

# PIONEER PATHS

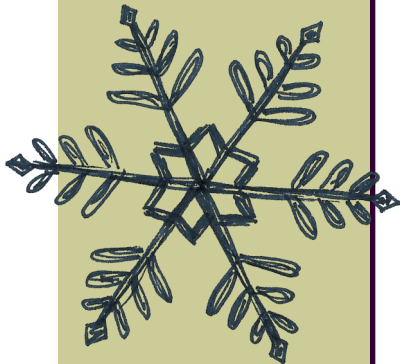
Newsletter of the Herb Society of America  
Pioneer Unit

December 2022

Volume 30, Number 4

December 7  
Long Nights Full  
Moon

December 21  
Winter Solstice



## MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date:** December 8, 2022
- Time:** 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet (Lower Chapel)  
10:00 a.m. Presentation and Meeting (Edith Bates Old Chapel)
- Location:** Festival Hill  
Round Top, Texas
- Directions:** From Highway 290, take Texas 237 south 6.6 miles to Jaster Road. Turn right on Jaster Road. Turn left into the parking lot and drive back to the Lower Chapel and the Edith Bates Old Chapel.
- Program:** The Many Joys of Ginger
- Speaker:** Henry Flowers
- Angel:** Royceanna Kendall  
**Hosts:** Cathy Nitsch, Connie Gwyn, Cathy Kietlinski, Patty Royal, and Sally Reynolds
- Lunch:** Christmas Lunch at Festival Hill  
(You must register and pay for lunch by November 28.)



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I'm sitting on my back porch and looking at all the green around me. Both of my roses along the house are blooming, and my lemon balm continues to bush out as well as my lavender. The broccoli that I planted among these others is growing like mad. Yes, I have lost my basil, but everything else is thriving!

I am so looking forward to our Christmas presentation and being back at Festival Hill and having lunch served to us that I can hardly contain myself. There will be many of us just like the old times, plus some husbands.

As far as Pioneer Unit news – the MOU (memorandum of understanding) has been completed and sent on to the Festival Hill Institute to approve and sign; maybe I will know by our meeting. Keep your fingers crossed.

I will end by adding a colorful picture of my Japanese maple.

Best,  
Kathe Forrest  
Chair



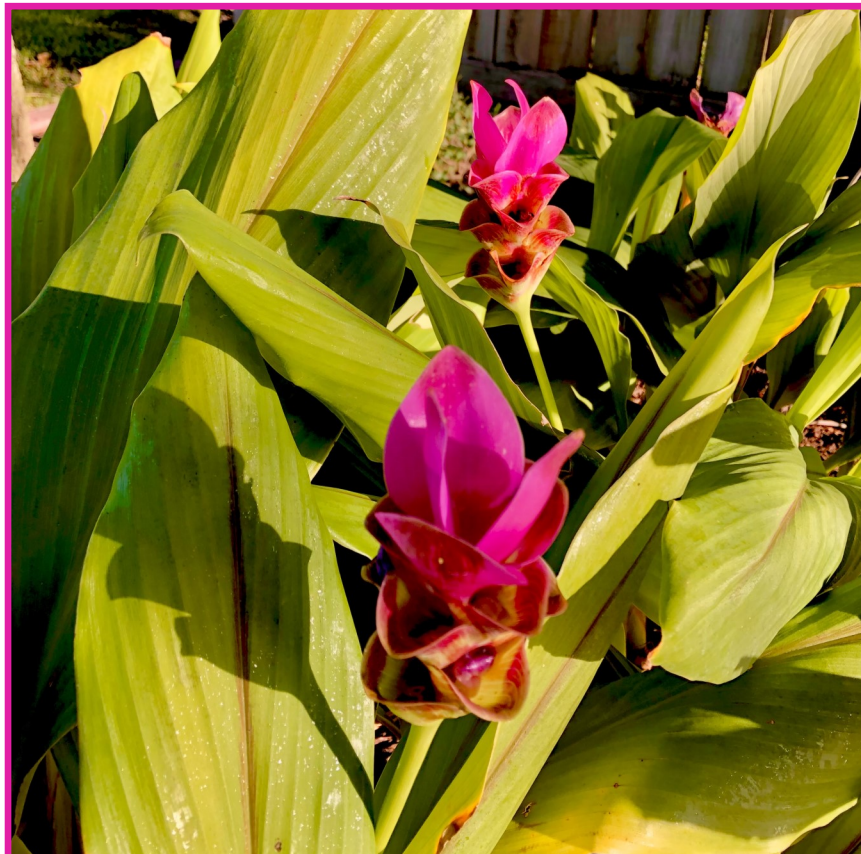
## FROM OUR PROGRAMS CHAIR

What an excellent warm day to be weeding and harvesting in my garden. Today I will finish harvesting my basil and make basil ice cubes for my freezer to use for soups and smoothies.

My Christmas tree is ready to decorate, my foster kittens are on their way to an adoption center, and I almost feel as if I am able to relax a bit.

We have an exciting meeting planned for December. We will be at Festival Hill and will enjoy a special lunch prepared by the chefs there. Henry Flowers will be sharing his wisdom about growing gingers in our area, and if you have not heard Henry before, you are certainly in for a treat.

Tess Hartman  
Programs Chair





## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Is it really possible that it is already once again December? Seems like I was preparing for Christmas 2021. Time is flying. I hope everyone has experienced the beneficial rain that we've had lately. I received a total of 3 inches over a week.

I was overjoyed to hear about all the health benefits of chocolate during the November presentation. It was truly wonderful to hear about all the delicious chocolate goodies the chocolatier ladies brought to show us. Yummy!! Then the members and guests shared a great Thanksgiving feast thanks to all the scrumptious dishes that showed up.

Forty-one members and 6 guests were in attendance at the meeting. The following guests joined us – Rhonda Kirkwood (Louise Rice), Deb Meschwitz (Bonnie Lout), Joanie Havlic (Pat Cox & Noreen Barker), Milton Ressmann (Linda Rowlett), Martha Neva (Deb Thomas), and Jann Darsie (Esther Hartman). Thanks to all our members who brought these guests. All of them, except for Jann Darsie who was here visiting from New Orleans, have voiced interest in becoming members of the Pioneer Unit.

**'2022 - '2023 Membership Directory** – I continued to distribute the new membership directory to members who hadn't received their copy yet. I have written in corrections for those directories that weren't handed out in November. For those of you who received your directory in November, there are a couple of additional corrections:

**Deb Thomas** – change Deb's phone number to (713) 252-3033

**Cathy Nitsch** – change her birthdate from 28 Dec to 28 Oct

**Ann Lugg** – change her birthdate from 06 Oct to 16 Oct

**Tory Farley** – add her birthdate, which is 30 Nov

### Collecting Seeds

Several members brought seeds to me at the November meeting. Thank you very much!! Keep them coming. We still need lots and lots. 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.

Herbally Yours,  
Diana Sellers  
Membership Chair



## December Birthdays

December 9 — Beverly Green  
December 19 — Linda Rowlett  
December 25 — Becky Nichols  
December 31 — Phoebe Lake



**Linda Rowlett** (December 19) wrote: "On December 19, I will have completed 74 trips around the sun. I am hoping for quite a few more. I continue to work in my garden and read voraciously. I recently started taking piano lessons, because I always want to be learning something new. And I continue to love being a part of the Pioneer Unit. Life can be tough, but it is good.

"I am including a photo taken many years ago, when I was young enough to perform as Emily Dickinson. Here, I am sitting in her garden in Amherst, Massachusetts. While she is best known as a poet, Dickinson did love working in her garden and reading."



"We turn not older in years, but newer every day."  
Emily Dickinson in a letter to one of her cousins, 1874

MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING  
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
PIONEER UNIT

November 10, 2022

Kathe Forrest, Chair, welcomed members to the November meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Tess Hartman, Vice Chair Programs, introduced today's speakers, two sisters from Migaloo Chocolatier. They gave a fabulous presentation on chocolate. They taught us to roll the chocolate around our tongues to enjoy the flavors on different parts of the taste buds and on different types of chocolate. Betty Pior was speaker angel.

Kathe announced that the 2023 Forum Committee has had their first meeting. Henry Flowers will present 'Henry's Picks' on the Friday morning of Forum. A tour of the Pharmacy Garden will be given at lunch on Saturday. A dedication to Gwen Barclay is under discussion.

Ann Lugg said the Silent Auction usually raises about \$800 and asked for auction items to be delivered before Forum.

The hours for Forum have changed and are now Friday from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Pioneer Unit's Agreement with Festival Hill has been approved and Festival Hill will receive 5% of the net profits from the Plant Sale at the Forum.

Diana Sellers reported that 41 members and six guests attended today's meeting. Guests are Rhonda Kirkwood, Debi Meschwitz, Joanie Havlic, Milton Ressmann, Martha Neva, and Jann Darsie.

Members with November birthdays include Belinda Weatherly, Jana Rinehart, Lois Sutton, Beverly Elam, Barbara Hemmer, Diana Reed, and Tory Farley. The Unit congratulated Patty Mills on her 50th wedding anniversary.

Patty thanked the hospitality team who did a wonderful job of serving Thanksgiving lunch. Tory received special mention for her third time as hostess.

Door prize winners were Belinda Weatherly, Cindy Nash, Susan Bame, Pat Cox, Cammie Beierle, and Linda Hartson.

The December meeting will be at Festival Hill with a Christmas meal prepared by the Festival Hill kitchen. The cost is \$10.00 for members and \$32.00 for guests.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cammie Beierle, Secretary

## THYME WELL SPENT SHOP

Happy Holidays from Thyme Well Spent Shop! There will be gourds at the December meeting if any of our members wish to take some home and make birdhouses or baskets or anything of interest (look up ideas on Pinterest). Also, if you need jars for canning, just let Cathy Kietlinski or me know. March isn't that far away, so be thinking of all the lovely ways you will contribute to a wonderful sale!

Cathy Nitsch  
Thyme Well Spent Shop  
281-235-5078

## HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

The Horticulture Study Group (HSG) discussed lessons learned about growing thyme under unusual heat and dry conditions. Once thyme is established, it is a hardy perennial that can tolerate both heat and cold. Not surprisingly though, newly planted thyme requires more care. During our round robin discussion of the thymes that survived, a recurring observation emerged -- partial shade helps. This can be provided in several ways. A taller companion plant, a tree, or shade cloth can offer this protection. The effect of partial shading reduces the soil temperature around the thyme's tender roots and slows evaporation from both its leaves and the surrounding soil. See the accompanying photo of Betty Pior's lemon thyme under the shade of an orchid tree.



HSG will make a formal presentation to the Unit at its January meeting where we plan to share more.

Looking forward to 2023, the HSG chose mint as its study herb. If you are interested in joining HSG in 2023, we encourage you to attend our January 26 meeting. HSG meets on the 4th Thursday of each month (excluding December) from 10:00 till noon at Festival Hill. If you like the gardening side of herbs, then you will find this group a perfect fit. Our goal is to have fun on the way to becoming better herb gardeners.

Madeline Johnson



## HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA NEWS

### UPCOMING WEBINAR:

#### **Vanilla: A Botanical and Social History**

with Sarah Lohman  
Culinary Historian and Author  
December 13, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Eastern

America's most popular ice cream flavor has only been in use for the last 200 years. Where did vanilla come from, and what came before it? Sarah Lohman, Culinary Historian and author of [Eight Flavors: The Untold Story of American Cuisine](#), will walk you through the amazing history of the vanilla orchid. We'll cover vanilla from its first uses by Indigenous Americans, to the scientist responsible for the advent of the vanilla industry, to the proliferation of vanilla extract. You'll get your fill of facts you can bust out at your next dinner party as well as make better informed choices when using vanilla in your kitchen.

**ONLINE COURSES:** Did you know that HSA was developing online courses? The following course is currently available for purchase. It includes 13 lessons in three hours of video material. You can find more information under the "Learn" tab on the HSA website.

#### **Introduction to Herbs Online Learning Experience**

(Re)discover the world of herbs with a course that will take you from planting to harvest and from simple drying methods to infusing oils and making tinctures. Created for beginning herb enthusiasts and those who want to deepen their practice to include new methods, this course begins with an overview and then focuses on practical details such as propagation techniques, methods for harvesting and drying, creating signature culinary herb blends and making tinctures and infused oils (and what to do with them!). Bevin Cohen is teaching this course for The Herb Society of America. He is an herbalist, gardener, seed saver, educator, writer, owner of Small House Farm, and founder of the Michigan Seed Savers Exchange.


For more information, check here: <https://www.herbsociety.org/> [The "Learn" button is at the top of the page.]

For more information about our Unit, check out <https://www.herbsocietypioneer.org/>



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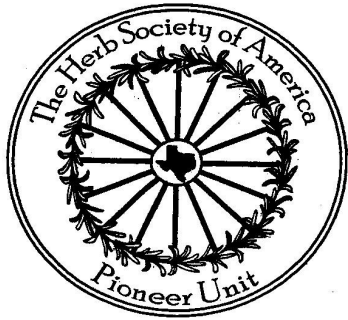


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends			1	2	3
4	5	6	7 CG at FH	8 Pioneer Unit Meeting	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor lrowlett@gmail.com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

# January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 CG at FH	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Pioneer Unit Meeting	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 HSG at FH 10-noon	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



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Volume 30

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—Tess Hartman

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers

Secretary—Cammie Beierle

Treasurer—Debi Thomas

