



OCTOBER 9, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 127th 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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LOOK UP! . . . PREPARE NOW FOR PLANT SALES . . . SUCCEED IN "HELL STRIP GARDENING"

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

So many great notes have come in from readers, this "Potpourri" column's a Tip o' the Trowel to all of you:

* IRA GERVAIS. Followup to the "[Avocado](#)" report last week: In the Galveston County Master Gardener's demonstration orchard, this year so far, their 6-year-old Mexicola avocado has produced 47.5 pounds of fruit, the largest harvest to date.

* NANCY KUYKENDALL's gorgeous picture (left above) of golden raintrees in full yellow color reminds all of us to look up!

So often the striking yellow blooms atop these prolific trees are as ethereal and translucent as Rackman's fairies against the bright blue autumn skies. But, always, eyes start popping when the vibrant peachy-pink seed pods begin to appear . . . as they soon will.

I've written about these often ("[My Raintree Is Blooming!](#)"). But I need to add a PS to this particular column link.

This raintree died. I was afraid it would. We planted it right over a spot where a huge oak tree had died. I should have

known better. Learn from my stupid mistake.

Tree trunks decay in unpredictable stages at unpredictable rates, depending on a multitude of conditions, most of which we can not possibly determine from above ground. These decaying processes pull more nitrogen out of the soil than others.

Subsequent stages return it to the soil. However, for the period that the nitrogen is being used, other plants may suffer from a nitrogen deficiency, and this can spell major problems for new plants trying to establish strong root systems. This is why, for example, you should never use mulch that is still even partially fresh.

The problem is, of course, we often have no way of knowing whether or not there is dead tree trunk under a particular section. Just remember, if a plant dies for no apparent reason at all, this may be a possible cause.

* JOLIE JONES wrote her neighborhood is planning a spring plant sale, and wondered which plants will do best if potted up now, which should be dug right before the sale, and which can be sold bare rooted.

Ironically, I also just got an email from Alice Hurlburt, listing plants that will be sold by the Bolivar Peninsula Garden Club in their booth at the Jane Long Festival, Sat., Oct. 10, at Fort Travis Seashore Park. (www.janelongfestival.org).

Since these all needed prep for a plant sale, they're good examples. Taking a very jejune approach to what is in reality a broad range of propagating possibilities:



*Bolivar Peninsula Garden Club members picked good share-able varieties for their plant sale booth at Saturday's [2015 Jane Long Festival](#) - I to r, giant white spider lilies (*hymenocallis*), cannas, mother-in-law's tongue, kalanchoes and morning glory tree.*

-- Giant White Spider Lilies (*hymenocallis*). These and other bulbs & bulb-like plants (*amaryllis* and other lily-like bulbs) can be dug right before the sale, washed off, dried, the greenery cut back and sold.

-- Cannas & Plain/Variiegated Mother-in-Law's Tongue (snake plant), . Dig and separate individual plants. You'll see a long thick root (rhizome/tuber) with individual plants spouting upward. Cut it up with scissors. Try to have already sprouted roots in each rhizome/tuber section. Can be planted or sold dried.

-- Kalanchoes. Like Daylilies, these multiply with closely-growing "plantlets" with roots attached at the base of each new plantlet. Dig the clump and just divide the plantlets, making sure there are roots on all the separated sections. Since you have a lot of advance time, Jolie, you can also pop off kalanchoe leaves, stick them in soil and they'll sprout roots.

It won't hurt daylilies, by the way, to stay out of soil for a while. I was once given some prize daylilies. Put them in the trunk of my car and literally forgot about them that whole blistering hot summer. When I re-discovered them in the fall, I quickly planted them. They're still blooming and that was decades ago. These can be set out dried on your sale table.

-- Gourd & Assyrian Cucumber Seed. Well-dried seeds can be laid out in a bowl, but it's helpful to put them in individual zip plastic bags labelled as to type and planting conditions needed.

-- Giant Turk's Caps . . . Pencil Plants . . . Morning Glory Bush. Plants with leaves growing up and down the branches are easily started from cuttings. You can charge more if you start them now so they have some new growth.

Everywhere a leaf comes out above ground, a root MIGHT come out below the soil.

Take cuttings with at least 5-7 leaf nodes. Treat with rooting hormone (dust or liquid). Plant some in soil, try others in water. Those you start in soil should have at least 3 nodes under the soil.

If starting early isn't possible, cut right before sale, wrap bottom of cuttings with a damped paper towel and seal (as much as possible) in a labeled zip plastic bag. Be sure to label them "fresh-cut cuttings."

Hope this helps and that both your sale, Jolie, and the Bolivar Peninsula Garden Club's Oct. 10 Jane Long Festival plant sale booth are big successes.

If you'd like to ask about preparing any other plants for sales or just to share/spread, email me at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net.

* THANKS TO ALL OF YOU who wrote to say that my [spring flowering amaryllis that rebloomed this this fall](#) is, yes, unusual but not unheard of. I feel better . . . sort of. Would have been fun to have had something really unusual. Sigh.

* Prairie Heritage Day is Sat., Nov., 7 and not November 8 as published last week.

* * *

IN OUR SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE BELOW, Gaye Hammond, one of the guest lecturers at the big upcoming [Houston Rose Society's 2015 Rose-a-Palooza](#), gives a preview of her take on a problem almost every gardener faces - spots where plants just don't want to grow.

Gaye, a national rose lecturer and repeat LG&F Spotlight contributor, is a Past President of the Houston Rose Society and actively involved at this time in Rose Trials at the American Rose Center in Shreveport as well as here in Houston and other in-state "Earth-Kind" test sites.

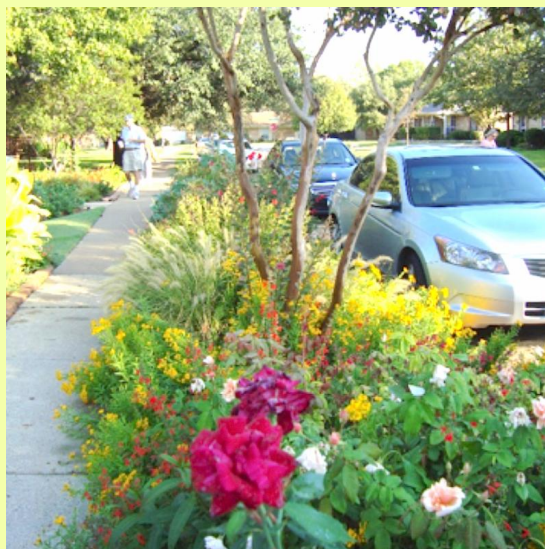
The Sat., Oct. 24 Rose-a-Palooza's at the Harris County AgriLife Extension Auditorium, 3033 Bear Creek Park Drive, opens with an educational program featuring Dr. Brent Pemberton on the rose industry "Then, Now & The Future"; Donald Burger on "Chemical Safety in the Home Garden" and Paul Winski review "Rose & Plant Trials in Harris County."

Workshops will focus on rooting rose cuttings (Deanna Krause) and simple arrangements (Robin Hough). Oct.17 is registration deadline for lectures & workshops: houstonrose.org.

The always spectacular Houston Rose Society Show opens to the public at noon at the same site.

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 45+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener.

* * *



Converting a 20-inch strip of weeds to a beautiful productive landscape added curb appeal to this residence.

HELL STRIP GARDENING
 GROWING PLANTS WHERE PLANTS DON'T WANT TO GROW
 BY GAYE HAMMOND
[Houston Rose Society](#)

Let's face it. All landscapes have at least one spot where plants just don't want to grow. Whether that spot is the

narrow strip of grass between the curb and the sidewalk, a utility easement at the back of your property, or a spot adjacent to a structure or fence where plants just don't thrive....it's a hell strip.

In my experience, ninety-nine percent of the time the factors creating a hell strip are environmental. This means geographical, physical or mechanical conditions are at play that negatively impact the physiology of plants. These factors include an increased heat load, heated wind caused by passing vehicles, poor soils, ineffective irrigation, soil compaction, too much water or rainwater runoff, inadequate sized root zone, too much or not enough sunlight for the plants selected and poor drainage.

And then there's the 'mystery' cause - lying underground where you can't see it that prevents any plant you try from growing in that specific spot.

Identifying the factor(s) that cause your hell strip is the first step in solving your landscape woes. Many times the factors causing the hell strip can be identified using things you probably have in your kitchen, garage or even the closet.

For example, an empty tuna fish can is perfect to gauge the amount of water being applied to a landscape planting. A strip of butcher paper or parchment paper can help determine the amount of direct sunlight a spot in the landscape receives.

To test the amount of sunlight, lay a roll of butcher paper out across the yard (or a section of the yard) and draw lines across the shadows with a sharpie marker, noting the time when you drew the line, at the end of the day you will be able to calculate how much direct sunlight each section receives and what time of day that occurs.

Most people do not realize the impact that fences, eaves, trees and the house next door or trees along the perimeter of their property have on the amount of direct sunlight their plants really receive. They think that because they look out in the back yard and it is sunny that means there is enough sunlight to grow plants anywhere in the yard.

This exercise would be most appropriate when landscape plans are being done, or when new beds are anticipated. This helps the homeowner know where the best place for those planting beds might be. Unfortunately, most of the time we end up doing this exercise because a homeowner is having trouble with plants that should be full and lush be tall and whimpy and plagued with pests or disease because the plants chosen are not getting enough sunlight.

Once the cause is identified, corrective measures can be implemented to tame the hell strip and make it a productive part of the landscape. According to Gaye, "As with any landscaping project the right plant for the right spot is a must and we will look at locally adapted plants that are perfect additions for these really tough growing conditions."

Send questions to Gaye at gayeh@LPM-triallaw.com

JOHN'S CORNER

BOOK REVIEW:



"Genetic Roulette - The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods", by Jeffery M. Smith, YES Books, 2007, ISBN: 978-0-9729665-2-8

We have had several readers commenting on the recent articles on GMO foods and herbicides and wanting to learn more. We have also seen a large increase in the number of people wanting to grow their own foods from vegetables to fruit and nut trees in recent years. This book is about some of the reasons why folks are growing their own food and why food gardening has exploded.

I read this book a few years ago and it is a great introduction to the health problems caused by eating GMO foods. One might recognize the authors name as he wrote the international best seller "Seeds of Deception". This book is the collected work of hundreds of scientists around the world whom are trying to expose the lies, deception and fraud being pushed on the world's population by Monsanto and their puppets the USDA and FDA (also many of our politicians whom report to Monsanto).

The book is easy to read and starts off explaining the assumptions that were made in producing GMO crops. It explains that the one thing in common is not better nutrition or other desirable traits; it is the ability to withstand much higher levels of herbicides and not be killed. As a result revenues from herbicide sales have skyrocketed creating billions of dollars in extra profits for companies like Monsanto.

The book looks at several of the GE crops and the problems that have been created from environmental contamination to death of animals and humans from eating these crops. Each chapter covers a different aspect of what is happening and why.

This is one of the most comprehensive and well documented expose of the dangers of GMO foods. The hundreds of research papers published since this book was published only confirms all the information presented.

This book is for anyone whom wants to learn more and wants to protect their children and families. Even though it is a few years old it is still a great primer on this issue and is written in the same easy to understand style that made "Seeds of Deception" a best seller.

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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!

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 BY SARAH FLOURNOY. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM2759, 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

MON., OCT. 12: WHAT TO PLANT AND DO NOW BY GARY EDMONDSON, 6:30pm, Moody Park Community Center, 3725 Fulton St. Free. Houston Urban Gardeners event. houstonurbangardeners.org

TUE., OCT. 13: NATIVE AND EASY CARE PLANTS BY DIANE CABINESS. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.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.

WED., OCT. 14: A GARDEN TOUR OF ITALY & MALTA BY RICHARD STAMPER, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. hcsstex.org/

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@houston.tx.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 DINE DANCE AND DONATE/ 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: 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

SAT., OCT. 17: HERBS - IN THE GARDEN & ON THE PLATE BY CINDY MEREDITH, 10am, Colorado County Service Facilities Building, 305 Radio Lane, Columbus. \$10. Columbus Garden Club event. Danette Tollette, 254-715-1799.

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

MON., OCT. 19 - FRI., DEC. 4: PRESALE WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL TREE SALE, 9am-noon M-F, Extension Office, 846 6th Street, Hempstead. 979-826-7651. walleimgardener2013@gmail.com; txmg.org/walleimg. Tree pickup: Sat., Jan. 30.

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

TUES., OCT. 20: REDESIGNING THE SOUTHERN LANDSCAPE: RESEARCH PROJECT RESULTS BY DR. WILLIAM WELCH, 10am, St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land; 10 am; free; Sugar Land Garden Club event. Sugarlandgardenclub.org

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

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: 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 JAHNKE & 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/Fort Bend County Master Gardener event. fortbend.agrilife.org/water-conservation/, missouricitygreen.org; 281-633-7029

SAT., OCT. 24: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL OPEN GARDEN DAY/VEGETABLE & HERB SALE, 9am-noon, Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd. Free. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

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

MON., OCT. 26: FEED THEM AND THEY WILL COME BY DON JOHNSON, 6:45-8pm, Brightwater Clubhouse, 2410 Brightwater Dr., Missouri City. Free. Brightwater Garden Club event. brightwatergardenclub.com; 281-403-9269

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

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: NATIVE PLANTS BY LINDA KNOWLES, 10-11:30am, Amegy Bank Community Room, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

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

FRI.-SUN., NOV. 6-8: FALL FESTIVAL OF ROSES, 10am Fri.; 9:30am Sat; 11am Sun. Antique Rose Emporium, 10000 FM 50, Brenham. antiqueroseemporium.com; (979) 836-5548

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.

SAT., NOV. 7: FALL PLANT SALE: DAYLILIES AND OTHER PLANTS, 10am-2 pm., St Andrews Episcopal Church's Fall Festival, 1819 Heights Blvd. Free. Houston Area Daylily Society Event. 281-332-2965 or leslie.j.wong@gmail.com

SAT., NOV. 7: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS' FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE, 12:30(ish), Independence General Store, 9400 Lueckemeyer Rd, Independence. Free. TheTexasRoseRustlers@texasroserustlers.com

TUE., NOV. 10: LAKE CREEK CONSERVATION BY GLEN BUCKLEY. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. thewoodlandsgardenclub.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., NOV. 14: 43rd ANNUAL HERB FAIR, 9am-2pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray., Free. Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit event. www.herbsociety-stu.org

MON., NOV. 16: THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE RIGHT JOB WITH TRICIA BRADBURY, 6:45-8pm, Brightwater Clubhouse, 2410 Brightwater Dr., Missouri City. Free. Brightwater Garden Club event. brightwatergardenclub.com; 281-403-9269

TUES., NOV. 17: THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE BY WILLIAM HALDIK, 10am, St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land; 10 am; free; Sugar Land Garden Club event. Sugarlandgardenclub.org

THURS., NOV. 12: NEXT YEAR'S WEEKS ROSES, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. www.houstonrose.org

TUES., NOV 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: HOLIDAY PLANT CARE, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Dr.. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-open-garden-days.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., DEC. 5: CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, 3-7pm, 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

TUE., JAN. 12: FOREST ECOLOGY / TREE CARE BY JOHN ROSS. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

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

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

SAT., JAN. 30: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FRUIT & NUTTREE SALE (and presale pickup), 10am-2pm, 850 Bus 290 N. Hempstead. txmg.org/wallermg

TUE., FEB 9: SHADE BARDENING BY GUDRUM OPPERMAN. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

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

TUE., MAR. 8: EASTER FLORAL DESIGN CONCEPTS BY TONY HUFFMAN. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.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.

TUE., APR. 12: PLANT PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands.

Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

FRI., APR. 9: XPLORING 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

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.

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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.



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 10/17/15.

COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 25% off our: PEAR TREES . (Offer

good for retail purchases of this product by the cubic yard at Nature's Way Resources (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 10/17/15.