



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



September 23, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 174th 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.

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By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

"I vant to be alone . . . I just vant to be alone!"

Greta Garbo's plaintive cry to her maid & manager in "Grand Hotel." (1932)

I can always tell the truly "Lazy Gardeners" from those who claim this accolade (*I consider it such*) but actually do work hard in their gardens.

True lazy gardeners always ask me about bulbs. Bulbs, and their cousins – such as daylilies – are the backbone of any true lazy gardener's garden. Put them in and forget them!

Lycoris (spider lilies, naked ladies) are blooming now (upper left), a fitting celebration of Thursday's Fall Equinox when day and night were exactly even. From now on, days get shorter, nights longer. Buddhists celebrate for a full week, so plenty of time to continue the observance. Greek mythology taught this was a good time to start focusing more on the internal than the external and almost everyone celebrated rich harvests to store for winter months.

What I really love about lycoris, besides their exotic beauty, is how easily they defy any gardener to control them. Plant them here, they disappear, apparently roam around underground and suddenly reappear "over there." At least, that's what mine do!

Thin green stalks appear in spring. They disappear and then suddenly, usually in September, a thin stalk pops up topped by an incredibly beautiful vibrant spidery bloom. They bloom when and where they want and there isn't a darn thing you can do about it. Lycoris march to their own drummer.

Houston's longtime Bulb Lady, Sally McQueen Squire, used to call them the "Greta Garbo" of bulbs. "They want to be ALONE!" she would say.

What she meant was they do better when planted by themselves, not mixed in with a lot of other plants. I followed that advice but it didn't matter since they wandered off anyway. But they live for decades!

Below Dodie Jackson of the Garden Club of Houston, delves deeper into why bulbs are so great for us . . . IF, that is, you listen to local advice! Unfortunately, most advice out there, especially from national sources, focus on bulbs that need far more cold than they'll ever get here.

Typical: tulips. Tulips are gorgeous. Tulips say, "Hey, a SERIOUS gardener lives here!"

But they're not lazy gardener bulbs. They take more work, are one-shot bloomers and don't return. Still, worth that one shot of magnificent color. Want tulips? Check out – and follow! – this "[Houstonia](#)" magazine interview with Dodie, "[Turns Out You Can Grow Tulips in Houston](#)."

Don't cheat or you won't get the beautiful blooms. Tulips (hyacinths & crocus) not refrigerated 4-6 weeks before planting will "blast" (bloom on really short stems down among the leaves). They NEED the cold!

Before we get into Dodie's bulb Spotlight, here's some advice from two great upcoming events:

WHY RAIN BARRELS? We had more than our share of rain lately, but next year might produce a major drought. If we do (and it's almost a certainty this will be a problem sooner or later) you're going to wish you'd taken advantage of this City of Houston offer. Top 5 Reasons to Harvest Rainwater:

- Protect our rivers, streams, and ponds from runoff pollution
- Divert water from the municipal storm drain system
- Conserve this vital natural resource and reduce your water bills
- Use rainwater to grow healthy and lush plants
- Control moisture levels around the foundation of your home

The [City of Houston's Green Building Resource Center](#), 1002 Washington Ave., is hosting a [Rain Barrel &](#)

[Compost Bin Sale](#). Sunday, Oct. 2, is the deadline for ordering online: 50-gal. & 65-gal. compost bins, made of recycle materials, \$65 & \$69, respectively (virtually ½ normal retail price for these models). Details: rainbarrelprogram.org/Houston. And, no, you don't have to live within the City of Houston limits to order.

PLANT THAT ROOF! Even before this above event, however, is an event that I have to include to thank Houston Green Building Program Director, *Steve Stelzer* for a really happy recall moment. Saturday, Sept. 28, 6-8pm, will be a special focus on Green Roofs. I immediately flashed back to the 1980s when West Houston gardener Joan Johnson realized that, in her heavily-treed landscape, only her garage roof received enough sun to grow vegetables.

Joan called in construction crews, reinforced the garage walls, replaced the regular roof with a flat one topped that with a lovely array of raised box gardens with intricately installed drainage systems. She put a nice umbrella-table patio set amid the planters and a regular routine for Joan and Doug became breakfast-in-the-tree tops amid the tomatoes, strawberries, squash, beans and other delicious edibles.

It was a brand new idea for Houston. I was awed and thrilled to be invited to see it. Boy, did I milk that garden for a lot of ***Lazy Gardener*** Chronicle columns!

Now, of course, green roofs are everywhere in Houston. As the Green Building's notice pointed out:

"Green roofs retain storm water, insulate the roof membrane from heat gain, and protect from ultraviolet degradation to lengthen their useful life." Details: [City of Houston's Green Building Resource Center](#), 1002 Washington Ave.

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FALL TIPS TO REDUCE WEEDS, ETC: Mercer Botanic Gardens grower Jacob Martin recommends:

- Remove weeds before they start dropping their seed to stop them from returning in spring.
- Add compost & mulch to protect against weeds and cold.
- Plant large, non-tropical trees & shrubs now. Roots will develop well with less water than if planted in spring.
- Plant tough Texas natives that like our alternately boggy/dry conditions, such as bog coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima*) and frog fruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) is an effortless, native 2"-4" high groundcover or lawn substitute.

Both these plants and other Gulf Coast hardies will be available at Mercer's Autumn Plant Sale & Market Saturday, Sept. 24, from 9am-3pm, along with featured camellias such as *Camelia japonica* 'Mine-no-yuki,' 'Kanjiro,' 'Fragrant Fairies,' and 'Royal Velvet.' Details: hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer.



Camellias, l to r, 'Mine-no-yuki,' 'Kanjiro,' 'Fragrant Fairies,' and 'Royal Velvet.'

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And now, Dodie on bulbs . . .

****Brenda's column in the free, emailed LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 45+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener. To sign up: [CLICK HERE](#)***

Want to invest in companies building a better world? Visit: moneyspentwell.org

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L to r, ranunculus, sparaxis, tulips and watsonia

BULBMANIA!

BY DODIE JACKSON
Garden Club of Houston
gchouston.org

Bulbs are Mother Nature's little miracle. Everything the bulb needs in order to bloom is contained within the bulb itself.

Successfully growing bulbs in the Gulf Coast Region is quite easy when you use a few tips.

Most books and articles about growing bulbs are written for colder climates. They recommend fertilizing, planting in sunny spots and planting in the fall.

For bulbs to bloom successfully here in the Gulf Coast, we must first accept a few things:

- We have clay soil
- We have mild winters
- Bulbs hate heat
- Many bulbs should be viewed as annuals

Many bulbs are bottom heavy and therefore will slowly sink in our clay soil, where they will then rot.

When planting bulbs that are annuals there is no need to fertilize, save your money and buy more bulbs!

Our mild winters do not provide enough chilling time required for many bulbs, so chilling in a refrigerator and planting the first part of January will produce spring blooms.

Because bulbs hate heat, do not plant them in full sun, partial shade is much better and the blooms will last

longer.

Think of many varieties of bulbs as annuals, just as one does other annuals.



L to r, allium, amaryllis, anemones, Dutch iris

The following bulbs are annuals (*one bloom season only!*) on the Gulf Coast:

- Tulips
- Some Daffodils
- Dutch Iris
- Muscari
- Anemone
- Allium
- Ranunculus
- Hyacinths



L to r, Daffodil Double Roman daffodil Carlton, Daffodil italicus, Daffodil Fortune,

A few bulbs that are Perennials (*return year after year*):

- Amaryllis
- Daffodil Carlton
- Daffodil Fortune
- Daffodil Double Roman
- Daffodil italicus
- Leucojum
- Watsonia
- Sparaxis
- Licoris



L to r, hyacinths, lecojum, lycoris, muscari

Bulbs look best when planted in clumps or in masses. Most bulbs need to be planted deep enough so there is as much soil over the top of them as there is the height of the bulb. In other words if a daffodil is 3 inches tall, there should be 3 inches of soil on top. (Amaryllis is the exception to this rule) Plant your bulbs one bulb width apart.

Tulips will need a minimum of 6 weeks chilling. Do not buy Parrot Tulips, our temperature swings are too great and the bulbs will not bloom.

If you plant bulbs that are perennials, the time to fertilize them is when the blooms have died and leafs are dying back. This will feed more energy into the bulb for the next year's blooms. Do not twist, braid or tie up the dying leafs, these practices restrict energy going back into the bulb.

A final recommendation is to buy the best bulbs you can afford, this will help with your success.

* * *

Have questions for Dodie? Three great opportunities meet her:

- ***SAT., OCT 8: BULBMANIA!, by DODIE JACKSON, 9-10 am, & GARDENING FOR JEWELS...HUMMINGBIRDS by DEBORAH REPASZ, 1-2:30 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but pre-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston***
- ***THURS., OCT. 13: 2016 BULB & PLANT MART'S EARLY BIRD SHOPPING PARTY 4:30-7pm, St. John the Divine Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. \$20. Garden Club of Houston. gchouston.org***
- ***FRI.-SAT., OCT. 14-15: 2016 BULB & PLANT MART, 9am-5pm Fri., 9am-2pm Sat., St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Free admission/ tax free shopping. Garden Club of Houston event.***

JOHN'S CORNER

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS



An article in the August TURF magazine was on how much does landscaping add to the value of one's house. They looked at home values in seven states and found that landscaping greatly increased the value. For a \$150,000 home, the increase ranged from \$8,250 - \$19,050 depending on the state one lived in. The study also found that by upgrading one's landscape from average to excellent increased a home's value another 10-12 percent.

There has been a lot of information published in the last few years on the health benefits and anti cancer properties of Curcumin. There is a great article in the September issue of Life Extension magazine on Curcumin pp. 44-51. I found it interesting that combining curcumin with black pepper (piperine) increases the absorption into the bloodstream 6.3 fold (I knew there had to be a good reason that I like black pepper so much).

In the same issue there was an article on the benefits of vitamin-D for fighting autoimmune diseases like Multiple Sclerosis. In addition, vitamin-D is useful in preventing and treating other neurodegenerative diseases including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. Another great reason to have gardening as a hobby, as more exposure to sunlight our bodies produces more vitamin-D.

A study from Europe has found that a Beech trees can recognize when a branch is randomly tore off or has been eaten by a deer. The deer's saliva has chemicals in it that that the plant can sense which tells the plant to activate its defense mechanisms.

Many vegetable gardeners love to grow garlic from the beautiful flowers to insect repelling properties and for its great culinary uses. A study reported in Natural News (9-11-16) found that eating garlic daily reduces the risk of lung and bowel cancer by 40%!

Acres, USA has a list of articles on carbon (organic matter) and soil improvement that one can download or print at www.amazingcarbon.com.

A recent article in USA Today "Organic Food is great Business, but a bad investment" by Bjorn Lomborg illustrates how the media twists or falsifies information to please their advertisers. He stated that going organic would kill 13,000 people each year yet he fails to mention the thousands that die each year from pesticide exposure, not to mention the tens of thousands of deaths from cancer and other health problems from eating the toxic chemicals on conventionally grown food. The Organic Center rebukes the false information presented in the USA Today article. It can be found on their website at <https://www.organic-center.org/news/the-organic-truth-research-shows-organic-provides-a-multitude-of-benefits/>

Their website is full of useful information and they have a free e-newsletter called the "Organic Scoop".

An article in the Journal "Organic Agriculture" (March 2016) by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, "Impact of Organic and conventional peach and apple production practices on soil microbial

populations and plant nutrients." The researchers looked at several species each of apples and peaches and found significantly higher active and total fungal biomass, flagellate, actinobacteria populations, and plant nutrients in the organic orchards. Nutrients from phosphorus (P) to copper (Cu) in plant tissues to higher organic matter, and nutrients from phosphorus (P) to sulfur were higher in organic than conventionally grown irrespective of crops and varieties.

For you wine lovers, a study in the Journal of Wine Economics compared expert rankings of 74,148 California wines and found that wines certified as organic or biodynamic scored higher in quality tests than conventionally grown wines.

Several articles published in the Journal Environmental Health Perspectives (September 2016) has found that women whom are exposed to more "greenness" in their lives, live longer, have less health problems from cancer to respiratory and kidney issues. This is another great reason to be an organic gardener!

From Acres, USA (September 2016) a study from researchers at MIT published in the Journal of Biological Physics and Chemistry has found that glyphosate acts as a pathway for modern diseases. Epidemiological studies have revealed a strong correlation between the increasing incidents in the United States of a large number of chronic diseases and the increased usage of glyphosate on corn, soy, and wheat. Glyphosate substitution for conserved glycines can easily explain the link with diabetes, obesity, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pulmonary edema, adrenal insufficiency, hypothyroidism, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, prion diseases, lupus, mitochondrial disease, non Hodgkin's lymphoma, neural tube defects, infertility, hypertension, glaucoma, osteoporosis, fatty liver disease and kidney failure.

The 2015 study by the Detox project found glyphosate in the urine of 93% off all Americans!

A study funded by Moms Across America has found the herbicide Round-Up in all 75 air and rain samples tested. They also found Round-Up (glyphosate) in many vaccines with the MMR II vaccine with levels 25 times higher than the others.

Note: GMO's foods have over 10 times the level of glyphosate (think Round-Up) on them.

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WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

PLEASE READ: TO SUBMIT AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR, 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.
Sorry, no children's programs. Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

**IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

SAT., SEP 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org; 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., SEPT. 24: T-BUD GRAFTING HANDS-ON WORKSHOP by SUE JEFFCO, 9-11:30am, & UNUSUAL EDIBLE PLANTS by ED NASPINSKI, 1-2pm, AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com; <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>

SAT., SEPT. 24: LEAGUE CITY GARDEN WALK - "THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE", 10am-4pm. \$15. leaguecitygardenclub.org.

SAT., SEPT. 24: AUTUMN PLANT SALE & MARKET, 9 am - 3 pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble. Free event. 713-274-4160

SAT. SEPT. 24: FALL GARDENING: THE BEST VEGGIE GARDEN OF ALL by BILL ADAMS & TOM LEROY, 10-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT., SEPT. 24: ANNUAL SCARECROW FESTIVAL - LEARN TO BUILD A SCARECROW, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT. SEPT. 24: WOODLANDS LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS & PLANT SALE, 9-12pm, The Woodlands Township, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services Facility, 8203 Millennium Forest Dr., The Woodlands. 281-210-3800. Free. Details & Directions.

SUN., SEPT. 25: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE CLASS #1. 2- 6pm. N. Stella Link & 610 area. \$40. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SUN. SEPT 25: DAYLILIES, 2-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Society event. Register: 713-274-4160.

SUN., SEPT. 25: CREATING A BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT, 2-4pm, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. \$35. houstonarboretum.org

TUES., SEPT 27: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: DECORATE YOUR GARDEN; 10-11 am, Weekley Community Center at 8440 Greenhouse Rd. Free. ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

WED., SEPT 28: WINTERY BREWS FROM THE GARDEN by CYNTHIA GRAHAM, RN, BSN, 12-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

WED., SEPT. 28: SOIL: FORMULATE A WELL-DRAINED MIX FOR SUCCULENT PLANTS" by JOSIE WELLS, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. hcsstx.org.

WED., SEPT. 28: GREEN ROOFS, WALLS & BIOSWALES, 6-8pm, City of Houston Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. Free. Register: 832-394-9050; greenhouston.tx.gov/gbrceducation.pdf

SAT., OCT. 1: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT 1: CRUCIFEROUS & OTHER FAVORITE FALL VEGETABLES, by GENE SPELLER, 9-11am, & HERBS IN THE GARDEN by CINDY CROFT, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. OCT. 1: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 8 am presentation, sale 9-noon, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., OCT 1 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am and 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT. 1: FALL FEST - BNP 30th ANNIVERSARY, 11am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., OCT 1: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, AgriLife Extension Center, 3033 Bear

Creek Drive. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx; 281-855-5600.

SAT., OCT. 1: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 1 CLASS, 8 am-5 pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd, Pasadena. \$37. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter, 713-657-0372; npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification

SAT. OCT. 1: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 8 am presentation, sale 9-noon, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT-SUN., OCT. 1-2: FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. houstonarboretum.org

MON., OCT. 3: BLUEBIRDS IN THE GARDEN by LINDA CRUM, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

TUES., OCT 4: EASY BUTTERFLY GARDENING by PHYLLIS KOENIG, 6:30-8 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but pre-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

WED., OCT. 5: HERBS FOR HEALING by LUCIA BETTLER, 9-11:30am, Clear Lake Methodist Church, 16335 El Camino Real. Gardeners by the Bay event. 281-474-5051.

THURS.OCT.6: GET YOUR GREENS ON - ASIAN STYLE!! by Jeremy Kollaus and Chef Chris Crowder, 10-12pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920 Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

THURS., OCT. 6: FENG SHUI IN THE GARDEN: QUICK & EASY SUCCESS by KATHERINE ASHBEE, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club Program. nottinghamgardenclub.org

SAT., OCT. 8: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT 8: BULBMANIA!, by DODIE JACKSON, 9-10 am, & GARDENING FOR JEWELS...HUMMINGBIRDS by DEBORAH REPASZ, 1-2:30 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., OCT. 8: BULBS AND BUDDIES by Chris Wiesinger Southern Bulb Company and Heidi Sheesley of Treesearch Farms, 10-12pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT., OCT 8: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE & MARKET, 9 am-noon (or sell-out), Houston Museum of Natural Science, parking garage 7th level, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. Free parking/\$30 purchase. hmns.org/cockrell-butterfly-center/

SAT., OCT. 8: MERCER ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY GALA: WILD ABOUT GINGERS! 5pm, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Tickets: 713-274-4166, msociety@hcp4.net.

SAT., OCT. 8: LANDSCAPING WITH EDIBLES by SCOTT SNODGRASS, 10am, free & (following) GROW YOUR OWN LETTUCE BOWL (kids), \$15. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750, Richmond. myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 8: LANDSCAPING WITH EDIBLES by SCOTT SNODGRASS, 2pm, free & (following) GROW YOUR OWN LETTUCE BOWL (kids), \$15. Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, Richmond. myenchanted.com

SUN. OCT. 9: INDOOR COMPOSTING-OUTDOOR SUCCESS by ANGELA CHANDLER, 11-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920. arborgate.com

SAT., OCT. 8: PROPAGATION & CONTAINER PLANTING, TAG SALE & TOURS by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS AT PRECINCT 2, 9am-noon, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Rd. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu

SUN., OCT. 9: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS THROUGH PERMACULTURE by Permaculture Guild of Houston. Various locations. \$404. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org.

SUN., OCT. 9: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS THROUGH PERMACULTURE by Permaculture Guild of Houston. Various locations. \$404. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

TUES., OCT. 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

TUE., OCT 11: MY FAVORITE PERENNIALS by JAN BRICK, 6:30-8 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

WED. OCT. 12: DIGGING OUT OF DEPRESSION by CYNTHIA GRAHAM, RN, BSN, 12-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

WED., OCT. 12: CACTI IN THE ROUGH - SUCCULENT TOUR OF BIG BEND, noon-2pm, Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., OCT. 13: 2016 BULB & PLANT MART'S EARLY BIRD SHOPPING PARTY 4:30-7pm, St. John the Divine Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. \$20. Garden Club of Houston. gchouston.org

THURS, OCT 13: FRUIT TREES PLANTING & CAREBY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., OCT. 13: DAYLILIES by Nell Shimek, 10-11:30am, Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2. hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS. OCT. 13: CREATING BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES by Sarah Flournoy, Houston Audubon Society, 7:30pm, McCullough Jr. High, 3800 S. Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands. 281-210-3800. Free. The Woodlands Township event. Details & Directions.

FRI.-SAT., OCT. 14-15: 2016 BULB & PLANT MART, 9am-5pm Fri., 9am-2pm Sat., St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Free admission/ tax free shopping. Garden Club of Houston event. gchouston.org

THURS. OCT.13: ATTRACTING BLUEBIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN by LINDA CRUM, 10-noon, Arbor Gate 15635 FM 2910, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

FRI., OCT. 14: EMPOWERING MONARCH HEROES COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY by MARYA FOWLER, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., OCT. 15: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FALL SALE. 8am-SALE PREVIEW by JOHN JONS; 9am-1pm-PLANT SALE, Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 at Jack Brooks Road, Hitchcock.

SAT., OCT.15: EDIBLE FLOWERS by HENRY FLOWERS of Festival Hill Gardens, 10am-12pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT, OCT 15; FRUIT TREES PLANTING AND CAREBY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT. 15: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, Galveston County Fairgrounds in Hitchcock, 10 Jack Brooks Road on Highway 6

SAT. OCT 15: MONTGOMERY COUNTY OPEN OPEN GARDENS DAY/VEGETABLE & HERB SALE, Sale 9-noon, Open Gardens 9 am-11 am. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824, www.mcmga.com

SUN., OCT.16: FLOWERING HERBS AND FESTIVE TREATS by ANN WHEELER and CHRIS CROWDER 11am-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

MON., OCT. 17: Storytime in the garden, 10:30 am- 11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

TUES., OCT 18: FRUIT TREES PLANTING AND CARE by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., OCT 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: FRUIT TREES-PLANTING & CARE; 10-11 am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd. Free. ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

THURS., OCT. 20: HAPPY HERBAL NEW YEAR by Ann Wheeler of Log House Herbs, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

THURS., OCT 20: FRUIT TREES PLANTING AND CAREby HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane.Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

FRI.-SUN., OCT. 21-23: AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT 2016 FALL ROSE SHOW & CONVENTION, Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway. houstonrose.org.

Sat, Oct 22. STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm. \$20. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 113, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. 713-880-5540, urbanharvest.org.

SAT., OCT. 22: 2016 FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420

FM359, both Richmond. \$10. Register: myenchanted.com

SAT., OCT. 22: GUNTERS HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES by PAM AND LEAH GUNTER 9am-1pm, & THE FALL AND WINTER FRUIT GARDENER by ANGELA, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SUN., OCT. 23: DAYLILIES, 2-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Society event. Register: 713-274-4160

TUES., OCT. 25: GARDEN TO VASE by Linda Gay & Pat Hermes, 9am-noon, Houston School of Flowers, 4340-D Directors Row. \$75. 713-681-2400, agardenforcutting.com

WED OCT 26: FALL AND WINTER HABITAT GARDENING by DIANA FOSS, Houston Urban Biologist, noon-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

THURS., OCT. 27: GARDEN TO VASE by Linda Gay & Pat Hermes, 9am-noon, Houston School of Flowers, 4340-D Directors Row. \$75. 713-681-2400, agardenforcutting.com

SAT., OCT. 29: GULF COAST MEAD FESTIVAL, LUCY-STYLE GRAPE STOMP COMPETITION & GRAPE GROWING DISCUSSIONS, 10am-5pm, Frascone Winery, 308 Bayside Dr., Anahuac. Free. Frascone Winery, Mystic Oak Meadery, Bentley Bees & Crane Meadows event. [Facebook: Gulf Coast Mead Festival](https://www.facebook.com/GulfCoastMeadFestival/).

SAT., OCT. 29: GARDEN TO VASE by PAT HERMES, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT., OCT. 29: FRIGHTFUL FUN IN THE GARDEN by ASHLEY GRUBB, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., NOV. 1: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 1 CLASS, 8am-5pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd., Pasadena. \$37. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter. 713-657-0372. npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification

SAT., NOV. 5: GARDEN TO VASE by LINDA GAY & PAT HERMES, 9am-noon, Houston School of Flowers, 4340-D Directors Row, \$75. ,713-681-2400; agardenforcutting.com

SAT., NOV 5 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am & 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., NOV. 5: GREETING, GIFTING GUESTS WITH BEAUTIFUL PLANTED CONTAINERS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

mon. nov. 7: new garden docent orientaTion, 9am - noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

WED. NOV. 9: THE MADALENE HILL PHARMACY GARDEN, noon-2pm, [Mercer Botanic Garden](http://MercerBotanicGarden.org), 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., NOV. 11: FLOWER SHOW - JUDGING DEMYSTIFIED by SUZANNE MILSTEAD & NELL SHIMEK, 10am, & TRAFFIC FLOW, 1pm, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., NOV 12: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., NOV. 12: HERBS THAT LIKE TO CHILL by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750 & 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. myenchanted.com

MON., NOV. 14: DOCENT TRAINING-REFRESH YOUR SKILLS, 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., NOV. 19: ANNUAL ENCHANTED OPEN HOUSE & EVENING, 2-8pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

MON., NOV. 21: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30 am- 11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

TUES., NOV 22: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: HOLIDAY PREPARATION; 10-11 am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd. ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

SAT., NOV 26: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden

Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., NOV. 26: ANNUAL ENCHANTED OPEN HOUSE & EVENING, 2-8pm, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., DEC 3 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am and 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT. DEC. 3: THE ARBOR GATE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, 2-6pm, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT., DEC. 3: CITRUS FEST & Q&A by DR. BOB RANDALL, 8:30am-noon, Urban Harvest Farmer's Market, 3000 Richmond Ave @ Eastside. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540, urbanharvest.org.

SAT., DEC. 3: GROWING CITRUS IN HOUSTON & S.E. TEXAS, 9:30-11:30am, University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 017, 2812 Yoakum Blvd, \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., DEC 3: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 10am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., DEC. 3: FRUIT TREES by SCOTT SNODGRASS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

FRI., DEC. 9: HOLLY-JUJAH by JIM JOHNSON, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. \$10 advance sale only. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., DEC. 10: WINTER AT MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN, 9am-noon, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED. DEC. 14: CHRISTMAS CRAFTS USING NATURAL MATERIALS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., DEC 17: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., DEC. 17: CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 8am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: albbarr@comcast.net.

MON., DEC. 19: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30 am- 11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., JAN. 11: EXPLORING THE PRIMEVAL FLORA OF NEW CALEDONIA, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., JAN. 13: PENNY WISE / POUND FOOLISH: WHEN & WHY TO HIRE A LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL by RITA HODGE, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

MON., JAN. 16: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30 am- 11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

MON., JAN 23-FEB. 27: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER TIER III: THE ART OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN, 9am - 3pm with an hour lunch break, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$250. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., FEB. 8: MICROGREENS, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., FEB.10: FLORAL DESIGN INSPIRED BY ART by HOUSTON DESIGNING WOMEN, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

MON., FEB. 20: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30 am- 11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

**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.
Sorry, no children's programs. Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE MONTH

DIESEL

Diesel was abandoned by his owners when they moved, and he ended up at Montgomery County Animal Shelter.

Diesel is a American Blue Pittbull Mix and is thought to be about 10 years old.

He knows basic commands- is housebroken and crate trained- loves everyone he meets... Loves bones, treats and squeaky toys- even likes a nice jog. He has a good amount of life to live and would love to have somewhere to spend it. If he has siblings- they have to be female.

Diesel loves to play and socialize and is so much fun to have around.

He is fixed and has all of his shots.

If interested in adopting Diesel, please reply to this newsletter and type "Diesel" in the subject line. Diesel is not at the shelter currently. He is in foster care.



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.

