



# PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America  
Pioneer Unit

February 2018

Volume 25, Number 6

**No Full Moon in  
February**

February 14  
Valentine's Day



February 20  
Presidents' Day

## MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: February 8, 2018
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet  
10:00 a.m. Program followed by Meeting
- Location: Brenham Presbyterian Church  
900 South Jackson Street, Brenham
- Directions: From Highway 290, take Business 36 north to College Avenue. Turn left and find the church at the corner of College Avenue and South Jackson Street.
- Program: Bees, Honey, and Hives
- Speaker: Chris Kohnke  
Pure Texas Honey
- Angel: Betty Pior  
Hosts: Linda Hartson, Verena Aeschbacher, Ann Allen,  
Catherine Gardner, Royceanna Kendall, and  
Belinda Weatherly
- Lunch: Dishes for Your Honey



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings!

We have had some nice days lately, but I am sure that in the next few weeks we will have at least one or two more cold snaps before winter is fully over. Yet spring is just around the corner! I am so looking forward to seeing wildflowers in my yard again!

We had a great orientation at the January meeting. Several members asked the Unit's policy about attending Forum. Here is clarification from your Board: (1) Regarding the workshops offered at the Forum: those not filled the week before the Forum will be open for Pioneer Unit members to sign up. (2) As a member you may attend (audit) one or more Forum presentations at no cost, provided you have satisfied your Forum volunteer requirements. See page 24 of your yearbook regarding member participation in this major event. We ask that you use common sense and remember that your volunteer hours have the highest priority in contributing to the success of the Herbal Forum and Plant Sale.

If you haven't already seen it, there is a copy of the Forum announcement on the Unit's Facebook page and on the Pioneer Unit website at <http://www.herbsocietypioneer.org/>

Every one of you has something he or she can do to make the Herbal Forum the perfect event that it always is. You proved that last year, and I expect you will again this year. We will have sign-up sheets again at our meeting next week, and I encourage you to volunteer rather than waiting to be called. In addition to drying herbs, please be saving the following items: (1) books and magazines for the Scholarship Table and (2) flats for use at the Plant Sale. You can bring the books and magazines to the March meeting.

Be sure to take a break from your Forum preparations to enjoy Valentine's Day with loved ones.

I look forward to seeing you in February!

Karen Cornwell  
Unit Chair



# FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

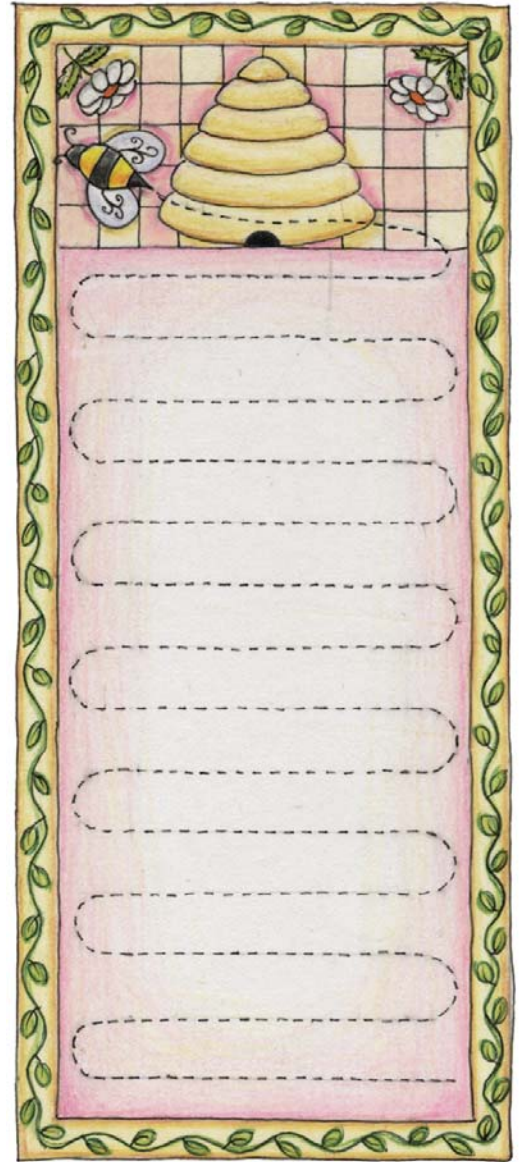
We all came away from last month's presentation eager to begin our spring gardens! Patty Leander gave many new and time tested suggestions for vegetable varieties and best planting practices. With our recent very cold weather and so many friends being ill, spring seems to have distanced itself from us again.

However, it will come, and sooner than we realize. With spring come flowers and with flowers come bees! Our February speaker is Chris Kohnke of Pure Texas Honey in Katy. He will speak on bee keeping and all its aspect, a fascinating subject.

I look forward to seeing you all on February 8 at Brenham Presbyterian Church.

Phoebe Lake  
Programs Chair

Did you know...  
*Honey bee wings move back and forth incredibly fast-an amazing 200 beats per second!*



CLH ©

## IMPORTANT NOTE

- At the February meeting, we will be signing up for the special lunch offered at Festival Hill during our work day at the March meeting. Active members pay \$5 and others pay \$25. If you are missing the meeting, please mail your check to Pam Traylor, Box 804, Bellville, Texas 77418.

**MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING**  
**HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT**  
January 11, 2018

Karen Cornwell, Chair, welcomed everyone to the January meeting.

Phoebe Lake, Vice Chair Programs, introduced speaker Patty Leander from The Texas Gardener magazine and encouraged members to subscribe to this informative and helpful publication. The speaker gave us lots of tips on growing vegetables along with delicious recipe suggestions.

Georgia Sowers, Vice Chair Membership, introduced visitors Diana Sellers who will join us as an active member as soon as she completes her garden hours, Joann Reichle and Nina Parker (guests of Bonnie Lout), Karen Grebe (guest of Cathy Nitsch), and Master Gardener Penny Whiting (guest of Joyce Caddell).

Henry Flowers announced Forum 2018 brochures will be available and on the website shortly, and in addition to guest presenters, he and Barbara Hemmer will lead a workshop on hypertufas.

Henry is working on finding new Board officers for the next two years and asked anyone interested in volunteering for an office to contact him.

Pat Cox, Thyme Well Spent Co-chair, asked for donations of used books and magazines, preferably herb-related, for the scholarship table at Forum. These can be given to Henry.

Susan Lake asked for donations of seeds for Forum in any amount, large or small. These can be given to Candi Glancy at next month's meeting as Susan will not be here.

Pam Traylor, Hospitality, thanked head hostess Kathe Forrest and her team for their work providing breakfast and lunch.

Door prizes were won by Beverly Elam, Ann Allen, Lynn Ehler, and Carla Lessard.

Karen announced a short orientation meeting to be held after lunch for new members and anyone else interested. She also reminded members they can attend a Board meeting if they wish but should let her know beforehand as space is limited.

Karen asked everyone to sign up to work at Forum either at the Plant Sale or Thyme Well Spent Shop or both, and she noted that there will be another chance to do so next month.

February's meeting will be at Brenham Presbyterian Church and the topic will be beekeeping.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Cox, Secretary



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Our January 2018 meeting was very well attended by members and guests of members! Karen Grebe attended for a first visit with new active member Cathy Nitsch; Penny Whiting was with us for a first visit with active member Joyce Caddell; and Bonnie Lout had two visitors with her, JoAnn Reichle and Nina Parker. Prospective active member Diana Sellers attended for her fourth visit with Pat Cox. We also enjoyed seeing our affiliate members Marijane Lipscomb and Mary Sockwell. We're happy to welcome all of you!

This month, we are getting in high gear for the upcoming Herbal Forum and Plant Sale and all help will be greatly appreciated. This is yet another way of earning your volunteer hours. These hours will be reported and recorded under the category of Forum Prep. Beginning this month, we'll acknowledge the Host and Angel Team members from the previous month in the newsletter. It's a good incentive for members and prospective members to understand a bit of the different ways of earning volunteer hours, which are reported and recorded under the category of Hosting and Angel duties. Kathe Forrest was Coordinating Hostess, which position usually gets more hours. Host Team helpers who volunteered were Betty Pior, Wanda Hubbard, new member Connie Gwyn, Joyce Caddell, and Susan Yancey. The Unit appreciates all your efforts and volunteer hours with the morning food and luncheon. Those members who help with table decorations also earn volunteer hours for their efforts in designing and arranging the tables. The Angel who helps the Program Speaker additionally earns hours for their help. In January, Lynn Ehler was Speaker Patty Leander's Angel. If you have any questions or comments about these duties, please be sure to contact me at [gzsowers@att.net](mailto:gzsowers@att.net) or call [979-836-8228](tel:979-836-8228). I'll be happy to help guide you.

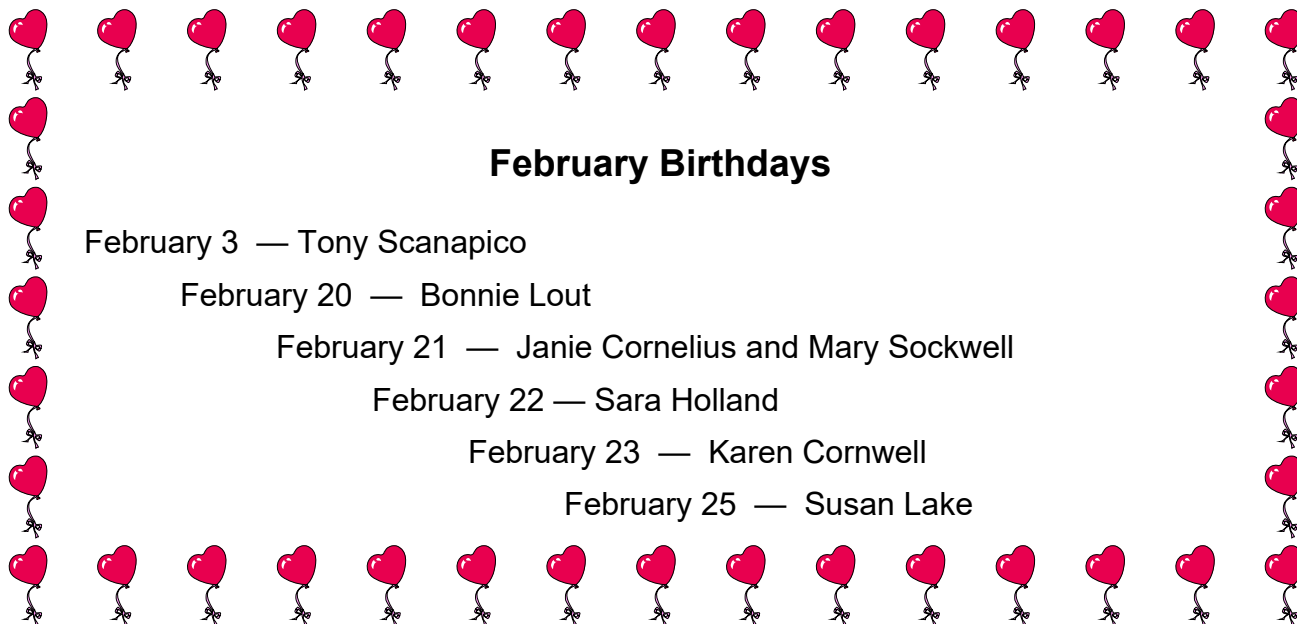
After the luncheon last month, we enjoyed an interactive and constructive annual Orientation. Many new members and regular members offered up questions and items for the Board and the membership body to consider. This information will be updated and shared.

We learned that our active member Kay Robbins made a sudden move December 1, 2017, to Nacogoches, Texas. She is no longer on the Scholarship Committee, and I understood from her message that she would not be renewing for next July 2018-2019. We will miss her: she was a great member, and we all wish her well. You may update your current yearbooks.

I wish all of you a romantic Valentine's Day this February 14th to spend with your significant others, families, and friends! And remember this is usually the time to prune your rose bushes.

Wishing you an Herbal Valentine,  
Georgia Sowers





## February Birthdays

February 3 — Tony Scanapico

February 20 — Bonnie Lout

February 21 — Janie Cornelius and Mary Sockwell

February 22 — Sara Holland

February 23 — Karen Cornwell

February 25 — Susan Lake

## HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL AWARDS

Great news!

**Janice Stuff**, South Texas Unit member since 1982 and affiliate member of the Pioneer Unit, will be honored with the **Certificate of Appreciation from The Herb Society of America**. Awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting of members in Tarrytown, New York, on June 1st. Janice is currently serving as STU Treasurer. She has served the South Texas Unit as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary and has chaired many committees over the years, including the Herb Fair. Whenever any committee member needs help, Janice is there to get the job done. She has always quietly and efficiently assumed any responsibilities we ask of her. This award is very well deserved! Please congratulate Janice the next time you see her.

Another member from South Central District receiving an award is **Linda McDowell** of the Hill Country Unit. Linda will be honored with the **Elizabeth Crisp Rea Award**.

For a list of all 2018 award recipients, visit [www.herbsociety.org](http://www.herbsociety.org) and click on the "Grow" tab.

Submitted by Susan Wood



## FORUM NOTES

We need lots of soda/beer cardboard flat boxes for the plant sale so save any you come across and either give them to Henry Flowers at the February or March meetings or bring them directly to the Plant Sale during the Herbal Forum.

Garden/Plant/Cooking related books and magazines are needed for the scholarship table in the Thyme Well Spent Shop during the Herbal Forum. These can also be given to Henry at the February or March meetings or you can drop them by Festival Hill at any time. We need them by the March meeting at the latest because they will need to be sorted and priced before the event.

## WORKSHOPS

Kathe Forest and Susan Yancy are conducting a bath bombs/salts workshop on Tuesday, February 20, at 10:00 a.m. They have space for five people. If you are interested, give Kathe a call at 512-934-1725.

Ginger Heath and Linda Rowlett are considering a workshop for making bath tea bags . If you are interested, either let Ginger know at the February meeting or contact Linda at the email or phone number in the next box.

## SILENT AUCTION

As many of you know, we have conducted a silent auction at each year's Forum, and for the past few years we have raised over \$800 for the National Intern. We hope to have an equally successful Silent Auction this year. The Silent Auction will be situated on a table or two in the main building at Festival Hill, where there is room for a few select items. These items need to be pretty special to realize as much funding as possible for the National Intern. If you have a special herbal item that you think would be of interest to others, please bring it to me at the March meeting, or contact me, and I will make arrangements to collect it from you.

**And please note: Pioneer Unit members are invited to bid on the Silent Auction items! Don't miss out!**

**Important note: Please let me know if you are willing to work on the Silent Auction with me. I am looking for someone to take over this job for future years.**

Linda Rowlett — lrowlett@gmail.com or 281-757-1988

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

**Botanical Name/Etymology:** *Maclura pomifera* (Raf.) C.K. Schneid.

The genus is named after William Maclure (1763-1840), a Scottish-born American geologist and educational reformer. He was president of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for 22 years and made many major contributions to his field, including the first true geological map of any part of North America. He was also notably a strong advocate for universal educational, especially for women. The specific epithet *pomifera* means "pome bearing" (pome being an apple) in reference to the fruit.

**Family Name:** Moraceae (Mulberry)

**Common Name(s):** Osage orange, bois d'arc, bodark, bow wood, horse apple, hedge apple, naranjo chino

**Origin:** Northeast and north central Texas, southeastern Oklahoma, and southwestern Arkansas. Now found in most of the eastern 2/3 of the US and into Canada. It is mainly found wild along stream bottoms, ravines, in waste places, and in fence rows.

**Growth Habit:** Moderate deciduous tree of 20 to 40 feet in height. It has a sprawling and irregular growth habit. Leaves are alternate, simple and have smooth margins. They are ovate to oblong-obovate and about 5 inches in length. The stems are notably covered with large thorns borne at the leaf nodes and tend to be somewhat pendulous. The thorns are said to be the inspiration for barbed wire. The tree is notably dioecious and the flowers are small and inconspicuous. The fruit of the female trees is large (up to 8 inches in diameter) and round, lime green, and very wrinkly in appearance. The fruit will exude a milky sap when damaged. Roots tend to be somewhat shallow and may often be seen near the soil surface. Small roots near the surface may appear like rusted pipes. The bark of the trunk tends to be fairly dark and deeply furrowed. The interior wood of the trunk and large branches is orange-yellow.

**Growth (Cultural) Requirements:** It will thrive in both poor and fertile soils, but does prefer a relatively moist soil. It is drought tolerant when mature. It grows fast when young – first 10-15 years.

**Propagation:** By seed, cuttings of young wood, and root cuttings. To my knowledge it is not propagated for commercial sales as there is little demand for it.

**Folklore and History:** This tree was historically prized by native tribes because its wood made the best bows – strong and very flexible and not easily affected by humidity. This wood was traded as far away as Arizona and Montana. It was not uncommon for a horse to be traded for a good bois d'arc bow. Bows with draw weights up to 70 pounds appear in archaeological sites dating back as far as 1050 AD (Turner). The Caddo were especially famed for their bows made of bois d'arc wood, but the Kiowa and Comanche also were known to make good bows of the wood. The only other wood that can rival the bois d'arc for making bows is the yew, native only in North America to the Pacific northwestern US and southwestern Canada.



It was the French that named the tree bois d'arc, meaning "bow wood." This has been butchered into English as "bodark." Because it was so prized, it has long been cultivated outside of what is believed to be its original range, making the definition of that range difficult. Ranchers used the tree as a hedgerow plant and thus it is commonly found in abundance around many older farmsteads.

Cuttings of osage orange were sent back east in the first shipment of goods from the Lewis and Clark expedition (called "osage apple" in Lewis' writings). The National Champion, measuring 60 feet in height and 27 feet in circumference, is at Patrick Henry's home in Brookneal, Virginia, and is believed to have come from one of these cuttings.

In the 1850's the Prairie Farmer advocated the use of the osage orange as a means to fence the prairie. In areas with little or no wood for fencing a live, growing fence material was a great solution to the problem of protecting crops and livestock. If pruned occasionally to be shrubby, its thorny, zigzagging branches and suckering habit make it an imposing fence that has been called "pig tight, horse high, and bull strong." As a result, osage orange may be the most planted tree in America.

Ironically the tree led to its own loss of popularity. It is said that its thorns were the inspiration for barbed wire, which was ultimately cheaper to install and maintain. Because the wood is so dense and resistant to decay, it is still used to make fence posts – but used in the green form because when it is dry it is almost impossible to nail or chop.

Charles Goodnight, a famous early Texas cattleman, built the first chuck wagon out of bois d'arc wood so that it could hold up to the abuse of being hauled around his panhandle ranch. Other uses include: house piers, street paving blocks, railway ties, bridge pilings, pulley blocks, and in lieu of rebar to strengthen concrete.

In Brazoria County an osage orange known as the Freeman's Bois D'Arc is one of the trees under which slaves from fourteen plantations met in 1865 and were informed of their official freedom from slavery.

**Chemistry** (if known – especially active essential oils): 2,3,4,5-tetrahydroxystilbene is found in the fruits and has been shown to repel cockroaches and other insects.

**Plant Part(s) Used:** Wood for bows, lumber and other purposes. Fruit as decorations. Bark from roots as a dye and from trunk for tanning.

**Time of Harvest:** Wood: any time when plant is mature enough. Fruit: in late summer or fall when mature.

**GRAS? (generally regarded as safe):** N/A – likely no

**Culinary Uses:** not many – the fruit is somewhat edible –it is said to taste similar to cucumbers, but notably has very sticky sap. The seeds are edible if you have the patience to remove them from the fruit.

**Medicinal Uses:** There is some evidence that 2,3,4,5-tetrahydroxystilbene in the fruit may be helpful in battling cancer (all from internet sources, no text source found).

**Other Uses:** The yellow wood (from the root bark) is a good dye source and was at one time used as the main dye to produce the yellow-brown dye used to color army uniforms khaki. The trunk bark was used in tanning leather.

-The fruit is sometimes put into dog houses and under porches in order to repel cockroaches, fleas and other pests. Although this is believed to be only a folk talk, studies have shown that the fruit contains 2,3,4,5-tetrahydroxystilbene, which does keep insects such as cockroaches away.

-Squirrels and some other forms of wildlife will eat the fruit.

- The leaves have at times been used as mulberry leaf replacements for feeding silk moths (they're in the same family).

**Sources for Seed or Plants:** Mother Nature, possibly some specialty tree nurseries

**Miscellaneous Information:** Cultivars 'Inermis', 'Pawhuska', and 'Chetopa' are thornless and do not bear fruit, so may be more useful for landscape purposes.

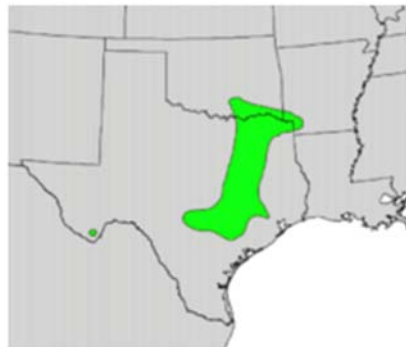
**Warnings:** Don't walk around an Osage orange either barefoot or in flip-flops!

**Bibliography:**

Odenwald, Neil and James Turner. Identification, Selection, and Use of Southern Plants for Landscape Design. 1996. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division.

Turner, Matt. Remarkable Plants of Texas. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press.  
(main source for all of the historical data)

Report submitted by Henry Flowers



## A Colorful Little Bit of Latin—Texture

In continuing with our look at Latin used in botanical names, here are some words that are used to describe the texture of plants.

**Texture:**

<i>adenophyllus</i>	hairy leaves
<i>adpressus</i>	laying flat
<i>armatus</i>	thorny, heavily armed
<i>asper</i>	rough
<i>barbatus</i>	bearded
<i>ceraceus</i>	waxy
<i>ciliaris</i>	fringed with hairs
<i>coriaceous</i>	leathery
<i>dealbatus</i>	white-powdered
<i>farinosus</i>	white-powdered
<i>ferox</i>	very prickly
<i>fimbriatus</i>	fringed
<i>fulgens</i>	shining
<i>glaber</i>	smooth
<i>glabratus</i>	becoming smooth
<i>glaucus</i>	with a whitish bloom
<i>hirsutissimus</i>	very hairy
<i>hirsutus</i>	hairy
<i>hispidus</i>	stiff, bristly hairs
<i>laciniatus</i>	slashed, jagged
<i>laevigatus</i>	smooth, polished
<i>lanatus</i>	wooly
<i>lanuginosus</i>	soft hairs
<i>lucidus</i>	lucid, shining
<i>mucosus</i>	slimy
<i>nitidus</i>	glossy
<i>papyraceous</i>	papery
<i>pilosus</i>	long, soft hairs
<i>pubescens</i>	downy
<i>rugosus</i>	wrinkled
<i>scaber</i>	rough
<i>tomentosus</i>	thickly haired
<i>viscidus</i>	sticky



*Aloe ferox*— Cape Aloe



*Dianthus barbatus* —Sweet William



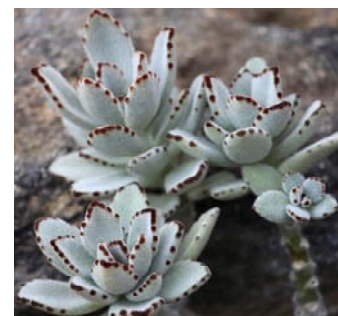
*Aristolochia fimbriata*— White-Veined Dutchman's Pipe



*Acalypha hispida*—  
Chenille Plant



*Thalia dealbata* —  
Powdery Thalia



*Kalanchoe tomentosa*— Panda Plant

## CULINARY GROUP

The Culinary Group will meet on Wednesday, February 7, at 11:00 a.m. at Menke House.

The topic is all things parsley.

Sara Holland



### HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA Herbs in Bloom 2018 Annual Meeting of Members

*June 1, 2018  
Tarrytown, New York*

Registration is now open on the HSA Website: [herbsociety.org](http://herbsociety.org)

#### Events:

##### **Friday, June 1, 2018**

7am-5pm Registration and Marketplace open

7-9am HSA Member Breakfast (included in Annual Meeting registration)

8-9am Committee meetings-including Unit Chairs, Members at Large, National Herb Garden, Native Herb Conservation Committee, and more.

9-10:45am Annual Meeting with installation of officers

11-11:45am Jo Ann Gardner-"Herbs and Hardy Roses: Natural Companions in the Cottage Garden"

Noon-Awards Presentation

1pm Luncheon (included in Annual Meeting registration)

1:30-2pm Rosemary Circle and Golden Sage Recognition

2-2:45pm District Meetings

3-3:45pm Margaret Skinner and Arash Ghalegholabbehbahani-"Saffron: A Golden Opportunity for Small Diversified Farmers"

4-4:30pm Pat Thompson-"HSA's Notable Native Herbs™ 2019"

4:30pm Happy 85th Anniversary Celebration

Dinner on your own.

##### **Saturday, June 2, 2018**

Self guided tours in the area, on your own.

New York Botanical Garden Rose Garden Weekend, Bronx, NY

Garden Conservancy Open Days garden tours in Westchester County (more details to come)



Stone Barns Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Tarrytown, NY

Kykuit and Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow, NY


Country Living Magazine Fair, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, (1.5 hours north), Rhinebeck, NY



# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	2	3
4	5	6 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	7 Culinary Group 11:00 to 1:00 Menke House	8 Pioneer Unit Meeting	9	10
11	12 SG Workday 8:30 Prune Roses	13	14 	15 BSG Festival Hill	16	17
18	19	20 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	21	22 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	23	24
25	26	27 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	28	BSG = Botany Study Group CG = Culinary Group	FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BSG = Botany Study Group CG = Culinary Group	FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden			1 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	2	3
4	5 SG Workday 8:30	6 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	7 Culinary Group 11:00 to 1:00 Menke House	8 Pioneer Unit Meeting	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Herbal Forum	17 Herbal Forum
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 
25	26	27 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	28	29 FH Workday 8:30 to noon	30	31



## PIONEER PATHS

Volume 25

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."

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Chair—Karen Cornwall

Vice Chair Programs—Phoebe Lake  
Secretary—Pat Cox

Vice Chair Membership—Georgia Sowers  
Treasurer—Lucy Nehrkorn

Pioneer Unit  
The Herb Society of America  
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