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JULY 14, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 214TH 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.

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GINGERS TO SAVOR WITH EYES AND TONGUE PLUS NATIVES . . . FERNS . . . CRAPES PS

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Over the decades, I have probably taken a thousand pictures of flowers blooming in the Mercer Botanic Gardens. Above are just a few of these pictures.

So I wasn't at all surprised when writing about the big upcoming Sat. July 22 Mercer Ginger Sale I asked for some stats on this garden and Director Darrin Duling said Mercer now boasts one of the largest outdoor ginger collections in the nation.

Mercer's Botanical Collections Curator Suzanne Chapman says their data base identifies around 100 different ginger species and cultivars. But that in no way quantifies the number of actual plants, since these are rhizomatous, producing many more underground rhizomes that can be counted above ground.

Suzanne says among those visitors to the July 22 Sale should look for in bloom in the Ginger Garden include fragrant and stunning Hedychiums - butterfly gingers; showy Curcumas - hidden gingers; and soft leafed Costus - spiral gingers.

The Sat., July 22, sale runs from 8am-8pm. Ceil Dow will present a "Gingers in Your Garden" workshop from 10am-noon, covering both flowering and edible gingers that do well in Houston. Attendees will propagate a ginger to take home. (\$40. Register: 713-274-4166). Want a workshop preview? Ceil provides one in our Spotlight below.



First though, a follow-up on [last week's focus on crape & freeway plantings](#):

* **LONGTIME SHARPSTOWN RESIDENT CASSANDRA DANTONI** sent in the two pictures at left above of her incredible crape towering above their roof. Doesn't that make for a spectacular explosion of color from the street? And love her note:

- "This beauty came up from root stock of a disease resistant hybrid that froze to the ground in the late 80's. We just trimmed the lower branches from the main trunks as it grew. Now it's a glorious pink cloud I can see from the end of the block! Gardening is wonderful!"

* **GREENSPPOINT/ALDINE** - Shanice emailed she thinks the crape along Greens Road between I-45N and Hardy Toll Road are the most beautiful she's ever seen. She didn't send a picture. I didn't need one. I have often photographed these and their extended plantings along Imperial Valley Dr. as well (above right).

* **TIP O' THE TROWEL TO TXDOT FOR EMPHASIZING NATIVES!** I had contacted Texas Department of Transportation to see whom to credit with the freeway plantings mentioned last week on 610 Loop East (between I-10E & the Ship Channel bridge). Dana Cole, TxDOT, Houston's District Landscape Architect, says the oleanders Randy Jones wrote about were planted by TxDOT a few years back and includes native canopy trees such as pines, oaks, hollies, sweetgums, cypress, elms, ash, wax myrtle, redbud, yaupon, etc.

Quick-growing oleanders are used along the edge, Dana said, to provide a colorful edge to the developing "forest-like" plantings behind them. As years go by, this deliberately plant "forest" effect will be come more apparent. Using natives not only conserves increasingly-limited water supplies, they survive and thrive under conditions that would confound many pickier imported plantings. **Speaking of natives . . .**

* * *

Need great Texas natives (& info about them) for landscapes, etc?

Best source: Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston' big annual Wildscapes Workshop.

Saturday, September 9, 2017 - 8:00 am-3:30 pm

Registration is open and although the Houston Community College - West Loop Center, 5601 W. Loop South site is large, available seating does fill up quickly. Incredible Native Plant Sale and impressive national line-up of speakers. Details: <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop>.

* * *



* **ATTENTION FERN ENTHUSIASTS:** "Ferns of New Caledonia" will be explored by detailed by Adam Black of Peckewood Garden Conservation Foundation Sunday, July 16, 2pm, at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. The free program will be presented by the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society. tgcferssoc.org. Among ferns featured at this free Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event will be, above I to r:

- chalky blue "filmy ferns" coat tree trunks;
- striking new red growth on *Blechnum* species before it turns green,
- ghostly white new fronds on an unidentified species glowing on a dark forest floor, and

- the strange *Dipteris conjugata* that lends an otherworldly feel to the New Caledonian mountain sides.

If you're into ferns, this is THE group to join. tgcfernsoc.org

* * *

And now, Ceil Dow's Spotlight preview of her

The Sat., July 22, sale runs from 8am-8pm. Ceil Dow will present a "Gingers in Your Garden" workshop from 10am-noon, covering both flowering and edible gingers that do well in Houston.

* * *

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

* * *



GINGERS SURE TO PULL IN COLLECTORS: l to r:
Curcuma 'Emerald Choco Zebra' & C. 'Raspberry', Hedychium 'Daniel Weeks' and H. 'Palani'

Excerpted from
Gingers Sparkle in the Summer Garden
 By Ceil Dow
[The Mercer Society](#) of [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#)

For some new plant inspiration, introduce a new colorful ginger variety into your landscape or plant an edible ginger in the herb garden.

CURCUMAS have come a long way since they were grown as your Mother's Hidden Gingers. New varieties are shorter with fatter and deeper colored flower spikes:

- * **C. 'Raspberry'** - vibrant red-pink, pocket-like bracts ending in a whorl of top bracts. Appear in late spring, then bloom again in late June with taller, more colorful inflorescences until autumn winds blow through its maroon-ribbed leaves.
- * **C. 'Emerald Choco Zebra'**. Its generous long-blooming inflorescence is green with maroon-chocolate striped bracts. This Tulip Ginger's bloom grows taller than the leaves, producing multiple 18-22" scapes by the time it falls dormant in November.

BUTTERFLY GINGERS (HEDYCHIUM)

- * **H. 'Palani'** - shocking orange inflorescence with fragrant, medium-to-wide butterfly-shaped flowers on 18-20" inflorescence. 7' tall; bluish-green stems and leaves.
- * **H. 'Daniel Weeks'**. - Earliest, longest-flowering Hedychium. 5', inflorescence of fat yellow flowers with a deeper yellow center. Exotic sweet fragrance will perfume the garden from early evening on.

DANCING LADIES (GLOBBAS)

Old favorites getting harder to locate. Extended flowers pull long, slender, reed-like stems downward causing them to bob, or dance, up and down.

- * **Bulbil-producing *Globba globulifera*** produces eggplant-purple bracts with bright yellow flowers. New plants emerge the following year. Caution: some spectacular-blooming Globbas do not multiply. Look for *Globba globulifera*

EDIBLE GINGERS (shade)

- * **Tumeric** is a Curcuma or Hidden Ginger. Pastel pink flowers appear in early July amongst wide pleated leaves.
- * **ZINGIBER OFFICINALE**. This is the spice sold as ginger, a Pine Cone ginger (for its pinecone-shaped inflorescence).
- * **FINGER ROOT**. Kaempferia galangal or the edible variety of peacock ginger.
- * ***Alpinia galangal***, aka Greater Galanga, is a variety of Shell Ginger.

Gingers don't require a lot of effort, just a little water and a little sun. Throw in a little fertilizer and they will become a long lasting garden companion.

For Ceil Dow's full article and more valuable ginger-growing information, log onto this link:
<http://themerchersociety.org/event/gingers-in-your-garden>

SAT., JULY 22: GINGER SALE & GINGERS IN YOUR GARDEN WORKSHOP.
 Sale 8am-8pm; workshop 10am. Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd , Humble.
 Sale free admission; workshop \$40. Register: 713-274-4166 ; [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#)

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

Part 30



41) Niobium (Nb) - It is 34th most common element in the earth's crust and is relatively common. It is a soft grayish ductile metal of group 4 on the Periodic table.

It is a component of the minerals pyrochlore and columbite. This element is named after Niobe the daughter of Tantalus (element tantalum) and son of Zeus of Greek mythology. The name reflects the great similarity between the two elements in their physical and chemical properties, making them difficult to distinguish. They are often found together in nature with the highest concentration in acidic igneous rocks.

Niobium is found in igneous rocks at 20 ppm, shale at 11 ppm, and limestone at 0.3 ppm. Very little is found in fresh or seawater. Land plants average 0.3 ppm and marine animals only 0.001 ppm.

Niobium has a +5 valence or electrical state and has a great affinity to associate with iron (Fe), titanium (Ti), and zirconium (Zr).

Niobium is used mostly in alloys, the largest part in special steel such as that used in gas pipelines. Although these alloys contain a maximum of 0.1%, the small percentage of niobium enhances the strength of the steel. The temperature stability of niobium-containing super alloys is important for its use in jet and rocket engines as it resists corrosion at high temperatures. It is also used in surgical implants, coins, and jewelry. At room temperature, it is very resistant to most acids.

Niobium is used in various superconducting materials. These superconducting alloys, also containing titanium and tin, are widely used in the superconducting magnets of MRI scanners.

In soils, the weathering of the various niobium containing minerals determines its mobility and availability in soils. Increased levels of organic matter in the soil increase the availability of niobium.

We find small amounts of niobium in human blood, kidneys, lungs, muscle, and testes. Metallic niobium has low toxicity since it is poorly absorbed in our digestive system.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Niobium (Nb)

Niobium is relatively mobile under humid conditions and therefore available to plants. It is relatively common in most all plants at very low levels.

Some plants that are members of the *Rubis* family (blackberries, dewberries, raspberries, etc.) can have 10 ppm in their tissues. Mosses and lichens often accumulate 0.5 ppm although the role is unknown.

In some banana fruits, 320 ppm has been found.

Sources: granite sand, basalt sand

42) Molybdenum (Mo) - This little known trace element is essential to nearly every life form on Earth. The amount that is in our food is directly related to how much is in the soil in which the plants grow. Molybdenum is a lustrous silvery metal that is soft when pure. It occurs in nature at the +6 or +2 electrical or oxidation state. It occurs in igneous rocks at 1.5 ppm, shale at 2.6 ppm, sandstone at 0.02 ppm, limestone at 0.4 ppm, and very little in fresh or seawater. In soils, it averages 2 ppm where it is strongly concentrated by

humus. Marine plants have 0.45 ppm, land plants have 0.9 ppm, marine animals from 0.6-2.5 ppm, and land animals at 0.2 ppm.

Molybdenum is different from many other nutrients as its solubility (availability) decreases as the pH becomes lower or more acidic. It is more available in alkaline soils hence its availability is very sensitive to pH, oxygen, and drainage issues.

When molybdenum is added to steel, it produces an alloy that can be used to make tools from drills to armor for military tanks. If combined with sulfur (S) it forms a lubricant that can withstand very high temperatures. Molybdenum is used in many types of electronic products and in automobile to aircraft parts. Small amounts of molybdenum are essential for all life but the function and requirements not fully understood by scientists.

Over 50 enzymes require molybdenum to work properly where it functions as a co-factor, a few of these are:

- Sulfite oxiasse - helps build proteins
- Xanthine oxidase - multiple functions
- Aldehyde oxidase - helps metabolize drugs and toxins
- Mitochondrial amidoxime (helps body remove toxic substances)

It is also used as a catalyst for enzymes that breakdown fats, carbohydrates and certain amino acids.

A deficiency of molybdenum can lead to headaches, rapid heartbeat, mental health issues, and even coma, problems with uric acid production, and decreased metabolism of sulfur containing amino acids.

Tooth enamel contains high amounts of molybdenum that suggests it might help prevent tooth decay.

In areas where there is low molybdenum in the soils (and foods), the lack has been associated with cancer of the esophagus and stomach (10X higher rates).

The Linus Pauling Institute has found that sufficient molybdenum helps in the treatment of certain forms of cancer.

When molybdenum is present in the soil it prevents the production of cancer-causing agents know as nitrosamines in plant foods. In animal studies, it prevents pulmonary and liver fibrosis and reduces damage to liver and the heart from antibiotics.

Though rare, too much molybdenum in our system (mammals) can cause a copper (Cu) deficiency known as *molybdenosis*, while low molybdenum intake can cause copper toxicity. These effects vary with species, breed, and sex. There is also a molybdenum-sulfur relationship although not as strong. Molybdenum is generally not stored in body as it is easily absorbed and excreted via urination.

Certain beneficial microorganisms that are involved with nutrient uptake require molybdenum where it is used in electron transfer reactions. Molybdenum availability is related to other nutrients and the chemical complexing of those nutrients. As in mammals, it is required for certain physiological processes such as enzyme and co-enzyme systems (i.e. nitrate reductase enzyme and sulfite oxidase).

Good food sources are pork, lamb, and beef liver. Of the vegetables and fruits, legumes have the most molybdenum.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Molybdenum (Mo)

Molybdenum is a trace nutrient and most plants require 0.01-10 ppm. Molybdenum is involved with nitrogen (N) metabolism of plants where it is essential for the conversion of the ammonium (NH_4^+) cation to nitrate (NO_3^-) anion. Nitrogenase is involved with converting the nitrate (NO_3^-) anion into the ammonium (NH_4^+) cation.

It is a structural component of the enzyme nitrogenase which has significant effects on pollen formation (used in reduction of nitrates for the formation of proteins). It also helps plants use nitrogen, and a shortage of molybdenum leads to inefficient utilization of nitrogen leading to increased risk of nitrate (NO_3^-) leaching and the polluting of ground water.

As in plants, molybdenum is involved with nitrogen fixation by azotobacteria and non-symbiotic nitrogen fixing bacteria. In 2009, it was recognized that molybdenum was the limiting factor in forest growth, not phosphorous (P) as previously believed. Nitrogen uptake by trees depends on soil bacteria converting atmospheric nitrogen to ammonia and these bacteria require molybdenum to work! Most phosphate fertilizers contain molybdenum hence researchers were confused.

If deficient in molybdenum, plants often appear as if they are nitrogen deficient.

The earliest symptoms occurs on youngest leaf and stems, where it is more common on acid sandy soils, and in humid regions. On some plants, there is an irregular artistic pattern of leaf yellowing, where the veins remain green, and the area in between turns yellow.

Legumes are more susceptible with marginal scorching and cupping or rolling of leaves, and irregular leaf blade formation known as whiptail in brassicas crops. Legume plants tend to have more molybdenum than other plants with levels up to 350 ppm without any toxicity symptoms.

Most artificial fertilizers tend to acidify the soil preventing molybdenum from being absorbed which then leads to an antagonistic relation with manganese. To correct the problem the soil needs to have lime applied to raise the pH.

Molybdenum is critical for "grasses" and other crops requiring little potash. Molybdenum like boron (B) is absorbed by plants as an anion not a cation as most other nutrients.

The amount in plants tends to increase as the soil pH increases. The primary form of molybdenum in the soil is the soluble form called molybdate (MoO_4)⁻² anion, where the absorbability is increased 10X for each unit increase in pH.

Sources: compost, native mulches, most organic fertilizers, rock dusts, Biosolids (sewage sludge), some coal ash

43) Technetium (Tc) - Technetium is a silvery-grey, radioactive transition metal in-group 7 of the periodic table. Considered an artificial metal used in metal processing. It is mainly used in alloys of molybdenum (Mo) and niobium (Nb) where it exhibits super conductivity and is very resistant to oxidation.

This element is produced by the spontaneous fission of uranium (235) in nature. Hence, it is often found in uranium ores. It was also deposited in soils from fallout from worldwide nuclear testing. The most stable electrical or oxidation states are +7 and +4. It is absorbed in significant quantities only in soils high in organic matter. The chemical properties of technetium are very similar to manganese (Mn) since it is located directly below manganese on the periodic table.

Technetium has no biological role, as it does not occur naturally in the biosphere. Almost all technetium is created artificially as very little is found in nature. It is only considered toxic due to its radioactive properties. In rodent studies, it was not found to accumulate in their bodies even though they were fed large doses. In humans, it is poorly absorbed and we rapidly excrete it in our urine.

Isotopes of technetium are widely used in medicine for the diagnostic of thyroid disorders and other medical x-ray diagnostics (isotopes have the same numbers of protons and electrons but different numbers of neutrons in the nucleus of the atom).

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Technetium (Tc)

Technetium is easily absorbed by plants as the anion (TcO_4^-) though extremely rare. In plants, technetium does not move around with the highest concentrations occurring in older plant tissues.

Organic fertilizers inhibit its phytoavailability.
Sources: radioactive fall-out

44) Ruthenium (Ru) - It is a hard lustrous silvery-white metal in the platinum group. It is found in igneous rocks at 0.001 ppm, and plants at 0.005 ppm, and land animals at 0.002 ppm and is one of the rarest metals on earth and is considered a precious metal. Ruthenium oxide (RuO_4) is highly toxic.

Used in various electrical components due to its ability to resist corrosion. It is used in some types of solar cells. A few radioactive isotopes are also used in medicine.

The most common usage is in jewelry along with platinum.

It has no known biological role and the amount in the human body is so small to be almost immeasurable.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Ruthenium (Ru)

The amount of ruthenium in most plants is less than 5 ppb, but some species of algae concentrate it.
Sources: Ores of platinum metals, some nuclear reactors

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 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: galvcounymgs@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

SAT., JULY 15: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING, 9:30-11:30am, University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 014, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

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; 281-855-560

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

THURS., JULY 20: "FEDERALLY-PETITIONED PLANT SPECIES OF TEXAS - STATUS OF OUR ENDANGERED SPECIES", by ANNA W. STRONG, 6:45pm, Houston Arboretum, 4502 Woodway Dr. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/houston

SAT., JULY 22: GINGER SALE & GINGERS IN YOUR GARDEN WORKSHOP. Sale 8am-8pm; workshop 10am. Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble. Sale free admission; workshop \$40. Register: 713-274-4166; [Mercer Botanic Gardens](http://MercerBotanicGardens).

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

SAT., JULY 22: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Conference Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.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

TUE., AUG 1: GARDENING BY THE SQUARE FOOT by GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER, 6:30-8pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg., Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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 Raguette 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

TUE., AUG 15: A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO WEED CONTROL by GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER, 6:30-8:00 pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg., Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-

534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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

TUES., AUG. 22: GROWING FRUIT TREES IN CONTAINERS, 1pm. The Sugarland Branch Library, 550 Eldridge, Sugarland. Free. A Sugarland Garden Club event. beatles11@peoplepc.com, 281-778-5844

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

THURS., SEP. 6: SMALL ORNAMENTAL TREES FOR THE HOUSTON AREA by LINDA GAY, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

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. 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

SAT., SEPT. 23: UNDER THE MAJESTIC OAKS - 7th ANNUAL LEAGUE CITY GARDEN CLUB GARDEN WALK, 10am-4pm; \$15 advance ticket, Nana's Attic, 501 E. Main, League City. leaguecitygardenclub.org; 281-535-0777.

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

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 7-8: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, 10-4 Sat., 10-3 Sun. Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.com

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

SAT., OCT. 14: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE, 9 am-1pm. Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy. 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd., Hitchcock.

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

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

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

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!
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PLEASE READ BEFORE
SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.

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

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 THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

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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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