

# PIONEER PATHS

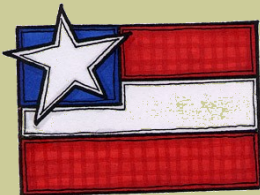
Newsletter of the Herb Society of America  
Pioneer Unit

June 2021

Volume 28, Number 10

June 14

Flag Day



June 20

Summer Solstice



June 20

Fathers' Day

June 24

Rose Full Moon

Date: June 10, 2021

Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet  
10:00 a.m. Presentation and Meeting

Location: St. John's United Church of Christ  
Burton, Texas

Directions: [from the east] Exit Highway 290 onto Texas Spur 125 north into Burton. At North Brazos Street, turn right and continue to East Texas Street. Turn right and go one block to North Colorado Street. The church will be on your left.

[from the west] Exit Highway 290 onto Texas 390 going northeast into Burton. At the intersection of 390 (Washington Street) and Main Street, continue straight into Burton on East Washington Street. At North Colorado Street, the church will be on your right.

Program: Culinary Herbs and Their Uses

Speaker: Deena Spellman  
Bastrop Botanical Garden

Lunch: Box lunches provided by the Pioneer Unit

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Notify Patty Mills, Hospitality Chair, if you will attend the meeting and want a box lunch. You may email her at [pattymills67@gmail.com](mailto:pattymills67@gmail.com)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Summertime and the heat has hit! My zinnias are blooming all over the yard, and I picked my first red tomato.

Diana Sellers and I and others have put together minutes from the May meeting at the John Fairey Gardens. They are included in this newsletter. Please read them to understand my words about the arrangements between the Pioneer Unit and Festival Hill. After that meeting I did approach Festival Hill through Lamar Lentz, and he was very enthusiastic as to an agreement with the Pioneer Unit about keeping up the maintenance in the gardens mentioned in the minutes.

Also, the Friday following the meeting, many volunteers showed up at the Festival Hill Pharmacy Garden to work alongside each other with Henry Flowers, Billi Parus, and Joanna Hagler, organizing and weeding and making those gardens come back to life. There is still plenty to do -- but what a difference.

I want to let the members know that we are putting together a possible contract between the Unit and Festival Hill and will be discussing this at the next Board meeting, if not sooner. As many of you expressed at the May meeting, you need to see FH doing something for us in return for our many hours of work.

I do want to remind both old and newer members that the Pioneer Unit has done volunteer activities and events in the past that required so much from them and were a beacon for the other herb societies. I was told a story yesterday of how we were asked by HSA to host a pre-conference tour one year and that HSA does not ask just any unit to do so. They asked us because of the excellent care and quality that our members provide for the gardens. You should be proud of our past, and I hope you wish to carry on that guiding light for others. If what I saw that Friday after the meeting and continue to see in work at both the Brenham Elementary School Sensory Garden and Festival Hill are examples of that, we will do ourselves proud.

I will be including in other newsletters bits from the past of the Unit because many of our older members are no longer a part of the Unit. I believe that these stories are a strong piece of fabric of who we are and have become!

See you in June!  
Kathe Forrest  
Chair



## FROM YOUR PROGRAMS CHAIR

Mother Nature continues to amaze even old gardeners like myself. The unprecedented cold of February followed by the equally unprecedented rains of May have resulted in the prettiest gardens for years.

Roses simply shook off the cold and said, "Thanks for the rain and watch the show I'm about to put on!"

Perennials may have been slow in coming back, but are also flourishing (so long as you have well-draining soil). They are competing with the roses for the showoff award!

And now some really good news: In June we will be meeting indoors and in person for the first time in over a year! We will meet at St. John's United Church of Christ in Burton. Our meet and greet will be from 9:30 till 10:00 a.m. with our program beginning at 10. **After the presentation we will all have boxed lunches provided by a local caterer and generously funded by our Unit. Please RSVP to Patty Mills, Hospitality Chair [pattymills67@gmail.com](mailto:pattymills67@gmail.com), if you would like a boxed lunch.**

Our speaker will be Deena Spellman, owner of Bastrop Botanical Gardens. A Texas State graduate with a B.S. in Horticulture, Deena has over 21 years of experience as a professional in the field of gardening. Her gardens include a labyrinth, an Heirloom Tea Room, and a nursery full of natives, herbs and hard to find plants. The website lists open hours and more information: [Bastrop Botanical Gardens](http://Bastrop Botanical Gardens).

Deena is known throughout central Texas for her willingness to share her extensive knowledge with groups of like-minded gardeners (like us!). She will be speaking to us on "Culinary Herbs and their Uses."

Sure to be a treat for our first indoor in person meeting!

Phoebe Lake  
Programs Chair



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

May 13, 2021

The Pioneer Unit met at the fabulous John Fairey Gardens in Hempstead. Phoebe Lake arranged for docents to guide the group on a tour of the grounds. Once the tour ended, members gathered outdoors on one of the patios to have lunch, hear more about the gardens, and have our business meeting.

Phoebe introduced Kara, the Office Manager for the John Fairey Gardens. Kara discussed the upcoming garden projects and how people could become members of the garden.

Kathe Forrest, Chair, then led the members in a discussion regarding the Festival Hill Gardens. Kathe related the history of how the gardens were started. In 1994, James Dick approached Madalene Hill about coming to live at Festival Hill to develop gardens there. Madalene designed the North and South walls gardens. The Mediterranean (cloister) plants were part of Madalene's plants that she moved from Houston. In 1996, money was donated for the Terrace garden. Madalene and her daughter traveled the world and brought plants back to Festival Hill from their travels. The Pharmacy Garden began in 1998 with many different medicinal plants. The Pioneer Unit began helping around 1996 or 1997. Henry Flowers joined Festival Hill in 2007 and was mentored by Madalene for two years until she died in 2009.

There was never a written agreement between the Pioneer Unit and Festival Hill regarding caring for the gardens. Lamar Lentz has expressed interest in having one. Kathe requested the members attending the meeting to let her know, by a show of hands, how many are willing to carry on at the McAshan Gardens (the cloister and walled garden areas to the east side of Menke House at Festival Hill) and the Pharmacy Garden. The vote was 20 to 16 in favor of continuing work at the gardens.

Kathe asked for feedback from members on next steps. There were several great suggestions, primarily centered around the Pioneer Unit having further discussions with Festival Hill to obtain an understanding of a quid pro quo agreement. Susan Wood, affiliate member, suggested that the Pioneer Unit investigate groups that have helped support gardens like Festival Hill. Betty Pior volunteered to check the Nature Conservancy for help.

Kathe asked if everyone had seen the email from Henry about working in the Festival Hill Garden on Friday, May 14th. Henry will be there from 9:00 till 12:00 noon and requested that all available come and help do some gardening. Kathe also asked if we could pick a partner today or tomorrow and let Henry know that we would be willing to work in the gardens on a regular basis. Kathe urged members to come out Friday and work with Henry and Billi Parus to clean the gardens.

Myra Simmons has stepped down from the chair of Festival Hill Gardens. Joanna Hagler is now in charge of the Pharmacy Garden to recruit and educate as well. Henry is part-time only. We do need someone to step up into the position Chair for the Festival Hill Gardens. Kathe reminded everyone what it means to be an active part of the Pioneer Unit.

From our Bylaws:

1. ACTIVE - An active member shall support the endeavors of the Unit during the fiscal year. He or she must:
  - a. Be willing to hold office or serve on committees.
  - b. Attend a minimum of three meetings per year.
  - c. Participate in the preparation of one major Unit event.
  - d. Participate on-site in one major Unit event.
  - e. Perform 20 volunteer hours.

Diana Sellers, Membership Chair, reminded everyone that the Annual Membership renewal and paying of dues needs to be completed soon. The Pioneer Unit must send in membership renewals and dues to HSA by the end of June. Diana has received renewals from approximately half of our members so far. She distributed renewal applications to those who were present. Several members brought guests. Diana asked those members to introduce their guests.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Sellers

#### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- June 1 — Henry Flowers
- June 5 — Esther Hartman  
Lucy Nehr Korn
- June 12 — Myra Simmons
- June 13 — Leah Pearce
- June 14 — Ronda Herzog
- June 16 — Sandra Dudley
- June 19 — Peggy Richardson  
Diana Sellers
- June 24 — Marijane Lipscomb



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Phoebe Lake arranged a fabulous tour of the John Fairey Gardens in Hempstead for the May Pioneer Unit Meeting. Once the tour ended, members gathered outdoors on one of the patios to have lunch, hear more about the gardens and have our business meeting. Everyone was overjoyed at finally being able to meet as a group and enjoy each other's company. Two prospective members attended the gathering. Kathy Young, attending with Betty Pior, and Annette Holdeman attended their first meeting. We look forward to them completing their joining requirements.

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

Renewal forms are steadily coming in. I appreciate everyone who has sent their forms in already. This is actually the final reminder to submit your renewal information. Our year ends June 30th, and all renewals must be submitted by the end of the month. The Pioneer Unit then submits member information and payments to the Herb Society of America in July. The Pioneer Unit currently has 71 active members and 18 Affiliate members. I have received 45 renewal notices to date from a combination of active and affiliate members. 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

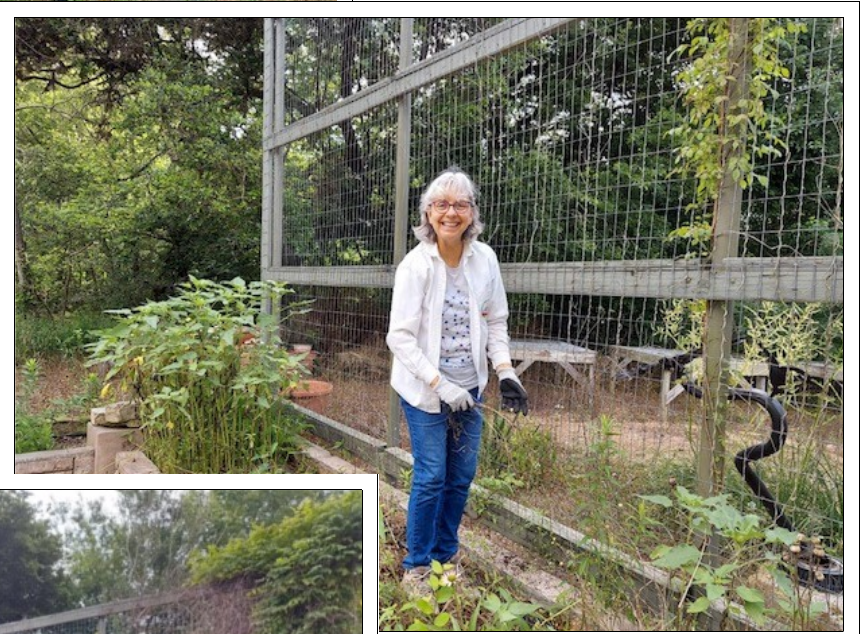
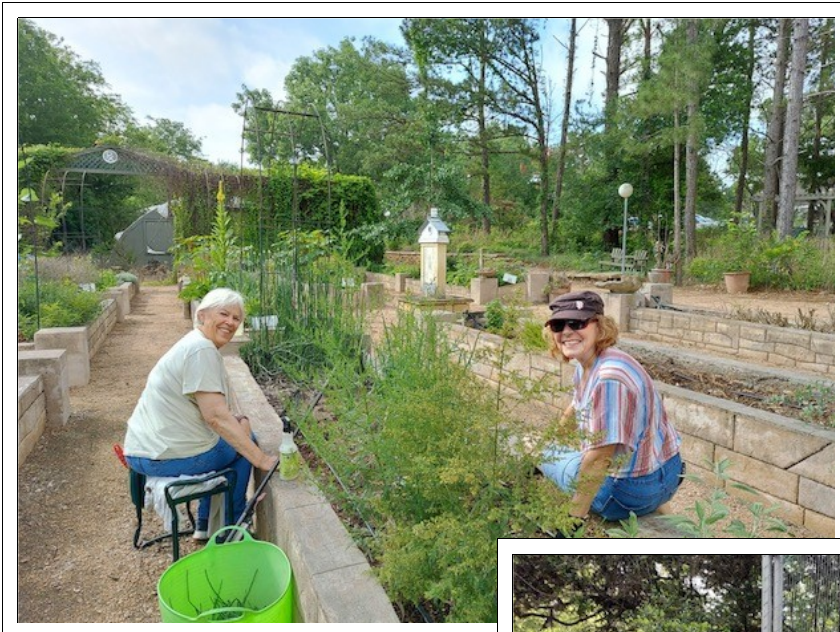
The Renewal Form is included in this newsletter. You can also access this form on our website - Herb Society of America: Pioneer Unit [www.herbsocietypioneer.org](http://www.herbsocietypioneer.org) . Click on the Membership tab >click on Forms > scroll down and click on Membership Renewal Form >click on the link "membership renewal form-fill in."

### **VOLUNTEER WORK**

Thanks to the hard work of many gardening volunteer angels, the Festival Hill Gardens are beginning to look so much better. We are especially grateful to Henry Flowers, who guided a group on May 14th to work in the gardens. Many loads of weeds were gathered. This past Thursday, several Basil Horticulture Study members gathered in the Pharmacy Garden area to do some more weeding prior to their meeting. Every little bit makes a huge difference. Thanks to all members for your volunteer efforts.

Herbally Yours,  
Diana Sellers  
Membership Chair





Diana Sellers sent these photos of members volunteering in the Pharmacy Garden at Festival Hill.

## PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

April 14, 2021

### Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Present: Kathe Forrest, Phoebe Lake, Diana Sellers, Debi Thomas, Lori Yeats, Esther Hartman, Ann Lugg, Cathy Nitsch, Cathy Kietlinski, Jana Rinehart, Myra Simmons, Linda Rowlett, Barbara Solis, and Susan Yancey

Programs: Phoebe Lake, Vice Chair Programs, stated that she had speakers for June and July and asked the Board to approve having those two meetings at Festival Hill and/or St. John's Church in Burton. The Board approved. She then suggested the John Fairey Garden for the May meeting, with the Unit meeting at the garden for a tour and possible box lunches. It was agreed upon.

Hospitality: Patty Mill, Hospitality, was not at the meeting and will be contacted by Phoebe to get lunches together for the John Fairey tour.

Membership: Diana Sellers, Membership, reminded everyone that dues are due starting May 1. Please send your check made out to Pioneer Unit HSA. The address is Pioneer Unit, PO Box 23, Round Top, Texas 78954.

Diana also suggested the Bylaws and Rules and Procedures be provided to members in the future in a separate book, and she questioned who prepared the updates. Esther Hartman said she would work with Diana to work on the updating.

Treasurer: Debi Thomas, Treasurer, reported on the expenses and profit from the Plant Sale. There was also a discussion on Kathe getting with Lamar Lentz of Festival Hill for clarification of our future relationship with the Forum/Plant Sale.

#### Standing Committee Reports:

Sensory Garden: Cathy Kietlinski said there has been a good response for the watering. She requested a special project fund of \$400 for mulching the raised beds, and it was approved.

Scholarships: Barbara Solis reported there has been no response from the colleges at this time for a scholarship. She said Linda Rowlett has a contact at A&M and gave Barbara contact information. There was discussion on how to use the scholarship money in different ways, as in possibly towards Master Gardeners or Junior Colleges. Barbara will be looking into our history of giving and getting with Phoebe who said she would help on possibly re-writing the procedures for giving.

Festival Hill Garden: Myra Simmons will be sending out a watering schedule for the gardens. She is also writing to remind people of the previous article from Ginger Heath on adopting a section of the Pharmacy or Mary Gardens.

Communications: Ann Lugg has suggested the need for a new more user-friendly website. She wants to survey the members on what they like and or want to see on a new website. It was agreed that we needed a better site and to go forward with the research on the best procedure.

Plant Sale: Susan Yancey referenced the financials on the Plant Sale being a success.

Thyme Well Spent: Cathy Nitsch mentioned the same as stated by Susan Yancey.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Yeats, Secretary





## HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

Ginger Heath and Jana Rinehart entertained the Horticulture Study Group with an informative and funny presentation on harvesting and storing basil. They shared their highs and lows in researching the topic in which they learned that experts don't always agree. Facing that unsettling truth, they experimented on their own. Here are some highlights from their presentation:

Harvest in the morning after the leaves have dried.

Store freshly cut stems in water in bright indirect light for up to 1 week (change water every 2-3 days).

Chop 1 cup basil leaves in a food processor, add 1 – 2 tablespoons of olive oil, and freeze.

Dry leaves by laying them out on a flat surface, then crumble and store in glass jar.

During our round robin discussion about the basil varieties under study, the group shared that the rain has caused some yellowing of the leaves, indicating that fertilizing may be needed to restore the soil's balance for nitrogen. Sweet Aussie is growing very tall in a columnar form. Sweet Dani has slowed its growth temporarily. Overall, the rain has brought much needed water in all our ponds and lakes, but the lack of sunshine and the saturated soil are slowing the growth of some of the basil varieties. We shared lots of laughs, lemon basil cookies, and carrot cake. Next month, we start exploring the beneficial uses of basil.

Madeline Johnson



## JUNE BIRTHDAY HONOREES

As I mentioned in May, 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. Here are the responses we received from this month's birthday honorees.

Esther Hartman (June 5) provided the following: I became interested in the plight of homeless dogs and cats in Houston in 2011 and began working with a rescue there to get animals adopted to responsible owners and help educate people about animal care. I missed that part of my life when I moved, so I am fostering pups for a couple of different groups. The two pups I currently have will be on a transport to New England in a few weeks. They came from a dumpster in Brookshire. Fortunately someone heard them.



Leah Pearce (June 13) wrote: I appreciate HSA and all the great members. I am having a wonderful month with family, friends and grandchildren! My orchid has finally bloomed -- two years in the waiting. It's been a joy seeing the blooms open up in pairs.

Continued on next page

From Diana Sellers (June 19): My first grandchild was born this past October. He is a thriving 7-month-old now. He is a delightful child. Always smiling. It's fascinating watching him grow and learn new skills, almost on a daily basis. I look forward to teaching him all about gardening and watching him develop a love for growing beautiful plants. I am so fortunate that he lives in Austin, so my husband and I can visit anytime.



Peggy Richardson wrote: My birthday is June 19, 1949. Born on Father's Day....and thus often my birthday will fall on Father's Day. Not this year though. This year it is on Saturday. When I moved to Texas in the early 1970's, I worked in a manufacturing firm in charge of inventory control. My department crew surprised me with a birthday picnic on the front lawn of the plant with a June Teenth celebration for my birthday, which included fried chicken, potato salad, red pop and birthday cake! Quite a treat for me!! Honored to share my birthday with a significant day of independence that is celebrated as well.



Marijane Lipscomb (June 24) sent the following message: I'll be 91 on June 24th. I was born in 1930 in Denver, Colorado. A Depression Baby. My parents, Damon and Mildred Johnson, moved back to Texas when I was eight years old.

Editor's Note: I found this picture of Marijane from December 8, 2011, on my computer.

# 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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\_\_\_\_\_  
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(Please utilize another sheet if necessary)

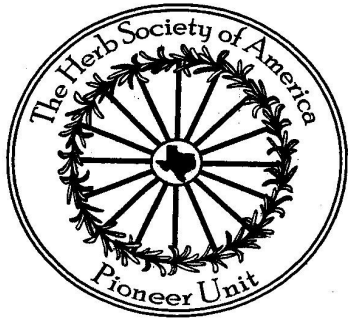
# June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticulture Study Group	1	2 CG 10:00	3	4 Deadline for EdCon registration	5 Bee Festival New Ulm
6	7	8	9	10 Unit Meeting 9:30	11	12
13	14 	15	16	17	18	19
20 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor lrowlett@gmail.com	21	22	23	24 HG 10:00-noon	25	26
27	28	29	30			



# July 2021

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



## 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."

Chair—Kathe Forrest

Vice Chair Programs—Phoebe Lake  
Secretary—Lori Yeats

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers  
Treasurer—Debi Thomas

### CULINARY GROUP

The June Culinary Meeting was hosted by Cammie Beierle where we discussed program topics for next year. Barbara Solis also presented information on basil. Members brought favorite basil recipes to share. Here's a recipe:

#### Basil Green Goddess Salad Dressing

- 1 cup good mayonnaise
- 1 cup chopped scallions
- 1 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 2 cloves garlic chopped
- 2 teaspoons anchovy paste
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup sour cream

Place all ingredients except sour cream in food processor and blend until smooth. Add sour cream and process just until fully blended.

Belinda Weatherly

