



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

September 2026

Volume 34, Number 1

September 7
Labor Day

September 13
Grandparents Day

September 22
Autumnal Equinox



September 26
Harvest Full Moon
[Editor's Note: The
harvest moon is the
full moon closest to
the Autumnal Equinox.]

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: September 10, 2026
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet
10:00 a.m. Presentation and 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: Madalene Hill, the Grande Dame of Herbs
- Speaker: Henry Flowers
- Hosts: Patty Mills, Leona Marshall, Earl Mills, Cindy Nash, and Louise Rice
- Lunch: Herbal Favorites
[Perhaps a recipe from Southern Herb Growing by Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay]



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I was surprised to look at my weather app this morning and discover that a tropical system is forming in the Gulf, close to the Texas coast, and that there is a chance of rain in our Central Texas area. I sure hope it comes to fruition. I know Texas desperately needs the rain.

The program directories for the new year were printed before I left town. I gave them to Cammie Beierle to distribute at the September meeting. It just so happened that I included a number of photos on the back of the Directory to show all the fun activities that we participated in this past year. There is a great photo of Belinda Weatherly in one of them.

August was a very painful month for us all. Belinda Weatherly will be greatly missed. I've heard from several of you and know that she was dearly loved. I really appreciated Julia Johnson and Swee Leng providing us with updates about Belinda's situation and notifying us about her memorial service. Thanks also to Phoebe Lake for rearranging the program schedule.

I will still be vacationing when we hold our September meeting. I hope everyone knows by now that the meeting plan has changed due to the passing of Belinda. The Culinary Group will present their tea program in October instead of September. Henry Flowers has graciously agreed to do his presentation about Madalene Hill in September. I hate to miss it. Madalene's history is very interesting. She was an amazing lady.

Last week I visited the Purple Adobe Lavender Farm in northern New Mexico. It is located in a little town called Abiquiu. The photo below shows only one small area of lavender growing like crazy. There are several large fields. As we got out of the car, the scent of lavender filled the air. We sat on a porch, ate lavender scones, and drank lavender lemonade. It was so relaxing. I could hardly stay awake on the drive back home. If you're ever vacationing in New Mexico, put this on your list of places to visit.

Here's to the next Fiscal Year (started July 1st). I have a feeling it's going to be another busy and successful year.



I look forward to seeing you in October, and i am hoping Fall will be in Texas soon.

Diana Sellers
Chair, Pioneer Unit

FROM YOUR PROGRAMS CO-CHAIRS

Thursday, September 10, at Brenham Presbyterian Church, Henry Flowers, Horticulturist and Specialty Project Manager for Glasco Landscaping, will present "Madalene Hill - The Grande Dame of Herbs."

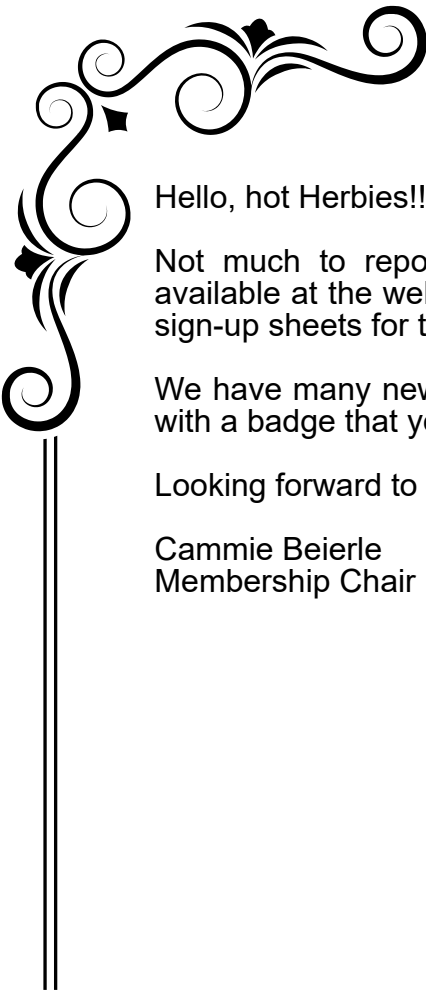
Henry will give us a look at the life and legacy of a lady passionate about growing, using, and sharing her love of herbs.

Henry is a lifetime member of the Herb Society of America, and in 2019 he received the HSA Joanna McQuail Reed award for the Artistic Use of Herbs. He is a frequent speaker to our Unit, and his topics are thoroughly researched and presented clearly, always with a touch of humor.

September's presentation is not to be missed!

Note: This is a change from our catalog information. Due to the passing of Belinda Weatherly, the much loved leader of the Culinary Group, we will have our "Tea with Friends" presentation in October.

Phoebe Lake and Tory Farley

A decorative scrollwork element on the left side of the page, featuring a large, ornate scroll that curves upwards and then downwards, with smaller scrolls and flourishes extending from it. It is positioned to the left of the 'MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION' section.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Hello, hot Herbies!!

Not much to report this month. Just a reminder that our new directories will be available at the welcome table at the September meeting. I'm sure there will be lots of sign-up sheets for this year's many activities.

We have many new members that you will enjoy getting to know. If you see someone with a badge that you don't know, greet them and introduce yourself!

Looking forward to seeing you soon!!

Cammie Beierle
Membership Chair

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

A Cup of Lemongrass Tea

Irene Spurrier, Linda Rowlett, and Susan Bame presented key information about the medicinal value of the lemony herbs included in our study. Here are examples of some of the uses:

Lemon Catnip: relaxes muscles in the digestive tract to alleviate cramps, flatulence, and bloating

Lemon Balm: considered an 'herbal cure all' and is often used to relief mild stress

Lemon Thyme: calms an upset stomach

Lemon Basil: contains antioxidants to fight free radicals

Lemongrass: acts as a sedative to induce sleep

Lemon Verbena: its scent alone is uplifting and calming

Lemon-Rose Geranium: used in aromatherapy for its relaxing scent

Drying leaves from these herbs for use in teas, tinctures, or syrups is the easiest way to consume them. The benefits of lemon verbena and lemon-rose geranium can be obtained from a potpourri of their dried and very fragrant leaves.

Have a cup of lemongrass tea at night and enjoy a good night's sleep.

Madeline Johnson



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



September 3	Kay Scanapico
September 5	Noreen Barker
September 7	Irene Spurrier
September 8	Deb Pruitt
September 12	Debi Thomas
September 14	Joann Hagler
September 15	Pat Cox
September 15	Sue Edmundson
September 22	Pamela Austin
September 22	Michael Perkins
September 26	Sherrie Tolbert
September 27	Connie Gwyn
September 30	Georgetta Welch

Noreen Barker (September 5) kept her message short and thought-provoking: “You’re never wrong if you love and help people.”

Irene Spurrier (September 7) sent the adjacent photograph and wrote the following: “The older I get, the more I appreciate the wonders around me.”

“That’s the opening sentence from a recent New York Times article written by Roger Rosenblatt, and it sums up my feelings exactly. I’m fortunate to be celebrating another birthday.”



Pamela Austin (September 22), one of our newest members, introduced herself in the following words: “Pamela Hannsz Austin is a 7th generation Texan and pollinator yard enthusiast. When not tending to the sneaky weeds in her cottage garden or trying to get the Zinnia girls to stand up straight, she’s paddle boarding or playing Pickleball. Happy Birthday September Girls!!

“May the Lord bless you and keep you!”



PIONEER PATHS

Volume 34

Editor: Linda L. Rowlett, Ph.D.
Pioneer Paths is a publication of
The Herb Society of America,
Pioneer Unit.

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 and Phoebe Lake

Vice Chair Membership – Cammie Beierle

Secretary – Joanna Hagler Treasurer – Royceanna Kendall and Debi Thomas

BOOK REVIEW

Twelve Trees: The Deep Roots of Our Future by Daniel Lewis

In Twelve Trees, Daniel Lewis devotes a chapter to each of a dozen trees that he believes have important lessons for us. He provided scientific information about each tree, and he intertwined personal anecdotes and his own feelings to help make his message resonate with his readers.

Some of the trees Lewis included in his book are familiar to most of us – the Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and the Olive Tree (*Olea europaea*), for example – and others are trees many of us have not heard of – one example being *Hymenaea protera*, a tree that no longer exists and does not have a common name, a tree we know only from fossils.

In the course of this relatively brief book (only about 250 pages), Lewis proselitized much about the need for mankind to help the trees to survive and about the fact that trees provide much to help mankind survive. He stressed that trees "have their own lives, their own rights, . . . providing a bulwark against a changing climate, offering nourishment, rest, and sustenance for other species . . . They are the heartbeat of the world."

If you enjoy reading nonfiction and you are interested in topics related to plants and the natural world, you might consider joining the Herbal Nonfiction Book Club. You can find information on the website of the Herb Society of America (herbsociety.org) under Special Interest Groups in the Members Only section of the website. This particular book club meets on the fourth Friday of the month at noon Central Time. The club spends two months on each book, so the reading requirement is not rigorous. As an added attraction, the facilitator is Susan Yancey, whom many of you know. Let me know if you have any questions.

Linda L. Rowlett, Ph.D.