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FEBRUARY 7, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 238th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

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

Please or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!](#)



## COPING WITH WINTER UGLIES (LIKE SAD SAGOS) & A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF DEAD PLANTS

by Brenda Beust Smith

If you think this winter's a bummer for gardening, think again. Urban Harvest to the rescue, reminding us in their latest newsletter that "*there's still plenty of time to plant cool weather favorites.*"

If your garden has empty spots, Urban Harvest urges, add seeds of "short day" varieties of, l to r below, carrots, arugula, radishes, lettuces, and bok choi. These should be ready by to harvest by Spring Break. ( *Different colleges have different dates, but most popular seems to be March 10-18*).



With edibles, the right variety is the key to success. If you're into edible gardening & not an Urban Harvest member, you're missing out on great free advice very specifically for our area. Not only do they have an extraordinary line-up of edibles classes across the Greater Houston area, they're an excellent resource for information on starting or finding farmers markets, school and/or community gardens, to name just a few of the local groups under the Urban Harvest umbrella. Great way to start your gardening year: Join [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

\* \* \*

**SPEAKING OF DAMAGED LANDSCAPES**, every gardener should be concerned about the horrors wreaked by our severe flooding problems before we all have to start including aqua-plants in our designs. Urban Harvest is hosting one of our area's most respected environmental lawyers/advocates, Jim Blackburn, speaking on "Making Houston a Resilient City: Flooding, Carbon and Food" on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 6:30pm at the Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. (\$20; with both paid and free parking available: [Details](#))

\* \* \*



*To remove or not to remove these dead fronds . . . that is the question!*

**WHAT TO DO ABOUT SAD SAGO?** Becky Hitt was the first of several readers to ask about frost damaged sago palms. Becky's wonders: "Assuming it might still be alive, should I cut off every frond since everyone is more than 50% brown?"

As I've often said, my real expertise lies in knowing where the "real" experts are. Answering Becky's plea is Grant Stephenson, palm expert and frequent guest lecturer, will be in town soon to consult with the Houston Arboretum. This exciting central Houston nature treasure in Memorial Park is planning some major changes we'll detail in next week's newsletter.

Before someone writes in to point out sagos are cycads, not palms, know that experts like Grant gladly offer advice on this prehistoric plant group too. He warns it's best to leave foliage on the caudex (the center "stalk" from which the fronds grow, pictured at right above). The fronds' weight helps keep the crown (top of caudex) open so new healthy growth can emerge. Cutting dead fronds off often causes a weight imbalance, constricting the caudex, resulting in deformed or stunted new growth.

Grant's not insensitive to the visual mess this leaves. He's seen people spray natural colored dyes and paint. But, he warns: "Make sure you only spray the foliage and not the trunk, i.e., the caudex. Sometimes people get creative using colors like pink, blue, red, yellow and gold." He's even seen some tie-dyed.

Grant warns to cut the dyed or painted foliage off when new growth reaches full length. I'm adding, please, if you try this, take a picture and email it to me before you cut the painted foliage off. This I have to see! (lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

\* \* \*

**PREVIEWING NEXT WEEK:** Big changes are in store for the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, that treasure site in Memorial Park. We will take a look at these and at a "coping with dead-looking lawns!" -- a double-whammy in both this column and John Ferguson's (below).

\* \* \*



**FILLING IN THOSE DEAD HOLES.** We still have Master Gardener sales scheduled (see calendar for more). These are great places to pick up new, unusual or eye-catching plants such as, l to r above: This 16" diameter Texas Legend onion, lions mane ( *Leonotis leonurus*), batface cuphea, trumpet lily and 'American Gladiator' Asiatic lily. These will be among the many treasures offered at the Sat., Feb. 17 Galveston



Master Gardener Sale, 9am-1pm at the County Fairgrounds on Hwy 6 in Hitchcock. A free educational seminar 8am will kick off the event. Details: 281-309-5065. [Flyer](#)

\* \* \*



*Lauren Simpson's St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat from summer 2017*

**BUTTERFLIES ARE COMING!** Now's the best time to plan and plant for an active habitat garden both for the Monarch Migration which starts when temperatures start rising and then year-round, if you broaden your horizons to include precious pollinators that stay here through our often-unpredictable winters.

One of Houston's most successful home havens for valuable pollinators is St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat, created by Lauren Simpson, University of Houston Law Center Clinical Assistant Professor of lawyering skills.

In our Spotlight article below, Lauren takes a unique look at our now-somewhat-sad-looking, freeze-damaged plantings. She does it through the eyes of the birds, butterflies and other desirable pollinators she's successfully attracted to her garden the rest of the year.

It's so important to take this holistic view of our gardens. Although only three years old, Lauren's St. Julian's Crossing in Central Houston's Oak Forest neighborhood has earned such certifications a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat, Monarch Watch Waystation and (National Wildlife Federation), and North American Butterfly Association Certified Butterfly Garden. She has documented 44 butterfly species and approximately 30 bee/wasp species, to name just a few of her recordings. And she's incredibly generous in sharing all she's learned with fellow gardeners through lectures, local events and her Facebook page.

Let's let Lauren take us on a pollinator eye view of our winter dead gardens . . .

\* \* \*

***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)***

\* \* \*





*Lauren's St. Julian's Crossing habitat is beautiful in summer -- but just as important to her wildlife in winter!*

## **SUPPORTING POLLINATORS AFTER A FREEZE**

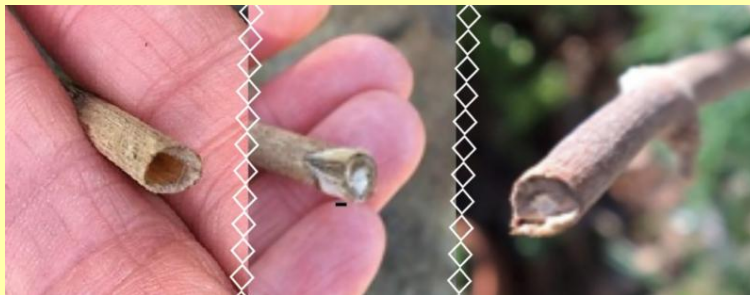
### **EMBRACING IMPERFECTION IN THE GARDEN**

by **LAUREN SIMPSON**

The deep freeze has come and gone, and our gardens look pretty dreary, with leaves drooping and flowers fading. We want to prune, pull, and put in order! But bees, butterflies, and other pollinators need us to wait just a little longer. Here are three ways that we can embrace imperfection in our gardens to help pollinators emerge safely from winter.

- **Embrace the stems.**

After a freeze, our first impulse is to prune dormant stems and twigs. But leaving these intact through early spring can help bees. The vast majority of our native bees are " solitary ," meaning that they don't nest in hives like honey bees. Instead, females lay their eggs in nesting compartments dedicated to their own offspring. Roughly 30% of solitary bees nest in wood, hollow or pithy plant stems, and other cavities. The young of the tiny bees nesting in stems won't emerge until the spring, so cutting back old stems too early can harm the bees developing inside. The solution is to leave these stems intact through early spring. Read more about attracting and supporting stem-nesting bees [here](#) and [here](#) .



***Open-ended, pithy stems and twigs  
can provide nesting sites for small solitary bees.***

- **Embrace the leaves.**

We should also allow fallen leaves to remain in our garden beds because they shelter many kinds of wildlife , including beneficial insects . For example, the adults of some butterflies will overwinter in leaf piles, while some moth and butterfly caterpillars spend winter wrapped in a leaf. And beneficial insects that eat garden pests will also shelter here. So as much as possible, leave the leaves.



*Using leaf litter as mulch benefits wildlife and nourishes the soil.*

## • Embrace the "weeds."

Nectar is a commodity in short supply after a deep freeze. So especially when our gardens are bare, we let early-blooming wildflowers flourish in our landscape—for example, Wood Sorrels , Crow Poison , and Carolina Geranium . This also means we wait as long as possible to mow when the grass is dormant in winter. Not only does less mowing allow these nectar sources to grow when little else does, but it also reduces air pollution and leaves wildlife undisturbed.



*Early blooming wildflowers sustain pollinators. From left to right: honey bee, native solitary bee, (suspected genus Andrena), and hoverfly (Toxomerus marginatus)*

By embracing a little imperfection, we can help pollinators a lot!

\* \* \*

- You can meet Lauren in person and learn from her expertise at her free Sat., Feb. 10, "Pollinator Class: Easy Tips for Gardening for Wildlife in Your Own Backyard." This free [Beauty's Garden](#) event will be 9:30-11am at Memorial Hermann Greater Heights, 1635 N. Loop West (B & E Classrooms. Details: [facebook.com/beautyscommunitygarden](https://facebook.com/beautyscommunitygarden)
- Links to more on her garden and organizations to contact about similar certifications:
  - [facebook.com/St-Julians-Crossing-wildlife-habitat-1609337762653792/](https://facebook.com/St-Julians-Crossing-wildlife-habitat-1609337762653792/)
  - [iNaturalist](#) (user name: "laurenjansensimpson").
  - [Monarch Watch](#)
  - [National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat](#)
  - [Monarch Watch Waystation / National Wildlife Federation](#)
  - [North American Butterfly Association Certified Butterfly Garden](#)



## JOHN'S CORNER

### NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #35

Experienced gardeners know that many of the "black" mulches are produced by chemically burning them black with the toxic and extremely alkaline waste we call coal ash left over from burning coal. Researchers at Virginia Tech have discovered nano-particles in coal ash composed of titanium oxides that have an unusual crystal structure (Magneli-phase particles) that had previously only been found in interplanetary dust and meteorites, and they found this stuff all over the planet. These particles get into the lungs and our blood, however the mechanism of how and why they do harm is not fully understood. Animal studies suggest these particles can harm humans. This is just another reason to avoid black mulches.

A study from Texas State University published in the Journal HortScience (December 2017), has found students whom had previously served in the U.S. Armed Forces and that had worked in a greenhouse environment had decreased levels of stress. After working in the greenhouse for a period of time 75% of the students said, they would consider a career in horticulture. Note: Texas State University has an organic horticulture program. My son served in the Navy and as part of his degree was a minor in organic horticulture from Texas State University.

We continue to learn about the importance of microbes from soil and plant health to human health. Humans have trillions of microbes living on and in our bodies. The human microbiome is often referred to as our "second brain" and the microbes in our guts are 80% of our immune system. These specific microbes have a function to help protect us. When this community of microbes are disturbed our health and well-being suffers. We now know that exposure to environmental toxins such as pesticides alter our biome leaving one vulnerable to sickness and disease. Research continues to come out on the dangers of Round-Up and glyphosate. This herbicide damages our gut microbiome more than previously thought and researchers have found arsenic in the complete formation. We are also learning that glyphosate lingers in the soil far longer that we were told, doing damage for years after just one application. Hence, it continues to damage non-target crops and suppressing the beneficial mycorrhizal fungi, which helps plants obtain nutrients while also offering plants protection from diseases. The extremely toxic chemical harms soil organisms from small insects to earthworms and then the residues pollute our waterways. One scientist studying this issue has stated that damage to the human body occurs at exposure levels 1,000 times lower than allowed by law. The reasons to buy organic and avoid GMO's continue to grow.

The organization "The Truth About Cancer" had a recent article on nutrients that help prevent cancer.

- 1) Ursolic acid is a plant oil and phytonutrient. It is found in herbs like holy basil and oregano, the skin of apples and bilberries.
- 2) Vitamin D is critical to the production of a cancer fighting protein. It also blocks enzymes that encourage cancer growth.
- 3) Curcumin supports our immune system and inhibits cancer cell growth.
- 4) EGCG (epigallocatechin-3-gallate) is a compound found in green tea, three decades of study has shown that it inhibits cancer growth.
- 5) Sulforaphane helps prevent the formation of free radicals and help eliminate toxins that fuel cancer growth. Brussels sprouts are one of the best sources of this nutrient along with cauliflower, broccoli, and kale.

6) Quercetin is a super antioxidant that stimulates the body's natural detoxification pathways and exhibits natural anti-cancer properties. Foods high in quercetin include onions, capers, blackberries, raspberries, black and green tea, dark cherries, cocoa powder, kale, apples and herbs (sage and parsley).

7) Apigenin is a flavonoid that inhibits cancer cells from spreading. It is found in grapefruit, onions, and oranges. Other sources are chamomile tea and parsley (one of the best sources).

8) Luteolin is found in green peppers, chamomile teas, and celery. It is an antioxidant that has been shown to help protect lungs, liver, and heart tissue against the degenerative effects of cancerous activity.

The full article can be found at <https://thetruthaboutcancer.com/nutrients-block-cancer-metastasis/?gl=5a6b7a44595c974012e90467>

It is important to remember that these beneficial compounds found in plants start degrading as soon as the plant or fruit is harvested. They often lose 30-70% of the benefit in the first couple of days after picking. Hence, foods shipped from another country taking days (or weeks) to arrive do not provide the benefits. This is another reason to grow one's own food or buy from a local farmers market to obtain organic, fresh, and nutrient rich food.

By now, almost everyone knows about the benefits of Omega 3 fatty acids. A study published in the Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry by researchers at the University of Guelph have found that Omega-3s sourced from marine based plants and animals are eight times more effective at inhibiting tumor development and growth as compared to the omegas obtained from flaxseed, soy, canola or hemp.

A friend and colleague of mine, Mike Serant, the owner of San Jacinto Environmental and the makers of the great family of products we know as Microlife (a sponsor of this newsletter), is declaring 2018 as the Year of Organics! Organic food and products is the fastest growing segment of our economy. Demand for organic products far outstrips supply. Join the tens of millions of gardeners across the country converting to the modern methods based on soil biology that we call organic.

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## 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., 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: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@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.

THURS., FEB. 15: NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: A TALE OF TWO CITIES (HOUSTON & PEARLAND) by CULLEN & KELLI ONDRACEK, 6:45-8:30pm, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, Beltway 8 entrance. Native Plant Society of Texas event. Free. [npsot.org/houston/](http://npsot.org/houston/)

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

SUN., FEB 18: BIRD'S NEST FERNS by DARLA HARRIS AND LARRY RUCKER, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free.. \$15. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. [tgcfersoc.org](http://tgcfersoc.org).

TUE., FEB. 20: THE EXTRAORDINARY PLANT COLLECTIONS AT PECKERWOOD GARDEN by ADAM BLACK, 7:30pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

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: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com). 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT., FEB 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org)

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., MAR 3: OAKS OF PECKERWOOD GARDEN, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Register: [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org); [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232

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)

WED., MAR. 7: 6th ANNUAL GULF COAST HERB FAIR, 9am-2pm, Moody Gardens, Galveston. Herb Fair free. Luncheon \$35 / Register: [Pelicanway88@att.net](mailto:Pelicanway88@att.net); [facebook.com/TheFriendsofMoodyGardens](https://www.facebook.com/TheFriendsofMoodyGardens)

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)

THURS., March.8: ESSENTIALS OF GROWING ROSES by JAMES LAPEROUSE 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.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)

SAT., MAR 10: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org)

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://www.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)

SAT., MAR 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org)

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. [nnmd.org](http://nnmd.org)

SAT., APR 7: SPRINGTIME ACROSS THE CREEK AT PECKERWOOD GARDEN, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Register: [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org); [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232

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 14: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.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)

SAT., APR 21: PECKERWOOD GARDEN EVENING AT PECKERWOOD LECTURE TOPIC TBA, 7pm, Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Register: [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org). [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232

SAT., APR. 21: ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER PARTY FOR THE PLANET, 8500 Bay Area Blvd. , Pasadena. Register: [abnc@abnc.org](mailto:abnc@abnc.org); 281-474-2551

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

SAT., APR 28: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org)

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 . . .

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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)

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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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