



January 23, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is an amended version of the 142nd 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.

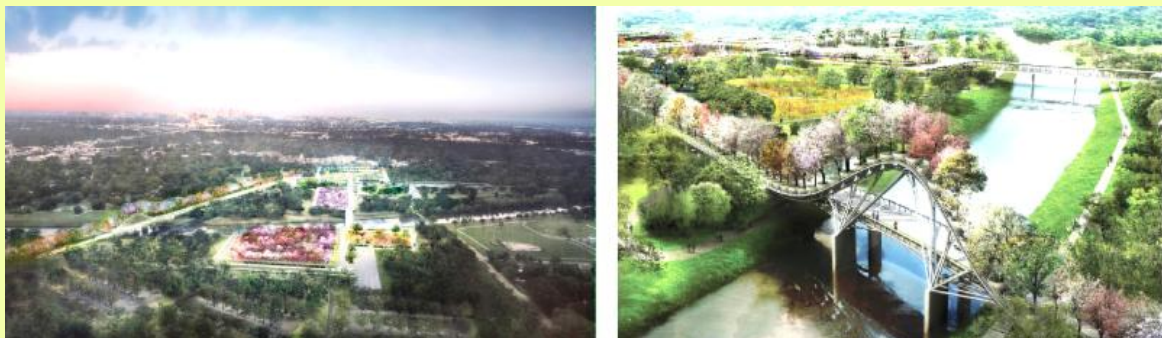
Please or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!

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***EDITOR'S NOTE: Please delete the earlier-received Jan. 23 LG&F's newsletter and keep this one in your files. Cyber-gremlins stole the 1 before the 7, creating the wrong date for the Houston Botanic Garden lecture.***

***The correct date is Wed., Feb. 17, 2016. Thanks!***



*Aerial views of the proposed Houston Botanic Garden (all renderings: © West 8)*

## **HOUSTON'S HORTICULTURAL SCENE**

## -- MAJOR CHANGES COMING!

*"In some cultures, gardens are seen as a form of art -- they can reference illusions or allegories, be conceptual or sculptural, and they are in constant flux because of the elements of time and nature. We were inspired by this when we created the Houston Botanic Garden Master Plan -- we set a strong framework that is anchored in Houston's history and the site's forces, so that generations of caretakers can make it grow and become its own artwork."*

– Adriaan Gueze, West 8, Master Planners for Houston Botanic Garden

### BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

On Wed., Feb. 17, Greater Houston area residents will have a unique opportunity to see what the future holds for the new Houston Botanic Garden.

Adriaan Gueze will be the guest presenter at the free Nancy Stallworth Thomas Horticulture Lecture, 10 am, in Bagby Hall at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd. at Woodway.

The New York office of Gueze's firm, West 8, was chosen as master planner for the Bayou City's new botanic garden, scheduled to open in 2020. Gueze's "surrealistic landscape architecture" has garnered worldwide accolades and awards for such projects as Seoul, Korea's [Yongsan Park](#); New York City's [Governors Island](#), Mallorca's [Playa de Palma](#) and Toronto's [Central Waterfront](#).

Today's Spotlight (below) is Adriaan Gueze's vision for this project to be sited in Southeast Houston with such exciting aspects as a "botanical mile that flies high over Sims Bayou to funnel visitors to and from garden parking lots north of Hobby Airport." Unique ways to cope with Houston's flooding and heat challenges will undoubtedly be viewed with great interest.

Houston already has a great foundation for becoming a major horticulture contributor, not only in the nation but across the globe. With Mercer Botanic Garden and other internationally-recognized horticulturists and organizations already based in this area, the Houston Botanic Garden will complete, and anchor, the broader spectrum needed to make us globally-significant.

In addition to obvious benefits for Houston's quality of life and tourist appeal, outstanding botanic gardens are prime movers in the area of research to positively impact the ecology, home and commercial landscaping, protection of endangered species, education on all levels and in a multitude of arenas. They do much MUCH more than just plant pretty flowers.

Houston's new 120-acre botanic garden will be located east of I-45, just south of the 610 Loop, near the Broadway/Park Place exit for Hobby Airport. Sims Bayou flows through the site.

Read our Spotlight preview of Houston's future below, and then attend the free Feb.7 presentation for a visual preview that's bound to be both exciting and spine tingling.

If you belong to an organization that cares about Houston's future, especially when it comes to working with ecology, climate, horticulture, children or other projects that involve education and/or landscaping, why not send some reps to this presentation? Then have your reps' reports serve as one of your meeting programs?

In case you're not familiar with Nancy Stallworth Thomas -- aside from the fact that she is most gracious and lovely and the true epitome of a Southern lady in every sense of the word -- let me tell you a little about her. She is a former President of the Garden Club of America, the Board of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the Garden Club of Houston. She has long been a leader in the Garden Conservancy and Center for Plant Conservation and now serves as Chairman Emeritus of the Houston Botanic Garden. This lecture series was a gift in her honor to all of us from her family.

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#### FIRST, A LITTLE POTPOURRI:

\* LINK CORRECTION - In last week's recommendation of Texas' "Dirt Doctor" Howard Garrett's great "Really Going Green" article, I accidentally gave the wrong link. The correct one is: [http://www.dirtdoctor.com/garden/Really-Going-Green-Newsletter\\_vq12275.htm](http://www.dirtdoctor.com/garden/Really-Going-Green-Newsletter_vq12275.htm)

\* **NATURE-INSPIRED ART CLASSES** - As a follow-up to our advice to keep a garden journal in our January 8 LG&F Newsletter, wanted to let you know about the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center's current series of nature-inspired art classes led by Sally Horrigan. Details: [houstonarboretum.org](http://houstonarboretum.org)

\* **KEYHOLE GARDENS:** This idea has been around a long time, but it's still as valid a technique as ever, especially with really busy gardeners. Harris County Master Gardeners Ronald Richter and Gene Aman are offering a free class on this African-import gardening method on Tues. Feb. 2, 11am, at the [Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center](#), 16600 Pine Forest Lane. As Ronald describes it:



*"Keyhole gardening was developed in Africa to support growing fresh vegetables in drought riddled poor soil areas. The design is circular raised bed with a cut out so that the gardener can get easily to the middle of the garden. A basket then is used feed the soil with nutrients continuously with compost. It is also used to support deep root watering which conserves water and provides an environment for the plants to thrive. Additional items can be added to your keyhole garden such as a top for the basket so that moisture is not evaporated and a canopy can be added during the warmer months to shade the plants and yourself as you garden."*

\* \* \*

And now . . . a peek into the future of the Houston Botanic Garden . . .

**\*\*\*PLEASE - IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING SOMETHING FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND/OR 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! ALL ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE EARMARKED SPAM!**



*Left, shaded areas will be in integral component in Houston's heat. Right, a glass conservatory design inspired by a Victoria lily.*

## HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN MEETING CHALLENGES & EXPANDING HORIZONS

From [WEST 8 & HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN](#)

West 8's Master Plan for Houston Botanic Garden articulates the potential future for the Garden over the next 20 to 30 years. The Plan takes its inspiration and structure from the best qualities of the existing site, and gives forethought to the biggest environmental challenges: flooding and intense weather events.

First and foremost, Sims Bayou and the Bayou Meander serve as framing devices that create a truly unique experience, one that protects and enhances the experience of the bayou. With these water bodies as site-organizers, the Garden is divided into two main precincts: the Island and the South Gardens. In today's condition, much of the Island is susceptible to flooding.

The design proposes lifting the existing topography to elevate the gardens and permanent structures out of the flood plain. It sculpts the topography in the South Gardens to create a series of freshwater ponds which capture stormwater runoff that is used for on-site irrigation.

The South Gardens is the place of arrival for all visitors, where guests park their cars and walk through gardens to a small visitor center with a café. It features an open lawn which is a relaxing, day-to-day place for picnics and strolling, but also supports community events like movies and small concerts, private functions, and food festivals.

A hike/bike trail (to be constructed by the Houston Parks Board) extends along Glenview Drive, with a conceptualized reach along the south bank of Sims Bayou that would connect the Garden to the extensive network of Greater Houston hike and bike trails. At the western edge of the site is the Garden's operations and education area where visitors can learn about composting, soil production, operations and maintenance, and plant nurseries.

The Island will be dominated by gardens, both naturalistic and cultivated. These gardens provide year-round beauty, delight the senses, and educate young and old alike. A conservatory building extends the plant repertoire to provide a setting for exotic plants from tropical climates.

Visitor-oriented amenities like educational facilities, an events pavilion for weddings and community receptions, a café, and a lecture hall, are strategically located to provide destinations and provisions for guests. Administrative offices and research facilities are also located on the Island, so that the horticultural, research, and administrative staff are immersed in the gardens and in the visitor experience. All of these are linked by an extensive network of pathways, many of which offer shade and are weather-protected by colonnades.

By weaving together shady pathways, a mosaic of ever-changing gardens, the bayou and other water bodies, West 8's Master Plan for Houston Botanic Garden amplifies the potential of the site's qualities and unites the site into a coherent, "only-in-Houston," garden experience.



*Left, the Botanic Mile (brown strip) runs from upper left to lower center, over Sims Bayou. Center, color planned for "the mile." Right, "flood zone" areas will be utilized in the design. All renderings courtesy of West 8.*

Links for more details:

\* <http://www.houstonbotanicgarden.org>

\* [http://www.west8.nl/adriaan\\_geuze/](http://www.west8.nl/adriaan_geuze/)

## JOHN'S CORNER

### A BOOK REVIEW



**The DRUNKEN BOTANIST- The Plants That Create the World's Great Drinks,**

**By Amy Stewart, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2013, ISBN: 978-1-61620-046-6**

I finished reading a book that was fascinating to me. For years, I have enjoyed a glass of wine with a

meal, a shot of whiskey or brandy when camping around the campfire and a cold glass of dark beer when cooking or barbecuing. As one knows, I am also a passionate gardener. This book combines two of my favorite activities.

This book is about all the plants, trees, herbs, fruits and flowers used to make alcoholic beverages and their history. The book is broken into three sections.

Section 1 is on the alchemical processes of fermentation and distillation from which we get our wines, beer, and spirits. It includes obscure sources of alcohol from around the world including many strange brews.

Section 2 is on the herbs, spices, flowers, trees, fruits, nuts, seeds, and grains that are used to make the wonderful beverages and the methods used.

Section 3 covers the array of botanical mixes and garnishes that are used in the final stages of preparation to create our wonderful cocktails.

Each section describes the plants, history of how the drink came to be and how to make it. It is full of the original recipes for making drinks. Today many companies use shortcuts and substitutes for the real ingredients, which lower the flavor and quality. The book lists the brands and the countries where they can be found that still follow the original methods and offer a superior beverage. Humankind has been making fermented beverages for thousands of years. A few started as naturally occurring that were later refined into better tasting brews.

It would make a great gift item for any gardener that likes both. I am going to have my office order a case of books to add to our book inventory of great gardening books for those whom would like to purchase a copy.

Amy Stewart has won many writing awards for her dynamic style and has authored six books on the pleasures and perils of the natural world.

She has a website called: [www.drunkenbotanist.com](http://www.drunkenbotanist.com)

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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](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

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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)

SAT., JAN 23: SPRING VEGGIES 101 WITH URBAN HARVEST, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; [buchanansplants.com](http://buchanansplants.com)

SUN., JAN 24: SPRING VEGGIES 201 by LARRY WASHCO, 2-3pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702. [buchanansplants.com](http://buchanansplants.com)

MON., JAN. 25: GARDEN MAKEOVER by PAULA GOODWIN, 6:45-8pm, Brightwater Clubhouse, 2410 Brightwater Dr., Missouri City. Free. Brightwater Garden Club event. [brightwatergardenclub.com](http://brightwatergardenclub.com); 281-403-9269

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

TUES., JAN 26: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: SOILS & COMPOST, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

TUES. JAN, 26: JUNIOR MASTER GARDNER LEARN, GROW, EAT, GO TEACHER/LEADER COMMUNITY PARTNER TRAINING, AgriLife Extension Service, 3033 Bear Creek Dr., \$30. [Reservations](http://Reservations); 713-274-0978

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

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](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT., JAN 30: GROWING BERRIES WITH URBAN HARVEST, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; [buchanansplants.com](http://buchanansplants.com)

TUES., FEB. 2: KEYHOLE & PALLET GARDENING, 11am-noon, Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. [pct3.com/senior-centers](http://pct3.com/senior-centers)

THURS., FEB. 4: GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES by SONI HOLLADAY, 9:30am, Marie Workman Garden Center, 112 West Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. Heritage Gardeners event. 281-992-4438

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)

SAT., FEB 6: TOMATO TIME by THE GUNTHERS, 9-10am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; [buchanansplants.com](http://buchanansplants.com)

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

WED., FEB. 10: GROWING TOMATOES by JEAN FEFER, 1-2pm, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. [pct3.com/senior-centers](http://pct3.com/senior-centers)

THURS., FEB. 11: ROSE PRUNING DONE RIGHT, 7:30pm, Cheri Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr.. Free. Houston Rose Society event. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

THURS., FEB. 11: SHELDON PARK WETLAND RESTORATION by ANDREW SIPOCZ, 10-11:30am, Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Parkway. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS, FEB 11: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS., FEB. 11: PERENNIALS FOR OUR COMMUNITY by ELIZABETH BARROW, 9:30-11am, Missouri City Recreation and Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Dr., Missouri City. Free. [QuailValleyGardenClub.org](http://QuailValleyGardenClub.org)

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](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT, FEB. 13: BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE, 8 AM - 12 PM, Brazoria County Fairgrounds, 901 South Downing Road, Angleton. [txmg.org/brazoria/](http://txmg.org/brazoria/)

MON., FEB. 15: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS AT PRECINCT 2 OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE WITH, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., FEB. 16: NEWEST RESEARCH ON BUTTERFLY GARDENING by NANCY GREIG, 10am, St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free; Sugar Land Garden Club event. [Sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://Sugarlandgardenclub.org)

TUES., FEB. 16, ROSE GARDENING & PRUNING DEMO by BAXTER WILLIAMS, 11am-Noon, Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. [pct3.com/senior-centers](http://pct3.com/senior-centers)

TUES., FEB 16; SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

WED., FEB. 17: MASTER PLAN FOR THE HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN by ADRIAAN GUEZE / 2016 NANCY STALLWORTH THOMAS HORTICULTURE LECTURE, 10am, Bagby Hall, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd. at Woodway. Free. Garden

Club of Houston event. [gchouston.org](http://gchouston.org)

THURS., FEB 18; SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

FRI., FEB. 19: PECKERWOOD GARDEN DOCENT TRAINING, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org). 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

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.fbmj.org](http://www.fbmj.org)

SAT, FEB 20; SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10 am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

TUES., FEB 23: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

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.fbmj.org](http://www.fbmj.org)

SAT., FEB. 27: PECKERWOOD GARDEN DOCENT TRAINING, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead, [www.peckerwoodgarden.org](http://www.peckerwoodgarden.org) , 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

THURS., MAR 3: BULBS FOR NATURALIZING ON THE GULF COAST by LINDA GAY, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Drive, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [nottinghamgardenclub.org](http://nottinghamgardenclub.org)

SAT., MAR 5: SPRING GARDENING SEMINAR by PAUL EYRE, HERMAN AUER, TREY BETHKE, PAM ROMIG, 10am-4pm, Waller County Road & Bridge Bldg., 775 Business 290 East, Hempstead. \$25 pre-register by Mar. 3. Waller County Master Gardener event. [txmg.org/walleimg](http://txmg.org/walleimg); 979-826-7651; [walleimgardener2013@gmail.com](mailto:walleimgardener2013@gmail.com)

SAT., MAR 5: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING VEGETABLE CONFERENCE, 10am-4pm, Road and Bridge Road & Bridge Building, 775 Business 290E. Hempstead. \$25. 979-826-7651; [walleimgardener2013@gmail.com](mailto:walleimgardener2013@gmail.com)

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. [thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

TUES., MAR 8: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.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.

THURS, MAR 10: RAISED BEDS & LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 6:30-8:30 pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

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)

FRI-SUN., MAR 11-13: LEADING WITH LANDSCAPE II: HOUSTON TRANSFORMATION CONFERENCE. Cultural Landscape Foundation event. Mar. 11 - Conference ([Early registration rates](#)). Mar. 12-13 - free, expert-led tours of historic parks & projects. [tclf.org](http://tclf.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.

SAT., MARCH 12: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org). 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

TUES., MAR 15: CREATING FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS FROM YOUR GARDEN by AMY NEUGEBAUER, 10am, St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free; Sugar Land Garden Club event. [Sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://Sugarlandgardenclub.org)

TUES., MAR 15; RAISED BEDS & LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

THURS., MAR 17; RAISED BEDS & LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

FRI-SAT., MAR 18-19: MARCH MART, Fri\*: noon-4pm. Sat.: 8am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160. VIP shopping: [hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer](http://hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer)

SAT., MAR 19: RAISED BEDS & LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 10am-noon, Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

TUES., MAR 22: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & RAISED BEDS & LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION SEMINAR, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu); 281-855-5600

FRI., APR 9: XPLOING CREATIVITY by LILLIAN RICO, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT., APRIL 9: HMNS COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER SPRING PLANT SALE, 8am-noon (or sell-out), garage 7th level, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. 713-639-4629, [hmns.org](http://hmns.org)

SAT., APRIL 9: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden

Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org). 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

TUE., APR. 12: PLANT PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES (WORKSHOP by MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9am. Extension Office, 9020 FM 1484 Rd. (Airport Rd.), Conroe. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. [www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

FRI.- SUN., APRIL 15, 16, 17: KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB HOME & GARDEN TOUR 10am-4pm Fri. & Sat.; noon-4pm Sun. [kingwoodgardenclub.org](http://kingwoodgardenclub.org)

TUES., APR. 19: MILLENNIAL GARDENING by DEE NASH, 10am, St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free; Sugar Land Garden Club event. [Sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://Sugarlandgardenclub.org)

SAT., APRIL 23: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org). 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

SUN., MAY 8 (MOTHER'S DAY): PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org). 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

TUES., MAY 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.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 event. [houstonfederationgardencubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardencubs.org)

SAT., MAY 21: FRIENDS OF PECKERWOOD GARDEN dAY, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org). 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

SAT., JUNE 11: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center 5002 Nasa Road One Seabrook. Free. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

TUES., JULY 12: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

SAT., JULY 23: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend Country Fairgrounds 4310 Texas Highway 36, Rosenberg. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

TUES., OCT. 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.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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## 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 01/30/16.

**COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 50% off Pears & Pomegranates.**

(Offer good for retail purchases of this product (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 01/30/16.