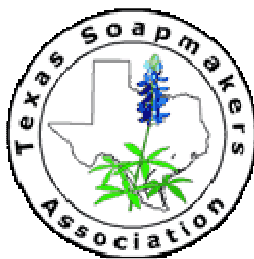


Soap and Water



Texas Soapmakers Association Newsletter 2nd Quarter 2007

Note from the President:

Greetings, I hope this newsletter finds you in great physical and financial health. It's been a super-busy 2007 so far, it seems like yesterday we were going through the post-holiday blues and now it's turning summertime on us. At the last board meeting, we decided that the quarterly newsletters would be issued in September, December, March and June. So this is the "2nd Quarter 2007", or the June issue. (The First Quarter was issued in Late January instead of March due to the election). So this issue is about our upcoming convention, in Houston this summer. Between now and then, we will be filling committees and electing a new board. Take care, and hope to see all of you in Houston!

Howard Apel, TSA President

Convention 2007

In 2005, after just joining the Texas Soapmakers Association, I drove from South Texas to North Texas, a six hour drive from Kerrville to Plano to see what the TSA Convention was all about. I did not know a soul and I made the trip alone. What I found was far and above my expectations, and I say that with very strong emotion.

Warm, friendly, helpful members, combined with a professionally planned program and nationally known speakers, I felt that I got many times more than what I had paid for. I also brought home a plethora of great information, samples, coupons and a feeling of pride for being a part of the acclaimed Texas Soapmakers Association.

For the time of your life and one of the best educational experiences for soap makers, please join us in Houston for the annual convention of Texas Soapmakers Association July 20 - 22, 2007.

Keynote speaker is Catherine Failor, owner/founder of the wonderful and famous Milk Way Molds.

The 2007 Convention will kick off Friday afternoon with a tour of the Santa Fe Winery. Those interested in attending will meet in the hotel lobby at 2:30 p.m.

After the tour, you will have free time to have dinner on your own. From 6 to 8 pm, you may register and obtain tickets for the Friday night reception which will take place in the hotel from 7 to 10 pm.

Saturday morning at 7:00, registration will open for those who have not done so. The vendor room will also open at 7:00 for you to begin looking and shopping and will remain open all day until 7:00 pm.

At 8:00 am, the TSA Board will welcome everyone to the 2007 convention, followed by "A Creative Journey to Success," presented by Catherine Failor of Milky Way Molds.

Next item on the agenda will a very informative demonstration by Dominic Palazzalo of Culinart, Inc., who will teach you how to "Make Your Own Molds."

From 11:45am–12:45 pm you will be treated to the most fabulous buffet lunch. These luncheons remain in my memory as possibly the highlight of the convention. Mouth watering selections will delight your palate while you meet other TSA members and enjoy sharing soapmaking tips and other related experiences.

Following the luncheon, from 12:45pm – 1:45 pm, Marcie Murphy, TSA Past President will present "Insurance – What Do You Need." This has been an ongoing question for many members, and we are very fortunate to have the benefit of Marcie's experience and knowledge in this industry. She has researched the needs of TSA members and has arranged for questions to be answered. If you have not provided input into her questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.

Irwin Miller of SCORE will speak from 2:15 to 3:15, providing you with information about "Marketing on a Limited Budget."

"Special Blending with Essential Oils" will be presented by Ron Brown of Lebermuth from 3:30 to 4:30, immediately followed by the TSA Annual Meeting. This meeting is for TSA members only.

Beginning at 8:00 pm, you will have the opportunity to pick up bargains at the annual TSA Garage Sale while you socialize with other members. Finally you can match names and faces of the many group members you have corresponded with via e-mail throughout the year. I have always been so impressed with the friendliness and down to earth TSA folks. I can't say enough good things about them to impress upon you just how helpful and how willing they are to share their experiences with other members.

Sunday morning the Vendor Room will open at 7:00 and remain open until 3:00 pm.

Demonstrations will begin with "The Art of Soap Painting" by TSA member Kris Hockey at 8:00 am. Kris is very talented not only in soap making but also creates beautiful items with wood. She is the official TSA Convention photographer as well. Many thanks to Kris for her many contributions to TSA efforts.

Catherine Failor will return from 9:00 - 10:00, along with TSA Member Paula Pearson, to present "Liquid Soapmaking."

After a thirty minute break, TSA Member Pat Tyson will demonstrate "Creating Lotions and Creams," from 10:30 - 11:30, followed immediately by another delightful buffet luncheon. The Vendor Room will be open for your shopping during this time as well.

"Beginning Cold Process Soap Making" will be presented from 1:00 until 2:00 by TSA Member Star Moore.

At 2 pm, TSA Members Joyce Douglas and Rachel Lane will present a "Packaging your Products" workshop.

Don't forget to bring your items to drop in the Donation Tub. These worthwhile charities are always so happy to receive our gifts.