyed lunch catered by Kicker’s. Shopping at Farrell’s Nursery & Stauffer’s at Kissel Hill completed our trip.

2001 – May 19, Justina Campbell arranged this trip to NYC where we toured the Cloisters including the Bonnefont Cloister Herb Garden. We then traveled to the NY Botanical Gardens where we enjoyed a box lunch under a tent in the garden followed by a guided tour, free time to roam and shop.
2002 – May 16, This year’s May trip took us to Dover Delaware thanks to Dr. Art Tucker. First stop was his own private garden where we also had our box lunch. We then traveled to Eden hill Garden Center for shopping. Then on to Dr. McClement shade garden and finally The Claude E. Phillips Herbarium at the Delaware State University.

2003 - May 15, Our members, with guests, visited the Brandywine River Museum and Conservancy for a lecture and tour of the gardens and art gallery. Lunch was enjoyed on the bus trip to Winterthur in Delaware, where we enjoyed the Elegant Tour, visits to the galleries, the Campbell Soup Tureen display and the Enchanted Woods.

2004 - On May 13, A docent tour of Well-Sweep Herb Farm in Port Murray, N.J. was held. After a box lunch was enjoyed at the farm, the bus traveled to Alithea Bank Nursery, then on to the Rodale Institute for both a Garden and Orchard tour.

2005 - On May 19, members traveled to Washington, DC for a docent tour of the US Botanic Garden and a walk through of the Bertoli Gardens. Box lunches were served on the bus en-route to the Washington National Cathedral, where we toured both the Cathedral and the Bishop’s Garden. Members were then free to visit the Herb Cottage Gift Shoppe and the Greenhouse.

2006 – A planned tour of Longwood Gardens and shopping at Waterloo Gardens was cancelled due to lack of interest.

2007 – May 17th. Mt. Cuba Research Center and Carolyn’s Shade Garden


2009 – May 21st. Meadowbrook Farms and Russell’s

2010 – May 20th. Twin Silo Farm, Linden Hill Gardens and Jerry Fritz’s private garden.

2011 – May19th. Felicita Resort, the Angino gardens, Hershey Rose Garden, shopping at Layser’s Florist and Nursery.

2012 – The gardens of Charles Cresson and Gene Spurgeon in Swarthmore. After lunch, we visited Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College. A stop at Terrain at Styers allowed time for nursery and gift store shopping.

2013 – Bartram’s Garden; Wyck House and Garden; lunch at Bartram’s catered by Boyer’s Market and Catering

2014 – May 22nd. Chanticleer Plus

2015 – May 21st. Two private gardens in the Jenkintown area, Jenkins Arboretum and Still Pond Nursery
The PA Heartland Unit has dedicated itself to sponsoring public gardens that will inspire others to learn about and use herbs in their daily lives.

From the time of our initial study group, members have cared for a small garden at the White Horse Tavern, a property listed with the Berks County Historic Preservation Trust. This garden in Douglasville, PA, is designed on either side of a brick path. The restoration of the brick walkway at this garden was also sponsored and funded by our Herb Unit. This garden is maintained by Unit members.

Early on it was decided that our unit should sponsor a garden in an educational setting and the caretakers of the Berks Campus of Penn State University were enthusiastic about our sponsoring a learning garden at the site of the Jannsen Conference Center. In 1987, unit member Yvonne England along with Penn State groundskeeper Pete Snyder made this a reality. In this setting, where meetings and conferences are held frequently, the garden has a lot of public exposure, and the goal of extending knowledge can be reached by both the university and the herb unit. The herb Garden dedication at Penn State was held in the garden Sunday, September 18th, 1988 at 2 PM.

The Penn State Garden is divided into four main theme beds (Culinary, Fragrance, Closed Knot and Open Knot) surrounded by two side beds (Silver Garden and Native Plants Garden). The culinary garden holds a sundial placed there in memory of Paul Winter, whose wife taught at the Penn State Berks Campus. April 15, 2000 a tree, Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy' was planted and dedicated in memory of Bertha Reppert. In 2003 we applied for and were awarded the Suburban Greening Award from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in Philadelphia. In 2004 we replaced the rear knot garden due to the deterioration of the plant material and the high cost of upkeep and maintained. This was replaced by an apothecary garden.

In 1991 the unit accepted the garden on the Albright College Campus as a public garden under its sponsorship. We were part of the planning and planting of this garden located near the campus center. One of its greatest features was that it could be easily viewed through the larger glass windows near the theater. Caring for this garden had many advantages. Because we held our Herbal Delights Symposium at the Albright Campus, it provided a perfect focal point for many symposium participants to learn about herbs and gardening. In addition, the many visitors to the campus were exposed to herbs, and the dining hall chef enjoyed the easy access to the culinary herbs. It is in this garden where our unit placed a memorial sundial commemorating the work done by HSA member Priscilla “Fuzzy” Lord, formerly of the New England Unit. In 2002 our Herbal Delights symposium held annually in June changed its format and location from Albright College to the Conrad Weiser High School in Robesonia, PA. At that time we decided it was no longer feasible to continue maintaining the Albright Garden. The sundial at Albright in memory of Priscilla Lord remained at Albright due to the fact it has a base weighing 300 lb in which the bronze plaque is anchored making it impossible to move without destroying the integrity of the unit. Albright has hired a gardener who will also be looking after the Albright Herb Garden.

The unit has garden coordinators for the White Horse Tavern Garden and the Penn State Garden. These individuals schedule work days for these gardens and arrange for the purchase of plants and mulch as needed. Care at the Penn State garden is facilitated by bed heads which have a responsibility for each specific garden. We also schedule fall and spring cleanups to encourage the help of all unit members in the garden.

As per our bylaws a minimum of 3 hours of garden work in a public garden is requested of each member. At least one of these hours should be worked in one of our unit gardens.
Honorary Members

We are also an organization which is very pleased to recognize the special talents, dedication and service of members who go beyond the call of duty to promote the use of herbs. During our history we have conferred the distinction of Honorary Member on:

- Bertha Reppert – April, 1988 (deceased June 8, 1999)
- Esther Good – April, 1990 (deceased July 21, 1990)
- Marion Bates – December, 1993
- Joyce Brobst – September, 2000
- Caroline Amidon – September 2015

As we recognize these honorary members, we are always reminded of the goals of our Herb Unit and of The Herb Society of America. Since our beginnings we have been dedicated to expanding the knowledge of herbs, and it is evident that the seeds for this dedication were planted in the past, harvested in our present, and are being continually sown for the future!

Significant Events in the Pennsylvania Heartland Unit

January 2, 1985
Formal Application to become a Unit was made to The Herb Society of America, and we were welcomed as the twenty-sixth unit with eighty active members.

April 10, 1985
First Unit Executive Board Meeting was held at the home of Marion Bates.

May 1985
First issue of The Heartland Thymes was published with Helen Haring as the first editor.

May 1986
Unit members attended a taxonomy workshop at Albright College with Dr. Roger Jenson.

October 10, 1986

December 6, 1986
Name tags with the Heart Logo designed by Pam Reynolds were presented to members.

September 24 - 26, 1987
Pennsylvania Heartland Unit hosted the Fall Board Meeting of The Herb Society of America.

Co-Chairpersons: Barbara Mills and Harriet Moore

Place: The Reading Motor Inn

Speaker: Bertha Reppert – “Native American Herbs and Spices”

Tour: Saturday, Sept. 26: Private Gardens of: Sandy Lane, Bowmansville; Marion Bates, Glen Oley Farms; Yvonne Guinta, Honeybrook; Pat Dyer, “The Village Herb Shop,” Blue Ball; Festival at Mouns Jones House; Good’s Greenhouses, Adamstown; Unit Herb Garden at Berks Campus of Penn State University

Food: Lunch – The White Horse Tavern; Dinner – Widow Finney’s

Attendance: 55 Members of The Herb Society of America Board
September 29, 1987

1988: Our cookbook, “Savour the Seasons with Herbs” was published.

April 1988
Honorary Membership was bestowed upon Bertha Reppert.

September 15, 1988
Joint Meeting with Del. Valley, Northern NJ, Philadelphia and Susquehanna Units at Landis Valley Museum.

September 18, 1988
The Herb Garden Dedication was held at the Berks Campus of Penn State University.

October 17, 1989
Joint Meeting with Del. Valley, Northern NJ, Philadelphia, and Susquehanna Units at The Lancaster Country Club. Susquehanna Unit members set up specialty displays and demonstrations for all to enjoy. The scheduled speaker, Esther Schmidt, HSA Botany and Horticulture Chairman, broke her ankle and was unable to attend.

April 1990
Honorary Membership was bestowed upon Esther Good.

June 27–30, 1990
Pennsylvania Heartland hosted the Annual Meeting of the Herb Society of America. This was the annual symposium event as well.
Chairpersons: Elizabeth Hartinger and Yvonne England
Place: The Berkshire Sheraton
Principle Speakers: Bertha Reppert, “Pennsylvania Herbal Folklore”; George Meiser, IX - “Photographic History of Berks County, PA” (Sunday)
Tours: Friday, June 29: Private gardens of members of the PA Heartland Unit - Marion Bates, Yvonne England, Patrice Dyer; Gardens of John B. Good House and of Sandy Lane, Bowmansville; Ron Simple’s Whimsical Garden, Honeybrook; Sunday, July 1: Rodale Organic Farm and Herb Garden, Maxatawny; Kutztown Folk Festival, Kutztown booths featuring Well–Sweep Herb Farm (Cyrus and Louise Hyde); Herb Farm (Nora and Bill Johnson), Seagertown; Ned Foltz’s redware and herbal pottery, Oley; and Vivian Aaron’s baskets of Basket Road, Oley; Susan Hollowbush Herb Farm; Private Garden of PA Heartland member Evie Braun; Unit Garden at the Berk’s Campus of Penn State University
Buses: Ginger, Germander, Catnip, Dianthus, Ajuga. Friday: 5 buses and 4 cars; Sunday: 2 buses and 3 cars
Potter: Ned Foltz (hearts only)

June 1990
Marion Bates was presented a Certificate of Achievement Award for her contributions to herbal learning at the Annual Meeting of The Herb Society of America (Reading, PA).

June 23, 1991
A tree was dedicated in Esther Good’s (Honorary Member) memory at a memorial service on the campus of Albright College at our Herbal Delights Symposium.

April 1992
Our first scholarship to a college student was awarded to Anne Brennan, Penn State University.

June 21, 1992
A sundial was placed in the Herb Garden at Albright College as a memorial to Priscilla (Fuzzy) Lord. Fuzzy Lord was a member of The New England Unit and served as Historian and Archivist for The Herb Society of America.

December 11, 1993
Honorary Membership was bestowed upon Marion Bates.

June 22 - 25, 1994
The Pennsylvania Heartland Unit coordinated the decorations for the 60th Annual Meeting of the Herb Society of America held at Penn State University, State College, PA.
June 24, 1994
Yvonne Snyder received the Nancy Putnam Howard Award for excellence in horticulture at the 60th Annual Meeting of The Herb Society of America, State College, PA.

June 24, 1994
Joyce E. Brobst, PA Heartland Unit Member, was inducted as Second Vice-President of The Herb Society of America at the Annual Meeting in State College, PA.

June 25, 1995
In celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Unit “An Afternoon with Tasha Tudor, An Illustrated Lecture” was held at Northeast Jr. High School. An audience of 1,000 attended. Proceeds from this event supported children’s gardening projects directed by Old Dry Road Farm, The Reading School District, York and Reading “Meet the Plant” Programs, Camp Lily, Reading Beautification, The Berks Country Heritage Center, The Berks County Agriculture Center, and The National Herb Garden.

June 1996
The Herb Society of America, Inc. was reorganized and we became part of the Mid-Atlantic District with Sandy Salkeld from the Philadelphia Unit as our area representative. Unit members Marion Bates and Lois Schetky were induced into the HSA’s “Rosemary Circle.”

June 1997
Adrienne Lind became a member of the “Rosemary Circle.” Our unit took part in a garden tour event to support a local school for specially challenged children. We taught a class to 200 fourth grade students on the joys of herbs.

June 1998
Joyce Brobst became president of the Herb Society of America, Inc. We funded three gardens locally for children. We made our first voyage to the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. to help maintain the herb beds.

November 1998
Speaker’s Bureau was adopted for our unit.

January 1999
PHHS unveils a brick plaque commemorating Reading’s 250th birthday. PHHS choose the brick to be used. Eventually this plaque will reside above a herb garden at the city’s new Convention Center which our members will use as an educational tool for the city.

September 1999
Gail Seeley became district delegate for the Mid-Atlantic Region.

April 2000
PHHS Website designed and maintained for herbal education use worldwide.

September 23, 2000
Our Unit hosted the Mid-Atlantic District Symposium in York, PA

September 2000
Honorary Membership was bestowed upon Joyce Brobst

April 15, 2000
A memorial plaque and tree planting dedication ceremony was performed for Bertha Reppert at Penn State Garden.

April 18, 2001
Our unit had a farewell party for Marion Bates (Founder and Honorary Member of our Unit) Marion has returned to live in Maine but will always be in our hearts.

June 2002
Celebrated our 20th Anniversary Symposium with a change in the format and location from Albright College to Conrad Weiser High School.

July 2002
Gail Seeley was named Development Chairman for the Herb Society of America

April 2003
Standing Rules were revised and adopted at the Annual Meeting
Our Unit Garden at Penn State was revised and a new Apothecary Garden was added.
June 2003
Published our first booklet: “Lotions, Potions, & Tokens: A Compendium of Honey Wisdom, Herbal Recipes, & Gardening for Bees”, edited by Anita Bradley and Judy Sargent

July 2003 - On Saturday, July 12, PA Heartland Unit members traveled by car to three gardens and nursery sites in Lehigh County, PA: Point Phillip Perennials, owned by Kay & Herb Johns; Forever Flowers, owned by Alethea Bahnck; and Emily Mae's Garden, owned by Scott Kresge. The owners gave us a tour of their perennial and herb gardens, in addition to their nurseries or plant sale area. A delicious gourmet lunch was provided by Scott Kresge.

September 2003
Our Annual Meeting was held at The White Horse Tavern with a catered lunch and tour of the garden and Mons Jones site. The White Horse Tavern Garden was our unit’s first herb garden supported and maintain for public use and education. The Unit By-Laws were revised and adopted.

October 5, 2003
Unit Chairman Priscilla Plucinsky, Barbara Angstadt and Dawn Fry accepted the Suburban Green Award from the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society in Philadelphia. This award was for our unit Garden at the Penn State campus and the plaque was placed at the Janssen Conference Center.

April 2004
Anita Bradley and Priscilla Plucinsky revised and updated the History of the Unit and compiled it on the computer program for easier updating.

June 2004
During the past year, felt name tags embroidered with the Heartland Heart Logo were made for each member by Priscilla Plucinsky. Identification Rocks were placed in the Penn State Garden naming each of the gardens: Apothecary, Culinary, Knot, Fragrance, Native and Silver.

April 2005
The 20th Anniversary of the unit was celebrated at a meeting with guest speaker Marian Bates, PA Heartland Unit's founder. Ginny Miller, President of the Herb Society of America was in attendance at the anniversary event. A display board was developed to be shown at events and local libraries.

May 2005
Peggy Conway, unit representative on National Herb Garden Committee, served on the 25th Anniversary Committee of the founding of the National Herb Garden at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC. The celebration event included the announcement of the successful “25 for 25” fundraising campaign benefiting the garden. Several PHHS Unit members attended.

April 2006
New identification tags for Penn State garden plant markers were made by Barbara Angstadt and friend George Neubert and placed in the garden during the spring season.

June 2006
Joyce Brobst received the Helen de Conway Medal of Honor at The Herb Society of America’s Annual Meeting and Educational Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

June 2006
Revised PHHS job descriptions were completed and distributed with the new yearbooks.

2007
Joyce Brobst participated in an Oxford University Roundtable discussion on the topic “Science and Religion: Is There a Common Ground”. A 4-week course a RACC on “Delightful, Practical Herbs” was taught by Priscilla Plucinsky, Billie Beadle, Sherry Heim, Pat Magala and Dawn Fry.
The Culinary and Herbal Products Study Groups held their first workshops in July and August.

2008
The Herbal Study Groups are organized and meeting regularly. Priscilla Plucinsky receives the HSA Certificate of Achievement Award at the Educational Conference. Members contributed to the Asian Herb Garden Research Project by submitting researched information which was presented to the National Herb Garden by Peggy Conway.
A student membership category was established and an ad hoc committee developed guidelines and application.

2009
In January the Botany/Horticulture Study Group met for the first time at Gail Seeley’s home on Tuesday, January 6. Justina Campbell got us off to a great start with the study of plant and flower structure
2010 At the HSA Educational Conference in Nashville, Gail Seeley received the Certificate of Achievement. Also, the following PHHS Charter Members were awarded their 25-year membership Rosemary Circle Pins at the HSA Educational Conference in Nashville TN: Barbara Angstadt, Marion Bardman, Jeanne Esser, Sherry Fillman, Dawn Fry, Pat Hansbury, Winnie Hayik, Mibs Hotchkiss, Marion Hull, Susan Keller, Patricia Kerber, Grace Kline, Arlene Linderman, Sylvia Lloyd, Barbara Mills, Betty Jane Paris, Judy Sargent, Gail Seeley, Yvonne Snyder, Peg Walker.

2011 At the HSA Educational Conference in Pittsburgh, the following members received national awards: Yvonne Snyder, The Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor, Joyce Brobst, the Nancy Putnam Howard Award for excellence in Horticulture and Barbara Brouse (former PHHS Charter member) the HSA Achievement Award. The Unit participated in the 30th Anniversary of the National Herb Garden in Washington. In celebration of the chili pepper, our Unit served about 300 samples of our chili. On October 7th and 8th the Unit hosted the Mid-Atlantic District Gathering at the Inn at Reading.

2012 At the HSA Educational Conference in St. Louis, MO, the following members received national awards: Lori Schaeffer, Certificate of Achievement; Justina Campbell, Certificate of Achievement. On September 15, 2012, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our Herb Garden at Penn State University Berks Campus. A member appreciation luncheon was followed by a Garden Party open to the public.

2013 HSA requested assistance from our Unit members to provide research for the booklet “Asclepia, 2014 Notable Native Herb”. The project was organized by Gail Seeley and several members participated in the research.

2014 At the HSA Educational Conference in Concord, CA, Billie Beadle was awarded the 25-year membership Rosemary Circle Pin.

2015 At the HSA Educational Conference in Williamsburg, VA, the following members received national awards: Dawn Fry, Certificate of Achievement; Marion Bates (Honorary Member), Golden Sage; Lori Schaeffer, Jeanette Lanshe, and Priscilla Plucinsky, 25-year membership Rosemary Circle Pin.

Unit By-Laws and Standing Rules updated and distributed. Honorary membership bestowed upon Caroline Amidon.

Current revisions to “History of the Pennsylvania Heartland Unit” completed in 2016.
Committee Members: Jane Brubaker, Sherry Heim, Amy Schiavone, Diane Schuster

Previous revisions 1994, 2004