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APRIL 14TH, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 201st issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

This newsletter is a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith, John Ferguson and Mark Bowen (John and Mark are with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . E mail your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

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PLACES TO GO, PLANTS TO SEE & BUY AND A NEW WORD TO EMBRACE

"A garden is a friend you can visit anytime."

— Okakura Kakuzo

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

I should have skipped writing a column last week. Messed up twice. First, and worst of all, for some totally unknown reason, I accidentally changed Dodie Jackson's name to "Dodie Goodman" in my column . . . though fortunately NOT in the byline on her great Botanical Arts Spotlight article.

(Most of you are probably too young to remember the great character actress Doddy Goodman. I was a huge fan of hers. Not that this is any excuse!)

On top of that, I attributed my lead quote: "[Good Planets Are Hard to Find](#)" to "unknown author" instead of to singer/songwriter Steve Forbert. Definitely not my best week. Mea culpa to you, Dodie especially.

Fortunately I can follow up that depressing beginning with spectacular photos and some great outings for anyone who loves plants and wants to learn about new ones.

Our local specialty plant societies are one the very best resources we have for local growing information. Take advantage of their free activities, sales and the expert members always on hand.





2017 SPRING ROSE GARDEN TOUR:

When one's area brags the largest rose society in the nation, one can be pretty sure its annual Spring Rose Garden Tour will be absolutely gorgeous.

What do you think? These three photos above preview the rose plantings of Houston Rose Society's James and Debbie Laperouse. And they're just one of four exciting gardens on the free Houston Rose Society 2017 Spring Graden Tour, Sunday, April 23, noon-6pm. Details: houstonrose.org/hrsgt17.pdf



Other gardens on the tour range from very elaborate (left above) to those that work beautifully on typical suburban lots.

Whenever you go on a garden tour, be sure you have pencil & paper on hand. So often we all share the same gardening site challenges. Look for ways these have been conquered.

Take advantage of the on-site expertise of docents and owners. Ask questions. Take pictures of great flowers (get names)! Use your phones to record answers to your questions. Don't regret later that you let great advice slip away.

2017 OLEANDER FESTIVAL: ANNUAL LUNCHEON & GRAND SALE

This year's "Oleander Festival" is actually a two-day International Oleander Society celebration:

- The annual IOS Oleander Luncheon, Fri., April 28, at Viewfinders Terrace, Moody Garden Hotel, Galveston. Reservation details: oleander.org.
- The 2017 Grand Oleander Sale, Sat., April 29

A huge tip o' the trowel to IOS for holding the Grand Sale and concurrent activities this year in what I think is the absolutely perfect spot, the Betty Head Oleander Garden Park (2624 Sealy, 10am-4pm, in Galveston). This year's sale features yard art, propagation demos and more. All proceeds benefit the Betty Head Oleander Garden Park Blooming.



If you've never visited this delightful site, this is a great time. The range of blooms is amazing and history represented in this unique garden is absolutely fascinating. Be sure, for every named oleander you buy, you ask about the namesake. Many are named for true Galveston legends or the names have delightful backstories. Sale details: oleander.org

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AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY/LOCAL CHAPTER SALES

- **Lone Star Hibiscus Chapter Bellaire Plant Show & Sale**, Sun., Apr. 23, 1-4pm, Condit Elementary, 7000 South 3rd. St. Bellaire. Free. 281-756-0965
- **Space City Hibiscus Chapter Show and Sale** Sat., April 29 & May 20 will both include the Exotic Cajun Hibiscus (1-4pm both days, East Harris County Activity Center 7340 Spencer Highway in Pasadena



Two hibiscus from the Bellaire Show/Sale publicity, right. Left two Cajun Hibiscus.

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HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA/SOUTH TEXAS UNIT: HSA/STU's

annual Herb Day Symposium has always striven to take herb growing and gardening in general to a higher level. This year's line-up focuses on Earth-friendly gardening including -- delving a little deeper -- a presentation on:

"Biomimicry - Nature's Garden of Inspiration and Innovation" by Linda Paisley

"Biomimicry" is a recently-emerging discipline that emulates nature's time-tested designs and strategies for our own sustainable innovation and problem-solving. Just a few examples of inspiration borrowed from nature:

- The ingenuity of the lotus leaf design has led to the development of an exterior building paint that cleans itself every time it rains.
- The aerodynamic shape of the kingfisher's beak has helped make a high-speed train quieter and more efficient.
- The structural trick used by butterflies to create the brilliant colors of their wings is the basis of the optical displays we see on our electronic devices.
- The heat-deflecting pleated structure of a barrel cactus re-appears in self-shading buildings.

- The maneuverability of a spider is replicated in a robot that can search through debris for survivors of disasters.



Herb Society's Facebook page logo, left, lotus leaves and monarch butterfly

NEXT WEEK: DAYLILY SALE ROUNDUP & TIPS FROM PLUMERIA EXPERTS

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

Part 19

27) Cobalt (Co):

The name comes from the German word "kobald" which means goblin. Miners mined an ore called "smalite" which is cobalt arsenide (CoAs_2).

When they tried to smelt the ore arsenic gas was given off, and they cursed the ore saying it was bewitched by goblins hence the name.

Cobalt is found in the earth's crust at 20 ppm on average and it is the 32nd most abundant element. In soils it averages only 8 ppm, (some soils are now less than 0.1 ppm). It is found in igneous rocks at 25 ppm, shale's at 19 ppm, almost none in sandstones and limestones, almost none in fresh or salt water, in land animals at 0.3 ppm and marine animals at 0.5 ppm. Cobalt occurs in higher concentrations in mafic rocks like basalt where it can reach 200 ppm as compared to acidic rocks like granite. Soils derived from serpentine rocks or basalt rock can be much higher. Many soils around the world are absolutely devoid of cobalt. The geochemical cycling of cobalt in soils is similar to iron and manganese.

Cobalt is a lustrous silvery blue metal, which has the property of being ferro- magnetic and it is a member of group 9 on the periodic table. When cobalt is added to steel, it creates strong magnetic properties, which were used in WW-II to make mines to destroy shipping. Cobalt is used in alloys to make magnets, in ceramics, in catalysts, and in paints. It is found in stainless steel used to make razor blades and in body parts such as found in knee replacement, drill bits and milling machines where extreme hardness is required.

Cobalt was used for coloring glass to get a deep blue color as far back as 1361 BC. It is used as a starch for laundry purposes as it makes clothes appear whiter and it once was used to make invisible ink. Cobalt chloride was used to decorate flowers in the 1800's as people would dye white flowers pink and they would stay this color if the weather was moist and humid. As the flowers dried, however they would turn violet and then blue.

Cobalt is essential to all forms of life from algae, bacteria, fungi, insects, birds, reptiles, etc. It functions as a cofactor and activator for enzymes, and involved with fixing nitrogen during amino acid production.

Liming of soils and the use of artificial fertilizers is a major factor in preventing cobalt absorption (phytoavailability) by plants. This practice leads to a deficiency in plants and then creates a dangerous deficiency in ruminants. A few mammals like cows and sheep make enough B-12 for their needs if they graze on grass grown on soil with the element cobalt. As the microbes in their gut ferment and digest plant material, they also convert elemental cobalt into vitamin B-12 that the animals can absorb. Humans cannot make B-12 and it needs to come from our food. The vitamin B-12 has a ring structure similar to hemoglobin and chlorophyll.

Cobalt is a constituent of vitamin B-12 molecule, where it is one of the rare carbon to metal bond in nature and directly bonded to a methyl group. Vitamin B-12 is one of the most important vitamins in our bodies as it regulates our immune system. A lack of this vitamin causes pernicious anaemia, where the body cannot produce enough red blood cells. Over 30% of B-12 originally in our food is destroyed by cooking.

If humans have a low salt content (NaCl), we cannot absorb B-12. This is why people on low salt diets have to have B-12 shots. Due to low cobalt in our soils and low salt diets, vegetarians frequently have B-12 deficiencies. Calcium (Ca) is also required for cobalt to cross from the intestine into the blood stream.

Cobalt is used in myelin formation as it helps convert cholesterol into myelin which protects our nerves; babies nursed by a mother deficient in B-12 can develop permanent nerve damage.

Cobalt has been found to be a necessary cofactor for the production of thyroid hormone. In mammals, it is essential for hemoglobin formation and for prevention of nerve degeneration.



Cobalt is found in the bodies of microorganisms that live in the soil and bacteria in the soil make B-12, which is then absorbed by plants. In a marine environment blue - green algae and other nitrogen-fixing organisms require cobalt.

Food sources: sweet corn, lettuce, and cabbage are high in B-12 , while fruits tend to be low, clams, sardines, salmon herring, liver, and eggs, nuts, chocolate or other sources of this element.

Foods exposed to light are quickly depleted of this vitamin, canning destroys this vitamin, while vitamin - C helps protect vitamin B-12.

The RDA for B-12 is only 3-4 mcg, however new research is showing that people whom consume 250-400 mcg are much healthier, as unused B-12 is flushed out by our kidneys. As one doctor stated "I rather have expensive urine than cancer".

In our soils, cobalt can exist in its +2, +3 and +4 electrical (oxidation) states but mainly occurs in its +2 state. As in most other +2 elements glyphosate (Round-Up) would prevent the microbes from absorbing cobalt and making B-12. Another reason to avoid purchasing GMO's foods and buy organic wherever possible.

Most of the soils that our agriculture is done on, are depleted in cobalt. Over the years, microbes used cobalt to make B-12 and the plants (crops) absorbed it. Since cobalt is not one of the 16 elements that our agricultural universities deem important, farmers never replaced it. Now many of our agricultural soils are depleted of cobalt. Coupled with nutrient tie-up from artificial fertilizers, much of our food no longer supplies the essential vitamin B-12.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Cobalt (Co)

For years, we thought that plants do not require cobalt. Now there is evidence that cobalt is used in chlorophyll formation and in mitochondrial respiration at the cellular level.

Plants can absorb cobalt through their leaves and cobalt is needed in legumes for nodule formation and nitrogen conversion and fixation. Seeds started without cobalt will not grow into a viable plant.

Cobalt is used in protein synthesis by plants, and it is required for nitrogen fixation by bacteria in the soil. Cobalt is also required by blue-green algae to fix nitrogen from the air.

Cobalt deficiency inhibits the growth of most plants especially legumes. In legumes cobalt deficient plants develop more lateral nodules but fewer crown nodules. Excess cobalt will be transported to plant leaves where it will cause white leaf margins and tips. However, some plant species like *Nyssa sylvatica* (Black Tupelo) grown in cobalt-contaminated soil may accumulate up to 800 ppm without *problems*. Some plants can accumulate cobalt such as legumes, borage, myrtle, and violets and levels of 2,500 ppm have been measured.

Sources: compost, seaweed, fish emulsion, basalt sand

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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

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

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

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.

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 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

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; 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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; 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 ; 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

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

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: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, 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; 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

WED., APR. 26: EARTH DAY: SUSTAINABILITY AND THE BRAIN SEMINAR, 6-8pm, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. 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

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 ; 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.

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

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

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

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

SAT., APR. 29: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY (DAYLILY) SALE, 9am-1pm, 5705 Pinem ont Dr. pfts.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 ; 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

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

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

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

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, 281-534-3413, 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; steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov

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

TUES., MAY 9: FOODSCAPING by BRIE ARTHUR, 7pm, & PECKERWOOD GARDEN TOUR, 5pm, 20559 FM 359 Road Hempstead, \$10 each. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org

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](#) 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

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

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

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

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

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

SAT., MAY 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.

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.

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. 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 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

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

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

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 ; 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. galvcounnymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, 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; 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

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

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 ; 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

SAT., JUNE 10: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center 5002 E Nasa Pkwy, Seabrook. Free. 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; 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; 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; 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

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

TUES., JULY 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. 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, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or 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; 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, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or 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

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; 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

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

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

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

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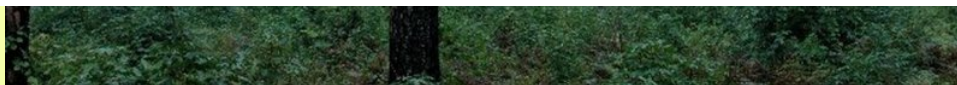
**PLEASE READ BEFORE
 SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.**

Events **NOT** submitted in the **EXACT** written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us. Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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

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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

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.

Please sign the petition below to express your support for stopping S.B. 1964 and preserving Jones State Forest. We have been told it would be most helpful to be able to deliver this petition with 10,000 signatures when we travel to Austin to try to stop this bill from advancing beyond the State Senate.

https://www.change.org/p/brandon-creighton-save-jones-state-forest?recruiter=227777056&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=share_facebook_responsive&utm_term=mob-xs-58408-no_msg

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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