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AUGUST 25, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 220th 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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By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

If you haven't spent much time in the garden this summer, don't feel alone. The heat has been unbearable.

The good news is that fall is usually our easiest, most fun and most productive gardening period. Not to mention "longest"! Winter & spring are so intertwined and they are over in the blink of an eye. Summer is, well, challenging. But even with an early freeze, temperatures usually rise back up immediately afterwards.

In the meantime, looks like watering won't be a challenge for us for a while. If gardens get soaked and stay soaked for several days (or weeks), there isn't a whole lot you can do.

If plants die, then in these spots, and others where water stands after a rain, you need hardier plants that can take both floods and droughts, such as, Louisiana iris, crinum lilies and hymenocallis lilies, to name just a few.



If plants wilt and just look poopy, be sure to shade them when the blasting hot sun comes up. Rig up some sort of shade cloth that will protect them from noon to dusk. Once they perk back up, you can remove the cloth.

This week's column focuses on . . .

- A plea and warming from the Houston Rose Society and
- Encouraging children to join you and experience the enjoyment of growing things.

Harris County Master Gardeners are presenting free "GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN" workshops across the Greater Houston area. Below, William Isbell gives us a preview of these presentations at:

- THURS., SEPT. 14: 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring
- SAT., SEPT. 16: 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy
- TUES., SEPT. 19: 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale
- THURS., SEPT. 21: 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane

More details on these: hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf or 713-274-0950.

Two free Gardening with Children & Grandchildren *workshops* will be held in conjunction with Harris County Master Gardener Open Garden Days:

- TUES., SEPT. 26, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive
- TUES., OCT. 24, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive

Register for these two free workshops at ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

Before we get to William Isbell's preview . . .

* **Houston Rose Society could use your help!**

Houston is showing suspicious signs of an outbreak of Rose Rosette Disease virus. So far, all identified infections are within the 77056 zip code (Chimney Rock on west, South Rice on east,

Richmond Ave. on north and US Hwy 59 on the south). Most are in the Galleria area.

This RRD-affected rose bush below shows typical damage. This is one bush, healthy on bottom, virus-damaged on top, in the Galleria area. Unfortunately virus also mimics other symptoms. This virus must NOT be allowed to spread. If you know of a rose with suspicious problems, report it to houstonrose.org or Houston Rose Society Past President Gaye Hammond, gayeh@lpm-triallaw.com or 713/292-2760. HRS website includes a Rose Rosette Disease Pictorial Guide HRS encourages all gardeners to share with friends & neighbors.



And now, tips on getting children to love gardening as much as you do!

* * *

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

* * *



MacGregor Elementary youngsters practice photo-documenting their garden (left), growing herbs and produce for their plant sales (center), and celebrating their annual "Pulling of the Carrots" (right). (William Isbell is at center in both the center & right photos)

GARDENING WITH CHILDREN

by WILLIAM ISBELL

Adapted from William's full "GARDENING WITH CHILDREN"

*article on the Harris County Master Gardener website
<http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/childGarden.aspx>*

Many of my fondest childhood memories center on gardening with my grandmothers. My current affinity for gardening and the natural world is, undoubtedly, deeply rooted in those interactions. They not only served as an important bridge between our generations and afforded me access to their wisdom, but also fostered a connection to the legacy of past generations.

One of my grandmothers routinely planted a row of flowers in her vegetable garden—a tradition passed down from her mother. While modern research explains how flowers attract beneficial insects, my grandmother's reasoning was far less scientific. "We plant the entire garden to feed our bodies," she would say, "but plant a row of flowers to feed our soul." Her garden was a spiritual endeavor.

Research supports the interconnection of gardening and the emotional, physical, and mental development of people—in particular, children. Thus, the sage wisdom they passed to me rings true, for what is "spiritual", if not the harmonious overlap of the emotional, physical, and mental realms?



Through Recipe for Success, MacGregor Elementary students learn new skills and reinforce their standard curriculum through garden-based activities in their classrooms and school garden. Photos courtesy of Recipe for Success Foundation.

As you encourage our next generation of gardeners and lovers-of-nature, here are a few tips to consider.

Don't:

- Expect young children to focus for long periods;
- Expect your time to be efficiently used;
- Tell children how to do everything;
- Make up answers to questions;
- Adhere to vigorous agendas and schedules;
- Expect to have the perfect garden.

Do:

- Encourage active, hands-on learning;
- Rely more on visual demonstrations and activities rather than verbal explanations;
- Allow mistakes to happen;
- Encourage exploration and experimentation;
- Allow risk assessment. (If you've warned children about an ant bed, instead of forcing that lesson, allow them to determine if they will learn it verbally or physically);
- Choose vegetables with varying harvest times;
- Allow kids to assist with plant selection and placement;

- Include alternative solutions/projects;
- Allow kids to share new methods that might be unfamiliar to you but are central to how their generation processes and expresses information (i.e. social media, photo editing apps, etc); and . . .
- For my grandmother's sake, plant a row of flowers in your vegetable garden!

For more great tips, drop by one of these free Harris County Master Gardener lectures on "Gardening with Children & Grandchildren":

- **THURS., SEPT. 14: 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring.**
- **SAT., SEPT. 16: 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy.**
- **TUES., SEPT. 19: 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale.**
- **THURS., SEPT. 21: 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane.**

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Register for these two free workshops at ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do


Part 35




57) Lanthanum (La)

Lanthanum is the first element of a group that we call the "Rare Earth" elements or "Lanthanides". If one looks at the Periodic table below, notice the two rows at the bottom where they are grouped together as they have almost identical chemical properties. However, they have very different magnetic properties.

The Path to Health for plants and those that grow and eat them.



																							
1 H Hydrogen 1.00794																			2 He Helium 4.00260				
3 Li Lithium 6.941	4 Be Beryllium 9.0122																	5 B Boron 10.811	6 C Carbon 12.0107	7 N Nitrogen 14.0064	8 O Oxygen 15.9994	9 F Fluorine 18.9984	10 Ne Neon 20.1797
11 Na Sodium 22.9897	12 Mg Magnesium 24.305																	13 Al Aluminum 26.9815	14 Si Silicon 28.0855	15 P Phosphorus 30.9738	16 S Sulfur 32.065	17 Cl Chlorine 35.453	18 Ar Argon 39.948
19 K Potassium 39.0983	20 Ca Calcium 40.078	21 Sc Scandium 44.9559	22 Ti Titanium 47.867	23 V Vanadium 50.9415	24 Cr Chromium 51.9961	25 Mn Manganese 54.938	26 Fe Iron 55.845	27 Co Cobalt 58.9332	28 Ni Nickel 58.6934	29 Cu Copper 63.546	30 Zn Zinc 65.409	31 Ga Gallium 69.723	32 Ge Germanium 72.64	33 As Arsenic 74.9216	34 Se Selenium 78.96	35 Br Bromine 79.904	36 Kr Krypton 83.796						
37 Rb Rubidium 85.4678	38 Sr Strontium 87.62	39 Y Yttrium 88.9059	40 Zr Zirconium 91.224	41 Nb Niobium 92.9064	42 Mo Molybdenum 95.94	43 Tc Technetium (98)	44 Ru Ruthenium 101.07	45 Rh Rhodium 102.9055	46 Pd Palladium 106.42	47 Ag Silver 107.8682	48 Cd Cadmium 112.411	49 In Indium 114.818	50 Sn Tin 118.71	51 Sb Antimony 121.76	52 Te Tellurium 127.6	53 I Iodine 126.9045	54 Xe Xenon 131.294						
55 Cs Cesium 132.9055	56 Ba Barium 137.327	72 Hf Hafnium 178.49	73 Ta Tantalum 180.9479	74 W Tungsten 183.84	75 Re Rhenium 186.207	76 Os Osmium 192.22	77 Ir Iridium 192.222	78 Pt Platinum 195.078	79 Au Gold 196.9665	80 Hg Mercury 200.59	81 Tl Thallium 204.3833	82 Pb Lead 207.2	83 Bi Bismuth 208.9804	84 Po Polonium (209)	85 At Astatine (210)	86 Rn Radon (222)							
87 Fr Francium (223)	88 Ra Radium (226)	57 La Lanthanum 138.9055	58 Ce Cerium 140.116	59 Pr Praseodymium 140.9077	60 Nd Neodymium 144.24	61 Pm Promethium (145)	62 Sm Samarium 150.35	63 Eu Europium 151.964	64 Gd Gadolinium 157.25	65 Tb Terbium 158.9253	66 Dy Dysprosium 162.5	67 Ho Holmium 164.9303	68 Er Erbium 167.259	69 Tm Thulium 168.9343	70 Yb Ytterbium 173.04	71 Lu Lutetium 174.967							
		89 Ac Actinium 227.03	90 Th Thorium 232.0381	91 Pa Protactinium 231.0368	92 U Uranium 238.0289																		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPK Solids Liquids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gases Not natural on Planet Earth, Not in OceanSolution.
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Lanthanum is found in igneous rocks at 30 ppm, shale at 20 ppm, and very little in sandstone or limestone. Soils average around 30 ppm, and very little are found in fresh or seawater. However, marine plants can have 10 ppm.

Most of the rare earth elements are not rare in nature but often occur together in various minerals and were hard to separate (hence the name "rare"). Lighter flints are alloys of iron (Fe), lanthanum (La), cerium (Ce), and small amounts of praseodymium (Pr) and neodymium (Nd). Rare earth elements when oxidized are very heat-resistant and glow brightly when hot; thus, they are used in lantern mantles heated by burning gas. Lanthanum's most common electrical or oxidation state is +3 (as are most of the other rare earths).

Lanthanum is often found in igneous rocks and in phosphorites used to produce fertilizers. It is used to produce colored glass and electronic components.

Sandy soils have the least of this element with loamy soils the most. Organic matter has a high capacity to bind this element to levels 10X that of surrounding soil. Lanthanum is only slightly soluble hence, it is not very mobile in soils, however microorganisms and earthworms in the soil help release this element.

It is believed that this element is involved with the regulation of metabolism in both plants and animals including humans even though direct evidence has not been found. Lanthanum is found in human bones, and the liver and kidneys.

When added to animal feed it improves weight gain and feed conversion to body mass in all farm animals (chickens, ducks, cattle, pigs, etc.). It also improves milk production in cows and egg production in chickens.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Lanthanum (La)

Horticultural research in the United States has largely ignored this element while China has been using it for decades.

Fertilizers enriched with this element stimulate seed germination, seedling growth, and chlorophyll content.

Research in China has found both yield increase and quality improvements across a wide range of crops when lanthanum and other members of this family of elements were present in the soils. There is not any clear evidence of toxic effects of this element on plants; however, it does have an impact on cell membranes of vascular plants and on calcium (Ca) metabolism in some microorganisms.

Mosses tend to accumulate this element, as do *Carya* species. Some hickory trees have been found to accumulate up to 2,300 ppm of this element. Woody plants in general have the ability to absorb more of this element. The concentration of lanthanum found in plants range from below 1 ppb to over 15,000 ppm.

The yeast (*Candida albicans*) can absorb up to 370 ppm per day. It is proposed this may be how *Candida* causes a debilitating energy sapping disease by stealing lanthanum from the patient. Sources: fly ash, sewage sludge, animal manures, sands of igneous rock

58) Cerium (Ce)

Cerium is the second member of a group that we call the "Rare Earth" elements or "Lanthanides". It is a reactive grey metal that will tarnish in air, and will burn if scratched with a knife. The most common electrical or oxidation state is +3 (it is also stable at a +4 state). Even though it is called a rare earth, it is almost as common as zinc (Zn) and four times more common than lead (Pb). Cerium is found in igneous rocks at 60 ppm, shale at 59 ppm, sandstones at 92 ppm, and limestone at 12 ppm. Fresh and seawater have very little cerium. Soils average 50 ppm, and land plants can accumulate 320 ppm. Land animals have only 0.003 ppm.

Cerium is added to diesel fuel to lower the soot ignition temperature allowing it to be trapped by filters. Cerium oxide (CeO_2) is part of catalytic convertors to clean up car exhaust and it is also used to polish glass.

Cerium compounds were used in gas incandescent mantles in the late 1800's to create a bright light. It is used in medicine to treat topical burns and cerium sulfide (Ce_2S_3) is used as a red pigment for plastics.

Cerium is used in flat screen monitors and televisions, and long life low energy light bulbs. Compounds of cerium are used in many appliances and devices.

Cerium has no known biological role; however, cerium salts can stimulate metabolism, lowering cholesterol levels, blood pressure, appetite, and risk of blood coagulation. Cerium is considered non-toxic to animals and humans as the body rapidly excretes it. However, animals that were injected, with large doses of cerium, had a heart attack and died.

A dilute solution of cerium nitrate $Ce(NO_3)_3$ is an effective treatment for bathing the skin of humans with 3rd degree burns.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Cerium (Ce)

Very little is known about cerium and how it affects plants. The amount found in plants correlates to the amount in soils. A few plants will accumulate cerium (*Carya sp.* accumulate cerium to 320 ppm). Sources: some phosphate rocks, igneous rocks, sewage sludge

59) Praseodymium (Pm)

Praseodymium is the third member of a group that we call the "Rare Earth" elements or "Lanthanides". It is found in igneous rocks at 8 ppm, shale at 6 ppm, sandstone at 2 ppm and limestone at 1.4 ppm. Marine plants have 5 ppm and land plants have up to 46 ppm. Marine animals have 0.5 ppm and land animals have 1.5 ppm where in mammals it accumulates in the bone and liver. Seawater has only 1 ppt (parts per trillion).

Praseodymium is used to make special glass lens that glass blowers use to protect their eyes and it is used to give glass and pottery glaze a clear yellow color.

Praseodymium is used in magnets and many types of lighting. It has the unique property, that when exposed to magnetic fields, it lowers its temperature and has helped scientists approach within 1/1,000 th of a degree of absolute zero.

It is used in making carbon arc lights to create daylight white light for motion picture filming and it creates the color in fake cubic zirconia based peridot.

Praseodymium is used to alloy with magnesium (Mg) to increase strength where it is used in aircraft engines.

It has no known biological role, however recent research has shown praseodymium salts enhances proliferation of normal cell growth and doubles the life span in laboratory species.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Praseodymium (Pm)

Plans do not absorb praseodymium very well; hence, vegetables only have 1-2 ppb in them, so very little gets into the food chain.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks

60) Neodymium (Nd)

Neodymium is a bright silvery-white metal that quickly tarnishes when exposed to air. This metal is different from the other lanthanides as it has it has three oxidation or electrical states (+2, +3 and +4).

This member of the rare earth family is found in igneous rocks at 28 ppm, shale at 16 ppm, sandstone at 11 ppm and limestone at 4 ppm. Marine plants have 5 ppm but land plants can have 460 ppm as in some *Carya* species. Marine animals have 0.5 ppm. In mammals, it accumulates in the bone and liver.

When neodymium (Nd) is combined with iron (Fe) and boron (B) where it is called NIB, it makes excellent strong permanent magnets. These magnets are so strong they can be dangerous to be around. These magnets are used to make stud-less jewelry.

It is used in crystal matrices to make quantum memory devices and it allowed for the miniaturization of many electrical components. Neodymium is used in alloys of high strength, computer hard drives, mobile phones to wind turbines and hundreds of products.

If neodymium oxide (Nd_2O_3) is added to molten glass, the result is a beautiful deep lavender color. Neodymium glass is also used to produce powerful lasers.

Neodymium is a lighter rare earth element that is proven to enhance normal cell growth and double the lifespan of laboratory species.

Neodymium has no known biological role but can have effects of the human body. Neodymium salts and dust are very irritating to the eyes. If ingested the salts are only slightly toxic if they are soluble and non-toxic if they are insoluble.

The level of neodymium in sewage is less than the other lanthanides which suggest more of it is retained in our bodies.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Neodymium (Nd)

Neodymium is not readily absorbed by plants as it only averages around 10 ppb hence very little enters the food chain. However, some plants can accumulate up to 3,000 ppb.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks

61) Promethium (Pm)

Do the unique arrangement of protons and neutrons there is no stable arrangement or stable isotopes of this element. Promethium is radioactive with a half-life of 2.6 years; as a result, promethium did not exist in nature (biosphere) until nuclear explosions occurred. Promethium was once used to make luminous dials for watches and luminous paints and was used in some electrical devices.

If ingested it accumulates in the bones and liver of mammals. Promethium has no role in any living thing.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Promethium (Pm)

None

Sources: nuclear fall out

62) Samarium (Sm)

Samarium is a "light" rare earth element and is found in igneous rocks at 6 ppm, shale at 5.6 ppm, and sandstone at 2.7 ppm. In pure form, it is a silvery-white metal that is stable in air. Samarium-cobalt magnets are not as strong as others mentioned but they can operate at higher temperatures where other types would lose their magnetism. Samarium is used in electrical devices and in chemical and medical research.

Samarium is found in both marine animals and land animals at less than 1 ppm. It has no known biological role. However, as in other rare earth elements, samarium enhances normal cell growth and doubles the life span of laboratory species. Samarium salts also stimulate metabolism.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Samarium (Sm)

Normally land plants have very little samarium in them (less than 1 ppm) as it is not taken up by roots; however a few plants can accumulate up to 23 ppm.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks

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

SAT., AUG 26: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 RD, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. Must register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org; peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232;

SAT., SEP 2: PECKERWOOD GARDEN NORTH DRY GARDEN & ADJACENT PLANTINGS TOUR, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Must register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org; peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

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.

SAT., SEPT. 9: WILDSAPES WORKSHOP & NATIVE PLANT SALE, 8am-3:30pm, Houston Community College, 5601 West Loop South. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter event. \$40 Aug. 26, \$50 after. Register: npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop/

SAT., SEPT 9: SIMPLY SUCCULENTS by PAULA SPLETTER, 9-11am & HERBS by TRICIA BRADBURY, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT.-SUN., SEPT. 9-10: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW&SALE. 9am-5pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. hcsstex.org

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

THURS., SEPT. 14: ROSES LOVE COMPANIONS by LINDA B GAY, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

THURS., SEPT. 14: FALL GARDENING by Herman Auer, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Garden Education Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. hcmga.tamu.edu

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

SAT., SEPT 16: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEP 16: FRANCE'S NATIONAL COLLECTION OF OAKS by BEATRICE CHASSÉ, 7pm, Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

MON., SEPT. 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PREC. 2 OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden Education Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. hcmga.tamu.edu

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; codegreenghouston.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.

SAT. SEPT 23: BULB MANIA by DODIE JACKSON, 9-11am & COMPOSTING, TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL & SOIL HEALTH ASSESSMENT by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SUN., SEPT. 24: DAYLILY ANCESTRY by MARY GAGE, 2pm-3pm. Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

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., SEPT 30: FAVORITE FALL VEGETABLES (*CRUCIFEROUS* & OTHER VEGETABLES) by GENE SPELLER, 1-3pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 30-SUN., OCT. 1: HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY FAL SHOW - JONAS DUPUICH, SPEAKER. houstonbonsaisociety.com

THURS., OCT. 5: PUMPKINS, SQUASH AND GOURDS by CORRIE TEN-HAVE, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

SAT., OCT. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT. 7: GROWING NATIVE! WORKSHOP, 8:30AM-1:30pm, (\$35) & PLANT SALE, 10:30am-4pm (free), Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. WORKSHOP (only) Register: themercersociety.org; 713-274-4166.

SAT., OCT 7: PECKERWOOD GARDEN'S OAK COLLECTION / ACORN SHARING, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Must register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

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., 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

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

FRI., OCT. 13: ALL ABOUT SUCCULENTS: by VERONICA LEWANDOWSKI, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event: houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

SAT., OCT 21: IN SEARCH OF THE RARER OAKS OF TEXAS by ADAM BLACK, 7pm (tour 5pm), Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10 lecture, \$10 Tour. Must register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

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

SAT., NOV 4: HEAT TOLERANT CONIFERS OF PECKERWOOD GARDEN, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Must register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

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

FRI., NOV.10: "I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP MY GARDEN! - GARDENING FOR THE CHALLENGED LIFESTYLE: DR. JOE NOVAK. 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

FRI., DEC. 8: 'HOLLY JOLLY' LUNCHEON GALA. SPEAKER: BILL MCKINLEY. 9 am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Tickets \$30. Houston Federation of Garden clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

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

FRI., JAN. 12: A CAMELIA COLLECTION - RESTORING IMA HOGG'S CAMELIA COLLECTION AT BAYOU BEND by BART BRECHTER. 10 am. White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

FRI., MAR.9: THOSE ADDORABLE HUMMERS by SUE HEATH. 10 am. White Oak Convention Center., 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., APRIL 13: THE WORLD OF SEED by ANGELA CHANDLER. 10am., White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

FRI. MAY 11: HONEY BEES - JAMES AND CHARI OF BLUEBONNET BEEKEEPERS. 10am. White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

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

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- * a national award-winning writer & editor
- * a nationally-published writer & photographer
- * a national horticultural speaker
- * a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda 's 45-year-old "Lazy Gardener" print column a couple of years ago, it ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda 's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* book and now to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy Gardener run on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's **BULLETIN** magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** with John Ferguson and Mark Bowen of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Aldine and is married to the now retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

JOHN FERGUSON

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several

horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

MARK BOWEN

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist, certified permaculturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a co-editor and periodic article contributor.

PABLO HERNANDEZ

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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