



December 18, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 137th 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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Enjoy!

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**CAMELLIAS - QUEENS OF THE GARDEN . . .  
PLANT THOSE POINSETTIAS! . . .  
ANGEL OR DEVIL TRUMPETS? . . .**

*Yet, in a theatre, or ball-room light,  
I gladly see Camellias shining bright  
Above some stately woman's raven hair,  
Whose noble form fulfils the heart's desire,  
Like Grecian marbles warmed by Phidian fire.*

THE CAMELLIA by Honore de Balzac (1799-1850)

**BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Any camellias in your garden? Know what varieties they are?

If you truly love them, Donald Marcotte would like to hear from you. Check out his Spotlight article below.

Don is President of the Coughatta Camellia Society, which has two upcoming show/sales:

\* Sat., Jan. 16, 1-4pm, at First Christian Church, 3500 N. Loop 335W, Conroe.

\* Sat., Feb. 6, 1-4pm, Katy & E. Don Walker Sr. Education Center, 1400 - 19th St., Huntsville

Camellias are truly Queens of the Garden, so elegant, so graceful. And, best of all, they bloom so beautifully here, often in the dead of winter, on the coldest, nastiest days.

When not in bloom, evergreen camellia foliage creates an effective backdrop frame for other blooming plants. Not bad for a plant whose "roots" date back 5,000 years -- altho in those early years, they were mainly grown as sources for tea and oils.

Don's particularly excited right now as he just found an exclusive yellow camellia called 'Kagirobi' at the Houston Garden Center in Conroe. *(Pictured below, it won't be available at the Coushatta sale this year, but maybe in future years...?)*

An equally-as-enthusiastic Coushatta Camellia Society member, Ed Holland, reports that in his Memorial area landscape, his Sasanqua camellias have just peaked and the Japonicas are coming on nicely.

Don't know the difference in these two types of camellias?

\* **Sasanqua** camellias have shiny, dark-green, small leaves with 2-4" wide flowers. Mature heights range from 2 or 3 feet to 12 feet, depending on the variety.

\* **Japonicas** have larger leaves, larger later-blooming flowers and are usually 6 to 12 feet tall. Japonicas are also a bit hardier than sasanquas but both do well here. In fact, both can live for literally hundreds of years -- tho you'll probably never know if yours do or not!

Want to impress holiday party guests? Have a Yuletide Sasanqua (pictured below) planted on either side of your front door. They're almost always blooming at Christmas time.

*NOTE: The Coushatta Camellia Society's two shows & sales will feature some -- but not all -- the camellias listed here. If you can't find what you want, try the [American Camellia Society's list of retail members](#).*

## PLANT THOSE POINSETTIAS!

Speaking of beautiful late fall/winter "bloomers," I have reported often on [Ed Holland's incredible poinsettias in Memorial](#), one of which is pictured below.

Increasingly around town, in-ground poinsettias are proving impressive perennials that present beautiful red leaves usually right on cue, before they die back for the rest of the winter. Ed reports the only problem he has is with the somewhat brittleness of poinsettia stalks. He prunes regularly in spring when new foliage appears to help:

1. remaining stalks grow thicker and stronger and
2. the plant produce more new stalks from the roots.



1. *Christmastime bloomer 'Yuletide' camellia.* 2. *C. 'Kagirobi'.* 3. *One of Ed Holland's many in-ground poinsettias.* 4. *Brugmansia angel trumpets hang down.* 5. *Datura angel trumpets, like Delores Gregory's 'Double Purple,' point up or outward.*

## AN ANGEL BY EITHER NAME!

My cousin-in-law Drenda Beust's picture of [her great blooming angel trumpet](#) (a brugmansia) in a recent column inspired reader Delores Gregory to send a picture of her great blooming 'Double Purple' angel trumpet in League City (far right above).

And therein lies a constant dilemma for gardeners - why do they give different flowers the same name?

Delores' angel trumpet is a datura. Drenda's angel trumpet is a brugmansia. And researching these two floral cousins helped me correct a misconception I've had all these years. Thanks, Delores!

I thought the upward-pointing daturas were called angel trumpets and downward-pointing brugmansias used to be called devil trumpets.

It was actually the other way around. Upward-pointing daturas were called devil trumpets (looking up from below, as it were) and the downward-pointing brugmansias were always called angel trumpets (looking down from their high point).

Over the years, tho -- *gardeners being upbeat, positive-thinking souls* -- both flowers became angel trumpets. The name datura comes from the Hindi word for "thorn flower." Brugmansias are named for the Dutch naturalist Sebald Justinus Brugmans

Actually they were both called daturas at first. Then some became brugmansias. They both belong to the plant family Solanaceae. Brugmansia tend to be shrubs, or small trees, with downward pointing flowers. Daturas' upward pointing flowers appear on lower, more shrub-like growth and the fruit has spines.

Can't go by that tho. In our subtropical climate, the usually lower-growing daturas can grow quite large. And periodically the "experts" reclassify various ones on both sides! Don't you love it when even the experts can't agree? Who else would tell you these things?

By the way, before you write to tell me these plants are poisonous, remember: the vast majority of common home landscape plants are poisonous to some degree in some stage or form -- leaves, seeds, roots, flowers, when young, when old, etc.

Just because you don't plant poinsettias, angel trumpets, oleanders or other well-publicized "poisonous" plants doesn't mean your yard is "safe." Nor does it mean that taking one bite of these plants will kill. Mostly they just cause nausea. You don't allow your child or pets to run into busy streets, poke electrical outlets, touch hot stove burners, etc. Teach them NOT eat garden plants anywhere without you present or directing them to harvest.

\* \* \*

## A "MUST" CHRONICLE GARDENING STORY

A tip o' the trowel to Jill Carroll for her great Houston Chronicle article "[Turn the soggy spot in your yard into a rain garden.](#)"

This technique was first introduced decades ago to Houston gardeners by Anita Nelson of Nelson's Water Garden. Back then, we called them Bog Gardens, but Rain Gardens is a much more appropriate (nicer!) name. It is such a total win-win technique for everyone:

- \* Saves gardeners time, energy and money
- \* Saves our bayous (and ultimately Galveston Bay) from the horrible damage being done now by garden chemicals washing into them
- \* Helps preserve our precious water resources
- \* Helps stop the subsidence that's causing those expensive cracks in walls, driveways, sidewalks, etc., all over the Greater Houston area

Click that link above, read Jill's story and see if you can incorporate this technique. I can't recommend it highly enough. A rain/bog garden design is included in my *Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD* (see end of column). Email me at [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net) and I'll send you a free copy of the Rain Garden Design Anita helped me to include in this book (*now available as a pdf on CD only*).

\* \* \*

Speaking of great articles, another one worth checking is "[GRAFTING NONPRODUCING AVOCADOS.](#)" This Randy Lemon GardenLine/Angela Chandler piece will help show you how to get avocados from those grocery store seeds we all plant.

## And now . . . Donald Marcotte's Spotlight on Camellias!

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**PLEASE - IF YOU SUBMIT EVENTS FOR THE CALENDAR and/or ARE ASKING A GARDENING QUESTION and YOU DON'T GET A RESPONSE FROM ME TO YOUR EMAIL, ASSUME I DID NOT RECEIVE IT AND SEND IT AGAIN!**

\* \* \*

**Brenda's LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE ON CD (a pdf book based on her 40+-years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener) is available wholesale as a fundraising item: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net). Individual books: \$20. Make checks payable to LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE ON CD and mail to LGG on CD, 14011 Greenranch Dr., Houston, TX 77039.**

\* \* \*



Notable camellias, l to r, C. 'High Fragrance', C. 'Fragrant Fairies,' C. 'Cinnamon Cindy,' 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa' and C. 'Fairy Blush'

## Spotlighting . . .

### Coushatta Camellia of Society

*Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter*

## AND YOUR BEST CAMELLIAS ARE . . .

BY DONALD MARCOTTE

President, Coushatta Camellia Society  
[www.coushattacamelliasociety.com](http://www.coushattacamelliasociety.com)

Evergreen, drought tolerant once established, offering blooms from late fall through early spring, camellias are available in many shapes, sizes and colors. There are even fragrant varieties such as High Fragrance, Fragrant Fairies, and Cinnamon Cindy, pictured above.

Easy to grow outdoors in Zones 7-10, camellias can:

- \* spread in front of flower beds
- \* define spaces as tall background shrubs
- \* form decorative displays on trellises for decks or patios or
- \* serve as specimen focal points in landscapes.

Nuccio's Bella Rossa, pictured above, offers an abundance of brilliant crimson flowers with tightly-packed petals radiating from the center. Even when not in bloom, its glossy dark green foliage adds to the quality in any garden.

Camellias grow well in containers also. Fairy Blush, right above, is an excellent choice for a container on a patio or near an entryway. This is a fragrant camellia growing about 4-5' wide and tall.

On the Internet you can find the "Top 10 Animals to Bring Back from Extinction," the "Top 10 People Who Got What They Deserved" and the "Top 10 Battles in History." In popular culture the Top 10 has become a sporting event where there are some agreements, lots of discussion, and, of course, spirited controversy.

Bradford King, Editor of the [Camellia Journal](http://www.camelliajournal.com), has decided to go where angels fear to tread and proclaim the **Top 10 Best Camellias** of this generation. To make the top 10, they must produce very beautiful flowers on a plant that grows well and is generally available to the public. They are:



Countdown to the *Camellia Journal's* Top Ten Camellias of This Generation: #10 C. 'Red Hots' - #9 'Star Above Star' - #8 'Elegans Champagne' - #7 'Margaret Davis' - #6 'Ruta Hagman' - #5 'Spring Daze' - #4 'Lady Laura' - #3 'Mansize' - #2 'Royal Velvet' & 'Royal Velvet Variegated' and #1 'Frank Houser' & 'Frank Houser Variegated.'



Mr. King's list as well as anyone else's will be a subject for discussion amongst camellia enthusiast's as well as

others. WHAT IS YOUR 10 BEST LIST?

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Contact Don at [funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net)

or at either of the two upcoming free Coushatta Camellia Society show/sales:

-- SAT., JAN. 16, 1-4pm, First Christian Church, 3500 N. Loop 335W, Conroe.

-- Sat., Feb. 6, 1-4pm, Katy and E. Don Walker Sr. Education Center, 1400 - 19th St., Huntsville.

*(P.S. don't know what kind of camellia you have? Take a bloom  
to one of the Coushatta show/sales and let them tell you! -- Brenda)*

*And just to repeat -- The Coushatta Camellia Society's two shows & sales will feature some -- BUT NOT ALL! --  
of the camellias listed here. If you can't find what you want, try the [American Camellia Society's list of retail members](#).*

## JOHN'S CORNER

### A BOOK REVIEW



**Biochar - Production, Characterization, and Applications**, Edited by Yong Sik Ok, Sophie Uchimiya, Scott Chang, Nanthi Bolan, CRC Press, 2016, ISBN: 13: 978-1-4822-4229-4

This book is not for the average gardener. However more and more gardeners and environmentalists are asking about biochar and this book is a good summary of the state of research and our knowledge. The book is broken down into five sections composed of 14 chapters. Over 50 researchers from all over the world contributed to the book.

The book starts out with all the different definitions of biochar and why they exist and covers the fundamentals of biochar production. The book then moves into the production methods of the various types of biochar and why the interest and research is increasing. There are many ways to produce biochar and these method greatly effects the properties of the biochar.

The properties of biochar based on production method used and feedstock used are discussed. From there the authors talk about using biochar for removing contamination from soils to waste water and sewage treatment. Both inorganic and organic contaminates are covered.

The next section deals with soil fertility and nutrient cycling when biochar is applied to the soil and used in hydroponic systems. This leads to using biochar as a method of sequestering carbon in the soil to reduce the greenhouse gasses.

The last section of the book covers some of the new applications of biochar being researched.

Overall this book is a good summary of the state of research and our understanding of biochar as a tool to help solve many environmental problems.

## A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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## Thank you for recycling your Christmas Tree at the WCID 132 water plant!



The WCID 132 invites our neighbors to participate in our annual Merry Mulching Christmas Tree Recycling Program. Strip all the ornaments, garland, tinsel, etc. from your tree (no artificial trees!) and bring it to the grassy dead-end area outside the water plant's fence (there will be a sign) 4107 Evening Trail, between December 26th and January 10th.

The mulch from the trees will be used throughout our Water Conservation Demonstration and Research Center. By recycling your Christmas tree, you will help preserve finite water resources, and keep your tree out of the landfill!

Watch for the coupon in January and bring it by The Garden for a 5# bag of organic mulch with fertilizer additive. Start the recycling tradition! Mulch pick-up every Saturday in January with coupon. One per family please.

\* \* \*

## 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](mailto: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

SAT., DEC. 19: CHRISTMAS GARDENS BIRD COUNT, 8am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 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](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

MON., JAN. 4: GROWING CITRUS BY BETH HOUSE, 10am-noon, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 SH 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event, [tomballgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:tomballgardenclub@gmail.com)

THURS., JAN. 7: IS YOUR STYLE IN YOUR GARDEN? BY MARGARET SINCLAIR, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club Program. [nottinghamgardenclub.org](http://nottinghamgardenclub.org)

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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT., JAN. 9: GROWING AVOCADO & PAPAYA BY JERRY HURLBERT, 9-11:30am; GROWING PEACHES IN GALVESTON COUNTY by Herman Auer, 1-2pm, AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; reservations: [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net). [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., JAN. 9: PREVIEW OF JAN. 16 URBAN HARVEST 2016 FRUIT TREE SALE, 9:30am-noon, United Way Community Resource Center, 50 Waugh Drive. 713-880-5540, [urbanharvest.org/fruit-tree-sale](http://urbanharvest.org/fruit-tree-sale)

TUES., 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](http://www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

TUE., JAN. 12: FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE WOODLANDS AREA BY JOHN ROSS, 7 pm. South Regional Library, 2101 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands. Free. A Woodlands G.R.E.E.N. event. <http://www.thewoodlandsgreen.org/>

SAT., JAN. 12: PREVIEW OF JAN. 16 URBAN HARVEST 2016 FRUIT TREE SALE, 6:30-9pm, , United Way Community Resource Center, 50 Waugh Drive. 713-880-5540, [urbanharvest.org/fruit-tree-sale](http://urbanharvest.org/fruit-tree-sale)

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

THUR., JAN. 14: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PREVIEW OF THE JAN. 16 FRUIT & CITRUS TREE SALE, 6:30-8:30pm, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Building B, 4310 Highway 36 South, Rosenberg. Free. 281-341-7068; [www.fbmg.org](http://www.fbmg.org)

THURS., JAN. 14: BED BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP, 7:30PM, CHERRIE FLORES GARDEN PAVILION, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston 77004. Free. Houston Rose Society event. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

THURS., JAN. 14: HOW TO GROW OLIVES AND PRODUCE OLIVE OIL BY RANDY & MONICA BRAZIL, 10-11:30 am, Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Parkway. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu) SAT.,

JAN. 16: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL FRUIT & CITRUS TREE SALE, 9am-1pm or sold out, Fort Bend County Fairground Barn-H, 4310 Highway 36S, Rosenberg. 281-341-7068; [www.fbmg.org](http://www.fbmg.org)

SAT., JAN. 16: COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW, 1-4pm, First Christian Church Fellowship Building, 3500 N. Loop 336 W, Conroe. Don Marcotte, 936-661-1101. [funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net)

SAT., JAN. 16: FRUIT TREES - SELECTION, PLANTING, PRUNING, SPRAYING & CARE, 9-11am, Montgomery County Extension Office, Tom LeRoy Education Center, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Master Gardener event. \$5. 936-539-7824, [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

SAT., JAN. 16: WEDGE GRAFTING BY SUE JEFFCO, 9-11am; KITCHEN GARDENING BY MARY DEMENY, 1-3pm, AgriLife Extension in Carbine Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413. Reservations: [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net). [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., JAN. 16 - URBAN HARVEST 2016 FRUIT TREE SALE – 9am-1pm (or sell-out), Rice University Stadium; 5600 Greenbriar Dr. 713-880-5540, [urbanharvest.org/fruit-tree-sale](http://urbanharvest.org/fruit-tree-sale)

MON., JAN. 18: OPEN GARDEN DAY AND PLANT SALE WITH HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS AT PRECINCT 2, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., JAN. 19: GARDENING BY THE SQUARE FOOT BY JOHN JONS, 6:30-8 p.m., at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbine Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413. Reservations: [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net). [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

THURS., JAN. 21: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2016 INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM BEGINS. Registration (\$160; Jan. 11 deadline). [www.txmg.org/walleimg](http://www.txmg.org/walleimg).

SAT., JAN. 23: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT AND NUT TREE SALE, 8am program, 9am-noon sale, Montgomery Co. Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824, [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

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/walleimg](http://txmg.org/walleimg)

SAT, JAN. 30 HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FRUIT & NUT TREE SALE & LECTURES, 9am-1pm (or sell-out), Bear Creek Park; 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600; [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx)

SAT., FEB. 6: COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW, 1-4pm, Katy and E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center, 1400 19th St., Huntsville. Don Marcotte, 936-661-1101. [funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net)

TUE., FEB 9: SHADE GARDENING BY GUDRUM OPPERMAN. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. [www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT, FEB. 13: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER, PRECINCT 2, ANNUAL FRUIT TREE & TOMATO SALE, Pre-Sale Talk: 8am; Sale: 9am-1pm (or sell-out). Pasadena Convention Center; 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX 77507 281-855-5600; [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx)

SAT., FEB. 20: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PREVIEW FOR THE VEGETABLE- HERB PLANT SALE, 9-11am, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. Free. 281 341-7068, [www.fbmg.org](http://www.fbmg.org)

SAT. FEB. 27: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL VEGETABLE-HERB PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Fort Bend County Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd., Rosenberg. 281 341-7068, [www.fbmg.org](http://www.fbmg.org)

TUES., 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

### MARK BOWEN

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist, certified permaculturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a co-editor and periodic article contributor.

### PABLO HERNANDEZ

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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