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FEBRUARY 24, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 193rd 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](mailto: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!](#)



## By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Houston has so many incredible horticultural organizations manned by very generous members, all volunteers, who make this city a much more pleasurable place to live. It isn't often that I have the opportunity to say THANKS! But here comes one and I'm going to grab it.

The River Oaks Garden Club is celebrating its 82nd Annual Azalea Trail March 10, 11 & 12. Four River Oaks homes and gardens (illustrations above and below) will be open for public viewing along with Bayou Bend, Rienzi and the Forum of Civics Building. Azaleas are peaking so this should be one spectacular show.

The ticket charge is what I'd like to focus on right now. The admission tickets (\$10 single site/\$20 for six prepurchase; \$25 at gate) goes back into the community through so many ROGC projects and participations, including the Bayou Bend Collection & Gardens, Rienzi (former home of philanthropists Carroll and Harris Masterson III), and the historic Forum of Civics Building and Gardens for a start.

Then there's the Alzheimer's Association, Avenue Community Development Corporation, Bayou Greenways 2020, Bo's Place, Brookwood Community, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Camp for All ( *which my son attended for decades*), Casa de Esperanza, the Children's Museum and multiple other museums, Garden Club of America's Zone IX Katrina Relief/Horticultural Restoration Fund, Harbach-Ripley Neighborhood Center, Holly Hall Retirement Community, Mercer Botanic Gardens, Ronald McDonald House, Peckerwood Gardens, Star of Hope, Urban Harvest . . . well, the list goes on and on.

I doubt any of their long list of nonprofit enterprises could exist, much less be as productive and successful as they are, if it weren't for the huge donations of time, energy and money from volunteers in our local organizations.

See what I mean? I'm so glad I have this opportunity to thank these folks!



***In addition to beautiful homes and gardens, the Azalea Trail features Houston landmarks, below I to r, River Oaks Garden Club Forum of Civics Building, Rienzi and Bayou Bend***

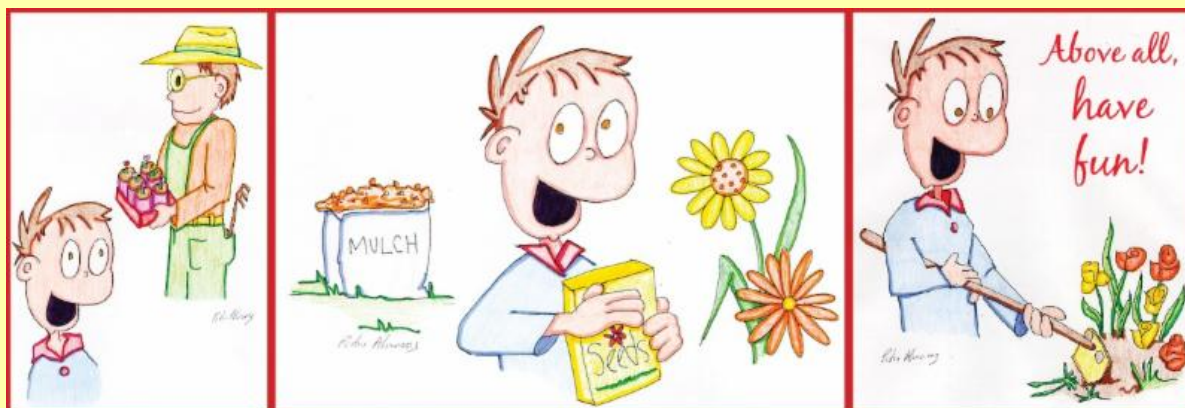


But, of course, you're not just giving on the Azalea Trail. You're getting a lot too. Not only is this a great opportunity to see some gorgeous homes and gardens (take pen and paper to make notes on how the pros solve landscaping problems), but an array of experts will be available to answer your questions free of charge at an Ask the Experts area at the Forum of Civics Building.

Bring your questions and reap the expertise of representatives of McDugald-Steele, two tree services (Bartlett Tree Experts & Foster Tree Service), The Arbor Gate, Sweet Organic Solutions, Mercer Botanic Gardens, Taylor Landscape & Gardens, Orchid Obsession and - the publisher of this newsletter - Nature's Way Resources. I'll be there Friday. Details & pre-Trail ticket purchases can be found at:

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

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## SEEDS VS. STARTER PLANTS

Interesting email came in from Louise L, who was inspired by Jill Carroll's great gardening article in the Sat., Feb. 18 Houston Chronicle:

***"Try skipping the transplants and growing from seed."***

The Chron.com online version (the link above) has the full article, but you'll miss the beautiful colorful layout which, unfortunately, only subscribers can see. I loved the way Jill admits: "*Transplants are a great choice if you want to 'get 'er done' in a hurry.*" Her article, she says, is for those who want to take gardening "*to the next level.*" That's a great way to put it.

Louise wrote that, since moving to Houston from New Jersey, she used started plants because her neighbors did. In New Jersey, she had used mainly seeds. Now that she's retired, she wants to get back into seeds. Why, she writes, are starter plants used mostly down here? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach?



Climate's the biggest reason, Louise. Many seeds require a slow germination period to reach full potential. Our soil heats up so quickly in spring (almost never even gets cool nowadays) that some seeds germinate too quickly. Up north they plant wildflower seed in spring, for example. We plant most wildflower seed in November & December. Ditto for bulbs. At least that way they get a little "cool" soil that slows down the process, allowing germinating seeds to mature more efficiently.

Seeds are more work, but also allow for a far broader selection of varieties. And are more fun to watch! At the same time, with seeds you have to be far more careful than you do with already-started plants from a nursery. Seeds are usually packaged in other climates and labeled with cold-tolerance zones which may be misleading for us. We need HEAT-tolerant zone info, which is available but not often listed on packets.

If a nursery wants your repeat business (as most locally-owned nurseries do!), they will do the advance selection for you. The already-started varieties you buy at a local independent nursery will most likely been grown by local area growers who know well our subtropical pocket benefits and challenges.

Still confused? Check our calendar below. The list of free lectures (and a few that charge) focusing now on spring planting is amazingly widespread throughout the Greater Houston area.

But be aware that what works well in Montgomery County, for example, may not be the best choice for Galveston County gardeners. Most Master Gardeners in our 8+ county area have extensive demonstration gardens with labeled flowers, shrubs, vegetables, fruit trees, etc. Master Gardeners are based at your county AgriLife Extension Center. You can find locations at [counties.agrilife.org/](http://counties.agrilife.org/).

For a list of Master Gardener programs, log onto [mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs/](http://mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs/)  
Becoming a Harris County MG was the best money I ever spent on my garden. Think about becoming one!

Back to Louise's other question: "Is it worth it to try some of those seeds sold in packets just about everywhere?" Sure! Seeds are inexpensive and great fun. You might google the name of the plant and "Houston garden" to see what local writers have said about when and where to plant specific ones.

Or, just give it a try, keeping in mind Nature always bats last!

I also loved the way Jill ended her article (*forgive me Jill for perhaps quoting too much? But you're good!*):

*"Growing from seeds gives us gardeners the chance to develop a special relationship with our plants. Also, we gain a sense of self-sufficiency and accomplishment when we relish the gaudy blooms and harvest the plump vegetables from what began as tiny, hard little dots. So much life, energy and potential exists deep inside those little specks!"*

It's worth it to me to subscribe to the Chronicle to see the gorgeous layouts and read Jill's prose.

PS. That cute guy in the cartoons above was created for me by a really talented artist, Pete Alvarez, for use on of my lecture handouts: **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF LAZY GARDENING**. If you'd like a free copy, email me at [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net). It would make a fun program/handout in the event your club speaker doesn't show up at the last minute!

### **SENDING IN EVENT NOTICES?**

**FIRST, PLEASE CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR BELOW.**  
**Events NOT submitted in our exact format (it never changes!)  
will take far longer to be added to the calendar.**

**Make sure whoever sends in your notices sees this info. Thanks. Brenda**

**\*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. To sign up: [CLICK HERE](#)**

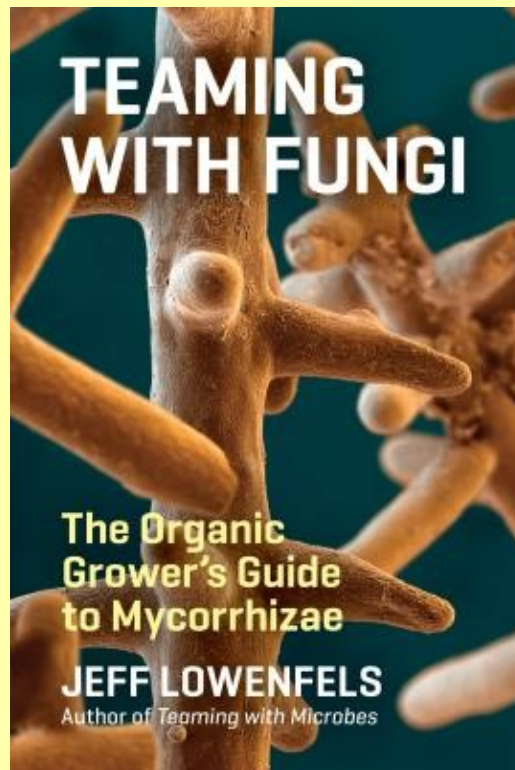
## JOHN'S CORNER

## BOOK REVIEW



Last Friday I was at the organic horticulture seminar put on by the Microlife Family of Products, where Jeff Lowenfels was the featured speaker. Every serious gardener knows Jeff from his two previous books "Teaming With Microbes" and "Teaming With Nutrients", which should be in everyone's library of gardening books.

At the seminar, I was able to attain Jeff's newest book "Teaming With Fungi", hot off the presses as it was just released on January 25, 2017. Being the bookworm I am, I finished reading it this morning. Jeff has done it again with another great book that explains the very technical complex world of mycology (the study of fungus) in common language for every gardener to understand.



As we continue to learn more and more about the benefits of organic methods, fungi are critical to gardening success. Fungi are a major player in the soil food web that makes plants grow strong and healthy without the need for expensive toxic chemicals.

Jeff clearly explains how fungi can improve drought resistance, diseases resistance, and collect nutrients required for growth. He explains that beneficial fungi can make or break a plants success in our gardens.

From the book: "*Teaming with Fungi* is an important guide to mycorrhizae and the role they play in agriculture, horticulture, and hydroponics. Almost every plant in a garden forms a relationship with fungi, and many plants would not exist without their fungal partners. By better understanding this relationship, gardeners can take advantage of the benefits of fungi, which include an increased uptake in nutrients, resistance to drought, earlier fruiting, and more. Learn how the fungi interact with plants and how to best to employ them in your home garden."

The first chapter covers a lot of terminology to be technically accurate for those that like to be precise. For most gardeners I would not worry about the language and terminology but focus on understanding the role fungi play in our gardens and the environment that help us have beautiful plants.

**Teaming With Fungi : The Organic Growers Guide to Mycorrhizae**, by Jeff Lowenfels, Timber Press, 2017, ISBN: 978-160469-729

Note: This book is on order and will be available at Nature's Way Resources.

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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](mailto: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., FEB. 25: SOIL, YOUR ULTIMATE WATER RESERVOIR by JOHN FERGUSON. 9:30-10:30am, Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Dr., Room 102, Bryan. Fee. Brazos County Master Gardeners, [brazosmg.com](http://brazosmg.com)

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](http://myenchanted.com)

SAT. FEB 25: ROSE PRUNING by GAYE HAMMOND, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com)

SAT., FEB. 25: GARDENING DEMOS, LEVY PARK RE-OPENING, 10am-7:30pm, 3801 Eastside. Free. [levyparkhouston.org](http://levyparkhouston.org)

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

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](mailto: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

WED., MAR. 1: CANKER & GREENING: TWO CITRUS DISEASES THAT HAVE FOLKS IN A TIZZY by DR. KEVIN ONG, 7pm, Agrilife Extension Building , 21017 County Road 171 Angleton. Free. Brazoria County Master Gardener event. [bcmga.tamu.edu](http://bcmga.tamu.edu)

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://arborgate.com)

THURS., MAR. 9: CHEMICAL SAFETY IN THE GARDEN by DONALD BURGER, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. Houston Rose Society event. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

THURS., MAR. 9: CURRENT PLANT TRENDS by PAUL WINSKI, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Garden Education Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners Precinct 2 event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu) .

THURS., MAR. 9: EARTH-KIND ROSES by GAYE HAMMOND, 9:30-11am, Missouri City Rec & Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Dr., Missouri City. Free. Quail Valley Garden Club event. [QuailValleyGardenClub.org](http://QuailValleyGardenClub.org)

FRI., MAR 10: THE ART OF GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY by LANA KELLEY. 10 am. White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org) .

FRI.-SUN., MAR. 10-12: 82nd ANNUAL AZALEA TRAIL: BLOOMS OF SPRING IN FULL SWING, 11am-5pm, River Oaks Garden Club event. [riveroaksgardenclub.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com),



281-534-3413, [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., Mar 11: BEST PLANTS FOR THE LANDSCAPE & PESTS & DISEASES AFFECTING FLOWERS, SHRUBS, TREES by MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, \$5 each, \$7 both. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824; [www.mcmga.com](http://www.mcmga.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](http://www.arborgate.com)

SUN. MAR. 12: NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANT & MILKWEED PROPAGATION WORKSHOP by MARK MORGENSTERN & BARBARA WILLY, 10am-noon, Brazos Bend State Park dining hall, 21901 FM 762 Rd, Needville. Free but register: [hnpat.org](http://hnpat.org); 713-446-2509

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/](http://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](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto: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, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PERENNIAL SALE, 8am, Plant Overview, 9am-1pm Sale. Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

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](http://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: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT. MAR. 18: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING PLANT SALE, 8am Program; 9am-noon Sale. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824; [www.mcmga.com](http://www.mcmga.com)

MON., MAR. 20, OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30 - 11 am, GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston, TX 77034. Master Gardeners available to answer your questions. FREE. <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

MON., MAR. 21: EARTH-KIND RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPING SCHOOL begins (also Mar. 22, 28 & 29), 6-8pm, AgriLife Extension, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. \$40/household. Harris County AgriLife Extension event. [Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu) or 713-274-0959

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

SAT. MAR 25: HERB TALK with JEANNIE DUNNIHOO, 10am, Nature's Way Resource, 101 Sherbrook cir, Conroe. Free. [natureswayresources.com](http://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](http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp); [npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification](http://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: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

SAT., MAR 25: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

SAT., 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](http://nnmd.org)

SAT. APR. 1: MEMORIAL NORTHWEST LADYBUGS GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE, 9am-2pm, MNW Community Center Parking Lot, 17440 Theiss Mail Route Road, Spring. [mnwhoa.org](http://mnwhoa.org).

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

WED., APR. 5, 2017: PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Clear Lake United Methodist Church, 16635 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners By The Bay event. 281-474-5051

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](http://myenchanted.com)

SAT. APR. 8: THE ART OF ESPALIER by ANGELA CHANDLER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://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](http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp); [npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

THUR., APR. 13: SOILS & MULCH by JOHN FERGUSON, 10am, Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnett at Hillcroft. Free. Houston Area Daylily Society event. 281-723-7409

FRI., APR 14: "PEACE, LOVE AND MILAGROS: LIFE LESSONS FROM THE ROAD" by STEVEN CHAMBLEE. 10 am. White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [www.houstonfederationgardencubs.org](http://www.houstonfederationgardencubs.org)

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

MON. APR. 17: ALL ABOUT MULCHES by JOHN FERGUSON, 2 pm, AgriLife Extension Center, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. Free. Montgomery County Master Gardeners. 512-577-2914, [mcmga.com/](http://mcmga.com/)

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

SAT., APR. 22: PARTY FOR THE PLANET, 6-10pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd. Tickets: [abnc.org](http://abnc.org)

WED. APR. 26: FLOWER POWER by CYNTHIA GRAHAM, RN, BSN, Noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free, [arborgate.com](http://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](http://myenchanted.com)

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

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

SAT., APR. 29: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 3 CLASS (Installing and Maintaining Native Landscapes), 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](http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp); [npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification](http://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification) .

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](http://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](http://myenchanted.com)

SAT. MAY 6: RAZZLE DAZZLE BASIL by ANN WHEELER & CHRIS CROWDER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://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, 12:30-4:30pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$25. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., MAY 12: ATTWATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN NAT. WILDLIFE REFUGE: PRAIRIE OASIS OF SE TEXAS by TERRY ROSSIGNOL. 10 am. White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

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](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

SAT., MAY 13: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 3 CLASS (Installing and Maintaining Native Landscapes), 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](http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp); [npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification](http://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification) .

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](http://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](http://lonestardaylilysociety.org); [peskine@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

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**

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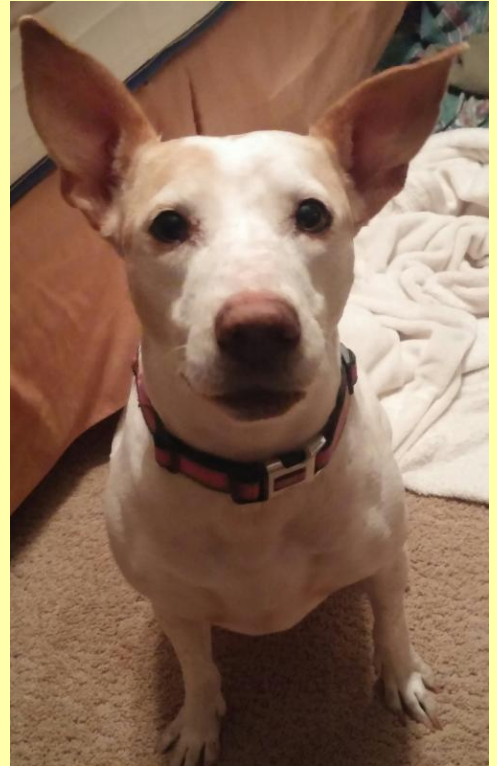
# ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE MONTH

## 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](mailto: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 3/15/17)**

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