



February 21, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 95th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. This is a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith, John Ferguson and Mark Bowen (both John and Mark are with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . Email your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

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GARDENERS' RECRUDESCENCE STARTS NOW!

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH



This Week: Left: does your garden have this element? Center: scary "white stuff" on plumerias. Right, the Monarchs are coming! The Monarchs are here!

The plant gods do like to toy with us, don't they? They give us such gorgeous weather we can't possible resist all those beautiful spring flowers now in the nurseries and plant departments. Then POW! A late freeze drops in.

Fortunately, the quick drops in temperatures we experience aren't likely to discourage hardy plants who have had a taste of spring. My Carolina jessamine is full of yellow blooms. The pink magnolias are blooming all over town and roses are starting to strut their stuff.

Unfortunately, this has poor reader Kathy is so frustrated. Valentine's Day is supposed to be the day to prune hybrid roses. But her [Belinda's Dream](#) (a Texas SuperStar rose) is covered with flowers! What to do?

Pruning's not really not necessary on this SuperStar unless it gets too big for your available space. If you must, make a nice bouquet of the blooms and take them to an elderly or ill neighbor, or to a nearby hospital.

Whack away. Then, next year, prune in January. Next week, Baxter Williams of the Houston Rose Society will give us some great rose advice.

WHITE STUFF ON PLUMERIAS

As long as we're looking at readers' questions, Joyce sent in the picture (insert at center above) of "...white stuff on my plumeria."

It only took [Plumeria Society of America](#)'s Paula Furtwangler a second to diagnose the problem: rot. And it may be a familiar sight this spring.

Paula suggests scraping the bark to see if there is any green or white underneath. Bleeding white latex is a good sign. Black, or oozing dark color, indicates the plant is probably dead.

Rot, Paula explains, is usually caused by freeze damage, often by watering in winter when the plant is dormant. Sometimes the plant can be saved by cutting off the rotting part back to clean white wood. Sometimes not.

Plumerias do so well here most of the year, they can become quite large. But they are tropical plants.

Paula advises, "The best bet for Houstonians is to keep them a manageable size by pruning and re-rooting parts of major trees. Then you can get rid of the old stump. I do this every 5-10 years depending on the growth habit of the plant."

An increasing number of Greater Houston area gardeners (especially to the south) are successfully wintering over plumerias in the ground. Often the more winters a plumeria survives in the ground, the hardier the root system becomes and the more likely it will return in spring.

But there is no guarantee with a tropical plant, especially one not in an extremely well drained garden site. Rotting is always a danger for plumerias not brought in for the winter. Joyce admits hers was left outdoors.

Most PSA members do bring their plants into the garage or other protected area in winter. But, then, they tend to own truly special and treasured plants. So they are quite understandably nervous about losing significant investments.

"Rain and cold are the plumeria's biggest threat during dormancy." Paula explains. "We will begin bringing them out of storage in late March/early April depending of the weather forecasts, and depending on where you live in the Houston area. The people in Galveston/Texas City can bring them out sooner than folks in Katy or Spring."

Once you feel sure danger of freeze has passed, Paula recommends lightly root pruning and re-potting, or planting in a raised bed. "Treat with a diluted root stimulator. Stake for stability. Wait for them to break dormancy (leaf claws begin to look wet) then water again...or wait for rain. Fertilize once you have larger leaves. Follow the recommended directions on your preferred fertilizer. Don't try to root cuttings in the early spring since it could rain a lot and cause the root-less sticks to rot. Wait until hotter weather. Some people like to use heat mats to root cuttings in early spring to get a head start, but this must be done carefully since you are using electricity...indoors only."

If you're new to plumerias, the Hawaiian lei flower, take advantage of the expertise of Plumeria Society of America members and the best-for-our-area varieties offered at this year's two PSA sales, 9:30am-3pm:

- * Sat., June 13 at the Bay Area Community Center in Seabrook.
- * Sat., July 25 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg.

Visitors are always welcome at the quarterly PSA meetings, 7 pm, March 10, May 12, July 14 and October 13 in the new Garden Center in Hermann Park. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org



Primroses, left, and carnations - Lucky flowers this year!

POTPOURRI

HAPPY LUNER NEW YEAR! Saturday starts the Year of the Goat/Sheep. Lucky flowers are (pictured above) carnations, left, and primroses. Both are readily available in nurseries now. Both are spring bloomers - albeit long-lasting ones - for us. Carnations may return next spring. But don't take it personally if primroses don't. They like LOTS of real cold.

Lucky colors are brown, red and purple. This immediately brings to mind our column on [Pantone's 2015 Color of the Year - Marsala](#). Mix brown, red and purple together and what do you get? Pretty much marsala.

Here's a fun website if you want to learn more about the "Goats" aspect of this year. I'm a "water goat."

<http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/goat.asp>

* **LEARN WHILE YOU WEED!** One great way to learn from the pros is to work with the pros. Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Drive in Humble gives folks that chance on Wednesday mornings, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 when Horticulture Coordinator Teri MacArthur leads a free plant identification and weeding event (learn while you weed!) in both the native flower beds surrounding the Nature Center and the demonstration heritage vegetable garden at the Pioneer Homestead. Details: www.hcp4.net/community/parks/jones/parks/jones; 281-446-8588.

* **CRAPE MYRTLE BARK SCALE.** Check your crapes for this new invader, pictured below. Harris County AgriLife Agent Robert (Skip) Richter has written a great article on crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) (*Eriococcus lagerstroemiae*) in the current [Harris County Horticulture Blog](#). Many crapes develop a black sooty mold that grows in the "honeydew" dropped by aphids feeding on the undersides of overhanging leaves. That's normal. In fact, fireants love to eat this honeydew, so they'll literally "herd" aphids into sites where the honeydew can be caught by lower-growing leaves. "Copious amounts," as Skip describes it, may indicate this much more serious problem. Check the blog for more information: <http://agrilife.org/harrishort/#.VOa4Hym50UU>

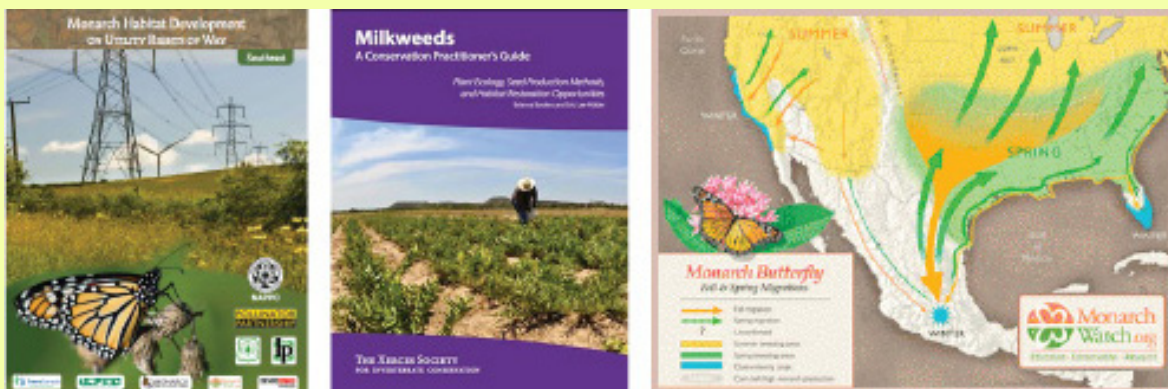


Left and center, new threat - crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) On new growth and in heavy infestations, the white to gray scales may be distributed uniformly on the branch. Right, a happier thought: learn from Barbara Kralis - think movement in your garden!

Let's end on a happier note! At right, above, this shot from Barbara Kralis' garden, right above, reminded me that too often we focus so much on color in the garden, we forget the importance of shapes and movement. Barbara lives north of Dallas, so don't take it personally if you can't grow alliums like these purple delights in this garden.

But do notice how beautiful is the contrast between these delicate tall growers that will so easily sway in the slightest breeze and the lower growing golden lantana - a super-hardy grower for us. Movement is what makes a garden come alive,

ANOTHER SURE SIGN OF SPRING - the gradually increasing numbers of monarchs passing through on their spring migration northward. Below is a look at growing milkweed to help these jewel-winged wonders on their way. Barbara Keller-Willy is a Coastal Prairie Master Naturalist & Brazos Bend State Park Volunteer who grows native milkweeds in her greenhouse and has put in many Monarch Way Stations including with a St. Thomas University environmental group. She will speak on Growing Native Milkweeds Wed., Feb. 25, at a free, open event sponsored the Native Prairie Association of Texas, Houston Chapter.



[Pollinator Partnership](#), left, and [Xerces Society](#), center, Manuals are available to organizations in a free pdf format. These how-to manuals include converting existing unused property into Monarch habitats and milkweed propagation instructions. Right, [Monarch Watch](#)'s migration map

Spotlighting our . . .
Local Plant Experts!
Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter

The Monarch's Best Hope Is Still You

Barbara Keller-Willy
CPTMN, NPAT, HNPAT, Texas Monarch Gateway, SLGC

http://youtu.be/qqKl_Ytl7gQ

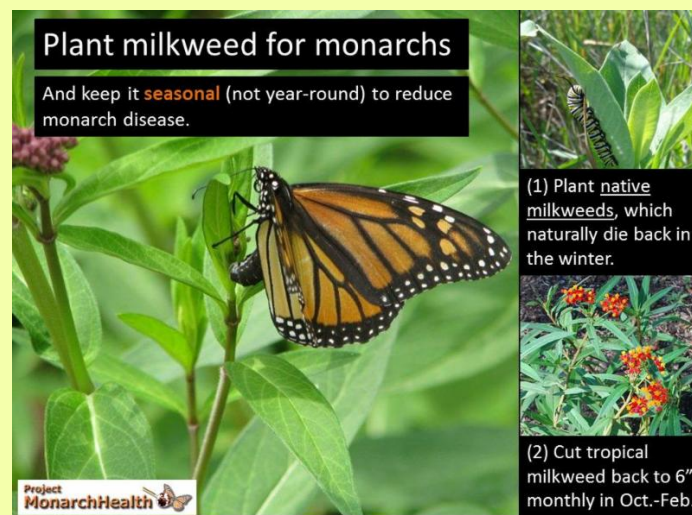
Last week, the federal government pledged \$3.2 M to prevent further loss of Monarch butterflies. Of the \$3.2M, \$2M was immediately released for MILKWEED related projects, many in Texas.

Project list: <http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/projects.html>

Managing agencies NFWS/NWF's plan is to engage Americans along migration corridors to plant MILKWEED and nectar plants. Here's how you can help.

Plant Milkweed, Preferably Native, But Any Will Do For Now

Dara Satterfield, U of Georgia PHD candidate said: "Monarchs desperately need gardeners to keep planting milkweed. ...Gardeners can provide seasonal milkweed by planting native species, cutting back exotic species to prevent winter breeding, and eventually replacing exotic species with native options as they become available at nurseries."



<http://www.monarchparasites.org/>

Participate in a Citizen Science Project in Your Area

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

MLMP collects citizens' long term data on larval monarch populations and their milkweed habitats.

Project Monarch Health
 will track OE related dated.

Texas Milkweed & Monarchs

A TPWD Inaturalist project is designed to track location and distribution of milkweed in Texas.

Champion Public Monarch Gardens

Free, pdf, how-to manuals exist to teach groups how to convert unused property into Monarch habitats.
<convert photos of documents to links

Buy or Learn How to Grow Native Milkweed

Watch for Texas Monarch Gateway's native "3 Native Milkweed" fundraiser in May. HNPAT, CPTMN, NPSOT, and Fort Bend Master Gardeners will all have programs on native milkweed propagation this spring and summer to help you learn to grow native milkweeds.

Final Thoughts

There are many unknowns in the study of causal relationships between Monarchs and the various milkweed species. While those studies continue, what we know for sure is that without enough milkweed along the spring and fall migration routes, the Monarch lifecycle cannot take place. Let's choose to feed them and teach a neighbor to do the same.

<http://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/GardeningforMonarchs.pdf>

<http://monarchjointventure.org/news-events/news/qa-about-research-related-to-tropical-milkweed-and-monarch-parasites>

<http://news.uga.edu/releases/article/monarch-butterflies-loss-of-migration-more-disease-0115/>

* * *

Wed., Feb. 25: Native Milkweed, a Dinner Fit For Monarch Butterfly Royalty by Barbara Keller-Willy, (Native Milkweed Door prizes and seedlings to take home.) 7pm, 3015 Richmond Ave (parking lot entrance on east side). Free admission and milkweed but donations appreciated. Native Prairie Association of Texas Houston Chapter event. Free. Details: <http://HNPAT.wordpress.com>

* Brenda's GROUP LECTURES include: "How to Reduce the Size of Your Front Lawn to Save Water Without Infuriating Your Neighbors," "Landscaping for Security," "10 Commandments of Lazy Gardening," and "What's Blooming in the Lazy Gardener's Garden." Details: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net. * Brenda's "LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE" - a when-to-do-what in Greater Houston area gardens - is now available on CD only (pdf file). \$20. Checks payable to Brenda B. Smith and mailed to: Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD, 14011 Greenranch Dr., Houston, TX 77039-2103.

JOHN'S CORNER

A Book Review:



I find one of the benefits of the winter and holiday season from Thanksgiving through January is that gardening slows down. As a result I get caught up on my reading from numerous books, research articles and other materials. Another book I read this winter was:

"America's Two-Headed Pig - Treating Nutritional Deficiencies and Disease in a Genetically Modified, Antibiotic Resistant, and Pesticide Dependent World", Leah Dunham, 2013, Wholesome Note Publications, ISBN 13: 978-0989484008

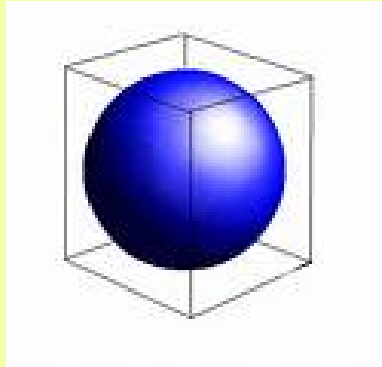
This book is written from the point of view of a Veterinarian, her father Arthur Dunham, DVM from years of experience. It covers how animal diseases and problems that did not exist a few decades ago are now common place. The author documents many cases of animal health problems being caused by poor nutrition and factory farms and how her father tried to correct them. She documents a very large increase in many health problems after the animals started being fed GMO's grain (Genetically Modified Organisms). These abused, sick, nutrient deficient animals are being slaughtered and then fed to humans resulting in many of our health problems.

Q&A

A reader recently sent in this question regarding one of our Feb gardening newsletters

Message: John, I am confused about a statement in the granite sand article. "the smaller particle has increased surface area" How is that possible?

Let me explain the concept or principle. To keep the math easy I will use a sphere to demonstrate the principle.



The area of a sphere is: $A_s = 4$

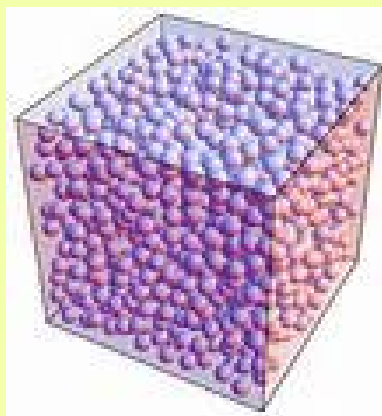
For the non-math folks, π is a mathematical constant when working with circular geometry (objects) and "r" stands for radius which is 1/2 the diameter.

Case 1: The sides of the cube are 3 feet each. There is one spherical particle touching the sides of the cube. This means the diameter of the sphere is 3 feet and the radius, $r = 1.5$ feet. We can now compute the surface area of the sphere. $A_s = 4 (3.14)(1.5)^2 = 28.26$ square feet

Case 2: Image that the spheres are now one foot in diameter. Each row will hold three of them and the same cube will hold a total of 27 of them ($3 \times 3 \times 3 = 27$). The new radius is 0.5 feet and repeating the calculation. $A_s = 4 (3.14)(0.5)^2 = 3.14$ square feet each. However we now have 27 spheres hence the total surface area is Total area $A_s = 3.14$ square feet $\times 27 = 84.78$ square feet

As you can see the surface area actually increased as the particle size became smaller.

Case 3: Using the same cube let's make the spheres only one inch in diameter. This means the radius is 1/2 inch or 1/24 of a foot.



$A_s = 4 (3.14)(1/24)^2 = 0.0218$ square feet each. However we now have 46,656 spheres ($36 \times 36 \times 36$), hence the total surface area is Total area $A_s = 0.0218$ square feet $\times 46,656 = 1,017$ square feet of surface area!

A sphere has the least surface area for a given volume than any other shape. Hence, if the sand particles are irregular there would be an increase in surface area as compared to a spherical particle making the area increase even larger as the size becomes smaller as compared to a spherical particle.

WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR

Gardening events only. Events listed are in Houston unless otherwise noted. Events must be written in the format used below, specifically earmarked for publication in the Lazy Gardener & Friends Newsletter." Email to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

Sat., Feb. 21: Brazoria County Master Gardeners Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale. Details: brazoria.agrilife.org

Sat., Feb. 21: Composting for the Home Garden Garden by Dr. Joe Novak, 9-11am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Near Northwest Management District event. \$20. Details/registration: www.nnmd.org or 713-895-8021.

Sat., Feb. 21: Texas Tuff landscape Plants - Blooming and Beautiful by Sandra Duvall, 9-11:30am, and Kitchen Gardening" by Mary Demeny, 1-3pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Reservations: 281-534-3413; galv3@wt.net. Details: www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

Sat., Feb. 21: Organic Gardening and Landscaping Seminar by Mike Serant, John Ferguson and Dany Millikin. 9am to noon. The Woodlands Township, 2801 Technology Forest Dr., The Woodlands. An Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance regional seminar. Free, but registration is required [Organic Gardening and Landscaping Seminar](http://www.organicgardening.com) or call 281-210-3800

Sat., Feb. 21: Spring Vegetables - Harvesting Know How by Harris County Master Gardeners. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy, TX. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register 281-855-5600.

Sat., Feb. 21: Earth-Kind Gardening for Texas, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Details: comeliusnurseries.com/events.

Sat., Feb. 21: Pepper Variety Talks by Pam Dunker, 1:30-3:30pm, Wabash Feed & Garden Store, 5701 Washington Ave. Free. Details: www.wabashfeed.com

Sun., Feb. 22: Constructing the Home Vegetable and Fruit Garden by Dany Millikin, 9-11:30am, Westbury Community Garden, 12581 Dunlap St., \$35. Details: 713-880-5540, www.urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

Tues., Feb. 24: Harris County Master Gardeners Open Garden Day, Spring Vegetable Gardening, 9am- noon: 10am adult workshop, children's activities. Free. AgriLife Extension Office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>

Tues., Feb. 24: "The ABC's of Home Composting" by Ken Steblein, 9-11am, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Reservations: 281-534-3413; galv3@wt.net. Details: www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

Wed., Feb. 25: Growing Milkweed Dinners for Monarchs by Barbara Willy, Native Prairies Association of Texas, 6:30 pm, 3015 Richmond Avenue, 1st floor. Details: shen.gcmn@gmail.com

Thurs., Feb. 26: Preview of Fort Bend County Master Gardeners Feb. 28 Vegetable-Herb Plant Sale, 9-11am, Bud O'Shields Community Center, 1330 Band Road, Rosenberg. Free. Details: www.fbmga.com or 281-341-7068

Sat., Feb. 28: Harris County Master Gardener Tomato & Pepper Sale & Symposia. AgriLife Extension office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Details: <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx>

Sat., Feb. 28: Fort Bend Master Gardeners Vegetable-Herb Plant Sale, 9am-noon or sell-out, Agricultural Center Greenhouse, 1402 Band Road, Rosenberg. Details: www.fbmga.org or 281-341-7068.

Sat., Feb. 28: Soil Management for the Home Garden by Dr. Joe Novak, 9-11am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Near Northwest Management District event. \$20. Details/registration: www.nnmd.org or 713-895-8021

Sat., Feb. 28: Successful Organic Gardening by Michael Serant, Suzanne Chapman and Danny Milikin, 9am-noon, Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Dr., Kingwood. \$5. [Register here](#). Details: 281-855-5600

Sat., Feb. 28: Spring Vegetable Gardening by Ray Sher, 9-11:30am, University of Houston Campus, 4361 Wheeler. \$35. Details: 713-880-5540, www.urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

Sat., Feb. 28: Make Your Lawn Luxurious-Spring Lawn Care, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Details: comeliusnurseries.com/events.

Mon., Mar. 2: Citrus Gardening with a Harris County Master Gardener, 1-2pm, Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. Details: 713-274-3250; www.pct3.hctx.net/senior/glaziersec.aspx

Tues., Mar. 3: Gardening for Jewels...Hummingbirds by Deborah Repasz, 6:30-8:30pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Details www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston.

Thurs., Mar. 5: History of Shangri La Botanical Gardens by Joseph Johnson, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Drive, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club program. Details: nottinghamgardenclub.org; o713-870-5915 or 979-885-6199

Thurs., Mar. 5: Plant and Seed Swap, 10-11am, Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. Details: 713-274-3250; www.pct3.hctx.net/senior/glaziersec.aspx

Fri.-Sun., Mar. 6-8: 2015 80th Annual Azalea Trail. River Oaks Garden Club event. Details: <http://www.riveroaksgardenclub.org>

Sat., Mar. 7: Compost Class, 10-11am, The Woodlands Township Parks, Recreation and Environmental Services Campus, 2801 Millennium Forest Dr. The Woodlands. Free. Co-sponsors The Woodlands Township, Montgomery County Master Gardeners, Nature's Way Resources & Waste Management. Details: <http://thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov> or 281-201-3800

Sat., Mar. 7: Pest ID and Management in the Home Garden by Dr. Joe Novak, 9-11am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Near Northwest Management District event. \$20. Details/registration: www.nnmd.org or 713-895-8021

Sat., Mar. 7: Successful Organic Gardening by Michael Serant, Boone Holladay and Danny Milikin, 9am-noon, Harmon Center, 226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land. \$5. [Register here](#). Details: 281-855-5600

Sat., Mar. 7: Starting a School or Community Garden Series, #1 of 2 by Becky Blanton, 9-11:30am, Urban Harvest, 2311 Canal St., \$50. Details: 713-880-5540, www.urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

Sat., Mar., 7: Real Food, Garden-Grown Vegetables, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Details: comeliusnurseries.com/events.

Sat., Mar. 7, Precinct 2, Harris County Master Gardeners Perennial, Pepper, Tomato and Herb Sale, Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff, Pasadena. 8am-Preview of Perennials by Heidi Sheesley, 9am-1pm- Sale. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>

Sat., Mar. 7: NatureFest, 9am-3:30pm, Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Dr., Humble. Free. Details: 281-445-8588; www.hcp4.net/community/parks/jones

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 7-8: Spring Branch African Violet Club 35th Annual Show and Spring Sale, Judson Robinson Jr., Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Drive. Sat.: Show 1-5pm, Sale 9am-5pm. Sun.: Show & Sale 10am-3pm. Details: Karla Ross, 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.com

Tues., Mar. 10: Plumeria Society of America quarterly meet, 7pm, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

Thurs., Mar. 12, Documenting Your Garden by Harris County Master Gardeners. 6:30-8:30pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register 281-855-5600.

Thurs., Mar. 12 : Fertilizers and Soil Additives by Dr. Robert Unruh, 7:30pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church parish hall, 1819 Heights Blvd. Free. Houston Rose Society event. Details: www.houstonrose.org

Sat., Mar. 14: Growing Vegetables in Containers by Dr. Joe Novak, 9-11am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Near Northwest Management District event. \$20. Details/registration: www.nnmd.org or 713-895-8021.

Sat., Mar 14: Fashionista Flower Design, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Details: comeliusnurseries.com/events.

Sat., Mar. 14: Open Days at Peckerwood Gardens, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. Tours 11am & 1pm. \$10. Details: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 14-15 Galveston Home & Garden Show, Convention Center, 56th street at Seawall Blvd. Horticulture speakers: Saturday 10:30am-Rainwater Harvesting-Jim Jahnke; 11:30-Tree Conservancy-Priscilla Files; 1-Roses-Baxter Williams; 2:30-Lazy Gardening-Brenda Beust Smith. Sunday 11:30-Growing Peppers-Gene Sepler; 12:30-Plumeria-Loretta Osteen. Other speakers, fees, hours: www.galvestonhomeandgarden.com

Tues., March 17: Hummingbirds! Allen or Rufous, it's all Selaphorus to Me. Details: <http://sugarlandgardenclub.org>

Mon., Mar. 16: Open Garden Day with Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>

Wed., Mar. 18: Texas SuperStars by Paul Winski, 10 am, Clear Lake Park Meeting Room, 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>

Tues., Mar. 17: Honey Bees Around The Garden by Stewart McAdoo and Robert Marshall, 6:30-8:30pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Details www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

Thurs., Mar. 19: Providing Homes for Outdoor Wildlife by a Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist,

Thur., Mar. 19, Documenting Your Garden by Harris County Master Gardeners. 6:30-8:30pm. Freeman Branch Library. 16616 Diana Lane, Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register 281-855-5600

Fri., Mar. 20: March Mart Plant Sale, noon-4pm. Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble. Free. Details: <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>

Sat., Mar. 21, March Mart Plant Sale. 8am-4pm. Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble. Free. Details: <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>; 281-443-8731

Sat., Mar 21: MCMGA Spring Plant Sale, Montgomery Co. Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 8am: Program; 9am-1pm: Sale Details: 936-539-7824 or www.mcmga.com

Sat., Mar. 21, Documenting Your Garden by Harris County Master Gardeners. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy, TX. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register 281-855-5600.

Sat., Mar. 21: Save Water and Money with Drip Irrigation, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Details: corneliusnurseries.com/events.

Sat., Mar. 21: The Culture and Care of Palms by O.J. Miller, 9-11:30am, and Minimize Tomato Stress Factors to Maximize Yields-Part 3 by Ira Gervais, 1-3pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Details www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston .

Tues., Mar. 24: 50 Ways to Live a Greener Life by Ken Steblein, www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

Fri., Mar. 27: Plant Propagation by Jean Fefer Ph.D., 1-2pm, Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Details: 713-274-3250; www.pct3.hctx.net/senior/glaziersec.aspx

Sat., Mar. 28: Birthday Party for Jerry Seymore (Jerry's Jungle Gardens), 1pm, Baker's Back Yard, 417A Gentry St., Spring. Free. Details: www.bakersbackyard.com

Sat., Mar. 28: Nottingham Country Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, 10am-1pm, Villagio Courtyard, Westheimer Pkwy. @ Peek Rd. Details: nottinghamgardenclub.org; 713-870-5915 or 979-885-6199.

Sat., Mar. 28: Secrets to Spectacular Roses, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Details: corneliusnurseries.com/events.

Sat., Mar. 28: Memorial Northwest Ladybugs Garden Club Plant and Tree Sale, 9am-2pm, Memorial Northwest Community Center Parking lot, 17440 Theiss Mail Route, Rd., Spring

Sat., Mar. 29: Open Days at Peckerwood Gardens, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. Tours 11am & 1pm. \$10. Details: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

Tues., Mar. 31: Vegetable Container Gardening by Robert "Skip" Ritcher, 1-2pm, Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Details: 713-274-3250; www.pct3.hctx.net/senior/glaziersec.aspx

Tues., Mar. 31: Tool Care by Tim Jahnke and Henry Harrison III, 6:30-8:30pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Details www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston.

Wed., Apr. 1: Orchid Gardening by John Stubbing, 11am-noon, Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Details: 713-274-3250; www.pct3.hctx.net/senior/glaziersec.aspx

Thurs., April 2: Planting for Bees and Butterflies by Fort Bend Master Gardeners Entomology Group, 9:30 am, Municipal Utility Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Drive, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club Program. Details: nottinghamgardenclub.org; 713-870-5915.

Sat., Apr. 4: Perennials - Best Picks for Texas, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events

Wed., Apr. 8: Hibiscus gardening by Marti Graves, 2-3pm, Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Details: 713-274-3250; www.pct3.hctx.net/senior/glaziersec.aspx

Thurs., Apr. 9: Basic Irrigation & Rainwater Harvesting by Harris County Master Gardeners. 6:30-8:30pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register 281-855-5600.

Sat., Apr. 11: White Oak Garden Spring Plant Sale, 9-10am Presentation on featured plants by Heidi Sheesley, 10am-2pm Sale; White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Details: www.nnmd.org

Sat., Apr. 11: Open Days at Peckerwood Gardens, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. Tours 11am & 1pm. \$10. Details: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

Sat., Apr. 11: Plants for Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardens, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events

Thurs., Apr. 16: Harris County Master Gardener Green Thumb Lecture on Basic Irrigation & Rainwater Harvesting. 6:30-8:30pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register 281-855-5600.

Sat., Apr. 18: Basic Irrigation & Rainwater Harvesting by Harris County Master Gardeners. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register 281-855-5600.

Sat., Apr. 18: Colorful Sun & Shade Plants from Burpee Home Garden, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events

Mon., April 21: What's Blooming in the Lazy Gardener's Garden by Brenda Beust Smith, 10am, Walden on Lake Houston Clubhouse. Lake Houston Ladies Club event. Non-member reservations required: Carol Dandeneau, 832-671-4475

Tues., Apr. 21: Basic Irrigation & Rainwater Harvesting by Harris County Master Gardeners. 6:30-8:30pm. Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register 281-855-5600.

Thurs., Apr. 23: Plants of the Bible by Jean Fefer Ph.D., 1-2pm, Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Details: 713-274-3250; www.pct3.hctx.net/senior/glaziersec.aspx

Sat., Apr. 25: Easy Care Flowers, Top Picks from "Proven Winners," 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events

Sun., May 10: Open Days at Peckerwood Gardens, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. Tours 11am & 1pm. \$10. Details: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

Tues., May 12: Plumeria Society of America quarterly meet, 7pm, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park.
Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

Thurs., May 14: Basic Pest Control for Gardeners by Harris County Master Gardeners. 6:30-8:30pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register [281-855-5600](tel:281-855-5600).

Sat., May 16: Basic Pest Control for Gardeners by Harris County Master Gardeners. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register [281-855-5600](tel:281-855-5600).

Tues., May 19: Basic Pest Control for Gardeners by Harris County Master Gardeners. 6:30-8:30pm. Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register: [281-855-5600](tel:281-855-5600)

Sun., May 17: Payne's in the Grass Daylily Farm Open Garden, 9am-5pm, 2130 O'Day Road, Pearland. Free. Details: [281-485-3821](tel:281-485-3821), [713-419-6661](tel:713-419-6661), paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com

Sun., May 17: Shimek's Open Gardens, 8am-6pm, 3122 Country Road 237, Alvin. Details: [281-331-4395](tel:281-331-4395) or [832-489-4395](tel:832-489-4395); www.cityscope.net/~neshimek (under Open Gardens)

Thur., May 21: Basic Pest Control for Gardeners by Harris County Master Gardeners. 6:30-8:30pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register [281-855-5600](tel:281-855-5600).

Sat., May 23: Open Days at Peckerwood Gardens, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. Tours 11am & 1pm. \$10. Details: peckerwoodgarden.org, [979-826-3232](tel:979-826-3232); info@peckerwoodgarden.org

Sat., June 13: Plumeria Society of America Sale, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Details: theplumeriasociety.org

Tues., July 14: Plumeria Society of America quarterly meet, 7pm, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park.
Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

Sat., July 25: Plumeria Society of America Sale, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center, Hermann Park Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Dr. Details: theplumeriasociety.org

Tues., Oct. 13: Plumeria Society of America quarterly meet, 7pm, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park.
Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

If we inspire you to attend any of these events,
please let them know you heard about it in THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!

WANT YOUR EVENT IN THE LG&F CALENDAR? YOU HAVE TO SEND IT TO US!

EVENTS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS OR GENERAL MEDIA RELEASES.

Events submitted in the exact format used above will receive priority in inclusion in the calendar.

Events NOT submitted in our format take longer to get published as someone has to reformat and retype them. Email to:
lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

Need speakers for your group? Or tips on getting more publicity for events? Brenda's free booklets that might help: "[Lazy Gardener's Speakers List](#)" of area horticultural/environmental experts, and "[Lazy Gardener's Publicity Booklet](#)" (based on her 40+ years of her Houston Chronicle "Lazy Gardener" coverage of area events) Email specific requests to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net. Please help us grow by informing all your membership of this weekly newsletter!

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ABOUT US

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- * a national award-winning writer & editor
- * a nationally-published writer & photographer
- * a national horticultural speaker
- * a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda's 45-year-old "Lazy Gardener" print column a couple of years ago, it ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* book and now to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy Gardener run on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's **BULLETIN** magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** with John Ferguson and Mark Bowen of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Aldine and is married to the now retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

JOHN FERGUSON

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and

many other professional societies. John is is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

MARK BOWEN

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist, certified permaculturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a co-editor and article contributor.

PABLO HERNANDEZ

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 20% off Native Soil

Mix. <http://natureswayresources.com/products.html> . (Offer good for retail purchases of this product by the cubic yard at Nature's Way Resources (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 02/31/15.