



# PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America  
Pioneer Unit

March 2024

Volume 31, Number 7

March 10  
Daylight Savings  
Time Begins



—  
March 20  
Vernal Equinox

—  
March 25  
Crow Full Moon

## MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

Date: March 7, 2024

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

Location: 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: Courtney Kieke, Shawn Helm, Julia Johnson, Mike  
Perkins, and Sally Reynolds

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Happy go lucky Spring? I am counting on the best weather ever for this Forum, and I want you to chant along with me: "Best Weather Ever." We have had a run of difficult wind and cold so it only goes to say – this will be nicer.

Some of you may have seen my forage into dyeing with plants on FaceBook, and I hope to have a yarrow sample to show you at the meeting. It has been really fun to use food (red onion), leaves (ash and oak), spices (turmeric), and coffee and tea.

There are almost 70 signed up for the Forum at last count.

This event is the time when we count on all volunteers to be working, whether it be on the grounds with the plants or in Thyme Well Spent or both. The Unit supplies lunch on Saturday the 16th at Festival Hill for those working that day. Friday will be snacks and some more hearty edibles provided by you and the Unit.

If you have not spread the word via FB or putting up posters (these should be just about everywhere you look), please get some and post.

Back to Spring – here is a photo of my peach blossoms.

See you soon.  
Kathe Forrest  
Chair



## FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Springtime is here, and I hope everyone is taking advantage of this balmy weather to prepare your gardening beds for all the great plants we will be offering at our sale March 15th! Our Plant Sale Committee has some innovative ideas for signage, and several groups are creating jams, jellies, and decorative items for the Thyme Well Spent Shop. Please put in your order now for cool weather and sunny skies for March 15th and 16th.

Recently some artistic and talented members got together at Leona Marshall's studio to create and glaze pinch pots and make plant markers for sale at the Forum. [Editor's Note: Tess did some of the creative work as well as taking a photo.]

We will meet on March 7th at Festival Hill to prepare for our sale. Wear your working clothes, and consider bringing old cookbooks and gardening books to donate for the scholarship fund. We will work in the gardens and prepare seeds, teas, and more for the Thyme Well Spent Shop.

Tess Hartman  
Programs Chair



## MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT

February 8, 2024

The Unit meeting was held at St. John's United Church of Christ, Burton, Texas. Kathe Forrest, Chair, asked for a moment of silence for Becky Nichols and her family in the loss of her husband, Nick, and for Madeline Johnson and her family in the loss of her husband, Wes. Tess Hartman, Vice Chair Programs, introduced Ramin Baranpourian, Greenhouse Manager of the Temple of Compassion in Burton, who spoke on "Ayurvedic Medicine and Herbs."

Kathe reported that the health of Mary Reeves, a member of HSA for 50 years and soon to turn 90 years old, has stabilized and she is back at home. Kathe asked for a vote to dedicate this year's Forum to Mary Reeves. All members voted in favor of the dedication. Kathe asked all members to take Forum and Plant Sale posters and flyers and distribute them wherever possible. As of last week, 28 have signed-up for the Forum. The workday Unit meeting will be March 7 in the Service Building at Festival Hill. Julie Johnson, Jana Rinehart, and Irene Spurrier need more volunteers to sign-up for the Plant Sale. Julie said the shifts are divided between before lunch and after lunch. If a member plans to work the whole day, she should sign up for the before and after lunch shifts. Julie still needs more sponsors for some of the beds in the Pharmacy Garden, and there will be a monthly clean-up day on the first Tuesday of the month. Courtney Kieke asked how to get plants for the Pharmacy beds. Kathe said to let her know what plants are needed so the Unit can order the plants along with the plants ordered for the Plant Sale.

Kathe informed the members that Friday volunteers at the Plant Sale will have to arrange for their own lunch. There will be snacks provided in the room next to the Thyme Well Spent Shop. Saturday volunteers can sign-up for the lunch prepared by Festival Hill. At this time, she does not know if the lunch will be free or if volunteers will have to pay.

Cathy Nitsch thanked everyone who dried mints for teas and all those who have made jams, jellies, and marmalades. She reminded members they can be reimbursed for the cost of jars and ingredients. Cathy also has jars for those who need them and is willing to deliver jars to your home. She also thanked all members who have signed-up to help in the TWSS. Members who make jams, etc. are to let her know what is made, and she will make sure the labels are printed and available to apply to the jars on the March 7th workday.

Kathe passed around a jar of honey for members to taste and vote on whether they liked it or not. The honey was infused with yarrow and lavender, and all members liked it. It will be sold at the TWSS. Kathe also asked if someone would make beeswax wraps for sale. Patty Mills and Joanna Hagler volunteered to make them. Kathe has some toothpicks made from tea tree if anyone is interested in trying them.

Diana Sellers, Membership Chair, announced 38 members attended and seven guests: Dawn Wilson, Jason Beierle, Marian Dider, Kim Taylor, Kathlene Marken, and Catherine O'Brien and Julie Forbes from the South Texas Unit. Leslie Conrads is our newest member, and Ann Lugg received a 5-year pin. Euphanel Goad had surgery and was not at the meeting to receive her 30-year pin. Euphanel is a founding member of the Pioneer Unit.

Diana is collecting seeds for the TWSS and books and magazines relating to herbs for the Scholarship Table in the TWSS.

Patty Mills announced the hostess team: Susan Bame, Pat Cox, Ginger Heath, Linda Rowlett, and Ann Lugg. Patty said the hostess team for the March workday meeting will try to have a big brunch for the workers because a lunch is not planned for the workday. Lunch for volunteers will be "on your own" on Friday of the Plant Sale. A sign-up sheet is available for Saturday's lunch for volunteers. Names were drawn for door prizes.

Connie Gwyn needs people to sign-up to prepare snacks for the volunteers at the Plant Sale.

Caroll Edwards asked for donations of gently used hypertufa, pots, garden art, and anything that can be sold in the Potting Shed.

Cammie Beierle reminded everyone of a workshop next Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at her home to paint dried butterfly seed pods.

Jo Ann Reichle announced a Taster's Lunch to raise funds for the Austin County TEEA. Funds raised will benefit area charities. The lunch is February 18, 2024, at 11:30 a.m, at Industry Fireman's Hall. There are also raffle tickets for a Wildflower Quilt.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Rice, Secretary



## CULINARY GROUP

Culinary enjoyed soups in February and takes March off to work on Plant Sale/Forum/TWSS/Pharmacy Garden. We pick up again in April with Crock Pot/Cooking for Two. With herbs of course!! All are welcome. Email me at [blw1071@gmail.com](mailto:blw1071@gmail.com) for more information. If you like good food, come join us.

Belinda Weatherly

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Except for yesterday and today (February 17 and 18, which have been bitterly cold with the wind howling), the weather has been mild the past couple of weeks. My trees are starting to bud. As I walked around my yard this weekend, I reprimanded them, reminding them that it is still February, much too early to be thinking about this sort of activity. But they paid no attention to me and gleefully continued to put forth more buds. I hope they won't be sorry.

### **February Meeting Attendance**

Thirty-eight members and seven guests attended the February meeting. Our guests included Dawn Wilson (guest of Tess Hartman), Jason Beierle and Marian Didier (guests of Cammie Beierle), Catherine O'Brien and Julie Fordes (members of the South Texas Herbal Unit), and Kim Taylor and Kathleen Marker who had attended the Pioneer Unit Plant Sale last year and are interested in becoming new members.

### **Welcome to our Newest Members**

Leslie Conrads completed her joining requirements and was introduced as our newest active member. Leslie's contact information is 2110 Chappell Ridge Lane, Chappell Hill, Texas 77426; cell number is 832-331-4642; email address is [conradsfamily@gmail.com](mailto:conradsfamily@gmail.com). Leslie's birthday is June 16th. In her bio, Leslie wrote, "I want to increase my knowledge of planting and keeping plants alive." Catherine O'Brien and Julie Fordes joined the Pioneer Unit as Affiliate Members. Both are Active members of the South Texas Unit. Catherine's contact information is 2406 Peony Meadow Circle, Pearland, Texas 77089; phone number is 281-467-1139; email address is [vibrio13@gmail.com](mailto:vibrio13@gmail.com). Julie's contact information is 5531 Valkeith, Houston, Texas 77096; phone number is 832-969-8349; email address is [fordes.julie@gmail.com](mailto:fordes.julie@gmail.com). Welcome to the Pioneer Unit, ladies! We look forward to getting to know you.

### **Program Yearbook and Membership Directory Revisions/Updates**

In addition to adding the new members' information to your Membership Directory, please note the following change for Susan Yancey. Susan has moved to Driftwood which is a lovely area near Austin. Her new address is 3036 La Ventana Parkway, Driftwood, Texas 78619.

### **Recognition of Member's Anniversary Dates**

Ann Lugg was recognized for obtaining her 5-year membership anniversary. Ann joined HSA and the Pioneer Unit in February 2019. Congratulations!!

### **March Forum, Plant Sale, and Thyme Well Spent Shoppe**

March is just a few days away, and there is much to be done to prepare. Please keep bringing me your seeds. 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. Also needed are jams, lotions, dried herb packets, and handmade items. You earn volunteer hours while preparing any of these items. You need 20 volunteer hours to maintain your active membership status, and this is a **perfect** way to obtain those hours. Contact Cathy Nitsch for more information.

**March Meeting**

Speaking of March and the Forum, please note that our **Pioneer Unit meeting is March 7th**. Why you ask? Two reasons - March is one of those crazy months where the month starts on a Friday, so the third weekend of the month is at the end of the second week. By the second Thursday, we will already be in high gear for the Plant Sale, TWSS, and Forum activities – setting out plants and arranging the TWSS. We need to meet on Thursday the week before (first Thursday) to do the prep work (making teas and filling seed packets, working on the gardens, etc.).

Herbally Yours,  
Diana Sellers  
Membership Chair



Notes from Hospitality:

At our workday on March 7, Courtney Kieke and her able team are providing lots of brunch/lunch foods for us! We will not have our regular buffet lunch that members bring that day.

For those of you working the Saturday at the Forum/Plant Sale, our Unit has decided to cover the cost of lunch at Festival Hill. Please be sure to sign up at our Work Day!

Patty Mills

## HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

The first meeting of the Horticulture Study Group was held February 22nd at Phoebe Lake's home. Phoebe explained the process of propagating rosemary from cuttings, and then we went to work. First, we cut three stems from Barbecue Rosemary provided by Phoebe. We stripped the lower leaves, dipped the stems in rooting hormone, made a pencil hole in the moist soil, inserted the stems (3 to a pot), and gently pressed the dirt around each stem. Why three? Well, it seems that cuttings like company. The final step was creating a personal hothouse for each pot by placing plastic over top of the pot and securing it with a rubber band. This keeps the cuttings moist so that roots develop. The 'plastic tent' has to be vented periodically to prevent too much moisture from building up and leading to a fungus infection.

Did you know that rosemary is part of the salvia genus? Genetic testing of this plant revealed that it is not a separate genus. It's good news for rosemary, which was very lonely in its very small Rosmarinus genus. It keeps a part of its name as it is known as Salvia Rosmarinus.

Madeline Johnson





## FORUM NOTICES

### Refreshments for Volunteers

Our plans are to have coffee, water, hot tea, and snacks available during the set up and Plant Sale and Thyme Well Spent sale. We need snack food items brought each day. Suggestions include: small fruit (fresh or dried), granola/protein/breakfast bars, cheese, crackers, nuts, and baked goods of any kind. Individually wrapped is nice for grab it and go, but anything is appreciated. A sign-up sheet will be at our March meeting, or text Connie Gwyn at 979-203-0524.

During the sale if you notice anything depleted, please let us know. We will be monitoring but are working in other areas also. Many thanks!

Cammie Beierle and Connie Gwyn

### Cookies for Closing

I have recently asked some of you to make yarrow cookies for Forum attendees to enjoy at the end of the day, Saturday, March 16th. If there are enough, then everyone, including volunteers, can eat some too.

However, some of you had reservations about using yarrow. I made some yesterday and added dried flowers from Flora Cocina, and they turned out yummy. If you volunteer to make cookies, use any sugar recipe and add your own embellishment. That could be yarrow, or just a flower/herb design, lavender, or thyme. Use your imagination. Not every cookie has to have something in/on it. Let me know if you will make some at our meeting.

Kathe Forrest



## VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Noreen Barker took the photos on this page and the next, and Julia Johnson sent them for the newsletter with the following information:

The Beethoven Woods are getting a face lift, and mulch will be coming soon. We identified many interesting plants there, like the variegated and non-variegated alstromerias coming up in large masses and a small group of *Ledebouria petiolata* which are spotted with heart shaped leaves. We moved a loquat to be better protected from naughty things like mowers!

Across from the Pharmacy Garden, in the Fruit Tree and Butterfly Garden, we identified many surviving species of pomegranate, pineapple guava, bay laurel, medlar, Mexican plum, and flowering quince. This area has been cleared of excess branches and weeds and is awaiting further restoration.

This past Saturday Ann and Eric Wilson, Henry Flowers, and I worked on the Ann's Arbor area. We pulled weeds and trimmed back perennials and shaped shrubs and roses. On Monday, we unloaded over a ton of mulch in this area alone! Henry has also had the paths of the Pharmacy garden sprayed. It is all looking very nice, and I'm looking forward to the Forum and Plant Sale.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who do so much in and around our communities!

Julia Johnson





"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience."  
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway."  
—Michael Pollan

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1 — Susan Wood

March 3 — Billi Parus

March 11 — Joan Jordan

March 14 — Bob Sowers

March 16 — Sandra Brown  
Beth Murphy

March 30 — Robert Lake

March 31 — Madeline Johnson  
Patty Mills

**Susan Wood** (March 1) wrote: "At this time of year I reflect on all the friends I've made through The Herb Society of America. Not just Pioneer and South Texas members but also members from coast to coast. Spread your wings to make as many new friends in The Society as possible this year!"

## THYME WELL SPENT

Hey fellow herbies, I saw my first bluebonnet yesterday, and it reminded me that the sale is just around the corner. **Two more weeks!** Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to help in the Thyme Well Spent Shop. You will be sent an email with all the needed information about dates and times and responsibilities next week. Also, if you made jams/jellies, etc., for the store, please **bring them to the March 7th meeting** so we can put labels on everything. We are looking forward to seeing everyone working together for a successful sale. Again, many thanks!

Cathy Nitsch

**HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA** registration for EdCon, June 20-21, in Malvern, Pennsylvania, is now open. In fact, there are only 68 slots remaining as of Thursday, February 29, after I completed my registration. You need to act now if you hope to attend!

# March 2024

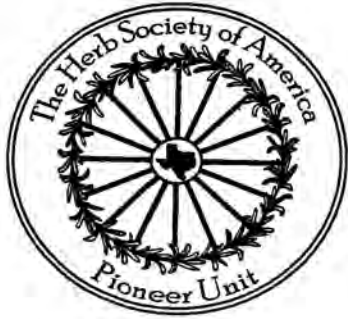


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends				1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Pioneer Unit Meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Herbal Forum	16 Herbal Forum
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 HSG 10:00	29	30
31						



# April 2024

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



## 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

Tony Scanapico sent the adjacent photo along with the following information:

In unpacking while moving into our new digs at 116 Medical Parkway, Schulenburg, Texas 78956, I came across a photo of the Mary Garden. I took it in March 1996. I think that our members would be interested in seeing it. Kay and I were visiting Festival Hill while building on the property we had in Round Top. We met Madalene Hill and learned of the first Herb Festival, as the Herbal Forum was first known. She said the garden had been spiffed up for it. Note the fig ivy hadn't yet been introduced; the beds had wooden landscape timber framing; there were no upright plantings; and the drain in front of the Mary statue hadn't been covered among other changes to come in the future. But it still looked good. The photo was taken from the top of the pedestal's overlook.

