

PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

July 4
Independence Day



—
July 4
Thunder Full Moon

—
July 15
9:00 a.m.
Pioneer Unit
Board Meeting
Festival Hill

July 2020

Volume 27, Number 11

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: July 9, 2020
- Time: 9:00 a.m. Presentation and Meeting
- Location: Festival Hill Plant Sale Area
Round Top
- Directions: Exit Highway 290 at Texas 237 (Round Top exit).
Travel south on 237. Turn right on Jaster Road and
left into the parking lot for the Plant Sale Area (on the
northwest side of the Hall)
- Program: Container Topiary Gardening —
Creating Your Own Special Plants
- Speaker: Henry Flowers
- Note: Bring your own drinks. Individually packaged snacks will be
provided.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Summertime has arrived in all its wet, but mostly hot, attire!

My tomatoes are almost over, and I have been making salsa, freezing some and, with a recipe from a friend, making tomato soup. No cucumbers or squash this year – sad to say. I am looking forward to a few days at the beach in Corpus Christi with my daughter and family in July as we will, of course, social distance and wear our masks.

I urge you to wear masks as well at our next meeting. Our Board decision was to meet once again at Festival Hill, outdoors in the plant sale area. I will defer to Phoebe Lake to tell you about our presentation and speaker. The meeting will begin early, at 9:00, and we hope to finish by 10:00 or 10:15.

I am also hoping to get this meeting online through Zoom as I have a subscription and can do so at no cost to the Pioneer Unit.

Let's help everyone participate. Some people have no internet access or cannot manage computers, but they are perfectly comfortable on the phone. For Zoom meetings they just need to know the phone number to call, the meeting code to enter, and the fact that *6 on the phone keypad mutes and unmutes their phone.

In the spirit of community, anyone who gets email or online announcements could call a friend or fellow member and share this information. Take a few minutes to think of people who may not be connected and arrange for someone to be in touch. Such a gesture would be very welcome!

There is a break in August with no meeting. Maybe by September we can dream of being together for a full meeting with socializing and lunch. There will be a Board meeting on July 15th when the Board and committee chairs will talk and discuss several new and awesome possibilities for our Pioneer Unit. If anyone has ideas, send them via email or phone to me, and the Board members will address them.

In the meantime, be happy in all the ways you know, and do reach out to friends or neighbors when feeling down or blue or just in need of a conversation.

Best,
Kathe Forrest
Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Having performed the duties of Programs Chair once before, you'd think this job would be easy. Not this year! We have begun the process of re-scheduling speakers who had to cancel this spring, as well as contacting new speakers. Of course, everything at this moment is tentative, but I have great hopes for a return to normalcy and sharing of our love of gardening.

Our own Henry Flowers has agreed to give an abbreviated program for our next meeting, to be held on July 9 at Festival Hill at the new hour of 9:00 a.m. Here's what he has to say about his program, "Container Topiary Gardening-Creating Your Own Special Plants":

If you like to have container plants around and want to do something fun and creative, then making topiaries is a great thing to do. Many herbs are especially well suited to this garden craft, so you need not stick solely to ornamental evergreens.

I will have lots of samples that I have created - some that are looking great, some that are in the process of becoming, and at least one that is an experiment that is frustratingly not working out so well (not all experiments work out so well!).

I will discuss how to take an ordinary plant and in time turn it into a topiary, and I hope to do a bit of demonstration on how to proceed. Vision, ruthlessness, and patience are the keys to success in this ancient art form.

Phoebe Lake
Programs Chair



**MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA
PIONEER UNIT
June 11, 2020**

Kathe Forrest, Chair, welcomed members to the June meeting held outside behind the concert hall at Festival Hill for the purpose of voting on the new Officers of the Board. There was no program and no breakfast or lunch.

Kathe reported that she had participated in a virtual meeting with HSA this week to share ideas about the different ways in which Herb Society members can stay in touch during the coronavirus pandemic. Some Units are concerned about a shortage of new members, and Kathe urged everyone to make a point of talking about the Unit and wearing the Unit shirt to encourage interest in joining.

Several members planned to work in the Festival Hill gardens after the meeting, and Kathe asked for more much-needed help for the gardens the following morning at 8:00 a.m. with weeding and watering. Pat Garrett is working on a watering schedule. Henry Flowers will spray the gravel in the Pharmacy Garden for weeds which are beginning to grow through the new gravel.

Kathe thanked the past Board including Chair Karen Cornwell, Membership Chair Georgia Sowers, Treasurer Janie Plummer, and Secretary Pat Cox, and said they would be formally recognized at a future meeting. She particularly thanked Past Chair Henry Flowers for all his work and presented him with a card and Amazon gift certificate.

Henry, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, requested those present to vote on the nominated Officers of the new Board:

Kathe Forrest	Chair
Phoebe Lake	First Vice Chair Programs
Diana Sellers	Second Vice Chair Membership [with a committee of Georgia Sowers and Cammie Beierle]
Debi Thomas	Treasurer
Lori Yeats	Secretary

The new Board officers were voted in for the next two-year term. New Standing Committee chairs are still to be named.

Kathe is talking to Autumn Schulze, the scheduled July speaker, to see if some kind of presentation can be worked out, possibly online. A July meeting might also be possible outdoors at Festival Hill but would need to begin early because of the heat.

Phoebe Lake welcomes speaker suggestions for the next two-year term.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cox
Secretary

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 3 — Mary Reeves

July 9 — Marcella Ausmus

July 26 — Wanda Hubbard

July 29 — Royceanna Kendall



THYME WELL SPENT JAMS AND JELLIES

We are starting to gather fruit for jams and jellies for 2021 Plant Sale/Time Well Spent Shop. If you have figs, peaches, blackberries, pears, red jalapeno peppers, or anything else we can make jam with, please freeze what you have. Figs, peaches, and pears can be fresh or cut up and frozen, not cooked. Other stone fruit should be cooked down and frozen. We won't be making Jams/Jellies real soon but we'll give a shout-out to our members when it's time to start canning. Thank you. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Kietlinski.

Thanks for all your help. Stay well.
Cathy Nitsch, Thyme Well Spent Shop

SEEDS

Please start collecting and keep collecting seeds for Thyme Well Spent sales during Forum. You can put them in a plain letter envelope, labeled please, and give them to Belinda Weatherly or Cathy Nitsch during any meeting. Seeds we collect from our own plants are better adapted to our area than some you might order and are appealing to our customers.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Happy New Pioneer Unit Fiscal Year! Summer officially began on June 20th, but we Texans don't really need a date to tell us it's beyond hot. The oreganos, basil, mints, eggplants, and okras are loving it, even if we aren't.

Unfortunately, COVID 19 is still in full swing, disrupting our lives and ability to meet in companionable friendship to share stories and herbal information. We haven't been able to meet for several months. We did hold a brief meeting in June to vote on the new slate of officers for the 2020-2021 year. It was a lovely meeting. We met outside under the big trees at Festival Hill (socially distanced, of course). A "cold front" came through the day before, so it was pleasantly cool and the humidity was nice and low.

Joanna Hagler is our first new member of Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Joanna was mentored through the joining process by Georgia Sowers and has now completed all the requirements. Joanna's effective membership date is July 1, 2020. Her contact information will be in the 2020-2021 yearbook and will be updated in the online streaming yearbook on the website at www.herbsocietypioneer.org. Joanna and her husband Bill live at 11755 Schuster Road in Round Top, Texas 78954-5240. Joanna's birthday is September 14th; her cell phone is (281) 851-5483; and her email address is jldagler@outlook.com. When joining the Pioneer Unit, Joanna stated, "I've recently moved from Houston to the Round Top area. I'm adjusting as I come from a shade garden with lots of tropical plants to a rural setting with lots of sun. The challenge is exciting to me. I can already tell I didn't plan enough herb beds!" WELCOME, Joanna. We are happy to have you with us!

The Membership Committee has been investigating a new process that will allow members to quickly and easily record their own volunteer hours and meeting attendance. It is simple to use. Once the system is approved by the Board, you will receive instructions on how to download an app on your cell phone, iPad, and/or computer. Pioneer Unit members will be empowered to keep track of their own hours throughout the year. More to come!

Georgia Sowers is one of the outgoing chairs. She has been the Membership Chair for the past 10 years and instrumental in implementing new processes to help members record their volunteer hours and pay their annual dues. A very daunting task indeed! And just imagine how many of us over the past 10 years have been mentored by Georgia to navigate the process of becoming new members. Sitting at the greeting table each meeting, Georgia is usually the first person to say hello to a visitor and ask them if they are interested in joining the Unit. Georgia is truly the epitome of a servant-leader, and we have all benefited from her dedication and commitment to this position.

In addition to her regular duties as the Membership Chair, Georgia has also spent numerous hours mentoring me and Cammie Beierle to become acquainted with the Membership Committee role. We say to you, Georgia, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I look forward to serving as the Membership Chair of the Pioneer Unit for the next two years. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about Membership, please contact me at sellers2000@yahoo.com or call 512-461-7175.

Herbally Yours,
Diana Sellers
Membership Chair

Pleasing Plant Profile

Mexican Bauhinia, Mexican Orchard Tree
Bauhinia Mexicana

Consisting of over 500 species, the genus *Bauhinia* was named after Gaspard and Jean Bauhin. These two Swiss brothers worked on an organized method of classifying plants in the 1500s, long before Linnaeus. The species epithet refers to its native Mexico.

Interestingly, all bauhinias have symmetrical leaves. When you fold them together, they "match." A fun activity for the youngsters in your life!

My Mexican *Bauhinia* was a gift from a friend many years ago, which makes a plant even more special. An easy, free form shrub for the filtered shade, it can grow to 8 feet or more. Because it's deciduous, winter is an ideal time for trimming back. Most winters I prune mine hard as it's in a rather restricted space and can grow quite wide. Mother Nature is prone to hard pruning some winters, but the *Bauhinia* comes back even denser the following spring. A bonus is that oftentimes you can find seedlings at the base of the shrub, and you can pass them on to friends, giving another special plant a home!

Delicate white blooms appear in early summer and cover the entire shrub. These flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. As if that weren't enough, the Mexican *Bauhinia* is deer resistant!

Phoebe Lake
Programs Chair



HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The HSA herb of the month is peppermint. With any luck, you have some in your garden and can make this simple syrup to use in Summer recipes:

Mint Simple Syrup Mint

Simple syrup can be used to sweeten and flavor hot or iced teas, lemonades and cocktails. Create your own unique blend of herbs to create a signature beverage!

2 cups water

2 cups of sugar

6-8 sprigs of fresh peppermint (3-4 inches long, no need to remove from the stems)

1 tablespoon of lemon, lime or orange zest (optional)

In a small pot, bring the sugar and water to a boil. Simmer until the sugar is dissolved, about 3 minutes, and remove from the heat. Add the mint sprigs and citrus zest, cover and steep for 30 minutes. Strain and chill. Will keep in the refrigerator for up to 1 month.

Karen Kennedy HSA Staff

Upcoming Webinar

How to Grow and Use Lavender for Health and Beauty

with Janice Cox

Tuesday, July 21st, 2020, Noon

Janice Cox, author of Beautiful Lavender (Ogden Publications 2020) and HSA member

The fresh clean scent of lavender has been used in cosmetics and skin care products since ancient times. Lavender smells good, improves your circulation, attracts pollinators to your yard, and helps you sleep, to name just a few reasons the popularity of this fragrant plant has never been higher. Learn how to start a new plant from cuttings, air-dry flowers for year-round use, and create your own DIY body care products that can be used for hair care, skin care and in the bath. Tips, Recipes and Herbal Craft ideas will be shared.

You can sign up for webinars at the Herb Society of America website: herbsociety.org

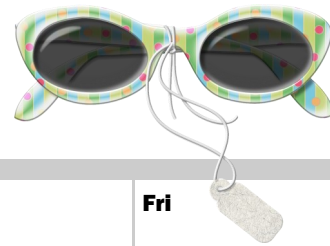
Remember: Past webinars may be accessed at the HSA website at no cost to members.

July 2020

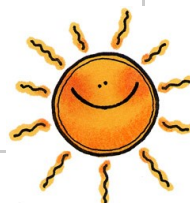


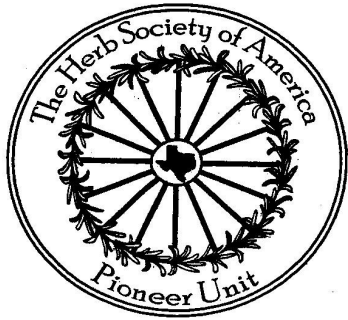
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticultural Study Group		1	2	3	4 
5	6	7	8	9 Pioneer Unit Meeting 9:00 a.m.	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Newsletter Deadline lrowlett@gmail.com	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory	HG = Horticultural Study Group					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 No Meeting	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Newsletter Deadline lrowlett@gmail.com	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					





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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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Vice Chair Programs—Phoebe Lake

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers

Secretary—Lori Yates

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