

PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

April 2025

Volume 32, Number 8

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

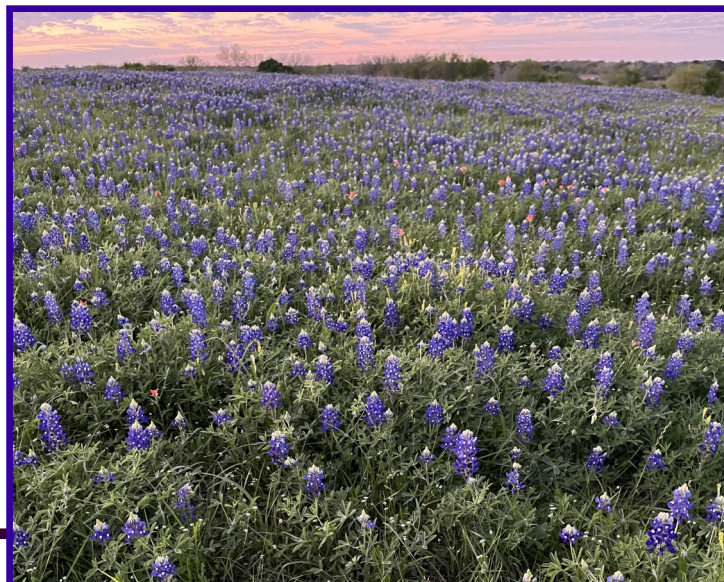
- Date: April 10, 2025
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet
10:00 a.m. Program followed by Meeting
- Location: Brenham Presbyterian Church
900 South Jackson Street, Brenham
- Directions: Exit Highway 290 to Business 36 North (Day Street) into Brenham. Continue north to College Street. Turn left to Jackson Street, and the church will be on your left.
- Program: Bluebonnets: The Gateway to Native Plants
- Speaker: Jay White
Texas Gardener
- Angel: Tess Hartman
- Host Team: Patty Mills, Johanna Hagler, Ann Lugg, Sally Reynolds, and Dawn Wilson
- Lunch: Colors of the Rainbow

April 8
Board Meeting
Festival Hill
School Room 9

—
April 12
Sprouting Grass
Full Moon
—



April 25
Arbor Day



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

March Plant Sale/TWSS/Forum - Wow!! I was so impressed by all the hard work everyone did to make our Plant Sale, TWSS, and Forum such a wonderful success. The energy expended was truly phenomenal. I was amazed from the moment the first truck arrived Monday morning full of plants to the last truck Thursday afternoon. Madeline, Julie, and Phoebe had us all dancing in a synchronized movement unloading plants from the trucks onto wagons and placing them on the tables. In the meantime, Erica Menconi and the TWSS group were a busy beehive with shelves being erected and jams and jellies being placed on them. Tables were loaded with all kinds of handmade products. Cathy Nitsch made beautiful flower arrangements to decorate the Concert Hall and created door prizes for our Forum attendees. She also made very nice gift bags for the speakers. Speakers arrived at the Concert Hall, did their check-in with the AV equipment, and set up their tables. One hundred and ten people registered to attend the Forum. It was a little wild during check-in with that many people arriving all at the same time, but Linda Hartson, Tory Farley, and Joanna Hagler did a superb job getting all the attendees checked in and the show started on time. Betty Pior and Sally Reynolds set up a wonderful afternoon refreshment table for Forum attendees. It wasn't easy: the wind kept trying to blow everything away as fast they laid it out. I want to especially thank Tess Hartman and Tory Farley for being the MCs for the day. It meant a lot to me for them to serve as the voice of the Pioneer Unit. Another first-rate performance.

A huge round of applause for Carol Edwards and Connie Gwyn for keeping us watered and fed. It made a big difference to have a place to sit for a few minutes and refresh oneself.

Billi Parus and Henry Flowers did a delightful Peter Rabbit and Chamomile demonstration on stage. They served the Forum guests two types of chamomile ice cream and chamomile cookies. Very tasty treats.

Also, a very special thank-you to Jeff and Issac - the Festival Hill staff. Issac helped me figure things out. Jeff was a huge blessing for me. He kept making more copies for the packets as more people registered. He stayed late to make sure everything was set for the speakers. He made sure everything was running smoothly. And he stayed with me until it was all over. I couldn't have done it without either one.

Royceanna Kendall made many deposit trips to the bank. Our March Event was very successful. We will have plenty of money to continue to have our top-notch educational presentations every month, provide scholarships to students, and contribute funds to other worthy causes. Everyone should feel very proud of our accomplishments in March.

It truly does take a village to coordinate an event like this, and the Pioneer Unit village is an absolutely amazing group of people. Each person contributes their special talent to the endeavor, and the result is a wonderful harmony of action.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful time planting all their new acquisitions. Most of mine are in the ground, looking quite happy.

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Upcoming Events

Membership Renewal – yes, it's once again that time of the year. It starts in May. Read the Membership article for more information.

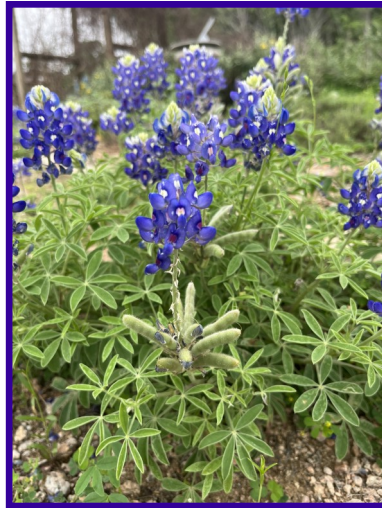
South Texas Unit 39th Herb Day Celebration – April 26th, The Herb Gardener's Gamut from Plot to Pantry. Susan Belsinger and Tina Marie Wilcox are the speakers.

South Central District Conference in the Ozarks – May 1st-3rd.

Annual New Ulm Bee Jubilee – held on May 3rd. I am looking for a member to volunteer to coordinate this event for the Pioneer Unit.

Thanks to Everyone for helping make the Plant Sale, TWSS, and Forum a huge success!!

Diana Sellers
Chair, Pioneer Unit



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Hello Herbie Friends!

I hope you all have rested from the plant sale and forum and are ready to enjoy our time together on April 10th. We are meeting at Brenham Presbyterian Church, and our program for the day will be presented by Jay White, who is the owner and publisher of Texas Gardener magazine. Jay's presentation will be on "Bluebonnets: The Gateway to Native Plants."

I have had the pleasure of hearing Jay speak on a previous occasion, and I am very much looking forward to hearing him share his knowledge and passion for gardening once again.

See you there!

Tory Farley
Programs Chair

MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA - PIONEER UNIT MARCH 6, 2025

The March meeting of the Pioneer Unit was held at Festival Hill, Round Top, Texas.

Diana Sellers, Unit Chair, began the meeting with an overview of the upcoming Forum. Members were reminded that lunch would be at Menke House on Saturday.

Julia Johnson, Pharmacy Garden Coordinator and Plant Sale Co-Chair, shared how she would be communicating with members before and during the plant sale. Emails regarding deliveries and daily events will be sent. A members-only sale will begin on Thursday at 3:00. Volunteers for the plant sale were asked to arrive by 8:00. A half-off plant sale will be held for members on the Monday after the plant sale. First Friday volunteers are asked to help prepare the Pharmacy Garden and Menke Gardens for visitors.

Jana Rinehart added that she made a Lost and Found Box for the plant sale.

Erica Menconi, Thyme Well Spent Shop Chair, thanked volunteers who began work in Time Well Spent and shared the times she would be at Festival Hill working in the shop.

Cammie Beierle, Membership Chair, reported 45 members in attendance. Pat Garrett was awarded her 10-year pin.

Connie Gwyn, Hospitality Chair, thanked the hostess team, Jill Wilson, JoAnn Reichle, Bonnie Lout, Noreen Barker, and Tess Hartman, who made sure members were well fed for the workday.

The meeting was adjourned so members could work on various tasks to prepare for the Forum and the Plant Sale.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Hagler, Secretary



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

WOW!! I am, once again, so impressed with the professionalism and organizing skills of our Pioneer Unit! What a great, fun, profitable sale we accomplished! I am so proud to be a part of this organization!!

At the March meeting we had 45 members (that I could account for; Diana counted 46). We worked hard to prepare for Forum, Plant Sale, and Thyme Well Spent Shop, and it was well worth the time spent!! Success!!!

This month begins our Annual Membership Renewal time. Please submit your form to me by the May meeting, including your check for the appropriate amount, depending on your membership status, or you can mail the form with your check to: HSA-Pioneer Unit, P.O. Box 23, Round Top, Texas 78954.

To print the renewal form, click on this link: <https://www.herbsocietypioneer.org/membership-renewal/> then click 2. "print this form." This link will also allow you to renew online if you prefer.

As a reminder, all members (Active and Affiliate) of the Pioneer Unit must also be members of HSA, the National Organization, which includes many great tools for growing and using herbs and other great resources. The annual dues for HSA are \$55 and the dues for the Pioneer Unit are \$12. Some Affiliate members belong to another unit and pay their national dues through that unit. Those Affiliates also pay the Pioneer Unit dues. If you have questions, please email Cammie Beierle at cammie@cameliafarm.com or text or call 281-844-4852.

Membership Categories:

Active – Single \$67 /Joint \$98

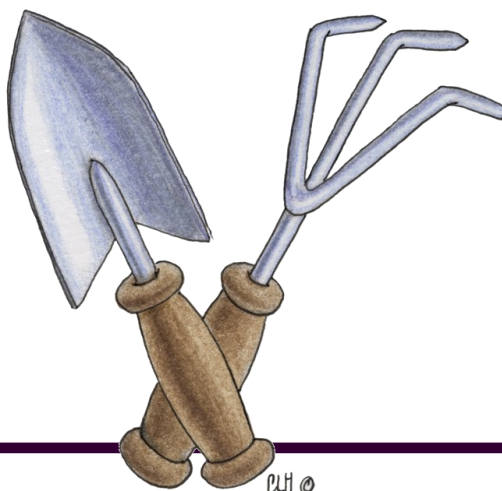
Affiliates (not members of another unit) - Single \$67/Joint \$98

Affiliates (members of another unit) - Single \$12/Joint \$18

Life – Single \$12/Joint \$18

Happy Gardening!!!

Cammie Beierle
HSA Pioneer Unit Membership Chair





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 3 — Sally Reynolds

April 11 — Susan Bame

April 15 — Courtney Kieke

April 22 — Ann Allen

Sally Reynolds (April 3) sent the following message: " As I embrace my 80th year, I am grateful for my remarkable family, health, wonderful friends, and the blessings of many opportunities to watch things grow, plants and people! Carpe diem!"



Susan Bame (April 11) sent the adjacent picture and wrote: "I can't believe it's April again. Here's me working on my bed for the lavender HSG. I'm thankful for another year of friends, family, pets, birding, gardening, mysteries, and the Herb Society!"

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

Lavender Varieties For 2025 Study

With over 45 lavender species and more than 450 varieties and cultivars, how do you choose only 8 to study? As Phoebe Lake explained in her presentation to the Horticulture Study Group, each species has unique characteristics that make it suitable for certain environmental conditions and for providing distinctive chemistry that determines the intensity of its aroma as well as its suitability for culinary uses. *Lavandula* is a member of the *Lamiaceae* family. It has the distinctive square stems of the family that includes oregano, basil, and other herbs. In choosing the 8 lavender varieties for the study, Phoebe and Madeline sought to include varieties from different species, with different forms and beneficial uses. Recommendations and availability from local growers also helped to narrow the selection.

The lavenders chosen with extremely brief descriptions follow:

Fern Leaf (*Lavandula multifida*) aka French Lace Lavender: Hardy for zones 8-10 with pine undertones.

French (*Lavender dentata*): Likes alkaline soil and is not recommended for culinary.

Goodwin Creek (*Lavandula x gingsii*): Fragrant and suitable for culinary as well as cut flowers.

Grosso (*Lavandula intermedia*): Highly fragrant with dark purple flowers atop long sturdy stems.

Otto Quast (*Lavendula stoechas*): Thrives in heat and is distinguished by its rabbit-ear bracts.

Provence (*Lavendula x intermedia*): Another highly fragrant variety used in dried flower arrangements.

Sweet (*Lavendula x heterophylla*): Preferred use is in lavender wands and potpourri. Not recommended for culinary use.

Vera (*Lavandula angustifolia*) aka Old Fashioned English Lavender: Small bush known for its sweetly fragrant oil.

Madeline Johnson



Photo of Otto Quast with its distinctive "rabbit ears."

PLANT SALE AND PHARMACY GARDEN

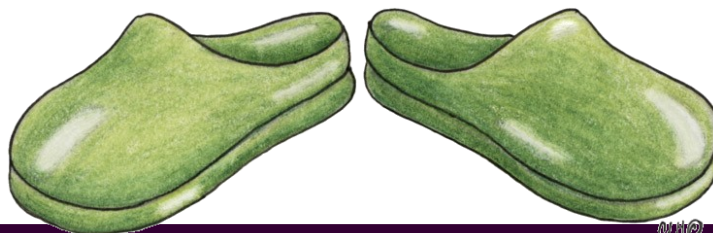
Thank you to everyone who devoted so much time and effort to making our Herb and Plant Sale a great success this year! As you know, this is our big fundraiser for all of our activities and outreach efforts; it takes each one of us to put together a weekend of plant extravaganza! I'd especially like to thank Phoebe Lake and Madeline Johnson for helping with the plant purchasing this year. That was quite a job! A big thank you to Henry Flowers who guided us and answered countless questions! Many thanks to all of the members who brought their trucks, husbands, and neighbors (or kids!) to help with the loading and unloading of plants and other supplies. Noreen Barker made sure that everything stayed watered each day. Connie Gwyn and the hospitality team, thank you for the snacks, treats, and drinks! Courtney Kieke and crew did a wonderful job with Tear Down. To each of our members, in all of the ways that you helped with the Herb Sale, the Forum, and the Thyme Well Spent shop, here's a big THANK YOU for what you do!

This Friday is our First Friday at Festival Hill, a workday open for any of our members who would like to join us. We are thinking up t-shirt designs and are always brainstorming fun new ideas. You really don't want to miss out! **First Friday of the month, from 9-11**, at Festival Hill: we meet in the parking lot behind the Menke House and work in the Pharmacy or other herbal gardens on campus. Right now, I am working to restore the Step A garden. It is being planted with blooming perennials and bulbs, including rosemaries, lavenders, roses, salvias, and more. Come check it out this Friday if you're available.


Pharmacy Garden Website Update: This week I will be sending out an example of website information, the input form, and other information for those of you who signed up to research plants. Thank you for being patient with me!

Greenhouse Restoration Update: I recently put in an application for a local grant to help with the cost of restoration. I am looking for a few contractors to contact concerning the construction; if you know of someone who may be able to help, please email me at aggieized@gmail.com. The contractor must be licensed and bonded.

Julia Johnson
Pharmacy Garden Chair

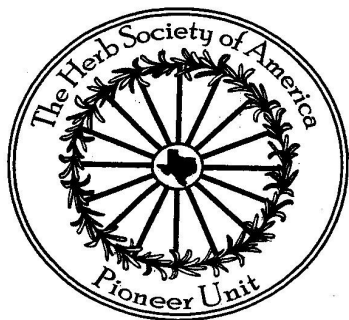


April 2025

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

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends			1 HSA South Central District Gathering May 1-3	2 FH Workday 9-11	3 Bee Jubilee
4	5	6	7 Cg Menke House	8 Pioneer Unit Meeting	9	10
11 	12	13	14	15 SG Work Day	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 HSG at FH 10-noon	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—Diana Sellers

Vice Chair Programs—Tory Farley
Secretary—Joanna Hagler

Vice Chair Membership—Cammie Beierle
Treasurer—Royceanna Kendall



Collage from Julia Johnson