



May 15, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 107th 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 (both John and Mark are with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . Email your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

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GARDENING WITH KIDS, ROSE RUSTLING, PRAIRIES, CYLINDER GARDENING AND MORE...

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Can anyone look at the pictures above and not smile? Before going further, however . . .

* * *

THIS JUST IN: *If you will be attending the big free Sat., May 16 TEXAS ROSE RUSTLER SPRING SYMPOSIUM, starting at 9:30am at [Nature's Way Resources](#) - the antique rose-loving sponsors recommend wearing wellingtons (rubber boots, topboots, billy-boots, gumbies, gummies, rainboots, Alaskan sneakers, etc). The recent rains have left a tad bit of mud about. (But, hey, if you can't take a tad of mud, what are you doing living in our subtropical paradise with our monsoon rains?) Come on out, it'll be fun! Map/details for the all-day event: www.texasroserustlers.com. Nature's Way Resources is located at 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe (Exit 81 - SE of I-45 & Hwy 1488 intersection).*

* * *

Now ... back to those great kids above ... There's no way to know - way in the future - what benefits will result from the fun learning these St. Thomas Episcopal School students are experiencing now.

One interesting thing they do that was new to me: under the direction of Master Gardener Nancy Grami, they used a small bead of water-soluble glue (like Elmer's) to attach seeds to a paper napkin. When planted, napkins and all, seeds don't migrate lower in the ground when watered. Among the kids' harvests have been kohlrabi, turnips, beets, lettuce, peas, green beans and squash.

As you can see above, the STE kids are using cylinder gardening. If ever there were a time when this technique pays off, it's now that we've had so much rain for such a prolonged period, a really threatening situation for so many plant roots.

The beauty of cylinder plantings is the roots are above ground and the soil dries out more quickly than ground soil, giving plants a well-drained zone without denying them the nutrients in the natural soil below, which healthy roots will easily access.

During drought, organic matter in the "better" soil in the cylinder will hold moisture in a form roots can access without denying them oxygen (the problem with soaked soil). And cylinders take up so little room, they can be positioned anywhere - against a wall as above on in regular gardens among regular plants.

The Cylinder Gardening concept was conceived several decades ago by Glenn Graves, a Harris County Master Gardener and Men's Garden Club of Houston member. He took a 5-gallon plastic can, the kind paint and many foodstuffs are sold in (and stores throw away), cut off the bottom and then cut the resulting "cylinder" in half.

That gave him two cylinders roughly 9" deep. He set these right on the ground, filled them with good soil and planted his vegetables - right on top the existing grass, soil, etc. He grew almost everything but corn in these cylinder gardens.

Glenn persuaded Houston elementary schools to start cylinder gardens. It wasn't long before every elementary school in Houston had at least some form of cylinder garden with Harris County Master Gardeners providing oversight. From these grew the truly elaborate, extensive, wonderful school gardens that are so popular today - thanks in large measure to Glenn and the support he received from his fellow Men's Garden Club members and Harris County Master Gardeners.

It wasn't long before Master Gardeners across the nation began using Glenn's concept. Who else would tell you these things?

* * *

THIS IS THE PERFECT SEASON, when plants are growing so quickly, to both introduce gardening to children - in your family, in your neighborhood, at your church, at your community center, etc. Or, to plan ahead for school gardening/nature projects next school year. Below Ahlene Shong offers some great suggestions and will give even more during a presentation Thurs., May 21, 7pm, at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center.

If you don't want to do it yourself, become a tumbler, spread the word of the many children's programs now being offered at area parts and nature centers, including (to name just a few)

* **ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER**, Clear Lake area - Summer EcoCamp, June 8-Aug. 7, 4- to 13-year-olds. Details: www.abnc.org; 281-474-2551

* **BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK**, southwest of Houston - "Under the Summer Sun" programs, free, Tuesdays and Fridays in June. Nature viewing, programs, hikes. Details: <http://www.brazosbend.org>

* **HOUSTON ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER**, central Houston, Memorial Park - Summer camps June-August. Details: houstonarboretum.org

* **MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN**, North Harris County, Children's programs Tuesday through Thursday, July 14-July 30, 9am-noon. Details: www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer.

IF YOU HAVE A CHILD VISITING FOR JUST A SHORT PERIOD, a guaranteed fascinating outing would be to see the new carnivorous plant exhibit at the Houston Zoological Gardens. The grand opening is this weekend, Sat., May 16, 9am-1pm. The exhibit sponsor, PetFlyTrap.com will offer a special show-and-tell exhibit about plants that turn the tables on the animal kingdom.



Venus flytraps, left, are far from the only carnivorous plants to be found. Tiny sundews, center, use sticky tentacles. Right, giant pitcher plants.

We've all heard of Venus flytraps. But over 750 species worldwide have the same plant-trapping capability from huge Tropical Pitcher Plants (much bigger than the delights we grow) to others that actually trap and digest snails, frogs, lizards and the occasional mammal.

Lots of these will be on special display Saturday only. Details: www.petflytrap.com, a project of Mike Howlett, whom many of us know from his work (especially with snakes!) at Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center. (He was the first one I called when Husband trapped a coral snake in our backyard. We donated it to JPNC's display.)

* * *

BUT DON'T LET KIDS HAVE ALL THE FUN...

If your tomatoes are the envy of neighbors, check out the calendar below for our annual Tomato Contests, including:

* **SAT., MAY 30: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FIRST ANNUAL TOMATO CONTEST**, 9 am-Noon, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSpecialEvents.aspx> 281-855-5600

* **SAT., JUN 6: TOMATO CONTEST**, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

Rather compete on a less formal basis? Tim Fleck and Dick Murray are looking for "more serious" backyard tomato growers to enter their own informal Tomato Contest that culminates with an early June neighborhood-type gathering in the Holcombe area. Guests are the judges. Interested parties should email him at timwfleck@yahoo.com. (Yes, this is the Tim Fleck of Houston Press/Houston Chronicle fame.)

* * *



WILDFLOWER WATCH - LOOK UPWARD!

Most gardening and flower-watching tends to take place on a level, or downward-focus, plane. That means we often miss some of our most beautiful overhead seasonal beauty and color.

Have you noticed how beautiful our native Southern magnolias, left above, are this spring? Or how about the gorgeous mimosa trees, center? Unfortunately these are too happy, they've become invasive, crowding out native species that wildlife needs to survive. It's too late now to ogle our native catalpas' beautiful white blooms, but at right above is what you missed!

* * *

*** TIP O' THE TROWEL TO URBAN HARVEST EASTSIDE FARMERS MARKET**, recently honored as one of the 50 Best Farmers Markets in the nation by *Cooking Light*, a national health-conscious cooking magazine. The only farmer's market from Texas on the list, this weekly gathering brings together more than 50 farmers and vendors 8am-noon each Saturday in the 3000 Richmond parking lot.

*** NOTE: RECENT RAINS AND OTHER UNEXPECTED KINKS HAVE TRIGGERED A NUMBER OF DATE CHANGES ON EVENTS. BE SURE TO CHECK THE CALENDAR BELOW TO MAKE SURE EVENTS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND HAVEN'T CHANGED.**

* Brenda's "LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE" book - a when-to-do-what in Greater Houston area gardens - is now available only on CD (pdf file). \$20. Checks payable to Brenda B. Smith and mailed to: *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD, 14011 Greenranch Dr., Houston, TX 77039-2103. For a free page of this month's TO-DO list, email Brenda at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net



Some Call It a Garden, But We Call It a Prairie

By Ahlene Shong

Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter

(<http://npsot.org>)

So you think you want to put a pocket prairie on your school campus? So romantic, vast stretches of wildflowers nodding gently in the breeze, evoking idyllic scenes of Little House on the Prairie. Laura bursts into the log cabin with an armful of fresh picked wildflowers, "Ma, look what I brought home for you!" OK, you've got the dream, now to get to work.

Teacher "Buy-In" and PTO volunteers

Do the teachers on your campus really want to take the kids outside and use the garden?

Do you have enough adult volunteers to maintain your prairie garden?

Find out, before you make a move.

Water, water, water

You must have a water source at your site; if not an irrigation system, at least a hose and sprinkler with a timer. Hand-carried water went out with the pioneers.

Prepare your ground

No matter what advice people give you, only listen to it if they say: herbicide, wait, till/plow, wait, then herbicide some more. If you don't eradicate the Bermuda and carpet grasses from your seed bed before you plant, you will be fighting them forever! October/November is a good target time to be seeding your prairie garden.

Native plants and seeds

Use only native local seeds and plants for your pocket prairie. A good rule of thumb is to acquire plants and seeds from within a 50 mile radius of your site to maintain the genetic integrity/authenticity of your native grass and flowers. Good sources for plants and seeds local to the Houston area are: Houston Native Plant Society, Katy Prairie Conservancy, Audubon Native

Nursery, Hannah Native Grasses, Inc. Many local garden clubs, such as Westbury's Bouquettes, often share plants and seeds. Also, Kolter Elementary School has been very successful and generous with sharing seeds and plants with other schools.

Happy gardening!!

* *Thurs., May 21: "The Creation of a School Garden" by Ahlene Shong and Jamie Scott, 7pm, at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4505 Woodway in Memorial Park. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas Houston Chapter event. Details: <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/activities/monthly-meeting>*

JOHN'S CORNER

Tip Of The Week:

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH SLUGS AND SNAILS AND A FLOURIDE UPDATE



During 2011 and 2012 very few folks had any trouble with slugs and snails due to the drought. However, this year we have been blessed with abundant rainfall and mild temperatures hence the slug and snail population has exploded.

Over the last week we had several customers asking about snail and slug control. I have also received a couple e-mails about dogs dyeing from ingesting Iron Phosphate based snail baits.

In a previous TIP I talked about how effective baby ducks were in controlling slugs and snails. Today there is another completely NON-TOXIC method that works extremely well for snails.

I was taking out the trash this morning and I noticed hundreds (thousands?) of snails up on the brick, on the woodwork and up on tree trunks. When it rains snails climb up on various structures to keep from drowning.

For years I have kept a short wood block around (2" x 4" x 18" long) just for snail control. I have discovered that snails crush easily when pressed on by the wood block. The snails were so thick this morning I could lay the wood on its side and crush 8-10 snails at one time. In a just few minutes there were hundreds of dead snails that will no longer be eating my plants. The microbes will decompose them and all the nutrients will be returned to the soil.

I have also discovered that snails are cannibalistic. I would crush a couple snails close to each other and go away. When I come back 30-40 minutes later, there are often dozens of snails packed around the crushed ones eating them. Now my crushing efficiency has greatly increased.

If one does this a few times you can quickly reduce the snail population to a point where they do no noticeable damage to your plants.

FLOURIDE Update

I am in the process of reading a couple new books on the role of all the trace elements (micro-nutrients and pico-nutrients) in nature from plants and animals to usage by industry. One of the new books is:

Trace Elements in Abiotic and Biotic Environments, Alina Kabata-Pendias and Barbara Szeke, CRC Press, 2015, ISBN: 13:978-14822-1279-2

The production of phosphate for use in artificial fertilizers includes high levels of fluorine (F) and has become a major environmental problem.

New research has shown that fluorine causes a loss of organic matter and humus. This organic

matter and humus holds nutrients required by plants in the soil. This is sometimes referred to as the humic-mineral complex. As a result more nutrients are lost by leaching which in turn pollutes our waterways, now we have to purchase more fertilizer to replace what was lost so plants do not develop chlorosis and become weakened.

It has also been found that fluorine causes a reduction of enzymatic activity by both microbes, plants and other soil life. As a result plants do not grow as fast and are not as healthy as they could be (e.g. more susceptible to insect and disease problems).

A third issue has been discovered is that fluorine reduces the fixation of nitrogen by microorganisms. Again this requires one to purchase additional fertilizer as a result.

Additionally, as fluoride builds up in the soil it may result in improper plant growth and cause an elevated content of fluorine in plant tissue. The impact of fluoride is becoming a major ecological concern.

If a gardener want to have a healthy yard and garden they need to use ONLY organic fertilizers and do not water with municipal water unless it has been filtered to remove the fluoride (except in drought situations).

Gardeners that have been using organic management methods for years and worked on improving their soil, rarely have the need to water their yard or garden in our area.

Note 1: Due to the toxicity of fluorine, most countries (if not all) of the world have made it illegal to add fluoride to water supplies.

Note 2: Fluoride is listed as a major chemical warfare agent by the USA military due to its extreme toxicity.

Related:

The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency MUDs to Hold Public Hearings Regarding Fluoridation of Water Supply. <http://wjpa.net/the-woodlands-joint-powers-agency-muds-to-hold-public-hearings-regarding-fluoridation-of-water-supply/>

WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR

TO SUBMIT EVENTS: Find a similar event in our calendar below and copy the format EXACTLY. Then you can add additional information. Email to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net Any other formatting will result in a delay in publication. Events will not be picked up from newsletters.

THURS.-SAT., MAY 14-16: FOR THE LOVE OF DAYLILIES AHS REGION 6 MEETING, GARDEN TOURS, PLANT SALE, FLOWER SHOW and more, 7am-5pm, Hilton Gardens Inn, 12101 Shadow Creek Parkway, Pearland. Free. Details: www.lonestardaylilysociety.org; Debbie Pike 979-236-1478

SAT., MAY 15: (date change) THE INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY'S STROLL IN THE PARK has been moved to June 6-7. See "Clean Galveston Backyard Garden Tour" below

FRI.- SUN., MAY 15-17 BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON 44TH ANNUAL STANDARD SHOW & SALE, Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble. Hours and details: www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org. 713-858-3047

SAT., MAY 16: BASIC PEST CONTROL FOR GARDENERS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register [281-855-5600](tel:281-855-5600).

SAT., MAY 16: THE ART OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events/

SAT., MAY 16: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS' SPRING SYMPOSIUM. 9:30am-4+pm, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Cir, Conroe. Details: www.texasroserustlers.com

SAT. MAY 16: FARMERS MARKET AT IMPERIAL: TREESEARCH PLANT SALE, Sugar Land. 9 am - 1 pm. The Great Grow, a 501c3 School Garden event. Details: <http://www.thegreatgrow.com/may-16-plant-sale-donate>

SUN., MAY 16: GALVESTON COUNTY FRUIT GROWERS TOUR, 9am-noon. Details: Agrilife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston; 409-762-3363; galv@wt.net.

SUN., MAY 17: PAYNE'S IN THE GRASS DAYLILY FARM OPEN GARDEN, 9am-5pm, 2130 O'Day Road, Pearland. Free. Details: [281-485-3821](tel:281-485-3821), [713-419-6661](tel:713-419-6661), paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com

SUN., MAY 17: SHIMEK'S OPEN DAYLILY GARDENS, 8am-6pm, 3122 Country Road 237, Alvin. Details: [281-331-4395](tel:281-331-4395) or [832-489-4395](tel:832-489-4395); www.cityscope.net/~neshimek (under Open Gardens)

TUES., MAY 19: BASIC PEST CONTROL FOR GARDENERS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register: 281-855-5600

TUES., MAY 19: BENEFICIALS FOR THE GARDEN BY DR. WILLIAM M. JOHNSON, 6:30-8pm, Galveston County Agrilife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston; 409-762-3363; galv@wt.net.

THUR., MAY 21: BASIC PEST CONTROL FOR GARDENERS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Details: <http://harris.agrilife.org/hort>. Register [281-855-5600](tel:281-855-5600).

THURS., MAY 21: THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL GARDEN BY AHLENE SHONG & JAMIE SCOTT, 7-9pm, Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4505 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of America- Houston Chapter event. Details: <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/activities/monthly-meeting>

THURS., MAY 21: WILDFLOWER WALK WITH LAN SHEN, 6-7pm. Start: pedestrian bridge parking lot, 7575 N. Picnic Lane. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter & Native Prairies Association of Texas event. Details: <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/activities/monthly-meetings/> Free. Details: HNPAT@TexasPrairie.org

THURS., MAY 21: GREEN BUILDING TOUR: TREE HOUSE MEMORIAL CITY, 5:30-8:30pm, MetroNational, 963 Bunker Hill. US Green Building Council/Gulf Coast Chapter event. Registration & fee: <http://usgbctexasgulfoast.org/meetinginfo.php?id=103&ts=1431104327>

SAT., MAY 23: OPEN DAYS AT PECKERWOOD GARDENS, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. Tours 11am & 1pm. \$10. Details: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., MAY 23: JUST IN TIME, DRIP IRRIGATION, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events/

SAT., MAY 23: HOUSTON AREA DAYLILY SOCIETY AND HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW. 1-3pm. PLANT SALE 10:30 am, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga Ave., Houston, TX 77092. Free. Details. 281-332-2965, leslie.j.wong@gmail.com

TUES., MAY 26: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND BASIC PEST CONTROL FOR GARDENERS WORKSHOP, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-open-garden-days.pdf> 281-855-5600

WED., MAY 27: KOKO CRATER BOTANICAL GARDEN ON OAHU, HAWAII BY KARLA HALPAAP-WOOD, 7:30pm, Stude Community Center, 1031 Stude St. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. Details: www.hcsstex.org

SAT., MAY 30: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FIRST ANNUAL TOMATO CONTEST AND SEMINAR; "EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT GROWING TOMATOES"; 9 am-Noon, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSpecialEvents.aspx> 281-855-5600

SAT., MAY 30: FRIENDS OF PECKERWOOD GARDEN DAY, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. Tours 11am & 1pm. \$10. Details: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., MAY 30: DESIGN STYLISH CONTAINER GARDENS FOR POOLSIDE AND PATIO, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events/

SAT. -SUN., MAY 30-31: HOUSTON CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY'S SPRING SALE, 9-5, Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr, Houston, TX 77024. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event: <http://hcsstex.org>

MON., JUNE 1: OPEN GARDEN DAY WITH HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS AT PRECINCT 2 & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa-Red Bluff Rd. Reservations/details:<https://hcmga.tamu.edu>; 979-826-3232.

SAT., JUN 6: TOMATO CONTEST, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., JUNE 6: CREATING GARDENS FOR BEAUTIFUL BIRDS, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.corneliusnurseries.com/events/

SAT.-SUN., JUNE 6-7: CLEAN GALVESTON BACKYARD GARDEN TOUR and BETTY HEAD OLEANDER GARDEN PARK, 27th at Sealy, Galveston. Free. Details: 409-762-3363

WED., JUNE 10: STARTING A WORM COMPOSTING BIN, noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Details:

281-443-8731; <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>.

THURS, JUNE 11: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

SAT., JUNE 13: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Details: theplumeriasociety.org

SAT., JUNE 13: PREMIER SHARPENING - TOOL SHARPENING, 2pm-5pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., JUNE 13: TOP BAR BEEKEEPING, 9-11am, University of St. Thomas, Welder Hall, Room 115, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest class. Details: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org.

SAT., JUNE 13: SUMMER COLOR CONFERENCE & PLANT SALE, 8am-3pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Details: 281-443-8731; <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>.

SAT., JUNE 13: HEALTHY GREEN SUMMER LAWNS, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.comeliusnurseries.com/events/

MON., JUNE 15: OPEN GARDEN DAY WITH HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS AT PRECINCT 2 & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa-Red Bluff Rd. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>

WED., JUNE 15: WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION BY ANDREW SIPOCZ, 10am, Clear Lake Park meeting room, 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>

TUES., JUNE 16: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

WED., JUNE 17: FUN GARDEN STEPPING STONES (children), 9am-12:30pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

THURS., JUNE 18: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

SAT, JUNE 20: GROWING & USING HERBS BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

SAT., JUNE 20: HEAT-THRIVING AND COLORFUL PLANTS, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.comeliusnurseries.com/events

TUES., JUNE 23: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND GROWING & USING HERBS WORKSHOP, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-open-garden-days.pdf> 281-855-5600

SAT., JUNE 27: GROW DELICIOUS TOMATOES FOR FALL, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: www.comeliusnurseries.com/events

SAT., JUNE 30: LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION, 9am - 11:30am. \$30 members. \$45 non-members. University of St. Thomas, Welder Hall, Room 115, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. Urban Harvest event. Details: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org.

WED., JULY 8: MONARCHS & MILKWEEDS, noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Details: 281-443-8731; <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>.

SAT., JULY 11: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS ANNUAL MEETING. 9am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Details: 281-443-8731; <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>.

TUES., JULY 14: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA QUARTERLY MEET, 7pm, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

MON., JULY 14-16: MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMPS BEGIN. Details: 281-443-8731; <http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>.

FRI., JULY 17: WHIMSICAL WIND ART (children), 9am-12:30pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., JULY 25: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Richmond. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

Sat, July 25. Urban Harvest's Fall Vegetable Gardening. 9am - 11:30am. \$45. Location TBA. Details: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org.

TUES., AUG 4: ALL ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS (children), 9am-12:30pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Details: www.arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

TUES., OCT. 13: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA QUARTERLY MEET, 7pm, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

If we inspire you to attend any of these events, please let them know you heard about it in

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!

TO SUBMIT EVENTS: Find a similar event in our calendar below and copy the format EXACTLY.
Then you can add additional information. Email to lazy_gardener@sbcglobal.net
Any other formatting will result in a delay in publication. Events will not be picked up from newsletters.

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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.

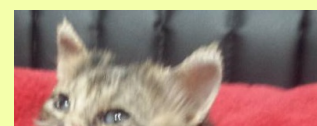
PABLO HERNANDEZ

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.

THE ADOPTABLE ANIMALS OF THE WEEK

This is Mayita. She is a little Tabby kitten that showed up unexpectedly at Nature's Way



Resources. She is just a few weeks old. She is very sweet and socialized. If you are interested in the possibility of adopting this very special kitty, please contact Jill Limbaugh (jillnwr@gmail.com or 936-32-6990).



Meet Penny Blossom!!!!



Penny is an adorable older puppy that is thought to be a mix of lab and Australian Shepard. She currently weighs 31 pound and is expected to be a medium sized dog. She has silky jet black hair with stunning white chest and golden honey brown legs. We anticipate her gaining another 15 -20 pounds. She is extremely smart and has quickly learned basic commands and continue to learn. We won't claim she is fully house broken she has not had any accidents in her foster home. She is great with other dogs and children. She has received a clean bill of health from the vet, up to date on her shots, heartworm negative, on heartworm preventive and microchipped. She will be spayed before going to her permanent home. She is shy in unfamiliar situations but is experiencing new things all the time and thriving.

Penny is a really special dog who deserves a home. She was found abandoned in the parking lot of Walmart in Tomball. She was at the shelter for a month before being busted out. She had a severe upper respiratory infection which has been treated and cured. She loves to snuggle, play fetch, play in water and be loved. She is so agreeable that she allowed her nails to be painted!! She would do best in a home with kids or an adult who can spend time with her. She loves to be outdoors with you, but is looking to be an indoor dog. She is quiet in her crate, but would be happy sleeping with you. If you think Penny might make a great addition to your family please contact her foster below. She is willing to do a meet and greet and possible sleep over. We want to find her a great family as she deserves nothing less. We are madly in love with her, but our house is full. Penny is being fostered through the MCASociety and has an adoption fee.



Penny and Dottie are currently being fostered by Mark and Mary Bowen. For more information you can email us at Mary@SoldOnMary.com or contact Mark through Nature's Way Resources or markbowenhoutx@gmail.com



COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 20% off our Tropical Soil

Mix. <http://natureswayresources.com/products.html> . (Offer good for retail purchases of this product by the cubic yard at Nature's Way Resources (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 05/24/15.