



February 12, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 145th 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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FANTASTIC LILIES FOR HOUSTON . . . MORE SURPRISE FEBRUARY BLOOMERS!

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

*"Lilies, they're the most extroverted of all flowers.
And without the long stems, they have a very appealing personality . . ."*

– Polly to Quilleran on flowers for a low, round table centerpiece.
– The Cat Who Talked Turkey by Lillian Jackson Braun

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Bulbs are, without a doubt, among the easiest of all flowers for lazy gardeners. I can't imagine a garden without my amaryllis, narcissus, snowbells, crinums, Louisiana iris, and giant white spider

lilies.

That's why, when I saw Linda Gay (former Mercer Botanic Garden Director) would be giving a talk March 3 on what she considers the best bulbs for this area to the Nottingham Garden Club, I asked if she'd do a Spotlight article for us on those she feels need to be used more often.

One certainly can't say that about the bulbs I listed above. They're among the MOST used. So listen up to Linda when she not only lists those we shouldn't overlook, but gives other great bulb growing tips. In addition to her years of experience with Mercer Botanic Garden and her busy speaking schedule, Linda is a horticulturist/teacher, working with staff and volunteers, at the new McGovern Centennial Gardens in Hermann Park. If you haven't had a chance to visit these yet, please go. A real treasure for Houston.

SPEAKING OF HOUSTON HORTICULTURAL TREASURES to put on your schedule . . .

Free, one-hour [Buffalo Bayou - from Mastodons to Marathons](#) walking tours, co-sponsored by [Buffalo Bayou Partnership](#) & [Katy Prairie Conservancy](#), 3rd Saturday of each month. Texas Master Naturalists reveal how 19th century Texas landscapes and ecology created Houston and rebuilding our astonishing and all-but-vanished flora. The next one: Sat., Feb. 20, 10:30am. Reservations required: sluc@buffalobayou.org or 713.752.0314 ext. 104.

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In response to our continuing report on how amazing this February is in terms of blooming (out of season) surprises, here's a pictorial report sent in by Ingrid Hamilton, obviously a fun gardener in The Woodlands:



L to r, bleeding heart vine, canna lily, fireman's cap, sedum and lantana.

* * *

And, in case you're not familiar with my favorite (*albeit very common*) bulbs, here they are pictured below, l to r, amaryllis, crinum, hymenocallis (giant white spider lily), Louisiana iris, paperwhite narcissus and snowbells



PLEASE - IF YOU DO NOT GET A RESPONSE FROM ME TO AN EMAIL, ASSUME I DID NOT RECEIVE IT AND SEND IT AGAIN! CHECK NEWSLETTER CALENDAR TO MAKE SURE YOUR EVENTS ARE PUBLISHED. IF THEY AREN'T, LET ME KNOW!

* * *





Among Linda's favorite bulbs are, l to r, Aztec lily, *Lilium 'Triumphator,'* Stargazer lily, rainlilies (*Zephyranthes rosea*) and Tiger Lily

NATURALIZING BULBS

by Linda Gay,
Horticulturist

Most people ask me what is my favorite plant. I have to ask what time of year?

More often than not, bulbs are my favorite. They surprise me as I forgot I had planted them until I see green noses push from the soil.

"Naturalizing" means they return every year with larger bulbs and bigger flowers. Not all bulbs are naturalizing.

Since bulbs go dormant (the foliage is not up year round) and need to be protected while "sleeping" in the soil, you have to remember where you put them or protect them in a flower bed that is constantly changing.

One trick: I put a "buddy plant" next to them to protect them from me wielding a shovel!

Most Frequently asked Questions:

HOW DEEP DO I PLANT BULBS?

General rule: twice the depth of the bulb. If the bulb is 1.5" from nose to roots, plant 3" deep. Hyacinths and tulips do NOT naturalize. Plant them 6" deep in January. Store in fridge until planting.

WHEN CAN I PLANT BULBS?

Plant immediately after purchasing or receiving them. Bulbs out of soil dehydrate and shrink until dead.

WHEN DO I DIVIDE BULBS?

Normally after 3 years, the clump becomes very large and inhibits flowering. Divide when the "noses" start to emerge from the soil.



Yellow *Lycoris traubii* and red *L. radiata* (spider lilies) thrive in Linda's garden with orange cuphea.

Some of my favorite bulbs are:

AZTEC LILY (*Sprekelia*) - is a 3-4" blood red flower that looks like a star. Blooms in spring and fall (March and October). Plant so the bulb necks are above the top of the soil as this bulb doesn't go dormant.

SPIDER LILY (*Lycoris traubii* and *L. radiata*) -- both are fall bloomers, yellow traubii blooms quickly when planted. The red takes 2 years when divided to bloom.

NARCISSUS is one of the earliest spring flowering bulbs with several fragrant varieties. 'Campernelle', 'Golden Dawn', and 'Grand Primo'.

LILY -- my favorite late spring, early summer blooming bulb. I love the Orientals such as 'Stargazer' and 'White Stargazer', next is 'Triumphator' which is a hybrid of oriental and Asiatic lilies and very fragrant and grows 6' tall without staking!

Everyone should get to know and grow **RAINLILIES**, *Zephyranthes candida*, *Z. rosea*, and *Habranthus robustus* are 3 good ones to whet your appetite and yes they bloom after rains.

* * *

Email Linda Gay at lgay4756@gmail.com, log in to her [The Arbor Gate podcasts](#).

Or ... drop by Linda's Thursday, March 3, "Bulbs for Naturalizing on the Gulf Coast" lecture at 9:30 am at the Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Drive, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club Program. Details at nottinghamgardenclub.org

JOHN'S CORNER

What Is A Healthy Soil!



We have had many requests for John's Healthy Soil related articles. So, due to popular demand, we have added a link below to John's multi-part series. Enjoy!

<http://www.natureswayresources.com/nl/HealthySoil.pdf>

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WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

TO SUBMIT AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR, PLEASE NOTE.

Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take a full week or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.

Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

If we inspire you to attend any of these events, please let them know you heard about it in **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

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

SAT., FEB. 13: BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE, 8am-noon, Brazoria County Fairgrounds, 901 South Downing Road, Angleton. txmg.org/brazoria/

SAT., FEB. 13: SOIL MANAGEMENT FOR THE HOME GARDEN by DR. JOE NOVAK, 9-11am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. \$35. Registration: nnmd.org

SAT., FEB. 13: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am, University of St. Thomas Hughes House, 3921 Yoakum Blvd. \$20. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., FEB. 13: HOW, WHEN and WHY TO PRUNE by LINDA CRUM and ALLEN SELMER, 9am, Parks, Recreation and Environmental Services Facility, 8203 Millennium Forest Dr., The Woodlands, Free, Registration Required. 281-210-3925 Gardening 101

SAT., FEB. 13: PASSIONATE LOVE FOR FRUIT by JOHN PANZARELLA, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

SAT., FEB. 13: TERRARIUMS - BUILD YOUR OWN INDOOR GARDEN WORLD, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss. Free.

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

TUES., FEB. 16: BASIC FRUIT TREE CARE & PLANTING, 6pm, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr, \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

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

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

TUES., FEB 16: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. 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

WED., FEB. 17: BASIC FRUIT TREE CARE & PLANTING, 10am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr, \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

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

THURS., FEB 18: RESTORATION OF NATIVE LONGLEAF PINE HABITATS IN BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE by KEN HYDE, 7 pm, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway Dr. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas Houston Chapter event

FRI., FEB. 19: PECKERWOOD GARDEN DOCENT TRAINING, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

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

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

SAT., FEB. 20: PEST IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE HOME GARDEN by DR. JOE NOVAK, 9-11am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. \$35. Registration: nnmd.org

SAT., FEB. 20: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FRUIT, CITRUS TREE & VEGETABLE SALE PREVIEW by JON JOHNS, 8am, & SALE, 9am-1pm, (new site) Galveston County Fairgrounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 and Jack Brooks Road, Hitchcock. 281-534-3413; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., FEB 20: TEXAS TOUGH PERENNIALS by DIANE BULANOWSKI, 10am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., FEB. 20: BERRIES THE URBAN HARVEST WAY by Sherry Cruse, , 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

SAT., FEB. 20: SECRETS TO A BAREFOOT SOFT LAWN, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free.

SUN., FEB. 21: EASY TO GROW FERNS by LINDA GAY, 2:00pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org

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

THUR., FEB. 25: HOUSTON'S WEATHER IN 2016 by JOHN NELSON-GAMMON, 5:30pm, United Way Center, 50 Waugh Dr. Registration: ohbaonline.org

FRI., FEB. 26: WHY ORGANIC GARDENING WORKS by JOHN FERGUSON, 10am, The Woodlands Market Street Library, 2101 Lake Robbins Dr. Garden Gals event. 713-818-6595, cdupton@wt.net

SAT. FEB. 27: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL VEGETABLE-HERB PLANT SALE, 9am, Fort Bend County Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd., Rosenberg. 281 341-7068; www.fbmga.org

sat., feb. 27: Peckerwood Garden Docent Training, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead, www.peckerwoodgarden.org/, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., FEB. 27; GROWING VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS by DR. JOE NOVAK, 9-11am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. \$35. Registration www.nnmd.org

SAT., FEB. 27: ADVANCED VEGETABLE GARDENING by Paul Eyre, 9am-noon, Parks, Recreation and Environmental Services Facility, 8203 Millennium Forest Dr., The Woodlands, Free, Registration Required. 281-210-3924 Vegetable Gardening

SAT., FEB. 27: TOMATOES & VEGGIES by TOM LEROY, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

SUN., FEB. 28: SOIL PREPARATION & GROWING VEGETABLES IN HOUSTON by TOM LEROY, 2pm, Wabash Feed & Garden, 5701 Washington Ave. \$10. 713-863-8322. wabashfeed.com/

TUES., MAR. 1: PLANTING AND PRUNING FRUIT TREES by SKIP RICHTER, 11am & **ORGANIC GARDENING PRINCIPLES WITH THE POPULAR GUNTHER SISTERS**, 1pm, Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center; 713-274-3250

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. nottinghamgardensclub.org

THUR. MAR. 3: OUR TOXIC WORLD AND YOUR HEALTH by JOHN FERGUSON, 6:30pm, Ft. Bend County Bud O'Shields Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. Coastal Plains Master Naturalist event. Sharon Smith, gardendiva13@yahoo.com, 281-633-7033

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. txmga.org/wallermg; 979-826-7651; wallermgardener2013@gmail.com

SAT., MAR. 5: LANDSCAPE DESIGN BASICS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.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; wallermgardener2013@gmail.com

SAT.,-SUN., MAR. 5-6: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB 36th ANNUAL SHOW & SPRING SALE, Sat.: sale 9am-5pm & show 1-5pm; Sun: show & sale 10am-3pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Dr.. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.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

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

TUES., MAR. 8: SNAKE SAFETY IN THE GARDEN by CLINT PUSTEJOVSKY, 11am & **HUMMINGBIRDS, MYTH, MAGIC AND MYSTERY!** by MARK KLYM, 1pm, Glazier Senior Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center; 713-274-3250

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.

WED., MAR. 9: HIBISCUS GARDENING by MARTI GRAVES, 1pm, Glazier Senior Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. <http://www.pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center>; 713-274-3250

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; 281-855-5600

THURS., MAR. 10: GROWING OLIVE TREES AND PRODUCING OIL WITH RANDY BRAZIL. 10:30am, Glazier Senior Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. <http://www.pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center>; 713-274-3250

THURS., MAR. 10: THE MONARCH'S BEST HOPE IS STILL YOU by BARBARA KELLER-WILY, 7:30pm, L.G.I. Lecture Hall, McCullough Jr. High School, 3800 S. Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands, Free. 281-210-3925; Walk in the Woods Nature Lecture

THUR. MARCH 10: ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MULCHES by JOHN FERGUSON, 6:30pm, County Agriculture Extension Office, 501 Palmer Ave. Liberty County Master Gardener event. Lindsay Ruschel, ms.ruschel@gmail.com, 936-334-3230

THURS., MAR. 10: HOW FERTILIZERS WORK AND FACTOR THAT IMPACT EFFICIENCY, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston 77004. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

THURS., MAR. 10: "Ornamental Plant Trials in Harris County" by Paul Winski, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Agent - Harris County. 10 - 11:30 am, Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Pkwy. FREE. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. 281-855-5600 hcmga.tamu.edu

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

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 tours of historic parks & projects. tclf.org

WED. MAR. 12: MARCH MART VOLUNTEER TRAINING, 9:30am, and MARCH MART PREVIEW OF SALE PLANTS, noon, 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. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., MAR. 12: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT, PART 3, by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11am, & VERMICULTURE - WORM CASTINGS FOR YOUR GARDEN, by LINDA BROWN, 1-2:30pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free but reservations requested for each: galv@wt.net; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., MAR. 12: LAWN CARE by LP, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

MON., MAR. 14: SUCCULENT GARDENING by WALLY WARD, 1pm, Glazier Senior Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center; 713-274-3250

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

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

TUES., MAR. 15: CITRUS GARDENING by MARY KARISH 1pm, Glazier Senior Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center; 713-274-3250

TUE., MAR. 15: THE ABC'S OF HOME COMPOSTING by KEN STEBLEIN, 6:30-8:30pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free but reservations requested: galv3@wt.net; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

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

Fri. Mar. 18: PLANT SEED & EXCHANGE ON GLAZIER'S PATIO, Glazier Senior Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center; 713-274-3250

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

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

SAT., MAR. 19: ORGANIC GARDENING FAIR, 8am-4pm, St. Anne's Catholic Church's Giving Field, Beaumont. Sharon Begnaud, sebegnaud@gmail.com

SAT., MAR. 19: HONEY BEES AROUND THE GARDEN by ROBERT MARSHALL, 9-10:30am, & TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL by JIM GILLIAN, 1-2:30pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free but reservations requested for each: galv3@wt.net; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

MON. MAR. 21: OPEN GARDEN DAY WITH HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS AT PRECINCT 2, 8:30 - 11:00 am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. FREE. Plants for sale in Greenhouse. 281-855-5600 hcmga.tamu.edu

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

WED., MAR. 23; SPRING CONTAINER GARDENING WITH SKIP RICHTER HARRIS COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT; 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center; 713-274-3250

Thur. March 24: BEEKEEPING FOR THE AMATEUR WORKSHOP by CAMERON CRANE, 1pm, Glazier Senior Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane. Free. pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center; 713-274-3250

TUE., MAR. 29: 'TEXAS TUFF' LANDSCAPE PLANTS - BLOOMING AND BEAUTIFUL by SANDRA DEVALL, 6:30-8pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free but reservations requested: galv3@wt.net; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

TUES., MAR. 29: THE DANGERS OF GMO'S by DR. THIERRY VRAIN, 6:30pm, Houston Museum of Natural Science, IMAX Theater, 5555 Herman Park Dr. \$18. hmns.org; 713-639-4629

SAT., APRIL 2: WHITE OAK GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am program by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 10am-2pm (or sell-out) sale. White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. nnmd.org

SAT., APR. 2: ROSES IN THE LANDSCAPE by GAYE HAMMOND, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

MON., APRIL 4: GROWING HIBISCUS by MARTI GRAVES, 10am, Amegy Bank Building, Community Room, 28201 SH 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

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

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

SAT., APRIL 9: Peckerwood Garden Open Day, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., APR 9: TIME TO TALK HERBS by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

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

THURS., APR. 14: ADDING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN: DESIGN, PLANTS and MORE by Mark Bowen, 7:30 pm, L.G.I. Lecture Hall, McCullough Jr. High School, 3800 S. Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands, Free. 281-210-3925; Walk in the Woods Nature Lecture

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

SAT., APR. 16: ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO POLLINATE YOUR GARDEN by NANCY GRIEG, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

SUN., APRIL 17: 2016 HIBISCUS SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, Bellaire Community Center, 7008 S. Rice Blvd, Bellaire. Free. Lone Star Chapter/American Hibiscus Society event. Free. lonestarahs.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

SAT., APRIL 23: Peckerwood Garden Open Day, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., APR. 23: ORGANIC SOLUTIONS TO PESKY INSECTS by ANDY CHIDESTER, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

SAT., APR. 30: FAIRY GARDEN SEMINARS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. \$10/reservations: www.myenchanted.com

SUN., MAY 7: 2016 HIBISCUS SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. Lone Star chapter/American Hibiscus Society event. Free. lonestarahs.org

SAT., MAY 7: MINIATURE CONTAINER GARDEN WORKSHOP, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Pay for supplies use. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., MAY 7: CHAPPELL HILL GARDEN TOUR & PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, 9060 Poplar St., Chappell Hill. Chappell Hill Garden Club event. 979-836-2554; 713-562-6191.

SUN., May 8: Peckerwood Garden MOTHER'S DAY Open Day, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; 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

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. houstonsfederationofgardenclubs.org

SAT., MAY 14: SUCCULENT MAKE AND TAKE, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Reservations: www.myenchanted.com

SUN., MAY 15: TROPICAL FRUIT TREES WITH DANY MILIKIN OF EDIBLE EARTH RESOURCES, 2-3pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

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

SAT., MAY 21: HERB LORE WITH DANY MILIKIN OF EDIBLE EARTH RESOURCES, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., MAY 21: TOMATO & SALSA CONTEST judged by BILL ADAMS , 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. www.myenchanted.com

SAT., JUNE 4: BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORKSHOP FOR KIDS, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

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

SAT., JUNE 11: EDIBLE LANDSCAPING WITH DANY MILIKIN OF EDIBLE EARTH RESOURCES, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

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

SAT., JULY 23: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend Country Fairgrounds 4310 Texas Highway 36, Rosenberg. 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

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 AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR, PLEASE NOTE

Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take a full week or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.

Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

Green Job Opportunities at Nature's Way Resources

Inside Sales: duties include providing customer service, gardening advice and sales assistance. This is a part time position.

Horticulturist: duties include customer service, providing planting recommendations and helping to maintain our plant nursery.

For more information please email Mark Bowen at markbowenhoutx@gmail.com.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE
POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS



ABOUT US

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- * a national award-winning writer & editor
- * a nationally-published writer & photographer
- * a national horticultural speaker
- * a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda's 45-year-old "Lazy Gardener" print column a couple of years ago, it ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* book and now to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy Gardener run on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's **BULLETIN** magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** with John Ferguson and Mark Bowen of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Aldine and is married to the now retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

JOHN FERGUSON

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

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

MARK BOWEN

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

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

PABLO HERNANDEZ

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities

include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 50% off all Antique Roses.

(Offer good for retail purchases of this product (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 02/28/16.