

PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

March 2026

Volume 33, Number 7

March 3

Crow Full Moon



March 8

Daylight Savings
Time Begins



March 20

Vernal Equinox

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

Date: March 5, 2026

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: Cathy Nitsch, Susan Bame, Bonnie Lout, Diana Reed, and
Louise Rice

Lunch: Please bring "**HAND HELD FOOD**" such as
SANDWICHES (halved and individually wrapped)
FRUIT (sliced and bagged in single servings)
CHEESE & CRACKERS (bagged in single servings)
COOKIES/BROWNIES/etc. (individually bagged)

All items will be put out prior to the workday, and people can return for
nourishment throughout the day.

Note: The same format for food will be used during the setup for the
Plant Sale and the actual sale itself.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The February Pioneer Unit Meeting was once again fabulous! The Horticulture Study Group presented information from their year-long study of lavenders. All the presentations were super, but hats off to Linda Rowlett, Irene Spurrier, and Susan Bame for their very creative presentation. They made us laugh and laughing feels sooooo good, doesn't it? Lots of interesting information was shared. When the Horticulture Study Group first picked lavender as its herb of the year to study, there was lots of moaning and groaning. In the end, I believe everyone had a good time tackling the lavender challenge. Despite drought, humidity, and a mean fungus called Phytophthora, there were many successes.

Note: Daylight Savings Time goes into effect Sunday, March 8th, by springing forward.

Forum, Plant Sale, and Thyme Well Spent Shoppe — it's upon us. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have just two more weeks to get ready. I'm practicing deep breathing exercises several times a day as I think of a few more things that I need to do. But preparations have been steady for a number of months and continue. The planning committee has done a great job identifying issues to fix. Much work has been accomplished, but there are still a few things to do.

Many things have been accomplished to prepare for this event: plants have been ordered, many items for the TWSS have been made, advertising has begun, Festival Hill has initiated the Forum registration process, items have been made for the potting shed, and much more. It's getting exciting!!

Our Unit Meeting Workday will be held on March 5th, starting at 9:30. We will divide into groups as usual to prepare the gardens and to work on items for the TWSS. Please bring sandwiches, cookies, etc. to share with your fellow workers. We ask that you package what you bring in individual baggies so workers can grab what they want and take off to wherever they are working.

The Plant Sale plants will start arriving Monday morning, March 9th, and will continue through Thursday, March 12th.

Please note: If you are volunteering in any of the areas on Saturday, your name must be on one of the sign-up sheets in order to partake of the Festival Hill luncheon. Festival Hill will be making lunch badges for all Saturday volunteers.

Last year I came across an article published in the Feb/Mar 2004 issue of The Herb Companion called "Festive Folks Favor Herbs in Round Top, Texas." The article discusses the beginnings of the Herbal Forum and Plant Sale. Fun reading. You will find a copy of that article in this month's newsletter. Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay have passed on, but their vision continues as the Pioneer Unit celebrates the 31st Herbal Forum, Plant Sale, and Thyme Well Spent Shoppe.

Patty Mills and her Strippers (strippers of herb plants that is) — Patty needs help with stripping the herb plants used to make teas and other herb blends to sell in the TWSS. Call Patty to get more info. I believe the Strippers meet on Fridays.

Thanks to everyone who has signed up on the volunteer sheets. There are some holes to fill though, especially for the Saturday Plant Sale, the Saturday afternoon reception for Forum attendees, and Friday afternoon workshops. Take a look at your calendars and contact Julia Johnson (Plant Sale), Leslie Conrads (TWSS), Hospitality (Connie Gwyn or Carroll Edwards), Diana Reed (cashiers), or Diana Sellers (Forum, Friday Workshops) to find what slots need to be filled. All help is greatly appreciated. This is our fundraising event to provide funds for our meeting programs and our scholarship program.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the March meeting,
Diana Sellers
Chair, Pioneer Unit

**The 31st Annual Herbal Forum at Round Top
DISHING THE DIRT ON HERBS
Turmeric International Herb of the Year for 2026**

Program Schedule

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026

9:00 – 4:00	Plant Sale Thyme Well Spent Shoppe	Terrace, West side of Concert Hall School Building Room 9
10:00	Overview of the Plant Sale Plants	Plant Sale Area - Phoebe Lake
12:00	Overview of Native Herbs at Plant Sale	Plant Sale Area – Alyssa Harmon

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

9:00 – 4:00	Plant Sale Thyme Well Spent Shoppe	Terrace, West Side of Concert Hall School Building Room 9
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast for Overnight Guests	Menke House
7:30 – 9:00	Check-In for Forum	Festival Concert Hall, East Side
8:45 – 9:15	Welcome Tess Hartman, Past Chair, Pioneer Unit James Dick, Founder, Festival Institute	Festival Hill Concert Hall
9:15 – 10:15	<p>Andie Marsh, Soil Scientist Soil Stewardship: Microbes & Soil Regeneration Practical ways to raise beneficial soil organisms to restore health to your garden's ecosystem from the ground up.</p>	
10:15 – 10:45	Announcements, Door Prize, and Break	
10:45 – 11:45	<p>Cynthia Meredith Native Herbs in Early Texas Homestead Gardens As immigrants to Texas settled, they brought herbs from their home countries, but they also adopted native herbs for culinary and medicinal uses. Cindy will take you back to the early days of settlers in Texas, what they grew in their gardens, and how they learned about the native flora of their new homeland.</p>	
11:45 – 12:00	Announcements, Door Prize, and Break	
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch Buffet for Forum Attendees Menke House	
1:15 – 2:15	<p>Linda Franzo Herb Serendipity: The Unexpected Pleasures of Herbs & Edible Flowers It's Thyme to plant your Spring herbs. Linda will demonstrate how to grow, harvest, cook and preserve herbs and edible flowers. Take your palate on a global adventure with cultural themed herb containers. Let's explore simple syrup, herbal sugars, teas in cocktails, to pestos, rose petal vinegar, hibiscus pepper jelly, and preserved lemons to name a few. Recipes included!</p>	
2:15 – 2:30	Door Prize and Break	
2:30 – 3:30	<p>Ramin Baranpourian The Golden Wonder: Exploring the Origin, Horticulture & Medicinal Uses of Turmeric Turmeric (<i>Curcuma longa</i>) is far more than a common spice - it is a legendary medicinal plant with a history stretching back thousands of years. Native to South and Southeast Asia, turmeric is cultivated from underground rhizomes that produce the vibrant golden powder treasured in both cuisine and traditional healing systems. Modern research now confirms that curcumin, turmeric's primary active compound, has powerful anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and disease-fighting properties. This lecture explores turmeric's remarkable journey from ancient tradition to modern science, revealing why it remains one of the world's most celebrated healing plants!</p>	
3:30 – 4:30	<p>Demonstrations on the Stage Chutney: The Fantastically Flavorful Condiment! By Billi Parus, Henry Flowers, and Melissa Flowers Refreshments offered by the Pioneer Unit</p>	

MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT

February 12, 2026

The February meeting of the Pioneer Unit was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Round Top, Texas.

Diana Sellers, Unit Chair, introduced fellow PU member Madeline Johnson who, along with Phoebe Lake, leads the Horticulture Study Group. The group presentation included the findings and learning of the group's yearlong study of lavender. Madeline reassured us that lavender can be grown in this area, but it takes care. Phoebe explained how to understand plant labeling which is written as cultivar/selection. Wendy Matthews focused on the chemistry of lavender which is part of the Lamiaceae family. There are forty-five (45) species and over four hundred fifty (450) varieties and cultivars. Julia Johnson taught us where to plant lavender. Dry, gritty soil is best. Heat and humidity strain lavender's tolerance to drought. In our area of Texas, lavender plants typically have a lifespan of 3-5 years. They require good air circulation and are prone to soil-borne fungus. Gravel at the base of the plant is a good idea to discourage the fungus. Linda Rowlett, Irene Spurrier, and Susan Bame entertained us with a skit focused on the medicinal benefits of lavender. Diana Sellers and Deb Pruitt shared their experiences cooking with lavender. Diana recommended Munstead, Hidcote, and Provence for culinary uses. Since the taste can be strong, she found it best to infuse lavender in a liquid for the best flavor. Deb shared tips for making lavender honey including using light honey and pairing with citrus flavors. Cammie Beierle and Vicki Wiste showed examples of the crafts the group made at one of their meetings, including lavender wands, tea, soap, and sachets.

Madeline summarized the data of the yearlong study. Recommended varieties for our area are Sweet, Vera, Godwin Creek, and Grosso. When growing lavender, it is all about drainage, air circulation, and fungal prevention. Slides of this presentation will be posted to the PU website. Each member received a "swag bag" filled with lavender products made by PU members, including soaps made by Becky Nichols.

Diana Sellers, Unit Chair, opened the meeting.

Cammie Beierle, Membership Chair, welcomed 44 members and five guests. New members Joy Kamani and Jill Quimby were welcomed. Rob Lake celebrated 10 years of membership. Diana invited new members to view the HSA New Member Webinar on the second Tuesday of each month.

Royceanna Kendall, Treasurer, reported our bank balance of \$60,923.44 as of January 31, 2026.

Pat Cox, Education Chair, will be sending an email with information on two lotions workshops.

Julia Johnson, Pharmacy Garden Chair, announced that construction of the greenhouse at Festival Hill will begin in the later part of February. Diana praised Julia's commitment and perseverance with this project.

Jullia gave an overview of Plant Sale preparation scheduled for March 5th. Entrance greeter volunteer positions have been added. A local security service was recommended for night

watch. Saturday workers will be provided with lunch by Festival Hill. They must wear their badge to lunch and be on the volunteer sign-up sheet for Saturday. On Thursday before the Plant Sale, members can purchase plants. Please wear your PU badge. This opportunity to buy early is only for members and does not include guests. The TWSS will also hold a presale from 3:00 to 4:00.

Diana noted that classes for Forum have been reinstated on the Friday of the Forum weekend. A worm bin composting class and a chutney workshop will be held.

Noreen Barker needs seeds, magazines, and books.

Patty Mills invited members to join the herbal blending group that prepares blends for TWSS. If interested, call Patty.

Debi Meschwitz encouraged members to visit the Sensory Garden which has a new crepe myrtle tree donated by Discount Trees.

Members were asked to bring handheld foods to share at our next meeting, as well as snacks for the Plant Sale.

Jana Rinehart is leading the cookie committee to provide cookies for Forum attendees. Please contact Jana if you can make some cookies.

The workday for the Plant Sale is March 5th in the Service Building at Festival Hill.

Hostesses Leona Marshall, Leah Pearce, and Sonya Miller served a delicious lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Hagler, Secretary



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

The Pioneer Unit will not have a regular program for the March meeting. We are meeting in Service Building Rooms #1, #2, and #9, at Festival Hill on March 7, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. This is a planning/prep meeting for the Plant Sale, TWSS, and Forum.

Thank you for all your hard work and support in making this a great, successful Plant Sale and Forum.

Kindly,
Tory Farley
Programs Chair

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

A very happy morning to you! So many interesting activities are taking place right now: Getting ready for the Forum and Plant Sale (and all that goes into that), the Greenhouse being restored, and working the/our gardens preparing for new growth. A very busy time!

We are presently meeting new people and adding new members regularly. I'm so excited to introduce two new members. **Please add them to your directory!!**

Joy Kamani: 17640 Sweed Road, Washington, Texas 77880, 832-541-7551, jkamani@gmail.com, Birthdate December 11. Joy is really interested in the culinary use of herbs, particularly medicinals. She graduated from the Chestnut Medicinal Herbal School, a 2-year intensive training in herbal medicine (my interest as well). She is interested in starting a group to study herbal medicine and teach us more in that area. Ask her about her long family history of studying herbal medicine.

Jill Quimby: 5814 FM 1457, Round Top, Texas 78954, 979-250-3748, jillquimby@gmail.com, Birthdate August 9. Jill "jumped in with all 4s" even before she had completed all her requirements! She attended the felt workshop and responded intuitively to that. She "enjoys turning soil into snacks, one seed at a time" and has "a particular fondness for aromatic herbs and flowers."

I look forward to learning with them and learning from them!!

At our February meeting, 44 members and 5 guests attended: Paul and Jeanette Barber and Debbie Leverett all came with Debbie Pruitt; Jeanne Schilling and Karen Bookout (2nd meeting) both came with Bev Elam. Members, please, watch for visitors. We are meeting the most interesting people!!!

I booked a felting workshop in Bandera a couple of months ago for the first week of March, thinking it was before all the March activity began. I will not see you at our March meeting but look forward to seeing you at the Plant Sale set-up!

Cammie Beierle
HSA, Pioneer Unit
Membership Chair



Botanical view of *Curcuma longa*
(turmeric)
Wikipedia

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

The Horticulture Study Group will study eight herbs that are known for their lemon scent. Each variety will be grown in containers and in the ground so that we can compare the effect of container vs ground gardening. In addition, we will explore the best uses of the eight varieties in cooking, baking, crafting, and for health. Plants will be distributed to growers at the Plant Sale.

Madeline Johnson

The following lemony herbs will be studied by the Group:

Lemon Catnip (*Nepeta citriodora*) is a perennial that grows to one foot tall. It is member of the mint family that will benefit from partial shade in our zone.

Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*) is also a perennial from the mint family. It can grow to 2-3 feet tall and has a sprawling habit. It will die back in the winter.

Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citrates* [West Indian] or *flexuosus* [East Indian]) is a tender perennial that forms a lush clump growing 2-3 feet tall. It will freeze, but can survive with some protection.

Rober's Lemon Rose Pelargonium (*Pelargonium* 'Rober's Lemon Rose') is a tender perennial that can grow to 3 feet tall and resembles a tomato plant. It needs protection from the hot summer sun and from the cold during winter freezes.

Lemon Mist Thyme (*Thymus x citriodorus* 'Lemon Mist') is a low-mounding thyme in the mint family. This plant does not like to dry out and prefers morning sun and partial shade in the afternoon. It is a hardy perennial in our zone.

Mrs. Burns' Lemon Basil (*Ocimum basilicum* 'Mrs. Burns') is an annual that thrives in full sun. Like other basil, it likes the heat. Basils die with the first freeze.

Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) is a deciduous shrub that can grow to a height of 5-6 feet. It is considered to be the most intensely lemon scented herb. It can freeze if the temperature is below freezing for an extended period.

Lemon Savory (*Satureja biflora*) is a tender perennial that grows 14 to 18 inches high. Lemon savory can be used as an edging plant and bee attractor.



FORUM NOTES

HOSPITALITY: Please bring hand-held foods, as described on the front page of this newsletter, for the hospitality area for set up and for the Forum. We have to keep our volunteers fed! Direct questions to Carroll Edwards or Connie Gwyn.

THYME WELL SPENT: A reminder to bring all your items for the Thyme Well Spent Shoppe to our meeting on Thursday, March 5th. If anyone has any questions or can't make that meeting, please let Leslie Conrads know so she can arrange to have items picked up. Leslie notes, "Once again, I so appreciate everyone's hard work and creativity this year."

If anyone has a project that needs organic lavender buds, Leslie has plenty so please contact her, and she will be happy to get some to you.

The Thyme Well Spent Shoppe will be open for members only from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12. Please make sure you pay for any open tickets at the shop by Saturday morning.

Direct questions to Leslie Conrads.

MORE THYME WELL SPENT (NATIONAL INTERN): Please remember to bring books and magazines to the Unit meeting on March 5 for the TWSS. Proceeds from the sale of these items goes to support the intern at the National Herb Garden. We will take books on herbs, gardening, cooking with herbs, etc.

Direct questions to Noreen Barker.

PREPARATION MEETING AND PLANT SALE: March 5th we will be meeting up at Festival Hill for what would be our regular unit meeting day (except that it is on the first Thursday of the month). If you are new to our group, here is the plan: we will be splitting up in groups and doing everything we can to get ready for our big Spring Event the next week (our Forum, Plant Sale, and TWSS). We will have a quick review/training session of the needed tasks for the Plant Sale: Ticket Writing, Cashiers, Holding Area, Plant Sale Volunteers. Afterwards some people may be out with Julia Johnson in the gardens or parking area where we have our Plant Sale, while others are working in the TWSS to make herbal blends and products for the shop. Julia will also need volunteers to help bag the remaining turmeric for the plant sale.

SIGN UP SHEETS: Julia will be sending out the signup sheets via email this week, so everyone can check where they volunteered and what times. She will note if there are any time slots needing to be filled. During the set up days - the week of the plant sale - we will let volunteers know when the deliveries are set for and what time to show up to help unload and disperse the plants. The members-only pre-sale will be on Thursday afternoon March 12, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., after all plants have been placed and signs are up. Oh! And great news! Courtney Kieke will lead a group of local students from the RTC Solar Car Team to be our Tear Down Crew! Thank goodness for that!

Direct questions to Julia Johnson.

COOKIES ON STAGE: Jana Rinehart is coordinating the plan to have cookies on the stage at the close of the Forum (see the schedule on page 3). She needs assistance with the baking of goodies!

Direct questions to Jana Rinehart.

FESTIVAL HILL

Update on Greenhouse: Construction began this Saturday; tear down was quick and successful. Back wall was partially built, but we came up against an issue when trying to reinforce the west side supports of the structure that had been corrupted by rust. So our contractor will be back with the needed materials for that repair next weekend. We plan to work Saturday and Sunday to hopefully finish! If you swing by, excuse our mess as this is in progress.



First Friday at Festival Hill for March: We will be meeting Friday, March 6th — Yes this is after our set up day on the 5th — for anyone who would like to help me make any last touches on the gardens. I will likely have mulch/compost to put out, and we may still be trimming up perennials. If you have time and would like to help, please join us from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the McAshan Herbal Gardens (the gardens around the Menke house).

Thanks to each of you for the many ways that you support our mission!



The Flowering Quince 'Cameo' at the back of the Fruit Tree & Butterfly garden is bursting with color right now.

Julia Johnson

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Do you know a deserving student?

Each year the Pioneer Unit awards academic scholarships to deserving high school seniors or college students studying Plant Sciences or Horticulture or Environmental Sciences with a focus on Botany or Food Science or a closely related academic discipline. See the application form below or find it on the Pioneer Unit website (herbsocietypioneer.org). For more information, contact PVLake@gmail.com.

Phoebe Lake
Scholarships Chair

Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit Madalene Hill Scholarship Academic Scholarship Award \$1000 - \$4000

For High School Seniors or College Students studying Plant Sciences or Horticulture or Environmental Sciences with a focus on Botany or Food Sciences or a closely related discipline.

APPLICATION FORM

Please note that ALL sections must be completed and supporting materials enclosed for your application to be considered.

1. Personal Information

Your name: (last) _____ (first) _____ (middle) _____
 School _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____

2. Academic Information: list school or university now attending and any previous attended

Name of High School or University	Location	Dates Attended
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

If attending university, what is your major: _____

3. Academic Performance:

Grade Point Average _____ (Enclose an official transcript from school)

4. Recommendations:

Have one of your professors or guidance counselors write a letter of recommendation supporting your application and enclose with the application (must be on school stationery in a sealed envelope for confidentiality to be valid).

5. Careers and Interest Summary from Applicant:

Write two or three paragraphs summarizing your short-term and long-term career goals. Include any examples of special interests or projects in plants, herbs, gardening,

Deadline for Submission: May 1, 2026

Mail to: Pioneer Unit of the Herb Society of America
 P.O. Box 23 Round Top, TX 78954
 Attn: Phoebe Lake

WORKSHOP ACTIVITY

Cammie Beierle held a workshop at her house on January 28 where we learned to felt, making coasters for TWSS. This is a fascinating but rather lengthy process.

On Thursday, January 29, Caroll Edwards hosted a workshop to make wind chimes for The Potting Shed. The class was taught by Caroll's good friend Lanette Alvarez. We had a large, enthusiastic, creative group and it was a lot of fun. Big thanks to Caroll, Lanette, and all who came.

Pat Cox, Education Chair



SENSORY GARDEN

The Sensory Garden workers will meet at the usual scheduled time – the 3rd Thursday (March 19) at the Brenham Elementary school on Blue Bell Road. We had a great turnout this past month with six people working to trim from the freeze and spread mulch. A big thanks to Julia Johnson, Caroll Edwards, Kathy Carter, and two new members: Jeanne Schilling and Karen Bookout. The Sensory Garden looked so much better after the two hours. We received a new tree to commemorate Arbor Day from the Trees of Texas nursery in Brenham. It is a crepe myrtle planted close to the road where the parents picking up their children can enjoy the color. A special thanks to Kathy Carter for coming back to the SG as the staff from the Trees of Texas made us their second stop instead of the initial stop as planned.

I hope to see you at the Sensory Garden in March. We will be planting new plants from the Pioneer Unit Plant Sale to replace the ones lost in the freeze.

Serena Speaker, Sensory Garden Chair

Festive Folks Favor Herbs in Round Top, Texas

When Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay arrived at the International Festival-Institute in Round Top, Texas, with 300 20-inch containers of herbs in 1993, no one but the two of them could have imagined what would become of them, or those pots of plants. Today, the gardens, known as the McAshan Herb Gardens, contain more than 100 varieties of rosemary, at least 150 varieties of lavender that have been tested in the Mediterranean Garden, a Good Health garden, several trees — including a Peanut Butter tree (*Bunchosia argentea*) — and a multitude of other herbs planted according to their native country or region. Of course, Hill and Barclay are flourishing, too.

So how do these two women and many containers of herbs fit in with something called the International Festival-Institute? The non-profit music institute's history and current work to develop stellar musicians is what attracted Barclay in the first place.

When she was hired to take care of all the culinary details, it was a natural fit for Hill to see to the grounds and develop gardens to complement existing landscape plantings. And while herbs are a passion for this mother/daughter team (Hill is curator of the gardens and Barclay is director of food service), so are people. That's why when the garden is in full swing, so are the events in which Hill and Barclay share their love of herbs with all who attend. One such event is an endeavor

that attracts herb lovers to the International Festival-Institute each year for lectures, demonstrations and scrumptious fare. The annual Herbal Forum at Round Top provides an opportunity to celebrate herbs in their full form and was started in an effort to expose more people to The International Festival-Institute, quickly becoming an annual event.

In 1996, Hill and Barclay, Mary Reeves (chairman of the newly formed Herb Society of America Pioneer Unit), and Sandy Reed (owner of The Herb Haus, a local retail shop with gardens in Round Top), partnered to sponsor and coordinate the events throughout the town of Round Top. Eventually, all educational events were moved to Festival-Institute, but the plant sale remained at Herb Haus. There are different speakers each year on various



Herb lovers learn from experts and enjoy the selection of unusual herbs at the Herbal Forum.

subjects, and through the years the number of demonstrations has increased. Hands-on participation workshops were added in 1998, which have continued attracting a significant number of people. The Herb of the Year always is featured, providing a basis for lectures and recipes complemented by lunch and refreshments. The food is undoubtedly one of largest attractions.

This year's Herbal Forum will take place on March 27 and will be located on the grounds of the International Festival-Institute in conjunction with The Herb

Society of America Pioneer Unit. Events surrounding the 2004 Herb of the Year will explore cultivation, harvest and methods of preserving garlic, as well as the tasting of some great new recipes. Arthur Tucker, Ph.D., will be the keynote speaker for the 2004 Forum. Also covered by the day's events will be other valuable herb gardening and cooking information and a completely herbal luncheon. Rare plants from the Festival-Institute gardens will be available for sale.

Proceeds from this and other

functions support the scholarship fund for summer music festival participants, the McAshan Herb Gardens and The Herb Society of America Pioneer Unit. For more information about the Institute or any of the year's herbal events held there, contact Gwen Barclay, The International Festival-Institute, P.O. Box 89, Round Top, TX 78954; (979) 249-5283; www.festivalhill.org; e-mail gwenbarclay_herbs@hotmail.com.

—Dawna Edwards



Peruse the McAshan Herb Gardens, learn from herb experts and enjoy a tasty herbal luncheon at the 2004 Herbal Forum.

The Herb Companion may refuse to publish any advertisement, at any time, according to our sole discretion. However, we can't verify claims made by advertisers. Readers always should confirm the accuracy of advertising claims before making their purchasing decisions.

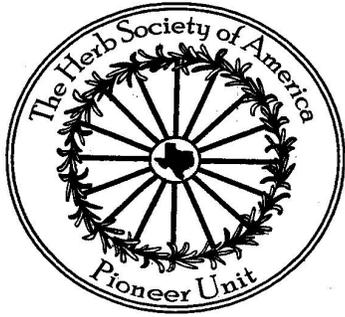


March 2026

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

April 2026

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



PIONEER PATHS

Volume 33

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- March 1 — Susan Wood
- March 3 — Billi Parus
- March 5 — Swee Leng Rapatz
- March 11 — Joan Jordan
- March 16 — Sandra Brown
- March 30 — Robert Lake
- March 31 — Madeline Johnson
Patty Mills

[Editor's Note: In the midst of life this past month, I neglected to request birthday messages from these special folks celebrating birthdays in March. Throw my schedule off by a week, and I am bound to forget numerous things. Happy Birthday to each of you! If you would like to include something in next month's newsletter, please send me an email and put "February birthday message" in the subject line. I apologize for my oversight.]