



Share:



-
-
-
-



DECEMBER 11, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 233rd 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!

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!](#)



A little below-freezing doesn't bother most bonsai. Houston Bonsai Society's Hurley Johnson took these snow-covered bonsai shots about a decade ago, but they could have been taken Friday morning!

GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

This column sort of bounces around from here to there to everywhere . . . Is there a better description of the way we all operate during this heartwarming but oh-so-hectic holiday season! Feel like I'm right in tune with most of you.

BONSAI SMILES WHILE OTHER CONTAINER PLANTS SHIVER!

WHILE MANY local gardeners scrambled around this week to protect their most tender plants, bonsai enthusiasts were - for the most part - smiling. Although these exquisite plants, perhaps more accurately called living works of art, may look so delicate, the vast majority are incredibly hardy and need no protection -- even down to 25 degrees, says Hurley Johnson of the Houston Bonsai Society and owner of Timeless Trees Bonsai Nursery.

Bonsai make a special Christmas gifts for someone who can appreciate the total significance of this ancient horticultural exercise. But do also include growing and winter protection advice for novices.

Hurley notes, "In Houston we have pretty mild winters, normally. With it only reach freezing temperatures for an hour or two before daylight." With this in mind, he recommends:

- Tropicals - bring them inside, or put them in your garage anytime it dips below 40 degrees.
- Conifers, deciduous, evergreens, etc. can tough it out through most winters. If it gets down below 25 degrees, (Very Rare) "I set the pots on the ground to protect the roots from freezing."

Bonsai traces its roots back to 6th Century and Zen Buddhism students returning from overseas travels. Bonsai literally translates s "planted in a container." Putting a very complex, sophisticated art form into the most elementary words, it is simply growing a wild tree inside a small vessel.

The best place to learn more about bonsai is from Houston Bonsai Society experts, many of whom are well known on the international scene. So intricate is the learning process, workshops are often limited in size, so early registration is a must. Good example, at this writing, only 3 spots are still open for the Sat., Dec. 16 Bonsai #1 Class at Timeless Trees Bonsai Nursery. (\$60, 9am-1pm, focus on repotting). 832-526-5962 The next Houston Bonsai Society meeting (open free to public) is Wed., Jan.3, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1556 Hermann Drive, with "Pinch Pots for Accent Plants" by Andy Sankowski. Complete schedule: houstonbonsaisociety.com

* * *

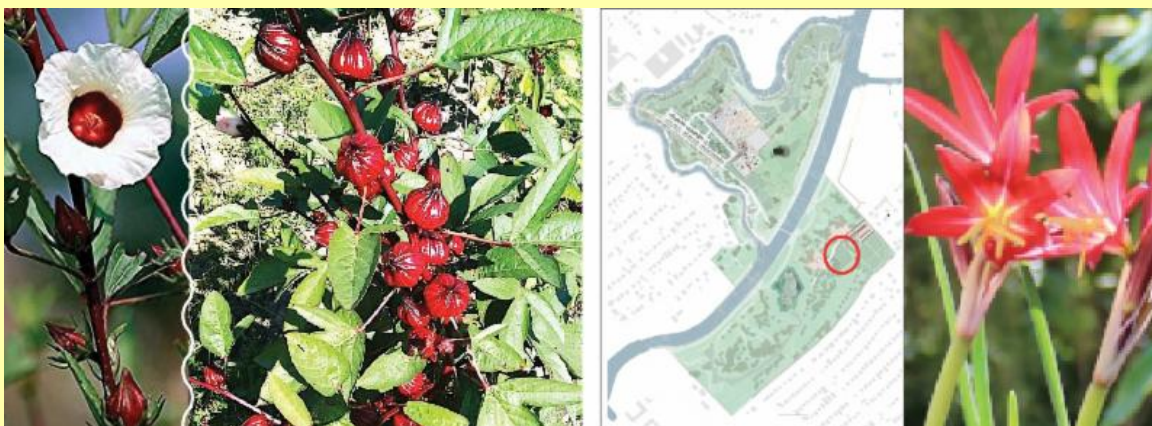
A LOT OF US DONATE AT CHRISTMAS TIME . . . below are some ideas for donations that keep on giving and encouraging gardening through the efforts of the recipient groups:

FREE ROSELLE PODS

Looking for more beautiful fall/winter color with uses far beyond the garden? Have you ever tried roselle

(left below)? Thanks to our warm, wet fall, Plant It Forward's roselle plantings produced an usually large seed supply of this hibiscus species that has uses far beyond beautiful longtime garden color (including hibiscus tea). They're offering seed for sale making Plant It Forward an extra smart choice for your Christmas donation list. This local, nonprofit community garden project helps refugees grow their own produce and to sell the excess to the public, restaurants and other outlets. Details: plant-it-forward.org/our-story/

Roselle is a species of hibiscus (probably native to West Africa), a wood-based shrub with 3-4" summer flowers and fire engine red seed pods. If it likes you, plants can shoot up 6-7' making it an excellent back-of-the-garden color source. It prefers full sun and good drainage. [More about roselle](#). Place your order (and check on supplies) by calling/texting 713-432-0754. Thanks for supporting your neighborhood farmers!



Left, roselle blooms and seed pods. Right, proposed Houston Botanic Garden and the Oxblood lily.

ARE YOU KEEPING UP WITH THE HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN?

HBG's newsletter, [Grow Houston's Garden](#), is a free way to follow the progress of this exciting project and to pick up great gardening tips as well. Now at a midpoint in Phase I, Board Chair Nancy O'Connor Abendshein notes have reached the \$20 million milestone with the City of Houston, bringing the garden a big step closer to reaching the \$30 million capital campaign goal and a 2020 opening.

Online maps tend to be wrong. It's not on Kirby Drive, where many sites say. It will be located west of the Gulf Freeway, south of I-610, between Park Place and Sims Bayou. It would be great to have a larger area map, with more streets actually named and the relationship to downtown Houston visible, to help readers grasp the location. But I couldn't find one.

In the meantime, however, it will be well worth every gardener's time to sign up for the free, quarterly, emailed newsletter: [Sign Up](#). In the Fall issue, for example, Dodie Jackson offers a fun look at one of our best fall-blooming bulbs (right above):

The Oxblood Lily (Rhodophiala bifida), Oxblood Lily is a Southern heirloom bulb that is a relative of the Amaryllis. It naturalizes in Texas and blooms in late summer/early fall. The bright, fiery red blooms seem to suddenly appear and the leaves follow as the blooms fade. They are a welcome begin to die back. Long before there were telephones and email, Texas settlers planted these bulbs in large drifts around public buildings, especially schoolhouses. The fall blooms signaled it was time for the children to return to school after the summer break.

* * *

MEANWHILE, AT OUR BOTANIC GARDEN ACROSS TOWN . . . So great to once again receive event notices from Mercer Botanic Gardens in N. Harris County! Mercer's Melodie Hill noted bus trips are substituting for usual on-site events Harvey made impossible for the time being. But the gardens are open and GREAT places to see which plants easily survived that August invader. Check the calendar for

Mercer's upcoming activities.

* * *



Left, a Madonna from Lucia's Garden will be among the items discounted in preparing for closing of the longtime herbal mecca. At right, my own fairy, purchased with Lucia's help, after she refused to part with hers like this.

REMEMBERING LUCIA . . . for those of us who adored longtime herbal guru, Lucia Bettler, a chance to remember her with a mementoes is coming up. [Lucia's Garden](#) , 2360 W Alabama , will officially close Dec. 16. Lucia's Garden was once described as ". . . a well known Houston gift/herbal shop and learning center that strives to nourish the body as well as the spirit."

The fairy silhouette at center above is mine. Whether or not the original (for me) that presided over Lucia's shop gardens for decades has been sold, I don't know. It was love at first sight for me, this shadow-y sprite. But -- despite much begging and pleading -- Lucia refused to sell it to me. It meant as much to her as it touched me. Decades of begging paid off, however. One day she called to say she found another one for sale. Did I still want it? I didn't care the cost. I not only bought it, Lucia started me off on my own fairy-style silhouette collection that now numbers in the dozens.

Lucia's Garden Manager Joel Miles is offering inviting discounts on the inventory until closing. For those of you who emailed to ask about Lucia's wonderful husband, fellow herbalist and gardening teacher, Michael, he is coping with his medical challenges as a resident at [St. Dominic Village](#) here in Houston.

* * *

TIP O' THE TROWEL TO JOHN JONS, Galveston County Master Gardener, who has been awarded the prestigious designation of "Master Rosarian" by the American Rose Society (ARS), South Central District. John currently grows more than 100 roses and hundreds of hybridized rose seedlings, conducts independent rose research and continues to hybridize new "Texas Tough" roses. You can meet John at:

- **TUE. JAN 30: HOW TO GROW ROSES SUCCESSFULLY** by JOHN JONS, , 6:30-8:30 pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

* * *

THIS LAND IS OUR LAND . . . FOR NOW

We owe so many of our national forests, parks, wildlife refuges and national monuments to the foresight of President Theodore Roosevelt. The lasting impact of this President's love of our natural treasures is the focus of the 28th Annual Sadie Gwin Blackburn Environmental Seminar "Protecting America's Treasures."

Teddy Roosevelt, as portrayed by *reprisor*/impersonator Joe Wiegand, has brought audiences to their feet time after time. The free presentation will be Thursday, Jan. 11, at the Museum of Fine Arts Brown Auditorium, Caroline Weiss Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet. (9:30am coffee; 10am program).

Groups should consider, if not all members can attend, sending a representative to then report back to members. Great meeting program! No reservations needed. River Oaks Garden Club event.
riveroaksgc.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. To sign up for this free,
weekly Greater Houston area gardening report or to read past issues, go to [www.natureswayresources .com](http://www.natureswayresources.com).***

JOHN'S CORNER

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #30

If one read the book review on "White Washed" last week then this will not surprise you. Thirty faculty members of Washington State (WSU) Agricultural College stated they are being told what to do by the College Administrators, whom are controlled by industry. The administrators hire and fire, set research goals, and criteria based on what industry tells them in order to get industry funding. Capital Press News.

The Rodale Institute has release a report that studied using CMD-CE (chemically and microbially designed compost extracts) for organic weed suppression. They found that the compost extracts reduced weed biomass by 50% and 28% in post-planting and pre-planting treatment compared to the standard treatment (cultivation). The extract also reduced compaction in the soils.

The genetically modified (GMO) Golden Rice was advertized to be a solution for vitamin A shortages around the world and has been in use for 20 years. It has been a complete failure in spite of all the advertizing and governments pushing it onto farmers. Yields are only about 1/3 of regular varieties like Swarna. One has to eat many *pounds* of the dried rice to get even the minimal daily amount of vitamin A. Independent Science News October 2017.

A new form of stewardship called "Conservation Burials" is growing in popularity. The USA already has several natures preserves that permit natural burial without the chemicals used in embalming. The deceased family saves a large amount of money on caskets, embalming fluids, grave liners, etc. and the small fee they pay goes to care for the nature preserve. In addition, all the minerals in the body are returned to the soil, to stimulate new life, completing the natural cycle. <https://greenburialcouncil.org/>

A new study from Harvard University's T. H. Chan School of Public Health has found a correlation between fertility issues and the food people eat. Subjects that consumed more than 2.3 servings of high residue fruits and vegetables had an 18% lower change of getting pregnant and a 23% lower chance of successfully giving birth. They used the Environmental Working Group's Dirty Dozen as a reference. Fruits and vegetables with the highest levels of pesticides on them are spinach, strawberries, and peaches. Those with the lowest levels are avocados and onions. The reasons to buy and eat only organic foods continue to grow.

More and more people want organic food, sales of organic food now have reached \$47 billion! We have known for years now that food quality deteriorates quickly after harvesting. When food is shipped from other countries, taking days or even weeks there is not much value left in it. As a result, more and more people are buying from CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) and the demand for fresh nutrient dense food far exceeds the supply. In the November 3rd issue of Natural News there was an article on how a couple earns a

six figure income on only 1.5 acres of land. They wrote a book that tells how they do it to help others; "The Market Gardener: A Successful Grower's Handbook for Small Scale Organic Farming."

A study out of Italy from the University of Milan, published in the Journal Frontiers in Microbiology have identified a wild yeast (a type of fungi) that is a more effective than a pesticide in preventing common grape molds. When I read articles like this, it makes me remember this verse from the book of Job: " Job 12:8 (NASB) "Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; And let the fish of the sea declare to you ."

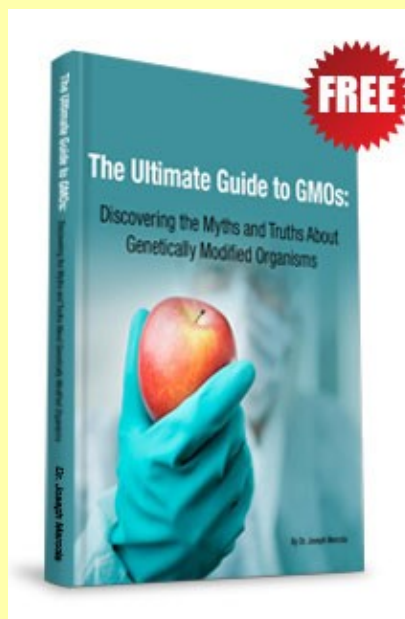
In this month, HortTechnology Journal researchers found that Horticultural Oils and Insecticidal Soaps were effective in the control of Armored and Soft Scales even when diluted to 2%. They were most effective when the scale was only a day old. When fully mature the treatments were less effective.

Evidence that our food supply worldwide is in bad shape continues to emerge. A study in the Journal Lancet has found that over the last 40 years, the number of children and teens with obesity has greatly increased to over 124 million! It has increased 10 fold for girls and 12 fold for boys. At the same time, there are 117 million boys and 75 million girls that are moderately to severely under weight.

A study published in the Journal Nature Communications, "Strategies for feeding the world more sustainably with organic agriculture", has found to solve many of the world's environmental problems and to protect the human race we have to eliminate the negative consequences of conventional toxic chemical rescue agriculture. Note: Modern methods based on organic techniques reduce the land required to grow food (food has higher nutrient density), less energy require, less pollution, less potions on our food, less contributions to global warming (greenhouse emissions), etc. I remember reading an article about ten years ago, that stated if we had to pay the "true" cost of conventional agriculture (environmental destruction, health problems, etc.), a hamburger at McDonald's would cost over \$ 500!

Researchers at Cornell University published in the Proceedings of The Royal Society, found that in addition to pesticides, fungicides are killing our bees. Chlorothalonil, a general use fungicide was found to one of the worst in hurting bees. When fungicide and pesticide exposure are combined the effect on our bees is even more damaging. Bees contribute over \$ 15 billion to the US economy every year.

Dr. Mercola has published a free booklet (25 pages) on the dangers of eating GMO foods. It is easy to understand and read and a great way for people to learn how GMO's are creating so many of our health problems. It can be downloaded at <http://www.mercola.com/ebook/gmo-foods.aspx>



Along the same lines, the International Journal of Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine had an article on how to reverse 28 health conditions by switching to a diet that does not contain GMO's. These health problems range from leaky gut and fatigue to obesity.

A study in the journal Antiviral Research, has found that curcumin from the spice turmeric acts against Zika and Chikungunya viruses that are spread by mosquitoes.

* * *

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE READ BEFORE

SUBMITTING AN EVENT TO THIS CALENDAR.

NO EVENTS ARE PICKED UP FROM NEWSLETTERS! SUBMIT WITH REQUEST FOR CALENDAR PUBLICATION

Events **NOT** submitted in **EXACT** written calendar format below may take 2+ weeks to be posted.

After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us. Adult gardening/plants events only

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!**

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

SAT., DEC 9: GROWING TOMATOES FROM SEED by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11am; JOURNEY OF TWO FRUGAL MASTER GARDENERS: IN THE BEGINNING - PROPAGATION by NANCY LANGSTO & BRENDA SLOUGH, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., DEC. 9: CITRUS TASTING, 9am-noon, AgriLife Extension office, 21017 CR 171 Angleton. Free. Brazoria County Master Gardener event. txmg.org/brazoria; 979-864-1558; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/brazoria

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

SAT., DEC 23: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

WED., JAN. 3: PINCH POTS FOR ACCENT PLANTS by ANDY SANKOWSKI, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1556 Hermann Drive. Free. Houston Bonsai Society event. houstonbonsaisociety.com

THURS., JAN. 4: BEGINNINGS OF ENCHANTED GARDENS & THE LENDERMAN FAMILY by DENISE LOPEZ, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

SAT., JAN 6: PECKERWOOD GARDEN NORTH DRY GARDEN & ADJACENT PLANTINGS TOUR, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. REGISTER: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org; peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

SAT. JAN 6: GROWING AVOCADO & PAPAYA by JERRY HURLBERT, 9-11am; GROWING PEACHES IN GALVESTON COUNTY by HERMAN AUER, 1-3:30 pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., JAN. 06: KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL HOME FRUIT PRODUCTION, 9-11am, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Road, Rosenberg. Fort Bend Master Gardener event. fbmg.org; 281-341-7068; FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu

MON., JAN 8: GETTING YOUR BEDS READY FOR BULBS by FLORA TIELDT, 9:30am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

WED. JAN. 10: TREES OF HOUSTON: HOW TO PREPARE FOR SPRING, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens West Side Arboretum Pavilion, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

THURS., JAN. 11: MODERN ROSES FOR A TROUBLED EARTH by LOTHAR BEHNKE, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

THU. JAN 11: COLLECTION & STORAGE OF BUD WOOD FOR GRAFTING by SUE JEFFCO, 9-10 am; Galveston County Master Gardeners' Discovery Garden, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THURS., JAN. 11: PROTECTING AMERICA'S TREASURES by JOE WIEGAND, 10am, Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet. Free. 28th Annual Sadie Gwin Blackburn Environmental Seminar. River Oaks Garden Club event. riveroaksgc.org

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

SAT., JAN. 13: BEAUTY'S COMMUNITY GARDEN PEACE THROUGH P.I.E. CONTEST, 10:30am-1pm, St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 4300 N. Shepherd. Free. peace-throughpie.eventbrite.com; beautysgarden1@gmail.com; 832-910-8261

SAT. JAN 13: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES, PART 2 OF 3, by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11am; KITCHEN GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., JAN. 13: FRUIT & CITRUS TREE SALE, 9am-noon, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. Fort Bend Master Gardener event. fbmg.org; 281-341-7068; FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu

TUE. JAN 16: SQUARE-FOOT GARDENING, by JOHN JONS, 6:30-8:30pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THU. JAN 18: WEDGE GRAFTING, by SUE JEFFCO, 9-10am; Galveston County Master Gardeners' Discovery Garden in Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., JAN 20: PECKERWOOD GARDEN EVENING AT PECKERWOOD LECTURE TOPIC TBA, 7pm, Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. REGISTER: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

SAT. JAN 20: SUCCESSFUL SPRING VEGETABLES, by HERMAN AUER, GCMG Vegetable Specialist, 9-11:30am; SMALL TREES, SMALL YARDS by SANDRA DEVALL, 1-3:30pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

TUE. JAN 23: GARDEN TOOL TALK, by HENRY HARRISON, III, AND TIM JAHNKE, 6:30-8:30pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

WED., JAN.24: FUN HARDY PLANTS & PRECISION PRUNING by LINDA B. GAY, 7pm, Height's Firehouse, 107 W. 12th. Free. Houston Height's Association. houstonheights.org

SAT., JAN 27: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

SUN., JAN. 28: AVOID ST ARVATION: DEVELOPING THE RIGHT FEEDING PROGRAM FOR PLANTS AND FACTORS THAT MAKE FERTILIZERS INEFFECTIVE by GAYE HAMMOND, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, Christian Life Center, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

WED., JAN. 31: BROOKWOOD GIFT & GARDEN CENTER TOUR, 8am-4:30pm, Senior Adult Botanic Bus Trip, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$1. Register: 713-274-4160

SAT., FEB. 4: NATURE EXPLORE EDUCATOR WORKSHOP, 9am-noon, a Mercer Botanic Gardens event at Big Stone Lodge, 709 Riley Fuzzel Rd, Spring. \$40. Register: natureexplore.org/workshops/educator-workshops

WED., FEB. 14: HISTORIC TEXAS TREES, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens West Side Arboretum Pavilion, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FEB 17, 2018: SPRING PLANT SALE PRE-SALE PRESENTATION, 8-8:50am; SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am-1 pm, Location: Galveston County Fairgrounds, Jack Brooks Park-Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 and Jack Brooks Rd, Hitchcock. 281-309-5065

SAT., FEB. 24: NATURE EXPLORER EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS (2), 9am-noon and 1-4pm; Mercer Botanic Garden event at Big Stone Lodge 709 Riley Fuzzel Rd, Spring. \$40 each. Register: natureexplore.org/workshops/educator-workshops

SUN., FEB. 25: DAYLILY BLOOM DESCRIPTION by JEANNIE MALLICK, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, Christian Life Center, Room #C112, 5920 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77388. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

MO N., FEB. 26: SOIL FOOD WEB & COMPOST AND MULCHES, 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble. Texas Gulf Coast Gardener program. Register: Jennifer L. Garrison, 713-274-4160

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

SAT., MAR. 10: VEGETABLE & HERB PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Fort Bend County AgriLife Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. Fort Bend Master Gardener event. fbmg.org; 281-341-7068; FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu

WED., MAR. 21: SNAKE IDENTIFICATION, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens West Side Arboretum Pavilion, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

SUN., MAR. 25: STEWARDSHIP OF THE SOIL by JOHN FERGUSON, 6pm, Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Webinar, Lisa Brenskelle, brenskelle@aol.com

SUN., MAR. 25: HIBISCUS CARE by MARTI GRAVES, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, Christian Life Center, Room #C112, 5920 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77388. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

WED., MAR. 28: NATURE'S WAY RESOURCES HORTICULTURAL TOUR, 10:15am-4:30pm, Senior Adult Botanic Bus Trip, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. \$1. Register: 713-274-4160

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

SAT., APR. 21: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING SHOW, Noon-4pm, Memorial City Mall, 303 Memorial City Way. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

WED., APR. 25: PECKERWOOD GARDENS TOUR, 8:15am - 4:30pm, Senior Adult Botanic Bus Trip, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. \$1. Register: 713-274-4160

MON., MAY 14: INTRODUCTION TO THE SOIL FOOD WEB by JOHN FERGUSON, 6:30pm, University of Houston at Clear Lake, Forest Room on East of Bayou Building. Native Plant Society of Texas at Clear Lake Martha Richeson, 713-962-7747

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 . . .

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

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

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS



<http://www.yearroundhouston.com/>





<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.



**Save
50%**

**END OF SEASON CLEARANCE SALE AT NATURE'S WAY
RESOURCES**

MOST PLANTS 50% OFF (WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS)

101 SHERBROOK CIRCLE, CONROE TX
www.natureswayresources.com or 936-321-6990

Offer Expires: WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.