



PIONEER PATHS

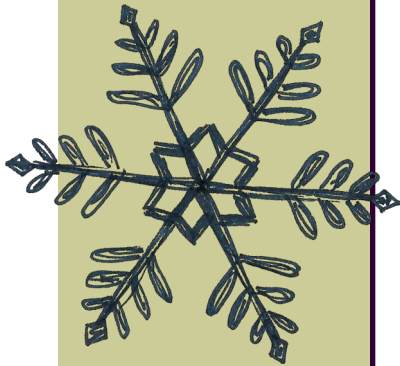
Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

December 2019

Volume 27, Number 4

December 21
Winter Solstice

—
December 29
Long Nights Full
Moon



MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: December 12, 2019
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet
10:00 a.m. Presentation and Meeting
- Location: Herzstein and Old Chapels
Festival Hill, Round Top
- Directions: Exit Highway 290 at Texas 237 (Round Top exit).
Travel south on 237 and turn right onto Jaster Road
and then left into the Festival Hill parking lot. Drive
past the concert hall to the chapels.
- Program: Around the World in a Tea Daze
- Speaker: Amanda Vermillion
The Tea Mistress
- Angel: Jane Press
- Hosts: Cathy Nitsch, Lynn and Alton Ehler, and Catherine
Gardiner
- Lunch: Menke House [advance sign up required]



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings!!

As always, this time of year is for special times with friends and family. This last month I was gifted by surprise visits from my daughter and grandchildren. I am very thankful for family and for special friends in the area. We have had some beautiful days lately, and I would be very happy to see such days stick around for a while. I am always thankful to be able to work outside in the yard and garden. The work is never really finished, but I do enjoy the process. I am thankful, too, to be part of the Pioneer Unit and the Herb Society of America.

I am pleased to share some time with all of you every month and to work with you on projects and events. I hope that everyone is working on something for Thyme Well Spent, because the Forum will be here before we know it now that we are sliding into December! Please work at Festival Hill whenever you can. Our best opportunities for fellowship are always during the group work efforts. I generally work alone in my garden, such as it is, but I always try to join the group for these enjoyable Unit experiences whenever I can. I hope to see you there for a future work day, and I look forward to our special December meeting at Festival Hill.

December is a time of festivity for many of us, with religious holidays, the solstice, the Long Nights Full Moon, and the end of the year. The holidays are a time to remember our traditions, of endings (the darkness of the longest night, the end of the year), and also of beginnings as we start a new year with the days growing longer. I hope that you have the opportunity to spend meaningful time with family and friends and that you experience peaceful places, tranquil moments, and the quiet thoughts that nourish.

Reminder: A short Pioneer Unit orientation will follow our January meeting. It is open to all, but we especially welcome our new or soon-to-be-new members. Questions are always welcome, so bring them with you. Happy Holidays!

Karen Cornwell
Unit Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

My fingers are a bit cold as I sit typing these words (can we still use that word if we are on our computer?) ;-) on this cold Tuesday morning. I just planted my onions last week with the weather in the 70's - oh well, global warming and it's Texas!

Last March our Herbal Forum was all about Camellia Senesis, and we had the good fortune to present many knowledgeable speakers. One of them, Amanda Vermillion, will visit Festival Hill once more on December 12 to enlighten us about teas grown around the world. She is the driving force behind the Lone Star Iced Tea Festival and the Houston Tea Festival. I'm not sure yet, but she may be bringing teas to sell.

Hope to see ya'll there!
Kathe Forrest
Programs Chair



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: Remember: Our December 12th meal at Festival Hill is \$5.00 for active members and \$25 :
: for associate members and guests. **If you have not registered and paid for the** :
: **luncheon, please send your check to Lori Yeats asap.** Checks should be made out to :
: HSA Pioneer Unit. :
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MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA
PIONEER UNIT
November 14, 2019

Karen Cornwell, Chair, welcomed members to the November meeting.

Kathe Forrest, Vice Chair Programs, introduced speaker Phoebe Lake, a Unit member who owns New Leaf Nursery with her husband Rob. The program was entitled 'Superb Salvias' and a selection of salvias from the nursery was available for purchase after the business meeting.

The December meeting will be at Festival Hill, and the program is entitled 'Around the World in a Tea Daze'.

Karen thanked the speaker and reminded members to turn off their phones during the presentations. She also asked those who haven't signed up for the December meal at Festival Hill to do so if they plan to attend.

Georgia Sowers, Membership Chair, welcomed visitors Sandy Pillion (guest of JoAnn Reichle), Sandra Dudley (Kay Von Minden's daughter), and Sally Reynolds. She asked those who haven't yet picked up their Yearbooks to do so. She also asked those members who would like to receive an online Yearbook to sign the available sheet.

Joyce Caddell has applications available for Unit scholarships. The deadline is January 9. She encouraged members to apply and noted that the results of the research can be presented in various ways, for instance as a program or an article in the newsletter.

Pam Traylor, filling in for absent Lori Yeats, thanked lunch hostesses Bonnie Lout, Janie Cornelius, Becky Nichols, Diana Sellers, and Diana Reed, some of whom filled in at the last minute. She asked for a couple of additional volunteers for the December lunch. Pam also requested members who signed up for the December lunch but find they cannot attend to let her know as the Unit underwrites most of the cost of the meal.

Three plants from New Leaf Nursery were given out as door prizes.

Phoebe reminded members that she and other Brenham Presbyterian Church members have started a garden at the church. All produce is given away to needy members of the community, and the meeting fee that the Unit pays to the church goes to the garden for supplies. She encouraged members to take a look.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cox, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

I hope all of you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families and friends. Our Unit enjoyed a great presentation about salvias from active members Phoebe Lake and her husband Rob Lake last month! Guests in attendance were Sandy Pillion, visiting for first time with member JoAnn Reichle; Sandra Dudley, visiting for her fourth time with her mom, member Kay Von Minden; and Sally Reynolds, visiting for her second time as member Georgia Sowers' guest. Affiliate members Patricia Hoffmaster and Mary Sockwell were also in attendance, and we look forward to seeing all of you again soon!

This is a somewhat slow time of the year for Membership; however, workshops and workdays at the gardens are still going on. If you have the time, please try to participate in these events, and volunteer hours can be accumulated.

We have a new active member, Cathy Kietlinski, effective October 2019, who was referred to our Unit by active member Cathy Nitsch. We will introduce and welcome her at our Unit meeting on December 12, 2019. Cathy and her husband Keith live at 314 Scenic Drive, Brenham Texas 77833-9211. Her cell phone is (979) 203-7433 and her email is cathy.kietlinski@gmail.com. Cathy's birthday is January 17th, so let's welcome and get to know her well!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on December 12th with a great lunch following at Menke House! Enjoy a wonderful Christmas with blessings of the season!

Herbally Christmas,
Georgia Sowers
Membership Chair



*****NEW ACTIVE MEMBER!*****

Here, we present Cathy Kietlinski in her own words:

We moved to the beautiful city of Brenham three years ago from Austin. I taught kindergarten in Austin for twenty-eight years and have thoroughly enjoyed being retired for the last ten years. Some activities which keep me busy include traveling with my wonderful husband, reading, volunteering with Hospice Brass Valley, helping my Mom, and yard work. I look forward to learning about herbs, as well as cultivating new friendships.

Cathy Kietlinski



December Birthdays

December 2 — Lynn Ehler
December 8 — Dolores Rowlett
December 13 — Cathy Comiskey
December 19 — Linda Rowlett
December 25 — Becky Nichols
December 28 — Cathy Nitsch
December 31 — Phoebe Lake
December 31 — Gwen Barclay



Propagation Workshop

Presented November 8, 2019, by Madeline Johnson

The Propagation Workshop was an outstanding learning experience if you are interested in herbs.

Madeline Johnson taught three methods of propagation - stem cutting, root separation, and layering. She included rose geranium, lemon geranium (pelargoniums), rosemary (rosmarinus), garlic chives (*allium tuberosum*), society garlic, black pepper vine (*pieper nigrum*), and some random acquisitions otherwise known as "*I want one of those.*"

Madeline presented techniques of caring for the plants to get the best results once they are potted. This is as important as learning how to do cuttings, root separations, and layering.

Because we were doing pelargoniums and rosemary, the rose geranium pound cake and rosemary fizz were served with recipes provided. thanks to Wanda Hubbard and Belinda Weatherly. After all, if we grow them, it is nice to know how to use them.

Hands-on workshops like this need to limit the number of people in order to get the most from the event, so Madeline is willing to offer this program again.

What other workshop ideas do you have that are of interest, such as working with dried materials, plant history, garden ornaments, soap making, specific culinary interests or tool care?

Send your suggestions to Carolyn Thomas – cthomas1138@aol.com.

In addition to learning more about herbs and related subjects, a workshop is a fun way to meet and get to know other members of the Pioneer Unit.

Carolyn Thomas



THYME WELL SPENT SHOP

A reminder for all our new members: the Thyme Well Spent Shop is open along with the plant sale for the two days of Forum in March, and we make everything we sell – jams/jellies/chutneys, seasonings, teas, vinegars, mustards, lotions, and stitched items. We welcome new contributors and new items. If you would like to volunteer your skills or just get more information, please contact Pat Cox (bmerlynn@cvctx.com) or Jane Press (jane@pecangroveinn.com).
Thank you!

CULINARY GROUP

The Culinary Group is meeting this Wednesday with herbal appetizers, and in January the Group will be meeting to make mustards for sale at the Forum. Meetings will be at the usual time, 11:00 in Room 2 at Festival Hill. The January meeting will be Thursday, January 2nd.

PROPOSED NEW STUDY GROUP


Do you have a special interest in the cultivation of herbs?

Madeline Johnson and Phoebe Lake are exploring the idea of forming a new study group that focuses on growing herbs. This gardening-focused study group would include monthly meetings on topics pertaining to the growing and harvesting of herbs. In addition, members would participate in a hands-on gardening project at their homes. This project would involve studying and sharing the growth habits of an herb from planting to harvest. For example, in 2020 the group will begin with a study of oregano. Members of the study group would grow and study different varieties of oregano with the objective of learning which oreganos grow best in our area and under what conditions. Madeline and Phoebe have proposed the idea to the Pioneer Unit Board of Directors and have received provisional approval.

If you think that you might be interested in a new group that focuses on the growing of herbs, please email Madeline at madeline@industryinet.com. The first informational meeting will occur in January.



December 2019



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

January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory			1	2 CG 11:00	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Pioneer Unit Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	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—Karen Cornwall

Vice Chair Programs—Kathe Forrest
Secretary—Pat Cox

Vice Chair Membership—Georgia Sowers
Treasurer—Janie Plummer

