



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

April 2023

Volume 30, Number 8

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: April 13, 2023
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet
10:00 a.m. Program followed by 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: Herbs of the Mediterranean — with Samples!
- Speaker: HSA Pioneer Unit Culinary Group
- Angel: Tony Scanapico
- Host Team: Linda Hartson, Ann Allen, Courtney Kieke, and Kay Scanapico
- Lunch: Colors of Spring

April 5
Sprouting Grass
Full Moon
—
April 28
Arbor Day



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I'm sitting outside in this beautiful weather and wondering why we couldn't have been luckier last weekend (I am writing on March 24th).

Lots of blooms happening in my yard from yellow roses to flowers on the comfrey, flowers on the yarrow, and lovely larkspurs.

Susan Yancey and Jana Rinehart have done such a wonderful job for 5 years and I am sad to see them resign from handling the Plant Sale. Having said that, there will be signup sheets posted on the membership tables in April.

Come to the meeting with your suggestions and ideas and critique of the Plant Sale so that we can always be successful and have fun to boot.

I would like to see everyone sign up for the many positions that are needed each year. I hope that because it just happened, everyone remembers how much of an effort it took to have such a successful Herbal Forum.

We will have statistics at the next meeting from our treasurer Debi Thomas to let everyone know how well the Plant Sale, Potting Shed, and Thyme Well Spent did financially.

Our board also meets the same week so if there's anything that you want us to bring up at that meeting -- comments, ideas, or suggestions -- please let me know.

All from this part of Texas,

Kathe Forrest
Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Summertime is almost upon us. I have planted all my herbs and unique Texas natives I bought at our herb sale, and I am delighted by all things blooming and emerging from winter. One of my very favorites is my firecracker plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*). When I look out my front door, it is the first bright color I see each morning. It is a very forgiving plant, but I do bring it in during the coldest weather.

I am excited about our April presentation from the Culinary Group on Mediterranean Herbs. Our Culinary Group works hard and needs to be celebrated. Not only will we learn about which Mediterranean herbs will be best for our gardens, but also which are best for our recipes. Oh, and there will be samples. Did I mention samples? Bring your appetites and meet us at the Brenham Presbyterian Church on April 13th.

Tess Hartman
Programs Chair



MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA - PIONEER UNIT MARCH 9, 2023

Kathe Forrest, Chair, welcomed members at Festival Hill for the meeting before attending to the grounds and prepping Thyme Well Spent for the Herbal Forum. There are 85 people signed up for the event, she noted.

Diana Sellers, Vice Chair Membership, recognized guests Shawn Helm and her husband and guest Milton Ressmann.

Susan Yancey and Jana Rinehart, Plant Sale, reviewed the activities of setting up for the Plant Sale, receiving the plants, and handling the sale itself, including sales to members of the Unit. Bonnie Lout explained how the Holding Area would work, and she mentioned that tickets would be written from the Holding Area.

Kathy Nitsch, Thyme Well Spent, outlined the handling of sales in the Shop. She mentioned new products that would be available.

Leah Pearce, Potting Shed, mentioned some of the items that would be on sale in that area. She noted that ticketing procedures would work the same as in years past.

After the meeting, members gathered for a group photograph and then worked on groundskeeping and prepping items for Thyme Well Spent.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda L. Rowlett
Acting Secretary



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

I'm certain that this Plant Sale/Forum/Thyme Well Spent Shoppe had the worst weather ever, but the event succeeded due to the incredible efforts by the Pioneer Unit members. I've never seen so many blue faces and fingers. It was another amazingly success event. It was so awesome seeing all the members working together to prepare for the event, then working the event. What a terrific group.

Thank to everyone who brought books and magazines for the book sale. We had many of both, and a lot were purchased. The money that we make through the sales of these items goes to the scholarship fund at HSA. Many members also brought seeds to package and sell. We ran out of seeds again this year.

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 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 also send me the dates and times that you volunteered, and I will enter them for you. Most important is I want to be sure that we capture all the hours that everyone volunteered.

March Meeting Attendance – 48 members attended the March meeting and helped prepare for the upcoming Plant Sale and Thyme Well Spent Shoppe sale. The guests were Shawn Helm and her husband. Milton Ressmann was also in attendance. Milton has completed his joining requirements and will be recognized as Pioneer Unit's newest member at the April meeting.

Membership Renewal Time is Almost Here Again

The years go by so fast. It seems like it was just yesterday that we were last going through the membership renewal process. The Pioneer Unit's fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. We will begin the renewal process again in May. We would appreciate having all Renewal Forms submitted during the May meeting or you can mail the renewal application and a check to me. More on this at the April meeting.

There has been some confusion in the past regarding dues, so to clarify: all members (Active and Affiliate) of the Pioneer Unit must also be members of HSA, which means that you have to pay HSA dues each year, in addition to the Pioneer Unit dues. Both the Active members and the Affiliate members each pay \$12 in dues to the Pioneer Unit and \$55 in dues to the HSA. The primary reason a member might choose to become an Affiliate is due to the inability to meet the annual requirements of meeting attendance and/or 20 hours of volunteer time. Because Affiliates choose not to be active, they cannot vote or hold office. Some of our members are Affiliates because they are members of another herbal 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.

Membership Categories:

Active – Single \$67 / Joint \$98

Affiliate (Unit or Member-at-Large) – Single \$12 / Joint \$18 (*plus you pay \$55.00 directly to HSA*)

Life – Single \$12 / Joint \$18

Herbally Yours,
Diana Sellers
Membership Chair

Plant Sale 2023

Plant Sale Successful! Basils Didn't Fare Very Well

Although the weather was chilly and windy and sometimes rainy, the Pioneer Unit pulled together for a successful plant sale. After setup, Madeline Johnson led a troupe of Pioneer Unit members, pulling little red wagons of basils to spend the night in "motel rooms." Even with special sleepover facilities, the basils hated the wind and cold and did not go home with shoppers. Tomatoes also felt the chill and didn't perform well. Basils and tomatoes were among the leftover plants adopted by Julie Johnson for Festival Hill, the Mary Garden, and the Pharmacy Garden, as well as the Round Top Library's Junior Master Gardener Program and the Round Top-Carmine Elementary School. Other leftovers were sold to Sara Holland for her HSA Hill Country Unit, Round Top's DSG Nursery, and the Bluebonnet Master Gardeners.

Special thanks go to Earl Mills, Patty's husband, for bringing portable heaters for the hospitality area, the cashiers table, and the holding area.

The Potting Shed closed profitably. Many thanks to ever cheerful Leah Pearce and her husband Mark and to her squad of hypertufa artists. Special thanks to Henry Flowers for a fabulously creative container garden which sold for \$100!

The cashiers deserve medals. Chief Cashier Diana Reed, Susan Bame, Linda Rowlett, Cammie Beierle, and Debi Pruitt endured wind gusts (perhaps next year it should be placed in front of the building again) and kept the customers happy. I don't think Royceanna Kendall or Cindy Nash ever quit writing tickets. What would we do without Finance Chair Debi Thomas?

The Holding Area operated very smoothly with a ticket writing ability. Thank you, Bonnie Lout, and thanks Jana for lending the tent and Courtney Kieke for putting it up! Ginger Heath, Noreen Barker, and Julie Johnson were ever present at the holding area. Great team!

The Information Tent was, once again, not in a prime location. Nevertheless, Sally Reynolds and Tom Solis greeted customers and shared HSA information when they could.

Thanks go to Irene Spurrier for inaugurating the Native Plants table AND for helping check in plants during delivery days.

Betty Pior, Earthworm Castings marketing manager!

There are many more to thank (Lynda, Jo Ann, Barbara, Connie ...) and please know how very grateful we are for your help and contributions.

Forward comments and suggestions for next year's sale to us and we'll forward to the Board. Jana and I are stepping down from leading the Plant Sale so be thinking about how you can help.

Susan Yancey and Jana Rinehart

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

The focus of the March meeting was mint cultivation presented by Henry Flowers and Madeline Johnson. Mints are easy to grow provided you keep their soil moist (not wet) and give them at least 6 hours of sunlight a day. Each member of the Horticulture Study Group has planted 8 varieties in containers, which is the recommended way to grow mints. Mints spread through rhizomes and stolons so they can take over a bed if planted in the ground.

Mints are vigorous growers, so a light layer of compost twice a year is usually enough to keep them healthy. Most mints will tolerate a freeze but can go dormant, so if you want mints during the winter, you may need to move a pot inside or cover them outside. Mints can be grown inside in an east or south facing window. The easiest way to propagate mints is through plant division. Just cut through the rhizomes and take a piece with good roots to move to a new planter.

Finally, revive your established mints by cutting through the rhizomes as you would cut a pizza. Be sure to cut those roots that are curling around the edge of the pot. Add a little soil or compost to the top and your 'old' mints will feel young again.

Madeline Johnson





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 3 — Sally Reynolds

April 11 — Susan Bame

April 15 — Courtney Kieke

April 22 — Ann Allen



Susan Bame (April 11) sent the adjacent picture and wrote: "I'm turning 72 and have my first gray hairs. I love gardening and herbs like everyone else and love birding. I have 3 cats and a dog and hand-raised 4 kittens from birth this summer. I kept 2. See picture. I love to read, especially mysteries. 50th college reunion next month!"

Courtney Kieke (April 15) sent the following: "This 45th trip around the sun has had many highs and lows, and I am forever grateful that there are far more highs than lows. My father passed away last August, and my family and I have been fortunate to have each other as we create a new normal without our favorite "Grumpa." I share my birthday weekend with my mother (Zella, April 17th) and my late Grandmother (Cleo, April 18th), and I will always remember how my Dad loved this weekend. The most important women in his life born in the middle of April as the bluebonnets and wildflowers put on their glorious show. It is indeed a great time to celebrate a wonderful life in a wonderful place."

From the Herb Society of America website:

Thyme 4 Kids

What herb flavors toothpaste? Can you name an herb found in pizza sauce? Can you find an herb that smells like lemons – or two different herbs that both smell like lemons? Herb gardening can be a great adventure for kids, promoting lots of fun discoveries, tasting new foods and opening doors to many new projects!

HSA provides guides to help you design gardens that interest your kids and that will thrive in your climate and growing conditions.

HSA supports children's gardens in a big way, both at home and at school.

Please keep in mind a few safety rules when gardening with herbs and children:

- Always be sure that you correctly identify your plants and that they are safe for eating.
- Be sure that any plants you eat have not been exposed to harmful chemicals, and make sure that they're washed thoroughly before use.
- Teach your children never to put any plant from the garden in their mouth without asking for permission from an adult first.

The HSA website (herbsociety.org) offers a number of resources and active links to support working in gardens with children.

Here are some of the resources available from HSA: [The underlined topics listed are active links at herbsociety.org.]

Herb Gardening

[Sensory Gardens](#)

[Herbs for the Sensory Garden](#)

[Sensory Gardens for Children with Special Needs](#)

[Resources for Kids](#)

[Indoor Gardening](#)

[Herbs for Indoor Gardens](#)

[Indoor Gardening in the Schools Resource List](#)

Education

[Investigative Adventures with Herbs-Resource List](#)

[Gardening in the Schools Resource List](#)

If you have children or grandchildren who will work in the garden with you, or if you have the opportunity to teach a class to youngsters, be sure to check out these resources!

HSA PIONEER UNIT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Due May 1

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-Mail: _____

Birthday (Month/Day): _____ Today's Date: _____

Membership Category

- Active - single \$67/ joint \$98
- Life – single \$12/ joint \$18
- Affiliate (Unit or Member-at-Large) - single \$12/ joint \$18

(Make check payable to HSA-Pioneer Unit and give to Membership Chair at meeting or Mail to HSA-Pioneer Unit, ATTN: Membership, P O Box 23, Round Top TX 78954)

Program Recommendations:

Field Trip Recommendations:

Please check accordingly: I HAVE or HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE REQUIRED 20 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Active Members: HOW DO YOU PREFER TO FULFILL YOUR REQUIRED 20 VOLUNTEER HOURS?


- Working in any Unit-sponsored garden, such as Festival Hill or Brenham ISD, and any other Unit-approved garden, or seed cleaning
- Herbal Forum at Round Top and Forum preparation throughout year supporting efforts pertaining to preparation of items, such as Thyme Well Spent Shoppe, as well as mail outs, packets, and plant sale preps
- Hosting at a meeting, including a.m. refreshments, setup/cleanup, decorating, serving lunch, including Angel duties
- Educational activities for promoting the knowledge, use, and delight of herbs, such as presentations (including a/v), research articles for newsletter (up to 4 hours prep), participation in education events
- Unit administration, such as hours spent performing duties as Officer or Unit Board of Directors member, maintaining or updating Unit scrapbook, sending greeting cards to Unit members
- Other approved activities as the Board of Directors may approve after review. We can work with you to find volunteer opportunities.

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS:

(Please utilize another sheet if necessary)

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 HSG at FH	27 EdCon of HSA	28 EdCon of HSA	29 EdCon of HSA
30						

May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 CG at FH	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Pioneer Unit Meeting	12	13
14 Mothers Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor	22	23	24	25 HSG at FH	26	27
28	29	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
Secretary—Louise Rice

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers
Treasurer—Debi Thomas

Special thanks to Louise Rice! We needed someone to fill the vacancy at the Secretary position, and Louise has stepped up to take that position. Thank you, thank you!

