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JUNE 30, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 212TH 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.

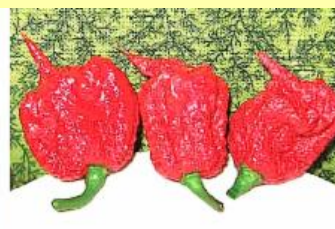
Thanks so much!

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!

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SYMPATHIES ON BOTTLEBRUSHES . . . DON'T 'MURDER' CRAPES! . . . GARDENING WITH BEAVERS . . . IN PRAISE OF PEPPERS

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

What's the hottest part of a chile pepper? Bet you weekend pepper growers/eaters think you know the answer. I bet you're wrong! Hint: It's not the seeds.

Hot can mean a lot of different things, as our Galveston County Master Gardener pepper expert Gene Speller notes in today's Spotlight below.

But first . . . really "hot" notes on treasured plants:

WOW . . . THE CRAPES!

Have you ever seen the crape myrtles look more beautiful than they do now?



Left to right: George & Drenda Beust's gorgeous crape. A crape-lined fence strip along Aldine-Bender. Eye-stopping salmon crape at Good Eats restaurant on Beltway 8 near Bush Airport.

It's nice to know that parts of crapes (*Lagerstroemia indica*) have been used for centuries as a treatment for wounds and colds, as well as a purgative, diuretic and astringent. But what we really care about, of course, are the incredible floral banquets dished up in summer by this native of the Far East

Pink, red, purple and white are the most popular crape colors. But a huge range of color and flower shapes now are available. [Check them out here.](#)



DON'T COMMIT 'CRAPE MURDER'! Don't let ANYONE talk you into pruning crapes like this (at left above). Called "[Crape Murder](#)," this type of pruning invites insects/disease and cheats you out of gorgeous bark sculptures year-round. Allow branches to grow naturally upward, such as are seen in these gorgeous crapes at center and right, shot at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital in Humble. Pruning from sides, or to thin branches, is fine. But never cut a tree across the crown (top).

* * *



*Bottlebrush, left, are beautiful small blooming trees, with unique bloom shape, center.
Now seen around town: leaves overnight have died on one side only,
as in Mary Jo & Sam Kruse's prize bottlebrush, right*

BOTTLEBRUSH BOMBSHELL

Weather pretty much determines what kind of bloom season individual plant varieties will have. Weather can also have a negative effect on usually hardy plants that may take a while to show up.

Mary Jo & Sam Kruse woke up one recent morning to find one whole side of their prized bottlebrush had died. Not the whole plant. Just one side. The same thing happened to other -- but not all -- bottlebrush trees in their neighborhood. Most frustrating, their next door neighbor's bottlebrush is just fine.

[Mercer Botanic Garden](#) folks are my go-to gurus for strange plant happenings. Mercer's Volunteer Coordinator Suzanne Chapman, Director Darrin Dulling, Horticulturist Chris Ludwig and Former Mercer Director Linda Gay all agreed - and you can't find a stronger group of experts.

Linda perhaps put it the most succinctly: "January's freeze caused vascular explosion. Cut it down to ground, it will flush from roots very quickly!"

Suzanne added: "We are just seeing the results. It is very spotty damage. The one I have at home had a few (dead) limbs one week, then more limbs the next. I've cut off all the dead limbs and now have lots of new growth at the base. I'll let it grow for a while and then select the strongest for new main stems. I prefer mine to be an open tree, not a shrub, but we'll see how it looks in a couple of months."

* * *



GARDENING WITH BEAVERS

Good friends Mitch & Lisa Reed moved "up nawth" (to Elkins Lake, Huntsville) to what Mitch calls his Wild Kingdom. Reports Mitch:

*"We have deer, squirrels, turtles, fish, alligators,
bald eagles, hawks and now beavers!
This is in our backyard."*

And you thought aphids were a problem!

* * *

PLANT MORE PEPPERS!

No one can doubt that hot chile peppers are riding a wave of popularity with gardeners these days. Folks have been fascinated with these somewhat masochistic little delights for probably 12,000 years! Nobody likes them on first taste, so the craze remains to this day a little mysterious, according to John McQuaid's ["What's Driving the Global Chili Pepper Craze" \(forbes.com\)](#):

John wrote: "People seem to like this provocation for reasons that remain mysterious, having more to do with culture and psychology than biology. Inside the body, meanwhile, its effects are entirely beneficial: capsaicin appears to stimulate the metabolism and can help moderate appetite."

Whether you're a novice or an experienced chile pepper grower, the place to be on SAT., July 15, is The Great Pepper Extravaganza - Presentation & Tasting.

This Galveston County Master Gardener event runs from 9am-noon at the Extension Bldg., Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but pre-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html.

One more point, lest you question my spelling of "chile" peppers, this has been a matter of major maundering, especially in New Mexico where chile pepers are a most valuable crop. N.M.'s Chile Pepper Institute ruled "chile" is the hot peppers. "Chili" is the spicy dish of meat, sometimes with beans. Who else would tell you these things?

Below, Gene Speller gives a preview of the info-packed presentation.

***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***



***L to r. Impossible to count all different peppers now available. But they do love our growing climate!
Second from right: 'Hontaka' in the GCMG's demo garden. Right: GCMG's 2012 Pepper Harvest.***

WHAT'S HOT? AND, WHAT'S NOT? CHILE PEPPERS!

By GENE SPELLER

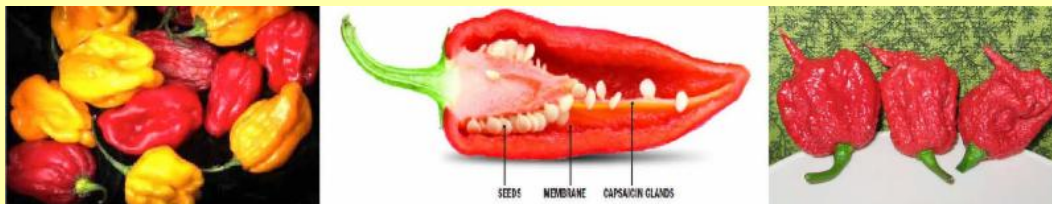
Galveston County Master Gardener

Chile peppers -- aka chiles, chili, chilli, aji, and capsicum -- are Hot.

That's HOT as in both literally (very spicy) and figuratively (latest food craze). They are also "not hot" for those with tender palates.

Since 2000, the US hot sauce market has grown by 150% -- greater than combined total for standard condiments (ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, et al.). Wikipedia lists over 100 different hot sauces.

Like jalapeno flavor but the heat? Fear not. Fajita jalapenos (and others) have no heat. Likewise, even mild habanero peppers now (e.g. NuMex Suave Orange and Red).



Left: NuMex Suave Orange and Red peppers. Center: view of (l to r)pepper seeds, membrane & apsaican gland. right, Carolina Reaper, the world's hottest pepper

What's the source of heat (pungency) in chile peppers? Capsaicin glands at the pod placenta's base (rib, white membrane) produces 20 or more capsaicinoid compounds including capsaicin - the most abundant and pungent of all capsaicinoids. They produce pain in mammals by stimulating nerve receptors (vanilloid) in affected areas. These receptors send heat and pain signals to the brain. Our auto response system then floods the nerve endings with endorphins - the body's natural pain killers.

The pungency/heat level of chile peppers is commonly stated in Scoville Heat Units (SHU), developed by Wilbur L. Scoville in 1912. SHU is based on the perceived pungency threshold after dilution of a capsaicinoid extract with sugar water. The required dilution ratio of sugar water to capsaicinoid extract is the pepper's SHU. For example, a jalapeno pepper with a dilution ratio of 1 part capsaicinoid extract to 5,000 parts sugar water would have an SHU rating of 5,000. Sweet peppers (e.g. bell peppers) have zero SHU.

High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) is the method of choice for determining chile pepper heat. For standard reference, HPLC analytical values are converted to SHU. The concentration of capsaicinoids measured by HPLC in parts per million (ppm) is converted to SHU by multiplying the ppm concentration by a factor of 16. Thus, a pure 100% concentration of capsaicin (1,000,000 ppm) equates to 16,000,000 SHU. Thus far, the current world record holder for hottest pepper is Carolina Reaper measured at 2.2 million SHU.

The capsaicinoid concentration in chile peppers is not absolute or fixed. It is highly variable and dependent upon the variety, environment, maturity, and cultural practices. It can even vary from one pod to another on the same plant.

What's the best remedy for overexposure to hot peppers? Answer: milk. Milk contains a convenient protein called casein which has a strong affinity for capsaicin and effectively sweeps it from the nerve receptors.

Editor's note: I would have answered 'seeds' too to the hottest part of a pepper. It seems that way because, Gene explains, "The seeds pick up heat because of their proximity to the capsaicin glands. For extreme hot peppers, capsaicinoids permeate the entire pepper."

SAT., JUL 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

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do Part 28



36) Krypton (Kr) - Krypton is another of the "Noble" gases as it refuse to bond with other elements. In nature, krypton is a clear odorless gas. Krypton is famous for its role in the Superman comics and movies as the substance kryptonite. In reality, krypton is virtually harmless to humans and may be an essential element. Krypton is found in igneous rocks at 0.0001 ppm and seawater at 0.0025 ppm. Most of our krypton comes from the atmosphere where it is extremely rare and occurs at 0.00011 % (1.1 ppm).

Krypton is produced by the radioactive decay of uranium in nuclear reactors.

It is used in high quality tungsten light bulbs from flashlights to incandescent lights. When energized, krypton glows bluish white making it useful for photoflashes and signage.

The isotope krypton-83 is used in MRI imaging of our lungs. In one of the rare exceptions krypton will combine with fluorine to form (KrF₂) at temperatures below -22° F where it is used to make a krypton-fluoride laser.

In science at one time, the wavelength of an emission line of krypton was used to define the length of a meter.

There has been a couple studies that found that it is associated with the amino acid isoleucine, but the relevance is unknown.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Krypton (Kr)

None known, good or bad

Sources: atmosphere

37) Rubidium (Rb) - The name comes from the Latin word *rubidius* which means the deepest red (ruby). No rubidium minerals are known, however it accumulates in lepidolite (a lithium bearing mineral) where it can be 1.5% of the mineral. It is found in other minerals but again uncombined chemically. Some brines have 6 ppm of rubidium.

Rubidium is found in igneous rocks at 90 ppm, shale at 140 ppm, sandstone at 60 ppm, and limestone at 3 ppm. Very little is found in fresh or seawater. In soils in can reach 100 ppm, marine plants at 7.4 ppm, land plants at 20 ppm, and in marine, or land animals at 17-20 ppm.

Rubidium is a very soft metal with a silvery-white luster, it will ignite if exposed to air, and it reacts violently with water.

In humans, the highest levels occur in the liver and muscles with very little in our bones. Rubidium can replace the electrolyte function of potassium in many species from bacteria and fungi to algae and invertebrates.

Small amounts of rubidium are used in semi-conductors, a few electronic and chemical applications. Rubidium has no direct biologic role. However, it has a small stimulatory effect on metabolism. If you note that rubidium is directly below potassium (K) on the periodic table, hence it has chemical properties that are similar and may substitute for potassium in many processes.

Rubidium is easily absorbed in our digestive system where it is found all over the body except in bones and teeth and any excess is excreted in our urine.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Rubidium (Rb)

Plants absorb rubidium very easily since it is chemically similar to potassium.

Sugar beets if grown in a potassium deficient soil will respond to rubidium as a fertilizer. Soya beans have 220 ppm, grass has 130 ppm, apples have 50 ppm rubidium, while sweet corn only has 3 ppm. Other plants from tea and coffee also contain rubidium.

In high concentrations, it can be toxic to plants where symptoms are dark green leaves, wilting and stunted foliage, and short brown roots.

Sources: sewage sludge (100 ppm)

38) Strontium (Sr) - Strontium is a metal in group 2 on the periodic table. It has a silvery appearance that turns yellowish after oxidation. It is a soft metal that will burn in air and reacts with water. Strontium does not occur in nature as a free element but only in a combined form with other elements.

This element is found in igneous rocks at 375 ppm, shale at 300 ppm, sandstone at 20 ppm, and limestone at 610 ppm. In fresh water at 0.08 ppm and seawater 8.1 ppm, marine plants at 260-1,400 ppm, soils at 300 ppm, land plants at 26 ppm, marine animals at 20-500 ppm and land animals at 14 ppm with the highest levels in mammal bones.

Strontium aluminates are used to make paint that glow in the dark. Strontium is used in many common products from toothpastes to televisions, ceramics, and glass manufacture. Strontium nitrate $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ is used in flares and fireworks to give a strong red color.

A radioactive form or isotope of strontium (strontium-90) that does not occur in nature is formed in nuclear explosions and later is in the fall out. The radioactive isotope is known to cause bone tumors and leukemia. Strontium has a +2 electrical or oxidation state, which is the same as calcium; hence, it is chemically similar to calcium and used in making our bones and mimics calcium in biological systems. It is required by mammals to make strong bones. As we get older, the body cannot utilize strontium as easily, which leads to weaker bones. Deficiencies of strontium are associated with some types of calcium (Ca) and boron (B) resistant osteoporosis and arthritis.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Strontium (Sr)

Since strontium is chemically similar to calcium (Ca) plants readily absorb it, where it tends to accumulate in the roots.

Plants like cereal grains tend to absorb the least strontium while in alfalfa even though rare, levels up to 1,500 ppm have been measured. It is easily absorbed by tobacco plants and some mosses.

If the ratio of strontium to calcium (Ca:Sr) is less than 8, then strontium phytotoxicity may occur. Phosphorite deposits where we get phosphorus for artificial fertilizers often have over 2,000 ppm of strontium thus many artificial fertilizers have elevated levels of strontium and repeated use of these fertilizers leads to toxicity problems.

Proper levels of calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) in the soil prevent excess strontium from being absorbed. Heavy loam soils can accumulate up to 3,100 ppm of strontium while sandy soils hold very little.

Sources: burning of coal, sulfur mining, artificial fertilizers, some manures

IN THE NEWS:

Mom's Across America has just released a new video on the dangers of GMO's and Round-Up and how it hurts our children.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_61okKFJSQ&feature=youtu.be

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

SAT., JULY 1: PECKERWOOD INSIDER TOUR, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Garden Conservancy event.
Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

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

SAT., JUL 8: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, AMAZING SUMMER LANDSCAPE. 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

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, Pinewoods 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

THURS., JULY 13: RAISED BEDS, LOW VOLUME DRIP IRRIGATION & RAIN BARRELS, 6:30pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr, Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., JULY 15: GREAT PEPPER EXTRAVAGANZA - PRESENTATION & TASTING, 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

SAT., JUL 15: EVENING AT PECKERWOOD, 5pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.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., JUL 15: FRUIT TREES, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. \$15. Fort Bend County Master fortbend.agrilife.org/gwcl/; 281-342-3034; brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu.

SAT., JULY 15: RAISED BEDS, LOW VOLUME DRIP IRRIGATION & RAIN BARRELS, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SUN., JULY 16: Ferns of New Caledonia by Adam Black, 2:00pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org

TUES., JULY 18: RAISED BEDS, LOW VOLUME DRIP IRRIGATION & RAIN BARRELS, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

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

THURS., JULY 20: RAISED BEDS, LOW VOLUME DRIP IRRIGATION & RAIN BARRELS, 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

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, theplumeriasociety.org; 281-438-3653, Rosenberg. Free.

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

TUES., JULY 25, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: LOW VOLUME DRIP IRRIGATION & RAIN BARRELS, 9:00-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

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, Pinewoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., AUG. 10: FALL VEGETABLES, 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., AUG. 15: FALL VEGETABLES, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., AUG. 17: FALL VEGETABLES, 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., AUG. 19: FALL VEGETABLES, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., AUG. 22, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: FALL VEGETABLES, 9:00-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

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, Pinewoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 14: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., SEPT. 16: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., SEPT. 19: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

THURS., SEPT. 21: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

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

TUES., SEPT. 26, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

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., OCT. 12: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., OCT. 17: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., OCT. 19: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT. 21: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., OCT. 24, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 9:00-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

THURS., NOV. 9: MAGNOLIAS: QUEEN OF THE GARDEN by ANDREW BUNTING, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., DEC. 14: THE YEAR IN REVIEW by DAVID CREECH, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

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

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PLEASE READ BEFORE
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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
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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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