



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

March 2021

Volume 28, Number 7

March 14
Daylight Savings
Time Begins



March 20
Vernal Equinox

March 28
Sap Full Moon

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

Date: March 11, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. Meeting

Location: This meeting will be held on Zoom. Look for the link to the meeting on our listserv.

Directions: You have only to turn on your computer or other internet device, click on the Zoom link, and watch the presentation.
There may be an opportunity to participate in the meeting after the presentation. The Zoom link will be available on the listserv.

Program: none



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello!

I write this again when the weather is beautiful, and Spring is in the air, knowing of course that if the groundhog is correct (this year), there will be six more weeks of winter. Point said, there is a cold front on its way and rain forecast for the next several days. I long to plant something! So I did and stuck seeds in some 13 pots to help my itchy fingers. I have also brought all the plants that were in various rooms in my house outside to enjoy the sunshine.

This year would have been a great time to have our Herb Sale open to the public because many, so many, have lost plants due to the winter weather. We shall carry on, and friends and family will share in the healthy and wide-range of plants to buy. I am forecasting a wonderful week of March 15th.

In our last several Pioneer Unit board meetings, many ideas have come up about field trips. Our last wonderful speaker from the Houston Botanic Gardens inspired those who watched the presentation to become excited to go and visit.

However, we are lacking someone to organize trips and plan these forays into the outside. Have I any takers for this board position? The correct title is Special Events chair, and I can send anyone who is interested the job description. Please email me if this is something that excites you to volunteer to do for the Pioneer Unit.

All for now,
Kathe Forrest
Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

I don't know why we wished 2020 away: 2021 hasn't been so great either! But I hope you are able to remain grateful for many things, as I am.

Did your plants survive our recent record-breaking cold? Believe it or not, I am not at all worried about my garden. Firstly, I like to think we'll now know which are the really tough plants! Secondly, what fun it is to see tiny bits of green emerging from the base of plants we thought were certainly dead! An added bonus to a sparse landscape is that it gives me a chance to look at my garden objectively and see what changes might need to be made.

And finally, what a great excuse to buy more plants! So I hope you have checked out our very own plant sale and sent your order in to Susan Yancey.

We do not have a formal speaker for our next meeting; instead we will be going over the details of our plant sale.

Happy Spring!
Phoebe Lake
Programs Chair

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1 — Alton Ehler
Susan Wood

March 3 — Billi Parus

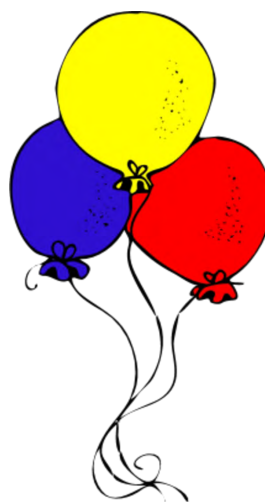
March 11 — Joan Jordan

March 14 — Bob Sowers

March 16 — Sandra Brown
Beth Murphy

March 30 — Mike Cox
Robert Lake

March 31 — Madeline Johnson
Patty Mills



**MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT
February 11, 2021**

Kathe Forest, Chair, welcomed all members attending via Zoom.

Phoebe Lake, Programs Director, introduced the speaker, Brent Moon, Manager of the new Houston Botanic Garden. Brent had a wonderful Power Point presentation depicting the variety of areas and beautiful grounds of the new Botanic Garden. The Garden is 132 acres, located on the former Golfcrest Country Club, near Hobby Airport. Some of the highlights were a picnic grove and a creative play place for kids. Brent stated that 90% of the plants are already used in the Houston area and 10% are experimental. There are areas for teaching and guiding one on research, conservation, education, discovery, and just plain enjoyment and serenity. There are group tours available that this Unit might want to take advantage of this year sometime! Little did we know, starting that night, that the Norther that blew in would wreak such havoc. It will be interesting to see how the Botanic Gardens fared.

Susan Yancey, Plant Sale, updated members on the Plant Sale procedures. The dates for plant collection are March 19 and 20.

Kathe announced members' birthdays for February.

Our March meeting will be a short Zoom meeting covering any questions about the Plant Sale and updates.

Kathe then closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Yeats
Secretary



Plant Sale 2021 News

Thank you all for your orders! Some of you have ordered twice! Keep them coming. Replace the casualties in your frozen gardens! We have 3,900 more plants to sell!

The February "Snowmageddon" has had some repercussions for our herb supplier. Some of our plants will arrive smaller than usual this year, and some will not be delivered at all.

The following plants will probably **not make our sale**:

Patchouli
Spilanthes "Toothache plant"
Gold Sage
Basil Amrita
Southernwood

The following will be delivered, just **smaller** than in prior years:

Pineapple Sage
Jacob Cline Bee Balm (slow breaking dormancy)
Golden Oregano
Aztec Herb
Lemon Catnip
Sweet Annie Artemisia
Lavender Provence
Thai Basil

If you've ordered plants which won't make our sale, I'll reach out to you to substitute. So be thinking. If you already know, send an email to susan.yancey@gmail.com

Susan Yancy
Plant Sale Chair



HORTICULTURAL STUDY GROUP

The Horticultural Study Group is off to a great start! This year we're studying basil, probably the world's most popular herb. We will be growing twelve types of basil, including several from seed. On February 25 we held a seed starting workshop where basic seeding techniques were explained, and participants sowed Persian and Prospera basil seeds. Two sessions were held (due to COVID-19 safety concerns) with a total of nineteen participants. Everyone was enthusiastic and had great questions. We're looking forward to the year ahead!

Phoebe Lake and Madeline Johnson



CULINARY GROUP

The Culinary Group met via Zoom on February 3. We are skipping March and will meet virtually on April 7 with a program on Chilies presented by Debi Thomas. Anyone interested in signing up for this Zoom meeting can contact me via email, and I'll send you an invitation.

Our February program was on two members of the Apiaceae family, caraway and celery. Here are a couple of factoids:

Caraway 'seeds' are actually the caraway fruit called achenes (a' kens).

Caraway has been found to be highly effective for heartburn.

As to celery, the wild celery grows over 3 feet tall and is cultivated for the seed.

Celery is also a powerful allergen, and Europe requires a warning on products that have been processed in a facility that also processes celery.

Here's a recipe for Celery Soup that was given a 4.9 star rating on the web site 'feastingathome':

Celery Soup

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion diced
- 4 large garlic cloves, roughly chopped
- 6 cups thinly sliced celery (a large head)
- 2 cups peeled potatoes
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 cup water
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ⅛-¼ teaspoon cayenne (optional)
- ¼ cup chopped dill, small stems okay
- ¼ cup chopped parsley, small stems okay
- ½ cup sour cream



Sauté onion in olive oil until golden, then add remaining ingredients up to fresh herbs. Bring to a boil, lower heat, and simmer until potatoes are tender. Add fresh herbs and heat only until wilted. Remove bay leaf. Take off heat and blend with an immersion blender until smooth. If using a regular blender, process in batches never more than half full, cover blender with a dish towel, and use low speed. When soup is smooth, stir in sour cream, yogurt or cream.

Belinda Weatherly

HSA PIONEER UNIT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Due May 1

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-Mail: _____

Birthday (Month/Day): _____ Today's Date: _____

Membership Category

- Active - single \$67/ joint \$98
- Life – single \$12/ joint \$18
- Affiliate (Unit or Member-at-Large) - single \$12/ joint \$18

(Make check payable to HSA-Pioneer Unit and give to Membership Chair at meeting or Mail to HSA-Pioneer Unit, ATTN: Membership, P O Box 23, Round Top TX 78954)

Program Recommendations:

Field Trip Recommendations:

Please check accordingly: I HAVE or HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE REQUIRED 20 VOLUNTEER HOURS


Active Members: HOW DO YOU PREFER TO FULFILL YOUR REQUIRED 20 VOLUNTEER HOURS?

- Working in any Unit-sponsored garden, such as Festival Hill or Brenham ISD, and any other Unit-approved garden, or seed cleaning
- Herbal Forum at Round Top and Forum preparation throughout year supporting efforts pertaining to preparation of items, such as Thyme Well Spent Shoppe, as well as mail outs, packets, and plant sale preps
- Hosting at a meeting, including a.m. refreshments, setup/cleanup, decorating, serving lunch, including Angel duties
- Educational activities for promoting the knowledge, use, and delight of herbs, such as presentations (including a/v), research articles for newsletter (up to 4 hours prep), participation in education events
- Unit administration, such as hours spent performing duties as Officer or Unit Board of Directors member, maintaining or updating Unit scrapbook, sending greeting cards to Unit members
- Other approved activities as the Board of Directors may approve after review. We can work with you to find volunteer opportunities.


WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS:

(Please utilize another sheet if necessary)

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Unit meeting 10:00	12	13
14	15	16	17 	18 Members Plant Sale	19 Members Plant Sale	20 Members Plant Sale
21	22	23 HSA webinar	24	25 HG 10-noon	26	27
28	29	30	31		CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticultural Study Group

April 2021

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 CG	8 Unit Meeting 1000	9	10
11	12	13 HSA webinar	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 HG 10-noon	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



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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."

Chair—Kathe Forrest

Vice Chair Programs—Phoebe Lake
Secretary—Lori Yeats

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers
Treasurer—Debi Thomas

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you
should smell like dirt..."

— Margaret Atwood,
Bluebeard's Egg

