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MARCH 24, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 198th 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.

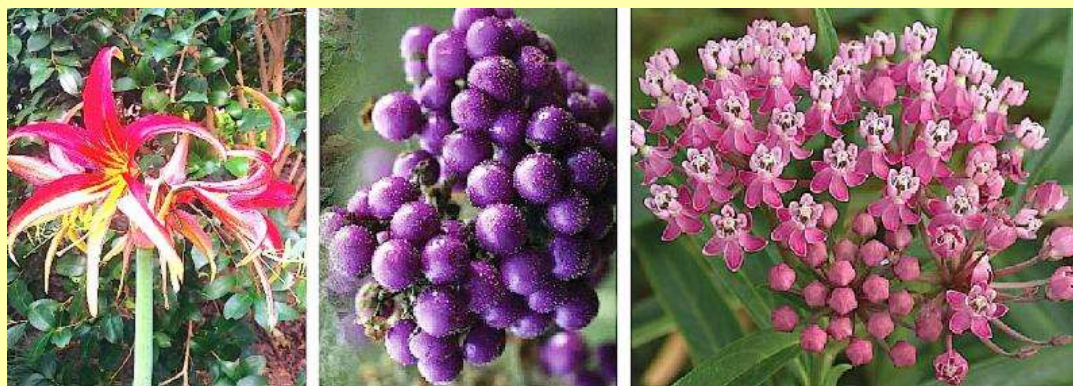
Thanks so much!

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](mailto: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!



## FACEBOOK PLANTING GUIDE WARNING ... GREAT PLANT SUGGESTIONS!

**By BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Over the past year, the same Vegetable Planting Guide put out by a northern source has appeared more than a few times on my personal Facebook Page. It says, for example, that March-April is the time to plant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, lettuce, kale, spinach, etc.

It looks very official and I can't blame those sharing this. If you're not experienced in growing vegetables here, it seems very reasonable. The catch is: we grow all these particular vegetables in winter. They are being harvested now and cleared out to make room for summer vegetables.

A great source for us is: [harris.agrilife.org/files/2011/05/VegPlantingChart.pdf](http://harris.agrilife.org/files/2011/05/VegPlantingChart.pdf)

This is accurate for anyone in the Upper Gulf Coast/Greater Houston Area. If you're not in Harris County but are in the Greater Houston area, an even better source would be your own County Master Gardener website, easily found at [mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs/](http://mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs/)

Almost of our Greater Houston area county Master Gardener programs have on-site demonstration gardens manned by folks who are happy to answer your questions. Check for hours. And their sales are the best place to find the best plants (ornamental & edible) for your area.

Remember, the right variety is one absolute key to vegetable success, no matter where you're gardening. Varieties that do best on the far west side of the Greater Houston area, for example, may or may not be the best choices for growers on the far eastern side. Ditto for the far north reaches vs the far southern border.

Whatever you do, always check Texas-in-general recommendations against your local source. And TOTALLY IGNORE national growing guides.

Now, on to more positives! We're all filling in those bare spots with, hopefully, incredibly beautiful, super-hardy plants that will thrive & bloom forever with little or no help from us.

Okay, maybe that's a little optimistic, although I can start out with one that, if it follows the lead of it's now-in-residence sisters, certainly has a good chance.

A tip o' the trowel and a huge thanks to Margaret Cherry of Abbott-Ipco (<http://www.abbott-ipco.com>) growers for this answer to Marion Nojek who discovered the beautiful amaryllis at left in her yard. All she knows is that she didn't plant it. Where it came from, she has no idea. A great friend of Master Gardeners,

Margaret wrote that Marion's amaryllis is "probably a variety called 'La Paz' ... a cybister amaryllis (*Hippeastrum cybister*), a 19" tall native of Bolivia and Argentina. It blooms late spring through summer and then goes dormant through fall winter and early spring. Some folks call these Aztec lilies, Jacobean lilies or Sprekelia, a name familiar to older area gardeners who grew up with Houston's longtime bulb bible, Sally McQueen Squire's "A Gardener's Guide to Growing Bulbs on the Gulf Coast."

Margaret says *Hippeastrum cybister* 'La Paz' ('Peace') amaryllis are - or have been - carried by Buchanan's Native Plants ([buchanansplants.com](http://buchanansplants.com)), Mass Nursery ([maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)), Plants for All Seasons ([plantsforallseasons.com](http://plantsforallseasons.com)) and Enchanted Gardens & Enchanted Forest ([myenchanted.com](http://myenchanted.com)).

It does happen, Margaret notes, that bulbs sometimes get mixed up in boxes, or someone removes a tag, triggering garden surprises . . . in this case, a wonderful surprise!

\* \* \*

**SURPRISES ARE FUN, BUT . . .** even better is when you buy exciting new-to-you plants that folks-in-the-know recommend are great for local gardens. For example, these two:

- **SAT., APR. 1: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER SALE**, 9am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, [hmns.org](http://hmns.org)

In our Spotlight Article, below, Erin Mills, the new Cockrell Butterfly Center Director, highlights some of the plants at this big annual sale that butterfly folks would like to see used more often. Never been to the Cockrell Butterfly Center? You're missing out on one of Houston true treasures, a delightful experience for both adults and children alike . . . but especially for children.

As part of its mission to educate all of us about the jewels we can attract to our gardens, the Center offers for sale a wide variety of nectar plants for butterflies and host plants for their caterpillars. Plenty of experts will be on hand to answer butterfly gardening questions and help you to create the perfect butterfly habitat. Take special note of the companion plantings Erin lists with each recommendation.

- **SAT., APRIL 8 - BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE**, 8am-noon, Environmental Educational Station, 799 E. Hospital Dr., Angleton ([txmg.org/brazoria](http://txmg.org/brazoria))



Among the native and adaptive perennials for sale in Angleton, BCMGs say to attract butterflies & birds, gardeners need to plant . . .

- Left above: Pink Surprise Shell Bush (*Orthosiphon labiatus*) which will bloom spring through late fall with a profusion of pink salvia-like flowers that hummingbirds love.
- Right: Snow Storm Beautyberry shrub with variegated foliage, clusters of pink flowers and loads of purple berries to feed the birds in the fall.

**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](#)*

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## GET MORE AND GIVE MORE WITH YOUR PLANTINGS! by ERIN MILLS

### Cockrell Butterfly Center

We all love to attract butterflies with sweet nectar-producing plants. Spying these delightful flutterers brings joy and a sense of purpose and accomplishment to our gardens. Plenty of other pollinators enjoy our efforts as well, such as hummingbirds and honeybees. These are the pageant-winners of the pollinator world. Native bees are the sometimes- forgotten, true keepers of the Texas landscape and beneficial insects such as assassin bugs, syrphid flies, ladybugs, and lacewings protect our plants from attackers. Why not use plants that check as many boxes as possible and deliver much more ecological bang for our buck! While many tropical plants make a wonderful addition to your pollinator garden, native pollinators are best adapted to native plants! Here are some native jewels that look amazing, AND really deliver for our most important garden allies.



### Winecup or Purple Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe involucrata*)

Perennial herb that blooms March-June. This native magenta wildflower spreads up to 3 feet and can be planted in beds or hanging baskets. It attracts butterflies and has special value to native bees. It is the hostplant for the Gray hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*). Can be complemented by the summer-fall blooming Black-Eyed Susan ( *Rudbeckia hirta*).



### Lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

Perennial herb that blooms April-June. Most common coreopsis which is easy to grow. The showy golden blooms are attractive to butterflies, valuable to native bees, and support biological control, meaning they attract beneficial insects to control pests! Pairs well with Blue Wild Indigo ( *Baptisia australis* )



### Coral Honeysuckle ( *Lonicera sempervirens* )

Perennial twining vine with beautiful red, tubular flowers. Blooms March-June. Good climber, not aggressive like Japanese honeysuckle! Especially valuable to butterflies, hummingbirds, and bumble bees. Berries attract birds. Host plant for Snowberry clearwing ( *Henaris diffinis* ), delightful little hummingbird moth!



### **Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)**

Annual herb, blooms June-October. Showy yellow flowers attractive to bees & butterflies. Nectar is found in extra-floral nectaries at leaf base. Special value to native bees, bumble bees, and supports biological control organisms. Song birds and game birds are attracted to seed pods. Host plant for Cloudless Sulphur ( *Phoebis sennae*), Orange Sulphur ( *Colias eurytheme*), & Sleepy Orange butterflies ( *Abaeis nicippe*). Plant microorganisms produce nitrogen in abundance and enriches and stabilizes the soil. What a plant!



### **Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)**

Underutilized perennial herb, blooms June-October. Rose pink flower clusters attract butterflies, bees & hummingbirds. Milkweeds are host plant for Monarchs and Queens, but are also extremely valuable to native bees, honey bees, bumble bees, and support an enormous amount of pests, predators, and parasites, giving rise to the term "milkweed village." Several other species of native milkweeds as well as tropical milkweed ( *Asclepias curassavica*) are equally beneficial. A must have for any pollinator garden!

***Talk with the experts at the SAT., APR. 1: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER SALE, 9am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, [hmns.org](http://hmns.org)***

## JOHN'S CORNER

### MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

#### Part 16

24) Chromium (Cr) - The name comes from the Greek word "chroma" which means color, as the various salts of chromium are brightly colored. Chromium is a hard slippery metal with a blue sheen and a member of Group 6 on the periodic table.

Chromium is found in igneous rocks at 100 ppm, shale's at 90 ppm, sandstone at 35 ppm, and limestone at 11 ppm. However, in soils derived from basalt or serpentine, levels of 3,000 ppm have been recorded. Most forms of chromium are not soluble, so seawater has only 0.3 ppm chromium and fresh water even less under normal conditions (not polluted).

Chromium will dissolve in some acids but not phosphoric acid. It is used to make stainless steel, and in chrome plating. Chromium oxide ( $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ) is used as a green pigment in glass, paints, and glazes. It is also used in tanning leather (Tanneries are a major source of chromium pollution today). Potassium chromate is a dye while chromium (Cr-VI), and copper arsenate, (CCA) was used as a wood preservative till outlawed due to its toxicity. It is also added to make chrome vanadium steel, which is used to make high quality tools do to its hardness, strength and rust resistance. Small amounts of chromium in emeralds give them the green color and in ruby's the red color. Chromium oxide ( $\text{CrO}_2$ ) is magnetic and was used in magnetic tapes and discs for many years.

Chromium commonly occurs in nature in two common oxidation states, chromium (III) as in ( $\text{Cr}^{+3}$ ) which is safe. However, the other form chromium (VI) ( $\text{Cr}^{+6}$ ), as chromate ( $\text{CrO}_4^{-2}$ ) is very toxic and carcinogenic. The dangers of chromates have been known for over a 100 years. The 2002 film "Erin Brockovich" brought attention to the illegal dumping of chromate waste. Sewage treatment plants are a major source of toxic chromium pollution.





Chromium is essential to human health, while it is very rare, but too much can be toxic. It is estimated that 25-50% of US citizens are deficient in chromium because of low soil levels while other newer studies suggest over 90% of the population is deficient.

Artificial fertilizers only contain 16 elements at best and do not contain chromium, vanadium, and other trace minerals. This has led to major deficiencies of trace elements in our food supply. As a result, hundreds of health problems are caused or aggravated by nutritional deficiencies.

Humans do not store chromium as we excrete chromium in our urine. High sugar drinks from sodas to some juices increase the natural loss of chromium by 300% for over 12 hours.

Animals that lack chromium have an impaired ability to use glucose, suffer mild diabetes, and have reduced cholesterol levels.

We know that mild deficiencies of chromium can produce symptoms such as anxiety and fatigue and people with chromium deficiencies have shorter life spans. Diseases associated with a chromium deficiency are aggravated by a vanadium (V) deficiency.

People with higher levels of chromium have a much lower incidence of diabetes and atherosclerosis than those with low levels. Some studies have found that chromium supplementation increases muscle gain and fat loss. It has been found that sufficient amounts of chromium can prevent and cure adult onset diabetes as chromium picolinate regulates insulin. The first studies linking low blood sugar and diabetes to chromium were in 1957. The organ in humans with the highest amount of chromium in the body is the placenta. We know that human levels of chromium decrease with age hence supplementation is important as we get older.

Chromium is involved with hormones that affect protein, carbohydrate, and fat metabolism. It is also involved with the body's metabolism of glucose (sugar), brain function, insulin performance, thyroid function, and in hormonal balance.

Foods high in chromium are oysters, calf's liver, egg yolks, peanuts, black pepper, brewer's yeast, molasses, and wheat germ.

Cravings for sweets and chocolate are indicators of chromium (Cr) and vanadium (V) deficiency, as some chocolates have 1,800 ppm of chromium!

### **Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Chromium (Cr)**

The role of chromium in soils, microbes, and plants is not fully understood. We have learned that 150 ppm of chromium is toxic to some plants and that chromium tends to accumulate in the roots. However, sufficient amounts of chromium stimulate plant growth.

In healthy soils, soluble chromate gradually turns into insoluble chromium (III) salts and then becomes unavailable for plants to absorb. In soils with lots of organic matter, chromium VI is reduced to chromium III the non-toxic form.

Chromium is found in the bodies of microorganisms that live in the soil. Most soils average 60 ppm of chromium. However, the application of artificial fertilizers containing phosphorous can lead to toxic amounts of chromium in the soil of over 700 ppm.

More chromium is absorbed and held in clay soils than sandy soils. In mafic soils derived from alkaline igneous rocks, chromium levels can be much higher.

Bacteria in the soil can absorb chromium into their bodies reducing the available amount in soils and bacteria have been used in remediating some toxic areas.

Plants cells have the ability to convert chromium VI to chromium III that then reacts with DNA and proteins. Some grasses and clovers can accumulate chromium up to 4,000 ppm. Aquatic plants tend to accumulate more chromium than land plants.

More and more people are growing their own vegetables and fruits so they can have healthy food full of beneficial trace minerals to eat.

Sources: basalt sand, serpentine

## BOOK REVIEW

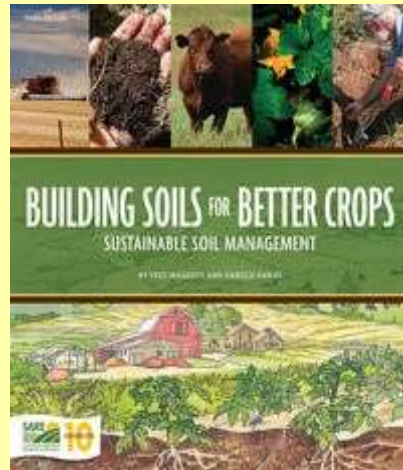
**"BUILDING SOILS for BETTER CROPS - Sustainable Soil Management", 3rd edition,** Fred Magdoff and Harold Van Es, 2017, SARE -Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Handbook Series 10, ISBN 978-1-888626-13-1

This book is published by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, with cooperative agreements from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, University of Maryland and University of Vermont. This book can be purchased at [www.sare.org/Webstore](http://www.sare.org/Webstore) OR DOWNLOADED FREE at <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Building-Soils-for-Better-Crops-3rd-Edition>

This book is very up to date and easy to read and understand. The first two sections (seven chapters) are general information on building and having healthy soils that would benefit any

gardener. The rest of the book is for those growing vegetables and other food crops. This book is very up to date and covers everything from no-till systems to cover crops and erosion.

This book is for anyone whom wants to expand their knowledge and understanding of the relationship between soils and growing plants. The best part it is FREE.



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## LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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](mailto: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., 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](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

SAT. MAR 25: HERB TALK with JEANNIE DUNNIHOO, 10am, Nature's Way Resource, 101 Sherbrook cir, Conroe. Free. [natureswayresources.com](http://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](http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp); [npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification](http://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](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., MAR. 25: URBAN HARVEST FARMER'S MARKET FRUIT TREE SALE, 8am-noon, 3000 Richmond. [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org).

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](http://arborgate.com)

SAT., MAR 25: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

SAT., MAR. 25: GARDEN VILLAS GARDEN CLUB PLANT & GARDEN ACCESSORIES SALE, 9am-1pm, Mt. Carmel Academy, 7155 Ashburn. Free. [bburns50@aol.com](mailto:bburns50@aol.com)

SUN., MAR. 26. URBAN HARVEST RESTORING NATURE THROUGH PERMACULTURE classes, noon-5pm. Japhet Creek Community Classroom, 4466 Billy St. \$238. Prerequisites: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org).

TUES. , MAR. 28, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & ROSE SEMINAR\ , 9:-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Register: [ogd.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:ogd.harrishort@gmail.com)

SAT., APR. 1: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER SALE, 9am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, [hmns.org](http://hmns.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](http://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](http://mnwhoa.org).

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

SAT., APR 1: SFA GARDENS PLANT SALE, 9 am - 2 pm, at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. Inventory will be posted on the SFA Gardens FB page.



SAT,M APR. 1: Urban Harvest's Warm Weather Gardening. 9:30-11:30am. University of Houston, Central Campus, Charles McElhinney Hall, Rm 106, 3623 Cullen Blvd. \$40. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT.-SUN., April 1-2: HOUSTON ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 9am-5pm. Houston Museum of Natural Science Main Lobby, 5555 Hermann Park Drive, Houston. Free. <http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org/show.html>

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](http://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](http://myenchanted.com)

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

SAT., APR 8: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

SAT., APR. 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](http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp); [npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

THURS., APR.13: DELIGHTING IN THE FRAGRANCE OF GARDEN ROSES by MICHAEL SHOUP, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

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

THUR., APR 13: GRAF TING PECAN TREES by GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 2-3 pm, 15102 Williams Street, Santa Fe. Free. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

THURS., APR. 13 GREAT GARDEN IDEAS BY STEVEN CHAMBLEE, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404; [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

THURS., APR. 13: HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR HAND TOOLS by LOUIS MICKLER, 10am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluf. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu).

THURS., APR. 13: GREAT GARDEN IDEAS BY STEVEN CHAMBLEE, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404; [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

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](http://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](http://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/](http://mcmga.com/)

MON., APR. 17: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston, TX 77034. Master Gardener event. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu).

TUES., APRIL 18: HERBS, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf) 281-855-5600

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

THURS., APR. 20: HERBS, 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

THURS., APR. 20: HOW TO GROW STONE FRUIT by Herman Auer, 6:30-8pm, AgriLife Extension Center, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Free. Gulf Coast Fruit Study Group event. 281-855-5600; [Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu)

FRI., APR 21: EVENING AT PECKERWOOD LECTURE SERIES, 7pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232 ; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

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

SAT., APR. 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](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

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

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

SAT., APR. 22: HERBS, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

TUES., APR. 25, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & HERB SEMINAR:, 9-11am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free .Harris County Master Gardener event . Register: [ogd.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:ogd.harrishort@gmail.com)

TUES., APR. 25: BENEFICIALS ON THE GARDEN by DR. WILLIAM M. JOHNSON, 6:30-8 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

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

THURS., APR. 27: HERBS, 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Free Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

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](http://myenchanted.com)

SAT. APR. 29: CONTAINER HERB GARDENING by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://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](http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp); [npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification](http://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification) .

SAT.-SUN., APR. 29-30: HERITAGE GARDENERS SPRING GARDEN TOUR & PLANT SALE, noon-4pm Sat., 1-5pm Sun. Start: Marie Workman Garden Center & Briscoe Gardens, 112 W. Spreading Oaks. \$12 pre/\$15 tour day. [facebook.com/FriendswoodHeritageGardeners](https://facebook.com/FriendswoodHeritageGardeners) ; [heritagegardener.org](http://heritagegardener.org)

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](http://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](http://myenchanted.com)

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

SAT., MAY 6: WATER-WISE GARDENING, 9:30-11:30am, University of St. Thomas, Strake Hall, Rm 107, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. \$40. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT, MAY 6: TOOL TIME HANDS-ON WORKSHOP by HENRY HARRISON, III, AND TIM JAHNKE, 9-11:00 am, class limited to 30, bring 2-3 garden tools to work on, must pre-register. Galveston County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, 4102 Main

St, (Hwy 518), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Pre-register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SUN., MAY 7: RAIN BARRELL & COMPOST BIN TRUCKLOAD SALE ORDER DEADLINE, Houston Green Building Resource Center event. [rainbarrelprogram.org/Houston](http://rainbarrelprogram.org/Houston); [steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov](mailto:steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov)

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

THURS., MAY 11: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN, 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Free Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf) 281-855-5600

THURS., MAY 11: THE FOODSCAPE REVOLUTION by BRIE ARTHUR, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp); [npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification](http://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification).

SAT., MAY 13: 'DAYLILY DESIRE' HORTICULTURAL & DESIGN SHOW, 1-3pm, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga Ave. Free. Houston Area Daylily Society and Houston Hemerocallis Society event. [ofts.com/hhs](http://ofts.com/hhs).

SAT., MAY 13; DAYLILIES & OTHER PLANTS SALE, 10:30 am-sell out, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga Ave., . Houston Area Daylily Society event. 713-864-0452.

SAT., MAY 13: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, St. Mark Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 501 Willow Dr., Lake Jackson.

SAT., MAY 13: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, St. Mark Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 501 Willow Dr., Lake Jackson.

TUES., MAY 16: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf). 281-855-5600



THURS., MAY 18: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN, 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane . Free Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf) 281-855-5600

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](http://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](http://lonestardaylilysociety.org); [peskine@comcast.net](mailto:peskine@comcast.net); 713-882-9958.

SAT., MAY 20: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Free Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf) 281-855-5600

SAT, MAY 20: HOME FRUIT GROWERS TOUR, 9am-noon. Start: Galveston County Master Gardener Demonstration Orchard & Garden, 4102 Main St. (Hwy 517), La Marque. Free. [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SUN., MAY 21: PAYNE'S IN THE GRASS DAYLILY FARM ANNUAL OPEN GARDEN & SALE. 9-5, 2130 O'Day Road, Pearland, Tx. 77581. Free. [paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com](http://paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com); 281-485-3821 or 713-419-6661

TUES., MAY 23, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & INSECTS SEMINAR, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: [ogd.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:ogd.harrishort@gmail.com)

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](http://arborgate.com)

THURS., JUNE 8: PROPOGATION & SEED SAVING, 6:30pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf) ; 281-855-5600

THURS., JUNE 8: IS REDBUD THE NEXT CRAPE MYRTLE by DENNIS WERNER, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

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

THURS., JUNE 15: PROPOGATION & SEED SAVING, 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

SAT., JUNE 17: PROPOGATION & SEED SAVING, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Free. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

TUES., JUNE 20: PROPOGATION & SEED SAVING, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

WED-THURS., JUNE 21-22: CULTIVATING THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM WORKSHOP, 8am-3pm, Gregory Lincoln Education Center, 1101 Taft St. \$50. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

TUES., JUNE 27, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & PROPOGATION & SEED SAVING SEMINAR, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: [ogd.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:ogd.harrishort@gmail.com)

THURS., JULY 13: A BRIGHT SPOT IN THE HEART OF TYLER by GREG GRANT, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

THURS., AUG. 10: THE GREATER ATLANTA POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP: A MODEL OF URBAN POLLINATOR CONSERVATION by JENNY CRUSE SANDERS, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

THURS., SEPT. 14: FROM OVER THE TOP TO DOWN UNDER, ADVENTURES IN HORTICULTURE by GEORGE HULL, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

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

THURS., OCT. 12: MOORE FARMS BOTANICAL GARDEN: A GERMINATING SUCCESS by REBECCA TURK, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

THURS., NOV. 9: MAGNOLIAS: QUEEN OF THE GARDEN by ANDREW BUNTING, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

THURS., DEC. 14: THE YEAR IN REVIEW by DAVID CREECH, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

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

**THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!**  
**& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!**

**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](mailto: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**

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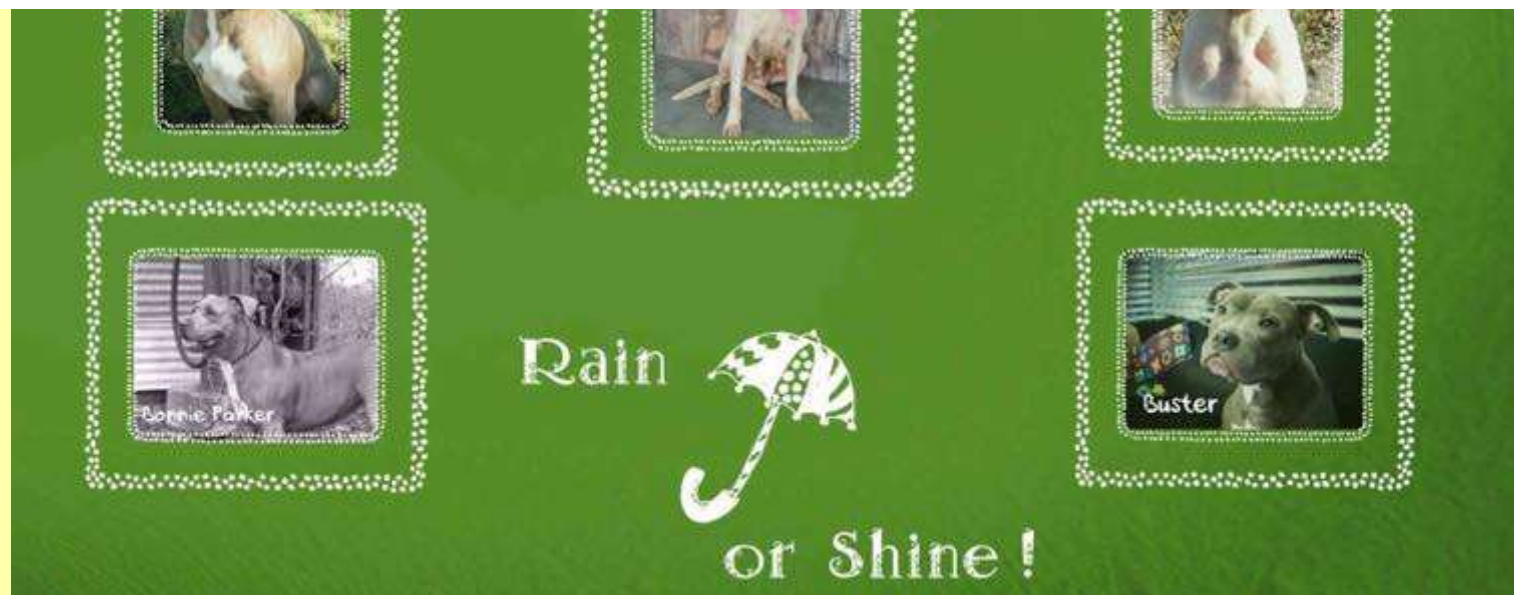
Join us for an adoption event on Saturday, April 1st  
From 10am to 1pm



101 Sherbrook Cir, Conroe, TX 77385







## 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.



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