

PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

February 2022

Volume 29, Number 6

February 2
Ground Hog Day

February 14
Valentine's Day



February 16
Snow Full Moon



February 21
Presidents' Day

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

Date: February 10, 2022

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

Location: The Chapel
Antique Rose Emporium.
10000 F.M. 50
Brenham/Independence

Directions: Head north on North Blue Bell Road in Brenham.
Turn right onto Texas 105 East. After 1.8 miles, turn
left onto F.M. 50 North. In 8.1 miles, the Rose Emporium
will be on your right.

Program: All Things Roses and Field Trip

Speaker: Mike Shoup

Host Team: Ann Allen, Linda Hartson, and Sherrie Tolbert

Visit the business website at <https://antiqueroseemporium> where you can sign up (at the bottom of the page) to receive occasional special offers and gardening tips.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to all.

It is a grey afternoon/evening as I wait for the next cold front.

I was at Festival Hill today for a Thyme Horticulture Study Group meeting and viewed both the Pharmacy and Mary gardens. Yes, I acknowledge that there is a lot of brown, but underneath many plants, green is appearing. Unfortunately, not much growing in the Mediterranean area, but that will all be replenished in March.

Even though I love the winters in Texas, I am getting excited about our Plant Sale. We have many signed up already for our Voila Violet presentations, and I believe that this year will be a good one for sales and nice weather and doing what we do best – educating! We will add something new this year at the sale — an Information tent — and the Gazebo is back! Hooray!

I will see you all at the Rose Emporium!

Best,

Kathe Forrest
Pioneer Unit Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Is it still winter or has spring arrived? In central Texas you never know from day to day!

Like mine, your garden may be looking quite sad right now. It's nice to have a pretty photo to add, but I think we need to be realistic, hence the photos at the bottom of this article. No one loves to cut back plants more than me, and it's tempting to do so right now, to tidy up the look of our gardens. But Mother Nature has a plan for the dramatic temperature swings we experience here.

The previous year's growth, whether it be branches or foliage, provides a great deal of protection for plants from the cold weather. (The only exception to this is fleshy leaves which when hit by frost turn to "mush" and can serve as a reservoir of disease.) Even frost-damaged foliage provides protection. So don't be tempted, as I am, to cut back plants too early. Spring really is just around the corner....I think!

About our next meeting:

February is the time for love, and nothing signifies love more than roses! So we will be meeting at the Antique Rose Emporium, 10000 F.M. 50, Brenham. We are fortunate to have this wonderful nursery so close us, and I'm thrilled to say the founder and owner, Mike Shoup, will be speaking to us about all things roses.

Our meeting is Thursday, February 10. We will meet and greet at the chapel on the grounds of the Antique Rose Emporium at our usual time of 9:30 to 10:00. Please be on time as Mike will begin his talk at 10:00 a.m.

We will then have our business meeting. After that, we can stroll around the gardens and buy roses!

Lunch will be on your own, at a local restaurant, or wherever you choose. We've heard The Independence Food Center nearby is good!

In case of inclement weather keep an eye on the Listserv**

See you all soon

Phoebe Lake
Programs Chair



MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT

January 13, 2022

Phoebe Lake, Programs, welcomed the members to the meeting at Burton Church of Christ.

Phoebe introduced the Horticulture Study Group and their presentation of "Basil — a Year Studying 12 Varieties." It was great fun listening to each of the presenters, and we learned more about the beloved basil plants.

Several fun tips:

Use large basil leaves instead of lettuce in your sandwich.

How to use your abundance of basil leaves: 1 cup basil to 1-2 teaspoons of an oil; make a slurry and put flat in various sandwich bags, which are then all put into a gallon-size freezer zip lock. When you are wanting to make a pesto or add some basil to a recipe, just pinch off a bit of the flat! (credit given to Kay Scanapico)

If anyone is interested in joining the Horticulture Study Group, there will be a meeting on January 27, from 10:00 until noon, in Building 9 at Festival Hill. We then had a tasting of 10 different basil varieties and rated them. The three most liked were:

1. Aussie
2. Genovese
3. Tie between Cinnamon and Lemon.

Someone asked if the presentation could be seen online, and Phoebe said she would look into getting the PowerPoint posted.

Diana Sellers, Membership, introduced guests and two new members: Noreen Barker and Carol Edwards. She then presented 25-year pins to Tony and Kay Scanapico!

A business meeting was then held. Susan Yancey informed members about the Plant Sale and what it entailed. Cathy Nitsch talked about the Thyme Well Spent Shop (TWSS) and asked for volunteers. She also mentioned some of the jelly and jam makers have retired and asked that anyone who wanted to make jam or jelly see Cathy Kietlinski. Cathy mentioned that they would like to have someone to shadow Louise Rice as this will be her last year as head cashier in TWSS.

Leah Pearce talked about the Gazebo and displayed many items that can be sold at the Gazebo. She mentioned that another hypertufa event would be forthcoming. She asked for other items to sell.

Phoebe then closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Yates
Secretary



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For last year's February Membership Newsletter Article, I wrote about what an awesome month February is. Its basic theme is an amazing reminder of the importance of love. The general theme of February seems to revolve around love, kindness, gentleness, thinking of others, and having a really good time. Random acts of kindness can truly make the difference in another human's day. Often, I find it's the little things. So I thought I would repeat some of the interesting observances associated with February. I hope you enjoy some of them:

January 30th — April 4th — Season for Non-violence (International Observance)

February is American Heart Month, Black History Month, and National Bird-feeding Month (my bird visitors are all for that).

First Saturday – Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (I think we should all meet at the Blue Bell Creamery.)

February 9 – National Pizza Day

February 14 – Valentine's Day

February 17 – Random Acts of Kindness Day

February 20 – World Day of Social Justice

Such a lovely month!

January's program was outstanding. The Horticulture Study Group presented their yearlong research on Basil. How fun to hear from them and all they've learned. We had a great meeting turnout. Thirty-four members were in attendance.

In addition to members attending, we had three visitors: Diana Nelson, Julie Johnson, and Jan Hughes. Julie is working towards completing the membership joining requirements. This was her first Pioneer Unit meeting, and she has completed the garden work at Festival Hill. Susan Yancy is Julie's sponsor.

Jan Hughes submitted her application for membership. She has attended three meetings and completed her garden hours at both Festival Hill and the Sensory Garden. In her introduction about herself, Jan wrote she is retired, but busier than ever. She volunteers with the TMR Donkey Rescue, the Round Top Library, Meals on Wheels, and helps manage gardening projects at Winedale Historic Center. Jan is a Master Naturalist. Jan's address is 3205 Round Top Road, Round Top, Texas 78954. Her cell number is 713-594-3543 and email address is janhughes06@yahoo.com. Her birthday is October 23rd. Thanks to Connie Gwyn for introducing Jan to the Pioneer Unit. Welcome to the Pioneer Unit, Jan.

Recognition Pins

The Herb Society of America recognizes members (on their anniversary date) for every five years of membership with a Recognition Pin. The Pioneer Unit is so blessed to have such committed members in our group. We appreciate all they have done and continue to do. Congratulations to the following members for achieving another 5 years as members of the Herb Society of American and the Pioneer Unit:

Joyce Caddell – 10 years (recognized in December)

Georgetta Welch – 10 years

Kay Scanapico – 25 years

Tony Scanapico – 25 years

Herbally yours,
Diana Sellers
Membership

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

The Horticulture Study group held its first meeting of 2022 on January 27 at Festival Hill. Each year this group studies in depth one herb. The herb for this year is thyme. At this first meeting an overall picture of this well-loved herb was presented by Madeline and Phoebe.



Thyme and its many species and varieties have been around for thousands of years. This small perennial herb has long been used medicinally and in the kitchen. Nicholas Culpeper, writing in the 1600s, said one use was as "an infusion of leaves to remove the headache occasioned by inebriation."

The group will study eight varieties of Thyme this year. Each participant will plant 4 varieties in the ground and 4 in containers. Records of growth, environmental factors, and harvesting will be taken.

Every month a particular topic will be presented by members of the group. Cultivation, harvesting, storage, baking, medicinal uses, and other uses will be explored.

At the end of the study the Horticulture Study Group plans to make a presentation to the unit. Let's hope we all have plenty of "thyme."

Phoebe Lake and Madeline Johnson

February Birthdays

- February 3 — Tony Scanapico
- February 17 — Barbara Solis
- February 20 — Bonnie Lout
- February 21 — Janie Cornelius and Mary Sockwell
- February 22 — Sara Holland

BIRTHDAYS

Tony Scanapico (February 3) included a history of the Plant Sale in his birthday message which is included later in the newsletter (page 10). He also provided a great photograph and the following: "**Wow!** Twenty five years in the Herb Society and Kay and I are to be members of the Society's Rosemary Circle. But it also means we've been volunteering at Festival Hill for 26 years. That's hard to believe. Where did the time go?"



I remember the Plant Sale back then. Kay and I had just moved to Round Top and weren't yet members of The Herb Society of America or the Pioneer Unit. We were holding a family reunion at our brand new house the same weekend as

the second Herb Festival. We, with some family members, participated as attendees. But, from the third Forum onward we've been there as working volunteers.

By the way, I'm looking forward to the next 25 years and receiving the Society's 50 years' membership award, the Golden Sage Circle. Hmm, since I was 80 at this past month's meeting when Kay and I got our 25 year award, that means I'd be 105. Wow, or **Wow!!!!**"

Janie Cornelius (February 21) sent two photographs for the newsletter.



"Christmas morning, Santa left a sweet little frog."



January 11: "My dining room, keeping my sanity."

GAZEBO REPORT

Thank you from the plant sale committee and board for the push to revive the Gazebo.

We are coming alive with excitement and productivity. A group of creative and talented ladies met at Festival Hill on the 23rd of January. We took turns mixing, matching tops to bottoms of mushrooms, and enjoyed making planter containers. Our products are wire brushed, sprayed with water, then wrapped for the curing process. See photographs on the facing page.

As Belinda Weatherby stated, her dear husband Jim has donated his talents, time, and supplies of a few birdhouses. We are in need of finishers to bring these creative items to completion, all painted and decorated to sell.

Caroll Edwards is planting succulents. If you have any to share, please contact Caroll at (361)648-0331. Oh, she has enough Aloe Vera.

We are looking forward to making stepping stones. Now we are asking for flat(ish) colored stones, tile, rocks, whatever works.

Please feel free to contact the Gazebo Committee:

Bev Elam (979) 966-3810
JoAnn Reichle (979) 551-1511
Leah Pearce (281) 844-2253

We appreciate our fun, hard working creative crew of January 23rd:

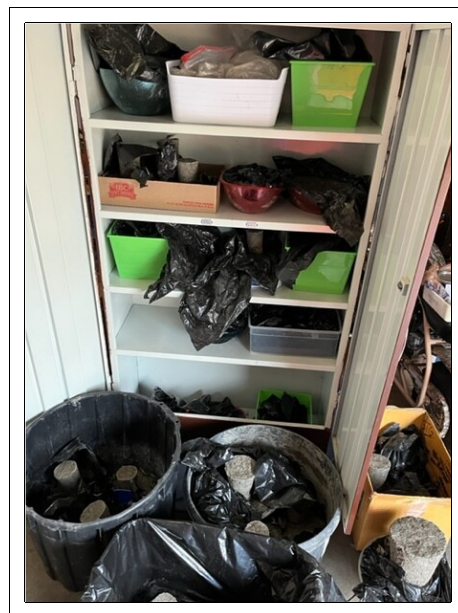
Cammie Beierle
Caroll Edwards
Cathy Nitsch
Ginger Heath
JoAnna Hagler
Leona Marshall
Tess Hartman
Thank you.

A special thank you for support, supplies, and molds goes to Henry Flowers, Caroll Edwards, Bev Elam, JoAnn Reichle, and Leah Pearce.

Leah Pearce



Hypertufa Crew and creations in progress



Plant Sale Planned for 3rd Weekend in March 2022

Plans proceed to host a traditional plant sale on Friday, March 18, and Saturday, March 19, 2022. Perhaps you would like to be among those helping distribute posters to storefronts, post offices and community bulletin boards? Maybe you would like to contribute snacks to the volunteer rest area? Maybe you would like to write up sales slips as shoppers finalize their purchases? How about helping in a specific area such as the Information Tent, the Holding Area, the Gazebo? There are a myriad of tasks, and all help is appreciated!

Questions? Suggestions? Contact:
Susan Yancey or Jana Rinehart

PLANT SALE HISTORY

Originally, the Plant Sale was held at the Round Top Inn. It's located on 237, way across town, at the south end of Round Top, on the right just as you leave town. The Herb Festival, as it was originally called, because the emphasis was on generating sales, was a joint venture by the then owner of the Round Top Inn, Sandy Reed; Festival Hill's Madeline Hill and Gwen Barclay; and the Pioneer Unit's Chair Mary Reeves. Sandy approached the others with the idea of starting a Herb Festival as a way to increase visitor traffic at her gift shop where she also sold herbs. There would be herb programs and meals at Festival Hill with the Plant Sale at her Inn.


Madeleine and Sandy determined the herbs to be ordered, Sandy paid wholesale for them, with all plants being delivered to her Inn's Gift Shop. After deducting her costs from the income of the sales of the plants, we split the profit with her.

Compared to today's Herbal Forums (pre-pandemic) it was a small operation with the sales purposely being rung up inside Sandy's Gift Shop, by her staff. When Sandy decided to move on to other ventures, Festival Hill and the Pioneer Unit took over the Plant Sale and moved it to Festival Hill. That meant we got to keep all the Plant Sale profit, immediately doubling our income. It also led to the Unit's herbal gift shop as we know it today. After a few years, Madelene and Gwen, when Gwen had become Unit Chair, wanted to push the aspects of education, so the name was changed to Herbal Forum. It also made it compatible with Festival Hill's other Forums. A few years later, in an effort to come up with a gift shop more herbie name, a contest was held within the Pioneer Unit and today's "Thyme Well Spent Shoppe" banner came about. And I should mention that at the time the Pioneer Unit took over complete control of the Plant Sale, our own, and also Festival Hill's, Henry Flowers took up the leadership of the Plant Sale. It was expanded to become the largest and best Plant Sale in this area of Texas. And, within the world of herbs, it gained an outstanding national reputation.

That was as we knew it to be before the Pandemic. Though the Pandemic is still with us, let's hope with our members' support we'll get this 2022 Plant Sale mostly back to what it was.

Tony Scanapico

February 2022

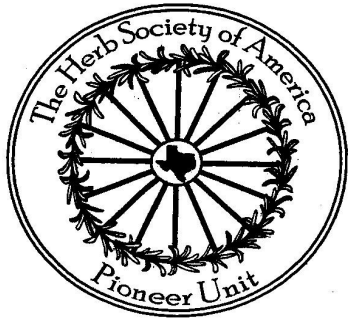
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends	1	2 CG 10:00 Menke House	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Pioneer Unit Meeting	11	12
13	14 	15	16	17 HB 9:30 Kay Scanapico	18	19
20 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor Irowlett@gmail.com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

March 2022



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Volume 29

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



The Herb Society of America has announced that Early Bird Registration is open through February 7, 2022, for the **2022 Annual Meeting of Members** in Charleston, South Carolina! The event will open on Thursday evening, April 28, with a welcome reception where we can mingle and socialize. On Friday, the day starts early with breakfast service beginning at 7:00 a.m. The next eight hours are packed with business meetings, the award luncheon, a marketplace, raffles, and three excellent presenters. For more details, see the Herb Society of America website.