



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

November 2020

Volume 28, Number 3

November 1
Daylight Savings
Ends
(fall back one hour)



November 11
Veterans Day

November 26



November 30
Frosty Full Moon

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date:** November 12, 2020
- Time:** 9:30 a.m. Gather
10:00 a.m. Presentation and Meeting
Meeting includes vote on Bylaw Revisions
- 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:** Herb-Growing Basics
- Speaker:** Cindy Meredith
The Herb Cottage
- Hosts:** Bonnie Lout, Jane Cornelius, Sandra Dudley, and
JoAnn Reichle



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

BRRRRR! It is cold outside! I am happy! My garden is also glad as the lettuce perks up, the arugula spreads out, and the broccoli grows tall.

The chickens, on the other hand, shelter in the woods or under the carport to avoid wind and rain and slow down laying their delicious eggs. Such is life as we travel from one season to the next. I have heard that our Texas winter will not be that cold: NOAA predicts a warmer and drier winter. We shall see.

The Pioneer Unit board had a successful and productive meeting in October. Linda Rowlett was voted in as past chair, and she will help us with any sticky questions on procedure. Welcome, Linda! I am happy to say that we as an organization continue our work in both gardens (the Sensory Garden and Festival Hill) and with the Brenham Elementary School. Cathy Kietlinski will be overseeing fruit trees to be planted in the Sensory Garden later this month. Linda has included a summary of the proposed bylaw changes in this newsletter, as procedure dictates. We hope to answer any questions and approve these at the November meeting. The complete bylaws were sent out October 14th on the Pioneer Unit Listserv.

You might have to bundle up for the November meeting as we hope for sunshine...see you there.

Kathe Forrest
Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 12. Once again we will be meeting outdoors at Festival Hill. We're hoping this gorgeous weather continues! We will gather and visit (safely) at 9:30 a.m., and our speaker will begin at 10:00. Please wear a mask, use social distancing, and bring a chair. You may also join the meeting via Zoom. (see below for the link)

Our speaker for November is Cindy Meredith of The Herb Cottage in Hallettsville. Her little nursery is a delight to visit and filled with hard to find herbs, perennials, and succulents. Field trip, anyone?!

Cindy has a wide range of knowledge of gardening and growing and using herbs. Her website, theherbcottage.com, has a wealth of information, and she offers a great monthly newsletter.

Cindy will be speaking on Herb Growing Basics which will have something for beginning and experienced "herbies"!

And the best part? She's bringing plants to sell!

Phoebe Lake
Programs Chair

- Kathleen Forrest is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
- Topic: Herb Society Meeting
- Time: Nov 12, 2020 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
- Join Zoom Meeting
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87256185447?pwd=ZDBCTVRTTDNXTXErS05uOVBidTFrQT09>
- Meeting ID: 872 5618 5447
- Passcode: 774864

MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA
PIONEER UNIT
October 8, 2020

Kathe Forest, Chair, welcomed all members attending at Festival Hill and those attending via Zoom.

Phoebe Lake, Programs Chair, introduced the speaker, Henry Flowers, aka "Our Henry." Phoebe mentioned a bit of his history, that Henry was raised in the Middle East and later fell in love with plants. Henry has stated that if he could go back 35 years, he would have studied fungi/ Mycology. His topic was "How Herbs Affected History." Henry didn't disappoint as he proceeded to give a fabulous history of how the discoveries of different lands around the globe were influenced by the desire to find spices and plants. Henry had several books he suggested were engaging on the topic. Please listen to the recorded Zoom meeting if you were not able to come or be a part of the Zoom call. Who knew the spice pepper was so important.....and tomatoes, avocado, and maize originated in the Northern Hemisphere! The presentation was enjoyed by all!

Cathy Kietlinski, Sensory Garden, gave a quick presentation of the goings on at the Sensory Garden. Jack Be Little pumpkins are coming in and should mature in November. There are loofahs growing, and the persimmon tree is producing.

Linda Rowlett reminded all to be sure they are on the Listserv.

Diana Sellers, Membership, asked how the Track It Forward App was working for everyone. She asked for a show of hands who hadn't signed up yet and told everyone to feel free to email her to get the link to sign up. Also she reminded everyone to please be sure to check their Spam folders for her email containing that link if they haven't received it.

Madeline Johnson reminded all about the **Propagation Workshop** to be held November 19, from 9-11 a.m., at the Festival Hill Greenhouse. She also reported that the Horticultural Study Group has been studying oregano, using Zoom, and having fun with it. The next study, starting in January, will be on basil.

Kathe Forrest then closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Yeats
Secretary





PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

Are you interested in learning how to make more plants from plants you already have? We are offering an educational workshop that will teach you how to successfully multiply some of your favorite plants. Cuttings, seeds, and division techniques will all be demonstrated. This is a hands on workshop, so plan on taking home your own new plant treasures!

The workshop will be held on Thursday, November 19, from 9 to 11 a.m. We will meet at the Festival Hill greenhouse.

You must register for this workshop because participants are limited in order for us to allow social distancing. Contact Madeline Johnson, madeline@industryinet.com, or Phoebe Lake, PVLake@gmail.com, to register or for more information.

November Birthdays

November 7 — Belinda Weatherly
 November 14 — Jana Rinehart and Lori Yeats
 November 19 — Lois Sutton
 November 24 — Bev Elam and Barbara Hemmer
 November 26 — Diana Reed



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Happy Thanksgiving month. This is a great month to reflect on the many blessings we have experienced the past year. For one, I am very grateful to belong to the Pioneer Unit and have access to the bountiful knowledge that you all possess. I thought I knew so much about gardening, but I have discovered it is a drop in the hat compared to your knowledge and experience. Fortunately, I've been able to tap into that wealth of information. Every month I gain so much insight from the presentations and listening to the discussions around me. For example, I'd heard of Mexican Mint Marigold, but knew very little about it. The presentation last year by the woman from Austin started me thinking that it sounded like a great plant. I bought a couple of small plants and listened to different members discussing how to use it. My two little plants grew into huge specimens. The blooms are amazing. I came across a recipe that called for French Tarragon (which I had none of) and knew just what to do – substitute with the Mexican Mint Marigold. The dish was delicious, and my husband loved it. We also harvested some of my rosemary and sprinkled it on the squash I was baking. What a yummy herbal dinner. While enjoying my meal, I thought of all of you and how you inspire me to explore and be creative. Thank you so much for being willing to share.

We have a new prospective member – Margit Riley. She lives in Brenham and is a friend of Kathe Forrest. Margit is a physician and is interested in herbs for healing. Margit has now been to a couple of meetings and is working on the gardening requirement. She is looking forward to becoming a member of our unit.

We want all the Pioneer Unit members who haven't been able to attend an In-Person or Zoom meeting to know we are thinking of you and miss you. We hope you are doing well. Many of the members are attending our meetings through Zoom. It seems to be working well. We would love you to join us.

Herbally Yours,
Diana Sellers
Membership Chair



PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

October 14, 2020, Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Present: Kathe Forrest, Phoebe Lake, Diana Sellers, Lori Yeats, Debi Thomas, Esther Hartman, Ann Lugg, Cathy Nitsch, Cathy Kietlinski, Patty Mills, Joanna Hagler, Susan Yancey, and Linda Rowlett.

Programs: Phoebe Lake, Vice Chair Programs, reviewed a variety of ideas, issues, and future meeting places she has set up and researched. As of this time, November and December meetings will be held at Festival Hill, unless there is inclement weather. An email would then go out with other plans.

Hospitality: Patty Mills, Hospitality, discussed food for the meetings, and it was decided that her group will continue to provide prepackaged foods, whether bought or made at someone's home and then individually packaged.

Membership: Diana Sellers, Membership, stated that people are using and liking the Track It Forward App. She and Esther Hartman will be contacting members we haven't seen in a while to determine if anything can be done to assist them with getting connected. Diana also asked that any Directory changes should be sent to her instead of Henry Flowers.

Treasurer: Debi Thomas, Treasurer, presented Cathy Nitsch's Special Project Funding request. It was approved to spend \$3,400 towards botanical signage, several sponsorship items, and as a donation of funds for a printer for HSA.

Standing Committee Reports:

Education: Joanna Hagler is gathering a committee for more education ideas.

Archives: Esther Hartman is helping to touch base with members and affiliates who haven't been in attendance recently.

Sensory Garden: Cathy Kietlinski addressed the need for dirt for the raised beds at the Sensory garden and the desire to plant some fruit trees for the children to enjoy and the Unit to use. It was approved to start that process.

Communications: Ann Lugg is working on advertising the Plant Sale and will be posting it on the website.

Plant Sale: Susan Yancey and Jana Rinehart have been working on ways to have the Sale in 2021. It was decided to have a smaller plant sale with fewer plants. Thyme Well Spent will go forward as planned.

Administrative: The By-Laws have been updated through much hard work and thought. The proposed revisions will be presented for action by the members at the November Unit Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Yeats
Secretary

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE BYLAWS

On October 14, Kathe Forrest, Chair, posted detailed information on the listserv about the proposed revisions to the Pioneer Unit Bylaws. That post included a copy of our current Bylaws, also available in your most recent Yearbook, and a copy of the proposed revised Bylaws, with all of the changes highlighted in yellow. If you missed that post, you should have it among your emails from the listserv. If you cannot locate it, email me at lrowlett@gmail.com, and I will send you a copy.

The purpose of this article is to summarize the changes to the Bylaws, to give you a second chance to review the proposed changes before we vote on them at our meeting on November 12th. The changes include:

- Statements regarding the funds of the Pioneer Unit to clarify our following of rules for tax exempt entities under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code
- Provisions for holding meetings by remote means, such as over Zoom, during times when extraordinary measures are required
- Limitation of Officers of the Board so that they may serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same position
- Addition of a list of the standing chairs who hold positions on the Pioneer Unit board
- Statement that the Pioneer Unit will hold at least three meetings per year

The committee of members who worked on the Bylaws will later be working on proposed revisions to the Rules and Procedures for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please let me know, or you may pose questions at our November Unit meeting.

Linda L. Rowlett
Past Chair



SENSORY GARDEN NEWS

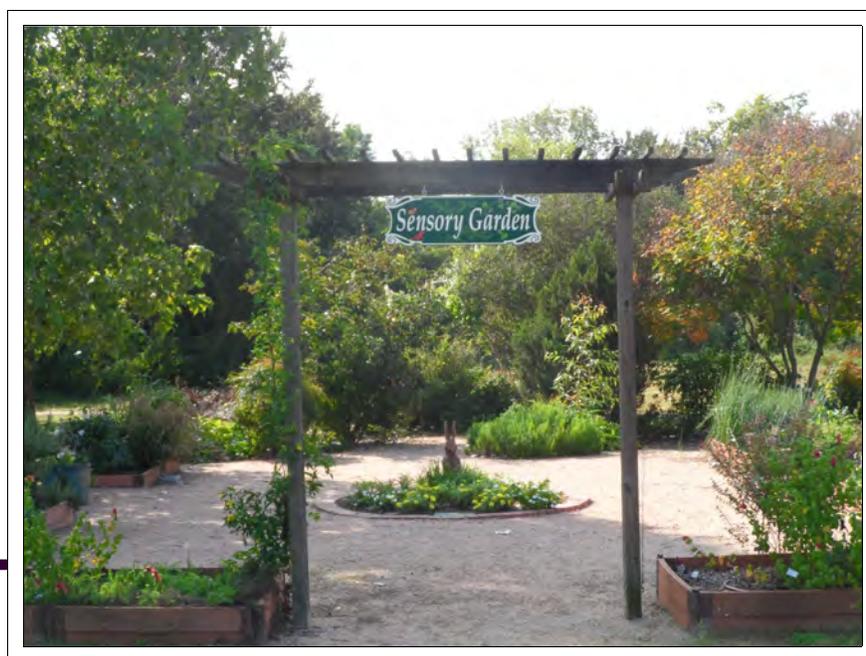
The Sensory Garden at Brenham Elementary School boasts a more permanent bulletin board, as well as a new sign. Our sign was created and hand-painted by the husband and wife team of Jo's Wood Gallery in Chappell Hill and is a beautiful addition to the garden.

Four fruit trees will be planted in the garden in November. Many thanks to Linda Rowlett for graciously donating the two pear trees in memory of her Mom and Mom-in-Law. In the future, we hope to harvest pears and plums for jelly and jam for our Thyme Well Spent Shop.

Please mark your calendars for our next workday on Tuesday, November 17, at 9 a.m. If you are able to join us and have a garden fork, please bring it with you. We hope to complete some general maintenance and add a few bags of soil to a raised bed or two on that date.

A huge thanks to every person who has helped with watering during the past few months. You are most appreciated!

Kind regards,
Cathy Kietlinski
Sensory Garden Chair



AUTUMN APPLE PECAN CAKE

3 large eggs
2 cups sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 cup canola oil
3 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons cinnamon
3 cups pared, cored, and diced apples
2 cups toasted chopped pecans



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix eggs, sugar, vanilla, and oil. Beat well. In a separate bowl, stir flour, salt, soda, and cinnamon. Blend into wet ingredients. Mix well. Add diced apples and chopped pecans.

Combine well. Batter will be a little stiff. Pour into a greased and floured tube pan and bake for one hour.

This cake is delicious plain, or it can be frosted with cream cheese frosting. Enjoy!

Lynn Ehler

LAVENDER PECAN CRISP COOKIES

2 cups sugar
2 cups butter
3 cups flour
1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking soda
4 cups crushed corn flakes
1 cup chopped pecans
6 teaspoons ground lavender

Cream sugar and butter well. Mix together the dry ingredients and add to the creamed mixture. Fold in the crushed corn flakes, chopped pecans, and lavender.

Spoon onto cookie sheets and bake at 350 degrees for 18 to 20 minutes or until a nice tan color.

Lynn Ehler (with permission of Henry Flowers)



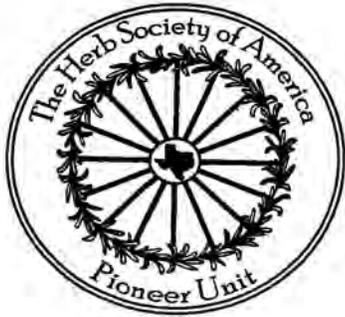
November 2020



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

December 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 Unit Meeting	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Newsletter Deadline lrowlett@gmail.com	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."

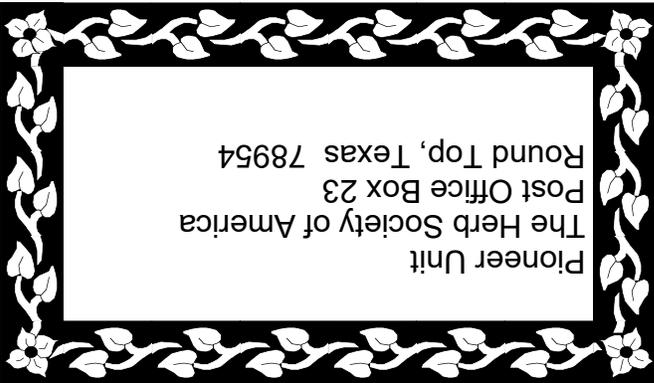
Chair—Kathe Forrest

Vice Chair Programs—Phoebe Lake

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers

Secretary—Lori Yeats

Treasurer—Debi Thomas



Pioneer Unit
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