



April 8th, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 152nd 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!](#)



HILL COUNTRY WILDFLOWERS - WOW! . . .

EARTH DAY DELIGHTS . . . PALMS THAT THRIVE HERE

*The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;-
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!*

-- THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US, by William Wordsworth, circa 1802

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Had the treat of a lifetime last weekend. Friends Preasley & Nancy Cooper showed us the wonders of Hill Country springtime wildflower blooms. And I even discovered a treasure I didn't even know existed -- a pink Indian Blanket. First time I've ever seen that one.

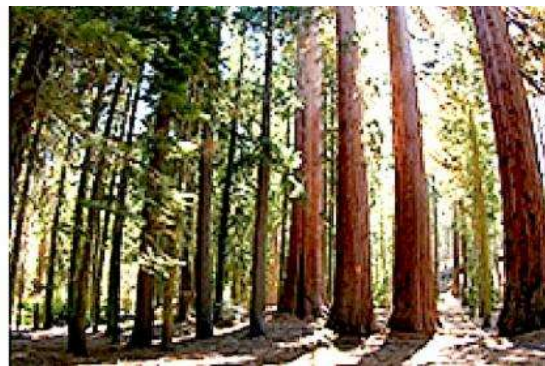
This weekend, Apr. 9-10, even more blooms should peak around the Mason/Llano/Fredericksburg area which we explored. If you can go, don't miss the [Willow City Loop](#) (extraordinary!) and the awesome red poppy fields at [Wildseed Farms](#).

What a great way to celebrate Earth Day 2016 (April 22) along with these activities closer to home:

WED., APR. 13: EARTH DAY 2016: A DIFFERENT TYPE OF CELEBRATION, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. 6-8pm, Free - sort of! Details: greenhoustontx.gov/gbrceducation.pdf. A joint project of GBRC, Air Alliance Houston, Citizens Environmental Coalition, The Story of Stuff Project, Texas Campaign for the Environment, Transition Houston, and the Texas Gulf Coast Region of the U.S. Green Building Council.

SAT., APR. 16: EARTH DAY HOUSTON, 11am-5pm, Sam Houston Park, 1000 Bagby. Free. Green Family Market, plant giveaway among events. AirAllianceHouston event. AirAllianceHouston.org

SAT., APR. 23: HOUSTON ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER EARTH DAY CELEBRATION, 10am-2pm, 4501 Woodway in Memorial Park. Lots of activities. \$20, children 12-under free. Take your plastic flower pots/trays to be recycled! houstonarboretum.org



CELEBRATING EARTH DAY: Left, recycle flower pots & trays at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center. Right, learn about the fight to save the majestic redwoods from probably near destruction in "National Parks Adventure 3D."

And my own personal recommendation: Everyone, especially children, should see "[National Parks Adventure 3D](#)" at the Houston Museum of Natural Science's IMAX theater. It is not only an incredible journey into the heart of our most awesome treasures. This gorgeous, exciting, sometimes heart-pounding visual journey really makes you feel one with the Earth in ways I've personally never felt before. This is the ultimate way to celebrate Earth Day.

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TODAY'S SPOTLIGHT is just what I need after even thinking about that National Parks show . . . something calming! Palms do that for me, like taking a tranquilizer. I didn't always feel that way. We seldom do about sights we've seen since childhood.

But after Hurricane Ike, when we returned to Bolivar Peninsula, we found not our beloved beachhouse, but a bare slab and miles of almost nothing but brown sand everywhere. Except, that is, for the palms, beautifully green as always . . . stately . . . reassuring, most undamaged in spite of the devastation around them. They swayed in the breeze as always, as tho they were just yawning and sighing to the wind, *"Well, my, that was quite a blow!"* I fell in love with them for the first time in my 70+ years.

Oh, to have such strength amid such disaster.

But not all palms do well here, even tho many inappropriate ones are sold by less reputable folks to unsuspecting homeowners. If you're in the market for a palm, do take a lesson from Galveston County Master Gardener O. J. Miller in our Spotlight below. Hopefully this brief preview of his upcoming lecture will help you to invest wisely.

SAT., APRIL 9: CULTURE AND CARE OF PALMS, by **O.J. MILLER**, 9-11:30am, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free, but pre-register - <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/> or galv@wt.net; ; While you're at it, pre-register also for **THE FABULOUS FRAGRANT FRANGIPANI (PLUMERIA)** lecture by **LORETTA OSTEEN**, 1-3 pm, following O.J.'s talk.

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Before we spotlight palms, however, want to mention a new book by Randy Lemmon of [GardenLine](#) radio fame: "Texas Tough Gardening." I love the way he's divided his recommendations (all of which fit the bill for "Lazy Gardener Favorites") into Summer-Tough and Winter Tough. For example:



Under "Heat-Loving Landscape Plants (aka Drought Tolerant), Randy lists, l to r above, desert willow, vitex, Mexican flame vine and flame acanthus (among many others) Texas Tough Winter Survivors, l to r below, ligularia, bleeding heart vine and gingers are just a few mentioned in Randy Lemon's new book, right.



The list goes on with wet feet lovers, bullet proof perennials, citrus, avocados, figs, you name it. Randy's not only cute, he's got a lot of experience under his belt and this is an easy-read that shares so much. Randy will be signing his book Sunday, Apr. 17, 11am-1pm at The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920 in Tomball.

You can hear Randy on [Newsradio 740 KTRH 6-10am](#) every Sat. & Sun.

And now . . . PALMS!!!

Brenda's LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
column is based on her 45+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener. Email questions to Brenda at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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Above, left to right, Bismarck palm, Canary Island date palm, True Date Palm, Everglades palm.

TIME TO PLANT PALMS!

by O. J. MILLER

[Galveston County Master Gardener](#)

Question: When should I plant palms? How should I plant them? What varieties are good for this area and which ones should I avoid?

The best time to plant palms is after the last frost in the spring. This gives palms time to get established before the heat of summer. Many stores do not begin stocking palms until March or April so plant as soon as they are available.

Palms that are grown in containers can be easily planted. However, this does not apply to palms that are being relocated. Only relocate palms that have developed a trunk.

Palms that have not developed a trunk are difficult to relocate because they cannot tolerate root disturbance. Plant your palm as you would any other tree. Mulch and water thoroughly. It is best to keep turfgrass and trimmers away from your palm.

Staking might be necessary for palms over 6-8' tall. Nails should NEVER be driven into the trunk as this damages the trunk and invites unwanted pests. One method is to use three one-foot sections of 2x4's bound around the trunk using metal or rubber strapping material. Then the braces can be set against and nailed into the 2x4's, NOT the trunk. Stakes should not be left in place over a year.

After about a week, you can begin your fertilization schedule. There are fertilizers specifically for palms but you can also use a balanced tree fertilizer. No high nitrogen fertilizers, please. Fertilize every 4-6 weeks during the growing season with your last application being around the first of August.

Water your palm when soil is dry to about your second knuckle. Except for the Everglades Palm, most palms don't like wet feet.

Palms should be pruned to remove dead fronds, but take care not to over-prune. As with crepe myrtles, many palms have suffered at the hands of an overzealous pruner. Fronds are critical to the growth and development of the palm. Fronds that are starting to turn yellow should not be removed as they are still contributing to the health of the palm. Remove fronds once they have turned brown.

Our weather over the last several years has brought some interesting challenges to palm growers. Even though palms are often found along the coast, they can suffer from salt buildup in the soil during periods of drought. It is important to water regularly to reduce salt buildup. Similarly, our last couple of winters have taken a toll on palms in our area. When near freezing weather is predicted, it is important that plants are thoroughly watered. A dehydrated plant, especially with a northern exposure does not fare well in a freeze.



Below, left to right, Mexican fan palm, Pindo palm, Sabal palm

Some palms should be avoided, as they might require replacement every few years, such as the Alexander, Bottle, Foxtail and the Christmas Tree palm (known as Adonidia or Dwarf Royal palm, *Veitchia merrillii*). Varieties that do well in our area include the Everglades, Australian Fan, Washington Fan, California Fan, Needle, Sabal palms, the Pindo and Jelly palm (the *Butia* genus), and the Phoenix genus palms (includes the true Date palm, Canary Island Date and Wild Date (*Phoenix sylvestris*)).

About the only feather palms that will do well are the Jelly or Pindo palms. If you are lucky enough to find it on-line, one fishtail palm that has done well for me here is the Himalayan fishtail palm (*Caryota maxima* 'Himalaya'). With plenty of water, it is a fast grower with some cold tolerance.

Another notable palm (and a personal favorite of mine) that does well in our area is the Bismarck palm. This native of Madagascar is a rather slow grower here, so consider planting a 15-20 gallon size plant. Unlike many other palms, this one does not tolerate root ball disturbance. Remove it from the container and set it into the prepared site. With some care, this majestic palm with its blue-grey fronds will be a wonderful addition to your landscape.

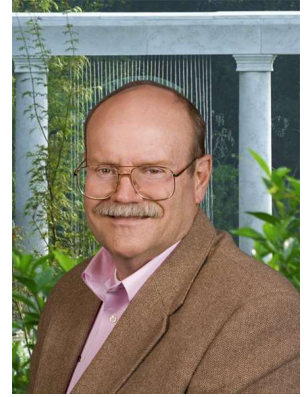
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SAT., APRIL 9: CULTURE AND CARE OF PALMS, by O.J. MILLER, 9-11:30am, and THE FABULOUS FRAGRANT FRANGIPANI (PLUMERIA) lecture by LORETTA OSTEEEN, 1-3 pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free, but reservations required for each: galv@wt.net; <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>

<https://www.facebook.com/.../Galveston-County-Master-Gardeners/220088841395231>

JOHN'S CORNER

TIP OF THE WEEK



This past weekend I was working in the garden and my old foe Mr. Mosquito showed up for the first time this spring. So what is a gardener to do? Mosquitoes hunt by scent and anything that interferes with their sense of smell drives them away.

One of my favorite mosquito repellents is garlic oil. I have used it for years with great success. All one has to do is mix a few ounces in one gallon of water and place in a pump sprayer. I spray the doorways and areas around my patio where I grill. It will have a strong scent of garlic for about 30 minutes, which fades away, and we cannot smell it. However, the scent will last for a couple weeks or more depending on the weather at a level that repels mosquitoes. I do not use it in the garden, as it will repel beneficial insects also. A good brand sold at most garden centers that sell organic supplies called "Mosquito Barrier" which is stronger than regular garlic oil.

Another method that works well is the called the Patio Egg. It is a porous ceramic container shaped like an egg, which is held in netting that one, can hang up on their patio cover or tree limb. The egg is filled with a couple ounces of herbal oils. The scent from the oils diffuses through the walls and drives the mosquitoes away. Each egg will repel mosquitoes from a 10 feet wide area around the egg. One filling of the egg will last for weeks.

In the garden, many plants have strong scents that repel mosquitoes. The first group is members of the alliums family we know as garlic and onions. Many of our common herbs from mints to rosemary are known to repel these pests.

One of our common annuals is Marigolds, which also add color to our gardens works well. Some species of lavender, lemon balm, lemon grass, catnip, and even basil repel mosquitoes. Cedar trees are another plant that mosquitoes do not like and cedar oil repels many insects both good and bad.

Citronella grass where we get citronella oil has been used for years as a mosquito repellent. In addition, many of the mints repel these pests and they are useful in drinks and cooking.

Hence, by having these plants in our garden we can reduce the number of mosquitoes without having to use toxic pesticides.

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WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS &

ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

TO SUBMIT AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR, PLEASE NOTE.

Events **NOT** submitted in the **EXACT** written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us. Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

If we inspire you to attend any of these events, please let them know you heard about it in THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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

SAT., APRIL 9: HMNS COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER SPRING PLANT SALE, 8am-noon (or sell-out), garage 7th level, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. 713-639-4629, hmns.org

SAT., APRIL 9: Peckerwood Garden Open Day, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., APR. 9: TIME TO TALK HERBS by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., APR. 9: ORGANIC GARDENING FOR CITY LIFESTYLES, 9:30am, Museum of Natural Science Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org.

SAT., APRIL 9: CULTURE AND CARE OF PALMS, by O.J. MILLER, 9-11:30am, & THE FABULOUS FRAGRANT FRANGIPANI (PLUMERIA), by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free; reservations a must: galv@wt.net; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., APR. 9: FLOWERS FROM PROVEN WINNERS. 10:15-11am. Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. corneliusnurseries.com/events.

MON., APR. 11: HOME & MARKET GARDENING by SCOTT HOWARD, 6:30pm, MultiService Center, 1475 W. Gray. Free. Houston Urban Gardeners event. houstonurbangardeners.org

TUES., APR. 12: PLANT PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP by MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9am. Extension Office, 9020 FM 1484 (Airport Rd.), Conroe. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

WED., APR. 13: ORGANIC GARDENING FOR CITY LIFESTYLES, 9:30am, Museum of Natural Science Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org

WED., APR. 13: ARBOR DAY 2016 - BRING "STUFF", 6-8pm, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. Free but must preregister: 832-394-9050; <http://www.greenhoustontx.gov/gbrceducation.pdf>

THURS., APR. 13: ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY GARDENING by PEGGY d'HEMECOURT, 9:30-11:am, Missouri City Recreation and Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Dr., Missouri City. Free. QuailValleyGardenClub.org

THURS., APR. 14: ADDING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN: DESIGN, PLANTS and MORE by MARK BOWEN, 7:30 pm, L.G.I. Lecture Hall, McCullough Jr. High School, 3800 S. Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands, Free. 281-210-3925

THURS, APR. 14: HERBS-GROWING & USING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf 281-855-5600

THURS, APR. 14: ROSES ON FORTUNIA ROOTSTOCK by DON ADLONG, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston 77004. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

THUR., APRIL 14: GRAFTING PECAN TREES, by HERMAN AUER, 1:30-3:00pm; LOCATION: 7851 Winding Trail Street, Santa Fe, TX 77517. Free, but reservations required: galv@wt.net; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

THURS., APR. 14: GROWING HERBS IN THE GULF COAST REGION by Ed Drier, 10am, Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Parkway. Harris County Master Gardeners. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu

FRI.- SUN., APRIL 15, 16, 17: KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB HOME & GARDEN TOUR 10am-4pm Fri. & Sat.; noon-4pm Sun. kingwoodgardenclub.org

SAT., APR. 16: ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO POLLINATE YOUR GARDEN by NANCY GRIEG, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

SAT, APRIL 16: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING PERENNIAL PLANT SALE. Overview 8am, Sale 9am-1pm. 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx; 281-855-5600

SAT, APRIL 16; HERBS-GROWING & USING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

SAT., APR. 16: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY SPRING ROSE SHOW, 1-4pm, Memorial City Mall. Free. event. houstonrose.org.

SAT., APRIL 16: TAWNY (RASPBERRY) CRAZY ANT: MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR HOMEOWNERS, by PAUL R. NESTER, Ph.D. 9am, & OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION by RANDY BRAZIL, 1-2:30pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free, reservations: galv@wt.net;

Sat., April 16: Perfect Perennials for Texas Gardens. 10:15-11am. Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. Details: corneliusnurseries.com/events.

SUN., APRIL 17: 2016 HIBISCUS SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, Bellaire Community Center, 7008 S. Rice Blvd, Bellaire. Free. Lone Star Chapter/American Hibiscus Society event. Free. lonestarahs.org

SUN., APR. 17: TEXAS TOUGH GARDENING by RANDY LEMMON, 11am-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851, arborgate.com

MON., APR. 18: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu

MON., APR. 18: Registration deadline for 33rd ANNUAL HERB DAY / BEATRIX POTTER: HER LIFE, GARDENS & STORIES REGISTRATION DEADLINE (Sat., Apr. 23 event). 9am-2:30pm. Museum district. \$45. The Herb Society of America event. herbsociety-stu.org/

TUES., APR. 19: MILLENNIAL GARDENING by DEE NASH, 10am, St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free; Sugar Land Garden Club event. Sugarlandgardenclub.org
www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

TUES., APRIL 19; HERBS-GROWING & USING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Details: <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

TUE., APRIL 19: RAIN WATER HARVESTING, by Tim Jahnke, 6:30-8pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free, reservations required: galv@wt.net; www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

THURS., APR. 21: NEW DWARFING ROOTSTOCK FOR CITRUS by DR. ETHAN NATELSON and BEST CITRUS VARIETIES & THEIR RELATIVES – SHARE WHAT YOU GROWN AND WHAT YOU KNOW by DR. BOB RANDALL, 6:30pm, Harris County AgriLife Center, 3303 Bear Creek Dr. Free. Gulf Coast Fruit Study Group event. 281-855-5600.

THURS., APRIL 21; HERBS-GROWING & USING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

THURS., APR. 21: EDUCATING YOUTHS ABOUT NATIVES & ENVIRONMENT AT U of H/CLEAR LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE by WENDY REISTLE, 6:45pm, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/wp/houston/

FRIDAY, APRIL 22: "VEGETABLE GARDENING BASICS & DEMO GARDEN TOUR" by SKIP RICHTER. 9am. McGovern Centennial Gardens, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service event. Free. 281-855-5600

SAT., APR. 23: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., APR. 23: ORGANIC SOLUTIONS TO PESKY INSECTS by ANDY CHIDESTER, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. www.myenchanted.com

SAT., APR. 23: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY ANNUAL ROSE GARDEN TOUR, 11am-5pm. houstonrose.org

SAT., APR. 23: OVERVIEW OF PERENNIALS by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 8am, & PERENNIAL & PEPPER SALE, 9am-1pm,

Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff, Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2. hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., APR. 23: WATER, WATER, WATER! CONSERVATION, IRRIGATION, RAINWATER HARVESTING. 9am, Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. \$5. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., APR. 23: ENCHANTING BUTTERFLY & HUMMINGBIRD GARDENS. 10:15am. Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Rd. Free. corneliusnurseries.com/events.

SAT.-SUN, APR. 23-24: HERITAGE GARDENERS 50TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE & SPRING GARDEN TOUR, noon-4pm Sat; 1-5pm Sun. Start (plant sale): Marie Workman Garden Center & Briscoe Gardens, 112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. Garden Center free; tour \$10 advance; \$12 day of tour. facebook.com/FriendswoodHeritageGardeners

SUN., APR. 24: SPACE CITY HIBISCUS CHAPTER SHOW & SALE. 1-4pm, East Harris County Activity Center, 7340 Spencer Highway, Pasadena. 281-844-4296; spacecityahs.org.

TUES., APRIL 26: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: HERBS-GROWING & USING, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-hcmga-open-garden-days.pdf> 281-855-5600

SAT., APR. 30: FAIRY GARDEN SEMINARS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. \$10/reservations: myenchanted.com

SAT., APR. 30: GARDEN CONSERVANCY HOUSTON OPEN DAY & PECKERWOOD GARDEN PLANT SALE, Houston. Garden Conservancy event. 10am-4pm. \$7/garden; \$40/All Day pass. peckerwoodgarden.org/garden-conservancy-houston-tx-open-day-2/, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org or frankbrowniii@hotmail.com

SAT., APR. 30: GUIDED TOUR WITH HOUSTON ZOO HORTICULTURE SUPERVISOR by ANNA LAND, 7:30am, Houston Zoo, Hermann Park. Reservations (\$30) only: houstonzoo.org/horticulturetour

TUE., MAY 3: REVIEW OF CHEMICALS FOR HOME & GARDEN by RON MIZE, 6:30-7:30 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but must preregister: galv3@wt.net; <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>

SAT., MAY 7: 2016 HIBISCUS SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. Lone Star chapter/American Hibiscus Society event. Free. lonestarahs.org

SAT., MAY 7: MINIATURE CONTAINER GARDEN WORKSHOP, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Pay for supplies use. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., MAY 7: CHAPPELL HILL GARDEN TOUR & PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, 9060 Poplar St., Chappell Hill. Chappell Hill Garden Club event. 979-836-2554; 713-562-6191.

SAT., MAY 7: PLAN BEFORE YOU PLANT by KAREN LEHR, 9-11am; AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but must preregister: galv3@wt.net; <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>

SUN., MAY 8: PECKERWOOD GARDENS MOTHER'S DAY OPEN DAY, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SUN., MAY 8: Peckerwood Garden Open Day. Tours 10am-3pm. 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org/, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

TUES., MAY 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

THURS, MAY 12: PLANTS OF THE BIBLE BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Details: <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

THURS, MAY 12: PLANTS OF THE BIBLE BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf 281-855-5600

THURS., MAY 12: WHAT'S BUGGING YOU, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

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

Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org
FRI., MAY 13: OLEANDER FESTIVAL KICKOFF LUNCHEON, Viewfinders Terrace, Moody Gardens, Galveston. oleander.org

SAT., MAY 14: SUCCULENT MAKE AND TAKE, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Reservations: myenchanted.com

SAT., MAY 14: ANNUAL OLEANDER FESTIVAL & GRAND OLEANDER SALE, 10am-4pm, Betty Head Oleander Garden Park, Free. International Oleander Society event. oleander.org

SAT., MAY 14: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY AND HOUSTON AREA DAYLILY SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW: Enjoying Life in Our Gardens, 1-3pm; and HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY DAYLILY SALE, 10am-3pm; Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society and Houston Area Daylily Society event. www.ofts.com/hhs/

SAT., MAY 14: GALVESTON COUNTY HOME FRUIT GROWERS' TOUR. 9am-Noon. Free. Galveston County Master Gardeners event. Map: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>; 281-534-3413

SUN., MAY 15: TROPICAL FRUIT TREES WITH DANY MILIKIN OF EDIBLE EARTH RESOURCES, 2-3pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

TUES., MAY 17: PLANTS OF THE BIBLE BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Details: <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

THURS., MAY 19: PLANTS OF THE BIBLE BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf> 281-855-5600

SAT., MAY 21: FRIENDS OF PECKERWOOD GARDEN DAY, 10am-3pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., MAY 21: HERB LORE WITH DANY MILIKIN OF EDIBLE EARTH RESOURCES, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., MAY 21: TOMATO & SALSA CONTEST judged by BILL ADAMS , 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond; 2pm Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. www.myenchanted.com

SAT., MAY 21: SPACE CITY HIBISCUS CHAPTER SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, Nessler Center, Wings of Heritage Room, 2010 5th Avenue, Texas City. 281-844-4296; spacecityahs.org.

SAT, MAY 21; PLANTS OF THE BIBLE BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Details: hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf ;281-855-5600

SUN., MAY 22: CELEBRATION OF DAYLILIES OPEN HOUSE, 9am-5 pm, Payne's in the Grass Daylily Farm, 2130 O'Day Road, Pearland, Free, 281-485-3821, cell 713-419-6661. Paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com

TUES., MAY 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: PLANTS OF THE BIBLE, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Details: <http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-hcmga-open-garden-days.pdf> 281-855-5600

TUES., MAY 31: BAMBOO USES IN THE LANDSCAPE, by TISH REUSTLE, 6:30pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but must preregister: galv3@wt.net; <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>

SAT., JUNE 4: BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORKSHOP FOR KIDS, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., JUNE 11: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center 5002 Nasa Road One Seabrook. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT., JUNE 11: EDIBLE LANDSCAPING WITH DANY MILIKIN OF EDIBLE EARTH RESOURCES, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

TUES., JULY 12: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

TUES.-SUN., JUNE 14-19: WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE XXII, Show and Plant Sale 9am-5pm Fri. & 9am-4pm Sat., 4th Floor, Westin Galleria Hotel, 5060 West Alabama St. Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc./Bromeliad Society International event. www.bsi.org

SAT., JULY 23: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend Country Fairgrounds 4310 Texas Highway 36, Rosenberg. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT, SEPT 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL LANDSCAPE PLANTS, PERENNIALS & VEGETABLES SALE. Overview 8am; sale: 9am-1pm. 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx; 281-855-5600
TUES., OCT. 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. 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 AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR, PLEASE NOTE.
Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take two weeks or longer
to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.
Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

Green Job Opportunities at Nature's Way Resources

Inside Sales: duties include providing customer service, gardening advice and sales assistance. This is a part time position.

Horticulturist: duties include customer service, providing planting recommendations and helping to maintain our plant nursery.

For more information please email jobs@natureswayresources.com.

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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 is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

MARK BOWEN

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist, certified permaculturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a co-editor and periodic article contributor.

PABLO HERNANDEZ

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 50% off pomegranates, pears and selected antique roses. (Offer good for retail purchases of this product (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 04/31/16.

