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JANUARY 29, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 237th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

This newsletter is a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith, John Ferguson and Mark Bowen (John and Mark are with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . E mail your thoughts to: [lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com). Thanks so much for your interest.

Please [click here](#) 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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## BLUE MOON . . . PURPLE'S IN! . . . PLUMERIA & BAMBOO SURVIVAL CHANCES

*Blue moon is such 'a' rarity / Your secrets kept within your entity  
Locked away in your heart of hearts / Your magic never ends once it starts*

*Blue moon is 'a' gone / How I admired you as you shone  
You're off to sleep for another day/ But in my dreams you will always stay...*

*-- Deep Dark Soul Poet*

**by Brenda Beust Smith**

Most folks looking at the Super Blue Blood Moon on Wednesday, January 31, will be marveling at this extraordinary celestial event -- one so rare, in fact, it last occurred in 1866.

But gardeners who "plant by the moon" will be thinking:

- Need to hurry up and plant annual flowers and vegetables that bear crops above ground planted before Jan. 31. Time's running out! They should be planted between the new and full moon.
- Fortunately still have time to put in flowering bulbs, biennial and perennial flowers, and vegetables that bear crops below ground. These need to be planted between the full moon and the new moon.

Why does this seem to work? Skeptics may scoff. But believers swear that when the moon is new (barely visible), lunar gravity pulls water up, and causes the seeds to swell and burst. This factor, coupled with the gradually increasing moonlight creates balanced root and leaf growth. That, they say, is the best time for planting above ground bearing annual crops that produce their seeds outside the fruit.

Just be sure you check specific plants against a LOCAL planting guide. We live in a unique subtropical pocket. Our prime planting times don't always coincide with those in other areas of the country. [Urban Harvest Planting Guides](#)

On top of that, another cold spell is predicted for us in a week or so. The next full moon will be Feb. 15.

Planting isn't the only growth affected. Plant-by-the-moon gardeners say, this year, the best days to discourage growth are Feb. 8-10 and March 9. Best days to encourage growth Feb. 18-20. (Of course, this may apply more to haircuts than gardening.)

Sometimes the moon looks blue, sometimes red. Sometimes it's just an eerie red glow around a bluish moon. It all depends on how the particles are scattered, how the atmosphere bends the light. This rare event is the origin of the idiom "once in a blue moon."

Whether your moon is red or blue, depending on your location, the weather, etc., put those two colors

together and what do you get? Pantone's "2018 Color of the Year." Purple.

(Who else would tell you these things?)

Purple always calls to mind one of my favorite poems:

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me . . .  
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain  
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens  
-- Jenny Joseph, 1961*

(Note: Jenny just passed away on January 8, 2018, at age 85).

Pantone actually calls its Color of the Year Ultra Violet, "a dramatic purple shade that represents authenticity, experimentation and inspired visionary ideas."

It's all great fun, of course. But, in truth, colors can and do influence our emotions, even in the garden, just as our flower color choices often reflect our own inner spirits.



*L to r, pansies, Louisiana iris, salvia, morning glory and even plumerias. Note: many so-called "purple" plumerias, such as this 'jl metalica,' tend to produce different shade in different locations. So beware when buying!*

Generally speaking, purple's a bit of a split-personality color. On one hand, it's said to have the power to calm, lift spirits, stimulate creativity. It's the color of wealth and status. The highest value poker chip (\$5,000) is purple. The Purple Heart is symbolic of bravery.

On the other hand, purple's a commonly used color for cartoon villains. Heroes usually wear red and blue.

One thing's for sure. We have no problem finding purple (in all its various shades & hues) in nurseries. But to get the most out of your purple flowers, remember:

- Dark purple gets lost easily in a garden unless paired with, or planted in front of, lighter complimentary colors, such as white, silver or yellow flowered / leaf plants.
- Mixing various purples in the garden also draws the eye.

\* \* \*



*A few of Sharon's many, MANY plumerias!*

**DON'T GIVE UP ON ON PLUMERIAS!** Sharon Beust Sanchez in Texas City, commenting on Barbara Canetti's ["Is It Dead-Dead? Or Just Dormant?"](#) Spotlight Article last week, sent in these words of

encouragement about freeze-damaged plumerias (frangipani, Hawaiian lei flowers).

*"One year a few of our plumeria looked dead. We trimmed them back and waited. And waited. About August we decided it was time to throw them out. Just as Ernie was about to pitch them, a peek of green was at the base. We still have them. Don't give up!"*

*(In the interest of truth in reporting, yes, Sharon is my cousin. She and her husband Ernie Sanchez -- well known Texas City pharmacist, are longtime plumeria growers. When they speak, I listen.)*

\* \*

**IS MY BAMBOO DEAD-DEAD?** In our Spotlight Article below, Houston horticulturist extraordinaire Linda Gay offers more "Is it dead-dead?" hope, this time to bamboo enthusiasts. Since bamboo is considered one of the most primitive grasses on the planet, it's hard to imagine these will be killed by our relatively quick freezes.

Linda, former director of Mercer Botanic Gardens, helped establish the incredible bamboo forest at Mercer, a living plant library in north Harris County. Linda's a member of the Austin-based [Texas Bamboo Society](#). I find it amazing we have no Houston Bamboo Society, given how popular and useful the right varieties are along the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. *(If anyone wants to start such a chapter, be glad to give you lots of publicity!)*

By the way, I had to look up "culm"! That's what they call the bamboo's jointed stalk. Speaking of bamboo, Kathy Huber has a great article on "[Zen in the Garden](#)" in Sunday's Houston Chronicle, pointing out the importance of knowing which varieties to buy. The good ones are REALLY good for our environment.

And, speaking of purple, right next to Kathy's section cover piece was Gary Clark's [Time to Get Ready for Purple Martins to Arrive](#). Both well worth checking out.

And now . . . bamboo.

\* \* \*

***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 read past issues, go to [natureswayresources.com](http://natureswayresources.com)***

\* \* \*





*Linda said her Bambusa chungii 'Barbellata' (left) didn't seem to suffer like her Bambusa emeiensis 'Viridiflavus' (right) and her others did*

## BOO HOO.....WHAT TO DO WITH MY BAMBOO???

**By: LINDA B. GAY**  
Horticulturist

These blustery winter days have certainly wreaked havoc with our giant tropical bamboos, so what is a gardener to do? Do nothing for now as long as we continue to get some rain to keep the roots moist but not over wet.

We still have the month of February to live through with more projected freezing, cold weather. Many of the bamboo plants are showing brown leaves on green culms which tell me they are alive and well. The brown leaves are caused by wind desiccation (drying) and cold temperatures.

With this being the case, just wait until after last frost and then rake the leaves and mulch away from the base, put 5-10# of organic fertilizer around the outside of the culm (3' out) and top dress with compost at least 3' out from the edge of the plant.

New leaves will push off the brown leaves as this technique will nourish the feeder roots and promote many new shoots from the base of the plant. The main tip is if your culm is green it will resprout!

If growing a more tender bamboo, this will be easily recognized because the "culms" (shoots) will be brown and dead and they won't have any leaves on them. Culms will need to be removed by cutting the bottom of the shoot at soil level.

You may have a Zone 10 bamboo like *Bambusa oldhamii* where all the culms froze and will need to be removed at soil level. The new shoots will be small and you will have to start over getting to those large culms again. If this is the case, I recommend replacing the bamboo with a much hardier one.

The most common, cold hardy bamboos are, l to r, below: *Bambusa textilis* 'Gracilis', *Bambusa chungii* 'Barbellata' and *Bambusa multiplex* varieties.



L to r, below: *Bambusa textilis* 'Gracilis', *B. chungii* 'Barbellata' and *Bambusa multiplex* varieties.

\* \* \*

*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 past issues, go to [natureswayresources.com](http://natureswayresources.com)*

## JOHN'S CORNER

### NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #34

For years, it was assumed that dead trees had 3-4 species of fungi in them that was being used to breakdown the lignin, cellulose, and hemi-cellulose. A study from the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research has found that a dead tree can have over 1,254 types of fungi. They also found that the species used for decomposition in Oaks were different from the species in Ash trees, and the Douglass Fir had the most diversity.

A study in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry found that exposure to the herbicide Atrazine; it changed the ratio of males to females in frogs. Male frogs would develop testicular ova or even totally reverse their sex.

A study in the Journal Oecology from Purdue University, found that when a cover crop was used in fallow fields, there was a large increase in ground beetles that feed on seeds of weeds. The cover allowed other small mammals that eat weed seeds to forage. The results were that 3-4 times more weed seeds were eliminated. For gardeners this supports other studies that have shown that when our flowerbeds are full of plants to where their leaves touch each other and one only uses the modern organic methods, they have very few weed problems.

Another way glyphosate found in the herbicide Round-Up hurts ones health was discovered. The "gly" in glyphosate stands for glycine a common amino acid found in our bodies and used to make proteins. When one ingests glyphosate from eating foods like GMO's and non-organic foods, the glyphosate molecule is used instead of glycine and results in non-functional proteins. This also occurs if one breaths the fumes or it gets on ones hands during application. Additionally, glyphosate destroys what is known as the shikimate pathway in microbes. As a result, it disrupts our microbiome in our digestive system, which accounts for 70-80% of our immune system, which then leads to digestive disorders and other health problems.

A paper in the journal Brain, Behavior, and Immunity by a team of researcher in Denmark, has found that an unhealthy diet leads to depression as it disrupts a healthy biome in our digestive system. When one eats organically grown foods, we receive many beneficial microbes that are good for our health. OHBA (Organic Horticultural Benefits Alliance) is sponsoring a seminar by David Montgomery

and Anne Bikle, on regenerative agriculture and the link between the soil biome and the human biome on March 21, 2018.

Researchers at King's College in London have found that being outdoors, seeing birds, sky, trees, etc. and just being in contact with nature promoted higher levels of mental well being. This is another good reason to be an organic gardener.

Researchers at the University of Illinois have found that honeybees are attracted to the fungicide chlorothalonil. Honeybees and wild bees do not have the detoxifying enzymes and when exposed to this fungicide, there was a decline in populations. The researchers also found that the bees were attracted to food with glyphosate (Round-Up) on it, even as little as 10 parts per billion. Most gardeners care about their health. Independent laboratories have found that 17 make-up products from Clair contained the cancer-causing tremolite asbestos. In addition, the Justice Blush product contained four heavy metals. Many of these contaminated products were aimed at children. Natural News January 10, 2018.

Reasons to grow our own fruits and vegetables continue to increase. New studies from the USDA and FDA have found that 85% of the 10,000 samples they tested contained pesticide residues. The neurotoxic pesticide chlorpyrifos was the fourth most common. Note: The EPA was going to ban this pesticide since it is extremely toxic to children until the new director stopped it. Imported varieties of foods were more likely to contain pesticide residues that have been banned in the USA. Since the EPA raised the amount of pesticide residues allowed on foods in July 2013, most are now within allowable limits. In 1993 only very few people had glyphosate (Round-Up) in their urine, but by 2016 over 70% of those tested had glyphosate breakdown products in their urine. Not only did the amount of exposure increase the levels increased by 1,208%!

We continue to learn that nutrition from plants can convey major health benefits. The molecule known as AMPK was identified in 1973 for its ability to regenerate cells. We now know that it also has many other health benefits. In a randomized study, it was found that an extract from the herb called Southern Ginseng (*Gynostemma pentaphyllum*) reduces belly fat by over 6%; however, the dangerous visceral fat was reduced by 11%. Life Extension, January 2018

Another plant *Camellia sinensis* or Tea plant has been found to provide many health benefits in the form of green tea (where the leaves have not been processed as done to make oolong or black teas). This tea is very effective in protecting one from colorectal cancers. Life Extension, January 2018

\* \* \*

## 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](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)  
DO NOT CREATE LINKS IN YOUR SUBMISSION!!! WE WILL DO THAT.**

**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!**

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

WED., JAN. 31: BOTANICAL SIDE OF BEVERAGES - KATZ COFFEE & KARBACH BREWING CO., 9:45am - 4:30pm, Senior Adult Botanic Bus Trip, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$4. Register: 713-274-416

THURS., FEB. 1: HISTORY OF BAYOU BEND AND IMA HOGG by DINAH WEEMS, 10am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [ncgctx.org](http://ncgctx.org)

SAT. FEB 3: SIMPLY SUCCULENTS by PAULA SPLETTER, 9-11am; GROWING BACKYARD CITRUS with ROBERT MARSHALL, 1-3pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free. Register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com). 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT., FEB. 3: BACKYARD & SMALL SCALE COMPOSTING by JOHN FERGUSON, 2:45-4pm, Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association Conference - TOFGA 2018 Sheraton Hotel, Georgetown / 1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, Evan Driscoll, 512-947-7836

SAT., FEB. 3: BERRY DELICIOUS! ENJOY FRUITS OF YOUR GARDEN, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road, 713-292-0898. [corneliusnurseries.com](http://corneliusnurseries.com)

SAT., FEB. 3: SOIL PREPARATION by CINDY CHAMPION, 11am-noon, Wabash Feed and Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd. Free. Register: [wabashfeed.com/calendar/](http://wabashfeed.com/calendar/), 713-863-8322.

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](http://natureexplore.org/workshops/educator-workshops)

MON., FEB 5: EASTER EGG TERRARIUM BY THERESA GUNLOCK, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. [tomballgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:tomballgardenclub@gmail.com)

WED., FEB. 7: DEVELOPING MAPLE BONSAI by SERGUI CUAN, 7:30pm Hermann Park. Houston Bonsai Society event. [houstonbonsaisociety.com/calendar](http://houstonbonsaisociety.com/calendar)

THURS., FEB .8: BETTER PRUNING FOR BETTER BLOOMING by HRS CONSULTING ROSARIANS 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

SAT. FEB 10: PLANTING FRUIT TREES, by HERMAN AUER, 9-10:30am; Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free. Register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com). 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT., FEB. 10: BUILD YOUR OWN TERRARIUMS, 10:15am, Cornelius Nursery, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road, 713-292-0898. [corneliusnurseries.com](http://corneliusnurseries.com)

SAT., FEB. 10: MEET & GREET SAN JACINTO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 10am-1PM, Coldspring Community Center, E, 101 W Cedar Ave, Coldspring. <https://txmg.org/sjmg>

SAT., FEB. 10: POLLINATOR CLASS: EASY TIPS FOR GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD by Lauren Simpson, 9:30-11am, Memorial Hermann Greater Heights, 1635 N. Loop West, B & E Classrooms. Beauty's Garden event. Free. [facebook.com/beautyscommunitygarden](https://facebook.com/beautyscommunitygarden)

SAT., FEB. 10: BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT TREE SALE, 8 am-12 pm, Brazoria County Fairgrounds 901 South Downing Rd Angleton. Brazoria County Master Gardener event. [txmg.org/brazoria](http://txmg.org/brazoria)

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

SAT., FEB. 17: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TOMATO, PEPPER & HERB SALE, location TBA. [hcmga.tamu.edu/public/pubSales.aspx](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/public/pubSales.aspx)



SAT., FEB. 17: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm; Educational Seminar, 8am, County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 6, Hitchcock. Free. 281-309-5065. [Flyer](#).

SAT., FEB. 17: ORGANICS IN SOIL FOR TURF BUILDING by GREG COOPER, 11am-noon, , Wabash Feed and Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd. Free. Register: [wabashfeed.com/calendar/](http://wabashfeed.com/calendar/), 713-863-8322

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](http://natureexplore.org/workshops/educator-workshops)

SAT., FEB. 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PRECINCT 2 FRUIT TREE & TOMATO SALE, Pasadena Fairgrounds. [hcmga.tamu.edu/public/pubSales.aspx](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/public/pubSales.aspx)

SAT. FEB 24: HOW TO GROW NATIVE MILKWEED, by BARBARA KELLER-WILLY, 1-3 pm; Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free. Register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com). 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT.-SUN., FEB. 24-25: COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, First Christian Church, 3500 W. Loop 336N, Conroe. [coushattacamelliassociety.com](http://coushattacamelliassociety.com); 713-865-6482.

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](http://www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

MON. FEB. 26: SOIL FOOD WEB, COMPOST AND MULCHES by JOHN FERGUSON, 9am-noon, John Ferguson, 9 a.m. to noon, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble. Texas Gulf Coast Gardener program Contact Jennifer L. Garrison, Ph: 713-274-4160

WED., FEB. 28: SOIL, YOUR ULTIMATE WATER RESERVOIR-TAPPING THE POTENTIAL by JOHN FERGUSON, 7pm, HARC offices, 8801 Gosling Rd. Woodlands Green, A Walk In The Woods Lecture Series. Paul Nelson

SAT.-SUN., MAR. 3-4: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB 39th ANNUAL SHOW & SPRING SALE, Sat.:1-5pm show, 9am-5pm sale; Sun. show & sale 10am-3pm., Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, [kjwross@yahoo.com](mailto:kjwross@yahoo.com)

THURS., MAR. 8: HOW TO GROW (OR KILL) ORCHIDS IN THREE EASY STEPS by ELIZABETH FISHER, 10 am , MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [ncgctx.org](http://ncgctx.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](http://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](http://fbmg.org); 281-341-7068; [FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu)

TUES. MAR. 13: INTRODUCTION TO THE SOIL FOOD WEB, by JOHN FERGUSON, 10:30 am, Meadowbrook Garden Club, Bonnie Calkins, 281-650-0726

SAT., MAR. 17: MARCH MART, 10am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160. [facebook.com/events/437776423232152](https://facebook.com/events/437776423232152)

SAT. MAR 17: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11am; COMPOSTING with 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](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

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

THU. MAR 22: FIG TREE PRUNING & PROPAGATION, by TERRY CUCLIS, 9-10am; Galveston County Master Gardener Discovery Garden, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. , Free. Register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT., MAR. 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PEPPER, PERENNIAL & VEGETABLE SALE. Pasadena Fairgrounds. [hcmga.tamu.edu/public/pubSales.aspx](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/public/pubSales.aspx)

SAT. MAR 24: BENEFICIALS IN THE GARDEN by DR. WILLIAM M. JOHNSON, 1-3pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SUN., MAR. 25: STEWARDSHIP OF THE SOIL by JOHN FERGUSON, 6pm, Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Webinar, Lisa Brenskelle, [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto: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](http://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., APR. 6: SOILS by JOHN FERGUSON, Liberty Garden Club, Ellen Gossett, (409) 350-1109

SAT., APRIL 7.: WHITE OAK GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE, 10am-2pm (or sell-out); SALE PREVIEW by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 9am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free.  
[nmd.org](http://nmd.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

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

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## ABOUT US

### BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## JOHN FERGUSON

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

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

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

## MARK BOWEN

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

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

## PABLO HERNANDEZ

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

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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