



# PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America  
Pioneer Unit

March 2023

Volume 30, Number 7

March 7  
Crow Full Moon



—  
March 12  
Daylight Savings  
Time Begins



—  
March 20  
Vernal Equinox

## MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

Date: March 9, 2023

Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet  
10:00 a.m. Work on Thyme Well Spent Projects or  
Grounds Maintenance

Location: Thyme Well Spent Room (Service Building)  
Festival Hill  
248 Jaster Road, Round Top

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 find the Service Building across from the  
Hall.

Host Team: Ann Lugg, Joanna Hagler, Cindy Nash, and Barbara Solis

Lunch: Bring your own lunch to eat in the building or on the  
grounds. The usual breakfast items will be supplemented  
with some sandwiches.



March 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It's here, it's now, and it's happening! Wasn't it just Christmas and we were at the Menke House having a delicious lunch?

Time stands still for no man or woman or Herb Forum and Sale. This weather has been delightful, and I have managed to make a 4-foot by 12-foot garden bed to hold the wonderful tomatoes and peppers that I will purchase on March 16th -- remember: if all goes well, we can shop early.

It is so very important that all volunteer this month. We hope to see you at the grounds clean-up and preparations for Thyme Well Spent Shoppe on March 9th and again either Friday, March 17th, or Saturday (shorter day), March 18th, or both! I look forward to our preparation day because usually it is nice, we get to be outside working side by side, and then picnic lunch time (although I have heard that our brunch will be better than ever).

There will of course be a meeting where our fearless leaders, Susan Yancey and Jana Rinehart, will instruct us on writing tickets, the layout of the sale, and other important stuff that we need to know – so listen up.

I will have information on the Forum and maybe a surprise or two.

\*\*\*We are in need of a secretary who takes the minutes at our Board meetings (only 4) and shorter minutes at each meeting. This is not a difficult job, and Linda Rowlett and Pat Cox will train you well. So time to step up to all of those who have not had either a leadership position or been on the Board and feel the time is ripe to step up for the Unit. \*\*\*

The picture this month is of my Lamb's Ear plant that Cammie gave me last year – it survived all the cold and what's that peeking out?

Well, while I was writing this – my one chicken decided to lay after many months! See you all very soon.

Happy Spring,

Kathe Forrest  
Chair



## FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

It is planting time! I am excited about the plant sale this month and really excited about replanting many of the herbs wiped out in the December freeze. Today I planted Italian oregano, one of my favorite summer herbs. I use it often, and as it spreads and cascades, it will bloom with the tiniest pink flowers. It is best harvested before the bloom, as it loses some of its flavor. For the brave, try an oregano tea! Oregano has outstanding anti-inflammatory properties.

We do not have a formal program this month, but we will meet at Festival Hill to prepare for this year's Plant Sale, Thyme Well Spent sale, and Forum. We will meet March 9th and enjoy a lovely sunny morning.

Tess Hartman  
Programs Chair





## MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT February 9, 2023

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

Tess Hartman, Vice Chair Programs, introduced Scooter Langley, Horticulture Instructor at Lee College Huntsville Center, who runs a program for inmates at the O.B. Ellis Unit to teach them about herbs – growing them, culinary uses, and use in soaps and other products. The program was well received by members, and there was interest in taking a field trip to tour the herb gardens. Mr. Langley will attend our March Forum with an ex-inmate who has gone through the program and now runs his own business. There may also be an opportunity to purchase herbs for future Plant Sales from the program at a lower cost.

Kathe thanked the speaker and lunch hostesses Cindy Nash, Susan Bame, Diana Reed, Caroll Edwards, and Pat Cox. She reminded members that the position of Secretary is vacant and anyone interested should contact her or Linda Rowlett.

Susan Yancey asked members to sign up to work at the plant sale including set-up and tear-down. Lunch on Friday, March 17th, costs \$12.50 which can be paid online, or the money can be mailed to Patty Mills. Lunch on Saturday is provided by Festival Hill at no charge.

There has been confusion as to whether prospective members can work at the Plant Sale. Guidelines state that if they have attended 2 or 3 meetings and completed some gardening hours they can be assigned to work with a member during Forum. They cannot volunteer for speaker angel or registration but can assist with set-up and tear-down. These guidelines will be discussed at the next Board meeting in April and made official.

Tory Farley received a pin to thank her for all she has done since joining less than a year ago and for managing our new Instagram account.

Julia Johnson provided sign-up sheets for the Pharmacy Garden which will need a lot of work before Forum.

Ann Lugg is placing Forum ads in local papers and asked members who take these papers to give her a copy with the ad.

Diana Sellers, Vice Chair Membership, announced that 48 members and 6 guests attended – Betty Melton, Rhoda Kirkwood, Jill Wilson, Erica Menconie, Jason Beierle, and Milton Ressmann. Diana presented three new members – Debbie Pruitt, Martha Neva, and Courtney Kieke. Diana encouraged attendance at the HSA Educational Conference which will be held on April 27-29 in Baton Rouge.

Cathy Nitsch needs volunteers to work at Thyme Well Spent Shop during the Forum, and they can sign up online. She needs more jam/jelly makers and a volunteer to make jeweled pepper chutney. Jars can be obtained from Cathy Kietlinski. Hand goods should be given to Belinda Weatherly at the March meeting.

Debi Meschwitz has tickets for the Bluebonnet Garden Club's event at the Giddings Stone Mansion in Brenham on March 29-30.

Door prizes were given to February birthdays including Barbara Solis, Sara Holland, Janie Cornelius, Bonnie Lout, and Tony Scanapico.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Cox, Acting Secretary



THYME WELL SPENT

Thyme Well Spent Shop (TWSS) invites you to earn volunteer hours on Thursday, March 9, our work day at Festival Hill. We will be labeling our jams/jellies and our spice blends. You can also help put the finishing touches on seed packets. Don't forget to bring your gently used books for the Scholarship table. If you have jams/jellies that you have made, please bring them that day. Hand goods can also be brought on March 9.

A special shout out to everyone who has worked so diligently to make our TWSS a success. Special thanks goes to Cathy Kietlinski, Belinda Weatherly, Diana Sellers, Henry Flowers, and Kay Scanapico for their leadership in getting everything ready for the Big Event! *"Many hands make for light work."*

Cathy Nitsch

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**February Meeting** – the February presentation, *Herbs Behind Bars* with James Langley, was both fascinating and humbling. The work being accomplished with prisoners is amazing and very inspiring.

**February Meeting Attendance** – the final attendance count was 50 members (48 active; 2 affiliate) and 6 guests for the February meeting. The guests were Rhoda Kirkwood (Louise Rice), Jill Wilson, Betty Melton (Connie Gwyn), Erica Menconie (Pat Garrett's daughter), Jason Beierle (Cammie's husband), and Milton Ressmann (Linda Rowlett). Milton is working on his joining requirements.

**New Members** - Martha Neva, Debbie Pruitt, and Courtney Kieke were presented during the February meeting as our newest members. Here is the contact information for each:

**Martha Neva** – 2532 Cat Spring Road, Cat Spring, Texas, 78933; cell # 713-299-0096; email: [marthaneva@yahoo.com](mailto:marthaneva@yahoo.com). In her application, Martha stated she hasn't studied herbs, but has been growing them for years and uses them a little in cooking. Martha is a Master Gardener and serves on the Horticulture Committee.

**Courtney Kieke** – 317 Carmine Lane, Carmine, Texas 78932; phone # 512-983-1115; email: [courtney@taylor-race.com](mailto:courtney@taylor-race.com). In her application, Courtney stated she has been studying herbs for about 10 years for medicinal and culinary uses.

**Debbie Pruitt** – 555 Happy Hollow Road, Brenham, Texas 77833; phone # 214-796-2464; email: [debp911@gmail.com](mailto:debp911@gmail.com). In her application, Debbie stated she has grown veggies and herbs over 30 years. Her favorite herbs include berggarten sage, ARP rosemary, and Thai Genovese basil.

**March Forum, Plant Sale, and Thyme Well Spent Shoppe** – March is here, and the Forum, Plant Sale, and Thyme Well Spent Shoppe will soon be conducting business. I have now received a lot of seeds but am always interested in taking in more. Keep them coming!! Also, continue bringing any books and magazines that you would like to donate to the sale. We would like any books and/or magazines having to do with herbs, plants, gardening in general, and cooking. FYI - the books that shoppers particularly seemed to want at the last sale were small books that could be given to friends and family as thank-you gifts. Shoppers were also interested in fiction books that had something to do with herbs. We sell books and magazines to raise money for the Pioneer Unit scholarship fund.

Don't forget to record your volunteer hours in Track It Forward as you make items for the TWSS. Or, you can send me an email to let me know what they are and I will enter them for you. You need 20 hours of volunteer hours to maintain your active membership status, and this is a **perfect** way to obtain those hours. Contact Cathy Nitsch for more information about TWSS volunteer hour opportunities.

**Volunteering at the Plant Sale, Thyme Well Spent Shoppe, and Forum** - Each year the question pops up – "Who can volunteer at our March event if they are not members of the Pioneer Unit?" The Pioneer Unit Board recently discussed this question. The following statement was approved to be able to have a consistent approach and answer to this question and ensure that all non-member volunteers have the knowledge they need to work during this event:

Continued on next page

*If a prospective member wants to sign up to volunteer for the plant sale or TWSS, they must contact the membership chair to see where they are in the process of completing the joining requirements. A prospective member must have attended at least 3 meetings or 2 meetings and completed some of the gardening requirements. If the prospective member meets one of those requirements, then they will be assigned to work with a member during the plant sale/TWSS/Forum. They will not be counted as a full volunteer for the any of these areas. They will not be allowed to volunteer for Forum activities such as Speaker Angel or the Sign-in Table. They can assist with Forum set-up and tear-down.*

**HSA Educational Conference** is being held in Baton Rouge this year, April 27-29th. Just a hop, skip, and jump from us. Early Bird Registration ends March 15th. I've always heard the conference is informative and lots of fun.

Herbally Yours,  
Diana Sellers  
Membership Chair



## HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

Planting Time! The Horticulture Study Group received eight mints to grow: Chocolate Mint, Strawberry Mint, Orange Mint, Mojito Mint, Kentucky Colonel Spearmint, Ricola Swiss Peppermint, Moroccan Mint, and Red-Stemmed Apple Mint.

Red-Stemmed Apple Mint is also known as Doublemint 'Madalene Hill'. It is unique in that it contains both spearmint and peppermint oils. It is said that this mint gives you the most 'minty' flavor by combining the sweetness of spearmint with the menthol kick of peppermint.

In addition to getting to know the 8 varieties, the group also talked about pot irrigation. Once again Royceanna Kendall and Tom Solis shared their expertise. Madeline Johnson had provided a sample of a drip irrigation system for pots that uses an emitter tube. Royceanna and Tom showed how the spot spitter can be used in pots.

In addition to their mints, each participant received eight pots and enough potting mix to fill all their pots. Once the mints are planted, participants will begin to measure the mints' height, width, sun exposure, and soil moisture.

Phoebe Lake spoke about the challenges manufacturers face as the environmental aspects of depleting Canadian peat bogs become apparent. As a substitute, our mix contains HydraFiber, a patented product made from pine trees that results in a light, fibrous material.

Our next meeting will be March 23 from 10 -noon in Building #9 at Festival Hill. Henry Flowers and Madeline Johnson will talk about mint cultivation.

Phoebe Lake

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1 — Susan Wood

March 3 — Billi Parus

March 11 — Joan Jordan

March 14 — Bob Sowers

March 16 — Sandra Brown

March 30 — Robert Lake

March 31 — Madeline Johnson  
Patty Mills

**Susan Wood** (March 1) wrote: "Greetings from Paradise Island, The Bahamas, where I'm celebrating my birthday again this year. Hope to see all of you soon at plant sale or in Baton Rouge. Have fun!"

**Rob Lake** (March 30) sent the adjacent picture and wrote the following: "My birthday on March 30th, 1953, did not feature in any headlines, most likely because on the very same day, Albert Einstein chose to announce his Revised Unified Field Theory. Oh well...."

"In June that year, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in Westminster Abbey. Every child in Great Britain was given a Coronation mug, and my mum made sure I got mine. I still have it, displayed in our cabinet of royal souvenirs. Come to think of it, it will be 70 years old. A bit cracked and crazy, but I can relate to that!"



"To be alive — is Power — " Emily Dickinson




# March 2023

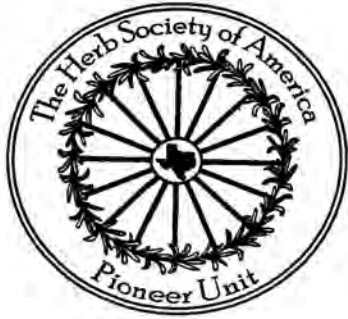


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends		1 CG at FH	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Pioneer Unit Meeting	10	11
12	13 Herbal Forum set up Monday-Thursday	14	15	16	17 Herbal Forum	18 Herbal Forum
19	20	21	22	23 HSG at FH 10-noon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

# April 2023



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 CG at FH	6	7	8
9 Easter 	10	11	12	13 Pioneer Unit Meeting	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Annual Herb Fair South Texas Unit
23 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor	24	25	26	27 HSG at FH EdCon of HSA	28 EdCon of HSA	29 EdCon of HSA
30						



## PIONEER PATHS

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  
Secretary—Open

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers  
Treasurer—Debi Thomas

### IT'S SHOWTIME FOR THE PLANT SALE!

We hope to see you at the March unit meeting! Gardening Attire encouraged!

- Bring any cardboard flats you've collected to transport our customers' purchases from the cashier area to their cars.
- Copies of the volunteer schedule will be available so that you can review what you've signed up for and/or what you can sign up for.
- Susan Yancey will review the daily schedule of the days leading up to the sale: Monday, March 13, through Thursday, March 16.
- Jana Rinehart will review the layout and what happens during the sale: Friday, March 17, and Saturday, March 18.
- One of the cashier team members will teach everyone the proper way to record customer purchases on tally sheets.
- A Holding Area team member will outline how that area works.
- The Potting Shed crew will describe their wares.
- Betty Pior has arranged for us to sell bagged earthworm castings again. Life is good.
- Cathy Nitsch and her Thyme Well Spent Shoppe crew are hard at work and will share what they are selling, and how you can help.

We should be able to hand out the plant descriptions list. That list is always a last-minute distribution because we are relying on our vendors to confirm what they are bringing.

Typically, during the March unit meeting we clean up the plant sale area by raking up fallen limbs, etc. That is not needed this year. Thanks to Julie Johnson! However, Julie needs help in the Mary Garden so wear your gardening attire. And, if you are responsible for a region in the Pharmacy Garden, get that cleaned up before the sale. The Forum registrants are going to be encouraged to tour the gardens.

Julie has some hand tools or bring gloves, rakes, and small clippers. Water will be available.

Thanks in advance!  
Susan and Jana