



Share:



-
-
-
-



JUNE 2ND, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 208TH 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 or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!](#)



SENSORY GARDEN . . . REDBUD UPDATE . . . YELLOWING LEAVES & NATURE'S DELIGHTS

***"Just a little spot of sunshine and caring in an otherwise urban environment."
-- Janet Roberts***

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

A huge tip o' the trowel to [Sight into Sound Radio](#), the late Otto Schlamme, Carol Pierce, Rice University students and many others whose efforts have resulted in a Sensory Garden that is a treasure to both community and those who treasure the services of this unusual nonprofit broadcast station.

The small garden enlivens the [Sight into Sound Radio](#) headquarters at 3935 Essex. From this near west side Houston site, Sight into Sound uses radio broadcasting to enrich the lives of those with reading challenges, including a full radio schedule with the Chronicle, periodicals and book hour, plus custom recordings and audio description services.

For over 50 years, Sight into Sound (formerly known as Taping for the Blind) has been providing free radio broadcasting to those who are blind, visually impaired or who have other difficulties with holding or reading a book, explains volunteer Janet Roberts.

Now, thanks to their new open-to-the-world Sensory Garden, Sight into Sound also brings a renewing bit of nature to its patrons as well as its neighborhood, a concentrated area of apartments and office buildings.

The plantings started in 2013 as a way to let patrons use their senses of touch, smell, hearing and taste to experience nature, thanks to a bequest by longtime supporter Otto Schlamme, Janet said. Station Volunteer Coordinator Carol Pierce recruited Rice University students to build the garden from the ground up.



Designing for the senses, they use:

- TOUCH: lambs ear
- SCENT: popcorn plant, roses and Mexican mint marigold
- SOUND: chimes, bird feeders and a birdbath
- TASTE: herbs such as rosemary



L to r, lambs ear, popcorn plant (Cassia alata), roses, Mexican mint marigold and rosemary

Individuals and groups of visitors have visited to walk the winding crushed granite pathways in an easy-to-navigate environment.



Perhaps Janet sums it up best: *"It's not a big garden . . . just a little spot of sunshine and caring in an otherwise urban environment."*

P.S. Sight into Sound can always use more donations and volunteers. The big fundraiser is in October, a golf tournament where teams signing up to play at Pine Forest Country Club agree to wear blindfolds at each tee. For more information on service or events: 713-622-2767; sightintosound.org or info@sightintosound.org

* * *

REDBUDS REVISITED: What a delight to receive quite a few great comments and some great questions on last week's [redbud article by Dr. Dennis Werner](#) . Our native redbud tree was a favorite of Native American and early settlers, said to provide a highly astringent tea, a treatment for fever, diarrhea, dysentery, whooping cough, congestion and even thought to cure leukemia. And I just thought of it as a gorgeous harbinger of spring's arrival!

A Richmond reader is concerned about a 'Rising Sun' redbud. Last December's hard freeze (down to 18 degrees) nearly killed the 1-year-old, 10 ft. tree. It came back as a multi-trunked, 3 ft. bush. She wondered how to get it back to its *"original beauty...something to see."*

Dr. Dennis Werner's advice: Insert a bamboo or thin metal stake, about 6' tall, next to the tree. Choose the most vigorous shoot. Prune off the others. Train the shoot gently to the stake using thin pieces of cloth. As the new shoot grows, tie it to the stake about every 6-8 inches.

It's hard to say why the tree died (back), he said. Many people plant trees too deeply. On a redbud, the major roots at top of the root system need to be at or slightly above soil level. The graft union should be clearly visible, usually 4-5 inches above the spill line, depending on how high the tree was originally grafted.

(How can you tell? Look near the base of the tree. A graft means two different plants were joined together, usually a prettier flower, better fruit, etc., variety is grafted onto an extremely strong root system. Many named varieties are grafted. Where the graft was made, often the two barks look different or the trunk sizes vary slightly or there is a line or "bump." This is what needs to be at or slightly above ground level.)



L to r, 'Rising Sun' redbud, redbud blooms and a weeping redbud

ANOTHER GREAT REDBUD QUESTION came from reader Debbie who was so happy with her now 1-year-old weeping redbud, she wanted another. But the new tree's leaves are turning yellow and dropping.

Why? Could it be too-deep planting? See Dr. Werner's advice above. Unfortunately, yellowing leaves are not uncommon on young or newly-set-out plants, for a variety of reasons:

- Adjusting to its new environment? It's trying to set good strong roots and, to focus energies, so may drop weaker leaves. (This is often a problem with newly purchased hibiscus.)
- Mislabelled and is actually a variety that doesn't do well here? Or, somehow it was mistreated before you got it? Trees die from the inside out. They can continue to put on new growth while the inside is dying. Eventually that decline starts showing on the outside.
- Overwatered or underwatered? Both can cause leaf yellowing and leaf drop. Redbuds demand excellent drainage and are found in nature on sites that don't hold water after heavy rains, which we have all the time here. Different sites in the same yard can have totally different drainage situations.
- Soil problems? As a rule, redbuds thrive in a slightly acidic, sandy soil, such as is found in the East Texas Piney Woods, for example. A lot of our soils are slightly alkaline. Organic rich mulch might help.
- What's under roots? A rotting tree stump? Deep old trunks eventually decay, providing rich organic matter. But the decaying process itself uses nitrogen. Yellowing leaves could be a sign of deficiency.
- A dog be peeing on it? Maybe at night? Trees don't like that, especially young ones.
- Too little or too much sun? Redbuds are usually understory trees. Most like tall pines that let in lots of filtered sunlight but not all day blasting hot sun. Although here most can take all day sun.

Yellowing leaves could, of course, indicate a disease or insect problem. But these only attack weak plants, so the solution is to find out why it's weak before you start treating for some invasive problem.

* * *



NATURE NEWS

WILDFLOWER WATCH -- Our huge native American lotus, *Nelumbo lutea*, (left) are blooming en masse (think thousands!) at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, a wonderful nature experience on White Ranch Road (FM 1985), west of FM 124 between Winnie & High Island.

These tall-stalked yellow water flowers are easily overshadowing the usual "stars" -- our ubiquitous smaller native white *Nymphaea odorata* waterlily. A quick tour around ANWR's Shoveler Pond levee is a regular treat on our trek from Houston to Bolivar via I-10 West -- water flowers for me, alligators for husband & son. Sharp eyes can almost always spot gators from your cars atop the levee. Flowers are MUCH easier to see!

Note: Hurricane Ike's storm surge reached almost to I-10 -- not surprising, considering the intensifying of all extreme & damaging weather events being documented across the globe. All the lands you see around the actual reserve on FM 1985 were under salt water for an extended period. Everything is still in "renovation status."

[Friends of Anahuac Refuge](#) operate two gift shops, one at the actual refuge on FM1985 and one at the Anahuac Refuge Nature Center. [PDF with maps.](#)

FROGS -- 'CANARIES' IN YOUR GARDEN - Frogs are an often-overlooked garden and landscape pest control aid and one that will be the focus of an upcoming Houston Arboretum at Night program & tour by Chris Bednarski, Houston Zoo's Senior Keeper, Department of Herpetology.

Why welcome frogs in your garden? Houston Arboretum & Nature Center's Christine Mansfield points out:

- A single frog can eat hundreds of insects in a summer, including mosquitoes and those harmful to plants, reducing the need for garden pesticides.
- Frogs breathe and even drink through their skin, making them very sensitive to any toxins in their local environment. Frogs are a great excuse to use fewer (or no) chemicals in your garden.
- Frogs are an indicator species. Much like a canary in a coal mine, the presence or absence of frogs can tell you a lot. The presence of frogs indicates a healthy system -- if they suddenly disappear, it is a good indication that there is some sort of disturbance occurring.
- Because frogs (and toads!) are so sensitive to environmental changes, their populations are in decline worldwide. Making a home for them in your garden not only helps your plants, but it also helps keep local frog and toad populations from dwindling further.

Need more reasons to encourage frogs or tips on how to do it? Chris will have plenty: **SAT., JUNE 10: HOUSTON ARBORETUM AT NIGHT: FROGS by CHRIS BEDNARSKI, 7pm, 4501 Woodway Dr. \$45.** houstonarboretum.org/events

* * *

SAT., JUN 3: Bullet Proof & Drought Tolerant Gardening by Randy Lemmon, 10:30-11:30 am; Save Water Naturally in the Coming Summer Months- Your Soil...the Ultimate Water Reservoir, Tap the Potential by John Ferguson, 11:30 am-12:30 pm; Life is Better With Flowers by J Schwanke, 12:30-1:30 pm & 2:30-3:30 pm; Ready to Add Sensational Splashes of Summer Color with Proven Perennial Plants? by Mark Bowen, 3:30-4:30 pm. The Woodlands Spring Home & Garden Show: The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, 1601 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands TX. <http://www.woodlandsshow.com/show-info/#>

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
Is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email questions, comments to her at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

Part 25



33) Arsenic (As) - Arsenic is a metalloid that has two common forms, grey or alpha-arsenic which is metallic, brittle, tarnishes, burns in oxygen and resists attack by water, acids and alkalis. The second form is yellow arsenic or beta-arsenic, which is non-metallic.

Arsenic is found in igneous rocks at 1-8 ppm, shale at 13 ppm, sandstone and limestone at 1 ppm, soils at 6 ppm, and there is hardly any in fresh or salt water at 0.003-0.004 ppm. However, in marine plants arsenic can reach 30 ppm but only 0.02 ppm in land plants.

It is an essential trace element for animals and humans, and it is essential for the survivability of newborn and neonatal growth.

In nature, arsenic is rarely found in a pure or uncombined form. The most common minerals are red realgar (As_4S_4), yellow orpiment (As_2S_3), silvery arsenopyrite (FeAsS), and iron grey enarite (Cu_2AsS_4).

Most arsenic production occurs as a byproduct of refining other metals such as copper, iron, or lead. Arsenic is found combined in nature with many elements to form a range of minerals as it has electrical oxidation states that range from -3 to +5.

Arsenic compounds were used to make bright yellow or green paint. Other uses include rat poison, taxidermy, weed control, wood preservative, microchips, liquid crystal displays, semi-conductors, batteries, glass, televisions, etc.

One of the first arsenic compounds used was "Paris Green" (copper acetoarsenite) and is one of the few chemicals that were used as both a rat poison and a paint pigment. Paris green was once used to kill rats in Parisian sewers hence the common name. In Britain, this chemical was used to make wall paper that when exposed to humidity, molds would convert the arsenic to gas forms that would make people sick (arsenic in the gas form AsH_3 where over 5 ppm is harmful). The doctors of the day would send the people to the beach and the illness would clear up. Hence being at the beach became associated with healing.

Arsenic stimulates growth in chickens, other poultry, and a few other animals like pigs. In chickens in combination with choline, it prevents 100% of perosis (slipped tendon disease). Over 900 tons of arsenic is added to chicken feed each year for the last 30 years, when the manure from these animals are used in fertilizers and applied to fields to grow crops it breaks down into inorganic arsenic, which is absorbed by the crops and enters the food supply causing many health problems. Although rare, arsenic deficiency in humans results in carpal tunnel syndrome and other repetitive motions type degeneration.

Arsenic can also have a tonic effect by activating enzymes. The arsenite ion (AsO_3)⁻² allows oxidation to proceed at an increased rate hence it stimulates metabolism and formation of red blood cells. Arsenic is found in all body tissues including bone, hair, nails, etc. Arsenic bonds to the sulfur elements in keratin a main component of hair, which is why hair test reveals ones exposure to arsenic.

Arsenic compounds were used as medicines from the Mediterranean to China. Arsenic was the first cure for the disease syphilis in the form arsphenamine and sold under the name Salvarsan. Many of

the famous spring waters with healing properties contain dissolved arsenic (Vichy-2 ppm, Zam Zam holy water from Kabba near Mecca has even more).

Pine needles once were crushed and steeped as a tea in boiling water to deliver enough arsenic to prevent mis-carriage.

Low levels of arsenic help fight cancer and high levels have been found to cause cancer. Arsenic has the property "hormesis" which means small amounts are beneficial and large amounts are toxic (poisonous). Animals fed an arsenic free diet had stunted growth, as it is used in the metabolism of essential amino acid arginine.

Arsenic was often sold in Europe on the black market as "succession powders" as it was used to kill Kings to Popes as only a dose of 200 mg is fatal. A dangerous form of arsenic is "White arsenic" (As_2O_3) that was originally just called trioxide. Several forms of arsenic were used as chemical weapons in World War 1.

Excess arsenic has been linked to numerous detrimental health problems; diabetes, heart disease, cardiovascular issues, respiratory distress, impaired neurological development and depression. Historically 80% of all produced arsenic has been used in the manufacture of pesticides, soil sterilants, and herbicides used in agriculture. As a result, many of our agricultural soils have high levels of arsenic.

Arsenic in the soil can switch between two different forms depending on soil conditions, in soggy flooded fields, we get arsenite, or after it dries out a little it becomes arsenate. Arsenic easily changes from any of its electrical states to a different one.

Symptoms of mild arsenic poisoning are alopecia, constipation, confusion, delayed healing, dermatitis, diarrhea, edema, fatigue, seizures, numbness and weakness, etc.

Arsenic is often added to artificial fertilizers as a disposal method for hazardous waste as it is very profitable for fertilizer manufactures. Note: It is illegal to add toxic waste to organic fertilizers. A good book on why and how this happens is Fateful Harvest by Duff Wilson, Harper Collins Publisher, ISBN 0-06-019369-7, It is a history of how hazardous waste is disposed of in synthetic fertilizers and ends up contaminating the food supply. Wilson was an investigative reporter for the Seattle Times Newspaper and published a series of articles in 1997-1999 on this dangerous method of disposing toxic wastes.

Farmers in Washington State used these toxic fertilizers to grow potatoes, which are then used to make French fries by the fast food industry.

Researchers at the University of Oklahoma have found that in Bolivia farmers use wastewater from mining to irrigate their fields of potatoes and the level of arsenic is 9-71 times higher than the safe level. Note: Heavy metals like arsenic have been linked to autism and ADD, and ADHD.

Agricultural soils of Oklahoma and Texas are contaminated with arsenic with levels as high as 830 ppm from years of pesticide and herbicide application. Researchers have found that fields treated with arsenic trioxide pesticides during the 1950's are now leaching into groundwater and soils.

Some animals have high levels of arsenic; oysters at 4 ppm, mussels at 120 ppm, and prawns at 174 ppm. However, it does not hurt those that eat them as the arsenic is in an organic form known as arsenobetaine, which is easily absorbed and excreted in our urine.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Arsenic (As)

Arsenic over 2 ppm by dry weight will kill most plants; hence arsenic is a common ingredient in many herbicides.

Note: Many artificial fertilizers can have 188 ppm of arsenic in them.

Rice as a crop has higher levels of arsenic than other foods as rice absorbs arsenic from both soil and water and in the inorganic form. However, rice plants have enzymes that can convert arsenic into a non toxic form and return it to the soil, leaving less in the plant to harm humans. The plants transform arsenate into arsenite and push the molecules back into the soil (Plant Physiology 11/16). Arsenic is phytotoxic to tomato plants at concentrations of 2 ppm where it accumulates in the roots. The level in all plants increases with increasing concentration in the soil.

Symptoms of too much arsenic in our soil are wilting; violet coloration of leaves, root discoloration, cell plasmolysis, and the most common is slow growth.

The flowers of *Linanthus parviflorus* (a member of the pink family) turns from white to red when exposed to soils with heavy metals.

Some plants thrive on arsenic such as the Chinese Ladder or Brake Fern (*Pteris vittata*) which can have over 2% (2,000 ppm) in its tissues. The Douglas fir can absorb high levels of arsenic. Sarghina (*Corrigiola telephiifolia*) has been measured at 2,110 ppm. Other hyper-accumulators of arsenic are Huisache (*Acacia farnesiana*) and Smooth Mesquites (*Prosopis laevigata*) Arsenic in the form of arsenic acid (H_3AsO_4), was used as a defoliant for decades especially for cotton. Hence, after many years of application there is a large accumulation in the soil. Even though arsenic is no longer used, cotton meal and cotton burr compost may still have high levels of arsenic from being grown in soils where the arsenic accumulated over decades of use.

A major source of arsenic in landscaping is from CCA treated wood (Copper, Chromium, and Arsenic). These elements slowly leach into the soil over time as the wood decomposes. Some garden soils have been found to have 15,000 ppm of arsenic!

Sources: poultry manure, some greensands, artificial fertilizers, CCA treated wood, some seafood, some cotton burr products (meal and compost), sewage sludge (Biosolids and composted Biosolids), coal ash, pesticides and herbicides.

**BELOW IS the most extensive gardening calendar ever
produced for the Greater Houston Area! It is brought to you
by these fine horticulture retailers . . .**



<http://microlifefertilizer.com/>



www.fslandscaping.net



www.grandifloraservices.com



www.natureswayresources.com

**WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR BUSINESS TO JOIN THESE PROUD
sponsors now reaching our area's most enthusiastic gardeners?**

**Contact LG&F's publisher
NATURE'S WAY RESOURCES**

936-273-1200 / natureswayresources.com

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS!

* * *

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., JUN 3: PLUMERIA (FABU LOUS 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: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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

MON., JUNE 5: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PRECINCT 2 OPEN GARDEN DAY 8:30 - 11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., JUNE 6: NABA - PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OF BUTTERFLY HOST PLANTS - YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT by DON DUBOIS, 7pm, Cockrell Butterfly Center, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Dr. Free. Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas. naba.org/chapters/nababest/

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

T HURS., JUNE 8: IS REDBUD THE NEXT CRAPE MYRTLE by DENNIS WERNER, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pinewoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

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

THURS., JUNE 8: BENEFICIAL INSECTS by DR. WILLIAM JOHNSON, 10am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Red Bluff Road. Free. Harris County Master Gardener Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.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

SAT., JUNE 10: SAVE WATER NATURALLY IN THE COMING SUMMER MONTHS - YOUR SOIL...THE ULTIMATE WATER RESERVOIR, TAP THE POTENTIAL by JOHN FERGUSTON, 11:30am, & READY TO ADD SENSATIONAL SPLASHES OF SUMMER COLOR WITH PROVEN PERENNIAL PLANTS? by MARK BOWEN, 3:30pm, Spring Home & Garden Show, The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, 1601 Lake Robbins Dr, The Woodlands. Fee: woodlandsshow.com

SAT., JUNE 10: HOUSTON ARBORETUM AT NIGHT: FROGS by CHRIS BEDNARSKI, 7pm, 4501 Woodway Dr. \$45. houstonarboretum.org/events/arboretum-at-night-frogs-2017

SAT., JUNE 10: AQUAPONICS: TRY IT AND LIKE IT!, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 9 until 11. \$5. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

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

THURS., JUNE 15: "WATER U DOING HOUSTON?" - WATER CONSERVATION/HARVESTING & RAIN GARDEN by Daniel Cunningham, 6:45-8:30pm, Houston Arboretum, 4502 Woodway Dr. Free. Water University, Texas A&M AgriLife; Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston event. npsot.org/houston

THURS., JUNE 15: "WATER U DOING HOUSTON?" - WATER CONSERVATION/HARVESTING & RAIN GARDEN PRESENTATION, by Daniel Cunningham, 6:45pm, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter. Free. npsot.org/houston

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

SAT., JUNE 17: FUN WITH FERNS, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: 713-274-4166.

SAT., JUNE 17: FUN WITH FERNS, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: 713-274-4166.

SUN., JUNE 18: PLATYCERIUMS: THE STAGHORN FERNS by LARRY RUCKER, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org

MON., JUNE 19: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PRECINCT 2 OPEN GARDEN DAY 8:30 - 11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu

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

TUES., JUNE 20: BROMELIADS DOWN UNDER 2017 by CHARLES BIRDSONG, 7:30pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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

SAT, JUNE 24, REPOT YOUR 'SPECIALTY PLANT' WORKSHOP by LINDA GAY, 10am. The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Supplies fee. arborgate.com

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 1: BUILD YOUR OWN SUCCULENT GARDEN OR REHAB YOUR CURRENT by LINDA GAY, 10am Supplies fee. The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. arborgate.com

THURS., JULY 6: STROLLER STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

SAT. JULY 8: CREATE YOUR OWN JUNGLELOW, USING BEAUTIFUL TROPICAL PLANTS THAT CLEANSE YOUR INDOOR SPACE by LINDA GAY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. arborgate.com

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

SAT., JULY 8: RAINWATER HARVESTING AND IRRIGATION BY THE HOMEOWNER! 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. \$5. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

TUES., JULY 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-438-3653

WED., JULY 12: EASY EDIBLES, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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

THURS., JULY 13: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY ICE CREAM SOCIAL, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. houstonrose.org

SAT., JULY 15: THE GREAT PEPPER EXTRAVAGANZA - PRESENTATION & TASTING by GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER, 9am-Noon, AgriLife Extension Bldg., Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but pre-register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

WED., JULY 19: OHBA: ORGANICS AT MERCER, 5:30pm-8pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$15. Register: ohbaonline.org

SAT. JULY 15: PATIO, PORCH AND POOL CONTAINER GARDENING by LINDA GAY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. arborgate.com

SAT., JULY 15: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS ANNUAL MEET, 9am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: texasroserustlers.com

SAT., JULY 22: GINGERS IN YOUR GARDEN, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: 713-274-4166.

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

WED., AUG. 2: MERCER STUDENT RESEARCH & EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM, 5:30 pm-8pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., AUG. 3: STROLLER STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., AUG. 4: PROJECT LEARNING TREE, 9am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: plttexas.org

WED., AUG. 9: MERCER STUDENT RESEARCH & EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM ENCORE noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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

SAT., AUG. 26: GARDEN TO VASE, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: 713-274-4166.

THURS., SEPT. 7: STROLLER STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., SEPT. 13: THE MERCER SOCIETY'S OPEN GREENHOUSE, 10am-noon, and YOUR GARDEN & CLIMATE CHANGE, noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free.

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

THURS., SEPT. 21-24: MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. \$40. Green Building Resource Center. Register: 832-394-9050; steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov; codegreenhouston.org

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.-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, 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 . . .

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

**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**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE
POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS**



<http://www.fslandscaping.net/>



www.grandifloraservices.com



<http://natureswayresources.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.



COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 50% OFF Pomegranates & Pears at Nature's Way Resources (expires 6/15/17)

Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.