



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

February 2015

Volume 22, Number 6

February 3
Ice Full Moon

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: February 12, 2015
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet
10:00 a.m. Program followed by Meeting
- Location: First Baptist Church
7675 FM 2447
Chappell Hill, Texas
- Directions: Take Highway 290 east from Brenham to FM 2447 north
- Program: Texas Snakes — Safety and Identification
- Speaker: Clint Pustejovsky
- Angel: Wanda Hubbard
Hosts: Ginger Heath, Lynn and Alton Ehler, Catherine Gardiner,
And Jane Press
- Lunch: Herbal Delights

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 18
Presidents' Day



Texas Snakes

We Give Snakes The Respect They Deserve

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Spring is just around the corner and with it comes a wonderful, but busy, time of year. When the temperatures rise, the flowers start to bloom, the bees get buzzing, and it is time for us to get out and enjoy and be busy with our own gardens. It also means that the Herbal Forum will soon be here.

As most of you likely know by now, this will be the 20th time we have held this event. In honor of this we are planning to have a retrospective table on the stage during the last program of the event on Saturday. If you have any great pictures taken during past forums, especially some of the earlier ones, I would love to see them and make copies if possible. We won't have much room on the table, but will squeeze in as much as possible.

At the upcoming February meeting, make sure that you are signed up to help. We will need all hands on board to run this event smoothly. If you have any questions about what is needed of you, check with the committee head of an area in which you might be interested in helping or query our Herbal Forum Coordinator, Carolyn Thomas, or myself and we'll get you going in the right direction.

Now—back to the garden. February is the month to start thinking about gardening in earnest for the new year. Valentine's Day is a good target to aim for in getting roses and other hardy shrubs trimmed back. It is also a good time to cut back hardy herbaceous plants that have died down. The only plants I leave for a bit are ones which are possibly tender and may still get damaged if a hard freeze were to follow pruning—plants such as lemon grass and lemon verbena. It is likely best to leave them alone until next month.

In the gardens at Festival Hill, the violets and winter honeysuckle are already blooming and the Carolina Jessamine is budded. I hope that all the rain we have had recently will bring us another great spring for wildflowers. It sure is nice to see the local ponds filled to overflowing for a change.

Best wishes for a fantastic spring!

Henry Flowers, Unit Chair



FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

March Meeting Luncheon Sign Up: Before I talk about the February program, I need to alert our membership to the coming need to sign up for the lunch at the March meeting. Sign-ups will begin at the February meeting. In March, we will all initially meet in the Service Building and end the morning for lunch in the Menke House. Lunch at the March meeting will be underwritten by the Unit and Festival Hill. The lunch is being provided as a thank you for your help with the preparations for the Herbal Forum. Therefore only those members and guests who help that morning and have signed up, **in advance**, are eligible to partake in what is expected to be another fine meal at Festival Hill. The sign-up cut off date is still to be determined, but will be announced at the February meeting.

February Program: Our February program "Texas Snakes: Safety and Identification" by Clint Pustejovsky will be held at the new First Baptist Church in Chappell Hill. It's located at 7675 FM 2447, which is the road that's just west of the Chappell Hill traffic light on Highway 290. If you park in front, facing the building, we'll be entering the front doors on the right end of the building. Our own Georgetta Welch recommended this program. She saw it at the Washington County Fair and thought the information presented would be helpful to our membership because we're gardeners. There's always the chance of coming across a snake when gardening. It'll be good to know what's out there. It's interesting that in our western culture, from an early age, we're exposed to the ideas of being fearful of snakes. I remember when I was in Vietnam, snakes were viewed as just another animal. The Vietnamese and Korean military I was with said they were careful around them, but that was the way you should treat any wild animal. They also talked about how good it was to have snakes around to control the rodent and other pest populations. My reaction (kept to myself of course) was that's a viewpoint I wouldn't expect to hear from my neighbors back home. Hence, my willingness to schedule this program. Clint is a professional speaker and will be doing a power point photo program explaining how to tell the differences in snakes and providing other safety information. He'll be bringing live locked-caged snakes for those who want to get close and personal with the subjects at hand. If you're uneasy about snakes, please still come, but sit in the back. I'm hoping Clint brings his wife Michelle and his eleven-year-old daughter. I'd love to see how they act around Clint's "pets."

Tony Scanapico
Programs Chair



Herbal Forum 2015

Festival Hill Herbal Forum and Pioneer Unit Plant Sale, Gazebo, and Thyme Well Spent Shop

We count on volunteers like you every year to make Herbal Forum, our annual fund-raiser, a success. Volunteering is a great way to learn more about this important event while logging volunteer hours toward your annual requirement. We all need to get behind this project to make this year's event the best ever.

Many of you may want to work in more than one area to familiarize yourself with all aspects of Forum, March 20-21 at Festival Hill. Below is information about each aspect of Forum and whom to contact if you'd like to volunteer.

Note that all time spent on Forum preparation counts toward your annual hours' requirement, as well as the hours worked on Forum days.

Festival Hill Garden Director, Henry Flowers, is the Festival Hill Forum Manager/Director. Festival Hill is responsible for the publicity for Forum but not for our sale. PU members give Henry support that he needs, including set up, speaker angels, and registration at the event, but not Forum pre-registration. Henry also orders the plants for the plant sale.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND CONTACTS:

Festival Hill Forum Registration: Ann Allen (jfallen@cvctx.com) – Register Forum attendees as they arrive.

Festival Hill Forum set-up: Lynn and Alton Ehler (979-200-1900) – Set-up Forum programs (separate from PU's plant and gift sales).

Festival Hill Forum Speakers' Angels: Henry Flowers (henryf@cvctx.com)

Forum Coordinator: Carolyn Thomas (cthomas1138@aol.com) – Assists Pioneer Unit chairs with the coordination and operation of the Plant Sale, the Gazebo, Thyme Well Spent Shop, and acts as a liaison between Festival Hill and the Pioneer Unit.

PIONEER UNIT AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Plant Sale Chair: Karen Cornwell (karencornwell@rocketmail.com) – Set up plant sales area and the hold area, cashiers, sales and maintenance during Forum and take down at end. Barbara Hemmer (hemmtbh@yahoo.com) – Prepare items for the Gazebo, design and set up, sales within the Gazebo and take down at the end.

Thyme Well Spent Shop: Carla Lessard (carlalessard@gmail.com) – Prepare sale items, set-up and design of shop, cashiers and sales during Forum and take down at end.

Plant Sale Set-up/Take down: Tony Scanapico (tkscanapico@cvctx.com) – Set-up, including receiving plants the week of Forum, signage and take down at the end of Forum. Also set up and maintain the break area for workers.

Finance Chair: Janie Plummer, PU Treasurer (janiendougp@att.net) – Obtain start-up money for cashiers for Thyme Well Spent Shop and plant sales areas; also banking associated with the sales.

Publicity: Susan Lake (gardener@susanlake.net) – Publicity for the Herbal Forum plant sale and Thyme Well Spent Shop; includes area newspapers and radio stations. Cindy Nash (cnash27@aol.com) – Distributing flyers. Everyone can help by contacting gardening friends and members of garden-interested organizations to remind them how special our plant and gift sales are.

If you have not signed up to work at Forum and have questions, please contact the committee chair for your area of interest or call or e-mail me.

Carolyn Thomas
Herbal Forum Coordinator
Cthomas1138@aol.com or 979-251-8386

Seeds for Herbal Forum: Please bring any seeds that you have collected to me at the February meeting. If you have seeds but are not coming to that meeting please have someone bring them or get in touch with me at cthomas1138@aol.com.

We are looking for members in each of the area towns to distribute plant sale flyers to local businesses the days preceding the Herbal Forum event. We have someone for Burton, Sealy, Chappell Hill, Brenham, and Hempstead. If you live in another location and can do this, please contact Cindy Nash or Susan Lake.

Susan E. L. Lake
www.susanlake.net



THYME WELL SPENT

TWSS has been preparing for Forum since last spring and we will have many really wonderful items and many new ones. If you are planning to help by making items, please contact me, Carla Lessard. I need know what is being done in order to plan properly. Each item must have a printed label, price tag and be entered in the computer. Please remember that anything that goes into the shop **must be herb related**.

Please bring lightly used cookbooks and garden books and magazines for the TWSS to the February and March meetings. Sales benefit the National Intern.

Carla Lessard
Chair for Thyme Well Spent

**MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT (PU)
JANUARY 8, 2015**

Henry Flowers, Chair, welcomed members to the first meeting of 2015. The herb of the year is savory and the Herb Society will be releasing "The Essential Guide to Savory," compiled by Henry and Sara Holland. The Unit does not have a program on savory planned but Henry will share more information.

Tony Scanapico, Vice Chair Programs, introduced Dr. Bill Welch, who presented a program on "Principles of Landscape Design" which included slides of many beautiful gardens here and overseas.

Tony thanked Dr. Welch who signed copies of his books after the meeting, the proceeds going to the Texas A&M scholarship fund. Tony also thanked Dr. Welch's wife, Lucille, who attended the meeting.

Betty Pior, Hospitality Chair, thanked speaker angel Jane Press and the hostesses.

Georgia Sowers, Membership Chair, was absent and Henry introduced guests Pat Garrett and her daughter Deborah from Woodstock, New York, and HSA South Central District Delegate Gloria Hunter and her husband.

Carolyn Thomas, Herbal Forum Coordinator, had the following Forum information for new members:

The Herbal Forum with guest speakers is presented by Festival Hill.

The Plant Sale and Thyme Well Spent Gift Shop are presented by the Pioneer Unit.

Henry Flowers is the manager of the Forum (and Festival Hill gardens director).

Publicity for the Forum is done by Festival Hill.

Publicity for the sales is done by Susan Lake of the Pioneer Unit.

Ann Allen is in charge of Forum registration.

Lynn and Alton Ehler are in charge of set-up and take-down for Forum speakers.

Tony Scanapico is in charge of set-up and take-down for the plant sale.

Henry Flowers is in charge of speaker angels and will be looking for some.

Carolyn Thomas is sales coordinator, with Karen Cornwell in charge of the plant sale and Carla Lessard in charge of Thyme Well Spent shop.

Janie Plummer is in charge of accounting.

Barbara Hemmer is in charge of the Gazebo.

Georgetta Welch corrected a mistake in the last minutes which should have said that Kay von Minden (along with Georgetta) is a contact for upcoming jellies workshops.

Karen Cornwell, Plant Sale Coordinator, asked members to sign up today to help at Forum.

June Smith announced there would be a book club meeting after lunch.

Ginger Heath, Education and Special Events Chair, announced a field trip to Houston planned for April 29th. She and her team, Susan Bame and Cindy Nash, met with Affiliate Member Susan Wood. The trip will be to the new McGovern Centennial Gardens in Hermann Park and also the Museum District.

Mary Reeves said that her workshop members will take home a pressed flower bookmark for Forum.

Henry announced that Forum speakers will be Susan Belsinger and Tina Marie Wilcox, who will also present a workshop. Copies of the Forum brochure will be available at the February meeting.

Henry announced that the Pioneer Unit Board will meet on January 22nd at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was then adjourned for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cox, Secretary



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This February we are recognizing Ann Allen as our Volunteer of the Month! And so timely because Forum is only next month. Ann has been with our Unit since the early days, back in 1998, and is a terrific help with Registration and the planning that goes with it. She is also often seen with the Hostess teams at the Unit meetings and performing Angel duties. Your efforts and organization skills are truly appreciated, Ann. Thank you and congratulations!

Georgia Sowers



February Birthdays

February 3 — Tony Scanapico

February 22 — Sara Holland

February 23 — Karen Cornwell

February 25 — Susan Lake

**FIELD TRIP BY BUS: Houston Museum District,
Wednesday, April 29, 2015**



**Special Events Committee: Susan Bame, Cindy Nash,
Susan Wood, and Ginger Heath (chair)**

No Joke....!! This may be the best bargain you will see all year.

For \$40 (nonrefundable) you will be transported in comfort by bus, through Houston traffic, to the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Natural Science and the new Centennial Gardens of Hermann Park. This fee includes a box lunch at Café Express in MFAH. And we're not finished... the remainder of the day is still in the planning stage; the Special Events Committee is working to make it a full and fun day. Updated details will continue to be sent to you via ListServe and the newsletter as our plans gel.

MAIN STOPS:

Museum of Fine Arts: Florescence (one of the largest competitive national flower shows sanctioned by The Garden Club of America), Rubens exhibition, other exhibits (excluding those requiring special tickets), Gift Shop, Café Express box lunch.

Museum of Natural Science: Butterfly Center, Faberge (brush up on your Romanov history), gems and minerals (#1 in nation), Hall of Paleontology (the Smithsonian, after seeing MNS, closed their exhibition to remodel), and more. \$85-million has been pumped into new construction and exhibits opened in 2013.

Centennial Gardens: 15 acres has been transformed where the Houston Garden Center previously stood; it opened in December 2014 and is still being landscaped 'as we speak'. April's showing should be fresh and beautiful.

The first day to sign up will be on February 12 at the Unit meeting, not before. There is a \$40 nonrefundable registration fee for everyone. Active Members and Affiliates will have first opportunity to register until March 1. On March 1, registration will be open to Guests (spouses, family, friends). Registration is limited to bus seating capacity (50-ish).

There may be an extra dinner cost at the end of the day, to be paid by the individual, but we are not making plans to break your pocketbook.

There will be two locations for pick up/drop off: 1) Festival Hill and 2) Chappell Hill (place to be determined). For those of you in Hempstead/Brenham, the Chappell Hill spot will be more convenient. Cars may be parked for the day at both locations. We will leave from Festival Hill at 7:15 a.m. and return, probably, after 8:00 p.m.

So, come prepared on Thursday, February 12, to sign up for what should be a discoverable day of art and flowers and gardens, and more.

For those of you who want to register but cannot attend the Unit meeting on February 12, please phone Susan Bame, after the meeting, to register.

CONTACT: Susan Bame, susanbame@iCloud.com, 979-251-4208

Feb 12: first day for ACTIVE MEMBERS and AFFILIATES to register (\$40 each)
Mar 1: first day to register GUESTS (\$40 each)
Apr 29: Date of Bus Trip

January 22, 2015 PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEETING Held at Festival Hill

Attendees: Henry Flowers, Tony Scanapico, Georgia Sowers, Janie Plummer, Pat Cox, Linda Rowlett, Carolyn Thomas, Karen Cornwell, Carla Lessard, Ginger Heath, Lynn Ehler, and Susan Lake.

Programs Report: Tony Scanapico is working on next year's speakers.

Membership Report: Georgia Sowers asked the Board to ratify Unit membership for Frances Pittman.

Motion: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the membership of Frances Pittman into the Pioneer Unit.

Treasury Report: Janie Plummer handed out copies of the Budget Summary Report and Quarterly Income Statement for Three Months Ending December 31, 2014.

Standing Committee Reports

Archives and Rosemary – Because this is the 20th Annual Herbal Forum, it is planned to have a table on the stage in the Concert Hall with pictures and material from previous events. Henry has items from the past ten years and asked Lynn Ehler to go through the Archives for earlier materials.

Education/Special Events – Ginger Heath handed out copies of the itinerary for a proposed Field Trip to Houston on April 29, 2015, to visit the Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of National Science, and Centennial Gardens in Hermann Park. Timing details, particularly for the return trip to Round Top, are still being worked on. Sign-up sheets for the field trip will be available at the February meeting for active members and approximately two weeks later the trip will be opened up to spouses and guests.

Gardens – Henry Flowers and Tony Scanapico have been clearing dead trees from the many pathways at Festival Hill. Henry will plan a work session at the Sensory Garden for February.

Communications - Susan Lake is providing Forum flyers to distributors. She has added the directory to the website. Facebook usage is growing.

Plant Sale – Karen Cornwell had sign-up sheets for plant sale workers at the January Unit meeting and is working on a spreadsheet for the entire Forum to keep track of who signed up for what activity.

Thyme Well Spent – Carla Lessard needs people to do sewing for Thyme Well Spent. Flavored sugars, barbecue sauces, vinegars and vanillas are done. Carolyn Thomas suggested making spiced pecans.

Herbal Forum Coordinator – Carolyn Thomas said there will be Forum information in the newsletter, in a group e-mail, and in a talk at the next meeting. Henry said that this year all registration packets are alike and attendees will add their own names. Help will be needed in March to assemble the packets.

Past Chair – Linda Rowlett has been contacting prospective donors for the Silent Auction which will start the first day of Forum and this year is open to all, including Unit members.

New Business

Henry handed out details of the projected cost of plants for the 2015 Forum.

Motion: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the plant budget for the 2015 Forum.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cox, Secretary

February Herb of the Month - Rose

The rose is one of the most iconic of all flowers and one of my all-time favorite plants. It has been revered by many civilizations throughout history and is today the floral emblem of many nations, including England and the United States.

Roses are indigenous to the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere. It is believed that they originated in Asia, most likely China, and spread from there. Notably there are quite a few roses native to the United States—including the swamp rose—*Rosa palustris*; the prairie rose—*Rosa setigera*; and the Carolina rose—*Rosa caroliniana*. Three natives from China have spread and made themselves very much at home here—the multiflora rose—*Rosa multiflora*; the McCartney Rose—*Rosa bracteata*; and the Cherokee rose—*Rosa laevigata*. The latter rose is the state flower of Georgia and has been linked to the tragic expulsion of the Cherokees from the southeastern states. It is said that the five pure white petals represent the many tears of the Cherokee, the golden stamens at the center of the flower the gold for which their home lands were stolen, and the seven leaflets in the leaves the seven clans of the Cherokee tribe. No one can say for sure how this beautiful rose from China first got to what is now the southeastern US, but it did and it thrived and became part of our history.

The ancient Persians were quite enamored with the rose and grew it in their gardens for its lovely scent. It is perhaps they who first discovered the art of distillation to remove the essential oils, a process later refined to give rise to the perfume industry. The Romans too were quite smitten with the rose and tales of parties in which guests were smothered beneath masses of rose petals dropped from netting near the ceiling are quite visual and fantastic. You've likely heard of the Dutch fascination with tulips which led to what we now call "tulipomania." The Romans got so carried away with their passion for roses that we could call it "rosemania." It is said that they started to grow roses in fields outside of Rome instead of food crops and that when they couldn't get fresh blooms at home (almost all roses in the time of Rome were spring-blooming only), they would import them from far regions of their empire, such as Egypt. Legend says that Cleopatra, knowing of this Roman fascination with roses, used them en-masse to seduce Marc Anthony on her barge. Perhaps the rose is one of the reasons for the downfall of the Roman Empire!

Suffice it to say that after Rome did fall and the Christian church rose, there was a strong attempt to exclude any imagery that would include the rose because roses were associated with pagan rituals. But the love of the rose couldn't be kept down and in time the rose became, along with the lily, intimately associated with the Virgin Mary. The white rose stands for purity and is often seen in the hand of Mary, and the red rose is linked with the blood of Christ. During the Middle Ages in Europe, roses continued to be cultivated and used medicinally by monks, especially the rose we know today as the apothecary rose—*Rosa gallica officinalis*. Rose hips can be steeped in warm liquids as a source of vitamins, especially vitamin C, and the flower petals can be consumed in foods as a flavoring agent and a mild source of nutrition as well.

It wasn't until the end of the 18th century that the rose started to gain a great stature again. The Empress Josephine of France, first wife of Napoleon, played a part in this revival. One of her

Continued on next page

many names was Rose and many of her friends called her by this name. After their marriage, Josephine and Napoleon purchased a home, Malmaison, outside of Paris. There Josephine collected many roses and other plants and noble women of the French Empire emulated her by doing the same in their own gardens. The great botanist Pierre Joseph Redoute painted the roses and flowers of Josephine's gardens and these are still considered to be some of the greatest botanical illustrations ever created. It was also at this time that plant explorers entered China and found repeat blooming roses which they brought to Europe and crossed with European varieties to create many new and exciting cultivars. Through the 19th and 20th centuries, rose breeding was carried out with the resultant creation of many thousands of new varieties. Many of those which have withstood the test of time can still be grown in our gardens today and we're lucky to have a great source nearby—The Antique Rose Emporium. One can purchase there a clone of roses that once graced the gardens of Malmaison, grew in the wild forests of China, or which caused a stir at Victorian floral expositions.

This Valentine's Day, a day long (and most oddly, given its origin) associated with love and roses, plant a rose in honor of Josephine, the Virgin Mary, or perhaps the Cherokee's Trail of Tears. And, as I've reminded you so often in the past, Valentine's Day is also a good day to prune your roses for a great spring show in March or April! But, most of all, do remember to take time to smell this ever so lovely and sweet smelling flower.

Henry Flowers
Pioneer Unit Garden Chairman



The Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit
Botany Study Group Data Sheet

Name: Kay Scanapico

Botanical Name/Etymology: *Acacia farnesiana*

Family Name: Fabaceae

Common Name(s): Huisache (WEE satch), sweet acacia

Origin: common throughout Mexico and tropical America. It is cold hardy as far north as Austin, Texas, though in hard winters it may freeze to the ground and is also vulnerable to having the flower pods burned in a late frost. Native to the Americas, huisache has been cultivated around the world for over 200 years.



Growth Habit: a large shrub or small multi-trunked tree, about 7 to 20 feet. It has zigzagged shoots, sharp slender spines and sparse feathery leaves, divided into four to eight pairs of leaflets and again into smaller leaflets. The fragrant orange blossoms appear as puff-balls before new leaves in early spring. Each ball is actually a cluster of tiny flowers.

Growth (Cultural) Requirements: grows well in clay or sandy soil. It is extremely drought tolerant, but can also handle standing water. It is especially suited to hot, dry locations.

Propagation: easily propagated by seed. The seed coat is very hard and needs to be scarified by acid or nicked with a knife for easier sprouting. Huisache is very invasive in disturbed soils, and in some parts of southeast Texas, it has absolutely taken over old fields and pastures.

Folklore and History: Reported medicinal uses of this plant are too numerous to list here. Some of the more common uses in our area include: Mexicans sprinkle powdered dried leaves onto wounds. The flowers are added to ointment and rubbed on the forehead for headaches. Green pods are decocted for dysentery. Costa Ricans decoct the gum from the trunk for diarrhea. Panamanians and Cubans use the pod to treat conjunctivitis. For rheumatic pains, West Indians bind bark strips to the afflicted joint. A plaster, made from the pulp, is said to alleviate tumors. Kickapoo elders swore that a decoction made from the bark and used to treat influenza was what saved their village from decimation during the 1918 flu pandemic.

Unbeknownst to many Texans, huisache has an amazing history in the European perfume industry. What for South Texas is a spiny shrub that at its worst punctures tires and at its best provides shelter and food for cattle and wildlife, is for the south of France a beloved dooryard tree and the basis of exquisite perfumes. *Acacia farnesiana* became industrially important in Provence starting around 1825. Known as *Cassie ancienne* in French perfumery, the tree is extensively cultivated on the outskirts of Cannes and near the famous distilleries of Grasse. Cassie extracts are difficult and expensive to produce because the flowers are hand collected (amid many thorns), and the quality of the harvest can be easily ruined by violent storms or heavy frosts. The delicate perfume is destroyed by steam distillation and must be carefully extracted by volatile substances.

Continued on next page

Extrait de cassie, the end result, is one of the more costly scents in the industry and is rarely used in its pure state. Instead it is used to extend and deepen the notes of other fragrances, especially those involving violet bouquets.

Plant Part(s) Used: bark, flowers, pods, seeds, leaves, trunk

Time of Harvest: varies according to location and parts used. In south Texas, the plant blooms in late winter to early spring. Blossoms are followed by leaves.

Culinary Uses: ripe seeds may be processed for cooking oil. Young leaves flavor chutneys. The sap is used to produce gum arabic, a colorless, tasteless, substance essential in soft drinks and other culinary products.

Medicinal Uses: internally for diarrhea and skin complaints (bark), externally in baths for dry skin (blossom). It is an aromatic, stimulant herb that relieves tension and contains insecticidal components.

Other Uses: added to potpourris. It is also valued as a honey plant, especially for pollen. In Texas this plant blooms late winter to early spring, a time when other sources of pollen are not yet plentiful. The bark and pods yield a black dye. The bark is used to tan and dye black leather and for making ink. Huisache has a heavy, durable and close-grained wood which makes it a good choice for fence posts, plows, tools and pegs.

Bibliography:

1. Bown, Deni 2001 New Encyclopedia of Herbs and Their Uses London:DK Publishing
2. Diggs, G., and B. Lipscomb, R. O'Kennon 1999 Flora of North Central Texas Austin College Center for Environmental Studies
3. Nokes, Jill 2001 How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest University of Texas Press
4. Turner, Matt 2009 Remarkable Plants of Texas University of Texas Press
5. Wasowski, Sally and Andy Wasowski Native Texas Plants 1997 Gulf Publishing Company
6. <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/duke>

It is the policy of The Herb Society of America not to advise or recommend herbs for medicinal or health use. This information is intended for educational purposes only and should not be considered as a recommendation or an endorsement of any particular medical or health treatment.

HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA: Sign up and hotel reservations for EdCon can be made starting in February. EdCon 2015 will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia, May 7-9.

Discounts: Further information and links to the following discounts can be found on the HSA website:

10% discount on purchases made at Richters Herbs

10% discount on purchases from Growers Exchange

20% discount on Herbal Academy of New England online Introductory and Intermediate Herbal Course

10% discount on The Science and Art of Herbalism Home Study Course

10% discount on Garden Gallery purchases

Complimentary or reduced admission fees to public gardens and arboreta associated with the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP)

Symposia and tour discounts.

Notice to all current and/or interested Book Club members:


If you are interested In the Pioneer Unit having a Book Club to meet following each regular meeting, please gather at a designated table in the back of the meeting room this coming meeting on Thursday, February 12, in order to reactivate the group.

If there is insufficient interest, we need to consider dissolving the Book Club or reorganizing under a different leader.


June Smith



February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	4 SG Work Day with Cindy Nash	5 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	6	7
8	9	10 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	11	12 Pioneer Unit Meeting First Date to sign up for Field Trip	13	14 
15	16	17 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	18	19 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	20	21 SG Work Day Notify Henry if you can attend
22	23	24 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	25	26 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	27 BSG = Botany Study Group	28 FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	4	5 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	6	7
8	9	10 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	11	12 Pioneer Unit Meeting	13	14
15	16	17 FH Workday 8:30 to noon 	18	19 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	20 Herbal Forum	21 Herbal Forum
22	23	24 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	25	26 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	27	28
29	30	31 FH Workday 8:30 to noon			BSG = Botany Study Group	FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden



PIONEER PATHS

Volume 22

Editor: Linda L. Rowlett, Ph.D.

Pioneer Paths is a publication of The Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$10.00 per year.

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."

Chair—Henry Flowers

Vice Chair Programs—Tony Scanapico
Secretary—Pat Cox

Vice Chair Membership—Georgia Sowers
Treasurer—Janie Plummer

Pioneer Unit
The Herb Society of America
Post Office Box 23
Round Top, Texas 78954