



# PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America  
Pioneer Unit

May 2021

Volume 28, Number 9

May 1  
May Day

—  
May 5  
Cinco de Mayo

—  
May 9  
Mothers' Day



May 26  
Corn Planting  
Full Moon

—  
May 31  
Memorial Day

## MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

Date: May 13, 2021

Time: Arrive in time for tours to start at 10:00 a.m.

Location: The John Fairey Garden  
(formerly Peckerwood Gardens)  
20559 F.M. 359, Hempstead

Directions: Take Highway 290 east to the exit for F.M. 1488/F.M. 359. Follow signs for F.M. 359 South. Once you are on F.M. 359, drive about 2.8 miles to The John Fairey Garden.

Or

Take Texas 159 East to F.M. 3346 East. Turn right on F.M. 3346. After about 4 miles, turn left onto F.M. 359 North. Travel about 0.1 miles to The John Fairey Garden.

Program: Garden Tour

Speaker: Docents will conduct tours with ten persons in each group.

Lunch: Bring your own lunch. Drinks and desserts will be provided by the hospitality team. A short meeting will follow the tour.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You must pre-register for the tour. Contact Phoebe Lake to pre-register. Her contact information is listed in her Program Chair column on page 3 of this newsletter. The Pioneer Unit will cover the \$10.00 tour fee.

Do you want to know more about the garden before you go? Follow the link: [Home - The John Fairey Garden The John Fairey Garden \(ifgarden.org\)](http://Home - The John Fairey Garden The John Fairey Garden (ifgarden.org))

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Today I have a different view out my window than last month's because I now live in Taylor, Texas. Lots of rain has fallen to keep those newly planted herbs and veggies and Mimosa tree growing!

Life, like the seasons, can be so changeable. Last week in the country, today in a neighborhood. Our Pioneer Unit has weathered the changes of this pandemic well. We continue our monthly meetings, keep our gardens up, have a successful sale, and now, this month of May, take to the road for our first fieldtrip/meeting. (see Phoebe's blog.)

I am proud of our Board of Directors as we discuss our responsibilities to Festival Hill and the Sensory Garden, agree on money to be spent on improvements both internally and externally for the Unit, and all of this done with genuine conviviality and cooperation.

There are tasks to be done as always and coming up: watering if needed, and weeding, finding a partner to learn about the Pharmacy Garden (Pharm Aid), or volunteering to sit and educate at the Bee Festival.

There are exciting times ahead, and we can all participate and encourage newbies by staying safe while enjoying the outdoors and the friendships we have made.

See you very soon,

Kathe Forrest  
Chair

"The lovely flowers  
embarrass me.  
They make me regret  
I am not a bee..."

Emily Dickinson

## FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Drum roll please.....our May meeting will be in person! The Board decided overwhelmingly to hold our next meeting in person, but as safely as possible. To that end we will meet outdoors. But we are trying something new! We're combining our monthly meeting with a field trip. We will meet at the John Fairey Garden ([jfgarden.org](http://jfgarden.org)) in Hempstead.

From their website-

*Established by John Fairey in 1971, The John Fairey Garden (formerly Peckerwood Garden) is an extraordinary preservation garden on 39 acres near Hempstead, Texas. The garden is widely acclaimed for the originality of its design, its education and conservation programs, and its exceptional collection of over 3,000 plants, including many endangered and rare plants from Mexico, North America, and Asia*

We will be given a tour of the garden (cost underwritten by the Unit) and then have lunch and our meeting there. Bring your own lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided by our hospitality team.

You must let us know you are coming ahead of time, so please contact me via phone, email or text to say you are coming. Also, let me know if you are interested in carpooling.

It should be a fun, informative outing to a remarkable garden treasure!

Phoebe Lake  
Programs Chair  
[pvlake@gmail.com](mailto:pvlake@gmail.com)  
281-660-6071 (call or text)

Phoebe sent several pictures of plants in the garden:



## MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT

April 8, 2021

Phoebe Lake, Programs Chair, welcomed all members attending via Zoom. She mentioned she was filling in for Kathe Forrest as Kathe was moving.

Phoebe shared with all on Zoom that no speakers were available for this month's meeting. With that, she shared half of an hour-long webinar about Basils. The Webinar was from the Harris County Extension Horticulture/AgriLife. The speaker was Brandi Keller, who had told Phoebe she would be happy to answer any questions that we had. Phoebe also sent a link for the full webinar to the listserv, for all those who would like to finish the webinar or listen again. Brandi shared some great pictures of various Basils and their culinary and ornamental uses.

A few tips:

- Avoid water on the leaves

- Avoid overfertilizing, as growing too fast will affect the taste

- Basils like mulch, full sun and well-drained soil

- Basils are easy to propagate from cuttings

Phoebe then led a business meeting. First, Susan Yancey and Jana Rhinehart provided the Plant Sale update. Jana mentioned they were very thankful for all those who volunteered. She also mentioned that Ann Lugg will be a part of helping get a more developed website together, in case of the need for another virtual sale. Of course, all are in favor for "back to normal" next year.

Debbie Thomas, Treasurer, gave us an estimated gross from the Plant Sale of \$14,800 and a net of around \$6,000. Thyme Well Spent estimate was gross at \$1,250 and net at \$1,000. Cathy Kietlinski, Sensory Garden, read a thank you letter from Cathy Nitsch, Thyme Well Spent, to all who helped at the Sale.

Phoebe then mentioned the New Ulm Honey Bee Jubilee that is coming up. Bonnie Lout spoke, asking for volunteers to help man the Pioneer Unit booth at the Jubilee. She hopes for two people manning at all times. All we will be doing is chatting with people and talking about our Unit! The event is on May 1st and goes from 9:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. The Jubilee will be held on the grounds at St. John Lutheran Church. Please email Bonnie Lout at [roxielout@gmail.com](mailto:roxielout@gmail.com) to volunteer (even if you can only volunteer for an hour).

Diana Sellers reminded all that volunteer hour requirements for the 2020/2021 Unit Year are suspended. Hours will start being required in July of this year. There are many opportunities to get hours, and she suggested re-reading Ginger's article in the April Pioneer Paths!

Cathy Kietlinski told all that the Sensory Garden was looking better. She sent out an email on the listserv to request volunteers to water the garden for the next few months. Please re-look at that email and let her know when you can help!

Myra Simmons, Festival Hill Gardens, updated us about the Festival Hill Pharmacy garden, and she mentioned it is looking better since the planting of new plants from the Plant Sale. Myra also referred to Ginger's article in the April Pioneer Paths, asking members to consider adopting an area of the Pharmacy Garden to take care of as well as other areas of Festival Hill. Please email Myra at [myra\\_simmons@hotmail.com](mailto:myra_simmons@hotmail.com).

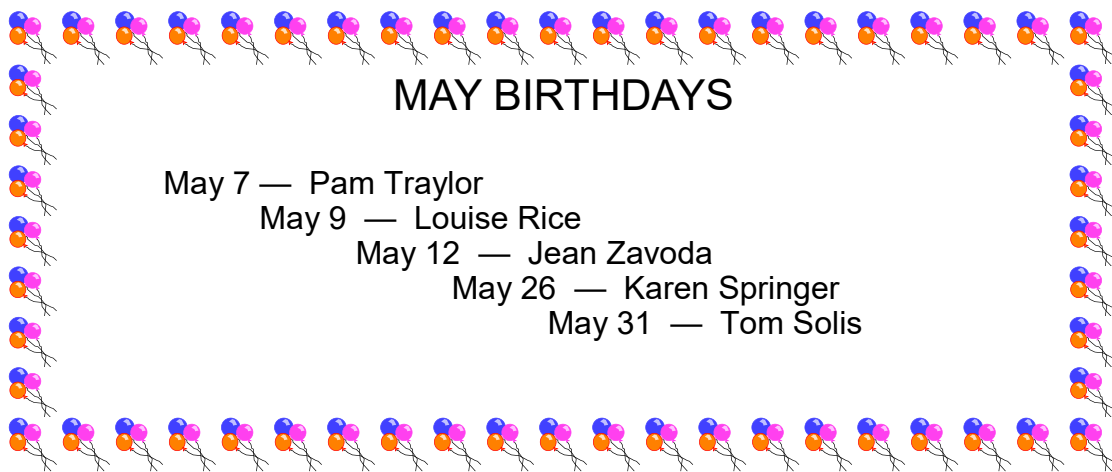
Phoebe then mentioned that the next Board meeting is April 14 on Zoom if anyone wants to attend, as it is open to all. One of the topics will be how to handle May's meeting.

Barbara Solis asked for anyone who has any contact or knows of someone with contacts at a college agricultural department to get in touch with her and pass on any information, to help the Unit give scholarship money away!

Patty Mills then asked some fun questions to qualify 3 lucky people to receive the door prizes for this month's meeting from Brenham Discount Trees.

Phoebe then closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Yeats  
Secretary



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

It's so heart-warming and soul-satisfying to see the wildflowers blooming once again this Spring. I know we were so afraid they wouldn't come up this year due to the February freeze. Such a sigh of relief to see them. I've heard many Unit members talking about planting all their wonderful new plants they acquired at the Plant Sale in March. I hope you all are receiving wonderful beneficial rain today. It's been steadily raining at my house. I'm overjoyed.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROCESS - Reminder**

It's that time of year again when we renew our membership to the Pioneer Unit. The Renewal Form is included in this newsletter. You can also access this form on our website - Herb Society of America: Pioneer Unit [www.herbsocietypioneer.org](http://www.herbsocietypioneer.org) . Click on the Membership tab >click on Forms > scroll down and click on Membership Renewal Form >click on the link "membership renewal form-fill in." We would appreciate having all Renewal Forms submitted by May. Many thanks to all who have submitted their forms and renewal fees so far.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Diana Sellers at 512-461-7175 (text or call) or you can email me at [sellers2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sellers2000@yahoo.com) .

Please submit your completed form and check to:

HSA-Pioneer Unit  
ATTN: Membership  
PO Box 23  
Round Top, Texas 78594

Choose the membership category applicable to you to determine the amount of your check:

Membership Categories:

Active – Single \$67 / Joint \$98

Affiliate (Unit or Member-at-Large) – Single \$12 / Joint \$18

Life – Single \$12 / Joint \$18

### **Volunteer Hours**

**Don't worry if you haven't been able to obtain the required 20 volunteer hours this year.**

Remember, due to the ongoing struggle for members to earn the required 20 volunteer hours this year, the Pioneer Unit Board approved a proposal to waive the requirement for this year (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021). While all volunteer hours are greatly appreciated, we don't want any member to worry that they won't be able to re-join for the 2021-2022 year due to issues with volunteer hours. Please continue recording any volunteer hours you have performed in the Pioneer Unit's Track It Forward app so all the great work that has been accomplished can be recognized. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

I visited the Pharmacy Garden earlier this week with the Horticulture Study Group. It was shocking to see how much damage occurred because of the freeze. It really needs as much of our tender-loving care that each of us can possibly give. If you spend just 1 or 2 hours weeding once or twice a week, you would get (or be very close to getting) your 20 volunteer hours. Myra has sent out information regarding some workdays at Festival Hill and Cathy Kietlinski sent out information for volunteering at the Sensory Garden.

Happy Mother's Day!!

Herbally Yours,  
Diana Sellers  
Membership Chair

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

The Pioneer Unit Board has been discussing various ways we can get back in touch with each other after this year-long hiatus from meetings in person. One of the things we decided to do was to ask the persons celebrating their birthdays each month to provide a little glimpse into their lives. Of course, it is not mandatory, and not everyone will want to participate, but be prepared when your turn comes around. In the meantime, here are the responses we received from this month's birthday honorees.

**Pam Traylor** (May 7) enjoyed a visit from her granddaughter and visiting with the new baby chicks!



**Louise Rice** (May 9) wrote: As you can see from the picture of my flower bed, I am a little behind on my weeding. Underneath the clover and other weeds are sweet peas, lantana and some Bluebonnets. I have even had some poppies come up from dormant seeds! I am always amazed at what will come up in the flower bed when nothing is done to it.

For my birthday, I hope to have family over for an easy meal and some birthday cake or lemon meringue pie (my favorite!). Since my birthday falls on Mother's Day this year, I will probably celebrate it the day before or whenever everyone can get together.

**Karen Springer** (May 26) sent a photo of her first ever blue poppy!



## GARDENS AT FESTIVAL HILL

Dear Pioneer Unit Members,

Ginger Heath expressed her early morning thoughts in the April Pioneer Paths article titled Pharmacy Garden Dreaming and posed the question: What's on your mind at 3 a.m.?

Well funny you should ask! I too have wandering thoughts of how to keep up with Festival Hill's gardens' integrity and long-standing history. I have to agree that breaking down the gardens and forming a partnership is a grand idea, and I'd like to expand on it.

Let's call this Pharm-Aid, a spin-off of Farm Aid, but without the large concert. We are benefiting the Festival Hill Gardens by maintaining the teaching gardens through cultivation, spirit and history!

Here's how Pharm-Aid will work. You and a partner will "adopt a plot" in the Pharmacy Garden, an area of Festival Hill that the Pioneer Unit members are responsible for watering, weeding, and maintaining. Email Myra Simmons [myra\\_simmons@hotmail.com](mailto:myra_simmons@hotmail.com) with your name, phone number, and area that you are interested in adopting. If you have a partner, indicate who your partner will be. If you do not have a partner, I can pair you with someone. The gardens are OPEN 7 days a week, so choose your approximate day and time you and your partner will be volunteering in your area. This time can be split between you and your partner or you can work together.

Included is the layout of the Madalene Hill Pharmacy Garden and the countries which are represented. You and a partner can choose an area to adopt. Some of the plants are clearly marked, and we will work together to learn more about the current plants, possibility for adding new plants, and provide this wealth of information for all the members in future articles in the newsletter.

We are confirming a few matters in our relationship with Festival Hill, but areas that will continue to be maintained in addition to the Pharmacy Garden are:

Mary Garden  
North Wall and The Mints  
Mediterranean Garden  
Roses  
South Wall  
Potted Plants at front of Menke House

In these areas there are numerous plants to be watered and areas to be weeded.

You will want to bring your own tools and gloves. There are large black tubs for weed debris. There are water hoses in each garden area. If you turn a water hose on, you are



responsible for turning it off before you leave. If there is anything you find broken, not working, odd, dead plants, ants, large limbs down, or if you have any questions, I can be reached at 512.922.4239. You can call or text me the issue or question. After you have completed your volunteer hours, log them into the Volunteer App.

I will be periodically checking in to see if you have any questions about your adopted space. I will also need to know when you will not be able to care for your adopted space due to vacation, illness, etc. I will review the Pharm-Aid adoption process in 3 months with the Board.

The idea is to continue the legacy of the Madalene Hill Garden and other areas that past, present, and future Pioneer Unit members have and will volunteer in. I want to form a partnership and utilize all of our knowledge, hard work, and pride that we have for our own gardens. We can have that same pride for the Festival Hill Gardens for generations to come.

So put Ginger's mind and my mind at ease and sign-up to adopt today!!  
I look forward to hearing from you!

Myra Simmons  
Board Member  
512.922.4239  
[myra\\_simmons@hotmail.com](mailto:myra_simmons@hotmail.com)



### 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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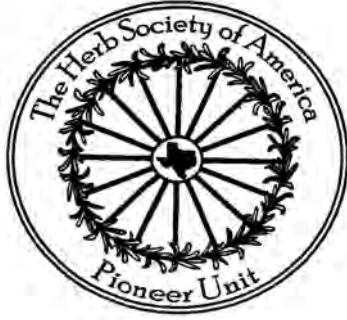
(Please utilize another sheet if necessary)

# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticultural Study Group					1 Honey Bee Jubilee New Ulm
2	3	4	5 CG 10:00	6	7	8
9 	10	11	12	13 Unit Meeting 1000	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	24	25	26	27 HG 10-noon	28	29
30	31					

# June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticultural Study Group	1	2 CG 10:00	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Unit Meeting 1000	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	21	22	23	24 HG 10-noon	25	26
27	28	29	30			



## PIONEER PATHS

Volume 28

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."

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Chair—Kathe Forrest

Vice Chair Programs—Phoebe Lake  
Secretary—Lori Yeats

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers

Treasurer—Debi Thomas

### IN MEMORIAM: Elizabeth Rice Winston 1942-2021

Below is the formal obituary for Libbie Winston. While some of you may not have known her, many of us remember Libbie as a founding member of the Pioneer Unit.

Elizabeth Rice Winston was born January 25, 1942, in Houston, Texas, and passed away Sunday March 21, 2021, at her home near Washington-on-the-Brazos, Texas.

Libbie was the Founder and Director of The Peaceable Kingdom Foundation following the tradition of pioneering education in her family. Her father, James O. Winston, Jr. was the founding Chairman of the Board of St. John's School, her mother was a founding Director of The Jung Center, and her great-great uncle, William Marsh Rice, founded Rice University. In her early years, she was an international debutante and world famous beauty. She studied astrology with Anna Jung, the daughter of Carl Jung. Then her passion for plants drew her to Washington County and Peaceable Kingdom Farm. She moved to her property in Washington County in 1970 where she grew organic herbs and flowers and began healing the overgrazed land. People came to learn from her. Her ability to guide others led her to found the Peaceable Kingdom School dedicated to teaching organic gardening and crafts in 1972.

Libbie has been a hands-on gardener and a teacher. She shared her knowledge through innumerable classes, lecture programs, and on-site walks through the gardens and native plants of Texas. She has also guided the development of the many visitors, students, and staff members at PKS, helping them grow in knowledge and confidence. Although Peaceable Kingdom School ceased offering classes some years ago, the impact on the residents and students, and those they taught, in the study of medicinal and edible herbs and arts and crafts such as blacksmithing, stained-glass making, and pottery continues to this day. Libbie lived at PK for the rest of her years.

