



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

May 2023

Volume 30, Number 9

May 1
May Day

—

May 5
Cinco de Mayo

—



May 5
Corn Planting
Full Moon

—

May 14
Mothers' Day

—

May 29
Memorial Day

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

Date: May 11, 2023

Time: **5:30-6:30 p.m. Evening Meeting**

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: A Study in Lavender, an Overview

Speaker: Diana Sellers

Angel: Joanna Hagler

Hosts: Betty Pior, Joann Reichle, and Sally Reynolds

Note: This is an evening meeting! The hostess team will be providing snacks, but members are not expected to bring dishes!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Patty Mills has asked me to announce that people who have herbs for making our teas and other culinary mixtures that we sell at the TWSS can bring them to our meetings and give them to her.

Several of us will be traveling to Baton Rouge in April, and I will report on the Herb Society of America EdCon (Educational Conference) meeting in our June newsletter. I am definitely looking forward to that even though it is a 5 1/2-hour trip from Industry. I will be traveling with fun company.

Remember that our May meeting will be in Burton in the evening and that we will advertise to draw in new members. We decided this last year as one way to perhaps get the younger crowd who are still working to attend a meeting. This would be a good time, if you know of anybody interested in our society, to bring them along. There will be plenty of time to drive home in the daylight, and you can look forward to lavender treats like cake to finish off your dinner meal.

I think that's all from me this month. Thanks to all and everyone who has been working on the gardens, especially the Sensory Garden. Also, a big thanks to those who are working the Bee Festival in nearby New Ulm and to the ten who have signed up for the 2024 Herb and Plant Sale committee. Kudos!!

Ending with a quote this time:

My love affair with nature is so deep that I am not satisfied with being a mere onlooker, or nature tourist. I crave a more real and meaningful relationship. The spicy teas and tasty delicacies I prepare from wild ingredients are the bread and wine in which I have communion and fellowship with nature, and with the Author of that nature.

— Euell Gibbons

Best,
Kathe Forrest
Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

What fabulous and fierce thunderstorms we have had this year! Such a difference from 2022. I have enjoyed the thunder and rain, but my little dog Lulu does not share my enthusiasm. She is, however, a fabulous help in the yard and garden.

We will do things differently this month. Our meeting will be an evening meeting in Burton. We will not be having a meal with this meeting, although the hostess team will be providing light snacks and coffee. Diana Sellers will be presenting on lavender, and I am looking forward to her sage advice for making my lavender thrive this summer. Our meeting will end in plenty of time to drive home in the daylight, so please join us at St. John's Church in Burton!

Tess Hartmann
Programs Chair



Lulu



Lavender

PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

April 12, 2023, School Room – Festival Institute

Present: Kathe Forrest, Tess Hartman, Diana Sellers, Debi Thomas, Louise Rice, Linda Rowlett, Ann Lugg, Susan Bame, Pat Cox, Patty Mills, Cathy Nitsch, Cathy Kietlinski, Barbara Solis, Susan Yancey and Jana Rinehart.

Chair Kathe Forest: Asked the Board to vote and approve to accept Louise Rice as Secretary for the remainder of Cammie Beierle's term. A motion was duly made and seconded; the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Programs Chair Tess Hartman: Discussion on whether unit members should be paid when they make a presentation at a Pioneer Unit meeting. A motion was duly made and seconded, and the Board voted unanimously not to pay study group members of the Pioneer Unit who have a line in the budget.

Hospitality Chair Patty Mills: She has had requests for more meetings at centrally located venues. One additional meeting each will be added at Festival Hill and Burton.

Membership Chair Diana Sellers: A motion was duly made and seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Milton Ressmann, Martha Neva, Debbie Pruitt and Courtney Kieke as members as they have completed the requirements for Membership.

Diana wrote a revision of the Pioneer Unit Rules and Procedure Dues section to clarify the language in the Pioneer Unit Rules and Procedures for Active and Affiliate Members. A motion was duly made and seconded; the Board voted unanimously to approve the clarification.

Treasurer, Debi Thomas: The estimated Net Income from the Plant Sale, TWSS, and the Potting Shed is \$26,000. Not all invoices have come in and there are still receipts to be deposited.

Archives, Susan Bame: She will send a card to ill members when she is informed. She urges all to notify her by text or email if they hear that anyone is ill, even if it means she is notified by numerous members.

Education, Pat Cox: Planning a trip to Texas A & M Leach Gardens. The gardens can be toured on your own or a Guided tour. Pat will get information on prices of the guided tour. Tentative date for the trip is June. Pat will send out an email when she has more information.

Scholarship, Barbara Solis: Scholarship information and applications are on the HSA and Pioneer Unit websites. She has notified various colleges and universities that a scholarship is available.

Gardens, Cathy Kietlinski: Cathy will schedule a workday soon and will get with Henry Flowers to order plants for the Color Wheel. Cathy is trying to schedule education times with Natalie, the coordinator for Brenham ISD.

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Communications, Ann Lugg: Ann has created a slide show of the plant sale and TWSS to present at the April unit meeting. She will put some of the pictures on the website and a shorter version of the slide show on the website. Members can go to the website to pay dues.

Plant Sale, Susan Yancey and Jana Rinehart: They suggested it is best to have a committee instead of two people as coordinators, to spread the work among more people. Susan will have a sign-up sheet at the April Pioneer Unit meeting for next year's sale for a committee of at least 5.

Susan is resigning because she is moving to Austin. Jana is also resigning as lead but will still help. Patty Mills and her husband, Earl, were thanked for bringing propane heaters to the plant sale.

TWSS, Cathy Nitsch: Cathy thanked all who worked in the shop. TWSS needs help with heavy lifting to set up the shop. A motion was duly made and seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve to revisit this request when the budget is being reviewed in a couple of months to make sure the plant sale and TWSS have money for movers and security for the plant sale.

Old Business:

Proposal on who can work the Herb Sale: Motion duly made and seconded; the Board voted unanimously to approve that a prospective member who has attended 3 meetings, or 2 meetings and completed some of the gardening requirements, may work alongside a member during the plant sale or in the TWSS. The hours will not be counted as the required garden work volunteer hours to become a member. They will not be allowed to volunteer for Forum activities such as Speaker Angel or the Sign-in Table. They can assist with set-up and tear-down. The Membership chair should be contacted to verify where the prospective member is in meeting membership requirements.

Increase budget for Horticulture: Motion duly made and seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve an additional \$352 for the Horticulture Study Group to help meet the costs of pots and soil mix for the study of mint.

New Business:

Herb Sale and Forum 2024: Motion duly made and seconded; the Board voted unanimously to approve March 15 and 16 for the 2024 Herb Sale and Forum with Yarrow as the Herb of the Year.

Bee Festival: Kathe will ask Bonnie Lout about the Pioneer Unit having a booth at the festival in New Ulm.

Kathe Forest adjourned the meeting 3:45pm

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Rice, Secretary

**MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT
APRIL 13, 2023**

Kathe Forrest, Chair, welcomed members to the April meeting held at Brenham Presbyterian Church.

Tess Hartman, Vice Chair Programs, introduced the HSA Pioneer Unit Culinary Group speakers Belinda Weatherly, Cammie Beierle and Sara Holland on Mediterranean Cuisine. A handout was provided with recipes for dishes the Culinary Group prepared for lunch and other information from the program.

Ann Lugg prepared and presented a slide show of the March Herb Sale.

Debi Thomas, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report on the Herb Sale and Thyme Well Spent. The estimated net income is \$25,000 - \$26,000. There are still outstanding bills and funds due.

Kathe said that some people have questioned what is done with the money earned from the Herb Sale. She explained the funds are used for scholarships as well as costs of running the Unit. The Unit recently gave a \$10,000 award to Prairie View A&M and a scholarship will go to HSA head office.

Susan Yancey and Jana Rinehart, the Plant Sale Coordinators, thanked everyone who volunteered and braved the cold, rain and windy weather. Susan announced she will be moving and would no longer be a Plant Sale Coordinator. Jana explained that next year the plant sale will be run by a committee of at least 5 people in order to spread the work among more people. Jana will help but she will not be there every day as in the past. Susan also gave many thanks to Earl Mills (Patty Mills' husband) for bringing the propane heaters.

Kathe wished Susan well, because this may be her last time to meet with the Unit before she moves. The 2024 Herb Sale will be March 15 and March 16 and Yarrow will be the herb of the year.

Cathy Nitsch had items forgotten in the TWSS during the Forum. If you are missing an insulated cup, a bag or a ladies' jacket, please contact her. Items left from the Thyme Well Spent Shop are for sale at today's meeting. She thanked all who made items offered for sale in the shop and all who worked in the shop.

Kathe announced that May 6 is the Bee Festival in New Ulm. The Pioneer Unit will have a booth, and a sign-up sheet was passed around for those who want to work at the booth.

Diana Sellers, Membership, announced there were 49 members attending today. Each of today's 6 visitors are working towards their membership requirements and are Amber Bartek,

Mike Perkins, Judy Webster, Jill Wilson, Erica Menconie and Shawn Helm. Milton Ressmann has met all requirements and is our newest member. It is membership renewal time, and Diana encouraged everyone to renew by May. Members can renew on the website (under "Forms" on the Main Menu) or bring their renewal form and check to a unit meeting or mail it to her. Diana is in the process of clarifying the definition of an Affiliate member under the Rules and Procedures of the Pioneer Unit.

Kathe announced the Board approved to have more meetings at other locations. There will be one additional meeting at Festival Hill in May and one more at the Burton location. Our next meeting will be in May at Burton. It will be an evening meeting for the convenience of the members who work. There will be snacks and drinks, but no meal. Kathe announced that Louise Rice will fill the remaining term for the vacant secretary position. She also noted that there were T-shirts for sale in green and white.

Patty Mills, Hospitality Chair, drew for door prizes. She thanked unknown door prize donors for the gifts they donated. The eggplant plants from the table arrangements may be taken home. Patty thanked the speaker angel, Tony Scanapico, and lunch hostesses Linda Hartson, Ann Allen, Courtney Kieke, Mary Reeves and Kay Scanapico. Members of the Culinary Group provided Mediterranean dishes for the lunch.

There were flyers at the sign-in desk for New Leaf Nursery plant sale to be held April 15, 16, 22, and 23.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Rice
Secretary



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

April Meeting – the Culinary Group presented the program and served some incredible Mediterranean food. It was yummy delicious. We learned many fascinating facts about the Mediterranean. Fifty members and six guests were in attendance. The guests included: Jill Wilson, Erica Menconi, Amber Bartek, Shawn Helm, Mike Perkins, and Judy Webster.

New Member

Milton Ressimann was presented as the Pioneer Unit's newest member. Here is Milton's contact information: 1051 Bonfire West Road, Cat Springs, Texas 78933; Cell # 832-444-1533; email mressmann@att.net; Birthdate – February 13th. Milton - welcome to the Pioneer Unit!!

Membership Renewal Time is Here

The Membership Renewal process has started. Three members have already completed the renewal process. Why do we start this process in May? The Pioneer Unit's year is July 1 through June 30. 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!

You have three options for renewing, and all three are acceptable:

Renew Online - submit the renewal form and money online. The form can be found behind the Forms tab on the Unit's website/

Mail to Pioneer Unit PO Box - print and complete the renewal form; mail it and the check to the Pioneer Unit, PO Box 223, Round Top, Texas 78954-0023.

Turn in at the May (preferable) or June Meeting - print and complete the renewal form. Give it and a check to Diana Sellers 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.

Our Membership Categories are Active, Affiliate, and Life. Both Active and Affiliate members must be members of the Herb Society of America, which means you must pay the annual HSA membership fee of \$55 in addition to the Unit dues of \$12. Life members pay a one-time, life-time amount of money to be a member of HSA forever.

The main question I receive regarding membership categories 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 they are an Active member of another unit but want to maintain a tie to different unit. The Pioneer Unit has many Affiliates in this position: they are

Continued on next page

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 dues are still \$67 (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.

Herbally Yours,
Diana Sellers
Membership Chair

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 — Julie Johnson
May 9 — Louise Rice
May 26 — Karen Springer
May 31 — Tom Solis



Louise Rice (May 9) sent the adjacent picture and a message about her plans: "I am enjoying these beautiful Larkspur this year and finally have my plants from the plant sale planted with the help of my sister Emily. As of now, I do not have anything special planned for my birthday. I do have trips planned for the year and several plays and concerts booked already. So, I have plenty to look forward to! I am so thankful for the rain we have received and to see fields of green grass and wildflowers."

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

April 26, 2023




Our presenters for the month: Barbara Solis talked about the history and folklore of mint. Bonnie Lout taught us about the magic of mint and even revealed a spell. Tom Solis reported about the history of the mint julep.

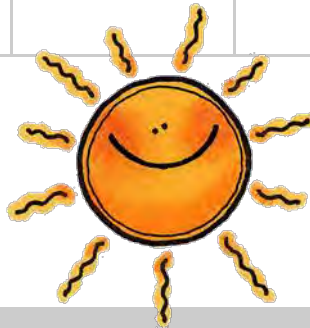


Henry Flowers provided information about Corsican mint and gave away some plants. Madeline Johnson showed us photos of our mints in March and led us in a Round Robin discussion of the status of our plants. Phoebe Lake showed us a sample of a mint that was growing very well, and she and Madeline outlined the procedures we would follow to harvest our mints.




May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 CG at FH	4	5	6 FH Volunteer Service Day 9:30-noon Bee Jubilee/New Ulm
7	8	9	10	11 Pioneer Unit Meeting	12	13
14 Mothers D 	15	16	17	18 HSG at FH 10:00-noon	19	20
21 Newsletter deadline Email to the editor	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends



June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = 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 Fathers Day 	19	20	21	22 HSG 10-noon	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



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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 Hartmann
Secretary—Louise Rice

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers

Treasurer—Debi Thomas



JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S JUBILEE!
May 6th 9 am - 4 pm
NEW ULM FIREMAN'S PARK : 1899 TRACK RD, NEW ULM, TX 78950

Attractions

FOOD : KIDS' GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
BEE-THEMED VENDORS : ARTS & CRAFTS
EDUCATION : FACE-PAINTING
HONEY WINE TASTING : RAFFLES

The Honey Bee Jubilee is a family oriented event held in New Ulm, Texas at Fireman's Park in May. The event is free to the public and everyone is invited to attend! The mission of the Honey Bee Jubilee is to enhance enjoyment and understanding of the benefits and importance of bees of all kinds, as well as providing a venue for artisans and vendors of bee and honey-related goods.

Qualified Retail and Food Vendor Applications
AVAILABLE ONLINE @ WWW.NEWULMTEXAS.ORG

FOLLOW US ONLINE FOR MORE @ WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HONEYBEEJUBILEE