

PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

November 2023

Volume 31, Number 3

November 5
Daylight Savings
Ends
(fall back one hour)



November 11
Veterans Day

November 23



November 27
Frosty Full Moon

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

Date: November 9, 2023

Time: 9:30 a.m. Gather
10:00 a.m. Presentation and Meeting

Location: St. John's United Church of Christ
516 North Colorado Street, Burton

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: Winterizing Your Garden and Cool Season Plants

Speaker: Becky McKay
Owner Giddings Nursery and Plant Center

Angel: Leah Pearce

Hosts: Connie Gwyn, Cammie Beierle, Jan Hughes, Phoebe Lake, Rob Lake, Patty Mills, Martha Neva, and Susan Yancey

Lunch: Thanksgiving Buffet

Note: Contact Patty Mills if you have not signed up to make a dish for our luncheon.

pattymills67@gmail.com
832-567-8189

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The rains have come down hard! In Taylor, I think maybe 5 inches or more these last few days! The grass is looking greener, but now a worry for the cold front? At least it will feel like Winter as the temperatures drop, and most of us will enjoy that.

We will be moving our red wagons and other equipment over to a shed at Festival Hill beginning in November. This will allow the Unit to save money and have the convenience of the wagons nearby for the Plant Sale in March.

Many thanks to Susan Bame, Cathy Nitsch, Henry Flowers, and Patty Mills for organizing the temperature-controlled locker. That was overdue, and now all is labeled and put on the shelves with room to move.

The Unit, with volunteers Susan Bame, Cathy Kietlinski, Milton Resson, and Debi Thomas, showed up at the Brenham Elementary School Sensory Garden and paraded the children through all of the different areas. The STEM teacher Sara Gresham was thrilled, and in her words, "The kids had a blast! Thank you for making this happen!" And from volunteer Susan Bame: "It was fun! The kids were cute and really interested." Below is a collage of pictures Sara took and has allowed us to use.

All from me – see you soon for our Thanksgiving Feast.

Best,
Kathe Forrest
Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Cold weather is upon us! I got up early to harvest my basil. I cut and stripped the stems and created a slurry with a smidgen of olive oil and water in my food processor to place in ice cube trays and freeze for the long, cold, cold winter. For yummy soups, stews and smoothies, there is nothing like fresh basil. I now have 45 cubes to sustain my basil addiction. I love using the Aussie basil: it holds up well to the Texas drought and does not go to seed easily.

Speaking of cooler days, our guest speaker for November is Becky McKay from Giddings Nursery. She will be speaking on Winterizing and Cool Weather Plants, and she plans to bring some fun things for sale.

Remember our Thanksgiving Feast is in Burton. Looking forward to seeing you all on November 9th!

Tess Hartman
Programs Chair



MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA
PIONEER UNIT

October 12, 2023

Kathe Forrest, Chair, opened the meeting held at Brenham Presbyterian Church, Brenham, Texas. Tess Hartman, Vice Chair Programs, introduced the speaker, Lisa Whittlesey, Extension Program Specialist and Coordinator of International Junior Master Gardener Program, Texas A&M Extension Service. The program, "Getting Children Outside and in the Garden," included audience participation in singing a song about the parts of a plant to the Adam's Family theme song and making an Insect Aspirator or "Bug Sucker" to collect small insects from plants.

After the program, Kathe passed around a sign-up sheet for the Sensory Garden on October 20 and 27 to show kindergarten children around the garden. Kathe then gave a summary of the Board Meeting held Monday, October 9, 2023. The Unit will no longer lease the non-air-conditioned storage unit, and the contents will be stored at Festival Hill. The Unit will pay Festival Hill for storage which will be less cost than the current storage unit. Additionally, the items will be on site when needed for the Plant Sale in March. Tess will be looking for a facility in La Grange to hold a Unit meeting. The Board discussed the scholarship money available, because we do not have many people signing up for the scholarship funds. It was suggested that the Unit can offer a \$10,000 scholarship at Texas A&M or plant a garden at a nursing home. Repairs will be made to the three broken slats at the bridge at the Sensory Garden. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding a "Volunteer Survey," and a form was made and has been put out on the tables today. Kathe asked that everyone fill out the form and put their name on the form. The Pioneer Unit has signed up with Festival Hill to care for the Pharmacy Garden. Members can work on other gardens, but our main focus is to care for the Pharmacy Garden. A Volunteer Coordinator is needed to reach out to members, to call or talk in person to members to encourage them and to inform them of volunteer opportunities. Next June will be the transition for new board members. At the November meeting Kathe will have a list of the positions and the responsibilities of each position. Kathe reminded everyone once more to fill out the Volunteer Survey form and turn it in to her.

Diana Sellers, Membership Chair, announced we had 32 members present and four visitors: Terri Russell, Leslie Conrads, Kim Keeter, and Melissa Houck. Wendy Matthews has joined as an affiliate member because she lives in Austin. Diana announced she has the 2023/2024 membership cards and Membership Directory. There is a default password for signing onto the Herb Society website to the left on the membership card. Diana passed out a membership pin to Sandra Brown for 15 years.

Kathe informed the members that Pat Cox has workshops and trips planned for the future.

Patty Mills, Hospitality Chair, has a sign-up sheet for the Thanksgiving meal for next month. The herbal blend group, also known as "The Strippers," will meet next Thursday at Patty's home. Patty drew names for door prizes. The lunch hostesses were Phoebe Lake, Caroll Edwards, Beverly Green, Shawn Helm, Mike Perkins, and Leah Pearce.

Betty Pior recognized Linda Rowlett for the outstanding job she does each month on our newsletter!

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Rice, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

What a great October program: "Getting Children Outside and in the Garden"!! As a gardening grandmother of an inquisitive 3-year-old, I look forward to introducing my grandchild to nature and the wonder of growing plants. Lisa Whittlesey presented many stimulating ideas to provoke a child's interest in gardening. It will be fun to try some of her ideas.

Thirty-two members and four guests attended the September meeting. Our guests were Leslie Conrads (2nd meeting), Terri Russel, Kim Keeter, and Melissa Houck. Terri, Leslie, and Kim all voiced interest in becoming members of the Pioneer Unit. We look forward to having them join us.

Welcome to our newest member – Wendy Matthews was not able to attend the October Meeting, but I introduced her as our newest member. Wendy's contact information is 3407 Larry Lane, Austin, Texas 78722; home number is 512-479-0079; cell number is 512-609-0079; email address is wlmatt7@gmail.com. Wendy's birthday is November 4th. In her bio, Wendy stated that she has been gardening for 40 years and has some experience cooking with herbs. She has also made herbal oils and tinctures. She looks forward to gaining more knowledge from Pioneer Unit members. Welcome to the Pioneer Unit, Wendy. We look forward to getting to know you.

New Program Yearbook-Member Directories and HSA Membership Cards – The 2023-2024 Member Directories were distributed to members attending the October meeting. The new HSA Membership Cards were also distributed. I would like to recognize and thank Patti Mills and Tess Hartman for all their hard work to make it possible for our Unit to run. Patti works tirelessly to find host/hostesses and speaker angels for each of our meetings (FYI – I know Patti still has some spaces that need to be filled, so please contact her if you can add your name to the list). Tess has once again put together a great slate of presenters for our upcoming meetings. Of course, they have to get all this together for the Program Yearbook before it can be printed. Timelines and stress, but they are super troopers and got the job done.

Thanks also to all who have volunteered to be host/hostesses and/or Speaker Angels. What you do makes our meetings really pleasant!!

Herbally Yours,
Diana Sellers,
Membership Chair



CULINARY GROUP



Culinary has spent a couple of years doing some pretty intensive cuisine study, and we've all learned some wonderful new recipes, foods, and spice combinations. We are dialing it back this year with pantry meals, retro recipes, cooking one to eat and one to freeze. Get the idea? But, since we are the Herb Society, herbs and spices are always part of the mix. We will also be learning how to make some of our favorite processed foods from scratch including everyone's favorite Hidden Valley Original Ranch Seasoning (which contains 16 ingredients -- only 5 of which are recognizable foods). We can't be Julia Child or the Barefoot Contessa every day. Interested? Text Belinda at 713-398-0994.

Belinda Weatherly

TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS

Seventeen members have signed up for a field trip to Ives Creek Aquaponics and Martin Farms, both in the Bellville area, on Monday, December 11. Lunch to follow in Bellville. Please email Pat at bmerlynne@cvctx.com if you would like to join us.

A hypertufa workshop is planned for November as soon as a couple of issues have been worked out at Festival Hill. We also hope to have another bead workshop in November. Watch your emails!

Pat Cox



Photos from the last bead workshop

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

Restoring Mints Through Fall Pruning

Phoebe Lake demonstrated how to prune your mints. Since mints are vigorous growers, most frequently grown in pots, and can go dormant in the winter, Fall is the best time to prepare them for spring growth. In addition, you have dried mint leaves to use during the Winter months. Pruning is the first step but the next step is equally important. Mints can become tangled up in their own roots. The solution is to cut through the roots using a serrated knife in a grid pattern. To form the grid pattern, start by cutting lines spaced about 3-4" apart in one direction. Then turn your pot and start cutting lines that cross the first set of lines. The last step is to add compost to the top soil, covering your grid, and water well. Your mints are ready for the next season.

Prepared by Madeline Johnson



October Birthday

[editor 's note: I missed this one last month.]

October 28 Cathy Nitsch

November Birthdays

November 4	Wendy Matthews
November 7	Belinda Weatherly
November 11	Tory Farley
November 14	Jana Rinehart
November 19	Lois Sutton
November 24	Bev Elam and Barbara Hemmer
November 26	Diana Reed

Diana Reed (November 26) sent the adjacent photo and the following message: "What a gratitude filled year this is! Mike and I just celebrated 50 years of marriage. Our youngest son turned 40 and we were able to spend his birth date with him for the first time in 22 years! (He is an Army pilot.) And I will celebrate 70 trips around the sun on Thanksgiving!

"I still like to grow, sew and know. And by the end of each day, I still have more gardening, sewing and reading to be done. What a beautiful privileged life!

"Thank you to all the members of Pioneer Unit for sharing your knowledge and spreading inspiration."



HOSPITALITY

Our Thanksgiving meeting is rapidly approaching! For those of you who didn't sign up in October, we have the following on our menu: turkey, ham, 3 dressings, 4 sweet potatoes, 6 other vegetables (not potatoes), 3 cranberry dishes, 4 other salads (not cranberry), 3 breads, 1 pecan pie, 1 pumpkin pie, 3 other desserts. If you would like to add to our feast, please send me an email or text. I can keep track of what is being brought so we do not have 10 sweet potato dishes!

If you have any questions, please reach out to me. And if you cannot remember what you signed up to bring, reach out as well.

Patty Mills
pattymills67@gmail.com
832-567-8189

HERBAL BLENDS

Our Herbal Blends stripping group will meet at my house on November 30 at 9:30 a.m. Our usual herbs are needed: rosemary, basil (get it quick before it is gone for the season!), thyme, parsley, and marjoram. We take dried and fresh. Any who are interested, please call for directions. All are welcome!

Patty Mills



We need some trucks to help move our red wagons from the storage unit in Brenham to Festival Hill. This move will be best for our Unit because we won't have to keep moving the wagons back and forth and can store them close to where we use them.

We are hoping to do this when we have favorable weather, but sooner rather than later.

Please send me a message or call if you have a truck available that can help with this. Thanks.

Kathe Forrest



Herb plant and herbal product sales - open to the general public
No Admission Fee

Southside Place Clubhouse
3743 Garnet Street, Houston, Texas 77005

We have prepared lovely herbal related items, education and demonstrations for you, your friends and family. Come learn about herbs!

For more information, click on the link below or copy it into your browser:

<http://www.herbsociety-stu.org/annual-herb-fair.html>



November 2023

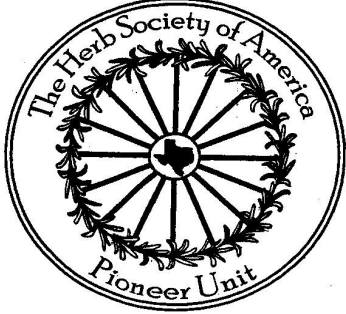


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends		1 CG 10:00 Menke House	2	3	4 South Texas Unit Herb Fair
5	6	7	8	9 Pioneer Unit Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 HSG 10-noon at FH	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023



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CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends				1	2
3	4	5	6 CG 10:00 Menke House	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 						



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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—Louise Rice

Treasurer—Debi Thomas

One day is there of the series
Termed Thanksgiving Day.
Celebrated part at Table
Part in memory.

Neither Patriarch nor Pussy
I review the Play
Seems it to my Hooded thinking
Reflex Holiday.

Had There been no sharp subtraction
From the early Sum -
Not an Acre or a Caption
Where was once a Room -

Not a Mention, whose small Pebble
Wrinkled any Sea,
Unto Such, were such Assembly
'Twere Thanksgiving day.

Emily Dickinson

