



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America Pioneer Unit

August 2024

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August 11 and 12
Perseid Meteor Shower
(peak)

August 19
Green Corn Full Moon



News From Stephen Brueggerhoff, Extension Agent – Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Brazos County

Howdy! I am the newly hired Horticulture Agent serving Brazos County for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

I will be hosting an Advanced Training program on Herbs from May 8 to May 10, 2025. Advanced training programs are an invitation to Texas Master Gardeners across the state and are developed to support our Extension Master Gardeners' knowledge and skills and expand county educational programs. I invite content experts with our Pioneer Unit to present on topics including culinary, horticultural techniques (propagation, cultivation), and landscape design.

I am honored to be promoting the education mission of The Herb Society of America, gain recognition for our local expertise and continue to promote preservation, cultivation and knowledge of herbs. I thank you for your consideration and encourage you to contact me via email: sbrueggerhoff@tamu.edu or through Chair Diana Sellers.

All the best and see you in the garden!

Stephen Brueggerhoff
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Outing to the Antique Rose Emporium: A huge round of applause and many kudos for Irene Spurrier. She arranged a fabulous outing to the Antique Rose Emporium (ARE) for us in July. It was fun, relaxing, educational, and delicious. The weather was perfect, which was amazing all on its own since Hurricane Beryl had just barreled through our area causing mass chaos. Hostesses provided a delicious array of breakfast goodies as we visited. Later, lunch was catered by Tara Royer Steele from The Bake Shop at All Things Acres. It was quite tasty. Marie Jenkins, ARE Manager, presented a program called "Roses and Herbs – How Companion Planting Can Change the Garden." Thank you, hostesses, and thank you, Irene the Extraordinaire.

New Board Officers were elected at the June Unit Meeting. The Officers then approved a slate of Committee Chairs to serve for the 2024-2026 term. The Committee Chairs are Susan Bame (Rosemary/ Archives), Pat Cox (Education), co-chairs Caroll Edwards and Connie Gwyn (Hospitality), Phoebe Lake (Scholarship – Unit and College), Julie Johnson (Festival Hill Garden), Ann Lugg (Communications/Publicity/Website), Linda Rowlett (Newsletter/List Serv), and Erica Menconi (Thyme Well Spent Shoppe). The Board held its first Board Meeting on July 15th. Such an enthusiastic and positive group. They had lots of wonderful ideas and suggestions. There is much work to be done, as there always is with an organization like the Pioneer Unit, between caring for our gardens and educating the public about herbs. I believe this group is up to the task. See Joann Hagler's summary of the Board Meeting in this newsletter. We would like to hear from you. Please feel comfortable talking with any of the Officers or Committee Chairs about your ideas, suggestions, questions, or concerns.

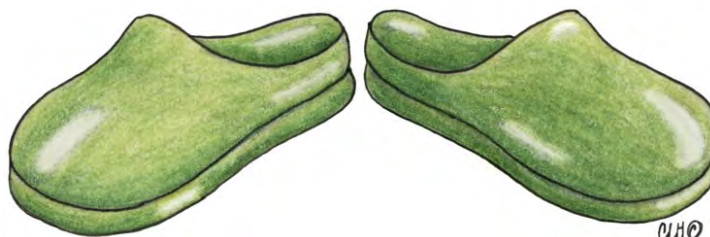
Volunteer Needs: Volunteering is the heart and soul of our organization. Without volunteers to do the work of the Unit, we wouldn't be able to function. Right now, we are desperately in need of two sets of volunteers – one is for hostesses and speaker angels for the programs this year. I think we have most of the needs taken care of except for the May, June, and September 2025 programs. Please contact Caroll or Connie to let them know that you would like to sign-up for a slot. Hostesses and Speaker Angels are critical for the programs to run smoothly and make them really nice. Our second desperate need is for someone to be the Chair for the Sensory Garden. Deb Meschwitz has taken on the task of being the liaison with the Brenham Elementary principal and teachers to provide education for the students. We need someone to oversee the garden itself to make sure that it receives the care it needs. Cathy Keitlinski did an amazing job. She gave me a notebook that outlines what has happened over the past four years, which will be very helpful to the next Sensory Garden Chair. In addition to that Chair position, we need our members to volunteer to go to the garden and spend a little time working in the garden. Just think, with 75 members, if each member spent one hour in the Sensory Garden each year, that would be 75 hours of tender loving care. Think about what you might be able to do there. I know many of us can't weed, but maybe there is something you could help with. If we can't fill the Chair position, then we may have to step away from caring for the Sensory Garden.

Membership Renewal: I finished my role as Membership Chair and handed the reins to Cammie Beierle. My last task was to complete our membership renewal process and submit the report to HSA. Effective July 1, 2024, the Pioneer Unit has 75 members (47 Active members; 28 Affiliates). For a variety of reasons (health issues, moved away, etc.), twelve members from the previous year did not renew their membership.

HSA Education Conference: Did you see my email from a week ago? HSA announced that the next Education Conference (ED Con, as they refer to it), will be held in San Antonio, Texas, in April 2026. How exciting for us! ED Con now only happens every other year. One was just held in Pennsylvania in June. Linda Rowlett, Irene Spurrier, and Tess Hartman attended that one. Talk to them about how much fun they had. I'm not sure what the Pioneer Unit's role will be with the one in San Antonio, but I am sure that we will be asked to help in some way. There was an ED Con in Austin in 2012 and based on some communications I have read, the Pioneer Unit was very involved. So, put the 2026 San Antonio ED Con on your calendar and be watching for communications from HSA about the event.

A Piece of Pioneer Unit History: When I became Chair in June, I received a box full of papers. I took a cursory look through the box, then set it aside. A couple of Saturdays ago, when it was really hot and humid outside, I decided to unload the box and see what there was to see. There were many interesting items, but one notebook caught my attention. I was mesmerized as I read the contents. Now, granted, I am a history buff, especially when it comes to history from the perspective of the people involved at the time. This particular notebook contained Board Minutes, Pioneer Path newsletters, Annual Reports from various chairs, and emails – all from the 2011-2013 timeframe. Altogether, it was an amazing account of all the Pioneer Unit activities during that time. It portrayed an energetic group of members who were actively involved in creating and doing. It was during this timeframe that the Sensory Garden came into being, many Community Outreach programs were held, and HSA held their Annual Meeting and ED Con in Austin. There are emails regarding what the Pioneer Unit contributed to that event. I was also thrilled to discover that one of the members developed materials for a New Member Unit Orientation during that time. One of the articles she wrote was a complete history of the beginning of the Pioneer Unit. So many times when an organization is just starting, no one thinks to write down how it began and what people were hoping to accomplish. My plan is to put this set of documents in a form so it can be easily accessed by whoever might be interested in reading it.

Diana Sellers
Unit Chair, Pioneer Unit



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

The Pioneer Unit is gearing up for an exciting year ahead, filled with diverse programs and events celebrating the world of herbs. Here's a sneak peek into what members can look forward to in the remainder of 2024.

The horticulture study group will be kicking off the yearly programs September 12th, presenting their study on mint. Was it an enjoyable experi-mint? Can't wait to find out if the invest-mint was mint to be!

October 10th will be exciting! We will get to hear from Penny Nelson about her experiences dyeing with plants and other organic material. November 14th, Christen Andrews will share her feelings on Yarrow as a resilient and versatile central Texas plant. On December 12th our very own Henry Flowers will be charming us with the upcoming plant of the year for 2025, Chamomile.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Tory, and I am the new Programs Chair. Fun facts: I was raised right around the corner in Fayetteville. I tried to get away several times, but somehow always ended up back here. Dorothy Gale had it right, "There's no place like home." My husband, Jeff, and I have two children, Knox (13) and Scout (8); two dogs, Sibby and LuLu; a cat named Frankie; and a bird we call Pickles. When I joined the Pioneer Unit, I learned quickly what a lovely group I was blessed with. I cannot begin to describe the love I genuinely feel from this group.

I look forward to serving as Programs Chair, and I am grateful for all the support shared with me already.

Tory Farley
Programs Chair

COMING ATTRACTIONS!!

Following are some of the opportunities for education and fun we're planning for the rest of this year:

- An August workshop to make pear mince for Thyme Well Spent Shop
- September/October workshops to make more hypertufas - mushrooms and leaves and whatever our imaginations can come up with
- October workshop for dyeing with plants: Before this is confirmed we need an idea of how many people would like to attend. Please email me at bmerlynne@cvctx.com if you are interested. If you have questions before you decide, please contact Kathe Forrest.

We will have another field trip in October/November, and more information will be coming.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for another indoor workshop while the weather is hot - or if anyone would like to volunteer to teach one.

Thank you!

Pat Cox
Education Chair

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Everyone is saying so, but this weather is such an incredible gift!! So grateful!!

I must say, I am grateful to Diana Sellers for so patiently guiding me through the ins and outs of the Membership forms, reports, and Track It Forward volunteer time reporting. It's going to be a great year!

When we met at the Antique Rose Emporium -- thank you, Irene! -- a total of 36 attended with three guests: Randy White who came with Leona Marshall, Vicki Wiste who came with Irene Spurrier, and James Rebolledo who came with Patty and Earl Mills. It was a lovely walk through the gardens and really nice time spent visiting and learning so much from our wonderful speaker!

As a reminder, record your volunteer time and monthly meetings on the Track It Forward (TIF) app. If you have any questions, please let me know, and I or someone will be glad to help you. If you are not able to record your hours, email me and we'll get you fixed up.

I can't wait to see you all in September!!

Cammie Beierle
Membership Chair
281-844-4852
cammie@cameliapfarm.com



PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEETING SUMMARY JULY 15, 2024, DIANA SELLERS' HOME

Present: Diana Sellers, Tory Farley, Cammie Beierle, Royceanna Kendall, Joanna Hagler, Linda Rowlett, Pat Cox, Carroll Edwards, Connie Gwyn, Phoebe Lake, Julie Johnson, and Erica Menconi.

The Board approved new committee chairs.

Programs: Tory Farley, Vice Chair Programs, is finalizing speakers for May and June.

Membership: Cammie Beierle, Vice Chair Membership, stated 36 members attended the event at the Antique Rose Emporium. The Membership Directory is nearing completion. Dawn Wilson was approved as a new member.

Treasurer: Royceanna Kendall, Treasurer, shared the Quarterly Report with an ending balance of \$68,309.18.

Standing Committee Reports

Archives/Rosemary - Diana reported that cards continue to be sent to members by Susan Bame.

Education - Pat Cox shared an upcoming pear mince workshop.

Hospitality - Carroll Edwards and Connie Gwyn apprised that additional funds may be spent towards hospitality due to increased prices.

Scholarship - Phoebe Lake explained the different types of scholarships. The two Pioneer Unit scholarships are \$250 each. Members are encouraged to apply. The other type of scholarship is a \$4,000 college scholarship which can be divided if there are multiple applicants. The Scholarship Committee will research revising the current college scholarship plan.

Gardens - Julie Johnson reported a possible leak in the back beds of the Pharmacy Garden. Paths have been sprayed regularly. Additional rock is needed. Mary Garden irrigation is working well. The Mediterranean Garden has new pea gravel. Monthly volunteer days are well attended. The South Texas Unit has given \$1,000 to repair the greenhouse with an additional contribution of \$1,000 planned for this year. Julie will be seeking volunteers to help research what is needed for the greenhouse restoration.

Old Business: The following actions taken prior to the meeting were ratified:

- Give \$25 to Festival Hill staff who helped with the 2024 Plant Sale/Forum/TWSS.
- Donate a book to the Festival Hill Library.
- Sign a pledge with Blinn College in honor of Mary Reeves for a yearly contribution of \$2,000 for five years.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Hagler
Secretary

PIONEER UNIT HERBAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Interested in learning more about a particular herb, gardening idea, or culinary topic?

Apply to become an Herbal Scholar! Previously known as a Unit Scholarship, here's how it works. You fill out a simple application outlining the area of study that you're interested in pursuing.

You'll then receive a stipend of \$250 to use in researching your study to pay for books, classes, etc. In return we ask that you present your findings to the Unit in the form of a presentation, a display, an article for the newsletter or an idea of your own.

Previous applicants have studied lavender, salvias, homeopathy, the genus Rubus, flavors of Japan, Oaxacan cooking, witching herbs, and The Spice Trail.

As you can see, the possibilities are endless!

For more information contact Phoebe Lake
pvlake@gmail.com, 281 660 6071

✂

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Proposed Use of Funds _____

Note: Return completed form to Phoebe Lake.

✂

FESTIVAL HILL GARDENS UPDATE

I'd like to share with you some of the beauty I've discovered this month at the Festival Hill Gardens. In this photo collage, you'll see the vibrant Pride of Barbados from the Mary Garden; a beautiful yucca which came up and bloomed in the Mediterranean bed; the white Brazilian Orchid Tree, *Bauhinia forficata*; a red orchid tree, *Bauhinia galpinii*; the Candy Pops mint that we studied last year in our Horticulture Group; some pollinators visiting peaceful blue chicory blooms; and the graceful arching flowers of a Topsy Turvy Echeveria, as well as our fellow Herbies who joined me for our cleanup day in the Gardens this July. Thank you everyone for coming out and supporting our Gardens at Festival Hill! We put out over 2 tons of mulch in the Fruit Tree and Butterfly Garden, keeping this newly reclaimed area tidy. We cut back the mints in the Pharmacy Garden and tidied up what we could. The gardens are just thriving with these light rain showers we have been blessed with this summer! The back of the Pharmacy Garden is holding a lot of water, so I am looking into how we can help solve this swampy issue. The paths in the back are a little harder to keep tidy because of this.

Please join us this coming **First Friday, August 2**, as we continue to maintain the areas in and around our Pharmacy Garden. We meet in the Parking Area behind the Menke House and will aim to work from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. depending on the weather; if it is too hot, we will take off early. I will have a cooler of water and a morning snack. Please bring something to share if you are able. We will be trimming up the Pharmacy beds and checking on any new weeds that have popped up with the rains.

Hope to see you soon!

Julia Johnson

Pharmacy Garden Chair



PIC•COLLAGE

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

Rosemary - Culinary Lessons, Part 2

Barbara and Tom Solis hosted our July meeting in their home. Their co-presenters, Cammie Beierle and Leslie Conrads, joined in preparing the rosemary dishes. Barbara provided a list of flavor affinities for rosemary. These flavor pairings include beans, fish, lamb, and potatoes. Rosemary also enjoys the company of other herbs, such as parsley, mint, marjoram, and lemon verbena. Cammie had our mouths watering with her description of Rosemary Chicken with Portabella Mushrooms (and yes, it was delicious). Leslie's Rosemary Parmesan Sticks were a perfect and easy to make appetizer (see recipe below). It is difficult to choose from the wonderful menu this team prepared, but you could certainly taste the rosemary in the delicious Grilled Rosemary Pork Tenderloin prepped by the Solis family.

Well, if last month the growers thought their rosemaries in the ground were out-performing those in containers, several were switching their evaluation in July. One of the great benefits of the study is that the measurements taken every month will provide us with answers as to how well rosemaries perform under these two growing conditions. A lot of discussion this month centered around an unsightly browning and webbing on some of the rosemaries. It turns out to be the work of the Southern Purple Mint Moth. The photo below shows the damage. Thanks to Julie Johnson for pulling apart the webbing to unmask the culprit. A little Bt or Neem Oil will solve the problem. We also had a member reporting spider mite damage on her rosemaries. Nevertheless, the rosemaries continue to grow.

We return to Festival Hill in August for our next meeting on the medicinal uses of rosemary.
Madeline Johnson

Rosemary Parmesan Sticks

1. Preheat oven to 400F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Roll out 1 sheet of thawed puff pastry into a 10"x14" rectangle. Whisk 1 egg and a little water together and brush on pastry. Sprinkle 1/3 cup of Parmesan, 3-1/2 T of fresh rosemary, and ground pepper on the rolled pastry. Press lightly into the pastry with your fingers.
3. Cut into 24 strips, 1/2" wide. Bake 10-12 minutes until golden. Serve warm or at room temperature.



Rosemary infested by
Southern Purple Mint Moth
Larvae
Photo by Madeline Johnson



Photos by Phoebe Lake

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 11 — Leona Marshall

August 14 — Susan Yancey



Leona Marshall (August 11) wrote: "I am blessed to be celebrating another birthday. Every year I am writing another chapter in my book of life. I have had many chapters already, some really good, some just so so, and some really bad. They are becoming more precious with each passing year. My goals are to live each year to the fullest. Filling them with adventures and happiness. On the whole, my life is good."



Susan Yancey (August 14) sent the adjacent photograph and the following message:

"It's hard to believe that we moved to Driftwood, Texas, seven months ago. Mike and I are enjoying our landscaping — which the previous owners graciously provided! I've added coneflowers, tomatoes, rosemary, oregano, thyme and mint. How did they live here without fresh herbs??"

"Toured the Denver Botanical Garden this summer and plan to tour many more. Life is good!"

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

September 2024



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





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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



Now would be a good time to complete a Green Bridges application through the Herb Society of America. Making a list of the native plants in your garden and summarizing your gardening practices is a good way to make certain you are doing all you can for the local pollinators. The cost to register your garden with HSA is \$40.00 for members.