



Mar-11-2023 | Issue 478

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Nature's Way Resources owner John Ferguson, "The Lazy Gardener" Brenda Beust Smith and Pablo Hernandez welcome your feedback and are so grateful to the many horticulturists who contribute their expertise

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"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"
-- 'ROBIN WILLIAMS (1951-2014)

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

CAN'T CELEBRATE SPRING WITHOUT MUSIC! HOW MELODIOUS ARE YOUR PLANTS?

PLAYING "IN"THE GARDEN is a fun activity for many of us. But watching someone actually "PLAYING" a plant may pop a few eyes at the March 22 meeting of the [Cactus and Succulent Society of Houston](#).

That's the day HCSS member and pianist **CHADEN YAFI** will "play" a barrel cactus, as in producing music -- in fact, John Cage's famous "Child of Tree" (1975). For this piece, barrel cacti, she explains, "*sounded better maybe because of its long spines.*"



An enthusiastic pianist and cacti and succulent collector, Chaden has no fears of harming her floral duet partner. *"I am stroking the spines gently, and there are no electrical currents. The contact mic just picks up the sound of the spines and amplifies them."*



But is the plant really producing music? It depends on the plant. *"Some produce clear musical pitches,"* she notes. *"I was able to get 6 or 7 clear pitches on mine when plucking certain spines, but I didn't mark which spines, I think Cage did not want 'determined' sounds, and every time the performance will be different."*

She warns the keys are *"not as precious as a piano or any other instrument but Cage was able to see how these plants can produce a scale!"* Any plants with spines, she says, can be safely used to produce sounds by plucking the spines, like Madagascar Palm or Queen of Thorns.

The cactus she'll be "playing" March 22 for Cactus & Succulent Society members and visitors is obviously happy. Between gigs, Chaden reports it is thriving in her garden, delightfully producing different sounds as it grows!

WED., MAR 22: CACTI AS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE OF JOHN CAGE'S 'CHILD OF TREE' by CHADEN YAFI

7 pm, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free.
Houston Cactus and Succulent Society. hcsstex.org

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MEA CULPA, HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY!

In the [listing of area specialty plant societies](#) last week, the [Houston Bonsai Society](#) was inadvertently left off.

- [Houston Bonsai Society Facebook Page](#)
- [World Bonsai Day is May 14, 2023](#)



* * *

MARCH MART COMETH!

Since 1974, Houston area gardeners-in-the-know have headed to Mercer Botanic Gardens, little red wagons in tow, searching for often-new-to-us, hard-to-find plants that — Mercer folks have proven to their satisfaction — will survive heat, cold, drought, floods (and even lazy gardeners)!



In our **Spotlight Article** below, Mercer Horticultural Manager **JANA PIRTLE** reviews some that even had her experienced eyes popping! GO EARLY! Because of their newness, supplies are limited. And, as a "be prepared" caution, click on 'Sale Plants Preview' link at end of her article. (*Pictured: Petunia Exsarta. Jana Pirtle photo*)

* * *

*Brenda Beust Smith's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com*

Planning to submit calendar events?
Follow **RULES** above Calendar to avoid **PUBLICATION DELAY**
Always check to see if accurately published.
Email to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

* * *



A FEW NEW & UNUSUAL PLANTS!

Even Mercer's horticulture manager didn't know about these!

by **JANA PIRTLE**
MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN Horticultural Manager
(Jana Pirtle photos)

Patented plants currently dominate the nursery industry. It's understandable why. They're just so cool! They also often come with a higher price.

As much as I ohh and ahh over these plants, as a horticulture manager for a non-profit, necessity dictates a more frugal approach in finding plants to grow. Thank goodness for seed companies. With the lower price of seed, I could justify trying a few plants that I have never grown before. And I was pleasantly surprised this year!



PETUNIA EXSARTA

is my favorite annual this year. It is the only petunia pollinated by hummingbirds. It is a rare and endangered petunia endemic to the mountains of southern Brazil, where it grows in cracks and crevices near the mouths of caves. In these conditions, the plants are protected from direct sunlight and rainfall. I have no

idea how it will deal with the heat, but it has already gotten quite warm in our greenhouses and this little red petunia has shown no sign of quitting!

CHINESE FOXGLOVE

(*Rehmannia elata*)

is a heat tolerant plant and also takes more sun than the Digitalis Foxglove. In fact, it can take full sun! It has pretty tubular pink flowers that keep coming for about three months or so.



CRASPEDIA or BILLY BUTTONS

is a perennial from Australia. The flowers look like tiny yellow tennis balls that sit atop silvery, grass like foliage. These are just starting to bloom for us. Everything that I've read about Craspedia say that they are heat and drought tolerant.

I would agree with heat tolerant, but our Craspedia don't appreciate getting even just a bit dry; they wilt dramatically. Perhaps they are more drought tolerant planted in the ground.

CHOCOLATE COSMOS

(*Cosmos atrosanguineus*)

is a beautiful deep dark red cosmos. Chocolate cosmos love the heat and need full sun. They are hardy only to zone 9, so those in zone 8 will want to provide winter protection.

The flowers are supposed to smell like chocolate, but my nose detects nothing.



* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: These and many other choice plants will be available at:

2023 MARCH MART — FRI., SAT., MAR; 24-25.

FRI: 10am-4pm; SAT: 8am-4pm. or sellout

22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free.

713-274-4160 — FriendsOfMercer.com

More March Mart info:

- [**FRIENDS OF MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS**](#)
- [**MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN \(MAP\)**](#)
- [**MARCH MART PLANT PREVIEW**](#)

* * *

A SOIL FOODWEB EXTRAVAGANZA

Join us as Dr. Elaine Ingham, the foremost soil microbiologist in the world, explains the soil food web & how critically important it is for your success. She has over 4 decades of experience in transforming the horticulture world.



OHBA

DAY 1

APRIL 14: THE SOIL FOOD WEB EXPLAINED

8AM-4PM

If you want great and easy to care for plants, you need a thriving microbial ecosystem. The soil microbes drive everything. The world renowned, Dr. Elaine Ingham will explain the soil food web & how it directly effects your profits. Whether you're a horticulturalist, farmer, or backyard gardener this information is essential.

DAY 1 TICKETS:

MEMBERS \$100

NON-MEMBERS \$150

United Way of Greater Houston
50 Waugh Dr.
Houston, TX 77007

DAY 2

APRIL 15: COMPOST TEA & COMPOST WORKSHOP

8AM-12PM LIMITED CAPACITY

A workshop at Nature's Way Resources where Dr. Elaine Ingham, the compost guru, will teach us how to make excellent compost tea & compost. Plus an extra bonus is a morning tour of Nature's Way Resources.

DAY 2 TICKETS:

MEMBERS \$50

NON-MEMBERS \$60

Nature's Way Resources
101 Sherbrook Circle
Conroe, TX 77385

GET TICKETS: OHBAONLINE.ORG/REGISTER

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



CLARK CONDON



John's Corner



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 229

A question I often get asked is why do we want to plant native plants in our landscapes? There are many good reasons why we should use more native plants:

Native Plants are low maintenance

Native plants can tolerate weather extremes from heat waves and droughts to extreme cold with freezing temperatures. Once established they tend to ignore weather extremes. A couple years ago, after winter storm Uri had past, many of the native plants in our nursery were in full bloom the next day (they just laughed off the winter storm).

Many are perennials hence they return every year saving time and money on replacement.

Natives require less fertilizer, are more adaptable to different soil types, most are insect and disease resistant hence fewer toxic chemicals are needed, they use less water and grow well even when neglected.

Native plants provide food

Native plants provide food for our pollinators, from being a host plant for butterfly and moth caterpillars to providing pollen and nectar for the adults. Native plants often have beautiful flowers from our Redbuds to Magnolias and Buckeyes with dozens more that provide flowers. My Black Locusts (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) are blooming now with clusters of lightly fragrant white flowers which are making the bees happy.

Black Locust also works with microbes in the soil to fix nitrogen taken from the air increasing the soils fertility.

Photo below from Internet



Texas has one of the largest variety of wildflowers in the country. Wildflowers are native plants and driving through the LaGrange area yesterday, the fields

of Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrushes were very breathtaking.

The Coral Vine from South Texas is not only beautiful, it is a favorite of honey bees and fully hardy in our area. The photo below is from outside our sales office last year. We have several growing in our nursery including the snow-white form.



Native plants in addition to being tough and beautiful they providing vital habitat for birds and many other species of wildlife benefits as well. The colorful array of butterflies and moths, including our iconic monarch, the swallowtails, tortoiseshells, and beautiful blues, are all dependent on very specific native plant species as they only lay their eggs on certain species.

Native plants provide nectar for pollinators including hummingbirds, native bees, butterflies, moths, and bats. They provide protective shelter for many mammals and other wildlife. The native nuts, seeds, and fruits produced by these plants offer essential foods for all forms of wildlife.

Many native plants are edible and have much higher nutrition density than many of our common vegetables. These range from edible greens to nopales made from the prickly pear cactus. The prickly pear fruits also make a delicious jelly or wine and are food for wildlife.

Many of our native plants produce fruits than can be made into delicious jams,

jellies, wines, etc. One of my favorites is May Haw jelly (*Crataegus opaca*). Texas has several species of wild plums that are delicious.

Texas also has five different sub-species of Black Cherry growing in different regions. If you ever visit Natives of Texas Nursery outside of Kerrville, they have escarpment Black Cherries growing on the property that are over 50 feet tall. <https://www.nativesoftexas.com/>

In addition, we have many nut-bearing trees that have edible nuts. The state tree is one of my favorites, especially in pecan pie.

Many native plants have beautiful fall color

The photo below is our native Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) in front of our sales office from last fall.



Native Plants Provide Environmental Benefits

Native plants help fight climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air and storing carbon in the soils and in their roots.

Native grasses have roots that can grow over 12 feet deep. In addition to storing carbon, they open the soil so that rain water can be absorbed and they prevent erosion.

Photo below from Wildlife Habitat Federation.



Wildlife Habitat Federation
Deep prairie grass roots



For more information

The Audubon Society has a database where one can type in your zip code and find out which natives work in your area to attract birds:

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

The Native Plant Society of Texas has many local chapters where the members will be glad to help you and their website has lots of information.

www.npsot.org

Texas is considered a drought prone state and we are running out of cheap water from our aquifers. To protect our future, we need to conserve water and use other environmentally friendly options. That is why just a few years ago the State of Texas passed a law that gives homeowners living in an HOA community more control over landscaping their yard with water-saving alternatives like our native plants.

The Woodlands Township is offering a 50% rebate up to \$300 per year for those whom purchase drought tolerant native plants. They also have pictures and cultural information that one can download. www.woodlandswater.org

Another example is the state of Minnesota which is now paying homeowners up to \$500 per home to remove their grass lawns and plant Urban Meadows (native grasses, forbs, and wildflowers).

Below are a few links to the statutes itself and a few articles on the subject one might find interesting:

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PR/htm/PR.202.htm>

<https://spectrumam.com/xeriscaping-and-your-texas-hoa/>

<https://communityimpact.com/austin/news/2013/07/15/xeriscaping-can-no-longer-be-prohibited-by-homeowners-associations/>

Senate Bill 198 (2013) – Protection of Drought-Resistant Landscaping and Water-Conserving Natural Turf (also HB 449 – 2013)

“SB 198 modifies Section 202.007 of the Texas Property Code. Section 202.007 restricts HOAs from enforcing a provision of a Dedicatory Instrument that would prohibit or restrict a Homeowner from using drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf on his or her property. A HOA may still require a Homeowner to obtain pre-approval of such landscaping or turf from the HOA to ensure, to the extent practicable, maximum aesthetic compatibility of such landscaping or turf with other landscaping in the subdivision, but a HOA’s approval

* * *

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

CALENDAR SUBMISSION RULES - NO EXCEPTIONS

- Only events submitted specifically for LG&F calendar are used
- No events pick up from flyers / NO PDFS! TYPE IN EMAIL
- Use this format only for entry (add extra info separately):
DAY, DATE: TITLE by NAME (if talk), time, address, Fee/free.
Sponsoring group (if not in title). website/phone (NO MORE!)
- Submit: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com. Check published entry!

SAT., MAR 11: GARDEN GURU: ALL THINGS FRUITY!, 11:30am-12:30pm,
Houston Botanic Garden, 1 Botanic Lane, \$20. hbg.org/events/

SAT., MAR 11: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11:30 am;
in La Marque. galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/; 281-309-5065.

SAT., MAR. 11: FLORAL & HERBS IN MAR. 25 SALE, 9-11am, *Montgomery County AgriLife Extension*, 9020 Airport Road Conroe. \$5.
Register: 936-539-7824. MCMGA.com

Sat. March 11: BRAZORIA MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Angleton Fairgrounds, 901 S. Downing, txmg.org/brazoria/, 979-864-1558.

MON., MAR. 13: TIME FOR POTS by **PHYLLIS BOST, GUDRUN OPPERMAN, & CYNTHIA GOODELL**, 6:30-8:30pm. Lake Houston Garden Club event, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2920 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Free

MON., MAR. 13: HOUSTON URBAN GARDENERS WARM SEASON SEED & PLANT SWAP, 6:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Houstonurbangardeners.org; [Facebook](#).

TUES., MAR. 14: PRUNING PLUMERIAS FOR SHAPING, GROWTH CONTROL by **JEFF SHARP**, 6:30-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Park Dr. Plumeria Society of America event. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

FRI., MAR 17: LANDSCAPE SUCCESS - TURF GRASS (virtual) by **FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS**, 2-3:30pm, Register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

FRI.-SAT., MAR. 17-18: HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT PLANT AND GIFT SALE, 8am-5pm Fri., 8am-3pm Sat. Round Top Festival Institute, 248 Jaster Rd, Round Top. herbsocietypioneer.org/, 832-867-9617

SAT. MAR. 18: PIONEER UNIT HERBAL FORUM: WILD ABOUT PARSLEY, 9am-3pm, Round Top Festival Institute, 248 Jaster Rd, Round Top. festivalhill.org/calendar/details.php?id=4106, 979-249-3129

SAT., MAR. 18: HOUSTON BROMELIAD SOCIETY SALE, 9am-3pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

SAT., MAR 18: EARTH-KIND® LANDSCAPING by **STEPHEN BRUGGERHOFF** and **JUDY ANDERSON**, 9-11am. **CUCUMBERS, SQUASH & MELONS** by **KEVIN LANCON**, 1-3 pm. LaMarque. galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/ 281-309-5065.

SAT., MAR. 18, KICK OFF SPRING! by **GREG COOPER**, 10:30am, Wabash Feed & Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd \$10. Register: bitly.ws/ApJ7

SAT., MAR. 18: THE JOHN FAIREY GARDEN BUDDING OUT FESTIVAL & SALE, 10am-4pm, 20559 F.M. 359 Road, Hempstead. \$5. [Sale inventory](#). fgarden.org/budding-out-plant-festival/

MON. MAR. 20: GARDEN-OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE: 8:30-11am. Genoa Friendship Gardens, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free.

MON. MAR 20: BENEFITS OF GROWING NATIVE PLANTS, 10am. Free. :00 a.m. Register for link: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

MON. MAR. 20: GARDEN-OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am. Genoa Friendship Gardens, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Road. Free.

MON. MAR. 20: BENEFITS OF GROWING NATIVE PLANTS, 10am., Free. Virtual, Register: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

TUES., MAR. 21: BENEFITS OF GROWING NATIVE PLANTS, 11am. Free. Virtual. Facebook - facebook.com/harriscountyp/live

TUES., MAR. 21: WHAT IS THAT HERB, AND WHY SHOULD I PLANT IT?, by **TRICIA BRADBURY**, 10am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd, Sugar Land.

Free. sugarlandgardenclub.org

WED., MAR 22: "CACTI AS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE OF JOHN CAGE'S 'CHILD OF TREE' by CHADEN YAFI. 7 pm, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society. hcsstex.org

WED., MAR 22: "CACTI AS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: PERFORMANCE OF JOHN CAGE'S 'CHILD OF TREE' by CHADEN YAFI. 7 pm, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society. hcsstex.org

THUR., MAR 23: MARCH MADNESS PLANT SALE AT DISCOVERY GARDEN, 9am-2pm, LaMarque. store.galvestonmq.org

FRI., SAT., MAR; 24-25: MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN MARCH MART, 10am-4pm Friday, 8am-4pm. or sellout Saturday, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160; FriendsOfMercer.com

FRI – SAT, MAR. 24-25: HOUSTON ARBORETUM SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am – 4pm, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr. Free. houstonarboretum.org

SAT, MAR 25: HERB FESTIVAL AT THE WYNNE HOME. Texas Thyme Unit, Herb Society of America. 8am-2pm. 1428 11th St., Huntsville. texasthymeunit.org, 936-891-5024

SAT., MAR 25: MONARCH BUTTERFLIES, NATIVE PLANTS, POLLINATION & BEES, 10am-1pm by **MARGIE PAINTER, & ZACH STAYTON.** First Baptist Church, 7675 FM2447. Chappell Hill Garden Club. Register: chappellhillgardenclub.com

SAT., MAR. 25: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am-noon (8am program), Extension Office, 9030 Airport Rd., Conroe. mcmga.square.site//, 936-539-7824

SAT., MAR. 25: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, The Woodlands Farmer's Market at Grogan's Mill, 7 Switchbud Place. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

SAT., MAR. 25-APRIL 2: NEAR NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT VIRTUAL SPRING PLANT SALE; HEIDI SHEESLEY presentation, White Oak Conference Center. Pickup: Treeseach Farms. Details: nnmd.org

SAT., MAR. 25: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, The Woodlands Farmer's Market at Grogan's Mill, 7 Switchbud Place. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

SAT., APR. 1: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY DAYLILY SALE, DAYLILY SALE, 9am-2pm., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 200 Oyster Creek Dr. Lake Jackson. 832-922-5732

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

THURS., APR. 13: LOST, FOUND AND STILL AROUND ... SAVING ROSE VARIETIES IN THE 21ST. CENTURY by JOHN BAGNASCO. Virtual. 7-9pm Houston Rose Society/Houston event. Free. meet.goto.com/253028565

THURS., APR. 13: LOST, FOUND AND STILL AROUND ... SAVING ROSE VARIETIES IN THE 21ST. CENTURY by JOHN BAGNASCO. Virtual. 7-9pm, Houston Rose Society event. Free. meet.goto.com/253028565

SAT., APR 15: GROW YOUR OWN - WARM SEASON VEGETABLES & HERBS (in-person) by **FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS,** 9-10:30am, Register: [Grow Your Own RSVP Form - Fort Bend \(agrillife.org\)](#)

SAT., APR. 15: SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE, 9am-12:30pm. [2701 Lone Star Parkway](https://www.2701lonestarparkway.com/), Montgomery. Native Plant Society of Texas — Pines and Prairies event. amy.birdwell@npsot.org

SAT.-SUN., APR. 15-16: 2023 TEXAS BLUEBONNET FESTIVAL Sat. 9am-6pm, and Sun. 10am-5pm, Main St., Chappell Hill, Texas Bluebonnet Festival

FRI., APR 21: LANDSCAPE SUCCESS - FLOWERING PLANTS FOR 4 SEASONS (virtual) by **FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS**, 2-3:30pm, Register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

SAT., APR. 22: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY DAYLILY SALE, 10am-2pm. Brazosport Museum of Natural Science, 400 College Blvd., Clute. 832-922-5732

WED., APR 26: IMPORTING SUCCULENT SEEDS INTO THE USA per USDA REGULATIONS by **WALLACE WARD**, 7 pm, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society. <http://www.hcsstex.org>

SAT., APR. 29: INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY OLEANDER & GARDEN FESTIVAL, 8am-noon, Betty Head Oleander Garden Park, 2624 Sealy, Galveston. oleander.org

SAT., APR 29: MEMORIAL NW GARDEN CLUB SPRING FLING MARKET, 9am-3pm, 17440 Theiss Mail Rt Rd, Spring.

SAT.-SUN., MAY 6-7: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON SHOW & SALE, Show :2-5 pm Sat. & 11 am-3 pm Sun., Sale 9 am-5 pm Sat. & 11 am-3 pm Sun., Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., MAY 9: HOW TO GROW PLUMERIAS 6:30-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Center 1500 Hermann Park Dr. Plumeria Society of America event. Free. theplumeriasociety.org, 281-796-7185

FRI-SAT, MAY 12-13: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW & SALE, Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 9am-3pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. hcsstex.org

SAT., MAY 13: GROW YOUR OWN - SETTING UP RAISED BEDS/PLANTERS (in-person) by **FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS**, 9-10:30am, Register: [Grow Your Own RSVP Form - Fort Bend \(agrilife.org\)](#)

SAT., MAY 13: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW & DAYLILY SALE 1-4pm, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 200 Oyster Creek Dr., Lake Jackson. 832-922-5732

SAT., MAY 20: HOME GREENHOUSE DESIGN, 9-11am, Montgomery County AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. \$5. Register: 936-539-7824, MCMGA.com

THURS., MAY 25: CRITTERS IN OUR YARD/GARDEN, 6:30-8pm, Montgomery County AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. \$5. Register: 936-539-7824, MCMGA.com

SAT., JUNE 10: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW AND SALE, 9am-1p. pm, Bay Area Community Center 5002 Nasa Road 1, Seabrook. Free. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-796-7185

FRI., JUN 16: LANDSCAPE SUCCESS - WEED AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (virtual) by **FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS**, 2-3:30pm, Register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

TUES., JULY 11: HOW TO GROW PLUMERIAS 6:30-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Center 1500 Hermann Park Dr. Plumeria Society of America event. Free. theplumeriasociety.org, 281-796-7185

SAT., AUG. 5: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW AND SALE, 9am-1p. pm, Bay Area Community Center 5002 Nasa Road 1, Seabrook. Free. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-796-7185

FRI., AUG 18: LANDSCAPE SUCCESS - TREES FOR SMALL LANDSCAPES (virtual) by **FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS**, 2-3:30pm, Register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

SAT., SEP 9: GROW YOUR OWN - COMPOSTING (in-person) by **FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS**, 9-10:30am, Register: [Grow Your Own RSVP Form - Fort Bend \(agrilife.org\)](#)

FRI., SEPT. 15: LANDSCAPE SUCCESS - FALL IS FOR PLANTING (virtual) by **FORT BEND MASTER**

GARDENERS, 2-3:30pm, Register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

SAT.-SUN., OCT 14-15: 2023 SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD GUILD SHOW & SALE Show — 2-5pm Sat. & 11am-3pm Sun., Sale — 9am-5pm Sat. & 11am-3pm Sun., Holiday Inn, 18530 State Hwy 249.
Free. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

FRI., NOV 17: LANDSCAPE SUCCESS - WINTER PROTECTION (virtual) by **FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS**, 2-3:30pm, Register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

**NOTE: Events not submitted in our EXACT format
(may take a lot longer to get into the calendar.
We do NOT pick up events from other
newsletters or general PR releases.**

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If we inspire you to attend any of these,
please let them know you heard about it in . . .
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!
& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us
at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to:
lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com



Saturdays 7-9am • SportsRadio 610



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 -- started in the early '70s as a fun side-project to reporting, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area. The name, she says, is not just fun, it's true.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from 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 which morphed into her ***Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD***, which she now emails free upon request.

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

For over three decades, Brenda served as Assistant Production Manager of the **GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA'S "BULLETIN"** magazine. Although still an active broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** with John Ferguson and Pablo Hernandez of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Humble, TX, and is married to the 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.

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 and quality control.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.





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