



April 3rd, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 101st issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways. Thanks so much!

This newsletter 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.

Please or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!

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IN THIS WEEK: left to right: landscaping for a tribute, zinnias have something to say, roses on trial and a savory planting.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES . . . LET FLOWERS SPEAK SENTIMENTS . . . WINNING ROSES AT M. D. ANDERSON . . . SAVORY: 2015 HERB OF THE YEAR

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Memorial gardens are a lovely way to remember a departed loved one. These don't have to be large, a corner of your home landscape will do. Or, as in the case of St. Francis de Sales Catholic School, a lovely dedicated waterfall in a very special garden to honor a beloved teacher.

Marilyn Adler Megow, who passed away in 2012, treasured and guided children of St. Francis de Sales for 19 years. The waterfall that will bear her name is one focal point of the school's new Liturgy Garden, which draws its name from three large crosses, the Stations of the Cross and stepping stones depicting a rosary (with engraved donor names). Bench seating amid calming landscaping completes the tranquil plaza, thanks to the creative efforts of designer Joni Broers with expertise from Ben Van der Noort of Tomorrow's Designs.



One key to creating a truly meaningful memorial garden - regardless of size - is to tie it in a visible or emotional way to the honoree. If the person particularly loved roses, for example, a rose garden would create not only an overall ambiance, but an even deeper, widely-shared association, especially if explained by a plaque.

Or, the connection could be a favorite color scheme, such as blues and lavenders. One normally thinks of these for quiet meditations. Perhaps, though, more lively choices would fit your honoree's personality better . . . reds, oranges, hot pinks?



Always poignant: labeled plantings with specific meaning such as, left to right: carnations ("I'll never forget you") - coreopsis ("Always cheerful") - poppy ("Eternal sleep") - sweet pea ("Goodbye").
Zinnias (in center photo at top of column) translates "Thinking of - or in memory of - an absent friend."

As beautifully demonstrated around Marilyn's waterfall, curved pathways and other flowing lines invite relaxing, soothing, inviting meditation. Straight lines project more energy, formality, a signal to festinate on through.

Appropriate hardscapes are another way to trigger memories of loved ones. I remember a unique walkway made from a beloved grandmother's broken pottery beautifully imbedded in concrete by children in the family. Or create plantings around rocks or other items collected over the years.

My own memorial corner garden niche recalls our Bolivar beachhouse swept away in Ike. A [Peggy Martin rose](#) (with its unique Hurricane Katrina ties) climbs an adjacent telephone pole. Tacked to the fence are seemingly meaningless detritus found buried in our sand-covered lot. May look strange to others, but I know what they are.

Comfortable seating invites folks to linger, to treasure memories. Try to position memorial niche gardens where they can be seen from inside, or from a path you take regularly. I see mine from my den window.

To make your memorial site even more special, take another tip from the folks at St. Francis de Sales and plan a dedication ceremony. They will honor Marilyn (wife of my childhood friend Ron Megow) with a special commemoration of her waterfall at 5 pm Saturday at the Catholic school, 8100 Roos. The dedication will be part of the school's 50th Anniversary Birthday Bash. ([Click for details.](#))

A TIP O' THE TROWEL TO URBAN HARVEST, one of the winners of an H-E-B Tanglewood grant by virtue of online votes. Just a few of the 2014 stats are so impressive: 3,600+ students received hands-on gardening/nutrition education; 21 outdoor partner school sites, 30+ youth-affiliated gardens supported, 105 Affiliate Gardens served, 104 free organic gardening classes offered. And this doesn't even include the work with Farmers Markets. If you're involved in, or thinking of starting, a community, school, church, etc., garden, you should join Urban Harvest - www.urbanharvest.org



Left and center, our native wild azalea. Right, the wild azalea hybrid 'Stonewall Jackson' is blooming now at Mercer Botanic Garden.

THE WILD AZALEA CANYON - A "PROSPECT-IMPRESSED" NO MORE

It has been such a long time since we went to visit that wonderful East Texas treasure, the Wild Azalea Canyon. To check on bloom peak time, I contacted Newton Chamber of Commerce President Gail Odom. Newton's the closest city to this remote East Texas wonder. For years, residents voluntarily protected the canyon for the benefit of the rest of us. We owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Gail responded with the bad news that the canyon is now closed, due to Hurricane Katrina damage. The wild azaleas were totally wiped out and the timber company (which owns the land) has closed the area.

What a horrible loss. She was such a beautiful canyon, a secret place almost. One couldn't even her true delights until one descended into her depths. Only then could you share in her incredible beauty.

A "prospect impressed" no more.

Wild azaleas (*Rhododendron canescens*) do grow in home landscapes - more successfully the farther north and east of Houston downtown you live. The further south and west . . . well, you can try, but don't take it personally if they don't make it.

I don't know JB Burrows, but pictures on his blog really show you what we've lost:

<https://jbburrows.wordpress.com/2012/02/29/wild-azalea-canyons/>

* 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.



EXCITING ROSES IN TRIAL GARDENS AT M. D. ANDERSON

by Gaye Hammond
Houston Rose Society Past President
www.houstonrose.org

The Houston Rose Society has partnered with Texas AgriLife Extension's Harris County Office and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer to evaluate a collection of modern hybrid tea and floribunda roses under minimal input conditions on the MD Anderson South Campus. In this Earth-Kind Modern Rose Trial, none of the roses will be treated with pesticides or fungicides and will not receive applications of fertilizers over the course of the 4-year study. The trial site will be one of the one of the stops on the Society's spring 2015 garden tours.

Especially exciting roses: Based on our work in the above research program, there are several rose cultivars that bear watching: Beverly (pink hybrid tea - very fragrant), Wedding Bells (hot pink hybrid tea), Winter Sun (golden yellow with apricot tinged hybrid tea), Plum Perfect (mauve floribunda). Unlike other roses to come out of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Houston Rose Society's work on the Earth-Kind Rose Research Program, the roses currently being trialed have true "rose form".

Really unusual roses/new colors: KoKo Loko (what I call the chocolate milk rose) probably leads the pack when it comes to unusual colors. It is a floribunda rose that starts off the color of chocolate milk and fades to a dusky

orchid. Fire Opal Kolorscape, is a recent introduction by Kordes & Sohne (photo attached). It is a floribunda rose with blooms that are a blend of cream, coral and pink on a bush that stays a compact 2 - 2 1/2 feet tall and wide.

Unusual sizes of plants/blooms: Many of the roses being trialed in the Earth-Kind Modern Rose Trial produce huge flowers - some up to 5" across. In fact, last fall some of the blooms were so large that they broke the stems upon which they were formed simply from the weight of the blossom. We suspect that this condition will resolve as the diameter of the stems increase with maturity. Cultivars in the "Drift" series of roses continue to be the groundcover roses of choice and these are easily and quickly maintained with an electric hedge-trimmer, are non-invasive and tend to stay true to their stated heights and width.

Questions: The gardening public continues to be interested in roses that can be maintained with minimal care and in absence of the traditional chemical treatments that have been associated with rose care for decades. The Houston Rose Society is elated that it has been a part of the largest environmental rose research project in U.S. history and that our work has resulted in identifying roses that meet the homeowners demands - and which also make beautiful landscape plants. See attached for a photo of one of the roses in a trial recently concluded.

If you can grow weeds....you can grow roses. Let us show you how!

(Address questions to Gaye Hammond at gayeh@lpm-triallaw.com)



Left: Savory is the 2015 Herb of the Year! Exciting roses from study: left to right, 'Sunrise Sunset' (Gaye Hammond photo), 'Fire Opal Kolorscape'(Chamblee's Rose Nursery photo) and, a new unusual rose color, 'Koko Loko.'



Savory Herb Garden Additions

Lois Sutton

The Herb Society of America, South Texas Unit

Winter and summer savory are good additions to the late spring garden. They are culinary herbs, providing an organo-like flavor. Like all herbs give them good drainage and a minimum of six sun-hours.

Winter savory (*Satureja montana*) is a perennial. It looks a bit like thyme: low growing; small dark-green leathery leaves; woody stems. Winter savory's advantage over thyme is that it is more tolerant of summer heat and rains. Its flavor is more pungent than summer savory. In my garden, plant height is consistently about 12" and none have bloomed. Harvest by tip pinching or taking short cuttings. Consistent harvesting does encourage lateral stem development and a bushier plant, but changes in plant shape seem rather minimal. Buy a plant or take cuttings from a friend. Like other herbal perennials it could be planted at any time but avoid the middle of Houston's summer. Set it out on days you like to work in the garden!

Summer savory (*S. hortensis*) is an annual. It is a short plant, like winter savory, but with soft stems and lighter green leaves. It may gift you with small insignificant blooms but I celebrate any herbal blooms! Flowers, leaves and soft stems are all edible. Harvesting frequently will keep this plant a bit more 'organized' looking - it grows quickly and even though it is a short plant, it looks leggy. Summer savory may be grown from seed. Sow with only a light soil cover as the seeds require light for germination. Or buy a plant or two - set them out in the garden in late spring or early summer. In my garden this plant is more susceptible to those hot, hot summer days when we get a lot of rain. I haven't found that providing additional drainage helps - it's a soft-stemmed plant that takes up a lot of water. When I've been able to find plants, I have replanted in late-September for the fall/early winter growing season.

Savory, the 2015 Herb of the Year, will be featured at our April 25th Herb Day presented 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

JOHN'S CORNER



Organic Fertilizers and Nutrients - 32

HOOF AND HORN MEAL

I remember years ago when I traveled internationally while working in the oil industry and visiting many countries from Europe to Pakistan and South America there was a widely used organic fertilizer that we do not see very often in our area. It was horn and hoof meal.

The hoofs from cattle are soaked in water until they become spongy and can be removed from the bones. After removal they are spread into the sun to dry. Next the horns are dried in the sun until the pith is dried and can be removed by hammering it. Now the hoofs and horns are combined and put into a digester where they are steam cooked for 7-10 hours at temperatures over 110 °C. After cooking the material is dried and finely ground into various grain sizes for use.

This meal can naturally be as high as 14-2-0 (N-P-K) hence is one of the most nitrogen rich organic fertilizers. This meal has a lot of keratin, a complex protein which is very resistant to the mineralization process (decomposition). Hence it takes about 3-4 weeks for the nitrogen and other nutrients to start releasing slowly over a long time (10-12 months). There is also small amounts of calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) along with some other nutrients also in very small amounts.

Usage varies based on the gardeners goal, but 5-7 ounces per square yard of flower bed is common. Many gardeners like to use this meal since when applied in early spring, the nutrient release curve in the soil matches exactly the plants growth requirements as the soil and weather warms up.

SUMMARY:

Hoof and horn meal is a natural organic fertilizer we should be using more of in general. It is also ideal for the Lazy Gardener whom only wants to fertilize only one time for the entire growing season.

PROS:

- excellent source of slow and long acting nitrogen
- often used as an ingredient in organic fertilizers
- renewable resource
- many brands available
- excellent slow release nitrogen source for a compost pile
- does not pollute waterways
- rich in amino acids and proteins
- sometimes used in animal feed
- helps form humus in the soil better than other nutrient sources
- works especially well for large green leafy plants
- does not burn plants
- readily available online

CONS:

- nitrogen slowly available
- does not contain significant amounts of other nutrients

- may be dusty
- limited availability

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 lazy_gardener@sbcglobal.net Any other formatting will result in a delay in publication. Events will not be picked up from newsletters.

SAT., APR. 4: PERENNIALS - BEST PICKS FOR TEXAS, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.comeliusnurseries.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: wabashfeed.com/eventcalendar.html or 713-863-8322.

SAT., APR. 4: TOMBALL GARDEN CLUB'S ANNUAL PLANT SALE. 9am-2pm, Granny's Komer, 201 Market St, Tomball. Details: tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

TUES., APRIL 7: NATURAL HISTORY OF ODONATA - DAMSELFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES BY AL BARR, 7:30pm, Museum of Natural Science's Cockrell Butterfly Center's lower floor. Free. Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas (BEST) event. Details: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nababest/>

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.

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

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 "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, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: 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.

SAT., APR 11: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON SPRING SALE. 9am-3pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center 1475 W. Gray. Details: www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org or 713-858-3047

SAT. APRIL 11: 2015 BROOKWOOD GARDENING EXPO, 1752 FM 1489, Brookshire. 10am & 4pm-"Successful Organic lawn & Gardens" by Mike Serant; 10am & 1pm, "Great Gardening Starts With the Soil" by John Ferguson. Free. Details: www.brookwoodcommunity.org

SAT,-SUN., APR. 11-12: HOUSTON ORCHID SOCIETY 2015 SHOW & SALE, 9am-5pm Sat., 9am-4pm Sun., Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Circle Dr. Free. Details: www.houstonorchidsociety.org

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: BASIC IRRIGATION & RAINWATER HARVESTING 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.

Thurs., Apr. 16: Milkweeds by Malcolm & Gail Vidrine, 7-9pm, Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4505 Woodway. Free. Native

Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter event. Details: npsot.org/wp/houston/activities/monthly-meetings/

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

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.

SAT., APR. 18: SAT., APR. 18: EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AND NATIVE PLANT SALE, 10am-2pm, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 (Woodway). Free. Details: houstonarboretum.org

SAT., APR. 18: GARDEN CONSERVANCY'S OPEN DAYS PROGRAM GARDEN TOUR/PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, 802 West Temple Street. \$7. Details: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/all-events/houston-tx-open-day>

SAT., APR. 18: GARDEN CONSERVANCY HOUSTON OPEN DAY. 6 private gardens.

Details: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/events/all-events/houston-tx-open-day>

SUN., APR. 19: GALVESTON COUNTY SPRING PLANT SWAP, 2pm, Walter Hall Park, 807 Highway 3 N, League City. Free. Details: <http://www.freewebs.com/gcplantswap/index.html>

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 ULKE, 10AM, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 702 BURNEY ROAD, SUGAR LAND. SUGAR LAND GARDEN CLUB EVENT. DETAILS: sugarlandgardenclub.org

THURS., MAY 21: THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL GARDEN BY AHLENE SHONG & JAMIE SCOTT, 7-9pm, Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4505 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter event. Details: <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/activities/monthly-meetings/>

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/g_laziersec.aspx

FRI-SUN., APR. 24-26: HERITAGE GARDENERS SPRING GARDEN TOUR, FLOWER AND HORTICULTURE SHOW, Marie Workman Garden Center and Briscoe Gardens, 112 W. Spreading Oaks for details call 281 992-4438 or go to 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

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.

SAT. APRIL. 25: 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: 32ND 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 Bissonnet. \$45 (box lunch). Registration deadline: April 15. Details: www.herbsociety-stu.org

TUES., APR. 28: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDEN DAY and IRRIGATION AND RAINWATER HARVESTING WORKSHOP, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: harris.agrilife.org/hort; 281-855-5600

TUES.-WED., APR. 28-29: FLORESCENCE ILLUSIONS FLOWER SHOW, 10am-5pm, Museum of Fine Arts' Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main. Regular museum admission. River Oaks Garden Club, The Garden Club of Houston and Museum of Fine Arts event. Details: www.fiohouston.org/

FRI., MAY 1: "THE OLEANDER IN THE OLD WORLD - AN IMPRESSIVE HERITAGE, AN EXCITING FUTURE" BY JAMES NICHOLAS, Mercer Oleander Festival Kick-Off Luncheon, Moody Gardens. Reservation details: www.oleander.org.

SAT., MAY 2: SPRING GARDEN TOUR, 9am-3pm, Venetian Estates; rain date May 9; Sugar Land Garden Club event. Details: sugarlandgardenclub.org

SAT., MAY 2: NATIVE PLANTS FOR TEXAS GARDENS, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Free. Details: www.comeliusnurseries.com/events/

SAT-SUN., MAY 2-3: 2015 OLEANDER FESTIVAL, MOODY GARDENS. Free. Details: www.oleander.com.

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

SAT., MAY 9: WORM COMPOSTING WORKSHOP, 9:30-11:30am, Missouri City Recreation and Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Drive. \$15/family. Limited space: registration details: www.missouricitygreen.org or info@missouricitygreen.org

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

SAT., MAY 9: BEAUTIFUL & PRACTICAL GROUNDCOVERS 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events/

SAT., MAY 9: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN, 9-11am, Texas AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. Free. Details: 936-539-7824.

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.

THURS., MAY 14-SUN, MAY 17: MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM, City of Houston Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. \$40. Details: <http://www.greenhoustontx.gov/gbrceducation-2015spring.pdf>

FRI- 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. 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.

SAT., MAY 16: THE ART OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events/

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

SUN., MAY 17: PAYNE'S IN THE GRASS DAYLILY FARM OPEN GARDEN, 9am-5pm, 2130 O'Day Road, Pearland. Free. Details: 281-485-3821, 713-419-6661, paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com

SUN., MAY 17: SHIMEK'S OPEN DAYLILY GARDENS, 8am-6pm, 3122 Country Road 237, Alvin. Details: 281-331-4395 or 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.

SAT., MAY 23: OPEN DAYS AT PECKERWOOD GARDENS, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. Tours 11am & 1pm. \$10. Details: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., MAY 23: JUST IN TIME, DRIP IRRIGATION, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events/

SAT., MAR. 28: DOCUMENTING PECKERWOOD GARDEN PLANTS BY SUE HOWARD, noon, Peckerwood Gardens, 20559 FM 359, Hempstead. Free but reservations required: info@peckerwoodgarden.org; peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

SAT., MAY 30: DESIGN STYLISH CONTAINER GARDENS FOR POOLSIDE AND PATIO, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events/

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, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Richmond. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

TUES., OCT. 13: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA QUARTERLY MEET, 7pm, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

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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

Any other formatting will result in a delay in publication. Events will not be picked up from newsletters.

-

GREEN JOBS

Name of Company

- Green Pro.

Located

in Tomball, Texas.

Type of work

-Residential lawn fertilization. No mowing or landscaping.

Schedule

- Monday thru Friday. Average work week 35-40 hours.

Experience

- None, willingness to learn.

Compensation

- Hourly wage competitive with the industry.

Advancement

- We are a fast growing company with opportunities for the right person to advance.

Work Requirements

- Perform routine maintenance to clients' lawns on a scheduled basis. Work as a team to complete lawn care fertilization to our customers' lawns. Must deliver outstanding customer service in order to maintain customer retention. A qualified candidate must also maintain a professional image throughout the day, work well on a team, and show an attention to detail.

Must be able to prove legal to work in United States.

Must have valid driver's license.

Must have reliable transportation.

We will perform a background check.

Pre-employment drug screening.

Must be able to speak and read English.

Contact-Jim@greenprotexas.com



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www.grandifloraservices.com



<http://natureswayresources.com/>

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 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

Plus. <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 04/12/15.