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MARCH 3, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 194th 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. . . E mail 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!](#)



"EARTHKIND" LANDSCAPES ... PLANT THIS, NOT THAT

*We're moving fast and living large,
Forgetting Mother Nature's in charge.
It's true, we must treat her right.
Or we will incur a deadly plight.
Treat her with distinction
Or surely face extinction!*

--- Mother Nature © by Edith A. Phinazee

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Not often I get two great Spotlight articles that complement each other as much as today's do. Both make protecting our ecology a priority -- and speak to our very experienced as well as more casual gardeners.

First we have Harris County AgriLife Extension Agent-Horticulture Robert "Skip" Richter.

[Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Earth-Kind® Residential Landscaping School](#) is March 21, 22, 28 & 29. The goal of this 6-8pm course at the AgriLife office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr., is to combine the best of organic with traditional gardening and landscaping methods. New techniques and wisdom abound these days.

As you'll see below, Skip's Earth-Kind® course preview emphasizes pre-planting planning more than actual planting. What we do in our home landscapes DOES make a difference, given the now hundreds-of-thousands suburban yards now sending damaging fertilizers and other "treatment" chemicals into our bayous, especially during our heavy rains. We homeowners are major polluters of Galveston Bay.

Poor pre-planning results in unnecessarily heavy use of water now being rationed during our prolonged droughts. So many better choices of drought-tolerant plants are now available. This immediately raises the point, where can we find such plants?

How do we avoid becoming what Skip so rightly refers to as random "plant collectors"? Even the most experienced among us purchase on whim, which isn't a bad thing. Unless, that is, (as I have been known to do) you routinely kill more plants by leaving them sitting too long on the patio or carport than die after actually being planted in the yard.

That's where our second Spotlight comes in. Our ecology is changing. Our living environment is changing. Some very common landscape plants are now proving to be very poor selections, ecology-wise.

Melodie Hill of Mercer Botanic Gardens takes us through a selection of plants that are far more ecology-friendly than are those so oft recommended in the past. And that we tend to fertilize, treat and water more than is necessary with the EarthKind plant recommendations.

No one is telling you redo your whole yard at once. Start small. We all have dead spots thanks to that surprise 20+ degree hit last fall. Fill in with Earth-friendly choices. Reducing the need for excessive watering, fertilizing, pest-control, or other high maintenance means less work for you too!

If you can sign up for the Harris County AgriLife EarthKind® course, please do. If not, do check our calendar below for the many MANY other Earth-friendly gardening classes being offered (many free).

March Mart is our largest general spring plant sale. The focus is on natives and super-hardy selections of the best varieties in a wide range of plants, from herbs to trees, bulbs, shrubs, vines, you name it. Admission is free and wagons are available. But if you can bring your own, it's a good idea. The sale runs: Fri., Mar. 17, 10am-4pm. Sat., Mar. 18, 8am-4pm. Details: hcp4.net/Community/Parks/Mercer/Programs

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Solanum lycopersicum, *capsicum* and other edible plant aficionados will turn out en masse for the big annual Harris County Master Gardener Tomato, Pepper & Herb Sale tomorrow (Mar. 4) 9am-1pm at the Harris County AgriLife Extension Center, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. in Bear Creek Park.

A Tomato Talk will begin at 8am. While here, do visit the Harris County MG demonstration gardens. Whether you can make this sale or not, check out the complete (wow!) list of all sale varieties available at hcmga.tamu.edu/public/docs/2017-hcmga-tomato-pepper-herb-sale-catalog.pdf
It's a great guide to good-choices-for-us of tomatoes, peppers & herbs -- well worth keeping

* * *

Before gracefully signing out now so these two local treasures can share their expertise, one personal note:

To my fellow "Brenda" who requested [my free "10 Commandments of Lazy Gardening" flyer offered last week](#): I keep getting "access denied" when sending it to you. Is there another email to which I can send it?

Now . . . on to our Spotlights!



6 LANDSCAPE MISTAKES GARDENERS OFTEN MAKE

Earth-Kind® Residential Landscaping School

By **SKIP RICHTER**
County Extension Agent - Horticulture
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Landscapes certainly add to the value of our home and provide us with years of enjoyment...or at least they should! I've seen a million examples of " *It seemed like a good idea at the time*" over the years and want to instead help people have success in their landscaping endeavors. While many mistakes that deserve mention, here are a few common ones I see gardeners make:

1. **Not planning before planting.** Gardeners can become "plant collectors," arriving home with the latest plant acquisition with little knowledge of where to put it! Start with a landscape plan that is designed with aesthetic beauty in mind as well as water conservation and less maintenance.
2. **Not preparing the soil first.** Spend a dollar on soil before a dollar on a plant! Sand and clay both need lots of compost added. Build up raised beds if drainage is poor. Get soil ready before you plant!

3. **Choosing poorly adapted plants.** Why is it we always want to grow something that belongs in another part of the country? Select naturally adapted and disease/pest resistant species and cultivars.
4. **Not considering location carefully.** Sun or shade, good drainage or poor, protected location or exposed. These all have huge effects on a plant's chance of success.
5. **Planting too close.** Crowding increases disease problems and can result in an unattractive planting. Keep in mind how large that shrub will grow before planting it under a window or next to a sidewalk.
6. **Not mulching properly.** You've heard all the benefits of mulch but still people fail to apply it to their plants. Avoid the silly "mulch volcanoes" around trees. Maintain a 2-3 inch layer of mulch around your plants. Over time as it decomposes it will release nutrients into the soil.
7. **Not starting off right the Earth-Kind way.** Avoiding these common mistakes. Earth-Kind landscaping considers planning, plant selection, soil preparation, maintenance, mulching and other key practices, using research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment.



You don't have to be a Harris County resident to attend AgriLife events such as the [Texas A&M Extension's Earth-Kind® Residential Landscaping School](#), March 21, 22, 28 & 29, 6-8pm, Harris County AgriLife office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. \$40/household. Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu or 713-274-0959

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PLANT THIS, NOT THAT!

Alternatives to overused landscape plants

By MELODIE HILL

Program Coordinator, Mercer Botanic Gardens

With thanks to Jennifer Garrison, Education Director,

Jacob Martin, Greenhouse Manager, and The Mercer Society March Mart Team

Thousands of natives and non-natives can be put into garden to replace boring, common landscaping plants. Here are unique, exciting alternatives to plants that have become all too common in our landscapes:



DWARF CUBAN GOLD DURANTA . . . NOT BOXWOOD

L to r, Duranta repens; Buxus microphylla (boxwood)

Texas native duranta is a full to part-sun shrub that can replace overused boxwoods. An extremely heat and humidity tolerant, well-branched plant with chartreuse, near evergreen, foliage. Occasional blue flowers late summer to early autumn are followed by beautiful, golden berries. This dwarf variety will reach 2-3 feet tall and wide and can be hedged just like a boxwood.



CAMELLIA . . . NOT LOROPETALUM

L to r: Camellia sasanqua 'Kanjiro', Loropetalum chinense 'Burgundy'

Camellia sasanqua is a highly ornamental, evergreen shrub that typically grows 3-12 feet tall with dark-green, shiny foliage. Blooming in autumn and early winter, their flowers are born in profusion and easily become a focal point in a garden. There are many different varieties available, so you can pick the color, size, and look that is perfect for your landscape.



DWARF BOTTLEBRUSH . . . NOT INDIAN HAWTHORN

L to r: Callistemon citrinus 'Little John', Raphiolepis indica

The dwarf bottlebrush has a versatile, compact size with dense branches covered in blue-green, evergreen foliage. Bright-red blooms cover this shrub for an extended season. Plant this 3-foot tall shrub in full sun!



YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW . . . NOT AZALEAS

L to r: Brunfelsia pauciflora, azalea

This profuse, fragrant spring bloomer lives up to its name by opening deep-violet and gradually fading to white over three days. A semi-evergreen shrub for dappled sun borders or a mass for a privacy screen. Reaches 3-8 feet tall and 4-6 feet wide, but can easily be pruned to fit smaller beds.



HERCULES CLUB . . . NOT CRAPE MYRTLE

L to r: Zanthoxylum clava-herculis, Lagerstroemia indica 'Miami'

Texas native hercules club bears large clusters of yellow-green flowers in the spring. Birds love the shiny, red to black seeds that follow the flowers. Don't be scared of its unique, spiny bark. It is also a host plant for the giant swallowtail butterfly.



BUTTERFLY GINGERS . . . NOT CANNAS

L to r: Hedychium coronarium 'Maximum', Canna

A wonderful, back-of-the-border substitute! The pure-white, butterfly-shaped blossoms appear in clusters from late spring well into autumn. The extraordinary scent is the most fragrant of all gingers! It grows effortlessly in any garden soil, and can even thrive submerged in a pond or boggy area.



BANANA SHRUB . . . NOT LIGUSTRUM

L to r: Michelia fuscata, Ligustrum japonicum

Creamy-yellow blooms have a strong banana fragrance! A compact, densely-branched shrub with narrow, glossy, evergreen foliage perfect for full to part-sun. It can reach 8-10 feet tall and wide, but is easy to train.



AGARITO . . . NOT HOLLY

L to r: Berberis trifoliolata, Ilex

This drought tolerant shrub has beautiful, gray-green foliage with a texture similar to holly bushes, but also has clusters of fragrant, showy, yellow flowers in early spring. Bright-red, edible berries make delicious jelly!



VIRGINIA SWEETSPIRE . . NOT NANDINA

L to r: Itea virginica , nandina

This Texas native has scented, pure-white, four-inch flowers in the early summer. The summer foliage changes to a brilliant multitude of oranges and reds in autumn, similar to a nandina. It matures at less than 3-feet tall, making it suitable for mass plantings or a mixed border. It attracts butterflies and birds!

* * *

You can speak personally with Mercer garden specialists during the big March Mart, at Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Fri., Mar. 17, 10am-4pm. Sat., Mar. 18, 8am-4pm. Details: hcp4.net/Community/Parks/Mercer/Programs

SENDING IN EVENT NOTICES?

FIRST, PLEASE CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR BELOW.

Events NOT submitted in our exact format (it never changes!) will take far longer to be added to the calendar.

Make sure whoever sends in your notices sees this info. Thanks. Brenda

****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](#)***

JOHN'S CORNER

John is out sick this week but should be back

with a column for the next edition.



* * *

WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT TO THIS CALENDAR.

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
T HE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

SAT., MAR. 4: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TOMATO-PEPPER SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

SAT., MAR. 4: LANDSCAPING MADE SIMPLE by Landscape Designers, Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com

SAT. MAR.4: THE SOUTHERN HEIRLOOM LANDSCAPE by DR. BILL WELCH & CHRIS WIESINGER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT. MAR 4: HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES by The GUNTHER'S, 10am-1pm, Nature's Way Resource, 101 Sherbrook cir, Conroe. Free. www.natureswayresources.com

SAT., MAR 4: THE OAKS OF PECKERWOOD GARDEN TOUR, 10am, Peckerwood Gardens, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Garden Conservancy event. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., SUN., MAR. 4-5: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB 37TH ANNUAL SHOW & SPRING SALE, Sat. Show 1-5pm, Sale 9am-5pm; Sun. Show & Sale, 10am-3pm; workshop Sat. & Sun. 1pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.com

SUN. MAR. 5: GARDENING BY THE MOON by BETH HOUSE, 11am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. www.arborgate.com

- MON., MAR. 6: BROMELIADS by DAVID WHIPKEY. 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com
- WED., MAR. 8: MARCH MART PREVIEW, noon- 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.
- WED. MAR. 8: GARDEN PROBLEM SOLVING-KEEPING IT SIMPLE by LEON MACHA, Noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com
- THURS., MAR. 9: CHEMICAL SAFETY IN THE GARDEN by DONALD BURGER, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org
- THURS., MAR. 9: CURRENT PLANT TRENDS by PAUL WINSKI, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Garden Education Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu .
- THURS., MAR. 9: EARTH-KIND ROSES by GAYE HAMMOND, 9:30-11am, Missouri City Rec & Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Dr., Missouri City. Free. Quail Valley Garden Club event. QuailValleyGardenClub.org
- THURS., MAR. 9: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP, 6:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 281-376-4610
- FRI., MAR 10: THE ART OF GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY by LANA KELLEY. 10 am. White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org .
- FRI.-SUN., MAR. 10-12: 82nd ANNUAL AZALEA TRAIL: BLOOMS OF SPRING IN FULL SWING, 11am-5pm, River Oaks Garden Club event. riveroaksgardenclub.org
- S AT., MAR. 11: MARCH MART PREVIEW (Repeat), 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.
- SAT., MAR. 11: THE EXPERTS ARE HERE--MIKE SERANT, JOHN FERGUSON, DAN SNYDER & L. P. KOJIS, Enchanted Forest 10am -10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com
- SAT. MAR. 11: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by BILL ADAMS & TOM LeROY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. www.arborgate.com
- SAT, MAR 11: BONSAI by CLYDE HOLT, 9-11am, \$25, & COMPOSTING by JIM GILLIAM, (Free) 1-2:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Register (both): galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston
- SAT., Mar 11: BEST PLANTS FOR THE LANDSCAPE & PESTS & DISEASES AFFECTING FLOWERS, SHRUBS, TREES by MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, \$5 each, \$7 both. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824; w www.mcmga.com
- SAT., MAR 11: 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.-SUN., MAR. 11-12: HOUSTON ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm, 4501 Woodway. Free. houstonarboretum.org
- SUN. MAR. 12: GARDEN BEE FORUM by ANGELA CHANDLER & MATT & KELLY BRANTLEY, 11am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. www.arborgate.com
- SUN. MAR. 12: NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANT & MILKWEED PROPAGATION WORKSHOP by MARK MORGENSTERN & BARBARA WILLY, 10am-noon, Brazos Bend State Park dining hall, 21901 FM 762 Rd, Needville. Free but register: hnpat.org; 713-446-2509
- FRI., MAY 12: ATTWATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN NAT. WILDLIFE REFUGE: PRAIRIE OASIS OF SE TEXAS by TERRY ROSSIGNOL. 10 am. White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org
- MON, MAR. 13: PLANT NOW FOR GREAT WILDSAPES by DIANA FOSS, 6:30pm , Forest Room (BB1418), Bayou Building, University of Houston Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Free, \$5 parking. Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)/Clear Lake Chapter event. npsot.org/wp/clearlake/

FRI., MAR 17: EXPLORING SPICE ISLANDS IN FOOTSTEPS OF DAVID FAIRCHILD by CHAD HUSBY, Ph.D., 7pm, Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

FRI-SAT., MAR. 17-18: MARCH MART Plant Sale, Fri. 10am-4pm, Sat. 8am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble.

SAT., MAR. 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE, Genoa Friendship Garden, Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds. 281-855-5600

SAT., MAR. 18, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PERENNIAL SALE, 8am, Plant Overview, 9am-1pm Sale. Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., MAR. 18: GREAT GULF COAST PLANTS FOR SUN OR SHADE with Linda Gay Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com

SAT, MAR 18: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT, PART 3 by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11:00 am, & CULTURE & CARE OF PALMS by OJ MILLER, 1-3:00 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but pre-register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. MAR. 18: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING PLANT SALE, 8am Program; 9am-noon Sale. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824; www.mcmga.com

SUN., MAR. 19: ENIGMATIC HORSETAILS: ANCIENT PLANTS IN MODERN WORLD by CHAD HUSBY, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org

MON., MAR. 20, OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30 - 11 am, GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston, TX 77034. Master Gardeners available to answer your questions. FREE. <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

MON., MAR. 21: EARTH-KIND RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPING SCHOOL begins (also Mar. 22, 28 & 29), 6-8pm, AgriLife Extension, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. \$40/household. Harris County AgriLife Extension event. Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu or 713-274-0959

TUE., MAR. 21: NORTHERN PERU - BROMELIADS OF TABACONAS NAMBALLE SANCTUARY, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND CORDILLERA NEGRA & BLANCA by SCOTT SANDEL, 7:30pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

WED. MAR. 22: FAIRY GARDENING-MAGICAL MINIATURE LANDSCAPE by ANGELA CHANDLER, Noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., MAR. 25: JOIN THE PERENNIAL PLANT MOVEMENT, Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 Free. myenchanted.com

SAT. MAR. 25: GARDENING WITH COLOR-CREATING THE 'WOW' FACTOR by GAYE HAMMOND, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT. MAR 25: HERB TALK with JEANNIE DUNNIHOO, 10am, Nature's Way Resource, 101 Sherbrook cir, Conroe. Free. natureswayresources.com

SAT., MAR. 25: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 1 CLASS (Introduction), 8 am-4:30 pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd, Pasadena. \$37. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter; Registration: npsot.org/wp/nlcp; npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification.

SAT, MAR 25: TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL by JIM GILLIAM, 1-2:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but pre-register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

THURS. MAR. 30: WOODY TREES AND SHRUBS TO MAKE YOUR NEIGHBORS ENVY YOU by DR. DAVE CREECH, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., MAR 25: 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., APR. 1.: WHITE OAK GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am program by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 10am-2pm (or till sold out) sale, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. nnmd.org

SAT. APR. 1: MEMORIAL NORTHWEST LADYBUGS GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE, 9am-2pm, MNW Community Center Parking Lot, 17440 Theiss Mail Route Road, Spring. mnwhoa.org.

SAT. APR 1: EDIBLE POLLINATORS by DAVE & TRISH WHITINGER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

MON., APR. 3-MAY 1: LANDSCAPE FOR LIFE, 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$150. Register: 713-274-4160.

TUES. APR. 4: WHATS NEW AND UNIQUE IN THE PLANT WORLD by RAND HOPKINS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

WED., APR. 5, 2017: PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Clear Lake United Methodist Church, 16635 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners By The Bay event. 281-474-5051

THURS., APR. 6: STROLLER GARDEN STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., APR. 8: PLANNING AND PLANTING A HABITAT GARDEN by NANCY GRIEG,- Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449 - Enchanted Garden 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond 281-341-1206 free. myenchanted.com

SAT. APR. 8: THE ART OF ESPALIER by ANGELA CHANDLER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., APR 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., APRIL 8: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 3 CLASS (Installing/Maintaining), 8 am-4:30 pm, Kleb Woods Nature Center, 20303 Draper Road, Tomball. \$57. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter; Register: npsot.org/wp/nlcp; npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification.

WED., APR. 12: GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED. APR. 12: SOLVING HOUSE PLAN PROBLEMS WTH LANDSCAPING FENG SHUI by KATHERINE ASHBY, Noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

THUR., APR. 13: SOILS & MULCH by JOHN FERGUSON, 10am, Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnett at Hillcroft. Free. Houston Area Daylily Society event. 281-723-7409

FRI., APR 14: "PEACE, LOVE AND MILAGROS: LIFE LESSONS FROM THE ROAD" by STEVEN CHAMBLEE. 10 am. White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT. APR. 15: VERTICAL GARDENS MADE EASY...AND AFFORDABLE! by STEVEN CHAMBLEE, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

MON. APR. 17: ALL ABOUT MULCHES by JOHN FERGUSON, 2 pm, AgriLife Extension Center, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. Free. Montgomery County Master Gardeners. 512-577-2914, mcmga.com/

THURS. APR. 20: VEGETABLES - IS IT TOO LATE? by JEREMY KOLLAUS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

FRI., APR 21: Evening at Peckerwood Lecture Series, 7pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232 ; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

APR. 22: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PERENNIAL SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

SAT., APRIL 22: POOLSIDE CONTAINERS AND IDEAS, Enchanted Forest 10am - 10611 FM 2759, Richmond - 281-937-9449; Enchanted Gardens 2pm - 6420 FM 359, Richmond - 281-341-1206 free. myenchanted.com

SAT. APR. 22: LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE MADE EASY by SKIP RICHTER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., APR. 22: PARTY FOR THE PLANET, 6-10pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd. Tickets: abnc.org

SAT., APR 22: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

WED. APR. 26: FLOWER POWER by CYNTHIA GRAHAM, RN, BSN, Noon-1pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., APRIL 29: FAIRY GARDEN SEMINARS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, 281-341-1206, both Richmond. \$10+. myenchanted.com

SAT. APR. 29: CONTAINER HERB GARDENING by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., APR. 29: SPACE CITY HIBISCUS CHAPTER SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, East Harris County Activity Center, 340 Spencer Hwy. Pasadena.

SAT., APR. 29: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 3 CLASS (Installing and Maintaining Native Landscapes), 8 am-4:30 pm, Kleb Woods Nature Center, 20303 Draper Road, Tomball. \$57. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter; Register: npsot.org/wp/nlcp; npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification .

THURS., MAY 4: STROLLER GARDEN STROLLS, 9-11am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS. MAY 4: RAZZLE DAZZLE BASIL by ANN WHEELER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT. MAY 6: CUT FLOWER GARDEN by SONI HOLIDAY, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, 281-341-1206, both Richmond. myenchanted.com

SAT. MAY 6: RAZZLE DAZZLE BASIL by ANN WHEELER & CHRIS CROWDER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

WED., MAY 10: WORM COMPOSTING, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., MAY 12: BLOOMING BONNETS LUNCHEON, 2:30-4:30pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$25. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., MAY 12: ATTWATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN NAT. WILDLIFE REFUGE: PRAIRIE OASIS OF SE TEXAS by TERRY ROSSIGNOL. 10 am. White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT. MAY 13: MOTHER'S DAY MAKE & TAKE FLOWERS/MARKETS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, 281-341-1206, both Richmond. \$10+. myenchanted.com

SAT. MAY 13: ART IN THE GARDEN, 10am-3pm, Seminar-FELDER RUSHING, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. arborgate.com

SAT., MAY 13: INSTALLING & MAINTAINING NATIVE LANDSCAPES, 8 am-4:30 pm, Kleb Woods Nature Center, 20303 Draper Rd, Tomball. \$57. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter. Register: npsot.org/wp/nlcp; npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification.

SAT., MAY 20: MINI SUCCULENT OR HERB GARDEN, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, 281-341-1206, both Richmond. myenchanted.com

SAT., MAY 20: SPACE CITY HIBISCUS CHAPTER SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, East Harris County Activity Center, 340 Spencer Hwy. Pasadena.

SAT., MAY 20: LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY 23rd ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & SALE. 10am-4pm Sale; 1-4pm Show. Epiphany Lutheran Church, 5515 W. Broadway, Pearland. Free. lonestardaylilysociety.org; peskine@comcast.net; 713-882-9958.

THURS., JUNE 1: STROLLER GARDEN STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT. JUNE 3: TOMATO CONTEST, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Categories and Guidelines online, arborgate.com

WED., JUNE 14: CARNIVOROUS PLANTS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

OCT. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

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

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.

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
T HE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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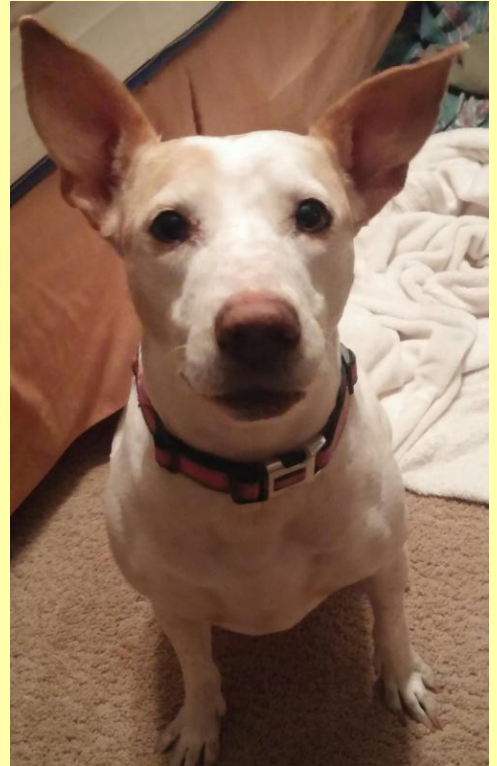
ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE MONTH

PEGGY SUE

Please Help Peggy Sue Get Adopted. She is a super sweet Pointer Mix and former shelter dog. She is about three years old. She has been spayed and is current on her shots. She is very social and plays well with other dogs and people including children. She is very mellow most of the time but does love to play and be silly in spurts. She is house trained and is not destructive in nature. She does need a companion dog.

The local rescue A Chance To Bloom helped us save her from the shelter initially, they helped her adapt to life outside of the shelter and helped socialize her. Now they are helping us to find a loving forever home. She is currently in the care of her foster who is unfortunately very maxed out with his own adopted former shelter dogs. Peggy Sue is a super special dog that is sure to bring her future family some really good kisses and good times in general.

If interested, please contact [A Chance To Bloom](#) or her foster Mark Bowen at markbowenhoutx@gmail.com



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 at Nature's Way Resources (expires 3/15/17)

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