



OCTOBER 16, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 128th 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.

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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HALLOWEEN HORT HANSELS . . . RAIN BARREL TIPS . . . SAVING SEEDS!

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Talk about an olio of gardening topics today!

* Remember our elderly neighbors, shut-ins, hospital patients, etc., this Halloween! Sometimes isolation robs one of the joy of celebrating holidays.

Easy tips for room-brightening Hallow's Eve delights (that don't involve sugar!) are offered by Gail Bullion Cornelius Nursery (along with the hot pepper arrangement above left):

* Slice the top off a fresh pumpkin (and trim the bottom if it wants to wobble), scoop the fiber out (meat and seeds) carefully, dry, and insert a small container of fresh fall plants. Peppers and crotons work best, as they require little watering.

* Prefer thirstier plants like brightly colored mums, coleus, etc? Just put the whole pot into the pumpkin. But be sure you drain the pot completely before setting them back in.

* Mini pumpkins and acorn squash make superb candle holders. Just cut off the top, hollow out the center, pop in a candle and tie on a brown string to complete the natural look.

* * *

Such an uberous of gardening knowledge and experience exists in this area, most of today's column space is being turned over to experts who can speak far better than I can on the subjects of

1. effectively using rain barrels and
2. saving seeds

* **RAIN BARRELS.** You don't have to live in Missouri City, or even Fort Bend County, to benefit from the Oct. 24 Residential Landscape Water Conservation Workshop. Every registrant (\$25) will receive a free rain barrel

They'll be giving away free rain barrels to every registrant (\$25). I know you're probably tired of reading about water shortages, especially if your neighborhood hasn't been subjected to rationing in the past. But smart gardeners are utilizing rain barrels already so they're ahead of the game when rationing hits their area.

Every one of our 8+ counties in the Greater Houston area already had some cities and/or communities subjected to water rationing for landscaping.

And that number is multiplying exponentially every year. To get the most out of the water you ARE allowed to use, learn now how to use rain barrels correctly and efficiently, as tips below from [Missouri City Green's Pam Allen](#) and Nancy Schoepf are sharing below.

The Workshop is a joint project of Texas A&M AgriLife, Missouri City Green, City of Missouri City and Fort Bend Master Gardeners. Participants will also learn effective ways to install efficient irrigation systems and select more water-efficient plants.

* **SAVING SEEDS** Not only is this an incredibly fun activity for children, it's a great way to ensure that you get the same wonderful plants you enjoyed this year . . . if, that is, you're not growing plants that won't come true to seed. This is an extremely complex subject, with as much mis-information on the 'net as there is true information. I don't pretend to be an expert.

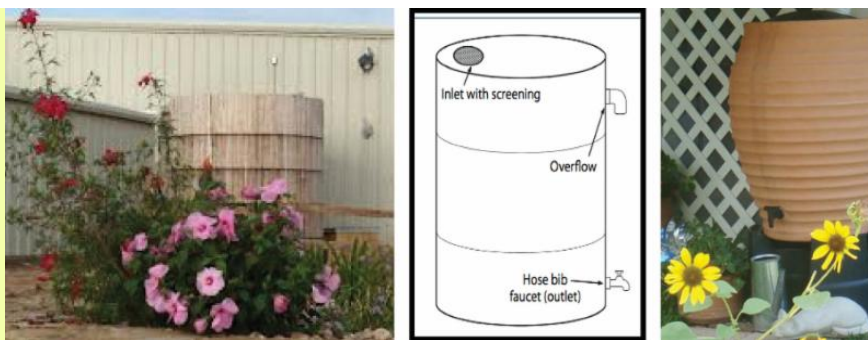
But if you want to be successful in growing from seed you've actually collected, Jean Fefer and Will Isbell offer some tips below, and you have four free opportunities to learn more about this fun - and often beneficial - project. Check out the four free area-wide Harris County Master Gardener "PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING" programs listed both at the end of the Fefer/Isbell article and in our Calendar.

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* **HEADS UP** on a great volunteer opportunity. [Mercer Botanic Garden](#) (22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble) is looking for docents, and planning training, for both children's activities (Mon., Nov. 2) and the gardens (Mon., Nov. 9). Both 9am-noon. Click on link above or call 713-274-4160. If Mercer is too far away for you, contact parks, nature center and other gardens in your area for volunteer opportunities. Great way to learn from the experts and have a really fun time.

*Brenda's column in the **LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** is based on her 45+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener - as is her **LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE ON CD (pdf book)**, a month-by-month guide on when to do what (plant, fertilize, prune, etc.) in the Greater Houston Area, along with lazy gardener plant recommendations and sample garden designs for sun, shade, butterflies, hummers, herbs, etc. For details, email Brenda at lazygardener@sbcbglobal.net*





Rain barrels don't have to be unsightly, as these examples from Texas A&M AgriLife, left, and gardener Mel Basham, right, demonstrate. The one at left waters a bog garden and is covered with wooden slats.

10 STEPS TO RAIN BARREL SUCCESS

by Pam Allan & Nancy Schoepf
Missouri City Green www.missouricitygreen.org

Diverting rainwater from your roof into a rain barrel is a smart idea, and it's one that is getting a lot of traction. Rain barrels are readily available but there are some important steps to take to ensure your rain barrel works as effectively as possible.

1. **Elevation is essential:** Raise your barrel at least 12" off the ground using sturdy supporting materials such as concrete blocks or a heavy-duty wooden stand to create an acceptable flow of water. Stability is essential - supporting material should extend several inches beyond the lip of the barrel.
2. **Screen savers:** To prevent debris, insects and critters from entering the rain barrel, cover all inlets with a fine mesh screen and check periodically, replacing screens as needed.
3. **Eliminate sunlight:** To help prevent the growth of algae on the inside of the tank, paint light colored plastic rain barrels with a dark color.
4. **Plan for overflow:** When rains are heavy, a 50-gallon barrel will rapidly fill. Ensure that overflow pipes are roughly equal in size to intake pipes and, if necessary, extend the overflow hose to divert excess overflow away from the foundation of your home.
5. **Good quality hardware:** Purchased rain barrels often come equipped with poor quality hardware. Replacing them with good quality fixtures will pay off in the long run.
6. **Careful selection:** A rain barrel with a spigot set up that will allow you to easily attach a hose or fill a watering will give you maximum versatility. Pumps, timers, and low flow emitters can be added to water different zones.
7. **Increase your capacity:** Consider investing in several rain barrels which can either be interconnected or positioned next to various downspouts close to your plantings.
8. **Keep it clean:** Gutters and downspouts should be cleaned twice a year, typically in fall and spring.
9. **Annual cleaning:** To remove sediment build up, drain and clean your rain barrel annually.
10. **Take action:** If the water smells bad, add a chlorine bleach solution of 1 tablespoon/gallon and wait 24 hours to allow the chlorine to dissipate before using the water in your garden. If the problem persists, drain and clean out the barrel.

Special thanks to Ft Bend Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialists & Dr. Dotty Woodson, Ed. D. Extension Program Specialist - Water Resources for content input.

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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

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Saving seeds saves money among other benefits. Center, tomatoes should be nearly rotten before seed is collected. Beans should have pods that are brown and dry.

SEED SAVING

by Jean Fefer & Will Isbell

Harris County Master Gardeners

Seed saving is fun and interesting, but there are also some more practical reasons to do it. It saves you money, provides seed security, leads to regional adaptation, and quality control. You can also learn a lot.

There are some simple rules to follow:

- Choose the best plants for seed saving
- Make sure the seeds are mature before gathering. This stage will vary with each plant. Beans should have pods that are brown and dry. Tomatoes should be near rotten.
- Some like tomato require pretreatment before storing.
- Store properly in either cool or cold conditions
- Store in plastic or glass
- All seeds must be completely dry.
- Label with name and date collected and if the parent plant is not your own you need permission to gather. Gathering seed from parks and arboretums is often illegal.

Information about the plant will increase the success of reproducing it by planting the seed you saved.

- Open-pollinated plants are those pollinated naturally by insects, wind, and water. These seeds can reproduce the original plant if they are separated from other varieties of the same species. If other varieties are near, cross-pollination can occur. This is likely in squash and corn.
- Hybrids are products of a planned cross between two different varieties of the same plant species. These seeds will likely not produce a plant identical to the one they came from. They could revert back to one of the parent plants. If you are growing food this is not a good thing. If you are experimenting, it's fun to see what happens.
- Heirlooms are plants with a past and saving this seed helps to preserve biodiversity and promote sustainability. These seeds are most likely to reproduce the original plant.
- Determine whether this seed has dormancies that need to be overcome by pretreating, Bluebonnets, for example require scarification(breaking through the seed coat) to start the germination process.

In addition to the practical reasons to save seeds there is the value gained by doing it with children. It is a great hands-on example of a life-cycle in which they can participate .

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THE REST OF THE STORY . . . You have four free chances coming up to learn more on Propagation & Seed Saving from Harris County Master Gardeners:

- SAT, OCT 17 - 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen, Katy
- TUES., OCT 20 - 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale
- TUES., OCT 20 - 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale
- TUES., OCT 27 - HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Dr.

For details on all - hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf or 281-855-5600

JOHN'S CORNER



BOOK REVIEW



I have always loved to eat fresh fruit and berries. Even today I have 26 varieties of fruit growing in my yard. After reading the book "Eating on The Wild Side", I realize more than ever how important it is to eat fresh fruit particularly older native varieties that not been hybridized to death and lost their nutritional benefits.

Many years ago I remember reading an article on fruits from all over the world and their characteristics. One of our native fruits, the Paw Paw, was listed as one of the 10 best tasting fruits in the world. In recent years it has also been found to be one of the most nutritious and provides many health benefits. Since I have never had the opportunity to eat one I have decided to grow my own.

As part of my study I finished reading a book this morning on the history of the Paw Paw tree. The author became enamored with the Paw Paw tree and traveled all over the country to learn about its role in history, nature, politics, American culture and much more. The book is a narrative describing all his travels, the people he met and the folk lore concerning the Paw Paw. In addition to being a fabulous fruit to eat fresh, I learned it is also used to make Paw Paw ice cream, pudding, bread, pies, beer, creme brulee, cookies, yogurt, gelato, jams and jellies and more.

Warning: As a result of reading the book and about the passion Paw Paws have inspired in people, I have become infected with the Paw Paw disease. Hence, I ordered four different varieties of low chill Paw Paws for the south this morning since the grower's only ship from late October thru December. Like most serious gardeners I am now way over my yearly budget for plants.

Paw Paw - In Search of America's Forgotten Fruit, by Andrew Moore, July 2015, Chelsea Green Publishing, ISBN: 978-1-60358-596-5

Note: I have a Paw Paw tree in my yard that is at least 20 years old and 15-18 feet tall that I grew as a host plant for the Zebra Swallow Tail butterfly. It is growing in the black clay soil of south Houston we call gumbo in the shade of other trees. It is extremely healthy but has never fruited and now I know it takes at least two varieties to cross pollinate properly to set fruit.

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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. 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

SUN., OCT. 18: TRINITY RIVER NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE BUTTERFLY COUNT. Stuart Marcus, 936-336-9786; [facebook.com/pages.Trinity-River-National-Wildlife-Refuge](https://facebook.com/pages/Trinity-River-National-Wildlife-Refuge)

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/wallerimg. Tree pickup: Sat., Jan. 30.

TUES., OCT 20; 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

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

WED., OCT. 21: EXPLORING OUR FASCINATION WITH FLOWER FRAGRANCES BY LUCIA BETTLER, 7pm, Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Herb Society of America South Texas Unit. herbsociety.org/units/south-texas.html

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: MAGNOLIA BUTTERFLY COUNTY & MONARCH TAGGING EVENT. \$3. Don DuBois, 836-524-8169; 281-259-9106

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

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

MON., NOV. 16: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu

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.

MON., DEC. 21: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu

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!

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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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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 10/24/15.

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

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