



April 15th, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 153rd 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!](#)



**LEARNING FROM THE ROSE PROS . . . LOVE HERBS? LOVE PETER!
. . . MEA CULPAS . . . ATTRACTING BENEFICIALS**

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

*The Lords and Ladies of the last century walked with me
along the overgrown paths, and picked the old fashioned flowers
among the box and rose hedges of the garden."*
-- *"The Tale of Peter Rabbit" by Beatrix Potter (19020*

Think of this as a Smile Column. We missed World Smile Day. It was March 10. But why quibble. When one reads about Beatrix Potter, cute little bugs and spectacular roses, how can one help but smile?

ROSES FIRST: When a city brags the largest Rose Society in the nation, news of members' gardens open for public viewing is something to celebrate! Even more important, it's a chance to see how pros handle roses.

The [2016 Annual Houston Rose Society Garden Tour](http://houstonrose.org) will be Sat., April 23, 11am-5pm. Normally only open to members, this year public tickets are being sold. Details on tickets & sites: houstonrose.org



Gardens on the 2016 Houston Rose Society Annual Garden Tour on Sat., April 23.

Take a pad & pencil. Ooh and ahh over entire vistas. Then look more closely. Notice how raised gardens are, how spaced plants are, which other plants are used -- and how -- around beds. Notice how beds are spaced, with grass/paving walking areas, so bushes can be easily reached from different directions.

When you have as many roses as these folks have, little grooming and other chore tricks make a huge difference. Have questions, ask! Hosts are there to make sure you understand what you're seeing.

Can't wait for a "rose fix"? Get a jump start at the free Sat., April 16 Houston Rose Society Spring Show, Memorial City Mall, Gessner at I-10W. Judged exhibits will open to public 1-4pm.

SPEAKING OF AWARD-WINNING ROSES, a tip of the trowel to Galveston County Master Gardener and hybridizer-extraordinaire John Jons, whose hybrid entry in the "All American Center Trials" has been selected as a national award winner. It will be planted in the [American Rose Society's winners' garden in Shreveport, LA](http://americanrosesociety.org). If you've never visited these gardens, they are so worth the trip, especially this time of year. A second Jons entry missed winning by .8 of a point!

INSECTARY - DO YOU HAVE ONE? In our Spotlight article below, Houston gardening guru Angela Chandler offers a great idea - and an extremely fun, educational one for gardeners of all ages. Most of us spend far too much time trying to drive insects out of our yards -- a strange, counterproductive move when one considers that around 90% of these creatures are beneficials. Only 10% are harmful. Insecticides are not species-specific - they kill the good with the bad.

My own motto -- developed, I admit, as much out of laziness as out of ecological concern -- is this:

***When a plant has an unacceptable level of insect or disease damage, don't treat.
Get rid of it. Put in a plant that doesn't have unacceptable levels of insect or disease damage in your yard.***

The key here is, of course, the word "unacceptable." When monarch caterpillars turn butterflyweed leaves into lace doilies, we are thrilled. But when something devours other leaves, we pull out the *atomic bombs*.

This is due to (*in addition to brilliant advertising*) a lack of understanding about how the ecology of our yards actually work. The right plants, the right systems, are the solution. We're getting there. But it takes time.

And it takes folks like Angela to help guide us in the right ways. Would love to hear followup from any of you who take Angela's advice to heart. Angela's [Garden Academy](#) website is such a wealth of information and no wonder. Her credentials are too extensive to list her and her sense of humor and relaxed approach to Gulf Coast Gardening make her a lazy gardener's best friend.

You can learn how to create a pocket insectary for your garden at Angela's upcoming class at The Arbor Gate on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 10:00 am; 15635 Farm to Market Rd 2920, Tomball, TX 77377. The class is free and open to the public, but reservations are appreciated. Sign up at www.arborgate.com

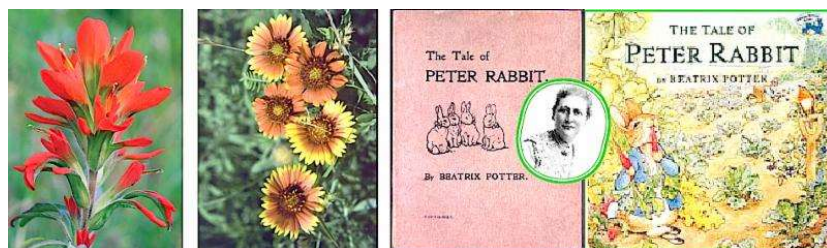
MEA CULPA . . . Before we get to that, first, however, I have a couple of apologies on last week's column. Don't ever want to give you bad information and thanks to those who call misstatements to my attention. Apologies to:

* RANDY LEMMON. In his segment, I changed a picture at the last minute but forgot to change the caption, so pictures were misidentified. Below are correct names of these flowers. Never let me miss-ID plants!



Left to right: yesterday-today-and-tomorrow, ligularia and gingers

* INDIAN PAINTBRUSHES. I called them Indian blankets. See below. Tsk. Tsk. I DO know better! Failed to follow the extremely valuable advice from former editor extraordinaire Beverly Harris who has repeatedly warns me to read my columns out loud to myself before turning it in. Bev rules!



*Left to right: Indian paintbrush (Castilleja), Indian blanket (Gaillardia).
At right, Beatrix Potter with her first 1901 Peter Rabbit book and updated version*

TO END ON A HAPPIER (FOR ME!) NOTE: BEATRIX POTTER. Doesn't just her name make you smile?

Well, get even more excited. Beatrix Potter and her wonderful garden-setting "Peter Rabbit" series (above) will be the focus of the 33rd Annual Herb Day Sat, April 23. NOTE! **Monday, April 18**, is the registration (\$45) deadline for this Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit event in the Museum District.

Details: herbsociety-stu.org/

Beatrix Potter's books, including "*The Tale of Peter Rabbit*," highlight 32 of our most popular herbs,

according to [Mother Earth Living](#). Headlining this Beatrix Potter celebration is Helen Mann, former British vice council, now of "A Manor of Speaking" fame. Also speaking will be Henry Flowers of Festival Hill/Institute in Round Top's famous herb gardens and STU stalwart Linda Lain.

* And what's a garden without butterflies! Shangri La Gardens in Orange will host its [2016 Eco-Fest & Butterfly Release](#) Saturday, April 23. The Fest, introducing the gardens' new Butterfly House and Earth-friendly exhibitors/vendors, runs 9am-4pm, with an actual Butterfly Release at 3:30pm. Details: <http://starkculturalvenues.org/shangrilagardens/events/2016/03/butterfly-gardening-2>

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 45+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener. EMAIL BRENDA AT lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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Butterflies, bees, lady beetles and praying mantis all have an important role in health gardens

IT'S A BUG-EAT-BUG WORLD!

By Angela Chandler - The Garden Academy

www.thegardenacademy.com www.facebook.com/thegardenacademy

Organic gardeners often speak about beneficial insects. They are one of our front-line, chemical-free defenses against pest species. But how do we get the army of pollinators, predators, and parasitoids to choose our gardens as their home and hunting ground?

By creating a garden insectary - a specific habitat that provides food, water, shelter, and a place to breed new generations. These habitats are common in nature, where indigenous insects evolved with indigenous plants. But they are not so common in the average home garden where the balance of nature has been greatly altered.

Botanical gardens and organic farms build wide insectary beds that can be hundreds of feet long. The average home landscape does not have that much room, but we can still reap the benefits of beneficials by creating "pocket" insectaries - smaller habitats that include all of the amenities required to attract beneficials and keep them in your garden.

Pocket insectaries can be any size. You could plan an insectary as a central feature of your garden. A well planned insectary can be quite pretty. You can locate smaller pockets in multiple locations in your landscape so beneficials will be in close proximity to pests. With a little creativity, you can even create a pocket insectary in a container and move it anywhere you see a pest problem arising.

There are many plants you can use in an insectary. In fact, diversity of resources is one of the keys to

attracting the largest possible population of predators. Predatory insects will feed on pest insects, but some of them also use pollen and nectar in all or part of their life cycle.

Use native blooming plants liberally. Members of the carrot family such as Queen Anne's Lace, dill, parsley, fennel and cilantro attract many beneficials. The flowers of radish, cabbage, mustard and kale are popular among predators. Herbs of all kinds are favored by beneficials. You can even let a few weeds have their way in the insectary - dandelions are dandy and will hardly be noticed in your mass of flowers.

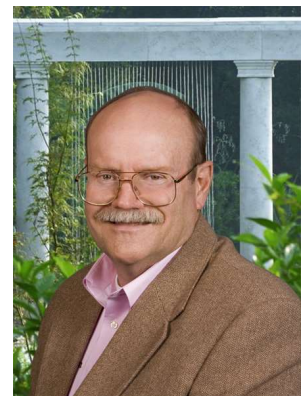
Your job is to provide a safe and supportive habitat. There should be a water source nearby. Mulch will provide hiding places and a cool place to rest. And of course, you should never use pesticides in or near the insectary. In return for the free room and board, the beneficials will pollinate flowers that result in fruits, vegetables, and seeds and prey on pest species that cause damage to desirable plants. Some beneficial insects do both!

Garden insectaries are fascinating places for the whole family, too. It's fun to get to know the many insects that are part of the natural defense system. We are all familiar with butterflies, bees, lady beetles and praying mantis, but many of these amazing insects are not well known to homeowners. Some predatory insects are very small. Several species can barely be seen. But don't let their size fool you - if they were any bigger, it might get scary for us! After seeing a Praying Mantis hunt, I have always been thankful they didn't grow six feet tall!

Contact Angela through her [Garden Academy](#) website. Her "Insectary" class will be Thurs., Apr. 21, 10am at The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, Free but reservations are appreciated: [arborgate.com](#)

JOHN'S CORNER

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS



Researchers at Nagoya University have discovered the clock genes in plants that control their circadian rhythm. For example, plants prepare for cold evenings by triggering biological processes such as closing their stomata and synthesizing waxes to prevent water loss. These genes produced in the evening are regulated by plant proteins produced in the morning.

The Plant Cell Journal, a paper in the Journal Ecology, has found that as biodiversity increases the resistance to plant diseases even when there are more pathogens present in the soil. They also found that artificial chemical fertilizers increased the disease load. *This is another reason to use organic fertilizers.*

Researchers at the Max Plant Institute for Plant Breeding Research in Cologne have found that the Thale Cress plant uses a fungus (Colletotrichum) which is normally a pathogen. The cress plant does not use mycorrhizal fungi to collect phosphorous (P) as most plants do. This fungus colonizes the plant roots and converts insoluble phosphate into soluble phosphate for the plants to use and does not infect the plant. However, if phosphate is plentiful (as from chemical fertilizers) then the

plant launches a massive immune response and the fungus becomes a pathogen. Science Daily from the Journal Cell.

Another study from the University of Copenhagen has found that beneficial microbes produce plant hormones that protect plants from pathogens. It was found that bacteria produce cytokinin that allows the microbe to control plant diseases. Note: We add salt to food to preserve them as it kills bacteria. All artificial fertilizers are chemically salts.

Another paper from the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) states that homeowners should consider an organic approach to taking care of their lawns. They found that most grasses would do just fine with no human help. When a homeowner applies chemicals, it often leads to unhealthy soil, fertilizer getting into watersheds and other side effects. Science Daily

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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.- 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.

SAT., APR. 16: GROWING AN HERBAL PANTRY GARDEN by HENRY FLOWERS, 10AM-12PM, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM

2920, Tomball, Free. 281-351-8851, arborgate.com

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

SUN., APR. 17: TEXAS TOUGH GARDENING BOOK SIGNING with 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/

THURS., APR. 21: PLANT A POCKET INSECTARY by ANGELA CHANDLER, 10AM-12PM, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, Free. 281-251-8851, arborgate.com

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., APR. 23: GARDEN 101: SMALL SPACE SOLUTIONS by DEE NASH, 10AM-12PM, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, Free. 281-351-8851, arborgate.com

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](https://www.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.

SUN, APR 24: THE GREAT GROW PLANT SALE AT ST. THERESA CHURCH BAZAAR, 11am-7pm. 705 St. Theresa Blvd, Sugar Land. Featuring Brookwood Plants. Proceeds support school gardens. info@TheGreatGrow.com

SUN., APR. 24: TEN TIPS TO THE GARDENING PATH OF HAPPINESS by DEE NASH, 11AM-1PM, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, Free. 281-351-8851, arborgate.com

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

WED., APR. 27: PEPPERAZI by CYNTHIA GRAHAM, noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, Free. 281-351-8851, arborgate.com

WED., APRIL 27: MADAGASCAR: EMPHASIS ON SUCCULENT PLANTS by ROSARIO & MICHAEL DOUGLAS, 7:30PM, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. hcsstex.org

THURS., APR. 28: BASIL, BIRDS, BEES, AND BIODIVERSITY by ANN WHEELER, 10AM-12PM, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, Free. 281-351-8851, arborgate.com

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

SAT., APRIL 30: BASIL, BIRDS, BEES, AND BIODIVERSITY by ANN WHEELER, 10AM-12PM, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, Free. 281-351-8851, arborgate.com

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>

SAT., MAY 7: ART IN THE GARDEN CELEBRATION with FELDER RUSHING, RANDY LEMMON, and HOUSTON LLEW with his SPIRITILES, 10AM-3PM, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, 281-351-8851, arborgate.com

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

WED., MAY 11: GOING VERTICAL - TWINERS, TENDRILS, AND CLINGERS by LINDA B. GAY, 12PM-1PM, The Arbor Gate,

15635 FM 2920, Tomball, Free. 281-351-8851, arborgate.com

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

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

THURS., MAY 12: NEW PLANTS FROM PROVEN WINNERS & EUROAMERICAN by Nelson Darden, 10am, Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5001 NASA Parkway. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu

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

MON., MAY 16: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. **Free.** Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2. hcmga.tamu.edu

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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

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

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!

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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
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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.

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.

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.