



# PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America  
Pioneer Unit

November 6  
Daylight Savings  
Ends  
(fall back one hour)



November 10  
Frosty Full Moon

November 11  
Veterans Day

November 24



November 2011

Volume 19, Number 3

## MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: November 10, 2011
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet  
10:00 a.m. Presentation and Meeting
- Location: St. John's UCC  
Burton, Texas
- Directions: Take Highway 290 west from Brenham to Texas 125 Spur West (East Mulberry Street). Head north to North Colorado Street. The church is at 516 North Colorado.
- Program: Herbal Soups
- Speakers: Betty Gasaway and Nell Richards
- Hosts: Cynthia Mueller, Lynn and Alton Ehler, Catherine Gardiner, and Nancy Crisman
- Lunch: Soups and Casseroles
- Book Club: Read the book of your choice and prepare a brief report for the February 2012 meeting.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Please join me in congratulating our own Mary Reeves, recipient of Herb Society of America's prestigious 2012 Johanna McQuail Reed Award for the Artistic Use of Herbs.** Mary was a member of the South Texas Unit for a number of years before she founded our Pioneer Unit in 1994. She also shared her creative use of herbs for many years and has been recognized in articles in Houston newspapers and magazines.

We appreciate her knowledge, talent, and generosity as she continues to share her creativity with all of us. Most recently Mary taught crafting with herbs as part of the Herbal Delights group and led the workshop on Tussie Mussies. I hope that many of you will be on hand to applaud Mary when she accepts the honor at the HSA EdCon awards banquet in Austin in May.

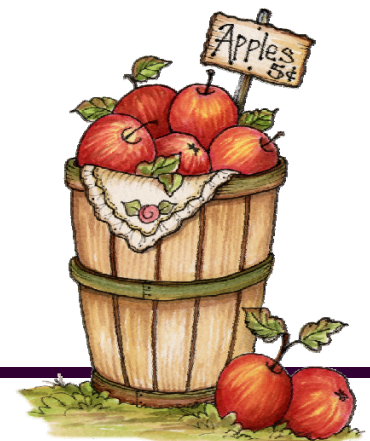
The HSA committee selected Mary based on the nomination information detailing Mary's accomplishments. Nell Richards, Deborah Lansley, and Betty Gasaway, with whom Mary shares teaching about herbs and their uses at Herbal Delights, collected the information that was submitted to the awards committee. Please thank these ladies for doing the documentation required to make this award possible.

The 2012 Awards Recipients were announced in the Members Only section of the HSA web site, [www.herbsociety.com](http://www.herbsociety.com). Among the winners is Affiliate Member of the Pioneer Unit and Active Member of the South Texas Unit, Beth Murphy. Please congratulate Beth on her Certificate of Achievement Award.

Previous national award winners from the Pioneer Unit are Betty Gasaway, Henry Flowers, Deborah Lansley, Tony Scanapico, Gwen Barclay, and Madalene Hill.

**The Board of Directors met on October 11.** Verena Aeschbacher requested that the board give some help with a few plants for the Winedale Garden as the people at Winedale have been maintaining the garden since we discontinued that project. She also requested that we perform community outreach by setting up a table at the Winedale Christmas event to offer information about herbs and information about HSA and the Pioneer Unit. The board agreed to assist and even committed some money for plants for the gardens as well as volunteers to maintain the information table. There is no plan at this time to do any garden work based on the previous decision to discontinue support because of safety issues.

Carolyn Thomas  
Pioneer Unit Chair



MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING  
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
PIONEER UNIT  
October 13, 2011

Betty Gasaway, Programs, opened the meeting in the absence of Carolyn Thomas, Chair. Georgia Sowers, Membership, introduced one guest at the meeting.

Then Betty introduced Mike Shoup, who taught us "Lessons from a Rose Rustler." He explained that the mission of the Rose Rustlers was to search out old roses and rescue them so that they would not be lost to posterity.

After the presentation, Georgia called attention to the membership cards and Yearbooks that were available to those who had not yet picked up theirs. She also mentioned the sign-up sheet for those interested in purchasing the 2012 calendars produced by the Herb Society of America.

Next, Diana Reed told everyone that the Book Club would be meeting after lunch. It was also noted that the Botany Study Group would meet at Festival Hill on October 20th and that Culinary Delights would meet on the first Thursday of November.

Carla Lessard, Thyme Well Spent, then asked everyone to gather rosebuds and roses for use for crafts for the Herbal Forum. Ginger Heath, Special Events, reported that Henry Flowers was collecting rosemary for projects and that Betty Gasaway and Deborah Lansley needed botanicals for pet care products.

Ginger also reviewed the details for the Field Trip scheduled for November 29th. She said that the dinner cruise boats were full but that there were ten places remaining on the bus.

Betty then thanked the hosts and reviewed the program for the November meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda L. Rowlett, Secretary



## From the Horticulturist at The Hill

Finally we have gotten a bit of rain and the cooler weather is very much appreciated. The only problem is that we really need more of both. Many have asked me if I think that this winter and next year will hold changes in the weather for us. The “experts” say that La Nina is going to stay around and that we will continue to be warmer and drier than normal. That certainly sums up this year in a nutshell! All that I know for certain is that it is bound to be cooler this winter. My hope is that it will also be a bit wetter than last winter and that we won't get as cold. I personally am going to go with this hope and will be planning a good-sized winter garden. It will certainly be easier to keep the plants watered in the upcoming cool season!

Here are some plants that I recommend for this winter:

Cool-Season Annual Herbs: dill, fennel, parsley, cilantro/coriander, chervil, lovage, anise, and caraway (the last two are more difficult, but worth a try).

Vegetables: lettuce, kale, chard, turnips, beets, spinach, radicchio, chicory, arugula, dandelions, mustard, bulbing fennel, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and kohlrabi (a personal favorite).

Flowers: borage, calendula, dianthus, violas and pansies, violets, alyssum, snapdragons, chamomile, feverfew, and nasturtiums (will need protection from harsh cold).

Other plants: Now is also a good time to plant perennial herbs such as rue, rosemary, sage, sorrel, savory, thyme, catnip and catmint, salad burnet, and oregano. It is also a great time to plant hardy trees and shrubs, especially roses – herb of the year 2012 (potted roses make wonderful, long-lasting gifts!).



These lists are not all inclusive, but they are a great place to start. Remember too that the winter is a great time to plant and grow many of our best edible flowers. All of the flower plants listed above, with the exception of snapdragons and alyssum, are edible if grown organically – and so are roses!

And since I've mentioned roses, here is a list of some that I think are the best ones for us (and many of these are 'Earth-Kind' varieties): Belinda's Dream, Carefree Beauty (Katy Road Pink), Maggie, Old Blush, Cecile Brunner, Souvenir de la Malmaison, Mutabilis, Souvenir de St. Anne's, Mrs. B.R. Cant, Penelope, Prosperity, Marie Pavie, Green Rose, Knock Out, Climbing Pinkie, New Dawn, and Archduke Charles. I really could go on and on, but that is a good starting point. If you need a rose to fit certain criteria, the staff at the Antique Rose Emporium is a good source of reference or you can also give me a query and I'll help you as best I can.

Here's to a wonderful fall and winter growing season!

Henry Flowers  
Horticulturist at The Hill

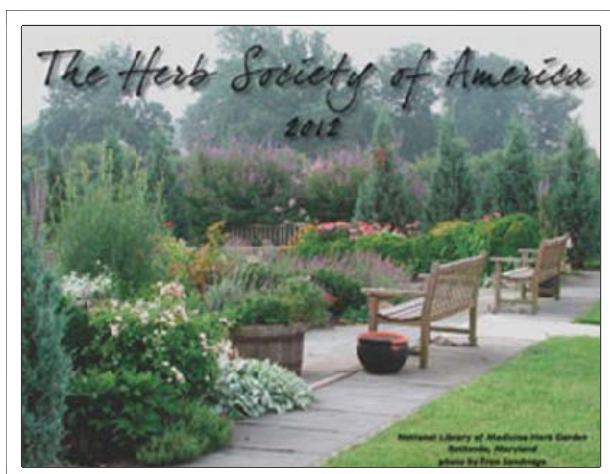
## New Bulletin Board at Festival Hill

At the July meeting of the Pioneer Unit Board of Directors, an additional amount of money was allocated as a donation to the Festival Hill gardens. This money was specified to be used to add something that would be useful and permanent to the gardens. There has long been a need to have a bulletin board near Menke House that would give visitors to the area information about the gardens, the music program, and other scheduled events, so it was decided that this would be the best use of the donation.

I have since purchased an outdoor-ready bulletin board made of rot-resistant materials, and with the help of Tony Scanapico created a mounting support and positioned it in the gardens. Three small metal mail boxes were added so that our events calendar, garden information, and other such items could be made available to visitors. I hope soon to attach a sign to the structure that will signify that it was a donation from the Pioneer Unit.

On behalf of Festival Hill I would like to sincerely thank the Pioneer Unit for this wonderful donation to our gardens – Thank you!!!

Henry Flowers, Garden Director at Festival Hill



## The Herb Society of America 2012 Calendar

The Pioneer Unit is obtaining a large quantity of the new HSA 2012 calendars from HSA headquarters to resell to our members. They will be available at the November meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting and would like a copy (or copies) or have any questions, please contact Henry Flowers to make arrangements. The calendar is 8.5" X 11" (17" X 11" when open) and has pictures of herb gardens taken by members of The HSA and voted upon at the recent EdCon in Pittsburgh. It is very nicely done and will be a joy all year long. Make sure to get a copy for yourself!

## **HSA South Central District Gathering 2011** **Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas**

The 2011 HSA South Central District Gathering was held on September 29th and 30th and October 1st at The Ozark Folk Center's Herb Harvest Fall Festival in Mountain View, Arkansas.

The district held its annual business meeting at 8 a.m. on Friday, September 30th, before commencement of programs for the festival.

In attendance were the following HSA board members: Linda Lain, President; Debbie Boutelier, Vice President and board representative to the district meeting; Sue Edmundson, Secretary and Communications Chair; Rae McKimm, HSA Southeast District Membership Delegate; and Mary Doebbeling, HSA South Central District Membership Delegate.

All seven units in the district had representation, with the Ozark Unit acting as host group. The Pioneer Unit had the largest representation, with 10 members present. A total of 50 HSA members, including some from the Southeast and Mid Atlantic Districts, were in attendance, with a total of 140 attendees overall at the Folk Center event.

Linda Lain, HSA President, began the district meeting by introducing past and present HSA board members and unit chairs and by thanking the Ozark Unit for their hard work in helping with the programs. She then introduced Debbie Boutelier, HSA Vice President, who generally discussed events that occurred for HSA over the past year and also discussed the five staff members at HSA headquarters in Ohio.

Debbie discussed the newly interactive essential guides and the member contributed "horseradish tales" on the web site. She also mentioned the society's new efforts in native herb conservation and the soon to be published "Notable Natives" which will be available on the web site.

Debbie mentioned that \$24,276 had been donated through HSA to support the internship at the National Herb Garden in the past year and that in the same garden a new HSA supported educational event called "Under the Arbor Series" has been initiated with chili peppers being the featured herb. She also mentioned the new HSA calendar which had 35 photographic entries which were voted on at EdCon in Pittsburgh and which is now available for purchase directly through HSA headquarters or through some units.

Two district meetings ago our district voted to support the "Herbal Pathways" brick fundraising effort at HSA headquarters by purchasing a brick in the name of each of our units and the members-at-large. This has been done and prompted many other districts to provide similar support. Our district was thanked for its leadership in this effort.

At EdCon there was a survey of the membership to determine the top ten herbs. The listing has been in the HSA newsletter and is available on the web site.

(continued on next page)

The past program of “Each One Bring One” for HSA membership has been reinstated. This program essentially provides HSA members with a \$10 credit toward their next year’s membership for each new member that they help bring in to HSA. New membership brochures are available, and they can also be easily downloaded from the national web site.

The South Central District of HSA has had 25 new members join in the past year and presently has a total of 254 members: 202 in the seven units and the rest are members at large.

The current term of our district representative Mary Doebbeling will end at the middle of next year. Applications for a new representative were available and due to HSA headquarters by October 3rd. Upcoming positions on the HSA board that will also be open and needing applications are: Development, Education, and Vice President. Applications for these positions are due by December 1st, and forms are available on the web site.

Next, Mary Doebbeling began our district meeting by bringing our attention to the district’s financial report. As of July 11, 2011, the district’s account has a balance of \$8,365.01.

Mary then drew our attention to the ongoing fundraising efforts in a nearby room: the ways and means table, raffle table, and the silent auction table.

Janice Stuff, chair of the South Texas Unit, queried Mary about what the various district units are doing to help with EdCon in Austin next May, and there was brief discussion about this with a promise of upcoming emails to unit chairs to keep the units up to date with what is going on.

Mary then brought up the possibility of our district donating financial support to help with the EdCon expenses with a brief discussion following. Sue Edmundson made a motion to have the district donate \$1,000 to \$1,500 to fund a key speaker at the event. This motion was seconded by Jean Marsh, Texas Thyme Unit Chair, and followed by a unanimous vote in support of the motion.

There was brief discussion as to next year’s district gathering, and it was mentioned that since the EdCon is in our district next year, we do not have to have a district gathering. There was a general feeling among those present to skip next year’s event since we will be putting a lot of effort into helping with EdCon.

Mary ended the meeting by thanking all those who were in attendance for coming, and there was a big round of applause and thank you’s for Mary Doebbeling’s efforts for our district during her two terms of office (six years).

Programming for the Herb Harvest Festival followed after that meeting and on the following day and all in attendance had a great time. The Pioneer Unit was in charge of the silent auction and raised about \$350 for the district funds – thank you, Carla and Sue, for your help!

Submitted by Henry Flowers  
Pioneer Unit delegate to the 2011 South Central District Gathering.



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Georgetta Welch, guest and friend of Carla Lessard, attended our October meeting for her third visit. Also at the meeting, we had extra copies of the errors and corrections for the 2011-2012 Yearbook and Membership Directory. Membership appreciates all changes that may be noted: thank you.

We also have a Sign-up sheet available for the HSA 2012 calendar that Henry Flowers introduced to us on the listserv. The calendars should be at our November meeting for those who pre-ordered. The reduced price of the calendar is \$10. If you are interested, you may email Henry at [henryf@cvctx.com](mailto:henryf@cvctx.com) or Georgia at [gzsowers@att.net](mailto:gzsowers@att.net) with your name and quantity desired. If you don't have email, please feel free to call Georgia at 979-836-8228, and your name will be added to the list of pre-orders.

Lastly, thank you for reporting your volunteer hours.

Georgia Sowers  
Membership Chair

## Christmas Lunch

After our December meeting we will be going to Design 11 for lunch. The lunch will be \$20.00 per person, I will be taking reservations and money at the November meeting. The deadline for reservations is December 1st. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at [gnj@cvctx.com](mailto:gnj@cvctx.com) or call me at [713-408-6223](tel:713-408-6223) or [979-249-3435](tel:979-249-3435).

Thank you.  
Nell Richards

## November Birthdays

November 2 — Cheryl Easley  
November 3 — Deborah Lansley  
November 4 — Jacqui Highton  
November 9 — Nancy Crisman  
November 21 — Sandy Plasek  
November 19 — Lois Sutton  
November 24 — Barbara Hemmer  
November 26 — Diana Reed





# November 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	2	3 HD 9:00 to 10:30 <b>Greenhouse Move- in</b> 8:00 to noon	4	5
6	7 SG Workday 9 to 10:30 a.m.	8 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	9	10 PU Meeting	11	12
13	14 SG Workday 9 to 10:30 a.m.	15 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	16	17 FH Workday 8:30 to noon BSG	18	19
20	21 SG Workday 9 to 10:30 a.m.	22 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28 SG Workday 9 to 10:30 a.m.	29 FH Workday 8:30 to noon <b>San Antonio Trip</b>	30	BSG = Botany Study Group CG = Culinary Group	FH = Festival Hill HD= Herbal Delights PU = Pioneer Unit	SG = Sensory Garden

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BSG = Botany Study Group CG = Culinary Group	FH = Festival Hill HD= Herbal Delights PU = Pioneer Unit	SG = Sensory Garden		1 HD 9:00 to 10:30 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	2	3
4	5 SG Workday 9 to 10:30 a.m.	6 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	7	8 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	9	10
11	12 SG Workday 9 to 10:30 a.m.	13 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	14	15 FH Workday 8:30 to noon BSG	16	17
18	19 SG Workday 9 to 10:30 a.m.	20 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	21	22 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	23	24
25 <i>Peace</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31



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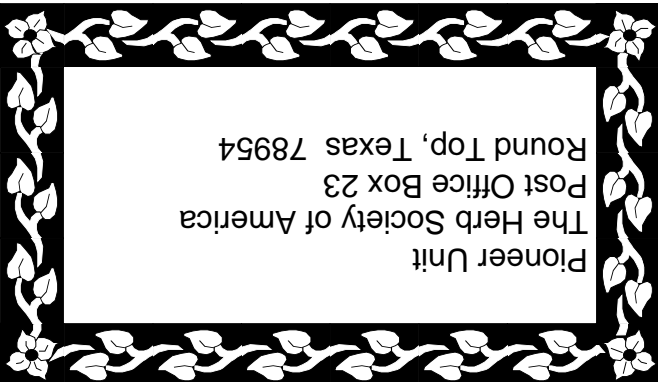
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The Mission Statement of The Herb Society of America: "To promote the knowledge, use, and delight of herbs through educational programs, research, and sharing the experience of its members with the community."

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Chair—Carolyn Thomas      Vice Chair Programs—Betty Gasaway      Vice Chair Membership—Georgia Sowers  
Secretary—Linda L. Rowlett      Treasurer—Johanna Hoiseth



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