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APRIL 7TH, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 200th 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.

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*How many of these free seasonal native bouquets do you notice, appreciate or can name? Answers at end of column.*

## HAPPY EARTH DAY! . . . FLORESCENCE . . . PLANT SWAPS

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

***"Good planets are hard to find. Don't blow it!"***  
***- Author unknown***

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!** How appropriate that we can celebrate our 200th **LG&F** issue in conjunction with Earth Day. This newsletter's powers-that-be -- Nature's Way Resources' John Ferguson and Mark Bowen -- are two of the most Earth-conscious men I know. I am so honored to be working with them.

One of the best ways for all of us to celebrate Earth Day (Sat., Apr. 22) is to look around, notice and appreciate all our native flora -- trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses . . . some wonderful and so inspiring, others perhaps a little less so.

Overall, Nature works, often in spite of our interference and self-interests. Never forget, Nature bats last. That's why, to paraphrase Chiffon (*which, despite its fake butter status, got it so right with this famous ad*):

***"It's not nice (to try) to fool Mother Nature."***

Today our Spotlight articles celebrate two widely diverse salutes to the importance of plants in our lives.

- **FLORESCENCE** -- One of this nation's largest competitive biannual national flower shows occurs in Houston. Co-presented The Garden Club of Houston, River Oaks Garden Club, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the 2017 Floreescence, "Waves," is dedicated to raising awareness about water conservation. (*April 25-26, 10am-5pm, at the MFA's Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main. [flohouston.org/](http://flohouston.org/)*)

Floreescence is pure delight, from spectacular arrangements and prize horticultural specimens to needlepoint creations to visiting experts such as [Tomas De Bruyne](#), [Carey Maloney & Hermes Mallea](#). Many displayed arrangements interpret Museum masterpieces, others highlight The Asia Society, Texas; Federated Garden Clubs; Texas State Floral Association, Lamar High School FFA, and Ikebana International, Houston Chapter. Proceeds benefit GCH & ROGC civic projects and MFA.

One of my favorite divisions is Botanical Arts. Minute plant bits (right out of our backyards!) are turned into exquisite works of art. Below, GCH's Dodie Goodman -- a multiple Garden Club of America and MFA award winner and well-known national Horticulture, Arranging, and Botanical Arts presenter -- gives us an inside look at creating these "gems". Trust me, pictures don't do them justice. Go see for yourself.

- **PLANT SWAPS** -- Our second Spotlight is equally as noteworthy. [Galveston County Plant Swap](#) may not be the oldest one around, but it's the first one I remember writing about.  
(SAT., APR. 22: GALVESTON COUNTY PLANT SWAP, 8am-Noon, NASA Gilruth Center, Bluebonnet Pavilion, Space Center Blvd., between NASA Rd. and Bay Area Blvd., Clear Lake. [freewebs.com/gcplantswap](http://freewebs.com/gcplantswap); 713-724-7213; Free)

Seventeen years ago, Mary Ellen Beaupre contacted me at the Chronicle asking for some publicity on a "Plant Swap." Over the years, I've watched this swap grow into the major event it is today. Best of all, Mary Ellen was always happy to let me [share her expertise](#) and undoubtedly has been a major help to so many of our now thriving plant swaps. Certainly folks have been swapping plants for eons. But organizing one successful enough to last all these years takes a lot of planning and volunteer hours. So a tip o' the trowel to this group and I'm thrilled to have Mary Ellen's observations below.

\* \* \*

**LOOKING FOR EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES?** If you're not on the email list for the CEC ( [Citizens Environmental Coalition](#)), you should be! This free website is a must for everyone concerned about the health of our air, water, native plants, etc. The current issue always includes a complete [calendar of major environmental activities](#). Sign up now! [cechouston.org](http://cechouston.org).

\* \* \*

**HOW DID YOU DO IDENTIFYING OUR NATIVE PLANTS ABOVE?**  
*Free natural bouquets from top: l to r, coralbean, coreopsis, American beautyberry, seaside mallows, little bluestem (fall color), rainlilies & evening primroses*

### 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](#)*

\* \* \*



*Botanical Arts photos by Dodie Goodman, Garden Club of Houston*

## BUZZING ABOUT BOTANIC ARTS

By DODIE JACKSON  
Garden Club of Houston

I recently attended the Philadelphia Flower Show, oldest and largest the U.S., and again I was struck by the public's interest in Botanic Arts, the long lines of people waiting to see these creations. Even more recently, while attending a flower show in Natchez, MS, there were so many interested viewers of the displays.

So what are Botanic Arts? It is an art form in which pieces from Nature are cut, manipulated, painted and glued to look like another object.

There are 2 different categories of Botanic Arts:

- **JEWELRY.** The designer starts from nothing. All mechanics must be completely covered with plant materials.
- **EMBELLISHMENTS.** The designer is given an object to embellish and it is not required for the object to be totally covered with plant material. It is vitally important that ALL plant material used be completely dry.

For this art form, be prepared to learn about different types of glues and paints, how plant materials react to glue and paint, how to use a Dremel drill, jeweler's saws, and many more implements.

How do you get started? Take a walk!! Look at shapes of nuts, berries, leafs, mushrooms, twigs, vines, anything in Nature that catches you eye. Pick it up! Take it home! Once you get into this style of walking, an entire new world will open up to you.

Or, go to the grocery store or China Town, any place that sells beans, seeds and nuts in bulk. Pick out shapes that will work in your creation. Here is a list of many commonly used plant materials:

- **From your garden or walks:**

Acorns, bald cypress, banksia, bamboo, bear grass, beech, bird of paradise, birch bark, boxwood, cactus needles, cedar, corn husks, Cryptomeria, dogwood, epiphytes, eucalyptus, ferns, ginko, grapevine, inland sea oats, ivy, jute, kiwi vine, magnolia, nandina, palmetto, pecans, poke berries, raffia, ting ting, vinca, walnuts, wheat, willo

- **From the Grocery:**

Allspice, almond, barley, bayleaf, Brazil nuts, cardamon, celery seeds, cloves, coffee beans, coriander seed, corn, dill seeds, lentils, mung beans, navy beans, peanuts, peas, peppers, pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, star anise, sunflower seeds.

- **More seeds and Pods:**

Anthurium, astilbe, baptisia, bayberry, blackberry lily, butterfly weed, cane, hibiscus, hydrangea, gourds, pincushion plant, poppy, roses, sedum, vibrunum, yucca

- **Botanical Arts Supplies:**

Paper, Tracing Paper, Pencils, Tape, Ruler, Cutting Board, Card Board, Glues (Aleen's Tacky Glue, Epoxy, E6000 Gorilla Glue), Toothpicks, Straight pins, Paper Clips, Sand paper, Emery Boards (round and straight), Xacto knife, Cotton Swabs, Scissors, Wire, Nail polishes, Acrylic paint, Paint brushes, Spray paint & Clear coat, Gold Leaf, Silver leaf. Assorted dried material, Storage boxes, Foam core





*Three Botanical Arts exhibits I took at a past Florescence*

**NOTE: APRIL 25-26: The Garden Club of Houston's and River Oaks Garden Club's Florescence Flower Show at the MFA Houston and will feature four classes of Botanic Arts: 1) A necklace inspired by the sea. 2) A wearable brooch depicting a sea creature. 3) An embellished wooden fish. 4) A Sailor's Valentine. Details: [flohouston.org/](http://flohouston.org/)**

\* \* \*



## PLANT SWAPS: JUST NEED TO REMEMBER THE #1 RULE!

**By MARY ELLEN BEAUPRE**  
Galveston County Plant Swap Chair

PLANT SWAPS are for every person of all ages -- from "newbie" to the certified Master Gardener, and all levels in-between. Gardeners meet to swap their plants for someone else's plants. It can include seeds, potted plants, bulbs, cuttings and starters. It can range from annuals to perennials, from wildflowers to pond plants.

If you like butterflies and hummingbirds, you will find salvia and milkweed. You will find the most abundant to the most unusual and rare plants. Some swappers bring their garden crafts to swap. No money is ever exchanged.

This is a good way for gardeners to:

- clean out their garden beds by digging up and dividing plants.
- add variety to the garden bed.
- learn about plants and how to care for them.

Swappers are genuinely eager to give advice and explain the care of the plants. Master Gardeners are almost always at plant swaps. It is a chance for them to earn their required hours, while helping out and giving advice and information. Some Master Gardeners will give demonstrations.

Most plant swaps will ask swappers to bring a dish and have a picnic lunch, while others offer breakfast items. We were known at one time during our 17 years, to have fed over 130 swappers with barbequed brisket, hotdogs and hamburgers. They were cooked on a trailer-sized barbeque pit, with all the fix'ins!

### SWAP ETIQUETTE:

One of the bigger challenges has been trying to lessen the number of missing plants.

New swappers don't know the #1 rule: "You must always ask and not just take, and plants under tables are always off limits because those have been traded already."

Signs are posted everywhere to prevent this from happening. Most swappers are honest, and generous with their plants. If you haven't been to a plant swap, you are missing out.

I want to take this time to say thank you to all of my fabulous swappers and volunteer committee members who were true to the swap over the past several years. After 17 years, I must say goodbye. The spring swap will be my last in Texas, as I am trading my cowboy boots for winter boots I will need in Michigan. It will be full circle for me, since all of my family, including my son, and three beautiful granddaughters live up there. I will truly miss my swap family but I have faith that they will carry it on and do a great job.

So, onward to Michigan from zone 9/10 to zone 5b. I will have to pick up where I left off 35 years ago and re-learn all of the new plants, flowers and vegetables I can play with. Who knows, I may start another plant swap up there.

*\* You can talk in person with Mary Ellen at the SAT., APR. 22: GALVESTON COUNTY PLANT SWAP, 8am-Noon, NASA Gilruth Center, Bluebonnet Pavilion, Space Center Blvd., between NASA Rd. and Bay Area Blvd. in Clear Lake. [freewebs.com/gcplantswap](http://freewebs.com/gcplantswap); 713-724-7213; Free.*

## JOHN'S CORNER

## MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

### Part 18



26) Iron (Fe) - Iron is the fourth most abundant element in the earth's crust and is a component of many rock forming minerals. Iron is found in igneous rocks 56,300 ppm, shale at 47,200, sandstone at 9,800, and limestone at 3,800 ppm. In soils it is found at 38,000 ppm and when combined with oxygen it gives many soils the reddish color (ex. East Texas). However, in fresh water at only 0.67 ppm and seawater at 0.01 ppm. In marine plants, iron can be found at 700 ppm and land plants at 140 ppm. In some mafic rocks like basalt, iron can be up to 8% of the total minerals.

Iron is a silvery lustrous metal that rusts in air and dissolves in weak acids. The chemical symbol (Fe) comes from the word "Ferrum" which is Latin for iron.

Iron is one of the most important metals in human history allowing great advances in science and technology, hence the name the Iron Age. Even today iron, in the form of steel is used everywhere from cars, railroad tracks, bed frames, ovens and stoves, horse shoes, nails, bolts and screws, tools, drill bits, skillets, and many more items.

Iron has a unique geo-chemistry with electrical charges that range from +2 to +6 with +3 being the most common. This allows iron to combine with other elements in many ways. Iron (Fe) combines with oxygen (O) to form many minerals from common rust to even magnetic minerals like magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ). Another form of iron we find in nature when combined with sulfur (S) is "fools gold" or iron pyrite ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ).

Iron is essential for our health as it is required for hemoglobin, myoglobin, respiratory enzymes, a cofactor and activator of enzymes, and has many more functions. Iron (Fe) is to hemoglobin as magnesium (Mg) is to chlorophyll and to the process of electron transfer for utilization of oxygen that both plants and animals require.

Excess iron in the body can cause increased inflammation, fatigue, diabetes, joint and muscle pain, erectile dysfunction, arthritis and cirrhosis of the liver but it is rare compared to iron deficiencies (DNA Restart 2016).

Iron from plants is only one percent absorbable while iron from meat is 10 percent absorbable. As a result, iron deficiency is often a cause of "pica" where children eat dirt. Iron deficiency is linked to many human diseases and health problems.

A few iron deficiency symptoms in humans are anemia, brittle nails, fatigue, irritability, confusion, dizziness, fragile bones, anorexia, and constipation.

The amount of iron in our food supply has decreased dramatically in recent years. For example, to get the same amount of iron one received from an apple in 1950 by 1998 we had to eat 36 apples! If we go back further and look at 1914 to 1992 we find calcium has declined by 48%, phosphorous by 85%, iron by 96% and magnesium by 83%. If we want to be healthy, we have to grow our own food!

The herbicide glyphosate (Round-Up) locks up iron and prevents it from being absorbed properly by plants. When we eat food sprayed with glyphosate (all grains including corn and other vegetables) we are eating glyphosate. The glyphosate then prevents us from absorbing what little iron that did make it into the food. This is another reason to purchase organic food and avoid GMO's.

Microbes use iron and combine it with other elements to form over 18 different minerals in the soil. Since iron combines with other elements so easily, it is not very soluble or mobile in the soil and is why we do not find very much iron in water.

Iron is essential for phytoplankton and the limiting factor in their growth. The addition of iron can greatly increase their biomass. One of the ideas proposed to remove carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) from the atmosphere as a method to fight global warming, is to salt the oceans with iron dust, which would trigger a massive phytoplankton bloom. When the plankton dies, they would sink to the ocean bottom sequestering the carbon (C).

### **Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Iron (Fe)**

Iron readily combines with oxygen to form rust. Think about a pair of pliers that was left outside in the dew and rain for a couple weeks. Rust is formed and the pliers are cemented together and will not move. The same thing happens in our soils; too much iron will cement soil particles together forming hardpan. This is very common when artificial fertilizers are used. A couple of the common iron minerals formed is ferricrete and ironstone. What do these names suggest to you?

Iron is a micronutrient and is required for the production of chlorophyll as it is involved with the building of chlorophyll molecules, although not contained in them. In addition to chlorophyll formation, iron is used as an oxygen carrier; it is used in cell division and growth, and used in nitrogen reduction and fixation.

Iron occurs in concentrations of 10-2,000 ppm in plant tissue and is involved with many plant physiological processes such as enzyme and co-enzyme systems. Iron is required as a carrier of oxygen in the process of biologic oxidation and aids in the prevention of chlorosis.

Iron deficiency results in poor uptake of other nutrients resulting in mineral imbalances in plant tissues. Plants best absorb iron when it is chelated in an amino acid form, however; iron is unavailable if there is excess calcium in the soil.

Mycorrhizal fungi have a great ability to bind iron at the root surface or in the root cells and make it available to plants. When one uses artificial fertilizers plants do not form the mycorrhizal associations, hence they do not absorb critical elements needed for good health (see reduction in nutrients on apples mentioned above).

Too much iron prevents plants from absorbing several trace elements like manganese (Mn), nickel (Ni) and cobalt (Co) and can be toxic to plants. Too much phosphorous (P) in the soil interferes with iron absorption and utilization by plants. As mentioned too much calcium in the soil will suppress iron availability and can lead to chlorosis. This is why applying gypsum, which is calcium sulfate ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) when not needed, can create many other problems. Too much phosphate, copper, or manganese can cause iron deficiencies. The *balance* of nutrients is critical for good soil and plant health.

Plants use iron in its ferrous form ( $\text{Fe}^{+2}$ ) rather than ferric form ( $\text{Fe}^{+3}$ ) hence applying iron compounds in the wrong form can do more harm than good.

The solubility of iron decreases about 1,000 times for each whole number rise in pH hence iron is more available chemically in acidic soils. Cool temperatures or dry soils can reduce iron availability and cause temporary shortages of this nutrient.

Hence, it is critical to have plenty of fresh organic matter (compost and mulches) in the soil to ensure the availability of iron via the soil-root-microbe system.

When iron is exposed to excess zinc (Zn) it forms the mineral franklinite ( $\text{ZnFe}_2\text{O}_4$ ) which decreases the availability of both metals to plants. This has been proposed as one of the mechanisms as to why "rubber tire" mulch is so toxic to plants.

Iron deficiency is a major problem worldwide in cultivated fields, which are now low in *available content*. The most common deficiency symptom is interveinal chlorosis of young leaves that are yellow in areas between veins on older leaves, initiates first from top to bottom; veins margins and tips stay green. However, different species of plants respond differently to iron deficiencies. Plants growing in compacted soils are more likely to develop iron deficiencies.

Sources: basalt sand, greensand, compost, most organic fertilizers, native mulches, pyrite (iron sulfate), rust (iron oxide), chelated iron products



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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., 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).

SAT.-SUN., APR. 8-9: 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL BLUEBONNET FESTIVAL, 9-6 Sat, 10-5 Sun., Chappell Hill. Free. (\$5 parking) [chappellhillmuseum.org/bluebonnet.html](http://chappellhillmuseum.org/bluebonnet.html)

MON., APR. 10: RAINWATER HARVESTING by NEIL WHEELER, 6:30pm, West Gray Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray. Free. Houston Urban Gardeners (HUG) even t. [houstonurbangardeners.org](http://houstonurbangardeners.org)

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 WITH 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)

THURS., APR. 13: Registration Deadline: LEARN, GROW, EAT, GO! COMMUNITY PARTNER TRAINING (on APR. 18), 9am-2pm, Texas AgriLife Extension Office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. \$4 0. [Register link](#) . 713-274-0978; 713-274-0978

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)

THURS., APR. 13: WATER CONSERVATION by BOONE HOLLADAY, 9:30-11am, Missouri City Rec & Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Dr., Missouri City. Free. Quail Valley Garden Club event. [QuailValleyGardenClub.org](http://QuailValleyGardenClub.org)

FRI., APR 14: "PEACE, LO VE 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., APR. 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)

THURS., APR. 20: ADVENTURES IN PRAIRIE RECONSTRUCTION by JAIME GONZALEZ, 7:15pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

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

SAT., APR. 22: GALVESTON COUNTY PLANT SWAP, 8am-Noon, NASA Gilruth Center, Bluebonnet Pavilion, on Space Center Blvd., between NASA Rd. and Bay Area Blvd. in Clear Lake. [freewebs.com/gcplantswap](http://freewebs.com/gcplantswap) ; 713-724-7213; Free.

SAT., APR. 22: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY SPRING SHOW, Noon - 4pm, Memorial City Mall, 303 Memorial City Way, Houston. Houston Rose Society event. Free. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

SAT., APR. 22: PARTY FOR THE PLANET, 6-10pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd. Tickets: [abnc.org](http://abnc.org); 281-474-2551

SUN., APR. 23: LONE STAR HIBISCUS BELLAIRE PLANT SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, Condit Elementary School, 7000 South 3rd. Free. St. Lone Star Chapter/American Hibiscus Society event. 281-756-0965

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, 410 2 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)

TUES.-WED., APR. 25-27: FLORESCENCE, 10am-5pm, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main. Garden Club of Houston & River Oaks Garden Club event. Fees: [flohouston.org](http://flohouston.org); [florescence@mfah.org](mailto:florescence@mfah.org); 713-639-7572

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)

WED., APR. 26: EARTH DAY: SUSTAINABILITY AND THE BRAIN SEMINAR, 6-8pm, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. [greenhoustontx.gov/gbrceducation.pdf](http://greenhoustontx.gov/gbrceducation.pdf)

WED., APRIL 26, 2017: JARDIN DE PIEDRAS: COHABITING WITH PLANTS, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. [hcsstx.org](http://hcsstx.org)

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

FRI. APR. 28 OLEANDER FESTIVAL LUNCHEON, 11:30am, Viewfinders Terrace, Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston. \$35. International Oleander Society event. Checks only received by Apr.19 at IOS, Box 3431, Galveston, TX 77552-0431

SAT., APR. 29: 2015 OLEANDER FESTIVAL, 10am-4pm, Betty Head Oleander Garden Park, 27th & Sealy, Galveston. Free. International Oleander Society event. [oleander.org](http://oleander.org).

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., APR. 29: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY (DAYLILY) SALE, 9am-1pm, 5705 Pinemont Dr. [ofts.com/hhs/](http://ofts.com/hhs/)

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, 9-11am. Galveston County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, 4102 Main St, ( Hwy 518), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Pre-register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://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@houston.tx.gov](mailto:steve.stelzer@houston.tx.gov)

TUES., MAY 9: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org); 281-438-3653

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 PLANT SALE & FLOWER SHOW, 1-4pm, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 501 Willow Dr., Lake Jackson. Free. 281-413-4844

SAT., MAY 13: RAIN BARREL & COMPOST BIN TRUCKLOAD SALE. Green Building Resource Center. [rainbarrelprogram.org/Houston](http://rainbarrelprogram.org/Houston).

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 eve nt. [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, Pinewoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

SAT., JUNE 10: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center 5002 E Nasa Pkwy, Seabrook. Free. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org); 281-438-3653

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)

TUES., JULY 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org); 281-438-3653

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

SAT., JULY 22: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 TX-36, Rosenberg. Free. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org); 281-438-3653

THURS., AUG. 10: THE GREATER ATLANTA POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP: A MODEL OF URBAN POLLINATOR CONSERVATION by JENNY CRUSE SANDERS, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pinewoods 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, Pinewoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-

4404 or [sullivanfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

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

TUES., OCT. 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org); 281-438-3653

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 . . .**

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Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

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## EDITOR'S NOTE:

We try to pick our spots carefully in terms of which issues to take a stand on for the sake of our community. The issue below is one that is near to our hearts in great part because the location of the W.G. Jones State Forest is right down the street from the location where this newsletter is published. We consider ourselves and many of our readers to be stakeholders in this effort to preserve the state owned forest for the sake of current and future generations of both people and wildlife. Please do whatever you can to support this grassroots effort. Thanks!

## SAVE JONES STATE FOREST

(The Woodlands, TX)- Local community organizers have announced the holding of a community meeting to discuss the potential impact of Senate Bill 1964 and its proposed modification to the laws governing the use of W.G. Jones State Forest Park in Montgomery County on Sunday, April 9th at 2:00pm. Invited speakers include Senator Brandon Creighton, the bill sponsor, Texas A&M University, and multiple local organizations. Final confirmations for speakers will be released on Friday, April 7th.

On March 10, 2017, State Senator Brandon Creighton, the areas representative, introduced Senate Bill 1964 to authorize the use or lease of land within the Jones State Forest. Senator Creighton has publicly stated this legislation was introduced at the request of Texas A&M University System, which has provided few details on the project.

Currently more than 200 residents have confirmed their attendance at the event. This is in addition to the more than 7,000 signatories behind the online petition calling for the removal of Senate Bill 1964.

### Event Details

**Date:** April 9th, 2017

**Time:** 2:00pm

**Location:** KC Event Center, 2655 FM 1488 Conroe, Texas 77384

(Location is approximately one block from Jones State Forest Park)

For more information on the legislation, park, and local concerns please visit [SaveJonesStateForest.com](http://SaveJonesStateForest.com).



**SB1964 opens Jones State Forest up for development.**

**Environmental Damage | Flooding Concerns | Loss of Wildlife  
Loss of Community Space | Traffic Congestion  
Uncontrolled Development**



## 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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