



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



September 30, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 175th 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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Autumn is the hush before winter.

~ French Proverb

BALCONY GARDEN SUCCESS & FALL IS FOR

CELEBRATING . . . MONARCHS, JANE LONG & WILDFLOWERS!

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

I've been writing the Lazy Gardener column-turned blog-turned LG&F newsletter since the mid-1970s. Every since I started, I've been keeping my eye out for a surviving Houston balcony garden – with no success . . . until now!

Last spring, Steve Murray wrote:

"My mother, Joan Murray, has moved from the Midwest to a mid-rise apartment in The Woodlands. Her balcony has strong southern and western exposure and it's on the 6th floor so it has strong winds. We'd appreciate any ideas on grows well in containers with these extreme exposures."

Hope springs eternal! In essence, I answered:

Your biggest problem is the wind. Wind dries soil out very quickly. Sun doesn't help, but keep in mind it's wind primarily. If you can rig up protection that shields the plant, that will help.

Also good: self-watering pots that hold water in a separate compartment with wicking action. The old fashioned way is a bucket of water next to the pot. Poke one end of a stocking, shoestring or other thick wicking material all the way to the bottom of the pot. Weight the other end and drop it into bucket of water so it falls to the bottom. Soil will wick water as it needs it without keeping it so wet roots rot.

Invest in just a few of a wide variety of drought-tolerant plants for sun and shade to use in appropriate areas. Remember, morning>noon sun here is the same as full sun in the Midwest. See which survive. You can always get more of those. Don't invest too much in any one plant until you experiment.

Good luck, take pictures and remember me if any of those plants succeed. I want to know!

I couldn't possibly report their results better than Steve just did on his mother's 6th floor west- & south-facing, wrap-around balcony garden at The Villages at Woodlands Parkway. Here's his update:



Left, Joan Murray, right, gets a helping hand from her daughter-in-law Lisa Murray. Center, bougainvillea. Right Meyer lemon with bloom & fruit insert.

**STEVE'S REPORT: MOM SAYS HER BALCONY GARDEN IS A SUCCESS
-- given her location and limited experience in the Houston climate!**

Mom bought small garden planters with a water reservoir underneath to try veggies. They did very well but she was still a bit worried about the long, hot period in late July-August. So we recently added the screen.

That helped. Mom was able to grow tomatoes, cucumbers, and bell peppers.

The tomatoes produced until overwhelmed by spider mites (which she didn't see and we didn't catch early). The cucumbers produced into August, where again we missed the spider mites. The peppers were hidden under the cuc's but produced a few small fruit. Now starting fall tomatoes.

The Asian Jasmine was a small 12" vine scrap torn off roots in our garden while pruning. It's thrived in a NW corner and held blossoms longer than the larger plants in the ground below. Given the pitiful start, this is probably the most successful.

Firecracker weed and Meyer lemon did well at first, lost greenery in June-July, (but) have been coming back in August, even before the heavy rains.

The gayfeather did well all summer, but the blossoms in August were subdued.

The sweet potato vine did great all summer. The Vincas not so well, but are recovering now.

We bought a Mexican cactus with intense flowers. The blossoms dropped, but the greenery is strong. Same results from the bougainvillea.



L to r, Spider mites attacked tomatoes (insert: damage), sweet potato mix, jasmine vine and, in combo, red firecracker plant (Russelia equisetiformis) with purple liatris (I added inserts to Steve Murray's pictures)

It's quite a variety of plants and planters. Some of the plants came from our house, some from Buchanans, and some from Nature's Way Resources (all the veggies!).

Like you suggested, our subjective take is that the planters, the sun/wind screen, and the soil make a big difference by keeping the soils cooler and moister. We expected the veggies to be the most vulnerable, but overall they did pretty well in the small plastic planters with water basins. The in-between plants, in plastic pots or the large foam planters did ok. But the hardiest plants, in the heavy glazed clay pots struggled the most. The plants in the soils with a heavier portion of clay, rather than the lighter vermiculite also trended better.

And a big shout out to John and Nature's Way Resources for the quality plants and the reminder that it's all in the "dirt" (microbes). – Steve

* * *



*Types of successful host plants in Bolivar Peninsula's Monarch Garden, l to r, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), green milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*) - both die back in winter, and butterflyweed, the tropical milkweed (that needs to be cut back to the ground at the beginning of winter to [prevent Oe](#)).*

CELEBRATING MONARCHS & JANE LONG ON BOLIVAR!

Lots of happy gardeners on Bolivar Peninsula these days. Volunteers from Keep Bolivar Beautiful & Beach Bloomers Garden Club created a [Monarch Garden at the Joe Faggard Community Building pavilion](#) on Jane Long Highway (Hwy. 87). Bolivar is an [International Flyway](#) and, as such, has long been a favorite spring and fall destination for serious birdwatchers and butterfly enthusiasts who arrive in spring and fall to observe and count the myriads of migrating species passing over.

Volunteer Ange Buscheme Scheibel reports they have seen numerous generations of Monarch caterpillars over the summer on their collection of butterflyweeds, including the popular red/yellow/orange "tropical" variety as well as numerous native ones, including swamp and green *Asclepias*. Collections of butterfly-attractors include salvias, porterweed, hamelia (hummingbird plant) and cupheas.

To their delight, many of these are still in full bloom, including the zinnias, which proved to be real showpieces of the garden. The best part of these, Ange notes, is that volunteers just toss deadheads back into the garden, triggering even more sprouting plants.

A great place to see this public Monarch Garden will be during the big [2016 Jane Long Festival](#) at historic Fort Travis Seaside Park on Bolivar Peninsula (near the Bolivar Ferry Landing, across Jane Long Highway/87 from the towering Bolivar Lighthouse).

The family-oriented free festival ground opens Fri., Oct. 14, at 4 when Texas History Re-enactors are setting up for their Saturday replays of momentous Republic of Texas conflicts. Friday night's music starts at 6 with a fireworks display following around 7 (dark). Saturday's full schedule of fun also includes the "Jane Long: A Woman for All Centuries" play, myriads of booths & activities, food, tours of Fort Travis's bunkers and cannon firings. Fort Travis is, without a doubt, one of Texas' most picturesque festival sites, with its incredible sweeping views of shore birds, Bolivar Lighthouse, the Gulf of Mexico, Galveston Bay, Galveston Island, fishing, shrimping and sailing boats and huge freighters and cruise ships passing by. Details: www.janelongfestival.org.

(PS. In the great "Jane Long: A Woman for All Centuries" play by Linda Elissalde, I get to portray the rather rebellious wife of Jean Lafitte's first lieutenant pirate who gets kicked out of Jane Long's camp for cussing!)



BLUEBONNETS IN SEPTEMBER? Jo Graves sent in the picture at left of her now-in-bloom bluebonnets (I added insert) and wants to know if this sudden recurrence in her Briar Forest/Dairy Ashford area garden is due to our crazy weather?

Yes. But then, our weather's always crazy! Blooming out of season is a common occurrence here and happens to many flowers such as, l to r, normally spring-only blooming azaleas, pink magnolias and amaryllis. Anyone have other reappearing spring bloomers right now?

We usually think of "dormant" in terms of winter. But actually plants go dormant in any stressful season. They deliberately drop leaves and/or disappear altogether to conserve energy and/or to protect themselves from cold, heat, drought, floods, insect/disease infestations, etc. Or, maybe they're just taking the time they need time to adjust to a new environment.

When conditions improve or they become adjusted, energy flow from the roots again heads upward, new leaves appear and, sometimes, even flowers like normally spring-only blooming azaleas, pink magnolias. Can anyone think of any others?

What can you do about it?

Nothing! When it gets cold they'll go dormant again and will reappear when the time is right.

SUBMITTING EVENTS TO THE LG&F CALENDAR BELOW? PLEASE READ!

See calendar for OUR CARVED-IN-STONE format. COPY EXACTLY!

Events submitted in this EXACT format will be copied & pasted in right away.

Any necessary re-typing/reformatting may take a couple of weeks

** * **

Always check the LG&F Newsletter Calendar to make sure your submitted event is listed!*

If not, let me know! Send to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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

JOHN'S CORNER

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD

OF SOIL & PLANTS



Most gardeners know that plants always look better and grow faster after being watered by natural rainfall versus water from our municipal water supply. Rainwater is naturally soft and slightly acidic and it contains nutrients like dissolved nitrogen and trace elements from dust in the air. Rainwater often contains beneficial microbes. It also does not contain chemicals that are bad for the health of our gardens; sodium (salt), fluoride, chlorine (think bleach), or chloramines (disinfectants). When we water with municipal water containing these toxic chemicals we kill the microbes in the soil that prevent disease and create soil structure. In other words, the more we water, the more problems one has in their yard and gardens. Capturing rainwater is great way to help ones garden. The other option is to filter or treat the water to remove the toxic chemicals before watering one's plants. There are a couple ways to do this. The first option is to fill up a barrel with the city water and wait 24 hours to use. The chlorine will escape to the atmosphere overnight. After filling, add a few pounds of compost and stir into the water. The humus in the compost along with the microbes will neutralize the fluoride and chloramines and break it down so they can escape to the atmosphere. Humates will also work but it does not contain the beneficial microbes and is a lot more expensive pound for pound to use. Both good compost and humates contain water-soluble nutrients that the plants will love. Secondly, several companies are making filters that one can attach to the outside faucet before attaching the garden hose. I will discuss these in future articles.

The journal HortScience (August 2016) has an interesting paper on pollinators, beneficial insects and plant types. This was done at the University of Georgia hence; the results should be very applicable to our area. Of the plants in the study, the 15 most often visited by pollinators were:

Agastache 'Black Adder'
Gaura lindheimeri Engelm 'Passionate Blush'
Lonicera sempervirens L. ' Major Wheeler'
Agastache mexicana 'Knutz Acapulco'
Nepata x faassenii 'Walkers Low'
Foeniculum vulgare L.
Coreopsis auriculata 'Redshift'
Aster dumosus 'Woods Pink'
Rudbeckia triloba L.
Belamcanda chinensis
Salvia microphylla 'Hot Lips'
Solenostemon scrutellariodes 'Mariposa'
Salvia 'M. Martens' and Galeotti 'Mystic Spires'
Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus'
Rudbeckia hirta 'Indian Summer'

Of the plants in the study, the 15 most often visited by beneficial insects were:

Gaura lindheimeri Engelm 'Passionate Blush'
Achillea filipendulina 'Coronation Gold'
Buddleia davidii 'Sweet Profusion'
Coreopsis auriculata 'Redshift'
Curcuma petiolata 'Emperor'
Lonicera sempervirens L. ' Major Wheeler'
Rudbeckia triloba L.
Rudbeckia hirta 'Indian Summer'
Cassia x floribunda 'Irwin and Barnaby'
Achillea millefolium 'Sunny Seduction'
Coreopsis auriculata 'Snowberry'

Foeniculum vulgare
Coreopsis spicata
Coreopsis 'Cosmic Eye'
Stachys byzantina 'Koch'

I was at the Plant Health Workshop and CEU Event put on by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and OHBA (Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance) at Centennial Gardens on Wednesday. Gaye Hammond (Past President of the Houston Rose Society) gave an excellent presentation on two new rose diseases causing problems in Texas. The first was on Crown Gall disease and the other was on Rose Rosette Disease. A few of the take a ways are:

- Rose Rosette disease has destroyed all the roses in the Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens and most of them in the Dallas Botanical gardens even after replanting several times.
- Rose Rosette affects almost all roses and not just the Knock Outs family of roses.
- Planting roses North of Interstate 20 is risky at this time due to the severity of the disease.
- A couple cases of Rose Rosette disease have been discovered in Houston.
- Best to purchase plants grown in Texas from reputable growers like Chamblee's or Antique Rose Emporium that hand inspect plants for the disease and grows them on their own roots.

Note: Many wholesale nurseries in Texas just purchase bare root roses from growers in other areas of the country then grow them out to sell in our local market. These out of state growers use automated equipment to grow their cuttings; hence, they do not inspect the roses for the disease before shipping them. This practice has helped spread the disease so quickly across many areas of the country.

There is a new documentary on the health problems caused by eating GMO crops that can be viewed free through September 30 on the Dr. Mercola website.

Transgenic Wars - How GMOs Impact Livestock and Human Health Around the Globe

<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2016/09/24/transgenic-wars-gmo.aspx>

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WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS
CALENDAR

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT TO THIS CALENDAR.

Events **NOT** submitted in the **EXACT** written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us. Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

**IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN
*THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER***

SAT., OCT. 1: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT 1: CRUCIFEROUS & OTHER FAVORITE FALL VEGETABLES, by GENE SPELLER, 9-11am, & HERBS IN THE GARDEN by CINDY CROFT, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free. Register: galvcounnymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. OCT. 1: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 8 am presentation, sale 9-noon, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., OCT 1 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am and 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT. 1: FALL FEST - BNP 30th ANNIVERSARY, 11am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., OCT 1: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, AgriLife Extension Center, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx; 281-855-5600.

SAT., OCT. 1: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 1 CLASS, 8 am-5 pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd, Pasadena. \$37. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter, 713-657-0372; npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification

SAT. OCT. 1: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 8 am presentation, sale 9-noon, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT-SUN., OCT. 1-2: FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. houstonarboretum.org

MON., OCT. 3: BLUEBIRDS IN THE GARDEN by LINDA CRUM, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

MON., OCT. 3: BLUEBIRDS IN THE GARDEN by LINDA CRUM, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

TUES., OCT 4: EASY BUTTERFLY GARDENING by PHYLLIS KOENIG, 6:30-8 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but pre-register: galvcounnymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

WED., OCT. 5: HERBS FOR HEALING by LUCIA BETTLER, 9-11:30am, Clear Lake Methodist Church, 16335 El Camino Real. Gardeners by the Bay event. 281-474-5051.

THURS., OCT. 6: GET YOUR GREENS ON - ASIAN STYLE!! by Jeremy Kdliaus & Chef Chris Crowder, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free. Register: arborgate.com

THURS., OCT. 6: FENG SHUI IN THE GARDEN: QUICK & EASY SUCCESS by KATHERINE ASHBEE, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club Program. nottinghamgardenclub.org

SAT., OCT. 8: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org; 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT 8: BULBMANIA!, by DODIE JACKSON, 9-10 am, & GARDENING FOR JEWELS...HUMMINGBIRDS by DEBORAH REPASZ, 1-2:30 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Register: galvcounnymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., OCT. 8: BULBS AND BUDDIES by Chris Wiesinger & Heidi Sheesley, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free. Register: arborgate.com

SAT., OCT 8: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE & MARKET, 9 am-noon (or sell-out), Houston Museum of Natural Science, parking garage 7th level, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. Free parking/\$30 purchase. hmns.org/cockrell-butterfly-center/

SAT., OCT. 8: MERCER ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY GALA: WILD ABOUT GINGERS! 5pm, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Tickets: 713-274-4166; msociety@hcp4.net

SAT., OCT. 8: LANDSCAPING WITH EDIBLES by SCOTT SNODGRASS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750, and 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both in Richmond. myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 8: PROPAGATION & CONTAINER PLANTING, TAG SALE & TOURS by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS AT PRECINCT 2, 9am-noon, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Rd. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu

SUN. OCT. 9: INDOOR COMPOSTING-OUTDOOR SUCCESS by ANGELA CHANDLER, 11-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920. arborgate.com

SAT., OCT. 8: PROPAGATION & CONTAINER PLANTING, TAG SALE & TOURS by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS AT PRECINCT 2, 9am-noon, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Rd. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu

SUN., OCT. 9: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS THROUGH PERMACULTURE by Permaculture Guild of Houston. Greater Houston area sites. \$404. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

TUES., OCT. 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

TUE., OCT 11: MY FAVORITE PERENNIALS by JAN BRICK, 6:30-8 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

WED., OCT. 12: DIGGING OUT OF DEPRESSION by CYNTHIA GRAHAM, RN, BSN, 12-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free. Register: arborgate.com

WED., OCT. 12: CACTI IN THE ROUGH - SUCCULENT TOUR OF BIG BEND, noon-2pm, Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., OCT. 13: 2016 BULB & PLANT MART'S EARLY BIRD SHOPPING PARTY 4:30-7pm, St. John the Divine Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. \$20. Garden Club of Houston; gchouston.org

THURS, OCT 13: FRUIT TREES PLANTING & CAREBY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., OCT. 13: DAYLILIES by Nell Shimek, 10-11:30am, Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2. hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS. OCT. 13: CREATING BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES by Sarah Flournoy, Houston Audubon Society, 7:30pm, McCullough Jr. High, 3800 S. Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands. Free. The Woodlands Township event. 281-210-3800.

THURS., OCT. 13 : ROSE PROPAGATION by PATSY WILLIAMS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

THURS., OCT. 13: MONARCH BUTTERFLIES by BARBARA KELLER-WILLY, 9:30-11am, Missouri City Rec & Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Dr., Missouri City. Free. Quail Valley Garden Club event. QuailValleyGardenClub.org

THURS. OCT. 13: CREATING BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES by SARAH FLOURNOY. 7:30pm, McCullough Jr. High, 3800 S. Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands. . Free. The Woodlands Township event. 281-210-3800

FRI.-SAT., OCT. 14-15: 2016 BULB & PLANT MART, 9am-5pm Fri., 9am-2pm Sat., St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Free. Garden Club of Houston event. gchouston.org

THURS. OCT.13: ATTRACTING BLUEBIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN by LINDA CRUM, 10-noon, Arbor Gate 15635 FM 2910, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

FRI., OCT. 14: EMPOWERING MONARCH HEROES COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY by MARYA FOWLER, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., OCT. 15: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL FALL SALE. 8am-SALE PREVIEW by JOHN JONS; 9am-1pm-PLANT SALE, Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 at Jack Brooks Road, Hitchcock.

SAT., OCT.15: EDIBLE FLOWERS by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free. Register: arborgate.com

SAT, OCT 15; FRUIT TREES PLANTING & CARE by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT. 15: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, Galveston County Fairgrounds, 10 Jack Brooks Road at Highway 6, Hitchcock

SAT. OCT 15: MONTGOMERY COUNTY OPEN OPEN GARDENS DAY/VEGETABLE & HERB SALE, Sale 9-noon, Open Gardens 9-11 am. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SUN., OCT.16: FLOWERING HERBS AND FESTIVE TREATS by ANN WHEELER and CHRIS CROWDER 11am-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SUN., OCT. 16: CHEILANTHOID FERNS by GEORGE YATSKIEVYCH, P.D., 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org

MON., OCT. 17: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

MON., OCT. 17: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu.

TUES., OCT 18: FRUIT TREES PLANTING AND CARE by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., OCT 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: FRUIT TREES-PLANTING & CARE; 10-11 am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd. Free. ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

THURS., OCT. 20: HAPPY HERBAL NEW YEAR by Ann Wheeler, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

THURS., OCT 20: FRUIT TREES PLANTING & CARE by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

FRI.-SUN., OCT. 21-23: AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT 2016 FALL ROSE SHOW & CONVENTION, Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway. houstonrose.org.

SAT., OCT. 22. STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm. \$20. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 113, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 22: 2016 FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. \$10. Register: myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 22: GUNTERS HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES by PAM AND LEAH GUNTER 9am-1pm, & THE FALL AND WINTER FRUIT GARDENER by ANGELA CHANDLER, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free. Register: arborgate.com

SAT., OCT. 22: SAN JACINTO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL SYMPOSIUM & PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm, Community Center, 101 West Cedar Ave., Coldspring. \$25. 713-252-5254

SAT., OCT. 22: 2016 FALL "ACROSS THE BEND" GARDEN TOUR, 9am-3pm, \$15. Sugar Land Garden Club event. Homes/tickets: sugarlandgardenclub.org

FIX SAT., OCT. 22: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm, at, Oct 22. Starting a Community or School Garden Workshop. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 113, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. \$20. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org.

SUN., OCT. 23: DAYLILIES, 2-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Society event. Register: 713-274-4160

TUES., OCT. 25: GARDEN TO VASE by Linda Gay & Pat Hermes, 9am-noon, Houston School of Flowers, 4340-D Directors Row. \$75. 713-681-2400, agardenforcutting.com

WED., OCT. 23: FALL & WINTER HABITAT GARDENING by DIANA FOSS, noon-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free. Register: arborgate.com

THURS., OCT. 27: GARDEN TO VASE by Linda Gay & Pat Hermes, 9am-noon, Houston School of Flowers, 4340-D Directors Row. \$75. 713-681-2400, agardenforcutting.com

SAT., OCT. 29: GULF COAST MEAD FESTIVAL, LUCY-STYLE GRAPE STOMP COMPETITION & GRAPE GROWING DISCUSSIONS, 10am-5pm, Frascone Winery, 308 Bayside Dr., Anahuac. Free. Frascone Winery, Mystic Oak Meadery, Bentley Bees & Crane Meadows event. [Facebook: Gulf Coast Mead Festival](https://www.facebook.com/GulfCoastMeadFestival/).

SAT., OCT. 29: GARDEN TO VASE by PAT HERMES, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT., OCT. 29: FRIGHTFUL FUN IN THE GARDEN by ASHLEY GRUBB, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., NOV. 1: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 1 CLASS, 8am-5pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd., Pasadena. \$37. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter. 713-657-0372. npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification

SAT., NOV. 5: GARDEN TO VASE by LINDA GAY & PAT HERMES, 9am-noon, Houston School of Flowers, 4340-D Directors Row, \$75. 713-681-2400; agardenforcutting.com

SAT., NOV 5 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am & 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., NOV. 5: GREETING, GIFTING GUESTS WITH BEAUTIFUL PLANTED CONTAINERS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., NOV. 5: GROWING FRUIT TREES IN A SMALL SPACE, 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880 5540; urbanharvest.org

MON., NOV. 7: NEW GARDEN DOCENT ORIENTATION, 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

WED. NOV. 9: THE MADALENE HILL PHARMACY GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., NOV. 10: SOILS, FERTILIZERS, ETC.-ORGANIC SOLUTIONS by Louis Bennett, 10am, Municipal Utility Bldg. #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event; nottinghamgardenclub.org

FRI., NOV. 11: FLOWER SHOW - JUDGING DEMYSTIFIED by SUZANNE MILSTEAD & NELL SHIMEK, 10am, & TRAFFIC FLOW, 1pm, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., NOV 12: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., NOV. 12: HERBS THAT LIKE TO CHILL by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750 & 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. myenchanted.com

MON., NOV. 14: DOCENT TRAINING-REFRESH YOUR SKILLS, 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., NOV. 19: ANNUAL ENCHANTED OPEN HOUSE & EVENING, 2-8pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

MON., NOV. 21: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30 am- 11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

TUES., NOV 22: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: HOLIDAY PREPARATION; 10-11 am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd. ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

SAT., NOV 26: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., NOV. 26: ANNUAL ENCHANTED OPEN HOUSE & EVENING, 2-8pm, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond.

Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., DEC 3 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am and 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register:peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT. DEC. 3: THE ARBOR GATE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, 2-6pm, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT., DEC. 3: CITRUS FEST & Q&A by DR. BOB RANDALL, 8:30am-noon, Urban Harvest Farmer's Market, 3000 Richmond Ave @ Eastside. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540, urbanharvest.org.

SAT., DEC. 3: GROWING CITRUS IN HOUSTON & S.E. TEXAS, 9:30-11:30am, University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 017, 2812 Yoakum Blvd, \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., DEC 3: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 10am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., DEC. 3: FRUIT TREES by SCOTT SNODGRASS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

FRI., DEC. 9: HOLLY-JUJAH by JIM JOHNSON, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. \$25 advance sale only. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., DEC. 10: WINTER AT MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN, 9am-noon, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED. DEC. 14: CHRISTMAS CRAFTS USING NATURAL MATERIALS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., DEC 17: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., DEC. 17: CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 8am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: albbarr@comcast.net.

MON., DEC. 19: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30 am- 11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., JAN. 11: EXPLORING THE PRIMEVAL FLORA OF NEW CALEDONIA, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., JAN. 13: PENNY WISE / POUND FOOLISH: WHEN & WHY TO HIRE A LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL by RITA HODGE, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

MON., JAN. 16: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30-11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

MON., JAN 23-FEB. 27: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER TIER III: THE ART OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN, 9am-3pm with an hour lunch break, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$250. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., FEB. 8: MICROGREENS, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., FEB.10: FLORAL DESIGN INSPIRED BY ART by HOUSTON DESIGNING WOMEN, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

MON., FEB. 20: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30-11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.

Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take two weeks or longer

to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.
Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE MONTH

DIESEL

Diesel was abandoned by his owners when they moved, and he ended up at Montgomery County Animal Shelter.

Diesel is a American Blue Pittbull Mix and is thought to be about 10 years old.

He knows basic commands- is housebroken and crate trained- loves everyone he meets... Loves bones, treats and squeaky toys- even likes a nice jog. He has a good amount of life to live and would love to have somewhere to spend it. If he has siblings- they have to be female.

Diesel loves to play and socialize and is so much fun to have around.

He is fixed and has all of his shots.

If interested in adopting Diesel, please reply to this newsletter and type "Diesel" in the subject line. Diesel is not at the shelter currently. He is in foster care.



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.

