



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America Pioneer Unit

August 2023

Volume 30, Number 12

August 1

Green Corn Full Moon



—
August 13 pre-dawn
Perseid Meteor Shower
(peak)

—
August 30
Blue Full Moon

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Can we keep our fingers crossed that the heat will go down in September?

I will fly away August 6 and not return until September 20; therefore, Tess Hartman will be in charge of our September meeting.

I have been talking to several people about teaching workshops, and I hope Pat Cox will write about them in this newsletter on upcoming ones for making steppingstones, hypertufas, dyeing, and making cool items for the Forum.

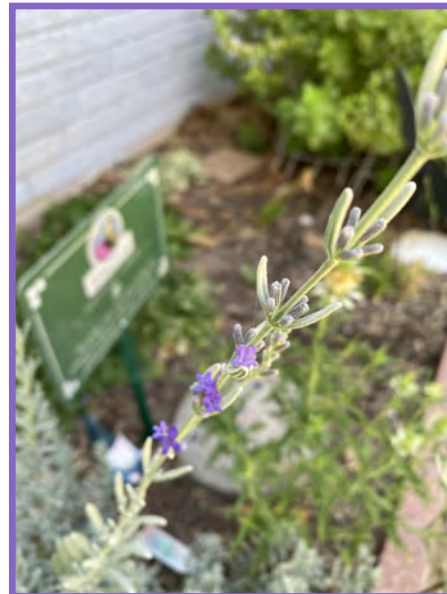
Julia Johnson is making headway in cleaning up around the greenhouse, and you may be part of that cleanup. If you are, thank you. I know that she was looking for people to water as well.

Seriously, we may have to wait until September to do outside projects.

In this heat, my yellow bells are beautiful, the sunflowers continue to bloom, and now my lavender is shooting out little buds of purple (check out my picture!).

Take good care, and as they say Down under "G' Day, Mate!"

Kathe Forrest
Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Thank you for all your great suggestions and support. I am looking forward to an informative and entertaining calendar year, and I am looking forward to seeing you in September. What awaits us? Some clues for our new calendar year:

Heirlooms

Winterizing for those blue northers

A special tour of horticulture at Festival Hill

Mints

Ayurvedic Herbs

Spagyrics

Homeopathics

Even in this heat, my plants continue to thrive. My mints are abundant, my thyme is spreading, and I am learning so much about native plants. I bought these at our sale in the Texas Natives department, and these ruellias bloom almost daily.

Tess Hartman
Programs Chair



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Tess arranged another wonderful program – Bees. Those little fuzzy-butts are truly amazing insects. Great presentation!! Forty-one members were in attendance at the July meeting.

Welcome to our newest member – Jill Wilson. She became our first Pioneer Unit member of the new fiscal year. Jill's contact information is 6431 State Highway 159, La Grange, Texas 78945; phone number is 401-935-8085; email address – jill@loloodeesign.com. Her birthday is July 24th. In her bio, Jill said that she has been using herbs on and off for 10 years, but there is so much to learn. Welcome, Jill. And, by the way - advertising works – Jill found out about the Pioneer Unit through one of our announcements in the local newspaper.

Congratulations!! Anniversary Recognition

The following members were recognized for their membership tenure:

- Leah Pearce – 5 years
- Jo Ann Reichle – 5 years
- Sara Holland – 10 years
- Sandra Brown – 15 years

Membership Renewal Time is Complete

The membership renewal process is complete, and the information has been sent to HSA. Seventy-nine members renewed - 60 Active members, 19 Affiliates. Five members did not renew. We had 8 new members join last year, and 1 new member joined in July 2023.

Every year during the Membership Renewal process some confusion arises regarding Affiliates and the dues they are required to pay. The confusion arises primarily because the current wording in the Pioneer Unit Bylaws and Rules and Procedures sections is confusing. As the Membership Chair, I proposed at the April Board Meeting to change the wording in the Rules and Procedure Dues section. Then I proposed additional changes to the wording in the Bylaws ARTICLE III Membership Affiliate section. The purpose of the proposed changes is to clarify an Affiliate member's dues to maintain their HSA and Pioneer Unit Membership. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the changes that members will be asked to approve at the September Unit meeting.

Herbally yours,
Diana Sellers
Membership Chair



MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT

July 13, 2023

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

Tess Hartman, Vice Chair Programs, introduced the speaker, Karl Cottrell, President of the Central Texas Beekeepers Association. Mr. Cottrell's program, "Bee a Friend to Our Pollinators," was extremely informative and raised many questions from our members.

Kathe informed the membership about the Board of Directors meeting held July 10. Some things discussed at the Board meeting: Ann Lugg has new pictures and the Annual Reports on the Unit's website and will try to get Kathe's video of the National Education Conference on the website soon. Patty Mills has sign-up sheets for Hostess Teams for the next fiscal year. Tess almost has the program schedule for next year complete. Kathe was scheduled to present the program in September, but will be going to Australia, and therefore her presentation will be moved to April 2024. The Unit will give two scholarships to two men, Robert Reese and David Jablonowski. They are from James Langley's Horticulture program at the Ellis Unit. The Pioneer Unit has committed to an Author Sponsorship for the Herbarist.

Most of the Board is in favor of no meeting in July. Kathe asked for comments from the 41 members present today. There were no comments, and Kathe informed the members of suggestions from the Board such as recognizing volunteers at a July meeting, a meeting with a quiz such as Phoebe Lake did a few years ago, or a social event. Irene Spurrier volunteered to organize a July social event. It was asked why we would want to eliminate the July meeting. Kathe explained it would provide some relief from finding a program presenter, and she noted that people like to travel in the summer. A show of hands was asked to decide on the issue, and the majority of the membership want July and August off with a social event in July.

A leader is still needed for the Plant Sale in 2024.

Kathe presented Robert Lake with a pin for his exceptional volunteer service to our Unit. He is first to respond when there is a problem and helps with our audio set-up and computer equipment issues.

Diana Sellers, Membership Chair, announced we had 41 members present and one visitor, Carmen Nash, Susan Nash's daughter. Diana had a ten-year HSA pin for Sara Holland and five-year pins for Leah Pearce and Jo Ann Reichle. Jill Wilson has completed her membership requirements and is the first new member of this fiscal year. Membership renewal for this year is concluded. Next, Diana will submit a report to HSA and will begin work on the Membership Directory. She asked members to send any changes to personal information to her so she may have current information for the directory.

Kathe and Patty Mills, Hospitality Chair, drew names for the door prizes. The Speaker Angel was Tony Scanapico. The lunch hostesses were Patty Mills, Kay Scanapico, Carla Lessard, Irene Spurrier, and Louise Rice.

Susan Bame reported that she had talked with Janie Plummer who appreciates all the cards she has received from members and hopes to be able to attend September's meeting.

Julie Johnson will be working at the Festival Hill gardens tomorrow, July 14, at 7:30 a.m. and asked for help with the Pharmacy and Mary Gardens.

Kathe adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Rice

SENSORY GARDEN

Please join me at 8 a.m. on Friday, August 11, 2023, at Sensory Garden.

School begins on the 16th, and some major maintenance is needed so the garden looks inviting to returning students and staff.

Tree limbs need to be cut, bushes need to be trimmed, and weeds need to be removed. Bring water to stay hydrated, pruners, shears, etc. It would be fantastic if someone has a chain saw for cutting dead or low hanging tree limbs. **YOU** are needed to make this happen easily.

Thanks so very much for considering this request.

Cathy Kietlinski

Thyme Well Spent Shop

It's too darn hot to think about anything important for the shop so... let's meditate on snow and ice and maybe a frozen adult beverage! Let's hope that September will bring cooler temperatures and visions of jams and jellies!

Cathy Nitsch

2023-2024 Member Scholarships


Our Pioneer Unit has members with vast knowledge of and experience with herbs. One strength for the whole group is sharing of this information.

To further this growth, two \$250.00 Scholarships will be awarded for the use in preparing a "presentation" to the membership with the results of the recipient's project. Various kinds of presentations might be given if you prefer not to make a formal presentation to the Unit: display, power point, video, book review, skit, etc.

Please print the form below to apply for a scholarship. The committee needs a brief description of the proposed use of the funds. Deadline for submitting an application is November 15, 2023. The application should be mailed, emailed, or given to Barbara Solis, Scholarship Committee Chair.

Mailing address: Barbara Solis, 2701 Goehring Road, Ledbetter Texas 78946

Email address: tomsolis@aol.com


.....

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Proposed Use of Funds _____

.....

PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEETING July 10, 2023, Google Meeting

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

Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2023: A motion was duly made and seconded; the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Treasurer, Debi Thomas: Debi presented the financials for the Board's review. The bank balance is \$55,819.87 as of June 30, 2023. Debi asked everyone to review their budgets for any needed changes.

Programs Chair, Tess Hartman: Tess has all programs for the next year lined up except for the month of April. Diana Sellers pointed out that the September 2023 location in the Membership Directory is different than stated and a special email should go out to the membership to remind them.

Action Item: Kathe will mention this at the Thursday July meeting and tell people why her presentation will be switched.

Hospitality Chair, Patty Mills: Patty had next year's sign-up sheets for the Host Teams out at the last Pioneer Unit Meeting. She will have the sheets out at this month's Unit Meeting.

Membership Chair, Diana Sellers: A motion was duly made and seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve new members Erica Menconi, Shawn Helm, Michael Perkins, and Jill Wilson.

Diana wants to increase the amount a member pays for a badge to \$10 due to price increases, but this requires a change to the Rules and Procedures. A motion was duly made and seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve an increase in the one-time charge for badges for new members to \$10 and to change the Rules and Procedures to reflect \$10 as the cost of the badge. The Active membership for the new fiscal year is 52, down from last year. Members posted 3,000 volunteer hours for the year.

Scholarship, Barbara Solis: No one has applied for scholarships of \$250 each for two Pioneer Unit members. Only two men from the Ellis unit have applied for the two-year or four-year College and University scholarships of \$2,000 to \$4,000. Robert Reese and David Jablonowski have Associates in Horticulture from Lee College and are part of James Langley's Horticulture program at the Ellis Unit in Huntsville. After a motion was duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to award a scholarship of \$2,000 each to Robert Reese and David Jablonowski to attend online to Adams State University in Colorado, noting this is an exception to the rule that it must be a Texas institution. Kathe Forrest suggested Barbara talk with Catherine from the South Texas Unit who has experience with scholarships.

Action Item: Barbara Solis will call Catherine from the STU to get the addresses of more colleges and to discuss sending out the notices earlier.

Gardens, Cathy Kietlinski: Cathy goes once a week to check on everything at the Sensory Gardens and waters items that do not have irrigation. With the rain we have had, the plants are fine.

Archives, Susan Bame: Susan asked for a \$50 budget increase due to increases in the price of stamps and cards. Janie Plummer is doing better and renewed her membership.

Communications, Ann Lugg: Ann posted the Annual Reports on the website yesterday (July 9), posted some new photos and other updates. Lois Sutton spoke with Ann Lugg concerning sponsoring an author to the Herbarist for \$325.

Education, Pat Cox: Cammie will do a workshop on natural plant dyes. A workshop to make something for the Potting Shed was suggested, including making hypertufa.

Action Item: Pat will try to get together a field trip for October or November.

TWSS, Cathy Nitsch: Unable to attend and communicated there is nothing to report at this time.

Old Business:

Diana Sellers proposal on changes to Rules and Procedures: The By-Law language is confusing regarding members At Large and Affiliate. **Action Item:** Diana will write up the proposal and send it to the Board members and the proposal will be put in the August and September newsletter to notify the Unit members. The Unit membership can vote on the proposal at the September meeting.

Gardens, Cathy Kietlinski: She planted the plants Henry Flowers ordered for the Color Wheel and a workday was scheduled but cancelled due to family business.

Communications, Ann Lugg: Ann has put some photos of the Plant Sale on the website and will put a slide show on in the future.

TWSS: Cathy Nitsch requested the Unit pay for help to move items from/to the storage unit and set up heavy items in the shop. This will be revisited when budget requests are being reviewed to include funds for help. TWSS will enlist help, and it will be paid for with the Plant Sale budget.

Plant Sale Report: Kathe Forrest provided the Board with an email of the results of a meeting on June 8, 2023, of Pioneer Unit members interested in serving on the 2024 Plant Sale Committee. The following Chair positions were filled: Irene Spurrier – Native Plants table; Royceanna Kendall and Jo Ann Reichle – Ticket Writing; Connie Gwyn – Hospitality with assistance from Cammie Beierle; Caroll Edwards – Potting Shed Chair; Tess Hartman – Signage. Others who have volunteered, but not present at the meeting: Debi Thomas – Finance Chair; Diana Reed – Head Cashier; Bonnie Lout - Holding Area; and Julie and Chris Johnson – Tear Down. Other interested volunteers: Noreen Barker, Cindy Nash, Sally Reynolds, Jana Reinhart, Tom and Barbara Solis, and Martha Neva. Kathe Forrest thinks someone still needs to be named as a Coordinator or Chair of the Plant Sale, and the Board members agreed.

Forum Report from Kathe Forrest and Linda Rowlett: Kathe is trying to get Stephanie Schroder for a Dyes Workshop and to speak at the 2024 Forum. Linda will be contacting Penny Nelson about dying wool with natural dyes. Tori Farley will be contacting Master Gardeners and A&M.

New Business:

Robert Lake: Kathe suggested we present Robert Lake with a watering can pin for all his help at the meetings with audio and computer set up and helping wherever he sees a need. A motion was duly made and seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve to give a watering can pin to Robert Lake for all his help at the meetings.

Bee Festival: Kathe recommended including the Bee Festival in the Membership Directory. A motion was duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to include the Bee Festival in the Membership Directory.

Action item: Kathe will send the date to Diana for the Directory.

Membership Directory: Diana mainly needs the information from Tess on Programs and Patty Mills on hostess teams, and they will give her what they have at this time. Diana will also need support in editing. It will be October instead of September before the Directory is ready to distribute because we will vote on a change in By-laws in September.

Board Meeting Dates for the New Fiscal Year: Board Meetings will continue to be the Monday before the Unit Meeting in January, April, July, and October.

Action item: Kathe will check into getting Zoom again or Go To Meetings but said that Go To Meetings is difficult based on arranging dates and times with HSA.

No Meeting in July: The show of hands from members at the June 2023 meeting showed that most are ambivalent or do not want to meet in July. Kathe also received emails from members who do not want a July meeting, but would be happy with a social gathering. After some discussion of pros and cons, it was decided to ask the members at the July meeting to vote again.

A motion was duly made and seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Rice



PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULES AND BYLAWS

PROPOSED BYLAW ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP, B. AFFILIATE language change:

A member of the Herb Society of America (HSA) who is unable to meet full requirements of Active membership with the Pioneer Unit may apply to the Pioneer Unit Board for Affiliate Membership. A Pioneer Unit Affiliate member must pay the HSA annual membership dues in addition to paying the Pioneer Unit annual dues. An Affiliate member is encouraged to participate in Unit endeavors as able but may not hold office or vote.

Note: An Affiliate member who is a full member of another HSA unit and pays the HSA dues through that unit is only required to pay the annual Pioneer Unit dues. In addition, an Affiliate Life member only pays the Pioneer Unit dues.

PROPOSED RULES AND PROCEDURES, 2.DUES language change:

Active member – must meet the requirements outlined in Bylaws, Article III, B.1. Active.

Dues – Single \$67.00 (\$12 local; \$55 National HSA); **Joint** \$98 (\$18 local; \$80 National HSA)

Affiliate member – must meet the requirements outlined in Bylaws, Article III, B.2. Affiliate

Dues - Single \$67.00 (\$12 local; \$55 National HSA); **Joint** \$98 (\$18 local; \$80 National HSA)

Member in another HSA unit who desires to be an Affiliate member of the Pioneer Unit only pays the Pioneer Unit Dues of \$12.00.

Life Members of The Herb Society of America only pay local dues.

National dues for Honorary Members are paid by the Pioneer Unit.

Dues paid by a new member shall be prorated locally and nationally for the number of months remaining in the year.

All new members purchase a membership badge for \$10.

[Parliamentarian's Notes: Refer to your Membership Directory for the current language. The Pioneer Unit Board may change the Rules and Procedures by Board action, but changes to the Bylaws require approval of the membership.

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any Board meeting, as long as information about the proposed change has been set forth in the call to the meeting at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. This material will be repeated in next month's newsletter to ensure that everyone is adequately informed.

In addition, the vote can only be taken if at least twenty percent of the Active members are present, and at least two-thirds of those present must vote "aye" for the amendment to be adopted. Your vote counts.]



HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

The Versatility of Mint

In Part 2 on the culinary uses of mint, the focus was on appetizers and beverages. Joanna Hagler, Jana Rinehart, and our host, Betty Pior, explained how simple it is to add mint to a dish or beverage. For example, add a sprig or two of mint to the blender with watermelon and pomegranate juice with a touch of lemon, and you have a refreshing watermelon mint chiller. Mint Walnut Pesto can be used on a sliced baguette with a little mascarpone cheese, sliced London Broil, sweet pickled red onions, and you have an appetizer that could be a meal by itself. Betty also had us playing 'name that mint' based on scent alone.

The mints are growing well after being cut back in June. Neither the heat nor the insects bother the mints. The occasional grasshopper gives it a try but generally looks for better options. Orange Mint is popular among the growers for its full and attractive foliage (and delicious smell). Our June harvest yielded almost 500 grams of dried mint. The top producers were Red-Stemmed Applemint and Swiss Ricola Peppermint. However, the collection of dried mints included every variety of mint we are growing except for Pink Candypops. More on that mint in the next newsletter.

Prepared by Madeline Johnson
Photos by Phoebe Lake






HSA Fuzzy Butts 2023 Plans

Nineteen Fuzzy Butts 2022 participants gathered on Zoom to share thoughts and suggestions for the 2023 Observation Day:

1. Date for 2023: September 7—10, 2023. Yes, that is a 4-day range. Depending on your availability, conflicts, or weather, you may select any one of those days for your observation.
2. Time for 2023: We are not setting a specific time. You may record your observations at any time on the day you choose. That will allow for weather (too hot, too cool, too wet) and your schedule. The time allotted will be 30 minutes rather than the old 1 hour.
3. Area to be observed: we are suggesting that you select a spot in your garden that has flowers in bloom and measures approximately 3-foot x 3-foot.

These decisions were made with participants in mind, several of whom expressed their experiences and ideas for making things work more smoothly. They may also open opportunities for more HSA members to participate.

[Editor's Note: The above material and the form below are copied from a link on an email from HSA to members on June 17, 2023. If you do not have the email and want a copy, let me know, and I will send it. The weather in September might be cool enough to sit in your garden and count bees!]




HSA Fuzzy Butts Bee Observations 2023

Native Herb Conservation Committee
The Herb Society of America, Inc.

Select a Day: **September 7—10**

Select a Time: **30 minutes, any time of day**



Your Name: _____

Address (City/State): _____

Unit/At Large: _____

WHO VISITED YOUR GARDEN TODAY?

Bees	Number of Visits per flower If you notice the same bee, count each visit.	Pollen on legs or body? Yes/no	Comments
Honeybees			
Bumblebees- Fuzzy Butts			
Rusty Patch Bumblebees			
Carpenter Bees—Shiny Butts			
OPTIONAL—OTHER BEES OBSERVED:			
Wasps			
Yellow Jackets			
Digger bees			
Pale Impatient Bumblebee Eastern States			
Sweat bees			
Other bees:			

You may add any additional bees observed to the other side of the sheet. You may also add any comments.
Thank you for sharing part of your day to help us keep up with the health of our various bees!

SEND RESULTS TO: Kathy Schlosser, 1402 Bearhollow Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410

OR EMAIL TO: kathyschlosser@triad.rr.com



Save the Date!

The South Texas Unit is excited to host the South Central District Gathering this year in Houston, Texas.

Join us at the Houston Botanic Garden for the meeting, program, and garden tour. Afterwards, take a field trip to the amazing Skyfarm, a one-acre rooftop garden at POST that was once the Barbara Jordan US Post Office in downtown Houston. Registration details will be posted on the HSA website soon!

[Editor's Note: The above information came in an email from Bill Varney, our South Central District Representative. As of this mailing, additional information has not been posted on the HSA website, but look for it soon!]



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 11 — Leona Marshall

August 14 — Susan Yancey



Leona Marshall (August 11) wrote: To all my fellow Herb Society Members:

"I so appreciate being a member of the Pioneer Unit Herb Society. I have made so many friends and learned so much from the presentations at the meetings. Thank you all for being part of my life."

Susan Yancey (August 14) sent the following message:

"It appears that my birthday will be exceptionally hot and dry this year. What a string of hot days we've had this summer! So far my celebration will be a pool party with the grandkids.

"As a member of the unit's Horticulture Study Group, I am busily watering containers of mints. I have learned so much from Phoebe and Madeline. I was fortunate to travel to the HSA meeting in Baton Rouge and was able to meet some of the members of my HSA Book Club in person. I highly recommend stepping out into the HSA offerings! "

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

A workshop to make items using beads for the Potting Shed or TWSS at Forum is planned for September 19 or 20. More information to follow by group email on the listserv. More workshops are planned for October and November, including mosaics, natural dyes, and hypertufas.

If anyone has requests or suggestions for possible workshops in the future, please let me know.

Thanks,
Pat Cox

August 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	8	9	10 No Unit Meeting	11 SG Work Day 8 a.m.	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 HSG 10-noon at FH	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 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 CG Ice Cream Social	7 Fuzzy Butts Day [choose one]	8 Fuzzy Butts Day [choose one]	9 Fuzzy Butts Day [choose one]
10 Fuzzy Butts Day [choose one]	11	12	13	14 Pioneer Unit Meeting	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 HSG 10-noon at FH	29 South Central District Gathering—Houston	30 South Central District Gathering—Houston





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—Louise Rice

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers

Treasurer—Debi Thomas

HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA GreenBridges

The GreenBridges™ program helps to create opportunities for the safe passage of plants and pollinators and to avoid habitat fragmentation.

Each Greenbridges™ garden is a link in the chain across the nation, providing safe movement for the plants and pollinators that help maintain healthy ecosystems. Have you certified your garden yet? To become a Greenbridges™ garden, go to the HSA website for an application.

GreenBridges™ gardens are recognized with a colorful, metal garden sign. You can install the sign using screws or with the included stake. It measures 7-inches x 10-inches and will last for years to come. Application processing will take 3-4 weeks, and you will receive your certificate and GreenBridges™ sign by mail.

