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JULY 21, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 215TH 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](mailto: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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*Sure to be in hot demand at the Plumeria Society of America's July 22 sale are three highly-collectable, new-on-the-market selections, left to right, Jamaican Fire, Black Purple, and George Brown (AKA, Musk Rainbow).*

## PRO PROSPECTIVES ON PLUMERIAS & COMPOSTING

*Dawn sparkles  
Plumeria sunrise;  
Floral greeting*

*'HAIKU VEIL 17' by Leon Enriquez*

### By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Interesting developments on the horizon are changing the big picture for plumerias, a tropical that is gradually becoming a staple for gardeners in the Greater Houston area.

Although it's still a risk to leave plumerias unprotected during freezes -- especially in areas north of downtown -- many local gardeners now do so routinely. Of course, collectors would never dream of doing this with prize varieties. But other changes are also on the horizon, according to Sharon & Mark Wright of the Plumeria Society of American (home-based here in Houston).

- Not all plumerias "grow" alike in different areas. Variety does matter. In our climate, some cultivars may grow "leggy." Others are "dwarf" or "compact." Investigate before you buy if not doing so from a very reliable nursery or the Plumeria Society of America.
- On the increase in retail trade: dwarfs, more cold-tolerant varieties, new color combinations and blooms that visibly change throughout the growing season. are definitely on the increase in retail trade. PSA members visiting recently from Arizona were captivated with 'Bleeding Heart,' a large white flower whose yellow orange center slowly turns a medium brown over time.
- In the past, fertilizers with a high middle number (phosphorus) were recommended for plumeria. That thinking has changed in the last few years. High phosphorus accelerates growth, and makes it more necessary to protect plants in a garage or greenhouse during our winter months. Now fertilizers with a balanced formula are recommended.
- Some PSA collectors now advocate growing plumerias in mulch instead of soil. Some of those who still grow in pots partially sink (plunge) the pots in soil, or put the pot in a larger pot. Both methods are thought to provide some insulation against our summer heat.

The best place to find great plumerias for our area as well as to bone up on the latest news is, of course, at a Plumeria Society of America sale. The next one:

**SAT., JULY 22: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE,**  
**9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 TX-36, Rosenberg.**  
**Free. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org); 281-438-3653**

As always PSA members expect reds in general to be their best sellers. But they're also excited about some new-on-the-market choices sure to excite their most avid collectors. Pictured at top are three of these (pictures courtesy of [Florida Colors Nursery](http://FloridaColorsNursery.com)). What about these will 'pop the eyes' of plumeria experts? Mainly its the unique colors, veining and petal conformations that true *afficianadios* spot immediately:

- **'JAMAICAN FIRE'** -- vivid colors, distinct center veining and petal presentation
- **'GEORGE BROWN'** (aka **'MUSK RAINBOW'**) -- unique coloring of gold and lavender
- **'BLACK PURPLE'** -- lavender to purple coloring

OLD FAVORITES THAT STILL CAPTIVATE (pictured below) :

- **'RASPBERRY SUNDAE'** for its large yellow center and raspberry colored petals. Interestingly enough, say PSA's Mark & Sharon Wright, "Prices on this cultivar are coming down and one can be found for much less than the \$100 price tag it commanded a few years ago.
- **'AZTEC GOLD,'** not only for its large blossoms and brilliant yellow color, but for its peach cobbler fragrance.
- **'J115'** (aka **'SUPER ROUND'**) for its large rounded and highly overlapped petals and vivid dark pink color which fades as it ages.
- **'SANTA RED'** for its compact size, striking bright pink petals with rolling white edge, and heavenly scent.
- **'PENANG PEACH'** for its dark orange color (yellow with reddish accents) and heavenly peachy scent.



*L to r: 'Raspberry Sundae,' 'Aztec Gold,' 'J115' (aka 'Super Round'), 'Santa Red' and 'Penang Peach'*

If you plan to go to the PSA July 22 sale, my advice is to go early. If not possible, take advantage of PSA growing expertise by joining, or asking question through the PSA website : [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org).

For more on these specific plumerias above, google "Plumeria & variety name."

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#### POTPOURRI:

- **MEA CULPA TO TxDOT'S DANA COTE** for the name misspelling last week and kudos to Pat Hasker for sending in additional info on TxDOT's freeway plantings. More on these in a later issue.
- **BUTTERFLY COUNTS** are underway throughout the Greater Houston area. Volunteers always needed. Times, dates and contacts: BEST (Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas) event. [org/chapters/nababest/](http://org/chapters/nababest/)

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## COMPOSTING -- TAKING THE NEXT STEP

One of the fastest growing trends in this nation -- among both traditional homeowners and multi-complex residents -- is composting. We assume most, if not all, our ***Lazy Gardener & Friends Newsletter*** readers:

- already understand the ecologically beneficial (and globally-necessary) aspects of composting
- already have a compost bin, an indoor compost collector and/or a pile of leaves with the richest fertilizer already ready for use underneath.
- are already enriching their yard and garden with their own compost-turned-into-natural-fertilizer. And yet, they . . .
- still fear attracting unwelcome wildlife

For all these reasons, and hundreds more, the time has come to take the next step toward greater, and more useful (as in discouraging less-than-desirable wildlife), now-available composting expertise. That's exactly what Steve Stelzer, City of Houston Green Building Resource Center Program Director, has in mind.

Steve's Spotlight article below is just a preview of the expanding composting horizon that will be explored in the Green Building's upcoming Certified YardWise Master Composters course Sept. 21-24, 2017, at its 1002 Washington Ave nue site.

The 20-hour course with a subsequent 20-hours of volunteer service will feature nationally-recognized composting experts (including LG&F's newsletter publisher John Ferguson Space is limited so early registration (\$40) is a must. Details:

[codegreenhouston.org/images/master\\_composter\\_program\\_2017.pdf](http://codegreenhouston.org/images/master_composter_program_2017.pdf)  
[compostingcouncil.org/](http://compostingcouncil.org/)

***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](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)***

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## COMPOSTING AT HOME IS NOT OVERLY COMPLICATED, BUT NEITHER IS IT 'IDIOT-PROOF'!

**BY STEVE STELZER**

***City of Houston Green Building Resource Center  
 Program Director***

As gardeners know, composting at home is a wonderful opportunity to recycle nature's food bounty back to nature and benefit ourselves. You can both lower your carbon footprint and your need to buy chemical fertilizers, and improve the health of your soil and plants. Improved soil health also equates to more water storage capacity of the soil, which can result in less irrigation and lower water bills.



Dead soils can absorb a ½" rain event before sheet draining. Healthy soils can absorb an 8" rain event before sheet draining. How's that for flood control?

Composting at home is not overly complicated, but neither is it 'idiot-proof.' Many people want to compost but fear making mistakes or attracting vermin. Sometimes it gets smelly and sometimes it doesn't seem to ever finish. For instance:

- piles that smell like ammonia need more carbon-intensive material.
- If piles smell rotten, they are not getting enough oxygen and need turning.
- If they attract vermin and rats, the easiest method is to acquire a compost bin with a lid, otherwise, completely bury new food waste in the middle of the pile.

The Texas Master Composter Program\* is designed to take the fear out of and help people learn about this natural process, and then the volunteering component after the class time helps reaffirm this learning. Expert speakers give the very fine-grained information from soil types to bio-chemical interactions at home and commercially, as well as macro views of how the greens get mixed in with the browns and how they are screened and bagged at a large facility.

\* \* \*

Steve can be contacted at 832-394-9050 or [steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov](mailto:steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov)

*\*The City of Houston Green Building Master Composter course is part of the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR), a coalition of recyclers, from industry and municipalities to academia, concerned citizens, and fellow nonprofits. [www.recyclingstar.org](http://www.recyclingstar.org). STAR is the statewide administrator of the Master Composter program (one of many projects),*

*City of Houston Green Building Resource Center's upcoming Sept. 21-24 will be at its 1002 Washington Ave. site. Details:*

- [www.codegreenhouston.org](http://www.codegreenhouston.org)
- [Facebook.com/HoustonGBRC](https://www.facebook.com/HoustonGBRC)
- [codegreenhouston.org/images/master\\_composter\\_program\\_2017.pdf](http://codegreenhouston.org/images/master_composter_program_2017.pdf)

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## JOHN'S CORNER

## MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

### Part 31

45) Rhodium (Rh) - Rhodium is a shiny silvery white, very hard metal of group 9 on the periodic table and is the least common of the platinum group metals. As one of the rarest, it is also one of the most



valuable of these metals. It is produced most often as a byproduct of refining platinum bearing ores. In a few ferromanganese minerals, it can be concentrated to 44 ppm. A few animals like crustaceans easily bioaccumulate this element up to 12 ppm.

Rhodium is found on average in the Earth's crust at 6 ppb and in igneous rocks at 1-20 ppb. In fresh and saltwater, it only occurs only in a few parts per billion (ppb).

The most common electrical or oxidation state is +3 even though it has others depending on how it is combined. There are very few rhodium-containing minerals.

European studies have found it higher along highways as rhodium is used in catalytic converters found in automobiles; in Sweden, the soils now have 40 ppb in some areas.

Rhodium is used in production of jewelry, as it is shinier than platinum and more valuable. In special tools, it is used as an alloying agent with other metals. Because of its high reflectivity, and its ability to form extremely thin layers, it is used to coat optical fibers to make them more efficient.

For years, it was thought that rhodium did not play any biologic role as the amounts in human bodies are almost below detection limits. In its elemental form, the metal is very inert and is considered harmless.

Recent research has suggested that it plays a role in the absorption, utilization, and excretion of several metallic elements. Chemists at the University of Purdue have found that rhodium based compounds that when exposed to light can kill tumor cells and deactivate several viruses. We still have much to learn about this element.

#### Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Rhodium (Rh)

Plants contain 1-2 ppb, and almost all food plants contain 1 ppb of this element.

Sources: coal, coal ash

46) Palladium (Pd) - Palladium is another member of the platinum group of metals and is a shiny, silvery-white metal which is malleable and ductile. It is found in igneous rocks at 0.01 ppm, and land animals at 0.002 ppm where it accumulates in mammalian livers and kidneys. Palladium is not very soluble hence very little is found in fresh or seawater.

Palladium is regarded as having low toxicity to humans as it is poorly absorbed and has no known biological role. Palladium chloride ( $\text{PdCl}_2$ ), was once used as a treatment for tuberculosis. Tests on rodents have shown it to be carcinogenic to them.

Palladium's main use is in catalytic converters for car exhausts; however, it is used in electronic devices from computers to cell phones. It is also used in jewelry and coinage.

In Eastern Europe where they burn sewage sludge as a disposal method, the ash has been measured to have 100-600 ppm.

#### Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Palladium (Pd)

Plants do not absorb palladium as a pure element; however, some palladium compounds are absorbed where they accumulate in the roots.

Palladium is found in the leaves of some trees at 0.4 ppm. However, some Birch trees in Canada growing near mineral deposits containing palladium have over 4,000 ppm.

Very low levels of palladium salts will kill some plants like water hyacinth; while it does not bother most plants until 3 ppm then it affects growth.

Sources: coal, black shales, sewage sludge, sewage sludge ash, Biosolids

**47) Silver (Ag) - Silver is a soft lustrous metal of group 11 in the periodic table and is part of the group called the "Nobel Metals".**

Silver is most often found with igneous rocks, in sedimentary rocks it is found at 0.07 ppm and in soils around the world at 0.1 ppm. There is very little silver in fresh or seawater. In marine animals, silver is 3-11 ppm and less than 1 ppm in land animals.

Silver forms many silver bearing minerals as it is easily combined with other elements and is produced as a by-product of refining other metal ores. Most silver produced is a by-product of the mining of gold, copper, lead and zinc.

The most common electrical or valence state for silver is +1 and readily combines with other elements to form various minerals. Argentite, which is silver sulfide ( $\text{Ag}_2\text{S}$ ), cerargite which is silver chloride ( $\text{AgCl}$ ), arsenide which is silver arsenide ( $\text{Ag}_3\text{As}$ ) and many more, with sulfur minerals being the most common.

Silver has very high electrical and thermal conductivity (best of any metal) and is used in many electrical devices. Silver in the form of nano-particles has antibacterial properties. Silver is used in mirrors (highest reflectivity of any metal), catalytic chemistry (since silver oxidizes easily), jewelry and much more.

Most soils range from 0.05 to 0.4 ppm with some organic soils reaching 5 ppm. Silver occurs in the soil most often as compounds of sulfide and chloride.

Silver can be found in soils as both a cation such as silver oxide ( $\text{AgO}^+$ ) or an anion species like silver chloride ( $\text{AgCl}_2^-$ ). Silver does not exist in soils as an element but is very mobile in the soil when combined with other elements. Bacteria, Archaea, and cyanobacteria control the solubility and precipitation of silver compounds. Some bacteria hyper accumulate silver in their spores up to 1,100 ppm.

Humic substances in the soil tend to absorb and complex silver. Humic and fulvic acids limit silver's phytoavailability. Hence, silver is more toxic in soils of low organic matter content.

Some feel that silver is not known to provide any essential function in humans as 90% of ingested silver is excreted. Others feel that silver is essential, as it is systemic disinfectant and involved with immune system support. Silver compounds are absorbed more readily as proteins like those of DNA and RNA that tend to bind to silver. Silver has anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, and anti-metabolite properties, hence a deficiency would result in an impaired immune system. A paper in the 1978 Science Digest found that silver kills over 650 disease organisms.

Silver sulfadiazine is used in most burn centers to treat injuries. It is also used to treat syphilis, cholera, herpes, and malaria.

The acid in our stomach causes silver to form a compound that precipitates out of solution where it is eliminated in our stool. As a result, silver accumulates in sewage sludge where over 360 tons of silver is dumped into our streams every year. Sewage sludge and compost made from Biosolids is a major source of silver contamination when applied to soils.

### **Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Silver (Ag)**

Plants can absorb silver in its soluble forms, which then enters the roots vascular systems where it is transported to other parts of the plant.

The amount of silver in plants varies greatly where most plants have 1 ppm silver or less in their tissues. However, there are some accumulator plants where the level of silver can reach 100 ppm. Root exudates of cyanogenic plants are known to dissolve silver from soil minerals. For most plants, the amount of silver in them is closely related to the amount of silver in the soil.

Some fungi (ectomycorrhizal and saprobes) can accumulate silver to 20-30 ppm and up to 235 ppm have been measured.

Too much silver in the soil leads to toxicity like necrosis, wilting in the leaves by loss of turbidity. Often yields and growth are reduced, without any visible symptoms. Excess silver can also prevent plants from absorbing other cation's, like potassium, cobalt, copper, iron, calcium, etc.  
Sources: sewage sludge, composted Biosolids, wastewater from sewage treatment plants

## 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](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](mailto: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 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.org).

SAT., JULY 22: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 TX-36, [theplumeriasociety.org](http://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](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

TUES., AUG. 1: TANZANIA BUTTERFLY MIGRATION & SPECIES by FARRAR STOCKTON, 7:30pm, Cockrell Butterfly Center, 5555 Hermann Dr. Free., BEST (Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas) event. [org/chapters/nababest/](http://org/chapters/nababest/)

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](http://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](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

THURS., Aug. 10: RAINWATER HARVESTING AND WATER CONSERVATION by SKIP RICHTER, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov); [codegreenhouston.org](http://codegreenhouston.org)

SAT., SEPT. 23: UNDER THE MAJESTIC OAKS - 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LEAGUE CITY GARDEN CLUB GARDEN WALK, 10am-4pm; \$15 advance ticket, Nana's Attic, 501 E. Main, League City. [leaguecitygardenclub.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

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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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