



SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 124th 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. (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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DOUBLE CELEBRATION . . . COUNTING MONARCHS HEADING TO MEXICO . . . NO MONEY PLANT SWAPS

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Happy Fall Equinox! Wednesday, Sept. 23, is officially the day our nights and days are the exact same length (equinox is from Latin for "equal night"). Ancients celebrated the abundance of a harvest, believed it was a good time to hold protection rituals, to visit and decorate graves, to give thanks for abundant sunlight and prepare oneself for the coming darkness as days get shorter and nights longer.

We can double our celebration fun - the Fall Equinox also marks the season when monarch butterflies begin their up-to-3,000-mile trek to Michoacan where they roost (*photo at left above*) in ancient trees for the winter. Thanks to the Cockrell Butterfly Center, I got to see [this incredible site](#), where tree limbs literally break under the weight of these incredible jewels of nature.

The main migration route is through the center of Texas and usually peaks in late October and early November.

We're on the eastern edge of this "path" and do get our share of these winged jewels of nature.

I remember decades ago passing the Crystal Motel on Bolivar Peninsula. Such a cloud of "something" hovered over the field ferry-side of the motel, I thought it was on fire. Turned out it was billions and billions of monarchs. The field was covered with blooming passionvine. I've never seen anything like it since.

The beautiful photos below were taken by Don Dubois, a nature renaissance man if ever there were one, in his backyard. The good news is that [MonarchWatch](#) is predicting a better-than-last-year migration this year (thanks to the weather). This will translate into a larger than usual population wintering over in Mexico,



*Left to right, monarch tagging, roosting and enjoying *Chromolaena odorata* (mistflower). Don Dubois photos*

Keeping track of monarchs, even on our eastern edge, is important, especially in light of the recent noticeable population declines. [Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas \(BEST\)](#) conduct regular "counts" and more volunteers are always needed. It's a fun outing with great people, good exercise and a perfect family project.

Five butterfly counts are coming up Sat., Oct. 3: Baytown; Sun., Oct. 4: Brazos Bend; Sat., Oct. 10: Katy Prairie; Sun., Oct. 18: Trinity, and Sun., Oct. 25: Magnolia. If you're interested in any of these, click on the BEST link above. Hopefully our wildflowers will again reach the magnitude that a count will be scheduled on Bolivar again. You can hear Don DuBois speak at [BEST's](#) Oct. 6 meeting, 7pm, Cockrell Butterfly Center's lower floor, Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS), 5555 Hermann Park Dr.

For great habitat-building advice and the best butterfly-attracting plants for this area, especially natives, drop by the Cockrell's fall plant sale, Sat., Sept. 26, 9am-noon on HMNS' 7th floor. Parking is free with \$30 purchase. www.hmns.org/butterflycenter

Before we move on to another great idea . . .

TIP O' THE TROWEL TO THE WILDSCAPES WORKSHOP folks who, this past weekend, put on one of the most ecology-encouraging programs I've attended in decades. Environmental attorney/educator/author Jim Blackburn and Jaime González of Katy Prairie Conservancy incorporated local and statewide ecology-oriented efforts to a global view and, even better, put an understandable perspective on the now-profitable aspects that are a must if threats to natural resources can be brought under control. Jim comes as close to a modern Will Rogers as I've ever personally seen. Thank heavens he's a friend of Nature. Also sharing the podium and their expertise were Joe Blanton, Valerie Bugh and Don DuBois.

Among buzzwords that eventually will impact us all (but most especially our children and grandchildren include [LEED certification](#), [Sustainable Sites Initiative](#), and [Living Building Challenge](#). The future will see all of us forced to fit more into Nature, rather than always re-fitting Nature to our needs. Might as well start kiddos on the right mindset now.

Have you started a habitat garden - or just planting for butterflies, hummingbirds and other birds? Certifications will help spread the word to neighbors: [Monarch Way Station](#), [Certified Butterfly Garden](#), [Texas Wildscapes](#), and [Certified Wildlife Habitat](#), to name just a few. You may already qualify for more than you realize, and what a mark of distinction for your children to show off at school!

So, my kudos to the [Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter](#), [Texas Parks & Wildlife](#) and [the Houston Zoo](#) for an incredibly fun, educational day.

NO-MONEY WAY TO EXPAND/CONTROL GARDEN WITH SUPER-HARDY PLANTS

Last week the [League City Garden Club](#) gave some great tips on planning a neighborhood garden tour - a great way to learn more about plants that do extremely well in your area.

Another option to pullulate your Gulf Coast-hardy landscape choices is a Plant Swap. No money changes hands - just a lot of wonderful flowers with very personal growing advice. You know the plants do well in your area. Otherwise your neighbors wouldn't have so many to share.

And they know YOU know where to find them if they try to share plants that can cause problems!

On Sat., Oct. 10, the [Greater Houston/Gulf Coast Area Plant Swap \(aka Plantmeet\)](#) will be held at [Mercer Botanic Garden](#), 22306 Aldine-Westfield. I'm giving you lots of advance notice in case you'd like to:

1. participate
2. plan your own neighborhood Swap. It's not too early to start planning. October is a perfect month.

Jennifer Wolford of the Plant Swap at Mercer explains her group came together through various internet plant exchanges. They meet at Mercer Pavilion every spring and fall, swap plants and seeds and have a great time. Nothing is sold.

But they do ask that you stop by their website www.plantmeet.com and register so you can RSVP, check out the food list, door prize and pre-trade lists. They can also be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/275739659105952/>.

If you've never been to a plant swap, Jennifer offers some tips to help you make the most of their plant swap if this will be your first experience:

* When you first arrive, look for hosts who will give you an overview and will let you park close by to unload your plants. (Mercer's tables fill up quickly; good idea to bring your own and a chair!)

* Check in at the Sign Up Table. This group gives away prizes and participants are encouraged to donate items as well. A potluck table holds donated food and drinks. Be sure you grab a name tag.

* Walk around, Jennifer advises, meet people, check out everyone else's plants and then start trading! Too shy? Hang around your table, people will stop and visit. Tell them it's your first swap and they will probably take you right under their wing.

The PlantMeet folks have learned from a lot of experience how to make things go smoothly. If you're trying to start a Plant Swap for the very first time, here are a few more tips from a variety of interviews I've done over the years:

* Start small. Specific swaps among gardeners who share a focused interest, like pond plants, or local neighborhood swaps are sometimes easier than broader-based swaps.

* Or, limit your first attempts to a single neighborhood, school, church or organization. You can always branch out as you become more experienced.

* Give yourself plenty of time to plan the swap. The better you plan every aspect, the fewer headaches you'll have on Swap Day. One idea: set up a Plant Swap on a Neighbors' Night Out.

* Visit other swaps. Check www.gardenweb.com to see what plant swaps are already scheduled in your area. (Click on Garden Exchange, then on Texas Garden Exchange.) In particular, ask the planners what kind of unexpected problems developed, and how did they deal with them?

* Look for a free site. Most parks are free and have picnic tables. Church yards and gardening-related businesses' parking lots are other options.

* A plant swap is only as good as its publicity. Make fliers to distribute at nurseries and local garden clubs. (Be sure to send to me at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net for our calendar below)

Don't overlook neighborhood newspapers and gardening radio shows. Unless you like to spend hours on the phone, use an e-mail address, not a phone number, in your publicity.

* Decide if you want to allow/invite non-swappers to stop by and look. They may end up taking home leftover plants that haven't been exchanged. But after that, they're expected to bring something to swap.

* One route is to limit the first couple of hours to those who register early. Then open it up to the public. But make sure you emphasize that no money will change hands.

* Just be sure that all your publicity flyers, if you use these, very clearly specify all the rules and times. But try hard to keep the rules as simple as possible.

* Inviting a Master Gardener or other plant expert to answer questions and help identify unknown plants is one way to draw in more swappers.

* Ask swapping participants to bring their own chairs, tables, notepads or sticky notes, pencils, tape and wagons (for scouting other tables). Swaps are for sharing information as well as plants.

* If possible, display flowers from swap plants in a vase.

* Name tags are nice but not essential. At some swaps, organizers post sign-up sheets for future notifications or plant requests.

- * Urge participants to identify plants if possible. Put seeds in labeled envelopes. Stress cleanliness is important.
- * Water potted plants ahead of time so there's no mess (and they're lighter to haul).
- * Wrap cuttings, with at least two nodes, in moist (not wet) paper towels; seal in zippered plastic bags.
- * Clean (as much as possible) and dry bulbs, corms and rhizomes and put in labeled plastic bags.
- * Some swaps post etiquette rules at the entry to avoid touchy situations. For example, only plants atop a table may be for trade; those under the table are off limits.
- * Some groups allow garden-related items, sculptures, crafts or books to swap - but selling is strictly prohibited. Some groups also discouraged from bringing pets or small children. Some of the plants might be poisonous.
- * Post signs that say **"Ask before taking any plants off tables."** This suggestion will help with the biggest problem first-time swappers usually have: visitors who really don't understand swaps. They think they can just walk up to a table and take whatever they want.
- * More experienced swappers often have a big poster board at the entry clearly stating all the rules, with **"PLEASE READ BEFORE ENTERING"** on the top. Make it clear that some gardeners will be willing to give away plants with nothing swapped in exchange, but they must ASK FIRST.
- * Or, a special table could be set up on the side with a big sign that says: **FREE PLANTS, HELP YOURSELF.**

What kinds of problems have you encountered at Plant Swaps and how did you solve them? Do share at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

Please help me honor the MOTHER OF TEXAS by sharing this information on your Facebook, etc., page! The 6th Annual Jane Long Festival, will be Sat., Oct. 10, at historic Fort Travis on Bolivar Peninsula, Jane Long Highway (87) near the Bolivar Ferry Landing. Free - 10am-4pm. Want to know more about Jane? www.janelongfestival.org or www.facebook.com/janelongfestival. Or, for a complete Jane Long Festival kit, email: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net



JOHN'S CORNER

Tip Of The Week

I was listening to Randy Lemon on Garden line radio show this past Saturday morning and a caller wanted to know, "When is the best time to apply compost?" Of course Randy gave him the correct answer which is ANYTIME!

Compost does not start working until one gets it in your grass, on your soil or in your flowerbed.

To illustrate this point, we received a testimonial this week courtesy of a homeowner in the Dallas area. The grass was looking pretty bad.



The homeowner obtained some of our leaf mold compost when visiting a friend in Houston and applied it. The next photo was taken 3 weeks after application. Based on the date of the e-mail the compost was applied during the drought and heat of August!



This is the reason a good compost is called "Black Gold" by experienced gardeners.

* * *

WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

TO SUBMIT EVENTS - PLEASE - USE OUR FORMAT!

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 other newsletters.

If we inspire you to attend any of these events, please let them know you heard about it in

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!

WED., SEPT 23: TREES FOR ANY LANDSCAPE, noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

WED., SEPT. 23: MERCER ARBORETUM SEED CONSERVATION BANK BY ANITA TILLER, 7:30pm, Community Center, Moody Park, 3725 Fulton. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. hcsstex.org/

THUR., SEPT 24: BASIC ORGANIC GARDEN - IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SOIL, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., SEPT. 26: AUTUMN PLANT SALE & MARKET, 10am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. The Mercer Society and Mercer Botanic Garden event. 713-274-4160; hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer

SAT., SEPT. 26: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., SEPT. 26: GARDEN TO TABLE. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., SEPT 26: FALL INTO SPRING - CONNECT THE SEASONS WITH COLOR, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., SEPT 26: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL PLANT SALE; OVERVIEW AT 8 AM, SALE FROM 9 AM-1 PM, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx; 281-855-5600

SAT., SEPT. 26: FALL CENTERPIECES FROM THE GARDEN BY JEFF KRAUSE. 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449; and at Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. 281-341-1206. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., SEPT. 26 COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science Parking Garage/7th floor, 5555 Hermann Dr. Free parking with \$30+ purchase. hmns.org

SAT., SEPT. 26: ORCHIDS FOR BEGINNERS BY ERICA PAQUIN, 10-11am. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th. Pay for supplies used. buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

SAT., SEPT. 26: FALL FESTIVAL AND PLANT SALE. Treeseach Farms and Brookwood Community Plants. 10am to 5pm. Houston Museum Natural Science at Sugar Land. 13016 Uiveristy Blvd, Sugar Land. Free. The Great Grow, Inc. TheGreatGrow.com

SAT.-SUN., SEPT. 26-27: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW/SALE. 9am-5pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. hcsstex.org

SUN., SEPT. 27: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE - CLASS 1. 2-6pm, I-610/Stella Link area residence. \$40. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SUN., SEPT 27: GRAFTING 101, 11:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SUN., SEPT. 27: VEG OUT - FALL GARDENING WITH DIANNE NORMAN, 2-3:30pm, Wabash Feed & Garden, 57-1 Washington Ave. Free. 713-863-8322, wabashfeed.com

THUR., OCT 1: ATTRACTING BLUEBIRDS TO THE GARDEN, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

THURS., OCT. 1: ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM & VERSATILITY OF ANTIQUE ROSES IN GARDEN SETTINGS BY MICHAEL SHOUP, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Drive, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. nottinghamgardenclub.org or 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT 3: COOL SEASON COLOR by T. Polk, 9-11am, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe. Free. 936-321-6990; natureswayresources.com

SAT., OCT. 3: ART OF FALL LANDSCAPE DECORATING, 10:15am, AND FAMILY DAY! FALL FESTIVAL, 9am-6pm, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Road; free. corneliusnurseries.com/events

SAT., OCT. 3: CONTAINER VEGETABLE GARDENING. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 3: FALL FESTIVAL WITH URBAN HARVEST, 10-11am. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th Street, free, www.buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

SAT., OCT. 3: GARDENING FOR JEWELS ... HUMMINGBIRDS BY DEBORAH REPASZ, 9-11am; TEXAS TUFF LANDSCAPE PLANTS - BLOOMING & BEAUTIFUL BY SANDRA DEVAL, 1-3pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. 281-534-3413; galv3@wt.net; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SUN., OCT. 3-4: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, 10am-3pm, Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Karla Ross, 281-748-8417; kjwross@yahoo.com

SUN., OCT. 4: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE - CLASS 2. 12:30-5:30pm. University of Houston Central Campus. \$50. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

TUES., OCT. 6: THE ABC'S OF COMPOSTING BY KEN STEBLEIN, 6:30-8pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. 281-534-3413; galv3@wt.net; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

THUR., OCT 8: HERBS - THE BASICS & MORE, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com; 281-

351-8851

THURS, OCT 8: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THUR. OCT. 8: COMPOST TEA - NATURE'S ELIXIR BY JOHN FERGUSON. 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Center, Hermann Park. Houstonrose.org

FRI., OCT. 9: 12th ANNUAL WATER QUALITY SYMPOSIUM FEATURING CHAD PREGRAKKE, 7:30am-3pm, United Way Community Resource Center, 50 Waugh. Bayou Preservation Association event. bayoupreservation.org

FRI., OCT. 9: WATER FOR TEXAS, WATER FOR THE FUTURE BY KATHLEEN JACKSON, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardencubs.org

SAT., OCT. 10: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL SALE, 8am-Preview; 9am-1pm Sale, Wayne Johnson Community Center in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston.

SAT., OCT. 10: CONSTRUCTING THE HOME VEGETABLE AND FRUIT GARDEN. 9-11am. Westbury Community Garden, 12581 Dunlap. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 10: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT 10: HERBS - THE BASICS & MORE, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 10: ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN WITH KATHY ADAMS CLARK. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449, and at 2pm. Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. 281-341-1206, myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 10: FALL BULB WORKSHOP BY DIANE BULANOWSKI. 10-11am. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th. Pay for supplies used. buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 10-11: 38TH ANNUAL CHAPPELL HILL SCARECROW FESTIVAL, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-5pm. Festival free, \$5 parking. chappellhillmuseum.org/scarecrow.html; 979-203-1242 or email chappellhillfestivals@gmail.com

SUN., OCT. 11: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS THROUGH PERMACULTURE. 6-classes. University of Houston Central Campus. \$404. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

WED., OCT 14: HERBAL BEVERAGES, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

WED., OCT. 14: BEYOND CURB APPEAL - THE RESTORATIVE EFFECT OF NATURE by David Renninger. Noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

WED., OCT. 14: AUTUMN GARDENING TIPS BY DEBBIE BANFIELD, 1pm, Dennis Johnson Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Rd., Spring. Free. 281-350-1029 or visit hcp4.net/community/ccommunitycenters.

THURS., OCT. 15: PECKERWOOD GARDEN TAKING ROOT LUNCHEON WITH MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH, 11:30am-1pm, Bayou Club, Houston. \$150. Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation event. Reservations: squareup.com/market/peckerwood-garden-conservation-foundation

THUR.-SUN., OCT. 15-18: MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM & OCT. 15: BASICS OF COMPOSTING BY JOHN FERGUSON, 5:40pm, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. Steve Stelzer, 832-394-9050, steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov

THURS., OCT 15; PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

FRI., OCT. 16: TEXAS POLLINATORS GARDEN SYMPOSIUM with FELDER RUSHING: 8am-5pm, Veteran's Conference Center, 455 Hwy 75, Huntsville. \$75. Walker County Master Gardeners event. walkercountymastergardeners.org; 936-435-2426

SAT., OCT. 17: MOONLIGHT OVER MERCER GALA / BRENDA BEUST SMITH HONOREE, 5 pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$75. The Mercer Society event. 713-274-7160; msociety@hcp4.net; themerchersociety.org/2013/07/garden-party-2015/

SAT. OCT 17: WALKER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL AND FALL PLANT SALE. Free. walkercountymastergardeners.org 936-435-2426

SAT., OCT 17: ORGANIC VEGETABLES BY THE GUNTER SISTERS, 9am-12pm, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe, free, 936-321-6990, natureswayresources.com

SAT., OCT. 17: THE EDIBLE LANDSCAPE. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT, OCT 17; PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen, Katy. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT 17: GARDENING IN THE HELL STRIP, 10am, and TOUGH AS NAILS, PRETTY AS A PICTURE, 2pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 17: PUMPKIN PALOOZA. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond, and at 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. 281-341-1206 or myenchanted.com

SAT. OCT 17: WALKER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL AND FALL PLANT SALE. Free. walkercountymastergardeners.org, 936-435-2426

SAT., OCT 17: "TOUGH AS NAILS, PRETTY AS A PICTURE" BY FELDER RUSHING, 2:00 pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com; 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 17: MOONLIGHT OVER MERCER: DINE DANCE AND DONATE. 5pm. Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Reservations: msociety@hcp4.net; 713-274-4160.

SAT., OCT. 17: BURIED TREASURES ... BULBS & OTHER PERENNIALS FOR GULF COAST LANDSCAPES BY ANNA WYGRYS. 9-11am, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; galv3@wt.net; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., OCT. 17: PLANT TEXAS NATIVES! 1pm. Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Dr. Humble. 281-446-8588

SUN., OCT 18: BEE FORUM BY ANGELA CHANDLER & MATT & KELLY BRANTLEY, 11am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com; 281-351-8851

MON., OCT. 19: GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN OPEN GARDEN DAY and PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners event. hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., OCT 20: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., OCT. 20: THE JOY OF DAYLILIES BY NELL SHIMEK. 6:30-8pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; galv3@wt.net; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

WED., OCT. 21: BACKYARD COMPOSTING AND VERMICULTURE. 10am-noon. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. Details: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

WED., OCT. 21: NATIVE PLANTS BY MARK BOWEN, 10am, Clear Lake Park Meeting Room, 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu

THUR. OCT. 22: SOIL FOOD WEB BY JOHN FERGUSON, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/wp/houston/; 713-254-4778

SAT., OCT. 24: PROPER GARDENING TECHNIQUES BY DENNIS MCDONALD, 9am-12pm, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe, free, 936-321-6990; natureswayresources.com

SAT., OCT. 24: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY'S ROSE-A-PALOOZA, Harris County AgriLife Extension Center, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. 10am educational programs; noon - Rose Show. \$30. houstonrose.org; suzzieq1971@gmail.com

SAT., OCT. 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. Details: www.peckerwoodgarden.org, info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT. 24: BACKYARD COMPOSTING AND VERMICULTURE. 10am-noon. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 24: MIX-UP A PARTY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond, 281-937-9449, and at 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. 281-341-1206; myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 24: GUNTER'S HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES BY PAM & LEAH GUNTER, 9am-1pm, & HERBS & WINES BY ANN WHEELER & CHRIS CROWDER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com; 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 24: GARDEN TOOL CARE PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP BY TIM JAHNIKE & HENRY HARRISON, III. 9am-noon, Galveston County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; galv3@wt.net, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., OCT. 24: RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE WATER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP, 8:30am-noon, Recreation & Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Dr., Missouri City. \$25. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Missouri City Green, City of Missouri City and Fort Bend County Master Gardener event. fortbend.agrilife.org/water-conservation/, www.missouricitygreen.org or 281-633-7029

SUN., OCT. 25: HOW TO ROOT A ROSE BY GAYE HAMMOND, 11am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com; 281-351-8851

TUES., OCT 27: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-open-garden-days.pdf; 281-855-5600

WED., OCT. 28: INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY KEWPIE GAIDO LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING. Lydia Miller, 409-770-4312: www.oleander.org

SAT., OCT. 31: HIGH DENSITY ORCHARD. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 31: FRIGHTFUL FUN IN THE GARDEN WITH CLINT THE SNAKE MAN. 10am-noon. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond, 281-937-9449 and at 2-4pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond, 281-341-1206. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 31: HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL FALL SHOW, 9am-5pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

MON., NOV. 2 & 9: GARDEN DOCENT TRAINING BY JENNIFER GARRISON, 9am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

THURS., NOV. 5: SHADE GARDENING WITH ELIZABETH BARROW. 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon

Drive, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. nottinghamgardenclub.org

SAT., NOV. 7: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., NOV. 7: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$20. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org.

WED., NOV. 11: FIRE ANTS & CRAZY ANTS BY DR. PAUL NESTER, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

WED., NOV 11: EDIBLE LANDSCAPES. 10am-2pm. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest' event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

FRI., NOV. 13: MOTHS OF TRINITY RIVER REFUGE - GOOD, BAD AND UGLY BY STUART MARCUS, 10:15 am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., NOV. 14: PRUNING/PREPARING FRUITING TREES & VINES FOR WINTER BY BILL ADAMS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com; 281-351-8851

SAT., NOV. 14: EDIBLE LANDSCAPES. 9-11am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest' event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., DEC. 5: CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, 3-7pm, The Arbor Gate, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com; 281-351-8851

SAT., DEC. 5: GROWING CITRUS IN HOUSTON, 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., DEC. 5: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 10am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th Street, free, buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

WED., DEC. 9: CHRISTMAS CRAFTS USING NATURAL PLANT MATERIALS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., DEC. 11: A WARM GARDENING WELCOME BY BARBARA BAKER, 10:15 am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Tickets required. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., DEC. 19: CHRISTMAS GARDENS BIRD COUNT, 8am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register at 713-274-4160.

FRI., JAN. 8: PERSONALIZING YOUR GARDEN FOCAL POINTS BY DARNELL SCHREIBER, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

MONDAYS., JAN. 25-FEB. 29: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER, TIER III: THE ART OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN. 9am-3pm. Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. 713-274-4160

WED., JAN. 13: TOP BAR BEEHIVES BY DEAN COOK. Noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

WED., FEB. 10: SPRING INTO YOUR LAWN - ORGANIC LAWN CARE & SPRINGTIME PREP BY BOB DAILEY. noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., FEB. 12: THE HOLISTIC GARDEN, BY DR. JOE NOVAK, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

WED. MAR. 9: MARCH MART VOLUNTEER TRAINING, 10:30-11:30am, MARCH MART PREVIEW OF SALE PLANTS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., MAR. 11: BULLET PROOF VIBURNUMS FOR THE GULF SOUTH BY DR. DAVID CREECH, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

WED. MAR. 12: MARCH MART VOLUNTEER TRAINING, 9:30-10:30am, and MARCH MART PREVIEW OF SALE PLANTS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI.-SAT., MAR. 18-19: MARCH MART, 8am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., APR. 9: XPLOING CREATIVITY BY LILLIAN RICO, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., MAY 13: NIGHT SOUNDS - TWILIGHT WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN BY DEBBIE BANFIELD, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs; houstonfederationgardenclubs.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
Not using our format will result in a delay in publication.
Events will not be picked up from newsletters.**



THE ADOPTABLE ANIMAL OF THE WEEK

Winnie is a super sweet, well socialized little black kitten that we think was most likely dumped at Nature's Way Resources. She seems to be about 6-7 weeks old and appears to be in good health. She absolutely loves being an inside cat and is already all set in terms of making it to the litter box. She would be perfect for someone that is home a good bit and/or has children. She loves to play and cuddle.

We are looking for someone to either foster or adopt her.

For more information, please contact Jill Limbaugh or Mark Bowen at (936) 321-6990.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE
POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS



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 our: 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 10/03/15.

COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 25% off our:

POMEGRANATES . (Offer good for retail purchases of this product by the cubic yard at Nature's Way Resources (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 10/03/15.