

PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

November 2022

Volume 30, Number 3

November 6
Daylight Savings
Ends
(fall back one hour)



November 8
Frosty Full Moon

November 11
Veterans Day

November 24



MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: November 10, 2022
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Gather
10:00 a.m. Presentation and Meeting
- Location: Brenham Presbyterian Church
900 South Jackson Street
- Directions: Exit Highway 290 to Business 36 North (Day Street) into Brenham. Continue north to College Street. Turn left to Jackson Street, and the church will be on your left.
- Program: Chocolate Alchemy with Herbs and Spices
- Speaker: Migaloo Chocolatier
- Angel: Betty Pior
- Hosts: Beverly Green, Carroll Edwards, Tory Farley, Connie Gwyn, Becky Nichols, and Irene Spurrier
- Lunch: Thanksgiving Buffet

Note: Contact Patty Mills if you have not signed up to make a dish for our luncheon.

pattymills67@gmail.com
832-567-8189



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dia de la Muertos begins today, and it is cloudy here in Taylor, Texas. Thankfully I received almost three-quarters of an inch of rain, and my flowers and broccoli are happy.

The Forum committee met, and we accomplished quite a bit, making decisions about presenters, the time schedule for Saturday, showcasing the Pharmacy Garden, and other smaller details. I will speak about this more at our Thanksgiving meeting.

I am looking forward to eating with everyone and enjoying the presentation on chocolate. Short and sweet today.

Best,

Kathe Forrest
Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

It is a wonderful rainy fall day, and I hope everyone is getting these refreshing showers. I am dodging the showers to pick the last of my persimmons. They were not large this year, but sweet—and they make a tasty persimmon and pear crisp.

I am pleased and intrigued about our next meeting's topic – Chocolate Alchemy. The presenter is the chocolatier from Migaloo Chocolates in Houston. Many of us (myself included) cannot resist the lure of good chocolate. Suzanna will intrigue us with her chocolate magic as well as provide us with samples and treats to purchase if desired.

Please join us at the Brenham Presbyterian Church on the 10th for our November meeting and Thanksgiving potluck!

Esther Hartman
Programs Chair



MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA
PIONEER UNIT

October 13, 2022

Tess Hartman, Programs Chair, introduced Lauren Simpson, the creator of St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat. She presented quite an interesting and educational talk on landscape design and pollinators in the garden. Lauren provided seeds for us to plant to attract pollinators.

Kathe Forrest, Chair, called the business meeting to order at 11:00. Kathe introduced two items from the October Board meeting. She read the new Proposed Agreement between the Unit and Festival Hill and asked for discussion on that. Vote passed.

Next was the topic of volunteer hours for those active members over the age of 80. Kathe explained that they did need to fulfill the required volunteer hours but did not have to work in the gardens. It was decided to leave the requirements as they are. Examples of ways to earn hours were given.

Kathe introduced Julie Johnson who facilitates volunteer hours in the gardens at Festival Hill. Julie asked volunteers to sign up to coordinate the volunteers working these gardens.

Belinda Weatherly thanked Julie, Jana Rinehart, Tony Scanapico, and others who had spent many hours working to make the gardens look so good! She also mentioned that we need new items for the Thyme Well Spent Shoppe, and she mentioned that she had materials for projects if anyone was interested.

Cathy Nitsch, Thyme Well Spent Chair, suggested we offer workshops to make items for TWS Shoppe. She has gourds that people can decorate and other materials that can be used to make items. She brought jars for volunteers who make jams and jellies.

Leah Pearce reported that she, Jo Ann Reichle, Pat Cox, and Noreen Barker conducted the September hypertufa workshop. The next hypertufa workshop will be October 26 at 9:00 at Festival Hill. They asked people to bring panty hose for use in shaping the creations. Leah's number is 281-844-2253 for questions.

Barbara Solis, Scholarships, called for applicants for scholarships for educational opportunities for members.

Kathe announced that positions are open for application at HSA National.

To increase visibility of the Pioneer Unit to the surrounding communities, there are plans for evening meetings in the spring and posting recorded monthly meeting speakers on the website. Linda Rowlett and Ann Lugg, Publicity, submit information about meetings to local newspapers.

Diana Sellers, Membership Chair, reminded the group to bring seeds for the spring Forum. She said there were 36 members present and 7 visitors: Janice Golding, Rhonda Kirkwood, Debi Meschwitz, Joanie Havlich, Milton Ressmann, Harriet Wells, and Mary Grace Hearnberger. She offered volunteer hours for helping her with membership committee work and asked volunteers to sign up at the welcome table. She also asked for volunteers to mentor new members with Track It Forward.

Patty Mills invited attenders to check out the seeds at Lauren Simpson's table.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37.

Respectfully submitted.
Cammie Beierle, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

As I sit writing my newsletter article today, the weather is cool, drizzly, and very gray. I love it - warm drinks and cozy flannel shirts!

I learned so much from the October presenter, Lauren Simpson – a different way to think about wildlife habitats and gardening. That's why I enjoy attending our meetings so much. The presenters bring so much knowledge and inspiration to me. Thanks, Tess, for arranging another great program. And, in addition to the program, it's great to visit with our fellow herbalists. Thirty-seven members attended the meeting in October and there were 7 visitors. The following visitors attended the October meeting: Janice Golding, Harriett Wells, Mary Grace Hearnberger, Rhoda Kirkwood (Louise Rice), Debi Meschwitz (Susan Yancey, Joanne Reichle, and Bonnie Lout), Joanie Havlick (Pat Cox), and Milton Ressler (Linda Rowlett). We enjoy having visitors and are grateful for the members who bring them.

2022 - 2023 Membership Directory – the new membership directory was handed out to those who attended the meeting. There are plenty more to distribute, so be sure to attend the November meeting to receive your copy. There are 2 typos in the new directory: for the November meeting, Betty Pior is the Speaker Angel, not Becky Pior; in the Active Member section, please change Carol Edwards' email address to caroll.edwards@outlook.com (two 'll', not one). Please correct these typos in your Directory.

The Herbarist - HSA has mailed this year's Herbarist to all members. I received mine in the mail yesterday. Be on the lookout for yours. Beautiful cover and some interesting articles.

Talking about HSA – did you know as a member of HSA, you have access to a wealth of information and resources? How do you access the website – type in www.herbsociety.org. If a Membership Login button doesn't pop right up, click on the 3 horizontal bars on the right side of the page, then scroll down until you see Member Login. Click on that and sign-in using your Username (which is your email address). The password is on your Membership ID card that you received in the mail a couple of months ago (unless you have changed it yourself). The site has information about various herbs, all kinds of delicious recipes, access to all the webinars (past and current), and much more. I attended the October HSA webinar called "Herbal Cocktail Party." It was truly superb!! Lots of fun tips to make hosting your next cocktail party a success. Take advantage of your membership resources!

Pioneer Unit Website – don't forget to check out our own website. There are resources there also. You can review Pioneer Path Newsletters, the Membership Directory, and Board Meeting Minutes, to name a few. To access, type in Pioneer Unit Herb Society of America in your browser. Some information is available to members only and needs a password. I will ask Linda Rowlett to include the password in the email when she sends out this edition of the newsletter.

Collecting Seeds

As I mentioned last month, now is the time to collect seeds for the Herbal Forum. We count on your seeds to fill the seed packets we make to sell each year in the Thyme Well Spent Shoppe. This past March, we had 200 seed packets to sell. We sold out the first day. You can start bringing your seed collections to the Unit meetings. Give them to Diana Sellers or Cathy Nitsch. We ask that you remove any of the debris that surrounds the seeds and just give us the seeds. Package each group of seeds in a different container – paper sack, ziplock bag, plastic jar – and label them. Collecting seeds and preparing them to be used in the sale is an excellent way to earn volunteer hours.

Volunteer Hours – at the October meeting, I mentioned I am interested in having members serve at the Sign-in Table each month. I just need a couple each month to welcome visitors and give them information about our unit and how to become members. You will earn volunteer hours when you help with that. Let me know. I had a couple of responses so far. It's a great way to make new friends.

Herbally Yours,
Diana Sellers, Membership Chair

CULINARY GROUP



The Culinary Group enjoyed Cajun/Creole food during the November meeting. Did you know that they aren't the same? And . . . the cuisine of New Orleans has its own ambiance. So sauté some Louisiana 'holy trinity' and get cooking. (onion, bell pepper and celery).

Belinda Weatherly

Editor's Note: I consulted my New Orleans-born daughter-in-law about the differences, and she had lots to say. The bottom line is that Creole has more city influences while Cajun food tends to be more simple. She also said that if you put tomatoes in your food, you better not call it Cajun!

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

In this last meeting to focus on thyme, the Horticulture Study Group learned how thyme is used in arrangements, ointments, bath salts, and more. The photo shows some of the products created by members of HSG. Royceanna Kendall shared her recipe for a thyme/oregano ointment. She has used this salve on bites and dry skin with success. Betty Pior inspired us with a show of plantings and arrangements using different types of thyme. Finally, Becky Nichols overwhelmed us with the use of thyme in a variety of bath products including bath salts, body butter, and bath bombs. The following is Becky's recipe for bath salts:

- 1 cup Epsom salts
- 1 cup sea salt
- ½ cup baking soda
- ½ tablespoon olive oil
- 10 drops of thyme essential oil
- 20 drops of lavender essential oil
- 10 drops of rose fragrance oil

As we wind up our study of thyme during one of the hottest and driest summers in 10 years, we discovered that thyme once established can withstand extreme conditions, but in its first year, thyme struggles. Our presentation at the January 2023 Pioneer Unit Meeting will provide details on what we learned about starting thyme under adverse growing conditions.



THYME WELL SPENT

We hope all our "crafters" are busy making wonderful items for the Thyme Well Spent Shop. If you are a Jam/Jelly maker and need jars, just email Cathy Kietlinski or Cathy Nitsch, and we will deliver them to you. Otherwise, please remember, we are **very thankful for you** and look forward to all the lovely everythings y'all are making for March 2023!

Cathy Nitsch, TWSS
281-235-5078
cathy.nitsch@gmail.com

Lesson from the Pharmacy Garden

Belinda Weatherly and I are caretakers of the Mexico raised bed in the Pharmacy Garden. We became alarmed recently when our one, large cactus plant was covered in white sticky blotches. Naturally we turned to our expert for advice:

Dear Henry,
Do you know what this white stuff is on the cactus in the Mexico garden? The plant has dropped a lot of leaves.

And Henry replied:

Cochineal. It is an insect prized for use as a dye and it only lives on prickly pear cacti (I think). It is also used as a natural red dye for lipstick, food and more. If you mash a small bit the red will be obvious. The white fuzzy stuff protects the insect and makes it look somewhat like mealy bugs. It usually won't totally overwhelm the plant and dropping a few pads likely won't hurt the plant. I think I have a book about it if you or anyone else is interested.

So we hope you can benefit from our experience!
Susan Yancey and Belinda Weatherly



November Birthdays

November 7 — Belinda Weatherly
November 14 — Jana Rinehart
November 19 — Lois Sutton
November 24 — Bev Elam and Barbara Hemmer
November 26 — Diana Reed
November 30 — Tory Farley



Diana Reed (November 26) wrote: "I like to grow, sew and know! My enjoyment of gardening, sewing and reading in my free time often get in the way of each other. Don't remember a boring day in my life, but often end the day frustrated about not getting more done! What a beautiful privileged life!

"Thank you to all the members of the Pioneer Unit, especially our board members and committees. I have learned a wealth of knowledge being a member of this wonderful group."

Tory Farley (November 30) sent the following message: "This may be rushed, and I certainly apologize. I was not prepared to write a birthday message. I noticed my birthday was missing from the yearbook; and humbly, I was fine with that. For 11 years I have happily become acclimated to my birthday being pushed to the wayside. My son Knox was born the day after my birthday, and he has been my most favorite birthday blessing. Along with that, I will include something I have accomplished and so excited about.

"As most of you know, I am a 2022 class Bluebonnet Master Gardener. I love being a Master Gardener. I have learned so much and LOVE it all. This week, I have completed the Advanced Training Texas Superstar Program. All of you will love this fact. GREG GRANT was the instructor, and it was AMAZING! I will have furthered my certification and also be a certified Texas Superstar specialist. Never would I have ever thought this would be a real thing in my life. But it is and it makes me so happy.

"In the closing of this message, I would like to give a very special THANK YOU to Tess Hartman for taking me under her wing and being my mentor in one of the most special groups of people I have ever been among. I am grateful to the Herb Society Pioneer Unit for giving me the warmest welcome and genuinely caring and wanting me in this organization. Love to you all. "

November 2022



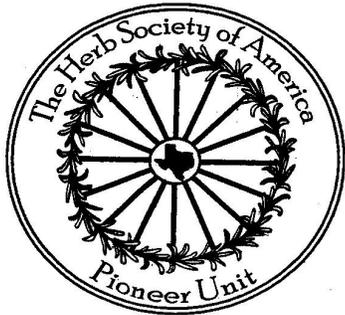
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends	1	2 CG at FH	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Pioneer Unit Meeting	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 HG 10:00-noon FH	18	19
20 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor lrowlett@gmail.com	21	22	23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



December 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	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor lrowlett@gmail.com	28	29	30	31





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Volume 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—Tess Hartman

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers

Secretary—Cammie Beierle

Treasurer—Debi Thomas

49th ANNUAL
HERB
FAIR

Saturday Nov. 5, 2022
9am - 2pm

*Huge variety of HERB PLANTS
Herbal Gifts, Books, Jellies,
Teas, and Culinary Blends*

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