



March 20, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 99th 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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*THIS WEEK, left to right: 'Pura Vida' - one of the passionvines that might help restore habitat highways. What are those beautiful white flowering trees? U of H sees its student gardens as one key to solving Third Ward Healthy Eating Project. Galveston beats the calendar with bluebonnets and Georgie Allen with one hardy azalea!*

## MEA CULPA, BUTTERFLIES! ... BEAUTIFUL "PRODUCING" PEARS ... U of H CALLS ON CAMPUS GARDENERS ... GALVESTON'S BLUEBONNETS

*"Butterflies are self-propelled flowers."  
~ R.H. Heinlein*

### BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Some time ago, Urban Harvest Education Director Chris LaChance coined the phrase "Habitat Highways" to designate the annual north-south pathways taken by migrating wildlife . . . pathways being increasingly minimized or totally destroyed by urban sprawl, among other more-natural tragedies.

On the plus side, homeowners are increasingly stepping up, planting varieties that will help replace those lost. Sometimes we stumble . . . as we are now seeing with the devastation caused by the monarch-mutilating OE parasite that is proliferating on tropical butterflyweed (red/orange/yellow flowers) that is allowed to winter over instead of dying back as native butterflyweed (milkweed) does.

The best thing we homeowners can do is to listen to the experts. In many ways, they are learning . . . just as we are. But even in the worst case scenarios, they know a lot more than we do.

A good chance to learn, and help, coming up Saturday, March 28 when one plentiful plant sale will take place at the Houston Museum of Natural Science's Cockrell Butterfly Center.

The Cockrell's Spring Plant Sale - 9am-noon on the top floor of the HMNS Parking Garage, 5555 Hermann Circle Dr. - will include native butterflyweeds (usually called milkweeds) such as the rare Antelope Horns milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*) - which do not harbor the devastating OE.

Cockrell Horticulturist/Greenhouse Manager Soni Holladay says other beneficial native plants at the sale include:

- \* *Aristolochia tomentosa*/Wooly Pipevine (host for Pipevine swallowtails),
- \* *Chamaecrista fasciculata*/Partridge Pea (host for Sulfurs),
- \* *Passiflora foetida*/passionvine (host for Gulf Fritillary),
- \* *Eryngium yuccifolium*/Button Snake Root (nectar),
- \* *Eupatorium havanense*/White Mistflower (nectar),
- \* *Helenium microcephalum*/Smallhead Sneezeweed (nectar),
- \* *Lonicera sempervirens*/Coral Honeysuckle (nectar - good for hummingbirds!)
- \* *Penstemon tenuis*/Gulf Coast Penstemon (nectar)
- \* *Physostegia correllii*/Correll's Obedient Plant (nectar)
- \* *Rudbeckia maxima*/Giant Coneflower (nectar)
- \* *Spigelia marilandica*/Indian Pink (nectar)
- \* *Verbena xutha*/Gulf Vervain (nectar)
- \* *Vernonia* sp. / Ironweed (nectar)



In addition to the 'Pura Vida' (at top), the Cockrell will include the blue (or common) passionvine (*Passiflora caerulea*), left, and *P. foetida* Soni, center, as well as Gulf Coast penstemons (butterflies and hummingbirds) and white mistflower.

Do you know the story of the passionvine flower? One story says when Spanish missionaries first saw these exotic flowers (which are native to our Gulf Coast area), they immediately saw religious symbols. The pointed tips were the holy lance; tendrils, the whips. Ten petals and sepals represent the ten faithful Apostles (excluding St. Peter and Judas Iscariot). In the hundreds of radial filaments, they saw a crown of thorns. The chalice-shaped ovary was the Holy Grail, three stigmas equaled three nails and the five anthers were five wounds. Who else would tell you these things?

\* \* \*



UH's Bonner Program's gardening projects are part of the planned Third Ward project Honors College students two national grants. Left, with "portable" garden boxes are Bonner Director Andrew Hamilton, second from left, and Dr. Peggy Lindner, right, with students, l to r, Casey Hall, Isme Correa, Sasha Ichoonsigy, and Grace Schwarz (partially hidden). Right, winning video features Bonner students, l to r, Josh Monsivais, Naina Sakruti, Dave Giang, Brinda Penmetsa, and Ton La, Jr.

## GARDENS TO BE PART OF U of H'S AWARD-WINNING THIRD WARD CAMPAIGN

A tip o' the trowel to student gardeners at my alma mater, the University of Houston, for two well-deserved honors. UH Honors College's Bonner Leaders Program recently won \$5000 in the nationwide Campus Kitchens Project which will utilize community and campus resources (including student gardens) to tackle Houston's Third Ward's dearth of access to healthy food education and actual healthy food resources. ("Bring a Campus Kitchen to the University of Houston" <http://www.campuskitchens.org/sodexo/>.)

These students also just became the first Texas team ever to win the Resolution Project Social Venture Challenge at the Clinton Foundation's Global Initiative University event for their work in fighting hunger. (See "Cougar Chefs," at: <http://www.uh.edu/news-events/stories/2015/March/0311CampusKitchens>). Bonner's "Sprouting from Cement" project will allow students to grow their own produce to augment what they recover from dining halls and restaurants. In addition to the very successful gro-PODS (pictured above / <http://www.gro-pod.com/>) used now, six-foot tall "food pyramids" holding ten growing shelves each, potato barrels, and table-height raised beds will soon be added, as part of U of H research into potential solutions for Houstonians who don't even have room for small garden plots. I'll keep you updated on their progress.





*Left, Festival Hill's "Mary (Cloister) Garden," Bradford pears, Galveston's bluebonnets and Georgie Allen in front of one tough azalea bush!*

## READERS CONTRIBUTE . . . THANKS!!!

\* KUDOS TO SANDRA W. , who - in response to Jean Fefer's great [Biblical Garden article last week](#) - wrote in about Mary's Garden, also called the Cloister Garden, at the [McAshan Herb Gardens at Festival Hill in Round Top](#). If you've never visited this incredible creation of [herbalist extraordinaire Madalenene Hill and Gwen Barclay](#), you've missed one of our area's most unique treasures.

Since most Biblical Garden plants are herbs, this would be a great resource (and don't miss their Shakespeare Garden among the others). As Sandra reports: "The main garden in the McAshan Gardens is the Cloister Garden. The background is a folly ruin built to look like an ancient church. The focus of the garden is a statue of Mary and the plantings include many herbs, bulbs, shrubs, and spring blooming annuals such as poppies, larkspur, and petunias." Spring's the best time to go! Two great herb sales coming up:

\* Sat., Mar. 28: Herb Festival and Coughatta Camellia Society camellia tea plant sale. Details [funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net)

\* Sat. Apr. 25: 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Herb Day by The Herb Society of America, South Texas Unit. Details: [www.herbsociety-stu.org](http://www.herbsociety-stu.org)

\* SALLY J. inquired about the gorgeous white blooming trees all over Houston? Probably Bradford pears. Fruit's inedible. They're pretty, tho, for a short period. Would make more sense to me to plant edible pear varieties recommended for this area, including Atlas Super Orient, Hosui, Southern Bartlett, Southern Queen, Tennessee and Tennesui. But, to each his own!

\* HUGE THANKS TO DAN & JILL, who called attention to the early-blooming bluebonnets decking the freeway banks along I-45 where it turns into Broadway after you cross the Causeway into Galveston. The beautiful stands at the Harborside exit were obviously seeded by Texas Department of Transportation. Decades ago, before we even thought much about our wildflowers, Lady Bird Johnson launched her own campaign to get TxDOT to do this all over the state. And now they do! No one messed with Lady Bird.

\* A NUMBER OF READERS MOANED & GROANED when that late Arctic freeze blew in, followed by nonstop rains. What about their plants that were already budded out? One happy homeowner was Bess Allen in Vidor who had so worried about her normally-gorgeous-beyond-words azaleas. But as this picture of her granddaughter Georgie Allen shows, these tough flowers (once well established) can take most anything our climate throws at them.

\* DON'T MISS THE LAST DAY FOR MARCH MART! Speaking of all those heavy rains, they've left us with an extra treat for Saturday (March 21) - the landscapes are especially vibrant at [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#), 22306 Aldine-Westfield. This, and the fact that all sales are tax-free, the Visitor's Center cafe is selling lunches and lots of tents are up (should it rain again) make this Saturday, the last day of [March Mart](#), a must-attend event. Details: [themerchersociety.org/plant-sales/march-mart/](http://themerchersociety.org/plant-sales/march-mart/)

*Address questions to Brenda at [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)*

## JOHN'S CORNER

Organic Fertilizers and Nutrients - 30

SEABIRD GUANO



One of the first fertilizers ever used was guano from seabirds. In many areas of the world there are islands or other nesting sites where seabirds live and deposit their droppings. In some area these droppings accumulated over the decades and were over 150 feet deep when they stated being harvested.

The Inca Indians were one of the first to use this guano as a fertilizer and it supported their civilization for hundreds of years. It was so important to their culture they would kill anyone whom hurt or disturbed the birds. Later after Europeans colonized the area the manure was harvested and shipped all over the world.

Seabird guano is found at many locations around the world. However some of the best seabird guano comes from the Pacific ocean off the coast of Peru and Chile where upwelling of nutrient rich water provides nourishment for a large variety of marine life which then feed huge colonies of the seabirds. On the west coast of South America and many of the nearby islands there is a desert climate which allows the guano to accumulate and not be washed away by rainfall.

Seawater has 90 elements dissolved in it, hence when birds eat marine life they obtain all these major, minor and trace elements which are also in their manure. Typically this manure ranges from a 10-10-1 to a 13-12-2 (NPK) fertilizer depending on source. Additionally it has all the minor nutrients like iron, calcium, magnesium, etc. and all the trace elements as well. Nutritionally it is one of the most complete fertilizers available (organic or artificial).

One can sometimes collect this manure along the Gulf coast. Often seabirds will roost on a certain spot and the manure will accumulate around it during the dry days of summer (no rain). Gardeners can scrape this manure up and use it. Not as pretty as the pelletized or granulated bagged products we purchase but just as effective and it is free.

Typical usage is two pounds per 100 square feet or one teaspoon per 8 inch diameter pot. Mix into the soil and water well to release the nutrients.

Many gardeners like to make a tea for deep root feeding. To do this mix one cup of guano into one gallon of water and stir (or 5 cups in a 5 gallon bucket). Let it sit for 24 hours and then strain out residual solids (filter through a fine mesh screen, old cloth, etc.) and then use the liquid. One or two cups per plant is a common application rate using more for large plants and less for small ones. The left over solids can be used in the garden or compost pile.

#### **SUMMARY:**

Seabird guano is an excellent natural organic fertilizer and the most complete fertilizer available. It is a sustainable and renewable resource that is now managed to protect both the birds and the environment.

#### **PROS:**

- good source of a nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium
- good source minor and trace elements
- nutrients become available when exposed to moisture
- stimulates beneficial microbial life in the soil
- renewable resource
- many brands available
- when used in a compost pile it speeds up the process and increases the nutrient density of the compost

#### **CONS:**

- may cost more than alternatives
- high transportation costs
- may be dusty
- may burn plants if too much is applied
- limited availability
- may have a little odor

## A BOOK REVIEW:

I was at the car dealership this week getting my 30,000 mile service and while waiting I had a couple hours to read a new book. From the back cover of the book is the question: What do Agent Orange, DDT, PCB's, Roundup, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have in common? Monsanto

**"We're MONSANTO Feeding The World, Lie After Lie", Brett Wilcox, Wilcox Works LLC, 2013, ISBN 13: 978-1492312918**

I have known for years that Monsanto is not a good company and that they have earned "The Most Evil Corporation in The World" award multiple times. Brett Wilcox goes through Monsanto's marketing claims one by one covering the top 50 lies. He cites numerous studies showing the extreme danger of eating GMO foods and the health risk to those that eat them. There was also a lot of information on Roundup and how the American public has been deceived into using it, again with numerous studies showing the health risk from large decreases and abnormal sperm in men to cancer for all to the thousands that have died. He documents how well known politicians benefited financially by being puppets of Monsanto and documents the revolving door between the USDA, EPA and Monsanto. After reading this book I realize the way Monsanto has manipulated the media, government regulatory agencies, etc. they make the tobacco companies seem like rank amateurs. This book is for anyone concerned about their food and protecting the health of their families. I like the following from the books conclusion:

*Every time we buy a Monsanto product, we give Monsanto more power to create unnatural life forms, bribe government officials, buy out competitors, conduct unethical "scientific research", manipulate scientific findings, discredit independent scientific research, fight GMO labeling, sue farmers, ....*

## WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALENDAR

TO SUBMIT EVENTS: Find a similar event in our calendar below and copy the format EXACTLY. Then you can add additional information. Email to [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net) Any other formatting will result in a delay in publication. Events will not be picked up from newsletters.

**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](http://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](http://harris.agrilife.org/hort).

**Sat., Mar. 21: Save Water and Money with Drip Irrigation,** 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Details: [comeliusnurseries.com/events](http://comeliusnurseries.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](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

**Sat., Mar., 21: (Postponed-no new date set yet) Tomball Garden Club Annual Plant Sale,** 9am-2pm, Grannys Komer, 201 Market St. (near Tomball Depot), Tomball. Details: [tomballgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:tomballgardenclub@gmail.com); 832.722.6859

**Mar. 21-22: : Spring Native Plant Sale**, 9am-4pm, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Drive. Free. Details: <http://houstonarboretum.org/events/spring-native-plant-sale/>

**Sun., Mar. 22: Earth Kind Plants by Margaret Lloyd-Bingham**, 2-4pm, Mercer Arboretum & Botanical Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield Rd., Humble. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Details. 713-697-0362. [agcar@swbell.net](mailto:agcar@swbell.net).

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

**Tues., Mar. 24: Harris County Master Gardeners Open Garden Day and Workshop on Documenting Your Garden**, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: [harris.agrilife.org/hort](http://harris.agrilife.org/hort); 281-855-5600

**Wed., Mar. 25: Cypress Creek Daylily Club Plant Sale**. 9:30am-6pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Free. Details. 713-697-0362. [agcar@swbell.net](mailto:agcar@swbell.net).

**Wed., Mar. 25: The Prickly Pear Cactus: The Magical History of a Plant by Liliana Cracraft**, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Details: <http://www.hcsstex.org/>

**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](http://www.pct3.hctx.net/senior/glaziersec.aspx)

**Fri., Mar. 27: Gulf Coast Green 2015**, 8am-5pm, Norris Conference Center, 816 Town & Country Blvd., Suite 201. Gulf Coast Green-AIA Houston event. Details: [aiahouston.org/v/site-home/Gulf-Coast-Green/35/](http://aiahouston.org/v/site-home/Gulf-Coast-Green/35/) (<https://aiahouston.org/v/site-home/Gulf-Coast-Green/35/>)

**Sat., March 28: Cockrell Butterfly Center Spring Plant Sale**, 9am-Noon. Houston Museum of Natural Science, top floor of parking garage. 5555 Hermann Circle Drive, 77030. [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org)

**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](http://www.bakersbackyard.com)

**Sat., Mar. 28: Nottingham Country Garden Club Annual Plant Sale**, 10am-1pm, Villagio Courtyard, Westheimer Pkwy. @ Peek Rd. Details: [nottinghamgardenclub.org](http://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](http://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. 28: Roses and Companion Plants by Gaye Hammond**, 10am and 2pm, The Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond, and Enchanted Forest Nursery, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Free. Details: [www.myenchanted.com](http://www.myenchanted.com)

**Sat, Mar. 28: Urban Harvest's Starting a Community or School Garden, Class #2 of 2**, 9-11:30am. \$20. University of St. Thomas, Welder Hall. Room TBD, 3800 Montrose Blvd. Details: 713-880-5540 or [www.urbanharvest.org](http://www.urbanharvest.org).

**Sat., Mar. 28: Garden Villas Garden Club Annual Plant & Garden Accessories Sale**, 9am-1pm, Garden Villas Paetk Community Center, 6720 S. Haywood. Free. Details: [bbums50@aol.com](mailto:bbums50@aol.com) or 713-545-2926.

**Sat., Mar. 28: Herb Festival and Coughatta Camellia Society camellia tea plant sale**, 8am-2pm, Wynne Home, 1428 Eleventh St., Huntsville. Free. Details [funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net)

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

**Sun, Mar. 29: Urban Harvest's Restoring Nature Through Permaculture Class 1 of 4**, 1-6pm. \$238. U of Houston Central Campus, 4800 Calhoun, McElhinney Hall, Room 106. Details: 713-880-5540 or [www.urbanharvest.org](http://www.urbanharvest.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.corneliusnurseries.com/events)**

**Sat., April 4: Basic Grafting & Roostock Propagation with James Britt**, 1:30-3 p.m., Wabash Feed & Garden Store, 5701 Washington Ave., Houston, TX 77007, Free. Details: <http://wabashfeed.com/eventcalendar.html> or 713-863-8322.

**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](http://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.



**Thurs., Apr. 9 : Roses in the West - A Must See**, 7:30pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church parish hall, 1819 Heights Blvd. Free. Houston Rose Society event. Details: [www.houstonrose.org](http://www.houstonrose.org)

**Thurs., Apr. 9: Purple Martins: Aerial Insectivores with Mary Anne Weber**, 7:30 p.m., L.G.I. Lecture Hall, McCullough Jr. High School, 3800 S. Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Co-sponsors The Woodlands Township, The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N., Nature's Way Resources & Waste Management. Details: [in the Woods Nature Lecture](#) or 281-201-3800.

**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](http://www.nnmd.org)

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

**Sat., Apr. 11: Plants for Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardens**, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: [www.comeliusnurseries.com/events](http://www.comeliusnurseries.com/events)

**Sat, Apr. 11: Urban Harvest's Constructing the Home Vegetable and Fruit Garden.** 9-11:30 am. \$45. University of St. Thomas, Welder Hall. Room TBD, 3800 Montrose Blvd. Details: 713-880-5540 or [www.urbanharvest.org](http://www.urbanharvest.org).

Sat., Apr 11: Bromeliad Society/Houston Spring Sale 9am-3pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center 1475 W. Gray. Details: [www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org) or 713-858-3047

Wed., April 15: Bromeliads by Jimbo and Joanna Woolsey, 10am, Clear Lake Park Meeting Room, 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>

**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](tel: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](tel:281-855-5600).

**Sat., Apr. 18: Colorful Sun & Shade Plants from Burpee Home Garden**, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: [www.comeliusnurseries.com/events](http://www.comeliusnurseries.com/events)

**Sat., Apr. 18 : Houston Rose Society Rose Show**, 12:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church parish hall, 1819 Heights Blvd. Free. Houston Rose Society event. Details: [www.houstonrose.org](http://www.houstonrose.org)

**Mon., April 20: 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>

**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](tel:281-855-5600).

Tues., April 21: "Plants to Enjoy After the Sun Goes Down" by Judy Jones of Enchanted Landscapes, 10am, Knights of Columbus Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Sugar Land Garden Club event. Details: [sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://sugarlandgardenclub.org)

**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](http://www.pct3.hctx.net/senior/glaziersec.aspx)

Fri, Sat & Sun April 24, 25, 26 Heritage Gardeners Spring Garden Tour, Flower and Horticulture Show at the Marie Workman Garden Center and Briscoe Gardens, 112 W. Spreading Oaks for details call 281 992-4438 or go to [www.heritagegardener.org](http://www.heritagegardener.org)

**Sat., Apr. 25: Easy Care Flowers, Top Picks from "Proven Winners,"** 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: [www.comeliusnurseries.com/events](http://www.comeliusnurseries.com/events)

**Sat., Apr. 25: Urban Harvest's Organic Pest Control**, 9-11:30am. \$45. University of St. Thomas, Welder Hall. Room TBD, 3800 Montrose Blvd. Details: 713-880-5540 or [www.urbanharvest.org](http://www.urbanharvest.org).

**Sat. April. 25, 2015: Spring Sale by Harris County Master Gardeners.** 9am-1pm, County Extension Office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Details: <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx>

**Sat. Apr. 25: 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Herb Day by The Herb Society of America, South Texas Unit**, 9am-2pm, Fondren Hall, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 5501 Main St. at Bissonnett. \$45 (box lunch). Registration deadline: April 15. Details: [www.herbsociety-stu.org](http://www.herbsociety-stu.org)

Tues., Apr. 28: Harris County Master Gardener Open Garden Day and Workshop on Irrigation and Rainwater Harvesting, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: [harris.agrilife.org/hort](http://harris.agrilife.org/hort); 281-855-5600

**Sat., May 2: Spring Garden Tour**, 9am-3pm, Venetian Estates; rain date May 9; Sugar Land Garden Club event. Details: [sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://sugarlandgardenclub.org)

**Sat., May 9: Cypress Creek Daylily Club Flower Show.** 1-4pm. Mercer Arboretum & Botanical Barden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield Rd., Humble. Free. Details. 281-356-2543 [billyandjeanlewis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billyandjeanlewis@sbcglobal.net)

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

**Fri., Sat., Sun., May 15-17 Bromeliad Society/Houston 44th Annual Standard Show & Sale**, Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble. Hours and Details: [www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org). 713-858-3047

**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](http://paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com)

**Sun., May 17: Shimek's Open Daylily 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](http://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](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto: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](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

**Tues., July 14: Plumeria Society of America quarterly meet**, 7pm, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park. Details: [www.theplumeriasociety.org](http://www.theplumeriasociety.org)

**Sat., July 25: Plumeria Society of America Sale**, 9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Richmond. Details: [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

**Tues., Oct. 13: Plumeria Society of America quarterly meet**, 7pm, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park. Details: [www.theplumeriasociety.org](http://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!**

**TO SUBMIT EVENTS: Find a similar event in our calendar below and copy the format EXACTLY.**  
**Then you can add additional information. Email to [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)**  
**Any other formatting will result in a delay in publication. Events will not be picked up from newsletters.**

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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 periodic 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 Garden Mix Light**

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