



# PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America  
Pioneer Unit

September 1  
Harvest Full Moon

September 7  
Labor Day

September 22  
Autumnal Equinox



September 2020

Volume 28, Number 1

## MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: September 10, 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: Brazos Valley Edible Landscaping
- Speaker: John Amelang  
Discount Trees of Brenham
- Angel: Mary Reeves
- Hosts: Wanda Hubbard, Joyce Caddell, Pat Garrett, Pat  
Schmidt, and Jean Zavoda



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone,

Many of you have been busy as bees taking care of the weeding and watering needs at both Festival Hill and the Sensory Garden. Thank you, thank you!

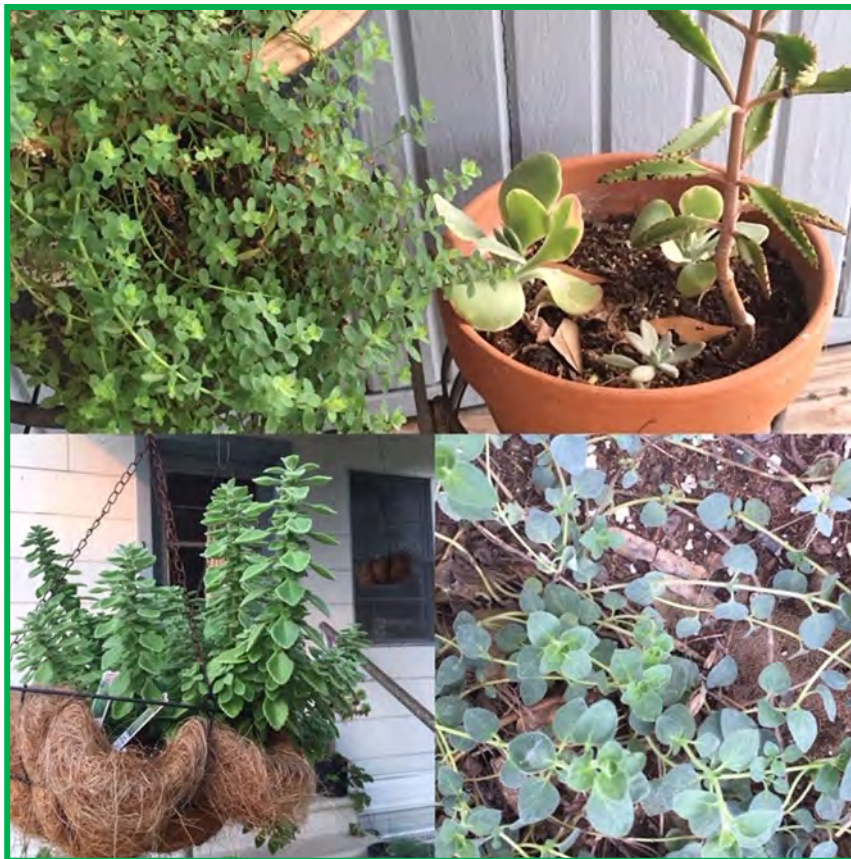
Others have been studying their "surviving" oreganos through the Culinary Group. I have not been able to participate much but have appreciated the recipes. I have two oreganos that made it through the summer so far: Hilltop, which I moved into a hanging basket, and a ground cover of ornamental (Santa Cruz) that I planted maybe two years ago.

I am including a picture of some plants that are doing well. I am looking forward to a small fall garden with some broccoli perhaps and chard.

The September meeting will be on Zoom, and I have been to Festival Hill to make sure it works this time for those not comfortable coming out to the site. I will send the link as we get closer to September 10th.

For now, stay as cool as you can and see you very soon.

Kathe Forrest  
Unit Chair



Can you guess the plants in this picture?  
Email Kathe with your guess.

## FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Surely one thing that has kept us all going during these troublesome times has been our love of gardening. Even if it's too hot to go outside, the views from my windows never disappoint. The bees are always out in full force accompanied by the charming (but fierce!) hummingbirds. Many flowers bloom throughout the heat, and zinnias are the stalwarts in my garden right now.

But like all true gardeners I'm planning changes to my garden when the weather is cooler. Perhaps the uncertainty of recent times has got you thinking about growing more edible plants. If that's the case, then our upcoming speaker should interest you.

John Amelang will speak on Brazos Valley Edible Landscaping. John is the General Manager of Discount Trees, just north of Brenham, and he has been interested in backyard food production for over 15 years. He began an Edible Landscaping company in 2004 and continues to assist local landowners to develop year-round edible planting programs. With John's extensive experience and research, it became clear that there is a surprisingly large number of fruit trees that grow in the entire Brazos Valley, both conventional and somewhat exotic varieties!

So, like me, I hope you're looking forward to seeing everyone in person (masked) and outdoors at Festival Hill on Thursday, September 10. We will begin at 9 when it's (a bit) cooler!

Phoebe Lake  
Programs Chair



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Hello All!! First, let me say: I miss you! Next: THANK YOU for all the work you are doing! As of August 20 (that's less than two months), we have recorded 250 volunteer hours! Good work.

If you did not get an invitation to set up your profile for recording volunteer hours, please contact me at [cammie@cameliafarm.com](mailto:cammie@cameliafarm.com) or text or call me at 281-844-4852. After you set up your profile, please download the app from the App Store, and you can record your hours easily, conveniently, and efficiently on whatever device you prefer to use. Diana Sellers and I are grateful for your help and appreciate your enthusiasm with this method of reporting our volunteer hours! If you are unable to set up your profile and want help, please call me and I will walk you through it. If you don't want to use this form of recording your hours, please email them to [dianasellers21@yahoo.com](mailto:dianasellers21@yahoo.com) or [cammie@cameliafarm.com](mailto:cammie@cameliafarm.com) and we will add them for you.

We can't wait until we can meet in person and spend time together!

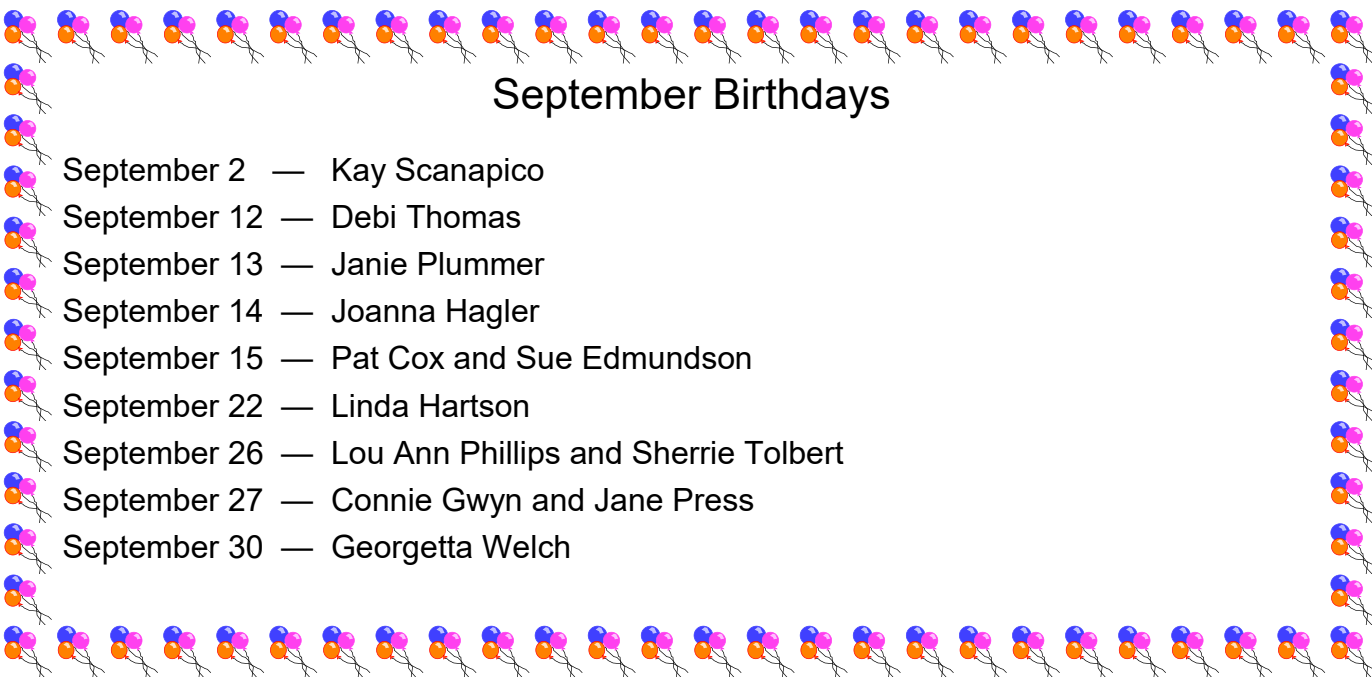
Cammie Beierie  
Membership Committee

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

Until further notice, the Board has decided to continue to allow members to count hours spent in volunteering in the Pioneer Unit gardens at double the amount of time actually spent.







## September Birthdays

- September 2 — Kay Scanapico
- September 12 — Debi Thomas
- September 13 — Janie Plummer
- September 14 — Joanna Hagler
- September 15 — Pat Cox and Sue Edmundson
- September 22 — Linda Hartson
- September 26 — Lou Ann Phillips and Sherrie Tolbert
- September 27 — Connie Gwyn and Jane Press
- September 30 — Georgetta Welch



## Favorite Gardening Things (Tools) – Japanese Hori-Hori Knife

I have previously written about tools which I have known and used for quite a while, but this time I'm writing about a tool that is relatively new to me – the Japanese Hori-Hori knife. This is another great tool that is used by many Japanese gardeners and nowadays by many gardeners around the world. "The word *hori* (掘) means "to dig" in Japanese and "hori-hori" is the onomatopoeia for a digging sound." (Wikipedia)



Although this tool is called a knife, it is much more. On one edge it is fairly sharp and knife-like, and on the other it is nicely serrated. The blade is not flat, but slightly curved, which makes it useful as a trowel. The blade is also marked with measurements, which makes it useful as a bulb planter. The metal blade runs all the way through the handle, which gives extra strength and should ensure that it doesn't bend or snap when used for prying an object. This will be a great tool for extracting weeds from tight cracks and crevices. The serrated edge will make it easy to cut up and divide perennials, edge grass around a flower bed, and also cut up the rhizomes of containerized mint plants.

I think that all in all it will be a very handy tool to have around, and many testimonies I have seen online about how useful it is point that way. I no longer have heavy clay soil to deal with, but I would think that it would be useful for digging small holes for planting in that type of soil. If you have one and you use it in heavy clay, let me know what you think.

I purchased my knife online and went for a Japanese version made by Nisaku. I had also considered a more modern version made by A.M. Leonard which has a heavy duty orange plastic handle, but I thought for my first one it might be best to get it from the country of origin. Most versions seem to be somewhere in the range of \$20 to \$40 for cost.

I'm still hoping to hear from more of you about your favorite gardening tools. Take a few minutes from the heat and sit at your computer and type about the gardening tools you love!

Henry Flowers

## What is in a Name?

How many times have we heard that oft-quoted line from Shakespeare? Probably quite a few – and often in relation to plant names. Would a rose smell as sweet if it were called a grundelia? Certainly it would, but maybe it wouldn't have such sweet connotations. Who knows?

Names are obviously important. There is no doubt about that. Getting them straight and proper can be very important.

When I first started working at Festival Hill 18 years ago, Madalene Hill was quite insistent that I join the Herb Society of America and the Pioneer Unit. I agreed that with my position there and the need to work with volunteers, it was a good idea, and I've never regretted that decision and her insistence. She could be quite adamant about some things and usually had a very good reason.

Madalene also made sure that I knew the proper way in which to refer to the organization and its various officers. We have many new members and I occasionally have heard or seen the names done improperly, so I thought I'd share my little bit of wisdom with you all in hopes that we can do Madalene proud and make the proper references.

Firstly, our mother organization, of which we are all members, is The Herb Society of America. This is often abbreviated to the HSA or, more commonly, simply to HSA. It is also considered proper to refer to the organization as The Society when writing or speaking about it, but usually only after first referring to it as The Herb Society of America so that the reader/listener will know which society the presenter is referencing. Also, to simply refer to the organization as The Herb Society can create confusion at certain levels. There is an organization by that name in Britain and even though these two are friendly organizations, one wouldn't want to get them confused.

The HSA (computers often want to correct that to HAS) has a President. To become HSA President a member must first serve as Vice President, an elected position, for two years and then move into the position of President. After serving two years as President, the person becomes Past President. Thus, it is a six-year commitment. Those who serve in these positions really deserve our thanks!

Units of HSA have Unit Chairs. These officers should not be referred to as presidents as HSA has only one president at any given time.

The proper name of our local unit is The Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit. Some units put their name before that of HSA, but Madalene told me that the preferred naming method was to put HSA first in the name. It is certainly fine to simply refer to our unit as The Pioneer Unit or The Pioneer Unit of The Herb Society of America, but in formal writing, at least, it should be done properly. Thus, if we were needing to refer to Kathe Forrest, our unit's current leader, in formal terms, she would be the Unit Chair of The Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit.

I'm not chastising anyone for the improper use of names, and I've probably made some errors in that regard myself, but Madalene believed it to be an important thing so I am sharing what I learned from her with you. My greatest fear is that I've told you something that is wrong, so if anyone has a correction, please let me know so that I can get it straight as well.

And, by the way, even though rosemary is now botanically a *Salvia*, it will still remain good old lovely and stalwart rosemary to me. Names are important!

Henry Flowers

## HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA BLOG POSTS

Another way to stay connected with all things herbal is to subscribe to the blog of the Herb Society of America. Subscribing is as easy as going to the HSA web page and signing up with your email address. Here is a link to the page you need [where you will find the sign-up box on the right hand side]:

<https://herbsocietyblog.wordpress.com/2020/01/31/new-blogmasters-for-the-herb-society-of-america/>

Here is a list of recent blog posts. You can find all past blogs archived on the HSA site:

Don't Throw That Away!

An Herbal Obscurity

A Weed Lover's Manifesto

HSA Webinar: A Recipe for Success

Backyard Butterfly Weed




The Thyme Well Spent Shop will be having a 50% off sale of all jams, jellies, mustards, herbs, spices, and lotions remaining in the inventory at the September meeting. We will be set up outside. All of the items have been stored at room temperature. Social distancing will be practiced, and we will be wearing masks. Come and buy a delicious bargain!

Thank You,  
Pat Cox and Cathy Nitsch



# September 2020



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

# October 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 Unit Meeting	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Newsletter Deadline lrowlett@gmail.com	26	27	28	29	30	31





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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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Vice Chair Programs—Phoebe Lake

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers

Secretary—Lori Yeats

Treasurer—Debi Thomas

