



June 12, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 111th 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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'JANE LONG', MEET 'KIAN'! . . . NATIVES, YES! BUT WITH CAUTION! . . . HERBS THAT LOVE OUR SUMMER HEAT

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

"Because Galveston has such diversity on this small island ... we have learned to exist closely and profit from each other for a long time."

- Izola Ethel Fedford Collins,
Island of Color - Where Juneteenth Started
(2004, AuthorHouse; www.iecollins.net/about.net)

An International Oleander Society (IOS) member's recent suggestion coincides wonderfully with Galveston's current celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Juneteenth, which commemorates the day a ship sailing into the island's harbor brought with it the news of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

IOS, which is based in Galveston, recently honored Jane Long, the Mother of Texas, by naming an oleander for her. A member's suggestion has now been made to name one of his oleander hybrids for Kian - also known as Kiamata Long - the young African American girl who came with Jane Long

to Bolivar Peninsula and shared Jane Long's historic stay during the months preceding the first successful Anglo colonization of Texas.

As frequently happens with newly-named flowers, the 'Jane Long' oleander's path through the propagation-for-retail-sales stage has been beset by some inevitable, but unavoidable, delays.

Naming a new flower and bringing it into retail trade is always a very long, time-consuming process. But it is the first step!

As you can see in the picture at above left, the 'Jane Long' oleander is a true pink with a different corona ("eyelashes") and wider leaves than the more vibrant pink flower proposed as the 'Kian' oleander (second from left above).

A still-young 'Jane Long' oleander plant is thriving nicely in the [IOS Oleander Garden](#) (2624 Sealy in Galveston, behind Moody Mansion). The garden itself is gorgeous now. It's open free during the day.

Although Kian later married and had a family of her own, she remained close to Jane Long for their entire lives. Kian was a co-supporter of Jane's vital work with Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, William Barrett Travis, Mirabeau B. Lamar and many other Texas heroes. Together they saved many valuable historic papers when Santa Anna's army forced many residents to flee the Brazoria area. Jane chose to take the historic files back to Bolivar Peninsula until it was safe to return.

Jane and Kian's stay on Bolivar Peninsula is recorded on a [Jane Long Pavilion](#) monument, near the entrance to historic [Fort Travis](#), a short distance from the Bolivar Ferry Landing on the recently-designated Jane Long Highway (Hwy. 87), site of the [Oct. 10 2015 Jane Long Festival](#).

Galveston County's [150th Juneteenth Celebration](#) is now underway. (Click link for event schedule.)

Of special interest to gardeners will be the Sat., June 13 Juneteenth Family Day at historic [Stringfellow Orchards in Hitchcock](#). An internationally-recognized horticulturist, Henry Martyn Stringfellow (1839-1912) is credited with starting the Gulf Coast's citrus industry with his plantings of Satsuma oranges.

A Stringfellow treatise published in 1890 included then-innovative organic gardening techniques soon adopted by Japanese, German and many American fruit and vegetable gardeners.

POTPOURRI

* HELP IS AVAILABLE TO START POLLINATOR GARDENS: The American Horticultural Society and dozens of other gardening/conservation groups have formed the National Pollinator Garden Network (NPGN) to launch a "Million Pollinator Garden Challenge" in response to [President Barack Obama's call to action to reverse the decline of a wide variety of pollinating insects](#). NPGN's goal is to help school, churches, communities, etc., create one million pollinator gardens over the next two years. Details: www.millionpollinatorgardens.org.

* DON'T FORGET . . .

. . . the [Houston Zoo's June 20-21 Pollinator Days](#). June 15-21 is National Pollinator Week.

. . . if you need to replace flood-murdered plants, or just want more great ones, the [Mercer Botanic Gardens' big Summer Color Plant Sale](#) is Sat., June 13, open to public at 10:15am.

* AH, NEIL...YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL SO OLD! [Neil Sperry's Gardens magazine](#), a fixture in Texas horticulture for over 3 decades, has stopped its print editions. July/August will be available only online. Only subscribers get into the special "gated" part.

Sorry, but I love the feel of slick paper and gorgeous flowers that literally leap off the page. I love having the magazine to flip through while Husband watches TV.

I'll miss the expertise of favorite writers/photographers like Bill Adams, Diane Morey Sitton, Greg Grant and Neil's other regulars. I understand the \$\$\$ of it. But, Neil, I spend entirely too much time on the computer as it is! And that's the truth!

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* LOOKING FOR A GREAT FIELD TRIP? If you have a group interested in fascinating gardening-related outings, I can't recommend any more highly than the tour of Nature's Way Resources. Check out the [Houston Urban Gardeners \(HUG\) report on this tour](#).

* **WINNING TOMATO VARIETIES** in [The Arbor Gate](#)'s annual Tomato Contest included: Prettiest single tomato: 'Mortgage Lifter' (entered by Poly Cline); Best Tasting Small: 'Sweet Chelsea' (Katherine Kelton); Best Tasting Large: 'Big Boy' (Shirley Frey); Largest by Weight: 'Mortgage Lifter' - 1lb 11.3oz! (Poly Cline) and Most Uniform Sample: 'Cherokee Purple' (Poly Cline).

* **MEA CULPA, LA IRISES!** Reader Mary J took me to task (very nicely, of course!) for not including Louisiana irises (pictured at left, below) in [my column on "Submergible list of plants" \(easily survive our floods\)](#). I might add they also easily survive our intensive droughts and, possessing these two delightful attributes, can be planted right at ground level here.



Left, Louisiana Iris are ideal for lazy Houston area gardeners! Center: St. Theresa Catholic School gardeners, staffers and volunteers Right, David Crockett Middle School student gardeners, staffers and volunteers.

TIP O' THE TROWEL TO . . .

. . . **ST. THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL GARDENERS**, above, who received a \$500 award from The Great Grow at the Sugar Land Farmers Market at Imperial Great Grow Event. Assisting at the event were David Crockett Middle School students who plan to enter next year's competition. Details: www.TheGreatGrow.com

. . . **HOUSTONIA MAGAZINE** for the great article on the revival of front porches in the current issue. Gardening and front porches just seem to go hand-in-hand, but so few of us have one these days. *Porch Song* - a fun read on real paper. www.houstoniamag.com.

* TRIED & FAILED TO GROW HERBS IN SUMMER HERE?

Not all these treasured plants can take our intense sun and droughts (well, our usual droughts). November is our main herb planting time and most are harvested through winter and spring.

However! Many herbs do thrive here despite high temperatures. Key to success: the right varieties. [Mercer Botanic Gardens' big Summer Color Plant Sale](#) mentioned above will include a selection of herbs such as basil, thyme, scented geraniums, and some curry plant mixed in with hanging baskets

In today's Spotlight below, Jeanie Dunnihoo of the [Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit](#) and a [Harris County Master Gardener](#) gives great recommendations. And, at the end, are Harris County Master Gardener herb classes for our unique subtropical pocket.

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. For a free page of this month's TO-DO list, email Brenda at lazygardener@sbglobal.net

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Great summer herbs for this area: l to r Mexican oregano and garlic chives. No space? Group the basil, right.



GOOD SUMMER HERBS FOR THE HOUSTON-AREA REGION

BY Jeanie Dunnihoo

[Harris County Master Gardener](#) and
[Herb Society of America South Texas Unit](#) member

Summer is a great time to dot your landscape with herbs. Our warm tropical climate enables us to plant herbs like basil, garlic chives, oregano, rosemary, several types of mints, lemon herbs and even some large tropical herbs like Hoja santa, also known as the root beer plant and our famous "Texas tarragon" Mexican mint marigold.

Most of these herbs have multiple uses:

- * Good to eat or for brewing refreshing teas
- * Provide shelter for native reptiles
- * attract beneficial insects to protect other plants

* **BASILS:** Now that temperatures are above 60 at night, all basil do well. Italian favorites, Genovese green and sweet green basil, are often called regular basil. Purple ruffles or dark opal basil and Thai basil Siam Queen offer spots of color in sunny beds. All add a spicy note to food and especially homemade vinegars.

Clip these culinary beauties regularly to prevent flowering (causes early death). I plant several groups of all basil, leaving some for bees to enjoy.

* **GARLIC CHIVES** (*Allium tuberosum*) add a mild taste of garlic to dishes and provide pretty star shaped flowers for bees all summer.

* **OREGANO.** The three I like most are Hill Hardy (*Origanum x marjoricum*), Greek Oregano, and the Mexican plant (*Poliomintha longiflora*) which is not a true oregano but is often used interchangeably. This "Mexican" oregano's purple flowers attract bees and other beneficials.

* **ROSEMARY.** My favorites are Gorizia, Spice Island, Tuscan blue and Arp. These upright plants have a less piney taste but all rosemaries are edible. For a twisted prostrate type, Huntington Blue is pretty. Give rosemary water but rapid drainage. Avoid watering rosemary from overhead with the lawn sprinkler.

* **MINTS** are at their peak in early summer then usually bloom in July. Blooms are a favorite of bees. But if you choose to harvest mint for drying it has the best flavor just before blooming. Frequent trimming and water keeps mint happy. Mint will want to take over a garden. Best to grow it in very large round pots to keep different varieties separated. Favorite mints include red stem apple mint (*Mentha x gracilis*) which contains both peppermint and spearmint oils, spearmint (*Mentha.spicata*) and peppermint (*menthe.piperita*).

* **LEMON HERBS.** Lemon grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*), lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*), and the

"queen" of lemon scents, lemon verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) all grow well in our hot summer. Give lemon balm some shade for better flavor.

* MEXICAN MINT MARIGOLD (*Tagetes lucida*) is grown for it's sweet yellow flowers that the bees love and it's similar taste to tarragon.

Give herbs good soil and adequate drainage and they will reward you with their special qualities!

Contact Jeanie Dunnihoo at rłowicki@comcast.net



Great for our summers, l to r: 'Tuscan Blue' rosemary, Mexican mint marigold and spearmint.

* * *

LAZY GARDENING P.S.: Mexican mint marigold is great for beds dogs like to invade. It can stand extreme pruning (translation: stomped to ground) and emits a wonderful fragrance when lightly pruned (translation: dog breaks off branches).

LEARN MORE ABOUT GROWING HERBS at these upcoming Harris County Master Gardener classes. All four are free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf> or 281-855-5600.

* TUES., JUNE 16: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale.

* THURS., JUNE 18: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane.

* SAT, JUNE 20: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy.

* TUES., JUNE 23: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND GROWING & USING HERBS WORKSHOP, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive.

JOHN'S CORNER

GARDENING Q&A

QUESTION:



My name is LaShonda Potter. I had a few questions in regards to rubber mats or rubber mulching. My 18 month old son received 1st degree burns yesterday from standing on a rubber hump looking thing at the park yesterday. I was wanting to know if any testing is done as to how hot these things get? In the sun/shade?

My son was playing at the splash park with his siblings and decided to go to the slide where the rubber mat was located. He couldn't get off of it and I couldn't get to him fast enough to keep him from burning his feet. I didn't realize how hot it was until I put my own bare foot on it. Are they tested for safety at all? All the mat companies have told me is "of course anything left in the sun will heat up" but to what extent of heat up are they talking about?! We're there warning signs or warning labels put on these things? Are they required to have labels? As a mom of 4 and this being my youngest I never expected this to happen. It has NEVER happened to any of my other barefooted babies.

ANSWER:

LaShonda, You have very valid concerns. I suspect very little to zero testing is done.

Several issues come to mind that makes testing difficult as they vary greatly:

- 1) From physics we know that dark color objects will absorb more of the energy in sunlight than a light colored object, hence it gets much hotter. That is why on two cars parked side by side and in the sun for a couple hours, where one is white and the other is black, you can put your hand on the white one without problems however if you touch the black one it can burn you.
- 2) Sunlight is more intense in the South than in Northern states hence objects in the sun get much hotter.
- 3) Rubber is a relatively dense product thus it has the ability to hold a lot of heat energy and become very hot. Due to its density it can transfer a lot of heat energy very quickly to our skin causing burns. The longer the rubber object sits in the sun the more energy it absorbs and the hotter it becomes. Once a certain point is reached materials become so hot that they cannot absorb any more energy and they start radiating it off as heat energy.
- 4) An object placed on black asphalt parking will absorb more heat quicker than an object on white concrete and far more than on bare ground or grass. There is additional heat and reflected sunlight, hence these type factors affect how hot an object will get.
- 5) Other factors are is there enough wind to help remove heat energy from an object and disperse it. Also if the object has been painted, the color of the paint will affect how hot it will become.
- 6) The angle of the sun due to the season is another factor. Like now (June) when the sun is almost directly overhead at noon, the sunlight is most intense, hence objects become hotter and much quicker. In December when the sun is at a lower angle in the sky, there is a lot more atmosphere to pass through which absorbs some of the energy hence less energy reaches the object and it does not become as hot.

As a result of the above factors, a product that works fine in Chicago or New York where it may have been tested, may become too hot in Texas.

Your e-mail mentioned rubber mulching. Rubber mulch share the above and is very toxic and generally bad for the environment. In our gardening newsletter I talked about rubber mulch last year which I reprinted for you below.

I also attached a handout I did after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans where vendors selling rubber mulches were claiming termite infested mulch was being shipped from New Orleans to Houston (false claim) and gardeners needed to purchase rubber tire mulch to protect themselves.

MULCH CORNER - Other Inorganic Mulches- Rubber Tire

Crushed Tires (loose tire chips) -
 Rating: Extremely Poor quality
 Application: Apply 3-6" deep

Pros: Tested in agriculture, decomposes very slowly, reduced weed growth of 86% in field tests when compared to unmulched soil. Available in several colors.

Cons: Limited availability and very expensive, increases heat index (gets so hot it can burn plants), can cause extremes of wet and dry conditions, some studies show possible higher disease problems, USDA tests show excessive leaching of Zinc causing severe phytotoxicity in acid soils and will contaminate soils with other tire components. Other tests around the world have confirmed USDA research and have shown that as little as 5% ground tire rubber in potting media is toxic to petunias and Impatiens ["Communications in Soil Science and Plant Analysis, 27 (13 & 14), 1996]. Tests at Colorado State University found that growth of geraniums grown in media with tire chips were lower than with traditional media [HortScience 32(4):674-676, 1997]. Additional research at Iowa State and Mississippi State has also found decreased growth and other problems when used in a potting mix with Geraniums and Poinsettia plants [HortScience, Vol 32(5), August 1997]. Some of the dyes used to color tire chips may be toxic. Several reports of spontaneous combustion when applied too thickly. Often sinks into the soil due to its higher density when compared to organic mulches. Note: Works best on poor, unhealthy alkaline soil. Can cause permanent damage to your soil.

Try to avoid, for very special cases only.

Crushed Tires (pressed and glued tire chips) - Several gardening magazines are advertizing weed block mats made from old tire chips. These are mulch mats made from tire chips that have been glued together by heating or by use of a chemical binder. The chips are pressed into 1-2" thick mats and cut into a variety of shapes and sizes such as circles to place around shrubs and trees. These mats are laid down as a mulch and weed block. They are advertised as allowing air and water to pass through the mat but prevent weeds from penetrating. The black color of the tire chips will increase the heat index and the tire chip mats will most likely suffer from the problems of plastic mulches. Also the same type of chemical leaching and phytotoxic effects are to be expected as from chipped tires since they are made from the same feedstock material.

I hope all this helps, John

For more information on rubber mulch visit <http://www.natureswayresources.com/DocsPdfs/RubberMulch.pdf>

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
Not using our format will result in a delay in publication.
Events will not be picked up from newsletters.

SAT., JUNE 13: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Details: theplumeriasociety.org

SAT., JUNE 13: PREMIER SHARPENING - TOOL SHARPENING, 2pm-5pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., JUNE 13: TOP BAR BEEKEEPING, 9-11am, University of St. Thomas, Welder Hall, Room 115, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest class. Details: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org.

SAT., JUNE 13: SUMMER COLOR PLANT SALE, 10:15am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Details: 281-443-8731; <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>

SAT., JUNE 13: HEALTHY GREEN SUMMER LAWNS, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.comeliusnurseries.com/events/

MON., JUNE 15: OPEN GARDEN DAY WITH HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS AT PRECINCT 2 & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa-Red Bluff Rd. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>

WED., JUNE 15: WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION BY ANDREW SIPOCZ, 10am, Clear Lake Park meeting room, 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>

TUES., JUNE 16: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf>, 281-855-5600

WED., JUNE 17: FUN GARDEN STEPPING STONES (children), 9am-12:30pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com, 281-351-8851

THURS., JUNE 18: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf>, 281-855-5600

THURS., JUN. 18: FORAGING TEXAS BY Dr. MARK VORDERBRUGGEN. 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., JUNE 20: BUILDING HEALTHY SOILS BY JOHN FERGUSON, Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Dr., Humble. Details: 281-446-8588; Teri MacArthur, Montgomery County Master Naturalist Program, tmacarthur@hcp4.net, www.hcp4.net/jones

SAT, JUNE 20: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf>, 281-855-5600

SAT., JUNE 20: HEAT-THRIVING AND COLORFUL PLANTS, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.comeliusnurseries.com/events

SAT., JUNE 20: EDIBLE WILD PLANTS BY DR. MARK VORDERBRUGGEN, 9am-1pm, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501

Woodway Dr. \$65. Details: 713-681-8433; www.houstonarboretum.org

TUES., JUNE 23: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND GROWING & USING HERBS WORKSHOP, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf>, 281-855-5600

WED., JUNE 24: PHOTOSYNTHESIS: FROM SEA TO SHINING SUCCULENT BY ELLEN STRUPP, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society, <http://www.hcsstex.org/> Wallace Ward wtw3arb@aol.com

SAT., JUNE 30: LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION, 9am - 11:30am. \$30 members. \$45 non-members. University of St. Thomas, Welder Hall, Room 115, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. Urban Harvest event. Details: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org

SAT., JUNE 30: EDIBLE WILD PLANTS BY DR. MARK VORDERBRUGGEN, 9am-1pm, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr. \$65. Details: 713-681-8433; www.houstonarboretum.org

WED., JULY 8: MONARCHS & MILKWEEDS, noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Details: 281-443-8731; <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>

THURS., JULY 9: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

SAT., JULY 11: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS ANNUAL MEETING. 9:30am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Details: 281-443-8731; <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>

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

MON., JULY 14-16: MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMPS BEGIN. Details: 281-443-8731; <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>.

THURS., JUL 16: ARTIST BOAT: THE PRESERVATION OF COASTAL MARGINS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ART BY KARLA KLAY. 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/

THURS., JULY 16: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

FRI., JULY 17: WHIMSICAL WIND ART (children), 9am-12:30pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT, JULY 18: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

TUES., JULY 21: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

SAT., JULY 25: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Richmond. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

SAT., JULY 25: URBAN HARVEST'S FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS, 9am-11:30am. \$45. Location TBA. Details: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org.

TUES., JULY 28: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-open-garden-days.pdf> 281-855-5600

TUES., AUG 4: ALL ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS (children), 9am-12:30pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

TUES., AUG. 11: SOIL FOOD WEB - LATEST ADVANCES IN SOIL BIOLOGY BY ELAINE INGHAM, Ph.D., 8am-4pm, Museum of Natural Science, 1 Hermann Circle. Organic Horticultural Benefit Alliance (OHBA) event. Fee, Register at: www.ohbaonline.org

THURS., AUG. 20: PLANTING FOR THE HOUSTON TOAD AND OTHER LOCAL AMPHIBIANS BY Dr. CASSIDY JOHNSON. 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/

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

THURS., SEPT. 17: PREVIEW OF UPCOMING WILDSCAPES WORKSHOP PLANT SALE BY JOE BLANTON. 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., OCT. 24: ROSEAPALOOZA, 10am educational program. Afternoon Rose Show. Bear Creek. Houston Rose Society Event. Details: www.houstonrose.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!***
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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

Not using our format 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 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.



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