

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

### **The Herb Society of America Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Kirtland, Ohio*-Since 1933, The Herb Society of America (HSA) has been dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use and delight of herbs, through educational programs, research and sharing the experience of its members with the community.

The Annual Educational Conference and Meeting of the Members will be held at the Boston Marriott Long Wharf, June 26-29, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts. Members from all over the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom will gather to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HSA. The organization has its roots in the Boston area, growing from a study group of the seven originally from the New England area. They were motivated by the belief that much of the world's knowledge about useful plants had been forgotten and that herbs had declined to the level of a hobby among a few growers of old time gardens.

“What better place to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary than where the organization began. This is an exciting conference, as we celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have the opportunity to look back on all the incredible contributions made to the world of horticulture by our members and to look forward to the next 75 years,” said Katrinka Morgan, Executive Director of The Herb Society of America.

Throughout the two days of the Educational Conferences, attendees have the opportunity to select from numerous invited guest speakers and members sharing a range of topics, something for everyone-including the horticulturist, scientist, home grower and business owners.

On Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> sessions open to both HSA members and the public, will focus on the “...use and delight of herbs...”

Friday's program will feature:

- William Cullina as the keynote speaker sharing “Stinking Benjamin, Green Dragons and a Dwarf Hairy Beard-tongue: Secrets and Myths of Native Plant Propagation from Seed”. In his presentation William will discuss raising plants from seed and the commitment to this satisfying endeavor that can bring diversity to your garden and open a whole new world of the unusual plants not found in the commercial nurseries.
- Susan Tamulevich, will share “A Place to Take Root: A History of Flowerpots & Containers”, focusing on American Regional Designs of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Susan will trace the entire evolution of the flowerpot from their beginning in ancient Egypt to the present day. Showing how pot design has evolved in response to advances in horticultural science.

Saturday's program will feature:

- Holly Shimizu, Director of the U.S. Botanical Gardens, will discuss "Planting the Future". This program will look to the future of herbs and herb garden in terms of areas of interest and needs as well as focus on how we can incorporate sustainable practices into our gardens.
- Jane Taylor, Founding Curator Michigan 4-H Children's Garden at Michigan State University, will inspire attendees as they begin "Creating Gardens of Imagination and Wonder." Gardens that are interactive and created to inspire, involve and educate and stimulate imagination and wonder is basic need for people of all ages.

As an added benefit, individuals who are members of The Herb Society of America have the opportunity to register for private tours planned by members of The New England Unit. Tours are planned for Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> and include trips to Elm Bank at Massachusetts Horticultural Society and a tour of a member's private garden. A second tour will be to the North Shore and include stops at Beverly Farms, Glen Magna and end with a visit to The House of Seven Gables.

For additional information about the conference, please contact Wendy Daugherty at (440) 256-0514 or visit [www.herbsociety.org](http://www.herbsociety.org).

Membership to The Herb Society of America is open to anyone interested in herbs. Members enjoy benefits such as library access and borrowing privileges, discounts on merchandise, publications, reduced admission fees to public gardens associated with the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program, educational opportunities and networking opportunities.

For additional information about membership, please contact The Herb Society of America at (440) 256-0514 or visit [www.herbsociety.org](http://www.herbsociety.org).

####