



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America Pioneer Unit

August 2021

Volume 28, Number 12

August 12-14

Perseid Meteor Shower
(peak)

—
August 22

Green Corn Full Moon



Happy August.

Lots of rain here in Taylor the past day or so. My rain barrels have been overflowing, and the grass keeps growing. The hummingbirds that visit are grateful for the zinnias blooming.

The summaries of the two Board meetings held in July are here in the newsletter; if you have questions, please email or call me.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have been working in the gardens at Festival Hill. Progress is being made as Henry Flowers and Tony Scanapico install the new watering system.

I have spoken to Lamar Lentz of Festival Hill about the gardens, and we are making headway there as well. Lamar is grateful for all that we do, and the new agreement that is coming together reflects that attitude.

I am including a picture of my shrimp plant propagated last year with Phoebe Lake and Madeline Johnson. It made it through the winter and now enjoys the heat of this summer.

See you in September,
Kathe Forrest
Chair
HSA Pioneer Unit



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR



Now you may be thinking this is an easy month for your Programs Chair. Not at all. I'm really stuck into my work!* This is the time I, along with my program advisors, put the finishing touches on the upcoming year's programs.

I'm happy to say we're nearly there, and you can look forward to a wide range of top notch subjects and speakers for the upcoming year. I'm not at liberty to give you details, but will toss out a few key words related to our programs:

Bitter. Roses. Health. Potpourri. Basil. Containers. Parsley. Worms.

Hope these hints have piqued your interest! See you in September.

Phoebe Lake
Programs Chair

*No toads were harmed in the taking of this photo. He was subsequently rescued from our drain cover!

MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT

July 8, 2021

Kathe Forrest, Chair, welcomed the members to the meeting at Brenham Presbyterian Church. She introduced Phoebe Lake, Madeline Johnson, and the Horticulture Study Group.

Phoebe, Madeline, and the group shared their program "A Year Study: Oregano 7 Varieties." Several in the group presented a power point with a variety of fun facts and tips on how to grow these varieties of Oregano. Each person in the Horticulture Group had a corsage of oregano sprigs that was delightful and fun. We then adjourned to go to our tables, where the group had prepared a sampling of each of the 7 varieties of Oregano mixed in cream cheese for a fun tasting, with crackers!

A short business meeting was then held where there were presentations of years of participation pins for members. Diana Sellers introduced guests and a new member.

Kathe then closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

We all adjourned to eat the box lunches that were previously ordered.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Yeats
Secretary

CULINARY GROUP



The Culinary Group didn't meet in August. Our next meeting is September 1 when we will make plans for our Mediterranean study. Anyone interested in joining our group can contact me at blw1071@gmail.com. The meeting location has not been determined yet.

Belinda Weatherly

PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

July 8, 2021

Brenham Presbyterian Church

Present: Kathe Forrest, Phoebe Lake, Diana Sellers, Debi Thomas, Lori Yeats, Esther Hartman, Ann Lugg, Joanna Hagler, Cathy Kietlinski, Patty Mills, Linda Rowlett, Barbara Solis

Member Present: Betty Pior

Programs: Phoebe Lake, Vice Chair Programs, shared her programs already lined up and possible field trip dates to be considered in lieu of a meeting.

Hospitality: Patty Mills, Hospitality, shared a change for the sign-up form for Hospitality, adding a line by each person's name signed up, for a notation of their willingness to be a Speaker Angel. She and Phoebe had agreed this would give them a better ability to contact possible speaker angels after determining how many were needed for each speaker.

Treasurer: Debi Thomas, Treasurer, reviewed the expense report and stated we do not have a line item for special projects. All agreed to have a line item for special projects as a part of the budget with the amount to be decided in a future meeting.

Membership: Diana Sellers, Membership, reported that downsizing the package on Track It Forward to accommodate what our Unit's needs are saved the Unit \$134 a year. Our membership has changed from 71 last year to 61 this year, due to several Active members changing to Affiliate status, or persons not renewing membership.

A member is needed for the position of sending the newsletter to those members who do not use email. That member would be given a certain amount of volunteer hours per month and reimbursed as needed for any printing or postage expenses.

Standing Committee Reports:

Sensory Garden: Cathy Kietlinski reported that we still need people to water as needed. All this rain has helped. All is growing well, she noted, and told members to please help themselves to cucumbers and any other items that need to be picked and enjoyed.

Scholarships: Barbara Solis is proposing reevaluating the scholarship wording and funding. She and Phoebe are researching possible Endowments or Current Use Scholarships and what university or school could use one. Barbara will then put a proposal to the Board for review. At this time, there is no change in the scholarship we offer.

Festival Hill Garden: Joanna Hagler, who now has the position of Pharmacy Coordinator, reported the Pharmacy Garden was looking good. The Basil group adopted the North America bed.

Communications: Ann Lugg has posted the year-end reports on the Unit's website for review. She is setting up a new password to be used for all yearbooks, reports, etc. She is continuing the process of updating our website.

New Business:

The Board is working with Henry Flowers to improve the irrigation for the Pharmacy Garden. Henry had submitted an estimate of costs, and it was approved. The Board is also in communication with Festival Hill about what their goals are for the gardens and about the Unit's agreement with Festival Hill regarding our participation and care of the Pharmacy Garden.

Kathe Forrest presented the updated Rules and Procedures that will be presented to the members at the September meeting. The Board approved them.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Yeats, Secretary

PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

July 20, 2021

Financial Meeting on Zoom

Present: Kathe Forrest, Phoebe Lake, Diana Sellers, Debi Thomas, Lori Yeats, Esther Hartman, Susan Yancey, Joanna Hagler, Patty Mills, Linda Rowlett, Barbara Solis

The meeting was called to order by Kathe Forrest, Chair. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and understand the financials of our Unit by looking at how we have spent money in the past, what money we have to spend, and where our monies come from.

Kathe talked to an IRS inspector about our 501-3(c) status and was told we need to follow closely the parameters of our Unit purpose as expressed in our By-Laws. After discussions and seeing that we need two years of operating expense in our budget before donating more money, we have tabled giving a large sum at this time. The Board discussed future expenses coming up, including, but not limited to, the Pharmacy Garden irrigation, a new website, and plants.

Several people spoke about looking into areas around us for low income neighborhoods or schools that could use our help in implementing possible gardens, and so have an impact in our community. Barbara Solis stated she would like to have permission to organize a committee on this task, and she was given permission.

The meeting was closed with all having more knowledge where we now stand in our finances so as to make more educated decisions as ideas are presented for giving and scholarships.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Yeats, Secretary



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. It's a little warm (as usual for Texas), but at least we've had rain this summer. It is so amazing to still see green fields this time of the year.

Happy New Pioneer Unit Fiscal Year!! Our new fiscal year started July 1, 2021. The Oregon Horticulture Study Group started off our new year with a superb program about the research they conducted during the previous year. The leaders of this group, Phoebe Lake and Madeline Johnson, presented the details and results of this study. The Unit learned what worked and what didn't. In addition to the presentation, each member was given two booklets – *Oregano: A One-Year Study of Seven Varieties*, designed by Phoebe and Madeline, and *Oregano Recipes: A Collection by the Culinary Study Group of the Pioneer Unit*. The Oregon study group provided oregano butters for all attendees to try. Lots of fun taste-testing ensued. Everyone had a different opinion of what they liked and disliked.

New Member

I am pleased to announce that Beverly Green has joined the Pioneer Unit as a new active member. Beverly was an active member of the Pioneer Unit for several years in the past and is now able to rejoin our group. Her membership was effective July 1, 2021. Beverly lives at 13194 Thielemann Road, Industry, Texas, 78944. Her birthday is December 9th. Her cell number is 713-208-3061 and email address is beverlybraswellagreen@gmail.com. Beverly stated that she has many years of experience cooking with herbs. When active with the Pioneer Unit in the past, she tended the mints at Festival Hill. Welcome, Beverly!!

Euphanel Goad brought two guests to the July meeting – Blanca Alvarez (who has visited with us before) and Carol Edwards, who is interested in becoming a member of the Pioneer Unit.

Recognition Pins

The Herb Society of America recognizes members (on their anniversary date) for every five years of membership with a Recognition Pin. Several members received their Pins during the June and July meetings. In addition, some members received their Pins in the mail directly from HSA. Additional Recognition Pins will be given to members throughout this coming year as their anniversary dates arrive. Congratulations to the following members for achieving another 5 years as members of the Herb Society of American and the Pioneer Unit:

Alton Ehler – 15 years
Lynn Ehler – 25 years
Pat Garrett – 5 years
Wanda Hubbard – 15 years

Royceanna Kendall – 5 years
Phoebe Lake – 5 years
Rob Lake – 5 years
Louise Rice – 15 years

Membership Requirements

With the beginning of the Pioneer Unit new year, regular Membership Requirements for active members will resume. To maintain membership, attendance at three meetings per year and completing 20 hours of volunteer work are required.

Herbally Yours,
Diana Sellers
Membership Chair

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP NEWS

Shrimp and Corn Salad with Basil Dressing. Basil Parmesan Mayonnaise. Basil Ice Cream. Are you hungry? Barbara Solis and Betty Pior presented Part 2 in Cooking with Basil at our July meeting. These 3 dishes are just a few of the ones that we sampled. Basil is often referred to as the Queen of Summer because of its versatility in cooking. We are all starting to believe that everything tastes better with basil. Barbara and Tom Solis opened their home to our group for its July meeting -- beautiful home and gardens that provided all of us of with ideas for our own. Try the refreshing basil ice cream recipe at the end of this article.

The heat has turned up the growth hormones on all our basil. Prospera, a mildew-resistant variety, was started from seed in January. It propagated easily and this month caught up with the Sweet Genovese plants we purchased from the plant sale. Mary Doebbeling commented, "I am liking this basil. It is strong, tall – looks like a sturdy Genovese." This basil will be a great addition to our gardens whether it's grown in containers or in the ground.

Easy Basil Ice Cream

1. Make a simple syrup infused with basil leaves. Bring 1 cup each of water and sugar to a low boil constantly stirring. Once the sugar is dissolved, remove from the heat and add 1 cup chopped basil leaves. Let it cool and fully infuse that rich basil flavor. Strain out the basil.
2. Combine 1 tub whipped topping, 14 ounces of sweetened condensed milk, and the cup of basil simple syrup. Place in the freezer overnight.
3. Garnish with fresh basil and berries if you like.

Madeline Johnson



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 11 — Leona Marshall

August 14 — Susan Yancey

August 16 — Catherine Hall



Leona Marshall shared this: The calendar tells me that I am having another birthday and have been asked to write something for the newsletter. I have been very blessed to find my true passion in retirement. I make and sell handmade pottery. This gives me joy and purpose. I have found friends in the Herb Society, yoga class, and the local community. I am so thankful to be in this chapter of my life and to all the people that are a part of it.




Susan Yancey wrote: I'm turning the big 7-0 on August 14 and am still having a hard time believing it! Where did the years go? I was born in Laredo, raised in Houston, graduated from UH then went to UT for a masters in library science. I spent 30 years as a law librarian and raised three kids with architect hubby Michael. We are now grandparents of three "wicked smaht" grandkids who live in Massachusetts. I both joined the Pioneer Unit (thank you, Lois Sutton) and became a master gardener (thank you, Belinda Weatherly) in 2015, the first year of retirement. You can usually find me in the kitchen at Yancey Ranch, or reading to keep up with three book clubs. Highly recommend HSA's book clubs!

August 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 No Unit Meeting	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 HG 10:00-noon	27	28
29 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor Irowlett@gmail.com	30	31			CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticulture Study Group

September 2021

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



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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
Secretary—Lori Yeats

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers
Treasurer—Debi Thomas

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT GATHERING

In case you missed it, here is an excerpt from the newsletter sent by Bill Varney, our South Central District Delegate to the Herb Society of America. You can find the complete text at herbsociety.org, and if you need information about the District Gathering, you can find Bill's contact information below.

Dear Fellow Herb Society Members,

At our recent EdCon, we learned a lot and had fun! During the conference, we had a short Zoom South Central District Meeting. At the meeting, I announced that we will be having our face-to-face South Central District Gathering on September 25, 2021, at the Auld House at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. During our Gathering, the garden will have a special exhibit: Frida Kahlo Oasis, a rendition of the artist's iconic blue home, Casa Azul, and the lush green sanctuary that profoundly influenced her timeless art. <https://www.sabot.org/frida/> This magnificent exhibit will be the perfect complement to our theme-- Herbs from South of The Border.

We will have speakers on: Latin cooking, History and lore, Latino home remedies with herbs, Chocolate, and last but not least, Tequila! Please mark your calendars for a fun weekend in San Antonio!

William "Bill" Varney, South Central District Membership Delegate
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