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DEAR READERS: Here is a "CORRECTED" issue of the March 1, 241st, 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.

Mea culpa!!! In the issue you just received, a typographical error appeared. March Mart's 2018 Sale date was accidentally listed as March 7, instead of March 17. It has been corrected below so if you forward our newsletters to anyone, or post them on your websites, could you substitute this one instead? The correct date continues to appear, as it always has, in the calendar.

Thanks! Brenda

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. . . Email your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest

* * *



CELEBRATING WINTER SURVIVORS . . GOODIES FROM MERCER . . . PLUMERIAS & ORCHIDS

*For the flame of the spring that consumes not but quickens
is felt at the heart of the forest aglow,
And the sparks that enkindled and fed it were strewn from the hands
of the gods of the winds of March.*

"MARCH: AN ODE" by Algernon Charles Swinburne

by BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Now that we're about to slide into spring, what has survived in your garden? Spring doesn't officially arrive until around March 20 (depending on where on Earth you live), but by then we might be in a massive heat wave!

This is a great time to drive around your neighborhood and see what's blooming, not only what's still green, but actually has flowers. Thanks to the readers below who are reporting in.

- ED HOLLAND has amazed me for decades with his beautiful inground poinsettias (pictured below in past years) in the Memorial area. Ed reports: *"I see a few new shoots around the base of the plant. I was afraid they were gonners. During our FREEZING weather, I covered my begonias and a few other annuals with the contents of some of my leaf bags and they all made it and are blooming!"*



- **VICTORIA GRIFFIN**

sent in these pictures below of her blooming daffodils and two camellias, taken Feb. 20. She lives in Panorama Village, north of Conroe where temperatures dropped even lower than they did in the Greater Houston area.



Daffodils, left, are great one-shot bloomers and may or may not return. They like a prolonged COLD winter. Fortune is one of our most reliable to naturalize (hang around). The fancier they are, the less likely they are to naturalize.

Camellias (center and right above) are an excellent choice north and East of central Houston for winter and early spring color. They'll be easier to grow the farther you live north & east of Central Houston. But at Bayou Bend, and around River Oaks they're magnificent and should be a highlight on the [River Oak Garden](#)

Club's 83rd Annual Azalea Trail March 2, 3, & 4.

- Camellias were also a favorite plant of Thelma Mercer, whose property now holds a truly unique living plant library. Mercer Botanic Gardens in North Harris County is unique in that it has developed into a fantastic test garden for both drought-tolerant and flood-tolerant varieties well suited to home landscapes.

There is no "best time" to visit Mercer. Any season you feel a void in the garden, and want ideas for color, drop by and see what's in bloom there. There are always folks around who can give you more information on them.

For more winter hardies, check out our Spotlight article below, Mercer Botanic Gardens' Greenhouse Manager Jacob Martin details a few of the truly tough survivors going strong despite the beating/flooding they took in Harvey AND temperatures in the teens not just once but multiple times this current winter. Bet not many of us are using these in our gardens. We should be.

If you don't have [Mercer's March Mart](#) on your calendar, you'll miss out on one of this area's premier plant sale, especially for Gulf Coast Hardies. **SAT., MAR. 17: MARCH MART, 10am-4pm, 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble. Log onto themercersociety.org/event/march-mart-2018 for early shopping membership opportunities**

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PAULA'S PLUMERIA PRESCRIPTION

JULIE IN FRIENDSWOOD has (*or had, she fears*) plumerias actually planted in the ground. They've survived beautifully for about 5 years, die back in winter and return in spring. Will they this year?

Former Plumeria Society of America President Paula Furtwangler says keep the faith, but be practical!

Advice for Frozen plumerias left out in the freeze of 2017-2018:

- The only thing you can do is cut them back to clean wood (Not black, brown or mushy), and let the stump regenerate from the roots, center above.
- Seal the cut with wettable sulfur and leave it alone. In several months you may get new growth coming out of the stump, right above
- If no sign of life by August, then it is probably deader than a doornail. I have a few I had to use a hacksaw to get through this bark.
- If you do get canes growing from the stump, then be sure to protect them from further freezes by digging up and storing in a warm place in the garage. Roots can be wrapped in heavy black bags to keep them from totally drying out.
- If it is a valuable plumeria, it may be worth saving. If it can be replaced, then you are better off buying a new one and start over. The stumped plant can take many years to ever produce blooms again.

The best resource to buy/learn about growing plumerias in this area is the Houston-based [Plumeria Society of America](#). PSA holds four open meetings a year to help promote their favorite flower (also known as frangipani and Hawaiian lei flower). Two have been posted: March 13, May 8, July 10 & Oct. 9. All are at same time and site:

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

PSA's two annual Show & Sales will be June 9 and July 21, both this year at Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook (Note change. Traditionally the 2nd show/sale was at a different location)

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NO ONE'S SUGGESTING YOU TRY ORCHIDS YEAR-ROUND OUTSIDE! But if you're looking for orchids to grow inside your home, Harris County Master Gardener Elizabeth says phalaenopsis such as (1) P. Giant Lin Duo are easy to grow and love bathrooms and look nice in the kitchen. Good for beginners!

So are dendrobiums, such as (2) D. Niraporn x Taksin Fairy and (3) D. Haleahi Archangels 'Mini' x Jacquelyn 'UH800 Short spires'. Vandas, such as (4) (V. Brunnea x tessellate) x V. luzonica and (5) V. Bascostylis Pine River 'Hot Stuff' don't need any medium to grow in but do need lots of water. Corsages usually use cattleyas such as (6) C. Ranger St. x Bc Pastoral.

Elizabeth will reveal "**How to Grow (or Kill) Orchids in Three Easy Steps**" on Thurs., Mar. 8, 10am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr. in Katy. The Nottingham Country Garden Club event is free. ncgctx.org

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MAKING THE SWITCH TO GULF COAST HARDY PLANTS: I do understand and applaud the promotion of native Texas plants. But when it comes to advising "lazy gardeners," what's native to El Paso, for example, may not be the best choice for Gulf Coast Gardens. We are a subtropical area. Although we share El Paso's intense heat and drought, far West Texas natives, even Hill Country natives, are not genetically programmed for our heavy spring and fall rains. That's why we need to plant them in raised beds or on naturally high inclines.

For lazy gardeners, who want plants they can stick in the ground and forget, I prefer those that fit the moniker "Gulf Coast Hardies". We have a lot of these, mostly natives but also some nonnatives.

For a few in both categories, heed Jacob Martin's recommendations in our Spotlight article below. They're based on their survival this past winter at Mercer Botanic Gardens, our living plant library.

* * *

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

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Spotlighting . . .
Mercer Botanic Gardens
Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter



Jacob Martin with cones of the bunya bunya tree, right

By JACOB MARTIN

GREENHOUSE MANAGER,
 MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS

Mercer was hit hard by Harvey and we lost many of our structures and plants. Our entire nursery including some of our larger specimen trees floated away. But sometimes you have to find the good in the bad. Some of Mercer's favorite plants helped us do that.

By the end of the flood cleanup we had created a new term for the horticulture industry, flood tolerant. We had some plants survive being ten feet under water for days on end. Some of the new flood tolerant plants deserve some extra focus:

- **MELALEUCA ALTERNFOLIA Australian tea tree.** This tough Mercer specimen is a focal point when you first walk into Mercer. Its trunk sat eight feet under water for multiple days and the tree didn't lose a single branch. This tree faired so well because it is native to swampy, low lying areas in Australia.
- **BUNYA BUNYA TREE. Araucaria bidwillii's** trunk was twelve feet under water and didn't move an inch. Granted, our tree is very large and close to a full-grown specimen. Mercer also has a smaller, younger Bunya Bunya that was half way under, about fourteen feet under, in our tropical garden. It flourished back out after the flood even though it was full of trash and debris.



*Kumquat, left, makes a pretty landscape tree, as does Melaleuca alternifolia , right.
Note: not all species of Melaleuca are flood tolerant but this one is!*

- **KUMQUAT.** One of the tough Harvey surviving plants is currently feeding the Mercer staff. Our kumquat trees in our formal garden were twelve feet under water and full of fruit during Harvey. A couple of them were bent over from the powerful water flowing over them, but they didn't lose their fruit. We propped them back up cleaned the trash out and now we are having an incredibly delicious kumquat year at Mercer.

I could go on and on about different flood tolerant plants at Mercer from camellias blooming now to mountain laurels that lived in a lake for days. This shows us that we should be more aware of the habitats our cultivated plants are native to and learn to try more flood tolerant plants.

* * *

You can contact Jacob at Mercer Botanic Garden, or meet him in person at :

- **SAT., MAR. 17: MARCH MART, 10am-4pm, 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble. Log onto themercersociety.org/event/march-mart-2018 for early shopping membership opportunities**
- **THURS., APR. 5: HISTORY OF MERCER ARBORETUM by JACOB MARTIN, History of Mercer Arboretum by Jacob Martin, Greenhouse Manager at Mercer Botanic Gardens, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org**

JOHN'S CORNER

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #37

A few months ago we discussed the health benefits of several herbs. Researchers at the University of California have found additional benefits of the herb or spice turmeric (curcumin). The new research has found that curcumin protects our brains against inflammation. Patients whom took 90 mg (milligrams) of curcumin for 18 months had a 28% improvement in their memory and their brain scans showed they had less brain plaques associated with Alzheimer's disease. When curcumin is combined with another spice piperine (black pepper) it increased the absorption of curcumin by the human body by 2,000%! Curcumin now has

over 160 potentially therapeutic activities identified that range from anti-inflammatory, anti cancer to neuroprotective benefits.

A Natural News Headline last week was "Good Fats Heal". It was a story of a young girl with severe epilepsy that conventional medicine could not help, whom by changing her diet and eating less carbohydrates and eating lots of avocados (high natural fats) and other naturally high fat foods cured herself. More and more research is being published every week that proves that not only do good fats help one lose weight and protect the neurons in our brains, good fats are critical if we wish to have good health. I do not have time to review every book I read, however an excellent book that summarizes all the benefits of eating fats is:

"Fat for Fuel - A Revolutionary Diet to Combat Cancer, Boost Brain Power, and Increase Your Energy", Joseph Mercola, MD, 2017, ISBN: 978-1-4019-5377-5

I believe that most gardeners enjoy watching honey bees and other pollinators traveling from flower to flower. Most people know about the problems with honey bee colonies dying all over the world in what is known as colony collapse disorder (CCD). Many studies have found various links and causes which include the "four p's":

- 1) Poor nutrition - GMO's and many hybrid plants do not provide the nutrition for a bee to be healthy (another reason to only use organic fertilizers and plant heirloom varieties of plants).
- 2) Pesticides - when all life forms ingest pesticides (includes herbicides and fungicides), even in extremely small amounts, it weakens their immune system
- 3) Pathogens - when a life form has a weakened immune system it attracts pathogens
- 4) Parasites - again when a life form has a weakened immune system (poor nutrition) it attracts parasites.

Most gardeners know about the extreme importance of soil microbes to grow healthy and beautiful plants. This is known by many names from soil microbiology, soil food web, and soil micro-biome. Similarly we have learned that 80% of the human immune system is the microbes in our guts called the digestive micro-biome. Experienced gardeners know that a good compost tea is very effective in helping our plants be healthy. I was reading an article in "The Scientist" the other day on, "The Plant Micro-biome" that links the microbes on the flowers and leaves to the stems to the trunk and how all these microbes work together to keep our plants healthy. When plants do not have proper nutrition (bad nutrition from artificial fertilizers), microbe disruption on their leaves (pesticides, herbicides or fungicides) it destroys the plant micro-biome and opens the door for pathogens, pests or viruses.

Another article in "The Scientist" was on soil and plant viruses. There are thousands of plant viruses and just like bacteria and fungi most are beneficial but to date most of the studies have only been on the pathogenic types. Researchers have recently noticed that viruses that plague agricultural plants do not bother their close relatives that grow in the wild (Why?). They have also found that some viruses actually protect or help plants. One type of viruses may help produce salicylic acid a plant hormone and a component of aspirin. Other viruses help plants be more drought tolerant. It will be interesting to watch as new research discovers the role that viruses play in plants, soil, and in having a healthy ecosystem in coming years.

* * *

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!**

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

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

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

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.

TUES., MAR 13: GROWING HERBS IN HOUSTON'S MICRO-CLIMATE BY JEANNIE DUNNEHOC OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION, 9am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 N, Shenandoah. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club monthly meeting. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org.

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

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/>

TUE., MAR. 20: BROMELIADS IN FIBER by MICHAEL YOUNG, 7:30pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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

SAT., MAR. 24: GARDEN VILLAS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT & GARDEN ACCESSORIES SALE, 9am-1pm, Community Center, 6720 S. Haywood. Free. bburns50@aol.com; 713-545-2926

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

THURS., April.12: SAVE THAT ROSE FOR NEXT WEEK by Diane Sommers 7:00pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.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

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. 14: BROMELIAD SALE, 9 am - 3 pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.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

FRI., APRIL 27: INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY FESTIVAL KICK-OFF LUNCHEON, 11:30am-1pm; Hotel Galvez, Galveston. \$35. Register islandtime8@gmail.com

SAT., APRIL 28: OLEANDER FESTIVAL & GRAND OLEANDER SALE, 10am-4pm, Moody Mansion grounds, 2618 Broadway, Galveston. Free. Lydia Miller 409-770-4312 lmiller4511@att.net.

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. houstonfederationgardencclubs.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!
& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!

PLEASE READ BEFORE
SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.

Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.

Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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

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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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