



APRIL 29TH, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 203RD 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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Enjoy!

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PLANTING BY SEASONS (BE CAREFUL!) & FOR CUTTING

*When the buds are blossoming,
Smiling welcome to the spring,
Lovers choose a wedding day -
Life is love in merry May!
Life is love, life is love in merry May!
"Ruddigore" - by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan 1887*

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

My apologies to W. S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan, but these first two lines make my point beautifully. We are WAY past spring when it comes to typical gardening advice.

If you're new to this area or new to gardening in this area, as a regular reader of this newsletter - we LOVE you! But something you need to know about my approach - two terms I find totally useless are

- SEASONS and
- GARDEN-FACING DIRECTIONS (meaning north, south, east, west)

SEASONS: Sometimes I forget and do refer to spring, winter, summer & fall. What we actually have here in our subtropical pocket is:

- "SORT OF WINTER" - Dec. - Feb.: Cool, occasional freezes, rain (may be heavy), ground heating up. What northerners call "spring." Plant seeds for English perennial-garden type flowers, "Sort of winter" vegetables and/or typical Texas style wildflowers in early December!
- "FOOLED YA! SPRING" - March - Mid-May: Really nice, maybe kinda hot, gradually more hot than "nice" days -- if doesn't flood. Beneath your feet, however, the ground is quickly heating up so not what colder climates call spring, so don't follow their planting guides.
- "TEXAS GULF COAST SUMMER" - Late-May - Sept.: Hot, dry, altho may flood. Plant drought-tolerant varieties high (raised beds, on slopes, in containers) as roots may rot during prolonged rainy spell. Morning sun equals full day sun in northern areas, so watch your planting guide.
- "HEAVEN!" - Oct. - Nov.: Days get cooler, insects get fewer, rain -- well, floods always a threat, so raise those beds! Best time to plant winter vegetables, bulbs, wildflowers.

GARDEN-FACING DIRECTIONS: So typical . . .

- "My ____ isn't blooming."
- "How much sun is it getting?"
- "I planted it on the west side."
- "That's not the point. How much actual sun is it getting?"
- "Well, not much. My neighbor's house (tree, etc.) shades it most of the day. But it's on the west side!"

For many plants, morning sun alone here is often equivalent to full days sun in, say, Connecticut. But as we get into more natives, especially in habitat gardens, it's more important to find out if morning sun is enough, or do they need OUR all day sun. Many do. You have to ask or google them, but be sure you are looking at a LOCAL source of advice.

Dallas is NOT "local." Neither is the Texas Hill Country. For most plants they might be okay. But be safe. Look for Greater Houston area resources.

SUN & DRAINAGE are far more important considerations here than whether or not a plant is on the north, south, east or west side. And, again, it's how much sun the plant actually receives, taking into account nearby buildings and/or large trees or other plantings.

The right drainage is vital, especially now that parts of our area seem to be getting far more rainfall than previously. Or getting too much in one time. The roots of Hill Country/West Texas natives in particular will rot (or fail to perform

up to par) when they sit too long in sopping wet soil, especially sopping wet gumbo soil. If you can't raise your beds, one solution is to knock the bottom off a container, fill it with good soil, and plant these with the container half-in, half-out of the soil. This will give the plant a dry zone when heavy rains come.

* * *

Cutting gardens aren't as popular as they used to be back, say, in Victorian times. But they're still a lot of fun, especially if you create a "real" one. On Sat., May 6, Soni Holladay will twice share experiences in her own incredible cutting garden (see below) at two Richmond nurseries: Enchanted Forest Nursery (10am) and then at Enchanted Gardens (2pm). Myenchanted.com.

Soni is well known to a lot of us as the Cockrell Butterfly Center Greenhouse Manager and Horticulturist, a post she left to pursue her growing cut flower business. Triple opportunity here, folks, if you're interested in cut flowers for personal or professional reasons or in learning more about gardening for butterflies!

Her S spotlight article below warns about being sure to plant for blooms in the "off" season: December-early March.

Best, easiest early bloomer: Narcissus (she grows 'Bedias,' 'Grand Primo,' 'Erlicheer' & 'Golden Dawn.' Other good cut flowers for cold seasons: stock, poppies, ornamental cabbage, dianthus, foxglove, lisianthus, snapdragons and amni (false queen anne's lace. Have to plant these in fall. Lisianthus is a great choice. Start seeds no later than November. Trouble is, with our fluctuating temps, you might need a greenhouse. She doesn't have one, so she orders plugs (already started seed) and likes Johnnyseeds.com as a source.



L to r: from Soni's garden: chocolate Queen Ann's lace, 'Golden Dawn' narcissus, zinnia and dianthus

All this led me to ask just what does she plant when? Her schedule:

- **Mid March** - bells of Ireland, ammi (false queen anne's lace), zinnia, celosia, sunflower
- **April** - sunflower (Most varieties are single bloom, so succession planting is important for continuous harvest - recommended every 2 weeks!), amaranth, zinnia, cosmos, celosia, zmmi, gomphrena, strawflower
- **May - August/September** - sunflower, amaranth, zinnia, celosia, gomphrena
- **November** - see above.
- **December** - Indoors - delphinium & stocks

Below, Soni delves more deeply into the art of a cutting garden. That's her own garden at left below. Definitely NOT lazy gardening! Still One nice aspect, according to Wikipedia: *"The cutting garden is typically placed in a fertile and sunlight position out of public view and is not artistically arranged, as it contains flowers for cutting."*

* * *

Before turning the spotlight over to Soni, two last minute news arrivals:

- **ANOTHER DAYLILY DESTINATION:** This just in -- another great opportunity that didn't make it here in time for last week's wonderful [agenda of local daylily events](#). On two Sundays, May 14 & May 21, Crainers Daylily Farm (below), home to the Gulf Coast Daylily hybrids, 5748 FM 2611, Brazoria, will hold a free Open House. (emcrainger@aol.com; 979-239-7026; 979-239-8390)



- **NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT THIS TREND:** Lanson B. Jones, landscapers, in its emailed newsletter, reported on a new trend in the Greater Houston areas: fake lawn front yards. Lazy gardeners often joke about "Astroturf" being the ultimate lazy gardening grass. But as a unabashed "nature-ophile" (is there such a beast?), the thought is bothersome. Is artificial turf porous? Will it allow excess rain soak down into the soil below? If not, from a "flood control" point of view, what's the difference between that and concrete? On the other hand, it would keep the POA off one's back until one could afford good lawn upkeep. [Check it out](#)

Much more fun to think about Soni's cutting garden!

***Brenda's column is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email questions & comments to her at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net***

* * *



L to r, Soni's own cutting garden, foxglove, stock, delphinium and snapdragon

GROWING CUT FLOWERS -- FOR FUN OR PROFIT

BY SONI HOLIDAY

[Local Flora, Fulshear](#)

If you are interested in adding cut flowers to your garden or landscape, there are a lot of great options! If those of you reading already have a planting site with full sun, good drainage and nutrient rich soil let's continue!

Some things to consider are buying seed vs. transplants.

- Varieties that are easy to source (my favorite for home gardeners is Johnny's) as seed are: zinnia, cosmos, celosia, ammi, basil, and sunflowers.
- You can usually find transplants for snapdragon, stock, dianthus, marigold, lisianthus, foxglove, and delphinium at local garden centers.
- Make sure you check out the plant height on the label. Long stems are desirable for cuts, so dwarf varieties won't really work unless you are making a cocktail arrangement. 18 to 20 inches is best.
- Some varieties need to be pinched when young to provide many stems instead of one large stem. Varieties that need pinching include snapdragons, stock, cosmos, and celosia.
- When the plants have about 6 to 8 sets of leaves, cut the stem above the 4th set of leaves so that the lateral branches will start growing and produce more stems.
- Timing of harvest is also important. Harvest in the morning or early evening when temperatures are low. Strip leaves off as much as you can. Place cut stems straight into clean water. Air pockets and dirt will cause flowers to wilt.
- After harvesting allow the flowers to sit in a cool place and hydrate for a couple of hours. When arranging cut flowers you can use flower food to extend the life of your arrangement. If you don't have any change the water out every few days to reduce bacteria growth.

Remember that cut flowers are seasonal. Luckily, in southeast Texas we have an almost year round growing season.

The trick is to get plants in the ground at the right time. Some cut flower varieties keep giving blooms for months while some, like sunflowers are one and done. If you want continuous blooms you will need to do some research to figure out what, when and how to plant certain varieties.

* * *

You can talk to Soni personally at two free presentations Sat., May 6 at two Richmond nurseries: Enchanted Forest Nursery (10am) and then at Enchanted Gardens (2pm). [Myenchanted.com](http://myenchanted.com). Or you can reach her at (832) 971-4252; localflora.com; sonimarie@gmail.com; or [facebook.com/localflorafarm/](https://www.facebook.com/localflorafarm/)

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do Part 21



29) Copper (Cu) - Copper is a common and very useful metal. It is used to make bronze and brass, copper coins, jewelry, cups and goblets to electrical wiring.

Copper is found in igneous rocks at 55 ppm, shale at 45 ppm, sandstone and limestone at 4-5 ppm, and very little in fresh water 0.0002 ppm and less in salt water. In most soils, it is found at 2-200 ppm as it is strongly absorbed by humus. Marine and land plants have 11-14 ppm, and marine animals 4-50 ppm.

The Egyptians as far back as 3,000 BC used the compound copper acetate ($C_4H_3CuO_4$) to treat diseases of the eye. The smelting of copper ore began around 5,000 BC, when copper was extracted from the green ore we call malachite which is a copper carbonate compound $Cu_2CO_3(OH)_2$.

Copper is an excellent conductor of heat hence is used to make pans, kettles and boilers. Copper is used in making bronze (copper-tin) which was used for weapons before iron was discovered (The Bronze Age). Brass is a copper zinc alloy.

Copper beryllium alloys are often used for the heads of golf clubs. We find that copper is used in hundreds of every day products. One of the most common uses of copper is to make electrical wire since it has excellent electrical conductivity and can easily be made into wire. Copper is malleable and ductile and with an electrical conductivity second only to silver (Ag).

Copper occurs in soils in two electrical states Cu^+ and Cu^{+2} , where the +2 form is the most stable. Most agricultural soils are now deficient in copper, hence copper deficiency is widespread, and copper deficiency diseases are very common.

Deficiency symptoms in humans are premature white grey and silver hair, dry brittle hair, sagging tissue, hernias, varicose and spider veins, aneurysms, anemia, arthritis, ruptured discs in our back, violent behavior, learning disabilities, etc.

We now know that copper and estrogen utilization are tightly linked. Copper imbalances cause every conceivable female organ related difficulty such as premenstrual syndrome, ovarian cysts, infertility, miscarriages, sexual dysfunction, etc. Copper imbalance is also associated with mental deficiency, neurological dysfunction, and psychological disorders.

People with deficient copper in their diets have increased levels of cholesterol, higher blood pressure, and impaired ability to digest glucose. Copper is required for hemoglobin to function properly and in normal bone formation. A lack of copper is linked to aneurysms (ruptured cerebral aneurism), skin wrinkles, varicose veins, sagging tissues, as it is used in elastic fibers.

Adequate copper boosts the fat burning in humans hence a lack of copper in our food is contributing to obesity and diabetes (Journal of Nature Chemical Biology).

NOTE: "Micronutrient malnutrition is like a hidden hunger and now affects far more people than caloric malnutrition. Mineral deficiencies are estimated to afflict a third to one-half of the humanity, causing major health problems in both developed and undeveloped countries." From The Hidden Half of Nature -The Microbial Roots of Life and Health, D. Montgomery, PhD.

For example, the artificial sweetener "Aspartame" is a ligand (ties up or binds) for copper, which allows it to react and bind to our DNA, which makes it unavailable for other uses. Dietary interactions with sucrose or fructose inhibit copper absorption to varying degrees.

Copper is essential to all species of life. There are more than 30 copper containing enzymes and it is used by over 300 enzymes. For example, the enzyme Cytochrome c oxidase is required by all cells to produce energy. Other enzymes that need copper protect against free radicals that induce inflammation and cancer.

Even though it is not as common, excess copper can also lead to health problems as too much copper interferes with iron and zinc usage in our bodies. Too much copper can be toxic, however vomiting generally starts if an excess of a copper compound is swallowed which acts to prevent acute toxic effects.

Copper is relatively immobile in soils and concentrates in the top layers where it is tightly bound to inorganic particles and organic matter. Some bacteria use copper to convert methane into the alcohol methanol.

Many microbes cannot live long on a copper surface particularly the MSRA bacteria which is often fatal to those with impaired immune systems. Some hospitals are now replacing all handles, doorknobs, rails, etc. with copper to reduce these types of infections. However, the microorganism called *Penicillium* can have 20,000 ppm (2%) copper in its tissues.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Copper (Cu)

Copper is now recognized as essential for plant health. It functions as a nutrient that stimulates a plants natural immune system (disease prevention/resistance), and it is required for certain physiological processes such as enzyme and co-enzyme systems.

It is involved with carbohydrate and nitrogen metabolism, involved with lignin synthesis, vitally important to root metabolism, helps in formation of strong stalks, helps form compounds and proteins, amino acids and many other organic compounds, works as a catalyst, helps prevent chlorosis, rosetting and dieback.

Copper is involved with the creation of vitamin A and it is involved with regulating photosynthesis.

Copper plays many roles in plants, the two most common are in nitrogen utilization and lignum formation. Copper is also involved with the formation of proteins. Adequate copper levels helps grasses stand up straight and has been shown to reduce head blights in wheat.

Plants absorb copper and is used throughout the plant but most of it remains in the root system. In above ground parts it is used in photosynthesis, carbohydrate distribution, cell wall metabolism, and especially in the production of DNA and RNA.

As increasing amounts of nitrogen are available to plants, the amount of copper in the plant must be increased accordingly for the plant to remain healthy.

Early symptoms of deficiency show up in youngest leaves and stems, dieback of stems and shoots, yellowing of leaves, stunted growth, distortion of young leaves and pale green leaves are often symptoms of copper deficiency. In trees, a deficiency may show up as white tip or bleaching of younger leaves and in summer dieback.

Plants deficient in copper have below average root mass and plants grown on soils with less than 2 ppm copper produce fewer seeds.

Excess calcium or nitrogen makes copper unavailable to plants. Hence, liming soils reduces plant ability to absorb copper (artificial fertilizers create acidic soil conditions which then are limed to increase the pH). Too much phosphorous (P) or potassium (K) will induce deficiencies of copper.

Organic matter like humus helps hold copper in the soils where plants can absorb it. Peat and muck soils are often deficient in copper as are soils that are low in organic matter.

It is rare but excess copper symptoms resemble iron deficiency. The use of sewage sludge (biosolids) can led to an excess of copper in soils. Repeated use of poultry manure or poultry manure fertilizers can cause an excess of copper.

Note: Most Texas soils are deficient in copper.

Sources: seafoods (clams, oysters, crab, lobster), liver meats from lamb and beef, beans and nuts (walnuts and Brazil nuts), sunflower seeds, mushrooms, copper water pipes, basalt and granite 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. 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. ofts.com/hhs/

SAT., APR. 29: BROMELIAD PLANT SALE, 9am-3pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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://www.facebook.com/FriendswoodHeritageGardeners) ; heritagegardener.org

SAT., MAY 1: COLLECTIONS ACROSS THE CREEK & THE NORTH DRY GARDEN, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Garden Conservancy event. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.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

FRI., MAY 5: DIVERSITY IN THE LANDSCAPE AT MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN, 11am, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: ahaney@clarkcondon.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@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; 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

FRI., MAY 9: "FOODSCAPING, PAIRING EDIBLES WITH TRADITIONAL ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPES by BRIE ARTHUR, 7pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10 lecture, \$10 Tour. Garden Conservancy event. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@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: ATWATER 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.

SAT., MAY 13: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

SUN., MAY 14: DAYLILY OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30am-4pm, Crainers Daylily Farm, 5748 FM 2611, Brazoria. Free. emcrainger@aol.com; 979-239-7026; 979-239-8390

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

TUE., MAY 16: SOUTH AFRICAN IMAGES by PHYLLIS & DICK McEUEEN, 7:30pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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

FRI., MAY 19: NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN PLANT CONSERVATION & RESEARCH by CHARLES R. 'CHIPPER' WICHMAN, JR., 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

FRI.-SUN., MAY 19-21: BROMELIAD SOCIETY / HOUSTON SHOW & SALE, Show 2-5pm Sat.; 11am-4pm Sun., Sale noon-4pm Fri., 9am-4pm Sat. & 11am-3pm Sun., Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble. Free. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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 event. 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. galvcountrymgs@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

SUN., MAY 21: PSILOTUM NUDUM: Morphology & REPRODUCTION by JOAN HUDSON, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfirmsoc.org

SUN., MAY 21: DAYLILY OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30am-4pm, Crainers Daylily Farm, 5748 FM 2611, Brazoria. Free. emcrainger@aol.com; 979-239-7026; 979-239-8390

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

SAT., MAY 27: PECKERWOOD GARDEN FRIENDS OF PECKERWOOD DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

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 Raguette 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. 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. 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 BRIGHT 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

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, Pinewoods 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, Pinewoods 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, Pinewoods 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, Pinewoods 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, Pinewoods 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 . . .

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

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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. Below is an update on the progress towards protecting Jones State Forest. Thanks!

SAVE JONES STATE FOREST

IN THE NEWS:

UPDATE ON THE EFFORT TO SAVE JONES STATE FOREST FROM DEVELOPMENT:

<http://www.woodlandsonline.com/npps/story.cfm?nppage=59381>

For more information:

<http://www.savejonesstateforest.com/>

ABOUT US

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- * a national award-winning writer & editor
- * a nationally-published writer & photographer
- * a national horticultural speaker
- * a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda 's 45-year-old Lazy Gardener" print column a couple of years ago, it ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda 's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* book and now to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy Gardener run on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's **BULLETIN** magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** with John Ferguson and Mark Bowen of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Aldine and is married to the now retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

JOHN FERGUSON

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

MARK BOWEN

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist, certified permaculturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a co-editor and periodic article contributor.

PABLO HERNANDEZ

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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