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MAY 12TH, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 205TH issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

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

Please [click here](#) or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!

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HAVE FAITH . . . SHARING READERS' NEWS . . . AND DON'T KILL THE GOOD GUYS!

"A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down...' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

-- Luke 13:6-9

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Husband wants to cut down my fig tree.

I'll admit it looks dead. It's about 40 years old, produced very few figs last year, now has no leaves at all and the bark is splitting. But it's not July yet, much less a year since Husband first pronounced it dead.

I have this rule. Don't assume something is dead until July 4. Then, if you're not celebrating the return of a too-long-suspected-dead-albeit-beloved plant (aka green shoots), chances are it MIGHT be dead-dead.

You have nothing to lose by being patient. We've all ignored plants that looked dead only to have them suddenly reappear. Took my Mexican orchid tree (center below) two years to re-appear after a too-extreme early spring pruning knocked it into what I hoped was a prolonged dormancy. I was right!



This morning, one beautiful white flower sprouted from a single ground level green stalk of my English dogwood (*Philadelphus coronarius*; mock orange, left above, pictured with a long-departed, much beloved, decades old pink La Marne antique rose). The English dogwood has been supposedly "gone" for two years. I never got around to taking it off the trellis. But it's back!!

So don't tell me that my close-to-50-year-old fig (right above) is dead-dead.

True, some gardeners can't stand dead-looking stalks, no matter how treasured they were while alive. Try this. Cut "dead" stalks back to either live green wood (yeh!!) or to within a few inches of ground level. Around the "dead" stalks, plant varieties that will die anyway when it gets hot . . . such as (l to r below) caladiums, marigolds, Shasta daisies. Leave an open ground "collar" around the feared-dead stalk, second from right.

If you're worried about disturbing roots (especially on larger plants), set container plants around the dead stalk. If the "lost" plant shows no new growth by the time these fade from the heat, okay, it's probably dead.



GLAD TO HELP IDENTIFY PLANTS Sometimes (ok, lots of times) I get stumped by flower pictures readers send in hoping for an ID. This one at right above came in from Sandra Nichols, a gift from a friend who also had no idea what it is. I was stumped. My real expertise lies in knowing where the REAL experts are. So I turned to Linda Gay, Houston horticulturist extraordinaire and former director of Mercer Botanic Gardens. Linda knew. It's a pregnant onion, *Ornithogalum caudatum*. Sandra says bloom stalks top 6 ft!

DON'T KILL THE GOOD GUYS!!! Linda Gay also asked to issue a plea to protect (don't kill!!) one of our trees' best friends. White "stocking-like" webbing on the tree are usually the first sighting of bark lice, VERY BENEFICIAL insects. Beneath this protective covering, bark lice are busy "cleaning up" the tree, consuming potentially harmful fungi, algae, dead bark and other organic materials. Friends don't let friends kill bark lice!



At left is Linda's favorite "good guys" bark lice-in-action picture, which shows both the geometric adults and the striped children. At center and right, close-ups of "stocking-like" webbing and insects.

As long as I had Linda in my sights, no way (!) was I going to let her get away without asking which plants have her particularly excited these days. On her [current "A Touch of Tropical Splendor" blog post on The Arbor Gate's website](#): Linda lists these, and other, recommendations:



L to r, Shirley Temple hibiscus, angel trumpet (*Brugmansia*), variegated tapioca and *Stromanthe tricolor* (also called Red Ginger or Triostar, but not a true ginger)

Excerpting from what Linda wrote:

- **Shirley Temple Hibiscus.** Linda calls this "*MY FAVORITE HIBISCUS.*" 8-10' tree, hundreds of blooms; minimal freeze damage. Soft pink, single flower with a dark red eye zone. A solid white form emerged in the market last year and is called the Shirley Temple 'Alba'. Grow in full sun or part shade

- **Angel Trumpet (*Brugmansia*)** - fast-growing, big leafy, sun loving accent plant. Pink, white (single or double) or golden yellow flowers' fragrance evident at dusk and through night. Pollinated by sphinx moths. 6'-15' tall in (single) season, cuttings propagate easily. If freeze to ground in winter, in spring cut stems back to 3". Fertilize with granular, organic fertilizer like Arbor Gate Blend. Shoots appear when soil warms up. Do not prune. First flowers appear on first naturally forking branches.
- **Variegated Tapioca.** Grows fast and big. Deep yellow and green palmate leaves, light colored trunks by pink stems. Upright 5'-7' tall & wide growth, Multi-trunks give a full, shrubby look. Good for garden or container in full sun to part shade. Don't overwater as this can rot the underground tuber.
- **Red Ginger or Triostar (*Stromanthe tricolor*).** One of our showiest, shade-loving foliage plants. Not a true ginger. Really brightens up shaded areas as an accent plant under native trees or in a shaded patio pot with friends.

Looking for club speakers? Linda's a great choice. For details, email me -- lazygardener@sbcglobal.net -- My free "Speakers List" includes Linda's info, plus lots of other well-respected horticultural speakers.

* * *

THANK YOU, DEB STUTSMAN! Cheri Jantzen emailed a nice note detailing her enjoyment reading about our recent Spotlight article on the [Montgomery County Master Gardeners' work with the Bear Branch Elementary Monarch Waystation Program's Garden](#). It brought back memories of one of this area's earliest school gardens, Deb Stutsman's project at Spring Branch Elementary back in the early '90s.

Deb, the school librarian, was one of the Harris County Master Gardeners who pioneered school gardens in this arena. Most used container gardeners to introduce city-raised students to vegetables and flowers to attract butterflies. Deb, now retired, still volunteers, Cheri wrote. In 2013, Deb won Urban Harvest's Green Jeans Award.

Hats off to you, Deb, and all fellow Harris County Master Gardeners who worked so hard to start the school gardening programs here. I remember well what an innovative idea that was decades ago in this area.

* * *



Peaches, left, and avocados are now popular home garden fruits throughout the Greater Houston area, including in the Galveston County Master Gardener's orchards & gardens (center) at their AgriLife Center

ATTENTION HOME FRUIT GROWERS -- & HOPEFUL GROWERS: On Sat., May 20, Galveston County Master Gardeners are opening orchards with vegetable gardens -- a fantastic opportunity to learn from the experts. You can visit in any order, free, no registration required:

- **5202 Highland Road, Santa Fe, TX 77517 - a GCMG's personal garden**
- **4102 Main Street (Hwy 519), La Marque, TX 77568 - GCMG's official orchard & garden**
- **6309 Ave. U, Dickinson, TX 77539, located off Bowerman Road and FM 519 - Wilson and Renee Hillman's Fruits 'n Such Orchard**

Details: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

Never visited your County Master Gardener's demonstration gardens and orchards? Don't know where they are? Find out at: mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs

*Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
Is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener*

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do Part 23



31) Gallium (Ga) - Gallium is the 34th most abundant element on Earth and is found on average in the earth's crust at 18 ppm. Gallium is a soft silvery-white metal that will melt in your hand.

If gallium is mixed with indium (In) and tin (Sn) it will not freeze until -190 C (- 20 F)! This combination of elements is known as "Galinstan" and is used to replace toxic mercury in thermometers.

Gallium is found in igneous rocks at 15 ppm, shale at 19 ppm, with less in sandstone and limestone. Very little gallium is found in fresh or seawater. In soils, gallium occurs at an average of 28 ppm with a range of 0.4-70 ppm. It is found only in small amounts in plants and animals. It occurs in marine plants at 0.5 ppm and land plants at 0.06 ppm, in marine animals at 0.05 ppm and land animals at only 0.006 ppm.

Gallium is generally stable in air and water, but it will react with both acid and alkali chemicals to form various compounds. Gallium is more abundant than lead but there are no natural processes that concentrate it as lead or other minerals.

Gallium is most commonly found in nature with a +3 electrical (oxidation) state. Aluminum also has a +3 electrical state hence gallium behaves similarly to aluminum in nature. In nature, we often find gallium in the form of gallium oxide (Ga_2O_3).

The production of aluminum (Al) from the bauxite ore is where the majority of our gallium comes from. Smaller amounts are recovered as a by-product of zinc (Zn) and copper (Cu) mining. Other sources include coal flue dusts that can contain 1.5% of this element.

Gallium is used to make semi-conductors but must be very pure (99.9999%) or what is called four nine pure, in the form of gallium arsenide (GaAs). Gallium arsenide has the ability to convert sunlight into electricity. Aluminum gallium arsenide gives LED (Light Emitting Diodes) lights their red color. When used in laptop computers to cell phones as gallium arsenide, it generates less heat than silicon based semi-conductors which helps the batteries last longer.

When gallium nitride is used to make semi-conductors it produces a full range of colored light in LEDs. The lasers used in Blu-ray technology uses gallium nitride.

For years, it was assumed that gallium has no known biological role except that it stimulates our metabolism. It has no adverse health effects as we do not accumulate it in our bodies and humans easily excrete it in our urine. However, recent research has discovered that gallium is an essential nutrient for humans. It is required for metalloenzyme activity in the human brain and it reduces the amount of brain cancer in animal studies. British studies have shown then women whom receive gallium supplements during pregnancy; it reduces the amount of brain cancer in their children.

Gallium has also been shown to inhibit the growth of some types of leukemia cells and some types of breast cancer cells. In animal studies, adding gallium nitrate to their diets contributes to bone formation in rats on a low calcium diet. Gallium is believed to have a stimulatory effect of the absorption of iron by humans. Since gallium has a +3 oxidation or electrical state, it behaves like iron in many compounds. Gallium compounds are being researched as anti-malaria drugs and gallium nitrate ($\text{Ga}(\text{NO}_3)_3$) has been used to treat bone cancers.

There is a radioactive form of Gallium called Ga-67, which has a half-life of 78 hours and is used to locate and treat cancers like melanomas since it concentrates in these tissues.

Toxic amounts of gallium are found in residuals from coal combustion, and in sewage sludge (bio-solids).

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Gallium (Ga)

Plants show a selective absorption of Gallium depending on the level in the soil. In general, land plants have 0.03-5 ppm dry weight and edible vegetables 0.01- 2 ppm. However, gallium is found in plants tissue up to 30 ppm depending on the species.

Gallium is found in soils in the form of gallium hydroxide $\text{Ga}(\text{OH})_3$ which is not very soluble in water hence gallium has low mobility in soils.

In small quantities, gallium stimulates the growth of some microorganisms like the fungus *Aspergillus niger*. It also promotes the growth of algae and the biosynthesis of photosynthetic pigments. In the case of

Anacystis nidulans it increased oxygen (O₂) production and enhanced other key enzymes. Supplemental gallium in the form of gallium nitrate Ga(NO₃)₃ has been shown to increase the yields and quality of tomatoes. Gallium also increased the absorption of iron (Fe) into the tomatoes increasing the amount of this nutrient.

However, gallium nitrate is phytotoxic to blue-green algae.

Sources: compost, 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**

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.

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

SAT., MAY 13: MINIATURE CONTAINER WORKSHOP, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Pay for supplies use. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT.-SUN: May 13-14: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE, 9am-5pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. Free. hcsstex.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

THURS., MAY 18: FOLLETS ISLAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE by MIKE LANGE, 7:15pm, 4501 Woodway Dr. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter. npsot.org/Houston

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. galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., MAY 20: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDENS DAY. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 9am-noon. Free. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., MAY 20: BUTTERFLY GARDENING MADE EASY, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. Free. Fort Bend County Master Gardeners event. fortbend.agrilife.org/gwc/; 281-342-3034; brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu.

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. tgcfernsoc.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

TUES., MAY 23: QUEST FOR BETTER FOOD by RONNIE CUMMINS, 5-8pm, United Way Building, 50 Waugh Dr. \$20. Register: OHBAONLINE.ORG

WED., MAY 24: "JARDIN DE EXOTIQUE" by JOSIE WATTS and BRUCE MOFFET, 7:30pm., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray, Free. hcsstx.org.

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

THU., JUN 1: PEACH TREE PRUNING FOR HOME ORCHARD by GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9-10 am. Demonstration Garden Orchard, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. GCMG event. Free. Pre-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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

SAT., JUN 3: PLUMERIA (FABULOUS FRAGRANT FANGIPANI) by GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg., Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. GCMG event. Free. Pre-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT. JUNE 3: TOMATO CONTEST, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. Entries: 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

THURS., JUNE 8: SOIL COMPOSITION + FERTILIZER + WATER = BEAUTIFUL ROSES by DR. DAVID REED, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

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

SAT., JULY 8: ALL ABOUT GINGERS, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

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.-SAT., OCT. 12-14: 2017 BULB & PLANT MART. Garden Club of Houston event.

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 . . .

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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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