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SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 222nd 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.

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CALENDAR CANCELS A LA HARVEY . . . 'HELLSTRIPS' FROM KITCHEN BACK TO SOIL . . . POP THAT COLOR!

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Tip o' the trowel to Marian H. who wrote in asking how she could get a copy of my "hellstrip" column. I'd never heard this oh-so-accurate name for this particular gardening challenge! Really made me laugh and right now, folks, I can use all the laughs I can get. So thanks, Marian, and we'll get to "hellstrips" in a minute.

First, let's get some important "Harvey-triggered" updates out of the way. If you have a Harvey-damaged or stressed landscape, your best friend will be the free AgriLife Extension, Master Gardener and other local-to-your-area events below and listed in our calendar at the end of this newsletter. Find out which plants can take hurricane-triggered and other flooding.

Trust me, folks. Been around long enough observe first hand that our storms are getting larger and more destructive. No place is completely safe from flooding, tornado and/or wind damage in our Gulf Coast area now. At the very least, get plants that can take the onslaught and return as strong and as beautiful as ever. We have LOTS of them available.

Note these updates:

- **ALL** events at **HARRIS COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION CENTER** in Bear Creek Park have been cancelled for September and October. For off-site events, see calendar below.
- **Still on** are these two **FREE** events at the **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd.
 - **THURS., OCT. 12: INDOOR PLANT PURIFIERS** by **LINDA GAY**, 10-11:30. Free but register: hcmga.tamu.edu
 - **HCMG PRECINCT 2's OPEN GARDEN DAY**, 8:30-11am. MG q&a session. hcmga.tamu.edu
- **GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS** have cancelled:
 - **SAT., SEPT. 23: BULB MANIA** by **DODIE JACKSON**
 - **SAT., SEPT. 30: FAVORITE FALL VEGETABLES (CRUCIFEROUS & OTHER VEGETABLES)** by **GENE SPELLER**
- **LEAGUE CITY GARDEN CLUBS** has cancelled: **SAT., SEPT. 23: UNDER THE MAJESTIC OAKS - 7th ANNUAL LEAGUE CITY GARDEN CLUB GARDEN WALK**. leaguecitygardenclub.org
- **ALL** events at **MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS** have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. As Mercer Director Darrin Duling explained, "*We are devastated by eight feet of water washing over us -- five feet in the Visitor Center and Utility Yard -- and no telling when we will be able to reopen. Everyone is working very hard to bring Mercer back online!*"

PS: Mercer isn't ready for volunteer help yet (*I'll let you know when*) but Harvey dealt the botanic garden's support group, The Mercer Society, an especially hard hit. Offices and gift shop were almost totally destroyed, as was the north side nursery (core of March Mart and all plant sales). TMS's three big fundraisers had to be cancelled. TMS is looking not only for donations, but also for new Board members with ties to philanthropic and business communities. Contact: msociety@hcp4.net, or 713-274-4166

- One event NOT cancelled but rather moved to another site: **SUN., SEPT. 24: DAYLILY ANCESTRY** by MARY GAGE, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church Christian Life Center, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

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Left, Gene & Marty Webb's beautiful wildflower "hellstrip." It reverts to grass after the wildflowers reseed. Center: two "hellstrips" in Ron Megow's yard. Right, recycled sweet potatoes are a success

BACK TO THE "HELLSTRIPS" (*Still makes me smile!*) "Hell strips" are those insanely narrow strips of soil contractors love to leave between sidewalks and walls or driveways.

- Re the "hellstrip" site to which Marian is referring (strip between sidewalk and street), here's the link to the previous article on Gene and Marty Webb's wonderful wildflower-scaped front yard: [**"A Tale of Two Clever Curtilages."**](#)
- Ron Megow's "Hellstrips" are pictured at center above. He's trying to solve his with "Gullivar Blue" bacoba and gardenias. His goal: Minimal attention!!!

READERS: INPUT PLEASE! Have any of you had success growing flowers, groundcovers, vegetables, etc., in your "hellstrip"? Do share! lazygardener@sbcglobal.net. Would love pictures. Many will thank you!

These areas are often soil-challenged by leached lime from the surrounding concrete. I saw a great groundcover once where the gardener had simply tossed out into that area the seeds of vegetables and fruits that normally would have been thrown away. I did that in a front garden strip. We got several surprise cantaloupes. On top of that, the broad melon leaves so discouraged nutgrass it almost disappeared

- Speaking of Ron Megow, Jamie from Waller asked for an update on my article: [**"Saga of the Sweet Potato and the Carrot."**](#) Ron planted these vegetables at my suggestion in containers earlier this year, straight from the grocery store, strictly for the greenery. Good ending -- well, so far, says Ron. That's his sweet potato hanging basket now at the end of the picture above. He's happy.

* * *



- Readers' tips are often so much more practical than most garden advice. Here's one from David Silberman for those who like green onions. Don't throw those cut off root ends. David leaves about 1.5" of white "meat" above the roots. These he plants in pots where they easily grow very quickly.

The success rate is so high, this is a great project for children. Leave roots planted, just harvest tops with scissors. Even more fun for children, he says, is to "double your investment at no extra cost! Cut the root tip down the middle with a sharp knife and plant both halves." (Yes, this is the same David Silberman DDS, who offices on Beechnut.) Who else would tell you these things!



If your energies and ambitions run a little higher, how about an espalier on the wall behind your "hellspace"? Eg., l to r above, an orange tree, 'Little Gem' magnolia or bougainvillea? Trees have strong trunks and strong branches, so would only require a few masonry eyebolt screws and wire strung between in whatever pattern you choose. Or no pattern. It's your call. With a vining plant like bougainvillea, more wire and screws will be necessary to support the plant's weight and provide anchorage in high winds.

At first poke new stalks behind the wires to form a flat-branching base. Prune any frontal horizontal branching that can't be tucked back in the main frame. A full sun spot and super-hardy plants are best for this as the plants will be stressed at first. Be forewarned. This is NOT a Lazy Gardener project!

* * *



A few of the many extraordinary scenic horticultural wonders at Peckerwood Gardens

CHARLES BIRNBAUM EXCITING HIGHLIGHT FOR PECKERWOOD GARDEN'S OCT. 2 LUNCHEON.

Birnbaum's longtime service as National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative coordinator was followed by a decade of private practice in New York City with a strong focus on landscape preservation and urban design. Now he's changing our perspectives again, with the current web-based initiative, "What's Out There" -- a searchable database of the nation's designed landscape heritage.

What an incredible opportunity to give our recent Harvey-impacted perspectives a break! Peckerwood's "Taking Root" Monday, Oct. 2, luncheon at the Junior League of Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane, will benefit

this unique, and irreplaceable, horticultural treasure deserves everyone's support. Tickets & reservations: <http://www.peckerwoodgarden.org/>

* * *

Hopefully today's Spotlight article will help turn our attention away from the traumas of our recent past. To help clients achieve the right "pop" for their own outdoor haven -- now or when they begin restorations -- a list of tips was compiled by Maria Wenzel, Design & Project Manager, Lanson B. Jones & Company, a longtime Houston firm.

***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***

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Red always draws the eye and makes an area look more "alive" as in this Lanson Jones design which uses a combination of bright red gardenias and pink gerbera daisies with a dusty miller border

ADD A POP OF EXCITEMENT TO AN EXISTING LANDSCAPE!

by MARIA WENZEL

Lanson B. Jones & Company
lansonbjones.com

1. Garden pathways add safety and charm to landscapes. Using a variety of textures in your garden, such as gravel and stepping pads make your garden more formal and lasts longer than mulch. Also, creating pathways with different textures work well and look wonderful with plant material.

2. Playing with flowerbed shapes that mirror your homes architecture will add interest to your garden. Flowerbeds that incorporate curves and lines will transform a dull-shaped flowerbed into a beautiful design

that is aesthetically pleasing and enjoyable.

3. Experiment with different heights, too! Add a cluster of pots if you believe your garden is too horizontal. A cluster of pots is easy to incorporate and they're a great way to add height and elegance to a garden. Fun fact, some gardeners call this design concept, "containerscape".

4. Objects that are considered "reward points" in a garden are always fun to find. They affect the garden's tone and mood. "Reward points" include furnishings to small decorative items, such as statues and candles.

5. Variance in blooms can also make a garden more exciting. I recommend creating a sequence with two flower colors and structures. Even the same flower in a different color can spice things up.

6. You can never go wrong with water features-they're wonderful! They add music, relaxation and will even invite beautiful songbirds.

7. Lighting creates a fantastic atmosphere at night. Lights accentuate your garden like nothing else. They enhance a dramatic garden or soften a garden's setting. Plus, lights can sometimes create dancing silhouettes at night. Nowadays, there is a lot of online information for DIYers that explains how they can install garden lights.

8. Incorporating "hidden areas" in a garden can also be very rewarding. Create secret gardens where you can discover comfort, peace and tranquility. There's nothing like creating the perfect spot where you can sit, enjoy a book and drink a glass of wine during summer nights!

* * *

Lanson B. Jones puts out a great free landscaping tip-filled newsletter (source of this article idea).

Contact Maria at

[Lanson B. Jones & Company](#)

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JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do Part 36

63) Europium (Eu)

As you might have guessed, Europium is named for the continent Europe and is the 50th most common element on earth. It is a soft silvery metal and reacts readily with water and oxygen. Europium is found in igneous rocks at 1-2 ppm, shale's and sandstones at 1 ppm.

Unlike other rare earth elements, the value of Europium is not on magnetism but on luminosity. Paints made from this element can glow for many minutes or even hours after being exposed to a strong light source. It is used in cathode ray tubes (CRT), monitors, television set, etc. It is used in many types of compact fluorescent light bulbs. This element is so reactive that it will oxidize over time even when stored under oil.

Europium is not easily absorbed by plants hence very little gets into the food chain. It has no known biological role. However, laboratory animals fed diets with Europium increase their lifespan by 100%.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Europium (Eu)

Present in some plants at 30-130 ppb (parts per billion), however most vegetables are far less at 0.04 ppb.

Members of the *Carya* family often have 16 ppm.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks

64) Gadolinium (Gd)

Gadolinium is another member of the "Rare Earth" group. Gadolinium is a silvery-white, malleable, and ductile metal. It is found in nature only in oxidized form, and even when separated, it usually has impurities of the other rare earths.

It is found in igneous rocks at 5.4 ppm, shale's at 4.3 ppm, sandstones at 2.6 ppm, and very little in limestone at 0.7 ppm. Gadolinium is the 41st most common element on earth and is more common than tin (Sn).

Many gardeners know the importance of para-magnetism to have healthy gardens. Gadolinium compounds are highly paramagnetic. This property makes this element very useful in medical applications where it improves contrast for procedures like MRI's. One example is injecting gadopentetate dimeglumine ($C_{14}H_{18}GdN_3O_{10}$) into one's blood stream and the MRI will show where the blood is going (showing the exact location of internal bleeding).

Gadolinium also has the unique property of going from ferro-magnetic to para-magnetic at near room temperatures (Currie point). In ice water, it will stick to a magnet but as it warms up it and becomes paramagnetic, it will fall off.

Gadolinium will also absorb neutrons and is used in nuclear reactors. Gadolinium is also used in microwave applications.

Very little gadolinium is found in the human body, however if ingested it quickly accumulates in the bones and liver of land mammals. Gadolinium has no known biological role but its salts stimulate metabolism.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Gadolinium (Gd)

Most plants do not absorb gadolinium into their roots hence very little enters the food chain.

A few land plants can absorb up to 70 ppm of this element, particularly the *Carya* species.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks

65) Terbium (Tb)

Terbium is a soft silvery metal that is slowly oxidized in air and will react with cold water (most elements react with hot water). Terbium is found in the earth's crust at 1 ppm and is the 57th most abundant element (twice as common as silver). It is found in igneous rocks at 0.9 ppm,

shale's at 0.58 ppm, and limestone at 0.07 ppm. Land plants have only 0.0015 ppm and land animals at 0.0004 ppm.

This element has the unique property that it will change its shape when placed in a magnetic field. This means a rod will grow longer or shorter depending on the magnetic field. This allows any solid material to be turned into a loud speaker; hence, it is used in many speaker applications. In making glass it is used as a coloring agent giving glass a beautiful red color. The amount of terbium in the human body is not known, and has no known biological role. Very little terbium is absorbed by plant roots hence very little gets into the food chain. Vegetables that have been studied had less than 1 ppb in them. The small amount absorbed by humans ends up in the bones.

Terbium is a rare earth element and is four times more costly than platinum. It is commonly used in lasers and low energy lighting.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Terbium (Tb)

No known issues good or bad.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks

66) Dysprosium (Dy)

Dysprosium is a shiny soft silvery metal that can be easily cut and can be machined without creating sparks. In its pure form, it is essentially worthless as it corrodes extremely fast. This rare earth element is found in igneous rocks at 3 ppm, shale at 4-6 ppm, and sandstone at 7.2 ppm while limestone only has 0.9 ppm.

This element is often used in combination with other elements to produce magnets with different properties. Dysprosium iodide (DyI_3) is used to make a red color found in high discharge lighting.

It is used to make extremely strong magnets, powerful beams of light and in nuclear reactors to absorb neutrons.

What little enters the food supply ends up in the bones of mammals at 0.01 ppm.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Dysprosium (Dy)

Plants roots absorb very little dysprosium and there is no published research on how it affects plants.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, Himalayan sea salt

67) Holmium (Ho)

The earth's crust contains 1.4 ppm of holmium and it is the 56th most abundant element and is 20 times more abundant than silver.

Of the rare earth elements, holmium's value is for its unique property called the "magnetic moment" and has the highest value of any element. This means when placed in a magnetic field the holmium atoms line up and concentrate the magnetic field making it more intense. This element is used in MRI machines because of this effect as it makes extremely strong magnets. Lasers used in eye-surgery use holmium as one the ingredients. Similar to other rare earth elements holmium is also used in making glass to give different colors often in the form holmium chloride (HoCl₃).

Scientists in Switzerland are using holmium atoms on a magnesium oxide surface to make the first single atom, data storage device. The atoms magnetic field was the zero or one of a data bit. The best hard drive data storage technology today requires over 10,000 atoms to store one bit of data. (Science News, April 15, 2017).

The exact effect of holmium on humans is unknown. However, laboratory studies have shown that it stimulates metabolism.

Plants do not readily absorb holmium hence very little gets into the food chain. Vegetables that were tested have less than 0.1 ppb.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Holmium (Ho)

Carya species can accumulate up to 16 ppm of this element.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks

68) Erbium (Er)

Erbium is another member of the rare earth family of elements. It is found in igneous rocks at 2.8 ppm, shale at 1.9 ppm, and sandstone at 1 ppm.

It is used in making special lasers used in dentistry to strip stain off tooth enamel. Erbium is also used in MRI equipment along with other rare earth elements and in nuclear reactors to absorb neutrons. A recent use of erbium is in communications systems where it can amplify a pulse of light in optical cables.

Erbium is used in making glass and ceramics as it gives it a soft pink color. Normally when we add energy to something the temperature will rise, however when erbium is added to glass and a laser is shined on it, it gets cooler!

Erbium has no known biological role. However, as in other of the rare earth elements erbium salts have been shown to stimulate metabolism.

Marine and land animals have very small amounts in their bones.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Erbium (Er)

Carya species can accumulate up to 46 ppm of this element.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks

69) Thulium (Tm)

Thulium occurs in the earth's crust at 0.5 ppm and is the 61st most abundant element.

Thulium is used in crystal matrices to make quantum memory devices and it is used to create a strong green light in many optical devices.

Thulium has no known biological role. However, as in other of the rare earth elements thulium salts have been shown to stimulate metabolism. When thulium is added to calcium sulfate, it will fluorescence when exposed to very low radiation levels.

Vegetables have less than 1 ppb of thulium. Marine and land animals have very small amounts in their bones.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Thulium (Tm)

There is no known effects of this element on plants.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks

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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**

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

TUE., SEPT. 19: UPDATE ON BROMELIAD ACTIVITIES AT SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS: FLORIDA AND BELIZE by BRUCE HOLST, 7:30pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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

SUN., SEPT. 24: DAYLILY ANCESTRY by MARY GAGE, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, Christian Life Center, Room #C112, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

WED., SEPTEMBER 27: "SIGHTS OF NAMIBIA" by DICK AND PHYLLIS MCEUEN, 7:30pm., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. Free. hcsstx.org.

SAT., SEPT 30: WOODLANDS LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS, 9 am-Noon; The Woodlands Township Parks, Recreation and Environmental Services, 8203 Millennium Forest Drive, The Woodlands. Free.

SAT., SEPTEMBER 30: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-Noon (or sell-out) Main entrance, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. hmns.org, 713-639-4753.

SUN., OCT. 1: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE #2, 12:30-5:30pm, Charles McElhinney Hall, University of Houston, Wheeler Ave @ Cullen. Urban Harvest event. \$65. Register: 713-880-5540 or urbanharvest.org

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

MON., OCT. 2: TAKING ROOT - PECKERWOOD GARDEN LUNCHEON, CHARLES A. BIRNBAUM SPEAKER, 11:30am, Junior League of Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane. Ticket s: mkt.com/peckerwood-garden-conservation-foundation/

THURS., OCT. 5: PRAIRIE PLANT RESTORATION ROUNDUP, 9am-3pm, Katy Prairie Conservancy Indiangrass Preserve, 3150 Herbert Rd., Waller. \$25-\$35. Register: katyprairie.org/events

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

SUN., OCT. 8: EDIBLE WILD PLANTS by DR. MARK VORDERBRUGGEN, 1-5pm, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway. \$70. Register: 713-681-8433, houstonarboretum.org

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: OLD ROSE TREASURES OF NEW ORLEANS - SURVIVING HEAT FLOODS AND HURRICANES by LEO WATERMEIER, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

THURS. OCT. 12: INDOOR PLANT PURIFIERS by LINDA GAY, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: hcmga.tamu.edu

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: FALL PLANT SALE. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 8am free presentation; 9am-noon sale. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

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.

SAT., OCT. 14: WILD BOUNTY by DR. MARK VORDERBRUGGEN, 6:30-8:30pm, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center 4501 Woodway. \$65. Register: 713-681-8433, houstonarboretum.org.

MON., OCT. 16: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PREC. 2 OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu

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

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

SAT., NOV. 4: OPEN GARDENS DAY. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 9-1 a.m. Free. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

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

THURS., NOV. 9: CITRUS TREES by MARY KHAZEN KARISH , 10 am , MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

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.

SAT., NOV. 18: PECAN CELEBRATION, 10am-noon Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway. \$35. Register: 713-681-8433, houstonarboretum.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.

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IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN
T HE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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<http://natureswayresources.com/>

ABOUT US

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN FERGUSON

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

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

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

MARK BOWEN

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

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

PABLO HERNANDEZ

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

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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