

PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

July 4
Independence Day



—
July 8
Board Meeting

—
July 10
Thunder Full Moon

July 2025

Volume 32, Number 11

JULY GATHERING

Date: July 10, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m. Meet and Greet
11:30 a.m. Lunch and Good Conversation
Post Lunch Shopping and more Good Conversation

Location: Martha's Bloomers
8101 Hwy 6 N Bypass
Navasota, Texas 77868

Directions: From Brenham, take TX 105 E/S Chappell Hill Street to North Highway 6 Loop Feeder Road. Turn left. Martha's Bloomers will be on your right in 0.7 miles.

From US 290, take the TX 6 exit toward College Station/ Bryan. After about 19 miles, take the TX 105 W exit and continue to the N Highway 6 Loop feeder road. Turn right.

Angel: Irene Spurrier

Host Team: Susan Bame and Linda Rowlett



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone,

It's summertime in Texas, but I'm sure I don't have to tell you that. Hot, humid, and the cicadas are making a lot of noise. I've heard many of you say that you are in full swing harvesting and canning your garden produce. Congratulations on your bounty! The Pioneer Unit is entering its Summer hiatus with no formal meetings in July or August, but Irene Spurrier has once again made arrangements for a member get-together in July with lunch at Martha's Bloomers in Navasota. Thank you, Irene!!

Wasn't Monika Maeckle's presentation incredible! She was truly delightful – so funny, and she told us some very interesting things about some of our native plants. She said she would like to come talk with us again, and I know we would like to have her again. Thanks to all who helped with the room set-up Wednesday evening before the meeting. Special Thank-Yous go to Tory Farley for making the arrangements, Madeline Johnson for being Monika's Speaker Angel, Diana Reed and Susan Bame for collecting the book money, the Hostesses for preparing a delicious breakfast, and Cammie Beierle for hosting Monika at her B&B. You all brought such wonderful food to share after the presentation. Everything you did made the day a wonderful day. We had lots of guests, and they were very impressed with our Unit.

June 19th, 20th, and 21st, Stephen Brueggerhoff, Extension Agent – Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for Brazos County, and a member of our Pioneer Unit, held a Master Gardeners Advanced Training Conference in Bryan, Texas. Phoebe Lake, Julie Johnson, Henry Flowers, and I gave presentations for this conference, along with several other presenters. There were about 40 attendees who came from all over the State. They were a lively and enthusiastic group and seemed very interested in learning about herbs. Many stated that the Pioneer Unit's Annual Plant Sale was part of their Spring Bucket List each year and they never failed to make the trip to come see us.

Each year goes by so fast. It's really difficult to believe that we are starting another fiscal year. The Board will hold its first meeting of the new year on July 8th at the Round Top Library Hummel House. We will be preparing the budget for the new year and starting to think about next March's Plant Sale, Forum, and TWSS, among many other topics. So many amazing things happened this past fiscal year – a very successful March Event, awarding eight scholarships, and giving discretionary funds to seven different groups. We also continued our Mary Reeves scholarship to Blinn College. We've had several new members join us this year, and I know there are more working towards becoming members.

I'm looking forward to another productive Pioneer Unit year. Congratulations to everyone for such a great year!!

Diana Sellers
Chair, Pioneer Unit



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

A picture of my first harvest of elderberries and figs—both soon to become, hopefully, something delectable (Elderberry wine? Fig Newtons?)!! They go in the freezer until I have enough of each to work with.

I've learned a lot this spring about so many things: I learned (from Belinda Weatherly) how to water-bath canned goods, so I've canned pickled cucumbers, jelly (syrup, as it didn't set, but still tasty), salsa, and pickled squash; freeze-dried lemon balm and made it into tea (or tisane if the recipe doesn't include japonica sinensis) combined with dried lavender flowers; made lavender soaps, sachets, and lavender wands. And all with the best group of friends imaginable!! WOW!!! What a very special group to be associated and learn with!



Our June meeting was off the charts! Monika Maeckle regaled us with fun facts and funny stories about butterflies, particularly monarchs. We promoted the event in print, radio, and on the Internet. Thank you, Monika, for informing us so well!! She signed and sold many of her latest book, Plants with Purpose. We still have several signed copies left if you didn't get to purchase one.

We had a full room for our June meeting with 31 guests and 48 members for a wonderful total of 79 (80 if you include Monika). It was so much fun meeting people from different groups in the area, Master Naturalists for example. Sharon Fothergill and Joy Kamani attended for their second meeting. Joy has completed her training at Festival Hill and just needs one more meeting and training at the Sensory Garden to be ready for membership.

We were so excited to celebrate Sonia Miller and Swee Leng Rapatz, who became the newest members of the Pioneer Unit! Please watch for them and introduce yourself!!

You can still record your 2024-25 Fiscal Year volunteer hours on Track It Forward; just record dates before June 30, 2025.

We look forward to seeing guests from the June meeting again at future meetings! It's a great group—I definitely recommend it!!

Have a wonderful, safe summer!!
Cammie Beierle
Membership Chair
HSA, Pioneer Unit

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

June 12, 2025

The June meeting of the Pioneer Unit was held at Brenham Presbyterian Church, Brenham, Texas.

Diana Sellers, Unit Chair, welcomed everyone including visiting Master Naturalists from the Gideon Lincecum Chapter.

Tory Farley, Programs Chair, introduced Monika Maeckle who spoke about Plants with Purpose, the title of her newest book. Monika challenged us to choose plants that do more than just look good. She referred to one of her influencers, Doug Tallamy, who suggests we think of our yards as a dinner party for the food chain. By simply planting 1/3 of our property with natives, we will provide for the biodiversity needed for a healthy ecosystem. Monika gave a multitude of examples of plants that do well in our area and are worthy of taking up valuable real estate on our properties. She can be found at www.texasbutterlyranch.com.

Cammie Beierle, Membership Chair, welcomed 33 guests and 47 members. We welcomed Swee Leng Rapatz and Sonia Miller as our newest members. Phoebe Lake received her 10-year pin and Joanna Hagler received her 5-year pin.

Julia Johnson, Pharmacy Garden Chair, updated us on the progress of the Pharmacy Garden website. It will "go live" in August and will be highlighted in an upcoming issue of The Herbarist journal. Ann Lugg put the link under the Members tab on the Pioneer Unit website. If you are a research volunteer needing assistance, please reach out to Julia.

Phoebe Lake, Scholarships Chair, thanked Cindy Nash and Diana Reed for their work with her on the scholarship committee. Accomplishments include: eight \$1,000 scholarships to students, four \$500 scholarships to local elementary schools for their gardens, two \$1,000 scholarships to Habitat for Humanity, and one \$200 scholarship to area falconers. A discretionary fund has been established to simplify the award process.

As part of our official Annual Meeting, Diana Sellers congratulated members on a successful year for the Pioneer Unit. She gave a brief recap of the year, with highlights including Madeline Johnson and Phoebe Lake each awarded a HSA Certificate of Achievement; over 2,200 volunteer hours so far; children's programs at the Sensory Garden led by Debi Meschwitz and Serena Speaker; and a prosperous plant sale. The plant sale netted \$30,400 and Thyme Well Spent Shoppe netted \$5,400 for a total net of \$35,900. Royceanna Kendall and Diana led the Board on a deep dive into finances with a goal of providing high quality programs and giving back to our community through scholarships.

Serena Speaker, Sensory Garden Chair, reminded members of an upcoming workday at the Sensory Garden.

Hostesses Jana Rinehart, Leslie Conrad, Patty Mills, Leah Pearce, JoAnn Reichle, and Louise Rice provided a delicious breakfast and lovely table decorations.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Hagler, Secretary

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

Crafting with Lavender

Our June meeting was very active as you can see in the photos below. We learned some ways that you can use lavender in crafts. This hands-on session of the Horticulture Study Group was organized by Cammie Beierle, Vicki Wiste, and Karen Springer. We held the meeting at Cammie's home. With 21 members attending, we each had the opportunity to make a lavender wand, a lavender sachet, a lavender tea, and a bar of lavender-scented soap. The experience of doing it yourself encourages the use of lavender. After all, the joy of herbs are their beneficial and varied uses. Many thanks to Cammie, Vicki, and Karen for planning such a fun meeting.

Knocking on wood as I write this....so far our lavenders are growing well. The rain and humidity in June had all of us nervous since lavenders like it dry (I mean really dry). Fingers-crossed that we are successful in preventing fungus from infecting our lavenders.

Madeline Johnson

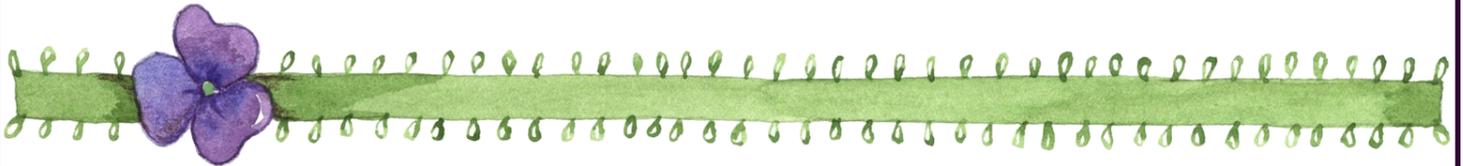


PHARMACY GARDEN

The website for the Pharmacy Garden is coming along! So far, we have web pages created for about ten plants, so enjoy a cool break indoors this summer while you do a little research on some of these amazing plants. Let me know if you have any thoughts about the website; I would love your feedback. I think we may include a page for the potted mints, and I may see if anyone would like to write a blurb about each region and how those cultures traditionally used herbs. Let me know if you're interested!

Check things out at: <https://www.herbsocietypioneer.org/pharmacy-garden/>

And check out the list of plants still available for research on the facing page. The pages in place at the website listed above will show what type of information is required. Contact Julia with any questions.



Last week we had a great turnout for our workday at Festival Hill; we unloaded a pickup load of mulch, trimmed and tidied up the Pharmacy Garden beds, and then enjoyed some wonderful snacks out under Ann's Arbor on such a beautiful day! We made a new friend, Joy Kamani, who is working on her membership requirements! Welcome to the group, Joy!

Our next First Friday at Festival Hill will be on Friday, August 1st, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Be sure to save the date!

Also, this is the last two weeks of summer concerts at Festival Hill. Come stroll the gardens and listen to the incredible musicians.

Julia Johnson
Pharmacy Garden Chair

Available Plants for Researching

Variegated Myrtle	<i>Myrtus communis</i> 'Variegata'	Mediterranean
Italian Oregano	<i>Origanum x majoricum</i>	Mediterranean
Arugula	<i>Eruca sativa</i>	Mediterranean
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Europe
Khella / Toothpick Plant	<i>Ammi visnaga</i> * currently do not have, but it's on the list	Europe
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Europe
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Europe
Wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Europe
Bronze Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Europe
Licorice Root	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> , <i>G. uralensis</i> , <i>G. officinalis</i>	Europe
Tatarian Aster	<i>Aster tataricus</i>	China / Japan
Chrysanthemum	<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i>	China / Japan
Chinese Yam	<i>Dioscorea</i>	China / Japan
Maidenhair Tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	China / Japan
Chinese Wolfberry	<i>Lycium chinense</i>	China / Japan
He Shou Wu / Fo-Ti	<i>Reynoutria multiflora</i>	China / Japan
African Wormwood	<i>Artemisia afra</i>	Africa
Greater Galangal	<i>Alpinia galanga</i>	Good Health
Malabar Spinach	<i>Basella alba</i>	Good Health
Horseradish Tree	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	Good Health
Katuk / Sweet Leaf Bush	<i>Sauropus androgynus</i>	Good Health
Eggplant	<i>Solanum melongena</i>	Good Health
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Simples
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	North America
Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	North America
Prickly Burr / Jimsonsweed	<i>Dature innoxia</i>	North America
Carolina Jessamine Vine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	North America
Sunflowers	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	North America
Hops	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	North America
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	North America
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	North America
Candle Bush	<i>Senna alata</i>	North America
Senna	<i>Senna marilandica</i>	North America
Saw Palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	North America

The Galilee Garden

This community garden, behind Brenham Presbyterian Church, consists of ten raised beds. All year volunteers grow and harvest vegetables and cut flowers.

Vegetables are harvested Monday morning and taken directly to Bread Partners, a local ecumenical group working to fight hunger. Tuesday morning that produce, along with Brazos Valley Food Bank donations, is distributed to the Brenham community. So, within one day, this organically grown produce goes from the garden to someone's table!

Vegetables that are grown in the garden include tomatoes, peppers, beans, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, potatoes, and lettuce, among others. In the past seven years, the garden has donated 8,000 pounds of fresh produce!

Why highlight a local church garden in our Pioneer Unit Newsletter? Well, every time our group meets at the church we give \$125 for the use of the building. That donation goes directly to support the garden through the purchase of seeds, seedlings, fertilizer, etc.

So in a very real sense our Unit is helping those in need in our community.

Well done, Pioneer Unit!
Phoebe Lake

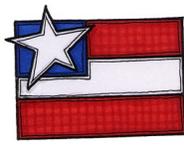


May 2025 Garden Harvest



Galilee Garden Carrots

July 2025

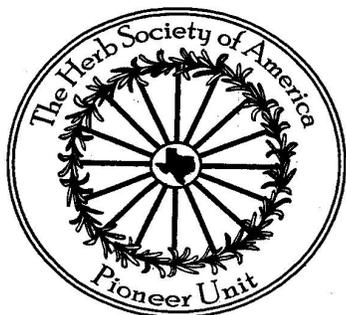


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Unit Gathering	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 SG Workday 9-11	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 HSG 10-noon	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



August 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 FH Workday 9-11:00	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 No Meeting	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 SG Workday 9-11:-00	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 HSG 10-noon	29	30
31						



PIONEER PATHS

Volume 32

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 24 — Jill Wilson

July 26 — Wanda Hubbard

July 29 — Royceanna Kendall



SENSORY GARDEN

The Sensory Garden will have a work day on Thursday July 17th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. for weeding, watering, and general maintenance of the garden. The garden is fully shaded, but wear your hat and bring gloves and trimmers. I look forward to seeing you there. If there are any new members that need their Sensory Garden hours, this is a good time to get them.

Thank you.
Serena Speaker
Sensory Garden Chair