



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

May 2022

Volume 29, Number 9

May 1
May Day

—

May 5
Cinco de Mayo

—

May 8
Mothers' Day

—



May 15
Corn Planting
Full Moon

—

May 30
Memorial Day

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

Date: May 12, 2022

Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet
10:00 a.m. Presentation and Meeting
Official Annual Meeting of our Members

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: Bitter is Better

Speaker: Mary Doebbeling and Sara Holland

Angel: Madeline Johnson

Hosts: Pat Garrett, Joyce Caddell, Wanda Hubbard, Mary Reeves, and Sherrie Tolbert

Lunch: This meeting will be a celebration our Pioneer Unit's thirty years of existence. The theme for the lunch is celebration! The Unit will be providing cakes.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The rain and heat have arrived and therefore the roses are blooming as well as salvia, yarrow, and tomatoes on the vine!

I am just back this past weekend from the Annual Meeting of the Herb Society of America in Charleston where my introduction elicited these comments: "The Pioneer Unit! You all do so much! I have heard of you... fantastic with all that you accomplish. Yes, nice to meet you representing a unit that has done so much, etc." I was surprised at how our reputation is all over the country. I hope that you are as proud as I was in receiving those compliments.

We have achieved much in these past 30 years and will celebrate at this May meeting with some of our founding members and cake. 1992 is when Mary Reeves, Frances Harris, Euphanel Goad, and others got together to begin an herbal group. After meeting for several years, they applied for membership to the national organization, and here we are today, going forward into the future after just completing our 27th Annual Herb Sale.

As per our Bylaws, we elect officers between April and July every two years. The Board decided at this past April meeting to hold the election in May because of Greg Grant's presentation in June where we hope to have many others besides our members in attendance, possibly attracting new and younger members.

I look forward to seeing many of you and together commemorating all those from the past and present who have together made this Pioneer Unit a huge success and a benefit to the communities around us.

Best,
Kathe Forrest
Chair

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

Emily Dickinson



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Did anyone else purchase one of these lilies from our plant sale? It's fabulous as you can see below! It was labeled as Native American Lily. I'm not familiar with them, but it's meant to be perennial, so I look forward to this show every spring!

I'm also looking forward to our upcoming speakers. It's great when the presenter(s) are "one (or two) of our own." Such is the case with Sarah Holland and Mary Doebbeling who will be speaking on "Bitter is Better," a fascinating look at the plants that evoke a taste of bitter. I've had a sneak preview of their presentation and it's fascinating!

So, join us on May 12 at St John's UCC in Burton. We will meet and greet from 9:30-10:00 with the presentation beginning at 10:00. Our Annual Meeting will follow the presentation.

As a reminder, we have returned to our potluck lunches, so be sure and bring a dish (it doesn't have to be bitter!).

Looking ahead to our June meeting, please see the info about Greg Grant's visit elsewhere in this newsletter.

Phoebe Lake
Programs Chair



FROM OUR HOSPITALITY CHAIR

Thanks to all of you who have stepped up to volunteer to assist with "getting back to normal." We have had a need for hostesses and many of you have signed up. In addition, members have also just pitched in as they have seen a need. We have a wonderful group who always seem to support each other!

Patty Mills
Hospitality Chair



PARTY TIME – CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Join us for our May meeting where you can meet some of the women who planted the seed for our Pioneer Unit today. Those present will include Mary Reeves, Kay Von Minden, Euphanel Goad, and maybe Gwen Barclay who with Madelene Hill mentored these ladies.

There will be a table featuring past achievements of the Unit -- pictures and scrapbooks too.

No need to bake desserts this meeting as the Unit will provide delicious and organic cakes from a bakery in Georgetown, Texas. How can you not come?

See you there,
Kathe Forrest

ANNUAL MEETING

As if the party was not sufficient reason to attend our May meeting, this is also our official Annual Meeting. The Pioneer Unit Bylaws allow us to conduct the Annual Meeting any time between April 1 and July 1. Because we are having Greg Grant at our June meeting and we expect a large group with many nonmembers, we are holding our Annual Meeting at the May meeting. We must have at least 20% of the membership present to conduct the Annual Meeting. One of the primary purposes of the Annual Meeting is to hold elections for the term commencing July 1, 2022. The Nominating Committee has been at work assembling a proposed slate of officers that we will ask you to consider at the meeting, as follows:

Unit Chair	Kathe Forrest
1st Vice Chair – Programs	Esther (Tess) Hartman
2nd Vice Chair – Membership	Diana Sellers
Secretary	Cammie Beierle
Treasurer	Debi Thomas

The nominating committee believes that these members will make a good executive board.

Linda L. Rowlett
Nominating Committee Chair

PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

April 20, 2022

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Present: Kathe Forrest, Diana Sellers, Debi Thomas, Linda Rowlett, Joanna Hagler, Cathy Nitsch, Cathy Kietlinski, Barbara Solis, Susan Yancey, Esther Hartman, Ann Lugg, Patty Mills

Old Business: Kathe Forrest, Chair, asked for a vote to approve pins handed out; a vote to add a registration area on the website; and a vote to approve the May celebration and honoring our founding members. All were in favor.

Programs: Kathe started the discussion about the logistics of our June speaker, Greg Grant. It was decided that the June meeting would be held at 10:00 and would be limited to 150 people, serving only coffee, tea and finger foods. The Unit would reach out to invite the public. All were in favor.

Treasurer: Debi Thomas, Treasurer, presented the budget showing the money made on the Plant Sale. There was then a discussion on some confusion about what was considered scholarship money during the sale. After different considerations and thoughts, a motion was made to send \$1,000 to the National Unit as scholarship money. All were in favor.

Membership: Diana Sellers shared a list the latest proposed new members and made a motion to approve them. Diana also made a motion to continue using Track it Forward. All were in favor.

Standing Committee Reports:

Plant Sale – Susan Yancey reported on the Plant Sale. She mentioned that she and Jana Rinehart will continue as co-chairs for the 2023 Sale. They have decided to meet more regularly and will post when the meetings are, so more people can be a part of the planning, if desired.

Kathe mentioned that after talking to Henry Flowers and others, it was agreed to make Parsley the Herb of the year for the 2023 Sale. It will be held March 17 and 18, 2023.

Festival Hill appreciated and thanked the Unit for the payment to Festival Hill of around \$1,000 from the sale of the t-shirts.

Kathe approached the Board about having a meeting this next year in Winedale. There are several options of rooms, and there was agreement to add Winedale to the roster of meeting places.

Communications – Ann Lugg stated that now that the registration is set up for the Plant Sale, payments and registration on our website should be easier. The person she asked to do the website for us is very busy, so Ann is looking into re-doing the site herself. In discussions about the site, Ann was asked to include: board minutes, member pictures, and the directions for Track It Forward. Ann agreed to all that was requested.

Nominations – Linda Rowlett stated the Nominations Committee was working on the slate of proposed officers. Those voted into office will start their two-year term in July.

Esther Hartman asked about the Unit participating in the Bee Jubilee on May 7th which has moved to Fireman's Park in New Ulm. There will be hand outs, and it was approved to purchase a new tent, as ours was broken at the Plant Sale.

Kathe noticed going through past year books that the garden workdays were listed. It was decided to add to the yearbook the list of projected garden workdays for the Sensory and Festival Hill Gardens. This way members can plan ahead accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Yeats, Secretary

MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT

April 14, 2022

Kathe Forrest, Chair, welcomed members to the April meeting.

Phoebe Lake, Vice Chair Programs, asked members to visit the church garden before they left. Brenham Presbyterian Church uses the \$125.00 meeting fee from the Pioneer Unit to help support the garden, and all the produce is given to Bread Partners for those in need. Phoebe then introduced speaker Susan Wood, an HSA member for 50 years, who gave a very entertaining program on potpourri.

Treasurer Debi Thomas announced a Forum result of about \$15,000 net for the plant sale and about \$5,000 net for Thyme Well Spent Shop. These figures may change as more income and expenses come in. Festival Hill received \$1,300 for t-shirts.

A video presentation of photos from the Forum was shown.

Susan Yancey presented a pin to member Noreen Barker in appreciation for all her hard work in the plant sale, as a Forum angel, and in the Mary Garden.

The Board will discuss a Forum 2023 agreement between Festival Hill and the Unit at their next meeting. Forum will fall on St. Patrick's Day, and Kathe asked for suggestions for Herb of the Year. One was Vetiver and more are welcomed.

Joanna Hagler needs more help in the Pharmacy Garden, especially in the South American and Indian beds. Henry Flowers may have more time to get involved shortly.

Members who haven't had their picture taken yet are asked to contact Kathe. She is planning another group picture of the Unit soon. The Pioneer Unit will be 30 years old in May 2022 and was started by Kay Von Minden, Mary Reeves, and Euphanel Goad, with Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay as mentors. Kathe asked for volunteers to work at the Bee Jubilee on May 7.

Phoebe announced a presentation by Henry at Winedale on April 21st for Round Top Family Library. His program is "Plants that Changed the Course of History," a talk he gave to the Unit in 2021, but this time he will have PowerPoint.

Diana Sellers, Vice Chair Membership, announced three guests who are all interested in joining the Unit. They were Debbie Pruitt, Debi Meschwitz, and Martha Neva. Speaker Susan Wood brought a helper from the South Texas Unit, and Wanda Hubbard brought her husband Norman. Diana read a letter from Mary Reeves thanking members for all the hard work at Forum. Janie Plummer has earned her 15-year pin but was not present today.

Membership renewals are due and the application can be brought to the May meeting, mailed to the Unit's P.O. Box, or paid online.

Diana is sending instructions for the Track it Forward app to everyone as a reminder to post volunteer hours. Guidelines for these are in the Yearbook.

Hospitality Chair Patty Mills thanked today's hostesses for organizing our first potluck lunch in two years. Door prizes were won by Sandy Brown, Sally Reynolds, Esther Hartman, and Mary Doebbeling. July hostesses are needed.

Finally, Phoebe found a very original and entertaining way to request interested members to volunteer to fill the position of Vice Chair Programs!

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cox for Lori Yeats, Secretary

THYME WELL SPENT

Time flies and the Thyme Well Spent Shoppe didn't make the deadline last month (my fault), so ... many, many belated thanks to everyone who helped to make the shop a success this year. Special recognition goes to Louise Rice for her expertise as Head Cashier. Also to the Culinary Group as they can always be counted on to make many delicious varieties of mustard. Pat Cox, our resident chemist, truly outdid herself with "scent"sational lotions. The Jams and Jellies were lovingly managed by Cathy Kietlinski. Diana Sellers handled the Scholarship Table to its most successful year ever. Henry Flowers blended many of our spice blends. Kay Scanapico and her "stripper" friends provided more herbal blends.

All the herbs and spice blends sold out within the first few hours of the sale. Belinda Weatherly arranged all the beautiful handmade items. So many thanks for those efforts. I am certain I have left out many equally deserving members who made jellies, jams, and quilted and embroidered items. Most sincere thanks to all.

P.S.- It's time to start thinking about what to make in 2023!

Cathy Nitsch
Thyme Well Spent Shoppe

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership Renewal Time is Here

The Membership Renewal process has started. Why do we start this process in May? The Pioneer Unit's year is July 1 through June 30th. The Herb Society of America requires units to submit their membership forms and dues by July 1st, so by the beginning of June, units start compiling their reports. We submit them to HSA by the end of June, along with a check. Lots of steps!

As of today, May 2, 2022, I have received 24 membership renewal forms and checks. Very exciting; making good progress. You have three options for renewing, and all 3 are acceptable:

Submit the renewal form and money online.

Print the renewal form, complete and send it and a check to the Pioneer Unit PO Box.

Print the renewal form, complete and give it to me during a meeting.

Make checks payable to HSA Pioneer Unit. 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.

I have received a number of questions regarding Membership categories, and I will admit, it can be confusing. The categories are Active, Affiliate, and Life. Both Active and Affiliate members must be members in good standing with the Herb Society of America, which means you must pay the annual membership fee of \$55. Life members pay a one-time, life-time amount of money to be a member of HSA forever.

The main question is "What is the difference between Active and Affiliate?"

An Active member must complete 20 hours of unit volunteer time and attend at least 3 meetings per year. An Active member can vote on business issues and can hold an officer position.

An Affiliate member does not have to complete volunteer time or attend the required number of meetings. An Affiliate member cannot vote on issues or hold an officer position. Often a person will choose to be an Affiliate because she is an Active member of another unit but wants to maintain a tie to different unit. The Pioneer Unit has many Affiliates in this position: they are Active members of other units but want to keep in touch with us. Others choose to be Affiliates because they want to participate as much as possible but are not able to complete the required volunteer hours or attend all the meetings.

Whether you choose the category of Active member or Affiliate member, the total amount you pay is still \$67 (\$55 for HSA and \$12 for the Pioneer Unit) (single) or \$98 (joint), unless you are an Active member of another unit. Then you only pay the \$12 to be an Affiliate member of our unit.

Volunteer Hours

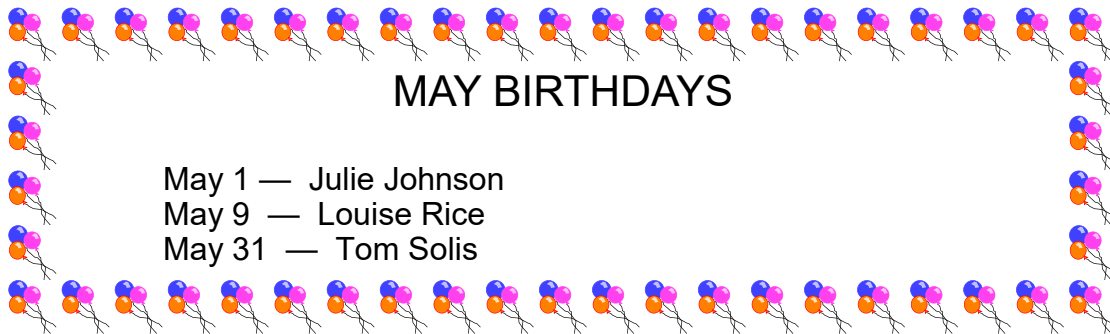
Don't forget to document all those volunteer hours in our Track It Forward (TIF) system. If it's been a while since you've logged in, don't worry: you are still in the system. To find Track It

Continued on next page

Forward, go to the Internet and type in Track It Forward; click on the Track It Forward link. When the webpage comes up, sign in with your email address and your password, then click on Log In. Your email address is the one you have listed with the Pioneer Unit. If you don't remember your password, click on "Find It Here" which is next to the question "Can't Remember Your Password." Create a new password. Start entering your volunteer time. You can also download the TIF app on your phone and enter your hours through your phone. The preference is for everyone to enter their own hours, but, if you need some help, you can send me the dates and times that you volunteered, and I will enter them for you. Most important - I want to be sure that we capture all the hours that everyone volunteered.

If you need a few more hours to finish off the required 20, there is always plenty of work in the gardens. Joanna Hagler sent an email saying that she would be at Festival Hill every Monday morning, and Cathy Kietlinski has a watering schedule for the Sensory Garden. Call a friend and go together. Have a garden party. You can contact Patty Mills to sign up to be a Hostess or Angel. Or write an article for the newsletter.

Herbally Yours,
Diana Sellers
Membership Chair



MAY BIRTHDAYS

 May 1 — Julie Johnson
 May 9 — Louise Rice
 May 31 — Tom Solis



Louise Rice (May 9) sent the adjacent picture and a message about her plans: "Last year at this time, the flower bed pictured was full of weeds. I am excited that I have this area weeded and the tomato plants planted and the lantana will soon be blooming! I usually celebrate my birthday all month. On my birthday I will go to my sister's and have lemon meringue pie. Later this month I will go to a couple of plays with different friends."

THE PHARMACY GARDEN

It was a lovely morning in the Pharmacy Garden. Belinda Weatherly and I chatted, admired plants, and pulled a few weeds. There are so many plants emerging and some blooming. Little surprises everywhere.

Folks have been busy. The beds that were jungle-like after winter are now clean and ready for growing season. Lots of hard work, and the garden looks great.

Henry Flowers installed our new sign. What a wonderful addition and tribute. Thank you, Sally Reynolds, for your masterful writing; Kathe Forrest, for your boundless energy that gets procurement done so quickly; and Henry for finding the right spot and getting it in the ground. So well done!

I snapped a few pictures. The new plant signs look so good. This is also a Kathe contribution. If left to me, we'd have popsicle sticks as markers. Well, actually, just those typical metal markers. Kathe has more class and suggested we up our game.

Enjoy the pictures and have a great week in your own garden.

Joanna Hagler



THE SENSORY GARDEN

We had a fabulous workday at the Sensory Garden! Many thanks to Henry Flowers for ordering the plants and delivering them for the Color Wheel, as well as the vines to go around the gazebo, etc.

Cindy Nash, Susan Bame, Tess Hartman, and Tory (a potential new member) joined me in the garden. They worked so hard, and the garden looks much better due to their efforts.

Wednesday, May 11th, I plan to work in the garden from 8:30-10:30 a.m. You are cordially invited to join me if you have time to do so. Thanks for considering this request.

Cathy Kietlinski



Editor's Note: Thanks to Susan Bame for sending some of these photos. I am always happy to have extra photos to use when space allows.

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

Cultivating for the Perfect Thyme

Thymes fall into three general types: upright subshrubs, creeping, and flat. Patty Mills and Ginger Heath provided the program on cultivating thyme at the April 28th meeting of the Horticulture Study Group. Thymes like well-drained soil and are generally drought tolerant once established. But don't skimp on the water until the plant is established. Plant in full sun with a minimum of 6 hours a day. Some afternoon shade is appreciated during our hot summers. Don't fertilize with a high-nitrogen fertilizer as you will sacrifice flavor for growth.



Regular harvesting is recommended as it extends the life of the plant. Woody stems shorten the life and open the plant to a greater risk of winter damage. Harvesting in the fall (up to 1/3 of the length of the stems) prepares the thyme for winter. Avoid heavy pruning in the heat of summer as it can cause the plant to dieback. Pests and diseases rarely attack thyme.

Thyme is an easy and rewarding herb to grow. Allow the soil to dry between waterings and allow space around the plant so that the foliage dries quickly in the morning. You will enjoy years with this herb and marvel at its resiliency.

Madeline Johnson

CULINARY GROUP



The Culinary group is finishing up this year with a field trip to Phoenicia and lunch at Fadi's. June will be food from the Provence area of France and July will be our annual ice cream social featuring herbal ice cream and sorbets. All are welcome to come to our meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Menke House at Festival Hill. Text Belinda Weatherly at 713-398-0994 for more information.

Belinda Weatherly

HYPERTUFA WORKSHOP

The next Hypertufa Workshop is scheduled for May 22nd at 2:00 p.m. at Festival Hill near the Pharmacy Garden. Weather permitting.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Bev Elam, JoAnn Reichle, and Leah Pearce

HSA WEBINAR

The next webinar on the Herb Society of America website features NYT bestselling author Sarah Penner who will discuss the research and writing of her international bestselling debut, The Lost Apothecary. Penner will share the research materials she used, including the first-hand journals of an 18th century apothecary; herbal and plant remedies; and resources on historical poisoning crimes. Penner will also share her personal collection of herbal teas and essential oils, including some of her favorite everyday remedies!

Sarah Penner is the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of The Lost Apothecary (Park Row Books/HarperCollins) which will be translated into forty languages worldwide and is set to be turned into a drama series by Fox. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Sarah spent thirteen years in corporate finance and now writes full-time. She and her husband live in St. Petersburg, Florida. To learn more, visit SarahPenner.com. [from the Herb Society website]





***Heirloom Gardening in the South
Yesterday's Plants for Today's Gardens***

By Greg Grant
**Award-winning horticulturist, writer, photographer,
conservationist, and seventh generation Texan**

Thursday, June 9, 2022

10 am

St John's UCC, 516 North Colorado St, Burton, TX

**This free event is sponsored by the Pioneer Unit of
The Herb Society of America.**

Seating is limited.

**Registration is requested at herbsocietypioneer.org
or 281 660 6071**

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 CG 10:00 Menke House	5	6	7 Bee Fest New Ulm Firemen Park
8 Mother's Day	9	10 HSA Webinar 2:00 <u>The Lost Apothecary</u>	11	12 Pioneer Unit Meeting	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 HB 9:30 Kay Scanapico	20	21
22 Hypertufa Workshop FH 2:00	23	24	25	26 HG 10:00 Festival Hill	27	28
29 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor lrowlett@gmail.com	30	31			CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends

June 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 CG 10:00	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Pioneer Unit Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 HB 9:30 Kay Scanapico	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22	23 HG 10:00 Festival Hill	24	25
26 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor lrowlett@gmail.co	27	28	29	30		



PIONEER PATHS

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 NEW ULM TEXAS HONEY BEE JUBILEE

**MAY 7
2022**

MAY 7, 2022 | 9 AM - 4 PM
FREE ADMISSION
NEW ULM FIREMAN'S PARK
1899 TRACK RD, NEW ULM, TX 78950

CELEBRATING THE FABULOUS HONEYBEES
AND THE NATURE THAT SURROUNDS THEM

Local Honey From Local Beekeepers

Vendor Booths	Honey Gifts
Live Entertainment	Local Artisans
Educational Seminars	Kids Activity Area
Workshops	Honey Tasting
Honey Products	Native Plant Sales
Live Displays	Food & Drink
Beekeeping Supplies	Beekeeping Clubs

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