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FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 191st 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. . . .E mail 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!

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!



**THANKS, BIG AL -- SAUCER MAGNOLIAS AGREE
WITH YOU! . . . CACTUS TO DELIGHT EXPERTS . . .
ANYTHING-BUT-"AMBROSIA" BEETLE ARRIVES**

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

GREAT NEWS FOR GULF COAST GARDENERS! Rumors of Big Al's demise were greatly exaggerated. He's fine. And, he has confirmed that winter is over . . . for us, anyway.

Longtime Lazy Gardener readers know of whom I speak. Every year I try to check in with Big Al's caretaker, famed gator rescuer Gary Saurage (pictured above at left with his famous charge).

Big Al - at 1000+ lbs. the largest alligator in captivity - still resides (in good health, thank you) at [Gator Country](#) on I-10, west of Beaumont. For almost more decades than he cares to remember, on Feb. 2 -- the day the groundhog looks for his shadow -- Gary tosses Big Al his most favorite meal, KFC fried chicken.

Gators, Gary explains, are physically unable to eat, their stomachs cannot digest food, until their weather-radar signals winter has passed and spring has arrived. If Big Al gobbles down the chicken, you can be sure danger of freezes has passed. Important news for gardeners.

Thing is, Punxsutawney Phil, the famed groundhog, has about a 80 +/- % accuracy rate (or much less, depending on whom you believe). Thursday Phil said up there (at least), spring is still about 6 weeks away.

Big Al has a 100% accuracy rate. He says our spring is here to stay.

* * *

Obviously our pink magnolias agree with Al. They're in gorgeous bloom all over town. Whether you call them tulip trees, saucer magnolias or Japanese magnolias, *Magnolia soulangeana* is one HARDY tree.

Suzanne Chapman reports at Mercer Botanic Gardens, both their pink/saucer/tulip/star magnolias and flowering apricots (*Prunus mume*) are in full bloom now. Redbuds are just starting to pop.



Left, our common deciduous saucer/tulip/pink magnolia (M. x soulangiana). And, March Mart's offerings, 'Anne' (center) and 'Jane' (right). These all bloom before in spring before leaves appear

All the color now gives great hope for magnificent viewing during the big annual Mercer March Mart, (March 17-18) and, best news of all, they'll have a nice selection of deciduous ones (lose leaves in winter), including these two 15'-20' saucer/pink/tulip magnolias:

- **Magnolia x soulangiana 'Anne'** -- Dense, multi-stemmed habit. Early blooming saucer magnolia. Fragrant, tulip-shaped, deep-reddish-purple flowers. Protect from cold winds and freezes. Give it room to spread. Striking spring accent plant.
- **Magnolia x soulangiana 'Jane'** -- Small cup-shaped or tulip-shaped flowers are white on inside, reddish-purple on outside. Flowers appear before leaves in spring.

March Mart will also carry traditional standard magnolias (note adult size!!) and a great evergreen dwarf:



1. ***Magnolia grandiflora*** 'D.D. Blanchard' -- 50'. Distinguished by its natural compact pyramidal habit. Has fragrant, 6-8", white flowers May to June, followed by red berries in large, woody cones.
2. ***Magnolia virginiana*** (Sweet bay or Swamp bay magnolia) 80'. Large leaves. Fragrant, 2-3", velvety flowers April to July. Grows wild in acid swamps, but grows in drier areas also. Attracts birds.
3. ***Magnolia maudiae*** 'Michelia' -- Note! 6-8'. One of the easiest winter-blooming, evergreen magnolias to grow in mild climates. Very fragrant, pure-white, six-inch flowers are arranged along the branches rather than at the tips. Small tree or potted specimen.

All this brings to mind a sweet memory: Jane Hoffert Moore's incredible (now late) pink magnolia at the corner Calumet & Jackson. When it died, I felt I'd lost a good friend. Can't count the number of years I drove past in spring just to marvel. It was listed in [Trees for Houston's Tree Registry](#) (pdf). It was, unfortunately, the victim of a ball moss invasion. Although, to be strictly accurate, ball moss is often attracted to trees that are already ailing. Since most trees die from the inside out, they often have reached the fatal stage as long as five years before any visible decline can be spotted.



Left, Jane Hoffert Moore's incredible (now-late) pink magnolia fortunately was documented by The Park People in its Tree Registry. Have a spectacular tree you'd like to have considered for the Registry? Nominate it at <http://www.treesforhouston.org/tree-registry/>

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Among exciting gardening events coming up (see calendar below) is the big **Houston Cactus and Succulent Society Sale** (hcsstex.org) at the **Texas Home & Garden Show** Fri.-Sun., Feb. 17-19 at NRG Arena. L to r above, among the unique selections sure to attract serious collectors:



1. ***Adenium obesum*** - Grown for its swollen stem and beautiful flowers, red, pink or rarer in white
2. ***Euphorbia milii*** 'Fireworks' - One of the most beautiful Milliis out there with its yellow, green, and red leaves, a must buy for your collection.
3. ***Sansevieria kirkii*** var. ***kirkii*** 'Super Clone' - Heavy leaf that can reach over 6ft. in height and is a beautiful blue color, very rare.
4. ***Sansevieria guineensis*** 'San Remo' - Grows a beautiful yellow leaf that turns green in time only to grow another yellow leaf.
5. ***Kalanchoe*** 'Pink Butterflies' - Rare Kalanchoe must for collections with bright pink leaves and tiny pink plantlets on leaf margins. These, however, will not make new plants as they are too variegated.

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TIP O' THE TROWEL to [Texas Garden Clubs' District 4](#) convention this month for scheduling activities on site at the Gardening Kids of Kemah project. Wonderful to draw attention to outstanding youth projects!
www.gardenkidskemah.org

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AMBROSIA BEETLE WARNING from Suzanne Chapman at [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#): "We have been seeing Ambrosia beetle damage on some shrubs/trees. Much of it is on newly freeze damaged limbs - on Candlestick plant (*Cassia alata*), and Redbud hybrids (*Cercis Canadensis*)." It has been also spotted on Japanese maples (*Acer sp*), figs (*Ficus sp.*) and golden dewdrop (*Duranta*) among other plants.

Damage signs include Small strings of compacted sawdust, protruding from the bark and at the plant base. You might see wilted foliage as plants leaf out, or a blue or brown fungal stain in the vascular tissue when branches are cut.

Suzanne feels when damage is seen, it's too late to treat. The beetle seems attracted to freeze-damaged and other weather-stressed plants. She recommends cutting off affected branches (see photo). Dispose of in trash, not in compost. And she cautions the best prevention is to keep trees and shrubs as healthy as possible with good compost and mulches and organic fertilizers.

I love word origins. How in the world did this insect acquire the name "ambrosia" (food of the ancient Greek gods)? Turns out it's named after the ambrosia fungi which was so identified/named (just little over a decade ago) because it's so delectable to this beetle, he will actually tote it around looking for the perfect place for it to grow! Who else would tell you these things?

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TO THOSE OF YOU WHO SEND IN EVENT NOTICES . . . CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR BELOW.

Events submitted in our EXACT FORMAT, so I can copy and paste them immediately into the calendar will much sooner than those that have to be retyped & reformatted.
 Events NOT submitted in our exact format may not be used until shortly before the event date.
 All calendar items use the exact same format. No exceptions. See calendar below.
 Make sure whoever sends in your notices sees this info. Thanks. Brenda

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

Part 11

18) Argon (Ar) - The name argon comes from the Greek meaning "inactive" as argon is the cheapest totally inert gas. It is a colorless, odorless gas that is soluble in water. One percent of our atmosphere is argon, it is found in igneous rocks at 3-5 ppm, fresh and seawater at 0.06 ppm, and in mammalian blood at 0.75 ppm.

Argon is used to date ancient rocks and artifacts by various dating methods and it is used in scientific instruments. It is used as a filler in the old incandescent light bulbs, used to fill partially empty wine bottles to keep them from oxidizing and going bad, sometimes used as the gas in double pane windows. It is also used to make the blue lasers used in eye surgery. Argon is produced by the decay of radioactive potassium atoms and has built up in the atmosphere over billions of years.

Argon has no known biological role. However, bacteria in the nodules of certain plants like beans can absorb argon but cannot process further.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Argon (Ar)

None known, good or bad.

19) Potassium (K) - Essential element for all living things on Earth and is the eighth most abundant element on Earth. Potassium gets its symbol "K" from the Latin word Kalium. It is a soft silvery white metal in pure form and is a member of the alkali metal group on the periodic table. It oxidizes rapidly when exposed to air hence is usually stored in kerosene or oil. It will float on water and react violently with water (burst into purple-violet flames) releasing hydrogen in the process.

If you notice that potassium is in the far left column on the periodic table this means it has similar chemical properties with lithium (Li), sodium (Na) and Cesium (Cs).

Potassium has several radioactive isotopes that are very common. As these radioactive isotopes decay, it has been suggested, that this decay is associated with the natural genetic modification that occurs in plants and animals. For example, over 4,000 potassium atoms undergo radioactive decay every second in the human body!

Red blood cells have the most potassium, with brain and muscle tissue next. Potassium is critical for nerve electrical signal transmission and if we do not get enough potassium, our heart will stop. The human body does not store potassium hence we must have a daily supply to be healthy. The toxin of the poisonous snake the Black Mamba kills its victims by blocking the potassium channel in mammal's bodies, which causes the heart to quit beating. Scorpions also use potassium in their venom. The compound potassium chloride (KCl), is often used as a poison and is used in some legal executions.

When we add potassium to glass, it makes it stronger and more scratch resistant. Potassium occurs in the Earth's crust mainly as silicate minerals such as feldspars, micas, and clays.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Potassium (K)

Potassium is strongly bound to clay particles and retained until plants need it. Tilling upsets this natural storage mechanism and allows potassium to be lost from the soil and leached into our streams. This is why it has to be replaced by some form of fertilizer every year.

The poison potassium chloride is the main source of potassium in artificial fertilizers. When the potassium is released it leaves behind chlorine (Cl) which will then react with sodium in the soil to form salt (NaCl).

Potassium affects all areas of plant growth and nutrition from disease resistance, fruit quality, water use efficiency, insect herbivory, and carbohydrate content (e.g. sugars).

A potassium deficiency usually noticed on lower leaves since potassium is highly mobile in the plant and will be transported to new growth. On older leaves, it may be seen as a yellowing on the leaf margin or outside edge of the leaf, which will eventually die and drop off. Depending on the plant species, other symptoms may be that young plants have dark green leaves with small stems and short internodes, older leaves scorched on margins, weak stems, fruit shriveled, uneven ripening, young leaves wrinkle, and curl. A deficiency of potassium may lead to the absorption of cesium (Cs) which is chemically similar but is a much larger atom that may then lead to the breakdown of many metabolic processes. Other effects of deficiencies include easier winter kill, poor survival of perennials, and increased susceptibility to diseases.

Potassium in the form of potassium chloride (KCl) and potassium sulfate (K₂SO₄) also called potash are very soluble and easily available forms of potassium. Potash comes from soaking wood ashes from the fireplace in water to obtain potassium. The potassium rich water historically was used as a liquid fertilizer for plants.

A much more common problem in gardening, is that too much potassium is applied which then creates a magnesium deficiencies in plants.

Potassium is involved with pH management, maintenance of balanced hormone and enzyme systems, and used in the plants immune systems from insect resistance, bacterial or fungal attack to weed control.

In a plant, 3-6% of the compounds contain potassium. Potassium is involved with many plant functions:

- regulates water movement within plants**
- regulates the balance between root and leaf growth**
- involved with translocation of vital sugars in plant structures**
- strengthens plant stalks**
- helps undue stress caused by too much nitrogen being supplied in the wrong chemical form**
- serves as a catalyst for many processes**
- required in the building of chlorophyll**
- required for plants to absorb elements out of the air such as carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen**
- required for the production of starches, sugars, proteins, vitamins, enzymes and cellulose**
- aids plants in surviving drought conditions**
- aids plants in increasing both winter (cold) and summer hardiness (heat)**
- governs resistance to certain diseases**
- aids in root growth**
- involved with balancing nitrogen and phosphorous**

Potassium generally occurs in sufficient quantities in most soils but is often unavailable to mineral imbalances or lack of sufficient microbes.

A few foods high in potassium are raisins and almonds (860 mg/g), dates and currants (750 mg/g), peanuts (680 mg/g), rhubarb (430 mg/g), bananas (350 mg/g).

Sources: compost, native mulches, granite sand, greensand, potassium sulfate, molasses, potash, many types of clay rich soil.

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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

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

SAT. FEB 4: GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT with John Panzarella, Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. Myenchanted.com

SAT, FEB 4: GROWING CITRUS IN YOUR BACKYARD by ROBERT MARSHALL, 9-11:30 am, & GROWING BLUEBERRIES by

DAVID COHEN, 1-2:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. FEB 4: FRUIT CULTURE DAY-HIGH DENSITY ORCHARD by ANGELA CHANDLER; 10am, PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT by SETH KNIGHT; 11:30am, GROWING FRUIT IN CONTAINERS by ANGELA CHANDLER; 1pm, PRUNING AND TRAINING FRUITING TREES AND VINES by BILL ADAMS; 2:30pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

MON., FEB 6: ROSES BY JAMES LAPEROUSE, Houston Rose Society, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

TUE., Feb 7: GREAT SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENS BY Bob Dailey, 5:30-7:30 pm, Southside Library, 2101 Lake Robbins Dr, The Woodlands. Free. A Montgomery County Master Gardener event. Free but register: <http://www.countylibrary.org/south.htm>,

TUES., FEB. 7: POLLINATOR PERILS by Lorenzo Comier, 7:30pm, Cockrell Butterfly Center, Houston Museum of Natural Science. Free. Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas (BEST) event. naba.org/chapters/nababest

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

THURS., FEB. 9: ROSE PRUNING DONE RIGHT by HRS CONSULTING ROSARIANS, 7:30pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

THURS., FEB 9: GROWING SALVIAS by TRICIA BRADBURY, 9:30-11am, Missouri City Rec & Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Dr., Missouri City. Free. Quail Valley Garden Club event. QuailValleyGardenClub.org

THURS., FEB. 9: CONTAINER GARDENING: THRILLER, FILLER & SPILLER, OH MY! by LINDA GAY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free but register: arborgate.com

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

FRI.-SAT., FEB. 10-11: TAPAS ON THE TRAILS, Fri. 6-10pm; Sat. 5-9pm, Houston Arboretum 4501 Woodway. \$75-\$85. houstonarboretum.org

SAT., FEB.11: DAYLILY HYBRIDIZER TIM BELL & AUCTION, 2pm-5pm, Alvin Senior Center, 309 W. Sealy St., Alvin, Free. Lone Star Daylily Society event lonestardaylilysociety.org

SAT. FEB 11: GUNTERS HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES, 9am-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

MON, FEB. 13: MONARCHS & MILKWEED by BARBARA WILLY, 6:30pm, Forest Room (BB1418), Bayou Building, University of Houston Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Free. \$5 parking. Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)/Clear Lake Chapter event. npsot.org/wp/clearlake/

SAT, FEB 11: GROWING AVOCADO & PAPAYA by JERRY HURLBERT, 9-11:30 am, &, SOIL HEALTH & EVALUATION by JIM GILLIAM, 1-2:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., FEB. 11: ROSE PRUNING with GAYE HAMMOND, Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com

MON, FEB. 13: MONARCHS & MILKWEED by BARBARA WILLY, 6:30pm, Forest Room (BB1418), Bayou Building, University of Houston Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Free. \$5 parking. Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)/Clear Lake Chapter event. npsot.org/wp/clearlake/

THU, FEB 16: PRUNING ROSES by JOHN JONS, 9-10am, AgriLife Research & Demonstration Garden, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

THURS., FEB. 16: TEXAS NATIVE GRAPE: CHARACTERISTICS, HISTORY & INT'L SIGNIFICANCE 7:30pm, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway Dr. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter; npsot.org/wp/houston

FRI., FEB. 17: DAYLILY SALE, 2pm-7pm. Texas Home & Garden Show, NRG Center, 1 NRG Park, Houston. Lone Star Daylily Society event. 979-236-1478, Debbie Pike. lonestardaylilysociety.org

SAT, FEB 18: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL SPRING FRUIT & CITRUS TREE, VEGETABLE & PLANT SALE. Pre-Sale Seminar 8am; Sale 9am-1pm. Jack Brooks Park Rodeo Arena, 10 Jack Brooks Rd and Hwy 6, Hitchcock. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., FEB. 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PRECINCT 2 FRUIT TREE AND TOMATO SALE, Campbell Hall. Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff RD., Pasadena. hcmga.tamu.edu.

SAT., FEB. 18: DAYLILY SALE, 10am-7pm. Texas Home & Garden Show, NRG Center, 1 NRG Park, Houston. Lone Star Daylily Society event. 979-236-1478, Debbie Pike. lonestardaylilysociety.org

SUN., FEB. 19: BUILDING A FERN TERRARIUM by Darla Harris, 2:00pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Non-members \$15, includes 3 plants & planting medium, bring container. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfernsoc.org

SUN., FEB. 19: DAYLILY SALE, 11am-5pm. Texas Home & Garden Show, NRG Center, 1 NRG Park, Houston. Lone Star Daylily Society event. 979-236-1478, Debbie Pike. lonestardaylilysociety.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.

SAT. FEB 25: TOMATO TIPS with TOM LEROY, Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com

SAT. FEB 25: ROSE PRUNING by GAYE HAMMOND, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., FEB. 25: GARDENING DEMOS, LEVY PARK RE-OPENING, 10am-7:30pm, 3801 Eastside. Free. levyparkhouston.org

WED., MAR. 1: 5th ANNUAL GULF COAST HER FAIR & LUNCHEON, Moody Gardens, 1 Hope Blvd., Galveston. \$35. Friends of Moody Gardens event. Reservations/details: e.l.perry@att.net; 409-740-6842.

THURS., MAR. 2: STROLLER STROLLS, 9am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-

274-4160.

THURS. MAR.2: ATTRACTING BLUEBIRDS TO THE GARDEN by LINDA CRUM, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15636 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., MAR. 4: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TOMATO-PEPPER SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

SAT., MAR. 4: LANDSCAPING MADE SIMPLE by Landscape Designers, Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com

SAT. MAR.4: THE SOUTHERN HEIRLOOM LANDSCAPE by DR. BILL WELCH & CHRIS WIESINGER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT. MAR 4: HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES by The GUNTHER'S, 10am-1pm, Nature's Way Resource, 101 Sherbrook cir, Conroe. Free. www.natureswayresources.com

SAT., SUN., MAR. 4-5: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB 37TH ANNUAL SHOW & SPRING SALE, Sat. Show 1-5pm, Sale 9am-5pm; Sun. Show & Sale, 10am-3pm; workshop Sat. & Sun. 1pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.com

SUN. MAR. 5: GARDENING BY THE MOON by BETH HOUSE, 11am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. www.arborgate.com

WED., MAR. 8: MARCH MART PREVIEW, noon- 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED. MAR. 8: GARDEN PROBLEM SOLVING-KEEPING IT SIMPLE by LEON MACHA, Noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

FRI.-SUN., MAR. 10-12: 82nd ANNUAL AZALEA TRAIL: BLOOMS OF SPRING IN FULL SWING, 11am-5pm, River Oaks Garden Club event. riveroaksgardenclub.org

SAT., MAR. 11: MARCH MART PREVIEW (Repeat), 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., MAR. 11: THE EXPERTS ARE HERE--MIKE SERANT, JOHN FERGUSON, DAN SNYDER & L. P. KOJIS, Enchanted Forest 10am -10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com

SAT. MAR. 11: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by BILL ADAMS & TOM LeROY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. www.arborgate.com

SUN. MAR. 12: GARDEN BEE FORUM by ANGELA CHANDLER & MATT & KELLY BRANTLEY, 11am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. www.arborgate.com

MON, MAR. 13: PLANT NOW FOR GREAT WILDSAPES by DIANA FOSS, 6:30pm , Forest Room (BB1418), Bayou Building, University of Houston Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Free, \$5 parking. Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)/Clear Lake Chapter event. npsot.org/wp/clearlake/

SAT., MAR. 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE, Genoa Friendship Garden, Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds. 281-855-5600

SAT., MAR. 18: GREAT GULF COAST PLANTS FOR SUN OR SHADE with Linda Gay Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com

FRI-SAT., MAR. 17-18: MARCH MART Plant Sale, Fri. 10am-4pm, Sat. 8am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble.

WED. MAR. 22: FAIRY GARDENING-MAGICAL MINIATURE LANDSCAPE by ANGELA CHANDLER, Noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., MAR. 25: JOIN THE PERENNIAL PLANT MOVEMENT, Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com

SAT. MAR. 25: GARDENING WITH COLOR-CREATING THE 'WOW' FACTOR by GAYE HAMMOND, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT. MAR 25: HERB TALK with JEANNIE DUNNIHOO, 10am, Nature's Way Resource, 101 Sherbrook cir, Conroe. Free. natureswayresources.com

SAT., MAR. 25: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 1 CLASS (Introduction), 8 am-4:30 pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd, Pasadena. \$37. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter; Registration: npsot.org/wp/nlcp; npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification.

THURS. MAR. 30: WOODY TREES AND SHRUBS TO MAKE YOUR NEIGHBORS ENVY YOU by DR. DAVE CREECH, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., APR. 1.: WHITE OAK GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am program by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 10am-2pm (or till sold out) sale, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. nnmd.org

SAT. APR 1: EDIBLE POLLINATORS by DAVE & TRISH WHITINGER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

MON., APR. 3-MAY 1: LANDSCAPE FOR LIFE, 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$150. Register: 713-274-4160.

TUES. APR. 4: WHATS NEW AND UNIQUE IN THE PLANT WORLD by RAND HOPKINS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

THURS., APR. 6: STROLLER GARDEN STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., APR. 8: PLANNING AND PLANTING A HABITAT GARDEN by NANCY GRIEG,- Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449 - Enchanted Garden 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond 281-341-1206 free. myenchanted.com

SAT. APR. 8: THE ART OF ESPALIER by ANGELA CHANDLER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., APRIL 8: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 3 CLASS (Installing/Maintaining), 8 am-4:30 pm, Kleb Woods Nature Center, 20303 Draper Road, Tomball. \$57. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter; Register: npsot.org/wp/nlcp; npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification.

WED., APR. 12: GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED. APR. 12: SOLVING HOUSE PLAN PROBLEMS WTH LANDSCAPING FENG SHUI by KATHERINE ASHBY, Noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT. APR. 15: VERTICAL GARDENS MADE EASY...AND AFFORDABLE! by STEVEN CHAMBLEE, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

THURS. APR. 20: VEGETABLES - IS IT TOO LATE? by JEREMY KOLLAUS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

APR. 22: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PERENNIAL SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

SAT., APRIL 22: POOLSIDE CONTAINERS AND IDEAS, Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 free. myenchanted.com

SAT. APR. 22: LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE MADE EASY by SKIP RICHTER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

WED. APR. 26: FLOWER POWER by CYNTHIA GRAHAM, RN, BSN, Noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free, arborgate.com

SAT., APRIL 29: FAIRY GARDEN SEMINARS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, 281-341-1206, both Richmond. \$10+. myenchanted.com

SAT. APR. 29: CONTAINER HERB GARDENING by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., APR. 29: SPACE CITY HIBISCUS CHAPTER SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, East Harris County Activity Center, 340 Spencer Hwy. Pasadena.

THURS., MAY 4: STROLLER GARDEN STROLLS, 9-11am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS. MAY 4: RAZZLE DAZZLE BASIL by ANN WHEELER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT. MAY 6: CUT FLOWER GARDEN by SONI HOLIDAY, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, 281-341-1206, both Richmond. myenchanted.com

SAT. MAY 6: RAZZLE DAZZLE BASIL by ANN WHEELER & CHRIS CROWDER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

WED., MAY 10: WORM COMPOSTING, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., MAY 12: BLOOMING BONNETS LUNCHEON, 11am - 1pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$25. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT. MAY 13: MOTHER'S DAY MAKE & TAKE FLOWERS/MARKETS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, 281-341-1206, both Richmond. \$10+. myenchanted.com

SAT. MAY 13: ART IN THE GARDEN, 10am-3pm, Seminar-FELDER RUSHING, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., MAY 20: MINI SUCCULENT OR HERB GARDEN, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, 281-341-1206, both Richmond. myenchanted.com

SAT., MAY 20: SPACE CITY HIBISCUS CHAPTER SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, East Harris County Activity Center, 340 Spencer Hwy. Pasadena.

THURS., JUNE 1: STROLLER GARDEN STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT. JUNE 3: TOMATO CONTEST, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Categories and Guidelines online, arborgate.com

WED., JUNE 14: CARNIVOROUS PLANTS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

OCT. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

**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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THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS



ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE MONTH

PEGGY SUE

Please Help Peggy Sue Get Adopted. She is a super sweet Pointer Mix and former shelter dog. She is about three years old. She has been spayed and is current on her shots. She is very social and plays well with other dogs and people including children. She is very mellow most of the time but does love to play and be silly in spurts. She is house trained and is not destructive in nature. She does need a companion dog.

The local rescue A Chance To Bloom helped us save her from the shelter initially, they helped her adapt to life outside of the shelter and helped socialize her. Now they are helping us to find a loving forever home. She is currently in the care of her foster who is unfortunately very maxed out with his own adopted former shelter dogs. Peggy Sue is a super special dog that is sure to bring her future family some really good kisses and good times in general.

If interested, please contact [A Chance To Bloom](#) or her foster Mark Bowen at markbowenhoutx@gmail.com



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 Pomegranates & Pears at Nature's Way Resources (expires 2/15/17)

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