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FEBRUARY 10, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 192nd 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 [click here](#) 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!](#)



DAYLILIES TO DAZZLE THE EXPERTS ... FUN FERN TERRARIUMS

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Are your eyes poppin' at those gorgeous daylilies above? You're in luck. These varieties -- guaranteed to draw a lot of collectors -- will be among the plants for sale at [Lone Star Daylily Society's](http://lonestardaylilysociety.org) (lonestardaylilysociety.org) big Feb. 17-18-19 sale.

Daylilies to dazzle the experts will include, l to r above, 'Competition,' 'Country Cavalier,' 'Tumbled Glass,' 'Sharper Image' and 'Inviting Romance.'

Daylilies rank right up at the top of my Favorite Lazy Gardener Plants list. They're incredibly hardy, tolerate our intense heat and droughts, infrequent-but-hard freezes, have relatively few-if-any insect/disease problems, grow in almost any soil and, if you pick the right ones, provide garden color spring through fall.

The key to success? Not all daylilies are super-hardy here. Buy yours from local folks-in-the-know, such as the Lone Star Daylily Society members who will be on hand at the sale at the [Texas Home & Garden Show](#) at NRG Center, 1 NRG Park. (Fri. 2-7pm, Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 11am-5pm -- check website for entry fees).

A great daylily growing guide for this area is Harris County AgriLife's harris.agrilife.org/files/2011/05/daylily.pdf. Or log onto the Lone Star Daylily's [website](#). Can't wait for the show? Drop by the Society's free Sat., Feb. 11 event, when Tim Bell of Bell's Daylily Garden will discuss his choice bloomers and auction some off, 2pm-5pm, Alvin Senior Center, 309 W. Sealy St. in Alvin.

TIP O' THE TROWEL to the new Native Plant Society of Texas Clear Lake Chapter. They meet Monday to hear Barbara Willy of Monarch Gateway discuss Monarchs & Milkweed (6:30pm, Forest Room (BB1418), Bayou Building, University of Houston Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. The event is free but parking is \$5. npsot.org/wp/clearlake/.



"THE HORROR OF THE AMERICAN YARD" -- As a proponent of reducing the size of typical St. Augustine lawns, I hope homeowners will attend a series which -- although not on gardening per se -- will include this

special focus on landscaping by one of Houston's most influential environmentalists, Jim Blackburn.

Jim is leading a Mar. 1-Apr. 19, 8-class "Full World: Houston's Economic and Ecologic Future" at Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. I love his "lawn" topic: "***The horror of the American Yard and Consumer Choices in the Full World.***" glasscock.rice.edu; 713-2348-480; gscs@rice.edu



TRACKING TULIPS - If ever there were a plant that totally distinguishes the different growing regions of the U.S., it's the tulip. The national monarch/hummer-tracking system, Journey North . also likes plants, including tulips (learner.org/jnorth/maps/tulips.html).

Texas has two in the top three tulip-sprout sightings. Taking first place is Foster Elementary in Kingwood (Ramona reporting, above left). On the tulip tracking map (center above), Largo, FL, is 2nd on Jan. 31, followed by Elise in Lake Jackson, TX, with the #3 report, on Feb. 2. It's a great, fun tool for everyone and Journey North's sighting reports include an email so spotters can communicate with each other. Neat, eh?.

Speaking of Journey North, the [latest monarch counts](#) from Mexico show a 27% decrease in population. Sigh... At right, is a photo of these Mexico-wintering monarchs. They do lose color. Cold in the mountains!

REMEMBER TERRARIUMS?

We have pollution to thank for terrariums, as we know them today. Although growing plants under glass goes back 500+ years, the story goes that it was around 1827, when a physician, Dr. Nathaniel Ward lived so close to nearby factories, fumes kept killing plants he was growing in open air sites.

One day he noticed how healthy were the ferns he'd put in jars filled with caterpillars and moths he was also studying. He designed similar enclosed glass containers large enough for his plants. Friends were delighted and soon wealthy Londoners filled their homes with miniature, often very elaborate "Wardian cases." Today we call them terrariums (from *terra* 'earth' and aquariums, which they resembled).

Below, Darla Harris, fern expert, will give a preview of her Sun., Feb. 19, "Building a Fern Terrarium" presentation to the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society. (2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. The \$15 fee includes three plants and planting medium, but bring your own container). tgcfensoc.org . But be careful!

Ferns so love us, they can become addictive! Darla, owner/grower of the [Fern Plantation in Magnolia](#) went from hobby collector with 20 plants (that's a lot!) to a professional grower with 400+ different species.

In an earlier Houston Chronicle article by Jill Carroll, "[Ferns Are Easy Plants for Houston's Climate](#), Darla, president of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society, noted:

"Ferns actually are very adaptive. They can be bog plants, take full sun or full shade, terrestrial (grow from

the ground), epiphytic (grow on trees)," Harris says of the plant's accessibility. "That gives you a large palette, so to speak, of areas where they can grow. With our climate, a lot of ferns are evergreen."

Whether you just love small plantings, or have very limited space, fern terrariums offer a unique accent and fun project for any gardener. See below!

* * *

But first . . .

WOULD LIKE YOUR FEEDBACK!



We're coming up on our 200th issue of

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER !

Thanks so much for your support and help in sharing news of this e-publication to your relatives, friends & fellow gardeners, especially those new to gardening in our unique subtropical pocket.

What we'd like from you -- when you have a free minute -- is to mail me at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net:

- what you like about what we're doing. AND . . .
- what you don't like, or would like to see expanded, changed, improved, eliminated.

Thanks in advance for taking time to do this!!! We hope it will make for an even better newsletter in 2017!
Now, to those fantastic fern terrariums . . .

* * *

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

* * * *



Spotlighting . . .
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter

FERNS FOR TERRARIUM OR BOTTLE GARDENS

BY DARLA HARRIS

The Fern Plantation

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Who does not love that pop of nature in our homes, but growing plants in our humidity free homes in the Houston area can be a challenge. Glass containers can be found everywhere, stores carry miniature items, and the variety of ferns is amazing.

To name just a few, left to right below:



Adiantum (maidenhair ferns); **Davallia** (footed fern such as the rabbits foot fern); **Pteris ensiformis 'Victoriae'**; **Asplenium** (several miniatures ones to choose from) and **Selaginella**.

Getting started:

- A suitable container that can be sealed glass works best but a clear plastic can work too. With lid, plastic wrap or a clear plate.
- Perlite. Helps to prevent over watering. Place in the bottom of the container.
- Charcoal. Keeps the soil sweet. On top of the perlite or mix together.
- Potting mix (moisten and microwave for 10 minutes on high let cool) or sphagnum moss. Evenly moist not wet.
- Place your fern into the soil mix.

Maintaining your terrarium:

- Don't over water. You should see condensation on the lid. If there is a lot of condensation may take the lid off part way and let it dry out some.
- Don't under water. If you do not see any condensation use a spray bottle of water and spray the sides of the container. Just moist.
- Don't fertilize your ferns. If you do see discoloration you can use 1/4 strength even number fertilizer.
- Temperature best about 70 to 80 degrees.
- Light you can place on a window seal provided it is not a west window. You can use artificial light by using a table lamp or fluorescent light.
- Do not place your terrarium on a heat source such as a TV or heater.

A sealed terrarium should be check for water every six months unless you see an issue with the condensation. If you should see a buildup of salt (a white crusting of the soil) just remove the affected soil and replace with fresh.

* * *

You can reach Darla at [facebook.com/fernplantation](https://www.facebook.com/fernplantation) or speak with her in person at . . .

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

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

Part 12

20) Calcium (Ca) - Calcium is the fifth most common element on earth and is found all over the world and in many forms. Calcium is essential to all known life forms.

Calcium can be found in igneous rocks at 41,500 ppm, shale's at 22,100 ppm, sandstone at 39,100 ppm, limestone at 302,000 ppm, in marine plants from 10,000-300,000 ppm, land plants at 18,000 ppm, and land animals from 200-260,000 ppm. Bones of mammals contain 260,000 ppm calcium.

Pure calcium is a firm silvery metal, and only when found in compounds is it chalky. It is a member of the alkaline earth metal group on the periodic table.

Often found in nature as the mineral calcite (CaCO_3) that we know as limestone. It is used in our bones and teeth, and to make seashells and coral reefs. In mammals, calcium cannot be utilized efficiently unless there is adequate magnesium.

Calcite in soils can occur as coatings, nodules, cemented layers, or silt and clay sized particles. Calcium carbonate (limestone) is often found to be the cementing agent to make sandstones. Common chalk is made of gypsum, which is calcium sulfate (CaSO_4).

We find calcium in Lime as calcium oxide (CaO) which was commonly used to make mortar in ancient times. If we add water (H_2O) to Lime it becomes slaked lime which is calcium hydroxide ($\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$) and often used to neutralize acidity in acid soils. Calcium in the form of gypsum is used to make the drywall that we use in our homes. If gypsum is in its crystal form, it is the mineral we call alabaster.

Calcium plays an important role in maintaining the pH (acidity/alkalinity) of the soil, which affects nutrient uptake by plants.

Calcium can help break up clay soils by flocculating them (breaking them up into flakes).

Many foods (sardines, eggs, cheese, cabbage, etc.) contain lots of calcium; however, the human body cannot utilize calcium without large quantities of Vitamin-D!

In human health, a lack of calcium is associated with osteoporosis, kidney stones, and over 147 disease/health problems from receding gums, arthritis, Bell's Palsy, hypertension, bone & heel spurs, cramps & twitching, PMS, and lower back pain.

Today many foods have far less calcium than 80 years ago; one book stated that apples now have 50% less calcium. The very low quality of our food supply is why more and more Americans are growing their own fruits and vegetables organically.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Calcium (Ca)

Calcium is sometimes called the prince of nutrients, since it is so vital to soil functioning and nutrient uptake by plants. Calcium is most critical in low humus soils (low organic matter) as between 0.1 to 4% of a plants tissue (compounds) contains calcium. It is used in cell wall construction; it is involved with pH management, maintenance of balanced hormone and enzyme systems. To have healthy plants there must be adequate calcium as it is involved with a plants immune systems from insect resistance, bacterial or fungal attack to weed control.

Soils that have the correct amount of calcium content are associated in plants with increased protein content, which is then associated with increased vitamin content. Calcium is also involved with enzyme production in plants.

Calcium can improve soil texture; it helps make phosphorous and other micronutrients more available. It aids in the growth of both symbiotic and non-symbiotic nitrogen fixing bacteria, it is very important for many microorganisms living in the soil, and important in water absorption by plants.

Proper amounts of calcium helps plants form better stems, grow better leaves and root systems for efficient sunlight energy, water, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and mineral nutrient extraction.

For many gardeners the most common deficiency is blossom end rot in tomatoes that is a classic calcium deficiency. Calcium deficiencies show up as weakened new growth and the lack of ability to stand upright as calcium adds structural strength. Low calcium in soils is associated with stunted roots and stress symptoms on newer leaves, including discoloration, distortion or other symptoms. Young leaves turn yellow then brown, growing tips bend from weak stems, and only short dark roots form. A calcium deficiency can lead to a manganese (Mn) toxicity issue allowing too much to be absorbed.

Overuse of calcium in the form of gypsum, causes deficiencies of iron (Fe), magnesium (Mg), manganese (Mn), phosphorous (P), and zinc (Zn). Some studies indicate excess calcium prevents mycorrhizal fungi from colonizing roots. Excessive calcium will cause magnesium, phosphorous and other minor element deficiencies resulting in poor plant health, which then leads to increased insect, fungal, and bacterial attacks.

If there is plenty of good quality organic matter in the soil, the good fungi can store excess calcium in the form of calcium oxalate (CaC₂O₄) crystals that they grow on their hyphae bringing the nutrients in soil back into balance. When we use a fungicide, we lose this benefit. Plants can also store calcium as calcium oxalate crystals to bring the calcium levels back into balance with other nutrients.

Sources: compost, native mulches, granite sand, greensand, gypsum, powdered limestone

* * *

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**

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: galvcounnymgs@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](http://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/

MON., FEB. 13: STARTING YOUR SPRING GARDEN & HOUSTON URBAN GARDENERS SEED SWAP, 6:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free., houstonurbangardeners.org

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

THURS., FEB. 16: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane, 281-488-1906 Harris County Master Gardener event.

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

FRI., FEB 17: LATE WINTER INTEREST IN THE GARDEN by ADAM BLACK, 7pm, Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.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

THURS., FEB. 18: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy, 281-492-8592. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event.

SAT., FEB. 18: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER WINTER CLASS - SPRING GARDENING (sessions). 9am-Preparing for Spring Gardens; 1pm-Vegetable Gardening, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. \$5 one session; \$7 both. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com/

SUN., FEB. 19: BUILDING A FERN TERRARIUM by Darla Harris, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. \$15. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfemsoc.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.

TUE., FEB. 21: DIVERSITY OF HARDY AND TROPICAL FERNS by DARLA HARRIS, 7:30pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., FEB. 21: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 281-855-5600

WED., FEB. 22: AGAVE IS LIFE by ARCHEOPRODUCTIONS (movie), 7:30 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Website: hcsstx.org

THURS., FEB. 23: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS VEGETABLE-HERB PREVIEW PROGRAM, 6:30-8:30pm, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Road, Rosenberg. fbmg.org; 281-341-7068; FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu.

SAT., FEB. 25: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS VEGETABLE-HERB PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, AgriLife Extensions Service Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. fbmg.org; 281-341-7068; FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu.

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

SAT., FEB 25: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.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.

WED., MAR. 1: RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS & SOME COOL ONES TOO by GENE SPELLER, 9am, Clear Lake United Methodist Church, 16635 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners By The Bay event. 281-480-2244

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., MAR 4: PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am, Peckerwood Gardens, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Garden Conservancy event. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

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

MON., MAR. 6: BROMELIADS by DAVID WHIPKEY. 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.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

SAT, MAR 11: BONSAI by CLYDE HOLT, 9-11am, \$25, & COMPOSTING by JIM GILLIAM, (Free) 1-2:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Register (both): galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

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 WILDSCAPES 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/

FRI., MAR 17: EXPLORING THE SPICE ISLANDS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DAVID FAIRCHILD by CHAD HUSBY, Ph.D., 7pm, Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

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

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

SAT, MAR 18: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT, PART 3 by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11:00 am, & CULTURE & CARE OF PALMS by OJ MILLER, 1-3:00 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but pre-register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

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.

SAT, MAR 25: TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL by JIM GILLIAM, 1-2:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but pre-register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

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., MAR 25: 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., 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.

SAT., MAY 20: LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY 23rd ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & SALE. 10am-4pm Sale; 1-4pm Show. Epiphany Lutheran Church, 5515 W. Broadway, Pearland. Free. lonestardaylilysociety.org; peskine@comcast.net; 713-882-9958.

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**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE
POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS**





<http://natureswayresources.com/>

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 2/25/17)

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