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FEBRUARY 20, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 240th 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.

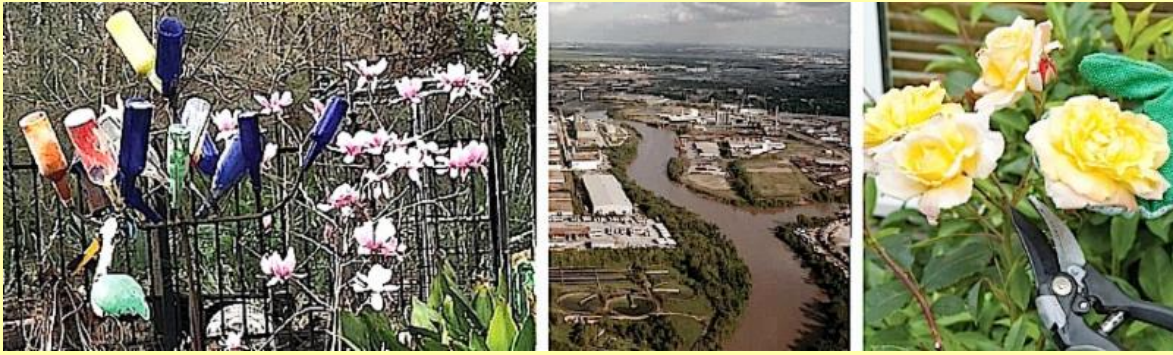
Thanks so much!

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 [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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LOOK FOR GREAT FLOWERS NOW . . . GREENING OF BAYOU'S EAST SECTION . . . MISTAKES EVEN ROSE EXPERTS MAKE!

by **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

I've suddenly realized I have an advantage few gardeners ever achieve. It's isn't very often a gardener can look back over 50 years of gardening in the same spot to see mistakes she's made, especially mistakes that don't show up until decades after they're committed.

Now that my five decades old Lazy Gardener Laboratory is about to become part of Greens Bayou Flood Mitigation Area (translation: return to woods), I am trying to transplant as many of the plants as I can to our new home.

The idea was to take advantage of the plants' dormant stage and our current intermittent rainy spells. I know, I know. Do as I say, don't do as I do. But it's SO much easier to dig in well-watered soil! Yes, digging compresses the soil, squeezing out valuable oxygen. But digging's also very hard work, especially when you're hampered by my mistakes below.

And I didn't quite make it in time for my treasured pink magnolia, above. It's 42 years old (planted the year our son was born) and I mistreated it horribly. Torn the main stalk in two trying to make it grow the way I wanted it to grow, patched it up with electrical tape. Later huge oak tree smushed it completely into the soil, breaking every branch. It came back from the roots. It's suffered at least 5 feet of flood water three times I can remember, maybe more. Always it came back. Sure, it's tiny for a 42-year-old tree. But look at those flowers! I hope it's not a bad omen.

Get to that in a minute. First, the major gardening mistakes I'm discovering I made.

Boy, I sure wish I had never . . .

- Used iron and other trellises, obelisks, and other metal supports on plants that will eventually become large shrubs or trees. Separating plant from support has become almost impossible. I've succeeded on some, some will still take some serious conniving.
- Used weed cloth around shrubs! I did this only once, years ago, in an area where I thought plantings would never be changed. Ha! Weed cloth, at least not mine, does not decompose! Not only did this not cut down on weeds (they simply grew on top of it), roots have interwoven into the cloth making it a murderous job to dig through.

Maybe you have better luck with these. I'm really kicking myself.



Nancy Stallworth Thomas, left, and Michael Van Valkenburgh, right, will help bring Houstonians up to date on greenspaces are planned for Buffalo Bayou's East Sector, here looking east from I-69/US 59 to the Port of Houston

Better to think about some thing exciting, like the big upcoming Nancy Stallworth Thomas Horticulture Lecture. Houston's Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) has chosen Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates to lead the revitalization and create greenspaces along Buffalo Bayou's East Sector, from US 59 to the Port of Houston Turning Basin Van Valkenburgh, internationally feted for such acclaimed parks and waterfronts as New York's Brooklyn Bridge Park and Houston's Menil Collection small gardens, will preview plans for the East Sector Wednesday, Feb. 21, at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd. (free, open to public, 9:30am-coffee, 10-lecture).

Back to the potential bad omen of all those pink magnolia flowers . . . hurricane wind-beaten and flooded plants have been traumatized. Don't underestimate that! Traumatized plants sometimes respond with a much larger seed production than before. More seed production, of course, requires more flowers. The potential is there the plant knows it's about to die. So it's ensuring the continuation of its species.

That's not to say all fabulously blooming plants this spring are going to die. Far more will be responding to the sap production triggered by the excessive beatings they took. Never heard of beating your plants? It works! <https://blog.chron.com/lazygardener/2009/09/no-blooms-try-beating-your-plant/>

Did you get your grafted roses pruned as Baxter advised around Valentine's Day? Now pay attention to James Laperouse on mistakes even rose growing experts often make! Houston Rose Society's James Laperouse is an American Rose Society Judge, Houston Rose Society Consulting Rosarian, exhibitor and, best of all, VERY experienced in growing roses along the Upper Texas Gulf Coast.

* * *

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

* * *





*Left, even experts often don't allow enough growth room.
Right, better to take shorter stems on cut roses in summer*

EVEN ROSE EXPERTS MAKE THESE MISTAKES!

by **JAMES LAPEROUSE**
Houston Rose Society - houstonrose.org

One of the biggest mistakes that even experienced Rosarians make (and I continue to make!), is not anticipating for future growth.

- **PLAN FOR MAXIMUM SIZE**
 - We sometimes overlook the fact that those new plants, being young & small, will grow into large, beautiful bushes in a few years. If they're not given enough space between rose plants at the outset, they will soon grow into each other, becoming very difficult to work with-and unsightly to boot!
 - This lack of anticipation also goes for locating rose plants too close to young trees. Roses do not compete well against other root systems, and tree shade tends to rob roses of some of the 6 to 8 hours of sunlight that these plants thrive on. So when young trees become mature, it becomes a "double-whammy" to the rose-invading tree roots and an unwanted "roof" over their heads.
- **SUMMER "PRUNING" IS DIFFERENT**
 - Another common mistake deals with in-season pruning. We're not talking about the type of pruning that is done around Valentine's Day. This is the cutting of blooms to enjoy during the growing season and, of course, the removal of spent blooms.
 - The long stems that we are able to cut in Spring, should not apply to those that we cut in the middle of our brutal Summers. It's okay to cut roses to bring in the house and enjoy at that time, but the stems should be much shorter, leaving as many leaves on the plant as possible. This will be important as we aim to have healthy plants to be able to produce those large blooms in the Fall.
- **DON'T FORGET TO CLEAN UP**
 - And speaking of pruning (which should be just about finished by now), remember to do a thorough clean up after you are done with this task. This consists of raking up fallen leaves under the rose plants and surrounding areas, then re-mulching your beds.

Good luck to everyone on having a great growing season!



Fact of nature: although some roses do better than others in some shade, ALL roses bloom better in sun.

* * *

Two upcoming opportunities to meet James and other Houston Rose Society experts to get your questions answered in person are coming up. Mark your calendars for:

- **THURS., MAR. 8: ESSENTIALS OF GROWING ROSES by JAMES LAPEROUSE 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.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**

* * *

JOHN'S CORNER

A BOOK REVIEW

"Farming with Native Beneficial Insects - Ecological Pest Control Solutions", by The Xerces Society, Storey Publishing, 2014, ISBN: 978-1-61212-283-0

For a backyard gardener or grower this is one of the must have books. It is very easy to read and filled with beautiful pictures and charts. This book provides the gardener with the information on how to protect your garden from pests without using toxic chemicals.

The book starts with helping one identify good bugs from bad ones, then shows gardeners how to integrate the correct plants into one's yard to invite the good bugs to come in and eat the pests. This book offers guidelines to help one identify what needs to be done and how to accomplish it. This process increases the biodiversity of your landscape and makes it a warm and welcoming place for the army of beneficial insects that want to help you.

There is a list of many projects that one can do from beetle banks to organic buffers, to improve or create the habitat that is required. Planting projects include hedgerows, insectary strips, native plant field borders, cover crops, contour buffer strips, to grassed waterways. It provides the information required to be successful from backyard gardens to large farms, to prevent problems and increase yields.

For me, this was one of those books that was just fun to read. I will add that many of the practices described in the book are also good for butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife.

* * *

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
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. 21: BUFFALO BAYOU EAST SECTION GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT by MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH, 10am, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd. Free. Nancy Stallworth Thomas Horticulture Lecture.

SAT., FEB 24: MAKE A HYPERTUFA PLANTER by NATURE WAY RESOURCES, 10am-noon, 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe. Free. RSVP: 936-321-6990; childresnwr@gmail.com . Walk-In's welcome.

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

SAT., FEB. 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT TREE & TOMATO SALE, 9am-1pm, free program: 8am, Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd, Pasadena. Genoa Friendship Gardens event. 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: galvcounymgs@gmail.com. 281-309-5065, 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, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., FEB. 24: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30am-12pm, Houston Museum of Natural Science. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT.-SUN., FEB. 24-25: COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, First Christian Church, 3500 W. Loop 336N, Conroe. 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

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

WED., FEBRUARY 28: "PREPARATION OF A WELL-DRAINED CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOIL" by CRAIG HAMILTON and WALLACE WARD, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event, Free. hcsstx.org.

FRI., MAR. 2: PRAIRIE ECOLOGY, 12:30-1:30pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd., Pasadena. Free. abnc.org

SAT., MAR 3: OAKS OF PECKERWOOD GARDEN, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org; 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

WED., MAR. 7: 6th ANNUAL GULF COAST HERB FAIR, 9am-2pm, Moody Gardens, Galveston. Herb Fair free. Luncheon \$35 / Register: 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. nccgctx.org

THURS., MAR..8: ESSENTIALS OF GROWING ROSES by JAMES LAPEROUSE 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. 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

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

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

SAT., MAR. 10: FLORALS, 8-10am, & VEGETABLES, 10:30-12:30pm, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. \$5/one session; \$8/both. 936-539-7824, www.mcmga.com

SAT., MAR. 10: MONTGOMERY COUNTY FLORALS, 8-10am, & VEGETABLES, 10:30-12:30pm, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. \$5/one session; \$8/both. 936-539-7824, www.mcmga.com

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

TUES., MAR. 13: PLUMERIAS!, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Plumeria Society of America event. Free.

FRI., MAR. 16: BAYOU ECOLOGY, 12:30-1:30pm, 8500 Bay Area Blvd., Pasadena. Free. abnc.org

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 , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., MAR. 17: ORGANIC WAY TO IMPROVE SOIL & MINIMIZE PESTS by BOB RANDALL, 11am-noon, Wabash Feed & Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd. \$10, Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/>

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, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., MAR. 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER HERB, PERENNIAL & PEPPER SALE, 9am-1pm, free program: 8am, Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd, Pasadena. Genoa Friendship Gardens event.. 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 , 281-309-5065, 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, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., MARCH 24: MEMORIAL NORTHWEST LADYBUGS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AND TREE SALE, 9am-2pm, Memorial Northwest Community Center, 17440 Theiss Mail Route Road, Spring, mnwhoa.org.

SAT. MAR. 24: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE, Program 8am, sale 9am-noon, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824; www.mcmga.com

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

THURS., APR. 5: HISTORY OF MERCER ARBORETUM by JACOB MARTIN, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

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

SAT., APR 7: SPRINGTIME ACROSS THE CREEK AT PECKERWOOD GARDEN, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org; 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

SAT., APR 14: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; 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

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

SAT., APR. 21: EDIBLE LANDSCAPES, 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

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, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

TUES., MAY 8: PLUMERIAS!, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Plumeria Society of America event. Free.

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

SAT., MAY 12: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING, 9:30am-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., MAY 19: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm, University of St. Thomas. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., JUNE 9: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 Nasa Road One, Seabrook. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT., JUNE 9: LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION (HMNS), 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

TUES., JULY 10: PLUMERIAS!, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Plumeria Society of America event. Free.

If we inspire you to attend any of these, please let them know you heard about it in . . .
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!
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PLEASE READ BEFORE
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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

IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN
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ABOUT US

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN FERGUSON

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

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

Society and many other professional societies. John is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

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

MARK BOWEN

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

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

PABLO HERNANDEZ

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

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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