

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Herbs, once used for everything from stomach ache remedies to air fresheners, have made a comeback.

"Interest in herbs has increased rapidly in the past few years," says Kappy Arnoldsen, horticulture graduate student in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "The Herb Research Foundation in Colorado gets hundreds of calls a week from gardeners and people interested in different uses for herbs."

Arnoldsen and Aimee Voisin, a senior majoring in horticulture, recently completed an independent study project growing herbs in an ornamental plot at Penn State's Trial Gardens. They also developed a data base with information on 75 herbs, including common and scientific names, plant characteristics, hardiness, size, soil preference, propagation, pests and disease, bloom time and color and some uses for the herbs.

"Many commercial growers are finding it lucrative to sell herbs

Herbs Bring Sweet Smell Of Success

wholesale to garden centers and stores. There's also a large market in dried herbs for decorations, teas, cooking and other uses. You can make a career out of herbs," says Arnoldsen.

Voisin plans to do just that. "Herbs have such unusual textures, colors and scents. I got interested in them when I worked in a greenhouse after graduating from high school," she says. "I started buying books about herbs, and now I've decided to become a wholesaler and sell dried herb products."

"It's one thing to read about herbs in a book, and it's another to grow them," says Voisin. "We had some surprises. Some plants turned out to be incredibly bushy and took up three times the space we thought they would. And I never realized that cilantro and coriander are really the same plant — one is the leaf and one is the seed."

"We're very interested in helping Penn State students who want to do an independent study on

growing vegetables, herbs, ornamentals or other plants," says Katherine Shumac, research technologist and manager of Penn State's Trial Gardens. "We reserve a space every year for that use. It's a great opportunity for students to get hands-on experience."

Voisin and Arnoldsen also are updating Penn State Cooperative Extension's herb publication, which has information on growing and using 30 of the most popular herbs. The revised booklet will be available next year through county extension offices.

"The students learned a tremendous amount from studying and growing these plants," says Dr. Michael Orzolek, professor of horticulture and adviser for Arnoldsen's and Voisin's independent study. "There's a lot of potential for research in this area."

Dr. Peter Ferretti, professor of horticulture, and trial garden and vegetable research staff assisted the students with their herb project. Funds, plants or seeds were

donated by O.W. Houts and Son, College Gardens Nursery, Twin View Nursery, Narber Brothers

Agway, the Penn State Horticulture Club and the Nittany Lion Inn.

Fraktur Lecture

Frederick S. Weiser, will present a slide-illustrated lecture "A Window on the Soul, Fraktur: An Introduction to the Pennsylvania Dutch" at the Hershey Museum on Monday, October 18 at 1 P.M. Recognized as an authority on many aspects of Pennsylvania German culture, Weiser has researched and written about the various types of Fraktur including Tauscheins and Vorschriften and the artists who produced them. Participants are encouraged to bring in fraktur pieces if assistance is needed with identification information.

Pastor Weiser is a native of Hanover, Pennsylvania and a graduate of Gettysburg College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. From 1966-1992, Weiser served as editor of the publications series of

The Pennsylvania German Society. He has written extensively on local history, genealogy, church history and Pennsylvania German life and folk art. Historical organizations such as Winterthur, Colonial Williamsburg, Old Salem, The Dietrich Foundation, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art have utilized Pastor Weiser's skills as lecturer, consultant, and translator of their Pennsylvania German material.

The program is free with museum admission. For information call (717) 534-3439.

The Hershey Museum is a non-profit, educational and cultural organization administered by The M.S. Hershey Foundation and is located at the west end of Hersheypark Arena.

Museum Offers Lincoln Lectures

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — A series of six lectures on Abraham Lincoln will be given at the Hershey Museum by guest lecturer, Dr. Robert Ambacher on Wednesdays, October 13 through November 17, from 3 to 4 p.m. The series emphasizes the five most important roles Lincoln played in public life, his life in general, and the words he employed to illuminate those roles. Topic covered in the course are Lincoln the lawyer, the politician, the President, Commander in Chief, the emancipator, the wordsmith. Class fee is \$20 for the series.

Dr. Ambacher is professor of German at Millersville University. In addition to teaching other courses at the museum, Dr. Ambacher has authored over 125 articles and reviews, is the recipient of the Commonwealth Distinguished Teacher Chair, and has been a Fulbright Scholar.

For registration information please call (717) 534-3439.

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