



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

January 2020

Volume 27, Number 5



January 1
New Year's Day

—
January 5
Twelfth Night

—
January 10
Wolf Full Moon



—
January 15
Board Meeting
Menke House Parlor
Festival Hill
(9:00 a.m.)

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: January 9, 2020
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet
10:00 a.m. Program followed by Meeting
- Location: Round Top Christian Fellowship Church
440 East Mill Street, Round Top
- Directions: From Highway 237 at Town Square in Round Top, take Mill Street east. The church will be on your right just past the post office (which will be on your left).
- Program: Urban Farming, Peppers, and Mexican Mint Marigold
- Speaker: Alejandra Rodriguez Boughton
La Flaca Farm
- Angel: Belinda Weatherly
- Hosts: Linda Hartson, Ann Allen, Marijane Lipscomb,
Lynda Perryman, and JoAnn Reichle
- Lunch: Dish of the Year
- After: New Member Orientation



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings! And Welcome to the New Year!

I hope you all had wonderful holidays with family and friends and that you are looking forward to new beginnings and challenges for 2020!

I am looking forward to our January program in Round Top and the chance to learn about Mexican Mint Marigold, the Pioneer Unit's selection for 2020 Forum Herb of the Year. Following the program and after lunch, we will have a short (15-20 minutes) new member orientation. Of course, we welcome anyone who wants to sit in. We will provide a general outline but are always flexible. Your questions always provide food for thought. Please join us for an informative discussion with Board members.

In the meantime, it is time to start planning for the 2020 Herbal Forum, March 20-21st. January is the month for collecting all your seeds and dried herbs, planning workshops for creating wonderful Thyme Well Spent Shop (TWSS) goodies to be sold, starting to document volunteer preferences, beginning Forum publicity, and other planning processes for another successful event. Start saving your cardboard flats for the plant sale during Forum. Our customers always seem to prefer cardboard flats; if you have some, please bring them in a trash bag before or during Forum.

Next month (in February), we will be having a special (short) overview of the Plant Sale, and the March meeting is always focused on finalizing TWSS projects and grounds cleanup prior to Forum.

At national, the Herb Society of America (HSA) is in full planning mode for their Annual Meeting of Members in April 2020 in Charleston, South Carolina. Registration information is available at <https://www.herbsociety.org> under "Events: Find an Event." HSA holds a yearly membership meeting with this one-day event and with the larger Educational Conference (to be held in 2021). In either case, there are always informative programs and excellent opportunities to explore interesting locations. Always a good time! 2020 Annual Meeting of Members, Thursday, April 16 – April 17, 2020, Charleston, South Carolina.

If you haven't yet checked out the HSA website, you are missing an amazing collection of herbal information, including recipes, programs, webinars, and other helpful information. Our Unit webpage contains a link to HSA as well as many other websites. It is always an experience for me, and I hope you have "poked around" online as well -- a great way to spend the day on a cold, rainy winter day in Texas.

Wishing you a joyful present and a well-remembered past. Best wishes for happy holidays and a magnificent New Year. See you in Round Top!

Karen Cornwell
Unit Chair

FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Hi Everyone,

The sun is shining in my west window as I hurry to catch the newsletter and get this to Linda. What a beautiful day it has been as I threw caution to the wind and scattered zinnia seeds in my garden and then gave them a good soak. We shall see if this works. I may change to flowers instead of vegetables this year and take a break from the intensity of trying to get those to grow.

Our guest this coming Thursday is Alejandra Rodriguez Boughton who will tell us about her urban farm in south Austin and guide us with her knowledge of our herb of the year - Mexican Mint Marigold!

This is her website:

<https://www.laflacaatx.com/>

Best,

Kathe Forrest
Programs Chair



MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
PIONEER UNIT
DECEMBER 12, 2019

Karen Cornwell, Chair, welcomed members to the December meeting.

Kathe Forrest, Vice Chair Programs, introduced speaker Amanda Vermillion with a presentation entitled "Around the World in a Tea Daze." Amanda also had many teas and tea-related gift items for sale.

Karen thanked the speaker and reminded members that after the January meeting there will be a short orientation for new members and anyone else who wants to attend. At the February meeting there will be plant sale information and sign-up sheets for Forum.

Georgia Sowers, Vice Chair Membership, welcomed visitors Aimee Comiskey (daughter of Cathy Comiskey), Sandra Dudley (daughter of Kay Von Minden), and Sally Reynolds. Georgia also introduced new member Cathy Kietlinski and presented her with her membership badge.

Joyce Caddell reminded members that the deadline for applying for a Unit scholarship is the January meeting and that the results of the scholarship research can be turned into a program, a display, or other original presentation.

Jane Press said that the Thyme Well Spent Shop at Forum is always looking for new items, and anyone who would like to participate by making something for the shop should see Jane or Pat Cox.

Madeline Johnson and Phoebe Lake are starting a new Horticultural Study Group; information and a sign-up sheet were available. The group will focus on growing herbs and which methods bring the best results. The Board has given preliminary approval for the new group, and this will be ratified at the January Board meeting. The first meeting of the Horticultural Study Group will be on the third Wednesday in January at 9:30 a.m.

Belinda Weatherly reminded members she still needs seeds for the shop at Forum.

Pam Traylor thanked the breakfast hostesses and speaker angel Jane Press and presented door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cox
Secretary

CULINARY GROUP

We'll be enjoying our annual mustard making for the Thyme Well Spent Shop for our January meeting. The meeting date is changed, because no one will want to go to any meetings on New Year's Day. We will meet at Belinda Weatherly's house at 199 Balke, 1 1/2 miles west of Industry, on January 2 at 9:00 to make a mess and bottle up our freshly made mustards. Happy New Year to us all!

Belinda Weatherly

HORTICULTURAL STUDY GROUP

The first meeting of the new Horticultural Study Group will be held on Wednesday, January 15, at Festival Hill from 9:30 to 11:30 (room to be determined).

The focus of the group will be on growing herbs. This gardening-focused study group will include monthly meetings on topics pertaining to the growing and harvesting of herbs. In addition, members will participate in a hands-on gardening project at their homes. This project will involve studying and sharing the growth habits of an herb from planting to harvest. For example, in 2020 the group will begin with a study of oregano. Members of the study group will grow and study different varieties of oregano with the objective of learning which oreganos grow best in our area and under what conditions.



Madeline Johnson and Phoebe Lake

THYME WELL SPENT SHOP

Workshops will be scheduled in late February to make herbal lotions for the Thyme Well Spent Shop at Forum 2020. Sign-up sheets will be available at the February meeting. Our products include body creams and butters, lip balm, spritzer, nail butter, toner, hair conditioner, scrub, hand sanitizer, and massage oil. We welcome new items. If you have a favorite lotion recipe that might be suitable for the shop, please contact Pat Cox at bmerlynn@cvctx.com. We can add it to our workshop list or you can hold a workshop of your own.

Pat Cox

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Happy New Year 2020 to all of you. I trust that everyone enjoyed a Merry Christmas with family and friends! Our December Christmas 2019 Unit meeting was well attended, and a couple of prospective active members were present. Sandra Dudley was with her mom, active member Kay Von Minden; and Sally Reynolds was with us for her third visit. Active member Connie Gwyn invited Aimee Comiskey, who attended with her mom, active member Cathy Comiskey. Also our affiliate members Patricia Hoffmaster and Mary Sockwell were present. It was great to see them all again. Our new active member Cathy Kietlinski was introduced at the meeting and received her new membership badge. Cathy's contact information and bio were presented in the December 2019 issue of the Pioneer Paths.

Our Unit will begin this year with a brief Orientation after the meeting and luncheon are over, and Membership encourages all potential members and new members to attend this because many questions can be answered and a lot of information will be available for you. January 2020 also begins the countdown toward Forum Preparation March 2020 with planned workshops and workdays at the Festival Hill Garden and the Sensory Garden in Brenham. These will also offer great opportunities for fulfilling your 20 required volunteer hours for the year, as well as good interactions with many of our members. Please be sure to report your hours to Membership, preferably via email or text, which will help alleviate the lines that form at the Registration Table when signing in to check your attendance at the Unit Meetings.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about Membership, please contact me at gzsowers@att.net or call (281) 486-6006 (this number is good for texts for hours reporting or other information). Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing all of you at our meeting Thursday, 9 January 2020, at Round Top Christian Fellowship Church. Enjoy your New Year festivities and stay safe!

Herbally 2020!
Georgia Sowers
Membership Chair



UNIT SCHOLARSHIPS

I got a scholarship, and you can too!

Each year our Pioneer Unit gives out scholarships to two members. Each scholarship is a generous \$125 and allows the member to research a topic of her (or his) choosing. In return the recipient then presents result of her study to the unit. This is often in the form of a presentation, but can take many forms.

My scholarship allowed me to research my chosen subject, salvias, and I then gave a presentation to the unit in the form of a talk. It was a rewarding experience -- and I was able to justify buying more books!

However, think outside the box in both your topic choice and the way you present it! What about how scents affect us? Or the flavor of herbs? Or color in nature? Or common birds? Your favorite native plants? Best plant books? Gardens you've visited? The list is endless!

Intimidated by speaking to a group? A display is also acceptable! Make a video! Show photos of gardens! Demonstrations are great!

Don't want to go it alone? Grab a friend and apply together. Applying for a scholarship is relaxed and easy, but the deadline for the year is January 9. For more information, contact Joyce Caddell, Scholarship Committee Chair (joycad@yahoo.com or 979-702-1036).

Phoebe Lake

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1 — Carolyn Thomas

January 7 — Mary Doebbeling

January 17 — Cathy Kietlinski

January 18 — Verena Aeschbacher

January 19 — Kathe Forrest
Oscar Hillegeist

January 20 — Cammie Beierle

January 21 — JoAnn Reichle

January 26 — Georgia Sowers

January 27 — Cindy Nash

January 28 — Euphanel Goad



HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Online Registration is now open for the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members of the Herb Society of America, scheduled for April 16-17, 2020. Visit the registration page under the Events tab at www.herbsociety.org.

HSA is headed to stunning Charleston, South Carolina. For the 9th year straight, readers of Condé Nast Traveler have named Charleston the Top City in the World Outside of the United Kingdom and the number one Small City in the United States. What makes Charleston so special? Its combination of subtropical weather, Caribbean influence, seaside location, and long, dynamic history. History buffs, foodies, and garden lovers alike will want to use the annual meeting as an excuse to visit historic Charleston.

For more information, including host hotel location and rates, a list of speakers, schedule of events, and ideas of places to visit, please visit the HSA website. Printable registration forms are also available. Register before February 18 to receive the "early bird" discount.

Herb Society of America
9019 Kirtland Chardon Road
Kirtland, OHOP 44094
440.256.0514
www.herbsociety.org

Register at www.herbsociety.org for the next webinar:

Texas Tough Herbs
with HSA Member Gayle Southerland
Tuesday, January 22, 2020

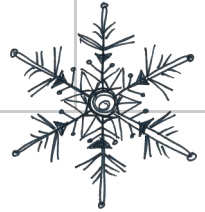
Herb gardening in Texas offers definite challenges. Texas is so large that growing zones can vary from one part of the state to the other. Northern Texas is zone 6B while much of the remainder of the state varies from zone 7a to 9a. Join HSA member Gayle Southerland on an exploration of "Texas Tough Herbs." She will discuss herbs and Texas native plants that thrive in the extremes of hot Texas summers and droughts and make it through freezing winters, too.

Gayle Southerland grew up in Oklahoma City. She received her BS degree from Oklahoma State University and MS from the University of North Texas. Gayle became interested in herbs when she and her husband, Rick, bought their first house and had room to garden. She explains, "I wanted to make my own potpourri and was especially interested in fragrant plants. Since then, I've kept on exploring the world of herbs, and learning all I can. My favorite things to grow are fragrant and culinary herbs, but I'm getting more interested in native Texas plants, too." Gayle has been a member of the Herb Society of America for over 30 years. She has served in many capacities from being the chair of the North Texas Unit to participating on The Herbarist, HSA's yearly publication. Gayle has given presentations for The Herb Society of America national, district, and local meetings, as well as to local master gardener groups, Dallas MakerSpace, and various other garden clubs.


January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory	HG = Horticultural Study Group		1	2 CG 11:00	3	4
5	6	7	8 SG Work Day	9 Pioneer Unit Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15 HG Festival Hill 9:30-11:30	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 SG Work Day HSA Webinar	23	24	25 SG Work Day
26 Newsletter Deadline lrowlett@gmail.com	27	28	29	30	31	



February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticultural Study Group					1
2	3	4	5	6 Pioneer Unit Meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Newsletter Deadline lrowlett@gmail.com	24	25	26	27	28	29



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Editor: Linda L. Rowlett, Ph.D.

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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."

Chair—Karen Cornwall

Vice Chair Programs—Kathe Forrest
Secretary—Pat Cox

Vice Chair Membership—Georgia Sowers
Treasurer—Janie Plummer

Pioneer Unit
The Herb Society of America
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