

# PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America  
Pioneer Unit

July 4  
Independence Day



—  
July 8  
Board Meeting

—  
July 21  
Thunder Full Moon

July 2024

Volume 31, Number 11

## MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: July 11, 2023
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet in the Chapel  
10:00 — 10:45 Visit the gardens and gift shop  
10:45 a.m. Presentation in the Chapel
- Location: Antique Rose Emporium  
10000 F.M. 50
- Directions: From Brenham, head northeast on Highway 105 east. Turn left onto F.M. 50. In 8.1 miles, turn right into the parking lot for the Antique Rose Emporium.
- Program: Herbs and Roses: How Companion Planting can Change the Garden
- Speaker: Marie Jenkins  
General Manager of the Antique Rose Emporium Nursery and Display Gardens
- Angel: Irene Spurrier
- Host Team: Ann Allen, Susan Bame, Diana Reed, and Linda Rowlett
- Lunch: Catered by Tara Royer Steel  
Bake Shop at All Things Acres
- Please Note: You may attend the presentation even if you did not order lunch.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone,

A new slate of Board Officers was approved at the June Pioneer Unit meeting. Their two-year term starts July 1. They have all expressed excitement and are ready to begin work. We will hold our first Board Meeting on July 8th. The new Board Officers are:

Chair – Diana Sellers  
Program Chair – Tory Farley  
Membership Chair – Cammie Beierle  
Secretary – Joanna Hagler  
Treasurer – Royceanna Kendall

The new Board's first order of business will be to approve the new group of Committee Chairs. I will let you know who they are as soon as they are officially approved. The Board and Committee Chairs look forward to serving you the next two years. Please contact any of us with any questions or concerns.

I attended two events in honor of Mary Reeves during the month of June. The first was a memorial service held at the church she attended in La Grange. Several people spoke about Mary and her love of flowers. Mary's sister told how Mary loved flowers from a young age. Ladies from the church described how Mary would arrive at the church to begin making flower arrangements for various events with armloads of wildflowers, sticks, and what appeared to them to be weeds. Within minutes, Mary would have beautiful arrangements made from these items. The ladies would marvel at these arrangements – how did she turn weeds and sticks into these amazing displays. The second event honoring Mary occurred during one of the Festival Hill concerts. James Dick announced to the audience that the performance that night was dedicated to Mary Reeves who had brought so much beauty to Festival Hill. Seventeen members of her family attended that performance. It was a touching tribute.

While we won't have a regular July Unit meeting, Irene Spurrier has arranged a wonderful outing to the Antique Rose Emporium on July 11th. Thank you, Irene!!

My husband Louie presented the program in June about rainwater collection systems. He had so much fun and enjoyed meeting all of you. He was impressed with the enthusiasm of the group and appreciated all the questions.

Have a fun July 4th holiday and rest of the summer. Keep hydrated and cool. I hope we can keep our gardens growing. See you in September.

Looking forward to the next two years,  
Diana Sellers  
Pioneer Unit Chair



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Howdy Herbies!!

Our next fiscal year begins July 1! Reports are being completed. Hours from Track It Forward are being tallied. New friends are becoming familiar, and Education and good eating are happening! Thank you, Madeline Johnson/Phoebe Lake and Belinda Weatherly, for leading us in the horticulture and culinary groups!!

I am excited to learn much about the operations of the Pioneer Unit, the best part being meeting new people and getting to know familiar faces better!

Our June meeting was so interesting with Louie Sellers showing us his system for collecting rainwater. Thanks, Louie, for the insights and experiential knowledge! There were 40 in attendance with two guests: Stephen Brueggerhoff, an Extension Agent-Horticulture for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Brazos County; and Serena Speaker. Serena came with Susan Bame. This is her second visit.

Dawn Wilson was introduced as a new member. Her contact information is: 1504 South Austin Street, Brenham, Texas 77833. Cell: 504-881-7200. Email: [dawnruthwilson@gmail.com](mailto:dawnruthwilson@gmail.com) and her birthday is June 9. Tess Hartman is her sponsor.

Ginger Heath received her 20-year pin, and Patty Royal and Cammie Beierle received their 5-year pins. Five-year pins would be awarded to Sally Reynolds and Barbara Solis in July.

Cammie Beierle  
Membership Chair



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

June 13, 2024

The Unit meeting was held at Brenham Presbyterian Church, Brenham, Texas. Kathe Forrest, Chair, welcomed everyone, and Tess Hartman, Vice Chair Programs, introduced Louie Sellers, who presented the program "Designing a Rain Collection System for Everyone."

Kathe thanked the outgoing Board of Directors and Standing Committee Chairs for their service during her term. Cathy Kietlinski will no longer be the Committee Chair for the Sensory Garden and that position needs to be filled. Kathe passed around a sheet for members to sign-up to volunteer in the Sensory Garden. Kathe proceeded to say something special about the following Officers of the Board and the Standing Committee Chairs: Patty Mills, Hospitality; Susan Bame, Archives/Rosemary; Linda Rowlett, Parliamentarian, Newsletter, and Listserv; Cathy Nitsch, Thyme Well Spent Shoppe; Ann Lugg, Communications – Publicity and Website; Diana Sellers, Membership; Louise Rice, Secretary; Pat Cox, Education; Tess Hartman, Programs; Barbara Solis, Education – Scholarships; and Debi Thomas, Treasurer. Kathe thanked each for their service and loyalty to her during her term as Unit Chair. She presented each one with a gift of a cotton handkerchief she dyed with plants from her garden.

Kathe then gave a progress report on communications with the principal, Stephen Siemsglusz, at Brenham Elementary concerning the Sensory Garden. Debi Meschwitz helped Kathe with the negotiations to have three functions a year in the garden around September, the end of October, and April. The school will also help with maintenance of the Sensory Garden. Kathe announced that the Board Annual Reports can be accessed on the Pioneer Unit Website and copies are available to look at on the sign-in table.

Diana Sellers, Membership Chair, announced Dawn Wilson is the Unit's latest new member. Diana gave Dawn a badge holder and new member Welcome Folder. Forty members attended and two guests: Stephen Brueggerhoff, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Horticulture; and Serena Speaker. Stephen would like to be part of our group and would like some of us to be speakers at Master Gardener programs. Diana awarded Patty Royal with a 5-year pin and Ginger Heath with a 20-year pin. Because there will not be a Unit meeting in July, Diana announced 5-year pins due in July for Cammie Beierle, Sally Reynolds, and Barbara Solis. Wendy Matthews was awarded a Watering Can Pin for all the work she does for the Unit, driving from Austin to do so! Diana reminded everyone the membership renewal deadline is June 30. Fifteen members have not renewed as of today.

Patty Mills, Hospitality, said she has sign-up sheets for Host Teams and Speaker Angels for the next fiscal year at the sign-in table. The hostess team was Linda Rowlett, Cammie Beierle, Tory Farley, Madeline Johnson, Cindy Nash, and Diana Reed. The Speaker Angel was Royceanna Kendall.

Ann Lugg, Communications, will take a picture of any member who wishes to update their picture and for new or old members who have not had a picture taken.

Continued on the next page

Irene Spurrier, organizer of the gathering at the Antique Rose Emporium, July 11, encouraged anyone interested to sign-up and pay \$15 for the catered lunch. The deadline is July 3rd to reserve with her. Please make checks out to Irene because she will make out one check for all meals to the caterer.

Linda Rowlett, Parliamentarian, presented Kathe Forrest, outgoing Unit Chair, with a gift and cards signed by the Unit's members. Kathe informed the members she may be moving to Illinois with her daughter next year.

Next, Linda announced the slate of potential officers as approved by the nominating committee for July 2024 through June 2026:

Unit Chair - Diana Sellers  
1st Vice Chair – Programs - Tory Farley  
2nd Vice Chair – Membership - Cammie Beierle  
Secretary - Joanna Hagler  
Treasurer - Royceanna Kendall

The Nominating Committee was made-up of Linda Rowlett, Susan Bame, and Irene Spurrier. Linda further explained that nominations can also be made from the floor. Anyone who is nominated must be an active member of the Unit and must indicate willingness to serve. No additional nominations were made. A motion was made to elect the potential officers as presented; the motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous vote of the active members.

Ann Lugg announced she has tomatoes to give to anyone interested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louie Rice  
Secretary





## HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

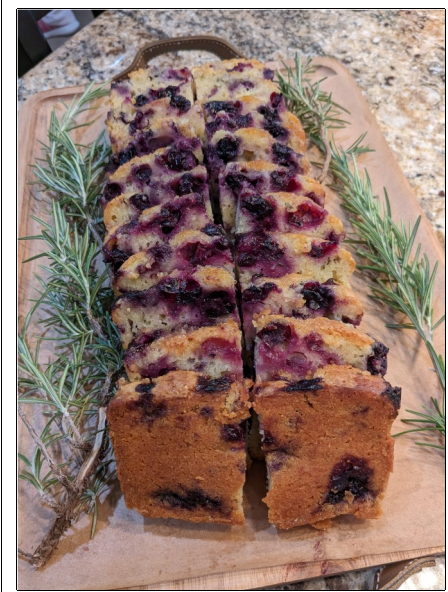
### Rosemary - Culinary Lessons, Part 1

Our June meeting, held at Betty Pior's home, was all about learning to cook with rosemary. You can see from the photos that we had a beautiful spread for our meeting. Diana Sellers provided a thorough review of rosemary in cooking. All rosemaries are edible, but varieties differ in the intensity of their flavor. Some rosemaries have a strong pine scent while others have a gentler flavor. Tuscan Blue is a favorite variety in cooking while Gorizia and Spice Island make excellent pesto. In addition to Diana, our other cooks included Jana Rinehart, Joanna Hagler, and Betty Pior. All the drinks and dishes that we sampled were delicious, but we learned that it can be difficult to retain rosemary's distinctive aroma and flavor in baked goods. Heat releases the essential oils, but it takes a lot of fresh rosemary since some flavor is lost during the baking process. Rosemary pairs well with lemon, so add a few sprigs to your lemonade.

The rosemaries in our study are growing well. Blue Lady seems to be the favorite prostrate rosemary while people have different favorites among the upright rosemaries. We asked whether our growers thought the container rosemaries were growing better than the ones planted in the ground. Although there were mixed comments, it seems that more growers thought the rosemaries in the ground were doing better.

Finally, we ended the meeting with some plant giveaways. A variety called Rosy Rosemary sold by Richters was started from seed by Madeline Johnson on January 31. Rosy was specifically bred to propagate more reliably from seed. The plants are still small but growing. They will remain in pots for a few more months. In addition, an abundance of Candlestick plants grown by Phoebe Lake and Madeline were also shared. Everyone left with a plant or two.

Madeline Johnson



Photos from Phoebe Lake

## FIELD TRIP CHAPPELL HILL LAVENDER FARM

On May 10, more than 20 members went on a field trip to Chappell Hill Lavender Farm where we picked lavender and fresh peaches. The owner talked to us about her lavender fields, and we browsed the gift shop which was full of all things lavender. Then we went for lunch at Bevers Restaurant, just ten minutes back down the road. The weather couldn't have been better, and the company was great. We are looking forward to another trip in the fall

Pat Cox





## JULY BIRTHDAYS



July 24 — Jill Wilson

July 26 — Wanda Hubbard

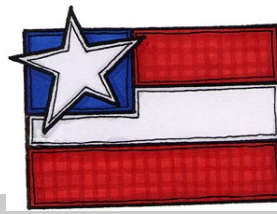
July 29 — Royceanna Kendall

**Royceanna Kendall** (July 29) sent the pictures below and wrote: "What a wonderful year I have had! Traveling to Santa Fe with my husband and dogs, spending time with my granddaughters, and sharing my flowers with friends at last November's Pioneer Unit meeting, thanks to Connie Gwyn; these are a few of my favorite things."



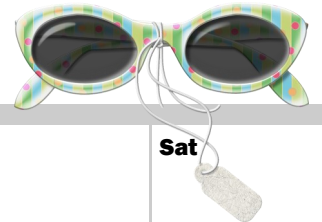


# July 2024

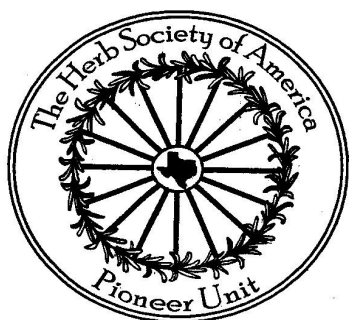


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Deadline to register For Gathering at Antique Rose	4	5 FH Work Day	6
7	8	9	10	11 Pioneer Unit Gathering	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 HSG 10:00	26	27
28	29	30	31		CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends

# August 2024



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 FH Work Day	3
4	5	6	7	8 No Pioneer Unit Meeting	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 HSG 10:00	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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Volume 31

Editor: Linda L. Rowlett, Ph.D.

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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

### Report on HSA Educational Conference in Malvern, PA

Many HSA members from across the country traveled to Malvern (a suburb of Philadelphia) to enjoy EDCON 2024. The conference included workshops, educational garden tours, and a variety of speakers to the 220 plus members in attendance.

Philadelphia is the garden capital of the United States — this surprised me! Because of the geographic location, it is considered the "top of the South" and the "bottom of the North" — for gardening purposes, anyway. As a result of this unique climate, there are thirty extensive public gardens in the area for residents and visitors.

A major highlight was a tour of neighborhood community gardens in some of the most economically challenged areas of the city. They are successful, thriving, and beautiful. I was impressed by the residents I met and their interest in vegetables, flowers, and herbs.

Attendees enjoyed good food, meeting members from other chapters, a marketplace with local craft vendors, and hot, sunny weather!

Tess Hartman

