



SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 123rd 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. . . Email your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

Please or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



NATIVE & GULF COAST HARDY PLANTS (LIKE GINGERS!) JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO PLANT THEM

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

It boggles my mind when gardeners say they don't know how to find, or can't find, super-hardy plants for their home landscapes.

This area is rich with sales put on by great organizations you can trust to sell you ONLY plants that will do well here, are great for our wildlife, and good for our environment.

On top of that, they're usually the very folks to whom I, and most local horticultural authorities, would send you for advice on gardening in this area.

Fall is our very best planting time. That's because our winter is almost always what Northerners experience as

"spring." Our ground never freezes. Winter in the garden here is a gradual soil cool down until late January or early February. Temperatures then gradually rise until around March - when the warming up process moves into warp speed.

That's why we plant most things now. By April, roots need to be super healthy to make it through the heat and drought of our summers. Most seeds - especially wildflower seed - need that slow cooling down-slow warming up process to germinate properly. They can't get that in our springs when the soil heats up very quickly.

Visit as many of these upcoming sales as you can. Talk with folks selling each kind of plant and, most important, tell them your drainage situation. The majority of Texas natives in retail trade these days requires EXCELLENT drainage and don't really like our spring and fall monsoons.

Before you buy natives touted as great landscape plants, always ask:

- * Does this plant need to be in a raised bed?
- * When does this plant bloom?
- * What does it look like in its down time?

Almost always those selling the plants will be able to suggest companion plants that will draw the eye away from faded foliage. Another trick: stick signs in the faded foliage: "Wildflowers napping!" or "Wildflower setting seed - be patient!"

I am all in favor of planting more natives. But in promoting planting of more natives, we need to talk about the picture! We need to be more specific about what to expect and how to plant these in ways that are not going to negatively affect area property values - or scare the bejeebers out of our neighbors!

Slowly but surely our tolerance of more natural landscapes is growing. We're learning to see the beauty in the "wabi sabi" of the cycles of nature. But we're still in a transitional period. All it takes is a little compromise and a little common sense. I hope all of you will use your POA, HOA, civic clubs, garden clubs, etc., to bring in experts to teach residents [how easy and effective these compromises can be](#).

In the meantime, these organizational sales not only introduce new-on-the-market plants that will usually later be available in our better nurseries, they offer access to folks who can help you join the movement to encourage and expand our awareness of not only natives, but of what I like to call Gulf Coast Hardies - plants that have adapted so well to our environment, they do not require any (if much) supplemental water, fertilizers or other treatments.

Take rough sketches of your most "difficult to landscape" pockets. Ask for help. Listen to what they tell you!

September 26, in particular, is a tightly packed Saturday with six of our major entities scheduling huge plants sales. I hope, in future years, our great calendar below will enable all these fabulous resources to spread out their sale dates a little more efficiently. In the meantime, make as many of these sales as you can.

* **SAT., SEPT. 19 - WILDSCAPES SALE.** You can still sign up for the big Wildscapes Workshop at the Houston Zoo in Hermann Park (detailed in my [Sept. 4 column](#)). The natives-laden plant sale will be open to the 1-3pm. Details: www.npsot.org/houston

* **SAT., SEPT. 19: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE**, 9am-1pm, PROGRAM, 8am, Montgomery Co. Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824 or mcmga.com

I've divided the Sept. 26 sales into regions to help you find ones close to you:

NORTH GREATER HOUSTON AREA:

* **SAT., SEPT. 26 MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN'S SEPT. 26 AUTUMN PLANT SALE & MARKET.** Think of Mercer as our living plant library of great bloomers for this area. Be sure you tour the gardens if you can make this sale. Included in the extensive inventory, for example, will be 20 different varieties of camellias. In our Spotlight below, noted ginger specialist/photographer/writer Ceil Dow gives a sneak peak at some of the first-time-available-in-the-States gingers in her Spotlight article below. For example, Curcuma 'Sulee Princess' is available at the Mercer sale for the first time ever in the United States. Details: www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer



In addition to the gingers "Spotlighted" below, Mercer Botanic Garden's Sept. 26 sale will offer a wide variety of container gardens, left, and native plants, such as this pigeonberry (*Rivina humilis*) at center. Right, the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center's big sale will focus on the best native Texas butterflyweeds for this area.

CENTRAL GREATER HOUSTON AREA:

* **HOUSTON ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER'S SEPT. 26 BUTTERFLYWEED SALE** If you've been keeping up with the monarch-triggered butterflyweed concerns, you know how hard it is to find asclepias plants not subject to [OE invasions](#). The Houston Arboretum & Nature Center is coming to the rescue with a sale on Sept. 26 focusing on hard-to-find native milkweeds (*Asclepias* / butterflyweed). From 11am-2pm, some 200 plants will be available, including *Asclepias viridis*, *A. tuberosa* and *A. perennis*, all gallon-sized. Milkweed is the only plant on which monarch butterflies lay their eggs and caterpillars feed. It also attracts beneficial pollinators, including many types of bees, while providing beautiful color to gardens. Details: houstonarboretum.org

* **SAT., SEPT. 26 COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE**, 9am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science Parking Garage/7th floor, 5555 Hermann Dr. Free parking with \$30+ purchase. hmns.org



Choice plants from the Cockrell Butterfly Center's sale, l to r, *Asclepias verticillata*, *Asclepias viridis*, *Verbena xutha* and *Vernonia* (ironweed).

* **SAT.-SUN., SEPT. 26-27: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW/SALE**. 9am-5pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. <http://hcsstex.org>

SOUTHWEST GREATER HOUSTON AREA

* **SAT., SEPT 26: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL PLANT SALE**. 8am overview; 9am-1pm sale, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx; 281-855-5600



* **SAT., SEPT. 26: THE GREAT GROW FALL PLANT SALE & FESTIVAL**. 10am-5pm at Great Grow, Inc.'s Fall Festival and Plant Sale. 10am-5pm, Houston Museum of Natural Science/Sugar Land, 13016 University Blvd., Sugar Land. Free. Choice plants such as, left to right above, zinnias, firetails and Celosia Purple from Treesearch Farms and Brookwood Community Plants. www.TheGreatGrow.com

* * *

Before we look at Mercer's exciting Ginger Spotlight . . .

* TIP O' THE TROWEL TO THE [CITY OF HOUSTON'S GREEN BUILDING](#), overseen by Steve Stelzer for helping all of us learn to be more Earth-friendly gardeners. A major opportunity is coming up (and you don't have to live inside Houston city limits to sign up). On the agenda are some of Houston's top notch composting experts, including Dr. Bob Randall, John Ferguson, Sarah Mason, Joe Blanton, Pat Greer and Lora Hinchcliff. The Thurs-Sunday, Oct. 15-18 Master Composting Program will meet at the Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. For reservation information, contact Steve Stelzer, 832-394-9050, steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov

* SPEAKING OF DR. BOB RANDALL, HE GREW COFFEE HERE! I wondered if we can after reading that Rich & Cheryl Vega are giving a program on "Growing Coffee in Equador" at the Sept. 14 Houston Urban Gardeners (HUG) meeting (6:30pm, Moody Park Community Center, 3725 Fulton; www.houstonurbangardeners.org

Of course, I asked Bob - my go-to guru for growing anything and everything edible. Bob wrote back that, yes, he successfully grew coffee here "...for three years in the warmest most protected place I had." Sadly it passed away during one of our hard freezes, despite heavy protection. But Bob is not discouraged! He said coffee plants should be very easy to grow here in a lightly protected plastic greenhouse or hoop house. But, he also points out, "You need a lot of coffee cherries to make a pound of coffee. Perhaps it would cost \$150 per pound if you charged \$20 per hour for labor."

On the other hand, Bob thinks coffee plants could be grown easily outside without protection in Galveston or Bolivar if you can deal with the salinity and wind. And, he adds, "given the way winter cold has been declining in our area, even in my yard by 2020 or so."

Gardening's never gets boring! Now, gingers for collectors . . . and the rest of us!

* * *



Among the outstanding gingers that will be available at Mercer Botanic Gardens' Autumn Plant Sale & Market, Sept. 28, will be (top l to r) *Curcuma Laddawan*, *Curcuma 'Fireflies'* (with butterfly), and *Hedychium 'Kong'* (up close and showing off its height!) Below, *Kaempferia 'Alva'* and *Zingiber 'Twice as Nice.'*

GINGERS LIKE IT HOT!

BY Ceil DOW*MERCER HORTICULTURIST \ HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER*

Bring on the heat! Gingers wait out the drab, cold winter days and rainy spring just to bloom when our weather gets nice and hot! Try a variety of rare and exclusive ginger plants:

HIDDEN GINGERS:

* Curcuma 'Sulee Princess', a new introduction all the way from Thailand and its Curcuma hybridizer, Annop Ongsakul. This stunning petite ginger has never been offered for sale in the United States prior to its availability at the Mercer Botanic Garden sale. The new Hidden Ginger, Curcuma 'Sulee Princess' stands only 18" tall and blooms with a stout, pretty, pink and white inflorescence throughout the summer months.

* Curcuma 'Cherry Pink,' another brand new Curcuma, is also perfect for in front of the border, This prolific bloomer stands 12" tall with soft pink blooms all summer

HEDYCHIUM HYBRIDS

* Hedychium 'Kong' is a landscape giant at 12' tall but the 2' tall inflorescence is worth giving it a little space. Not that it needs much; it seems to grow like a giant vase. The pseudo stems grow close together so it is tight at the bottom and opens wide at the top.

* If you are short on space and love a butterfly magnet, try Hedychium 'Fireflies'. It stays at 4' and waits until August to bloom with creamy white blossoms and pink stamens. It will continue to bloom until frosts nips its buds.

PEACOCK GINGERS

"Peacock Gingers" diminutive height make them the perfect "front of the border" plant or ground cover for shady areas. Kaempferia 'Flat Leaf' is a giant favorite. Its name describes its growth habit of hugging the ground. There are three forms of K. 'Flat Leaf': maroon-red colored leaves, green leaves with a maroon outline or a patterned leaf with bands of soft silver brush strokes.

* * *

For a more extensive list of Ceil's favorite gingers that will be at the Mercer Sale:

<http://themerchersociety.org/2015/08/gingers-like-it-hot/>. Sat., Sept. 26, The Autumn Plant Sale and Market, 10am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Limited supplies. Go early!

Please help me honor the MOTHER OF TEXAS by sharing this information on your Facebook, etc., page! The 6th Annual Jane Long Festival, will be Sat., Oct. 10, at historic Fort Travis on Bolivar Peninsula, Jane Long Highway (87) near the Bolivar Ferry Landing. Free - 10am-4pm. Want to know more about Jane? www.janelongfestival.org or www.facebook.com/janelongfestival. Or, for a complete Jane Long Festival kit, email: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

JOHN'S CORNER**BOOK REVIEW**

The Ultra Mind Solution - The Simple Way to Defeat Depression, Overcome Anxiety, and Sharpen Your Mind, Mark Hyman, M.D., Scribner Publishing, 2009, ISBN: 978-1-4165-4972-7 (pbk).

I just finished reading this book and it confirms why as gardeners we need to grow as much of our own food as possible. This doctor shares his experiences and research in helping people solve their health problems by changing the way they eat.

From the cover: We refer to our broken brains by many names - depression, anxiety, memory loss, brain fog, ADHD, autism, to name a few --and although we can't see it, this silent epidemic affects

more than 1 billion people worldwide. This book explains the connection between the food we eat and how our mind and body communicate. He explains how we can change our eating habits and heal our bodies and our brains.

Many if not most of our health problems are related to the poor quality of the food we eat and the toxic chemicals added to them. He teaches us how to avoid many of the foods causing health problems and how to detoxify our bodies. He also stresses which foods to eat to maximize our nutrition. When we provide our bodies with proper nutrition they will heal themselves without the need for expensive pharmaceuticals.

"The average person consumes a gallon of neurotoxic pesticides and herbicides each year by eating conventionally grown fruits and vegetables". "A recent study of umbilical cord blood found 287 toxic chemicals of which 217 are toxic to the brain and nervous system. And this is what infants are exposed to even before they take their first breath."

Comment: Edible gardening is a requirement for the future if we want to be healthy and save money. We need to reserve more of our landscape and grow plants that help us be healthy from vegetables, to fruits and herbs.

* * *

WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

TO SUBMIT EVENTS - PLEASE - USE OUR FORMAT!

Find a similar event in our calendar below and copy the format EXACTLY.

Then you can add additional information. Email to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net.

Not using our format will result in a delay in publication! Events will not be picked up from other newsletters.

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

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!

SAT., SEPT. 12: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9-11am. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. Details: 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., SEPT.12: FALL LAWN CARE, 10:15am, Comelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Road; free. comeliusnurseries.com/events

SAT., SEPT. 12: THE FALL GARDEN BY BILL ADAMS & TOM LEROY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, Tomball. arborgate.com

SUN., SEPT. 13: MINIATURE GARDEN WORKSHOP BY KAMILAH COLE, 2-3pm. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th. Pay for supplies used. buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

MON., SEPT. 14: "GROWING COFFEE IN ECUADOR BY RICH VEGA, 6:30pm, Moody Park Community Center, 3725 Fulton. HUG (Houston Urban Gardeners) event. houstonurbangardeners.org

TUES., SEPT. 15: WHAT'S BLOOMING IN THE LAZY GARDENER'S GARDEN BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH, 10am, St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

TUES., SEPT 15; INDOOR GARDENING-PEST PROBLEMS & ANIMAL SAFETY BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., SEPT. 15: GARDENING BY THE SQUARE FOOT BY JOHN JONS, 6:30-8:30pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. Master Gardener event. 281-534-3143; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

WED., SEPT. 16: KITCHEN VEGETABLE GARDENING BY MARY DEMENY, 10am, Clear Lake Park Meeting Room, 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu

WED., SEPT. 16: TEA FROM YAUPON HOLLY - YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! BY KIM McHUGH. 7pm, Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit event. herbsociety-stu.org

THURS., SEPT 17; INDOOR GARDENING-PEST PROBLEMS & ANIMAL SAFETY BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., SEPT. 19: "MAKING GARDEN MEMORIES" GARDEN TOUR, 10am-4pm, League City, TX \$10 advance ticket, \$15 door. League City Garden Club event. leaguecitygardenclub.org, or leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com

SAT., SEPT. 19: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., SEPT. 19: WILDSAPES WORKSHOP & NATIVE PLANT SALE, 8:30am-3:30pm, Houston Zoo Brown Education Center, Hermann Park. \$40 (\$50 after Sept. 12). Native Plant Society of Texas Houston Chapter, Texas Parks & Wildlife and Houston Zoo event. npsot.org/wp/houston/ or 832-859-9252.

SAT, SEPT 19; INDOOR GARDENING-PEST PROBLEMS & ANIMAL SAFETY BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10 am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. npsot.org/wp/houston/_hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf

SAT., SEPT. 19: GROWING ONION & GARLIC BY KEN STEBLIEN, 9-11am; KITCHEN GARDENING BY MARY DEMNEY, 1-3:30pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. Master Gardener event. 281-534-3143; aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 19: MCMGA FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, PROGRAM, 8am, Montgomery Co. Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824 or mcmga.com

SAT., SEPT. 19: FALL IN LOVE WITH VEGGIE GARDENING. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond, TX Free. 281-937-9449, myenchanted.com

SAT., SEPT 19: FALL IN LOVE WITH VEGGIE GARDENING, 2pm. Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond, TX Free. 281-341-1206; myenchanted.com

SAT., SEPT. 19: FALL CONTAINER WORKSHOP BY DIANE BULANOWSKI, 10-11am. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th. Pay for supplies used. buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

SUN., SEPT. 20: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING - NOT BY THE BOOK BY ANGELA CHANDLER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, Tomball. arborgate.com

MON., SEPT. 21: OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., SEPT. 22-THURS., NOV. 19: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER PROGRAM TIER I & II, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22406 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$200. Registration: hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer

TUES., SEPT 22: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: INDOOR GARDENING, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. 281-855-5600; hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-open-garden-days.pdf

WED., SEPT 23: TREES FOR ANY LANDSCAPE, noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

THUR., SEPT 24: BASIC ORGANIC GARDEN - ITS ALL ABOUT THE SOIL, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., SEPT. 26: AUTUMN PLANT SALE & MARKET, 10am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. The Mercer Society and Mercer Botanic Garden event. 713-274-4160; hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer

SAT., SEPT. 26: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., SEPT. 26: GARDEN TO TABLE. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., SEPT 26: FALL INTO SPRING - CONNECT THE SEASONS WITH COLOR, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., SEPT 26: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL PLANT SALE; OVERVIEW AT 8 AM, SALE FROM 9 AM-1 PM, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx; 281-855-5600

SAT., SEPT. 26: FALL CENTERPIECES WITH JEFF KRAUSE. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond, TX Free. 281-937-9449; myenchanted.com

SAT., SEPT 26: FALL CENTERPIECES WITH JEFF KRAUSE, 2pm. Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond, TX Free. 281-341-1206; myenchanted.com

SAT., SEPT. 26 COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science Parking Garage/7th floor, 5555 Hermann Dr. Free parking with \$30+ purchase. hmns.org

SAT., SEPT. 26: ORCHIDS FOR BEGINNERS BY ERICA PAQUIN, 10-11am. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th. Pay for supplies used. buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

SAT., SEPT. 26: FALL FESTIVAL AND PLANT SALE. Treeseach Farms and Brookwood Community Plants. 10am to 5pm. Houston Museum Natural Science at Sugar Land. 13016 Univeristy Blvd, Sugar Land. Free. The Great Grow, Inc. TheGreatGrow.com

SAT.-SUN., SEPT. 26-27: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW/SALE. 9am-5pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. <http://hcsstex.org>

SUN., SEPT. 27: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE - CLASS 1. 2-6pm, I-610/Stella Link area residence. \$40. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SUN., SEPT 27: GRAFTING 101, 11:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SUN., SEPT. 27: VEG OUT - FALL GARDENING WITH DIANNE NORMAN, 2-3:30pm, Wabash Feed & Garden, 57-1 Washington Ave. Free. 713-863-8322, <http://wabashfeed.com>

THUR., OCT 1: ATTRACTING BLUEBIRDS TO THE GARDEN, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

THURS., OCT. 1: ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM & VERSATILITY OF ANTIQUE ROSES IN GARDEN SETTINGS BY MICHAEL SHOUP, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Drive, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. nottinghamgardenclub.org or 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT 3: COOL SEASON COLOR by T. Polk, 9-11am, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe. Free. 936-321-6990.

SAT., OCT. 3: ART OF FALL LANDSCAPE DECORATING, 10:15am, AND FAMILY DAY! FALL FESTIVAL, 9am-6pm, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Road; free. corneliusnurseries.com/events

SAT., OCT. 3: CONTAINER VEGETABLE GARDENING. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 3: FALL FESTIVAL WITH URBAN HARVEST, 10-11am. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th Street, free, www.buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

SAT., SUN., OCT. 3-4: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, 10am-3pm, Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Karla Ross, 281-748-8417; kjwross@yahoo.com

SUN., OCT. 4: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE - CLASS 2. 12:30-5:30pm. University of Houston Central Campus. \$50. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

THUR., OCT 8: HERBS - THE BASICS & MORE, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com; 281-351-8851

THURS, OCT 8: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THUR. OCT. 8: COMPOST TEA - NATURE'S ELIXIR BY JOHN FERGUSON. 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Center, Hermann Park. Houstonrose.org

FRI., OCT. 9: 12th ANNUAL WATER QUALITY SYMPOSIUM FEATURING CHAD PREGRACKE, 7:30am-3pm, United Way Community Resource Center, 50 Waugh. Bayou Preservation Association event. bayoupreservation.org

FRI., OCT. 9: WATER FOR TEXAS, WATER FOR THE FUTURE BY KATHLEEN JACKSON, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., OCT. 10: CONSTRUCTING THE HOME VEGETABLE AND FRUIT GARDEN. 9-11am. Westbury Community Garden, 12581 Dunlap. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 10: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT 10: HERBS - THE BASICS & MORE, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 10: ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN WITH KATHY ADAMS CLARK. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond, TX. Free. 281-937-9449, myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT 10: ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN WITH KATHY ADAMS CLARK, 2pm. Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond, TX. Free. Details: 281-341-1206, myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 10: FALL BULB WORKSHOP BY DIANE BULANOWSKI. 10-11am. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th. Pay for supplies used. buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

SUN., OCT. 11: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS THROUGH PERMACULTURE. 6-classes. University of Houston Central Campus. \$404. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

WED., OCT 14: HERBAL BEVERAGES, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

THURS., OCT. 15: PECKERWOOD GARDEN TAKING ROOT LUNCHEON WITH MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH, 11:30am-1pm, Bayou Club, Houston. \$150. Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation event. Reservations: squareup.com/market/peckerwood-garden-conservation-foundation

THUR.-SUN., OCT. 15-18: MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM & OCT. 15: BASICS OF COMPOSTING BY JOHN FERGUSON, 5:40pm, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. Steve Stelzer, 832-394-9050, steve.stelzer@houston.tx.gov

THURS., OCT 15: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT 17: ORGANIC VEGETABLES BY THE GUNTER SISTERS, 9am-12pm, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Circle,

Conroe, free, 936-321-6990.

SAT., OCT. 17: THE EDIBLE LANDSCAPE. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT, OCT 17; PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen, Katy. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT 17: GARDENING IN THE HELL STRIP, 10am, and TOUGH AS NAILS, PRETTY AS A PICTURE, 2pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com or 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 17: PUMPKIN PALOOZA. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Free. 281-937-9449 or myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT 17: PUMPKIN PALOOZA, 2pm. Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. 281-341-1206 or myenchanted.com

TUES., OCT 20; PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

WED., OCT. 21: BACKYARD COMPOSTING AND VERMICULTURE. 10am-noon. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. Details: 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

THUR. OCT. 22: SOIL FOOD WEB BY JOHN FERGUSON, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/wp/houston/; 713-254-4778

SAT., OCT. 24: PROPER GARDENING TECHNIQUES BY DENNIS MCDONALD, 9am-12pm, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe, free, 936-321-6990.

SAT., OCT. 24: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY'S ROSE-A-PALOOZA, Harris County AgriLife Extension Center, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. 10am educational programs; noon - Rose Show. \$30. houstonrose.org; suzzieq1971@gmail.com

SAT., OCT. 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. Details: www.peckerwoodgarden.org, info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT. 24: BACKYARD COMPOSTING AND VERMICULTURE. 10am-noon. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 24: MIX-UP A PARTY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Free. 281-937-9449 or myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 24: MIX-UP A PARTY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. 2pm. Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. 281-341-1206 or myenchanted.com

TUES., OCT 27: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-open-garden-days.pdf; 281-855-5600

WED., OCT. 28: INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY KEWPIE GAIDO LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING. Lydia Miller, 409-770-4312: www.oleander.org

SAT., OCT. 31: HIGH DENSITY ORCHARD. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 31: FRIGHTFUL FUN IN THE GARDEN WITH CLINT THE SNAKE MAN. 10am-noon. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Free. 281-937-9449 or myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 31: FRIGHTFUL FUN IN THE GARDEN WITH CLINT THE SNAKE MAN. 2-4pm. Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. 281-341-1206 or myenchanted.com

SAT., NOV. 7: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. Details: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

FRI., NOV. 13: MOTHS OF TRINITY RIVER REFUGE - GOOD, BAD AND UGLY BY STUART MARCUS, 10:15 am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., DEC. 5: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 10am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th Street, free, buchanansplants.com/calendar/events

FRI., DEC. 11: A WARM WELCOME BY BARBARA BAKER, 10:15 am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Tickets required. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., JAN. 8: PERSONALIZING YOUR GARDEN FOCAL POINTS BY DARNELL SCHREIBER, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., FEB. 12: THE HOLISTIC GARDEN, BY DR. JOE NOVAK, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., MAR. 11: BULLET PROOF VIBURNUMS FOR THE GULF SOUTH BY DR. DAVID CREECH, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., APR. 9: XPLOING CREATIVITY BY LILLIAN RICO, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., MAY 13: NIGHT SOUNDS - TWILIGHT WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN BY DEBBIE BANFIELD, 10:15am, White Oak

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 lazygardener@sbcglobal.net
Not using our format will result in a delay in publication.
Events will not be picked up from newsletters.

GREEN JOBS



SAN JACINTO ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPLIES

Warehouse Man Needed

Great Pay, Great Working Conditions, Great Benefits

Duties – Efficient loading and off-loading of trucks by hand and forklift. Keeping the warehouse neat, clean and well organized. Filling by hand fertilizer jars. Keeping office clean. Scheduling freight and tracking shipments. Keeping bottles labeled and shelves stocked. Helping our clients in the warehouse and at the sales counter.

Hours – 7 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday

Qualifications – Must be proficient with computers and email. Must show strong multi-tasking abilities. Individual must be in good physical shape and have the ability to pick up 50 lb bags throughout the day. Individual must be clean, neat and well organized at all times. Warehouse is not air conditioned or heated so individual must be able to tolerate different temperatures. Individual must be intelligent, easy to get along with and good with people. Individual must be able to take orders from upper staff cheerfully. Individual must be able to do mundane and repeated tasks well. There is an emphasis on shipping and receiving from start to finish, including tracking and paperwork.

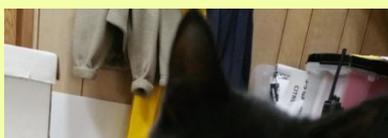
Individual must make it to work everyday on time.

Great Benefits and Opportunity – \$30,000 annually to start plus medical insurance, retirement IRA, vacation and sick days.

You will be working for a great company with opportunity to grow, get raises and bonuses.

Contact – Mike Serant Tel 713-957-0909 Email mserant@sanjacsupply.com

2221 West 34th Houston, TX 77018



THE ADOPTABLE ANIMAL OF THE WEEK



Winnie is a super sweet, well socialized little black kitten that we think was most likely dumped at Nature's Way Resources. She seems to be about 6-7 weeks old and appears to be in good health. She absolutely loves being an inside cat and is already all set in terms of making it to the litter box. She would be perfect for someone that is home a good bit and/or has children. She loves to play and cuddle.

We are looking for someone to either foster or adopt her.

For more information, please contact Jill Limbaugh or Mark Bowen at (936) 321-6990.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE
POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS



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.

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.

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.



COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 20% off our: Garden Mix Light Plus. <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 09/27/15.

COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 25% off our:

POMEGRANATES . (Offer good for retail purchases of this product by the cubic yard at Nature's Way Resources (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 09/27/15.