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March 15, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 243rd issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

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

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

Enjoy!

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!](#)



GRAB YOUR WAGONS -- IT'S MARCH MART TIME! DAYLILIES -- LAZY GARDENER BEST FRIENDS . . .

*"Dandelions, like all things in nature, are beautiful
when you take the time to pay attention to them."*

-- June Stoyer

by **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

CELEBRATE SUMMER SOLSTICE - SAVE A DANDELION! When I praised early spring lawn wildflowers (aka weeds) -- including dandelions -- last week, I admit I never gave a thought to bees. I just like their beautiful flowers. Then on Facebook these two cartoons appeared!



IT'S TRUE. Dandelions are the first appearing food for bees, one of our plants' main pollinators. And bee populations have taken some pretty serious hits lately.

Dandelions are valuable in that they sustain bees until more nutritious wildflowers appear in abundance. Since bees rank universally as our most important pollinators, why not celebrate the first day of Spring -- Tues., Mar. 20 -- by NOT mowing down all the dandelions!

The cartoon at left appears to have been posted by blueskyhoney.com and the second, shared by Trish Smith, came originally from Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Who can really tell on Facebook!

* * *

TRANSPLANTING SAGA CONTINUES . . . Always love it when I can start out with a WOW! factor . . .



The March 24 Cypress Creek Daylily Club sale will include eye-poppers like, l to r, 'Blue Pools,' 'Double Talk' and 'Just for Joanne'

Daylilies were the first clumps I dug to move to our new yard. I place daylilies at the top of "Ultimate Lazy Gardener Plants." Many of mine date back at least 45 years. When we first moved to Aldine in the mid-1960s, multiple daylily farms encircled Houston, including one not far from us. I began giving daylily plants as gifts (so cheap & kept on giving).

One summer a grower friend gave me a dozen of his prize plants. Not much of a gardener yet, I tossed them in my car trunk and promptly forgot about them. They baked there all summer. In fall I found them pushed to the back, planted them anyway. The next spring they bloomed magnificently.

Not only that, of all the plants I've now transported from old to new yard, only the daylilies never even wilted. Their foliage is as upright green right now as it was when I dug them up.

Daylilies' incredible array of sizes, colors, and forms, including doubles, spiders and more, will be available among the 100 different cultivars at the big Cypress Creek Daylily Club Spring Sale on Sat., March 24. The three daylilies pictured above are sure to be hot items for serious daylily gardeners. Why?

- **'Blue Pools'** is an exciting new 2017 Bell's Daylily Garden introduction and features the highly coveted blue lavender and lavender coloration.
- **'Double Talk'** is a large double yellow-orange that re-blooms throughout the growing season.
- **'Just for Joanne'** is an award-winning rebloomer, voted one of American Hemerocallis Society members' most popular choices for Southeast Texas for several years running.

SAT., MAR. 24: CYPRESS CREEK DAYLILY CLUB SPRING PLANT SALE,
9:30am-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

* * *

POTPOURRI:

- **FIREFLIES TO SEE!** We had such a nice response to [Ben Pfeiffer's Firefly Spotlight article](#), we are delighted to see Armand Bayou Nature Center in Pasadena (abnc@abnc.org) is bringing back its Firefly Fridays on March 16, 23 & 30 and April 6, 20 & 27. Call 281-474-2551 to reserve your spot.
- **APRIL 22 IS EARTH DAY.** If you have any gardening/plant/horticulture events planned for your Earth Day celebration, we'll be listing these in an early April issue. Send in the format used in the calendar below to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net or just hit reply to this issue.
- **NOTE TO EVENT SPONSORING GROUPS** who have discussed with me photos to be submitted for extra publicity: I do not send reminders. Sorry, but no one to remind me!

* * *



Harvey flooding at Mercer, left, helps show us which plants are flood-proof!

We NEED Mercer to teach us about- - and offer us -- flood-proof plants!

WAGONS READY? 2018 MARCH MART! Mercer Botanic Gardens' upcoming Sat., Mar.17, marks an annual highlight for area gardeners, probably this year more than ever before. Not only is Mercer our "living plant library" -- where gardeners can see what's blooming year-round -- this year we have an added benefit. Mercer flooded badly in Hurricane Harvey as it has before.

Now these folks can lay claim to another unofficial accolade: Flood-Proof Plant Test Site. Is there another one in this nation? If so, I've never heard of it.

Lord knows, we desperately need to know which plants are flood-proof. And this is one *bona fides* that only actual experience can bestow. So whether you go to buy or just take notes, a visit to this North Harris County treasure is a must-go for all area gardeners in need of replacement plants.



Be smart -- bring your own wagon!

The official MARCH MART plant sale is 10am-4pm this coming Saturday. A special offering on Friday, Mar. 16 will be The Mercer Society's 4-7pm "VIP Membership Level" Reception and Pre-Sale. For all Mercer members, Saturday plant sale doors will open two hours early (8-10am). The sale will then open to the general public 10am-4pm. The Mercer Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and financial partner of Harris County Precinct 4's Mercer Botanic Gardens. Membership details: themercersociety.org.

Our Spotlight article below focuses on just a few of the Harvey survivors that will be for sale at March Mart, choices that Mercer Mart workers feel sure will be among those most in demand.

* * *

***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***

* * *



HARVEY SURVIVORS IN SPOTLIGHT THIS YEAR AT MARCH MART

By MELODIE B. HILL, DON DUBOIS, CEIL DOW, AMY CONROY,
JULEE JACKSON, CHARLYN BROWN, LIZ VAN DER LAAG & KITT BURNSIDES
MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS

<https://www.facebook.com/MercerBotanicGardens/>

Harvey flood waters at Mercer Botanic Gardens swelled through the entire garden, tumbling many March Mart-bound plants from the northside greenhouses into the surrounding forest. Here are some that made it through Harvey!



L to r, *Zizotes* milkweed, frogfruit and swamp lily

TEXAS NATIVES (by Don Dubois)

- ZIZOTES MILKWEEDS (*Asclepias oenotheroides*) all survived, even though some were not found until months after the flood. Like many Texas milkweeds, *Zizotes*' large taproot sees it through extended dry periods. It not only tolerated the wet conditions, it dangled from bushes for more than a month with no attention.
- FROGFRUIT, (*Phyla nodiflora*), a Texan Crescent butterfly host plant, makes a good groundcover. Can be mowed if needed.

Frogfruit and Swamp lily are both well adapted to wet conditions and periodic summer dry spells.



L to r: *Hedychium* 'Maximum', *Hedychium flavum*, *Costus pictus* 'Red Stem' and 'Chiapas'

GINGERS (by Ceil Dow)

Surprisingly, Butterfly Gingers and Costus didn't seem to mind but hinted that they enjoyed the water. Here are a few varieties that did extremely well.

- **HEDYCHIUM 'MAXIMUM,'** most fragrant of all butterfly gingers, is named for enormous white blossom clusters throughout summer.
- **HEDYCHIUM FLAVUM** is an easy bloomer. Masses of fragrant, butterfly-attracting, heat-tolerant yellow blossoms late June through October.
- **COSTUS PICTUS** 'Red Stem' and 'Chiapas' display the corkscrew stem topped with an inflorescence of yellow and red-striped tubular flowers. These are goblets of nectar for the hummingbirds.



Abelia, left, and Mexican buckeye

TREES & SHRUBS (by Amy Conroy and Julee Jackson)

Several plants surprised us as to how well they did after the flood. Not only do these two species seem flood tolerant, they also have a high tolerance for drought.

- **ABELIAS** looked bad, totally defoliated, but with a month they were pushing out new growth
- **MEXICAN BUCKEYE** (*UNGNADIA SPECIOSE*). The first day back in the area it was pushing out leaves and flower buds.



L to r, Firespike and Louisiana iris

SHADE AND SUN PERENNIALS (by Charlyn Brown, Liz Van Der Laag & Kitt Burnsides)

- **FIRESPIKES.** You might not think about shade perennials surviving flood waters, but the very tough Odontonmeas - Firespike are true survivors, happy and healthy after surviving not one, but two floods, pushing new growth up through a layer of half-inch hardened silt. A great hummingbird and butterfly

magnet

- LOUISIANA IRIS. In December, in the woods we found 40 or so encased in silt, yet still very much alive!

Both plants are winter hardy in our area and have a high heat tolerance.

* * *

***These and many other Harvey Hurricane's winds and flood waters will be available
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)***

FROM GARDEN TO GUT

DAVID & ANNE MONTGOMERY

This dynamic duo has discovered stunning similarities between microbes in the soil & the human body. Their findings could transform the practice of agriculture and medicine. Gain the knowledge you need to talk with your clients about the total benefits of organics.



David & Anne Montgomery Live!
Their first time in Houston, husband and wife team of soil, plant, and human health experts. They will be speaking on Regenerative Agriculture, healing the soil & the human microbiome. Together they wrote 'The Hidden Half of Nature', which explores the role of microbes in a healthy landscape and in healthy bodies.

**Wednesday
March 21, 2018**

\$20 | Register Here

Registration 5:00 – 5:30 PM
Speakers 5:30 – 8:00 PM
Organic Pizza Included

United Way- Greater Houston
50 Waugh Drive
Houston, TX 77007

**For more information head over to
ohbaonline.org/events**

Thank You Sponsors!



JOHN'S CORNER

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #39

A study from Ohio State University has found out why some mushrooms (fungi) have brain-altering chemicals like psilocybin in them. These psychedelic compounds prevent damage from fungus eating insects and possibly small mammals. Journal Evolution Letters, 2018.

I was reading an article the other day on the benefits of going to a gym and working out and then taking a hot sauna so we sweat. The studies have shown that the results are very good for our health. Why pay expensive health club fees when any gardener working out in the sun and sweating gets the same benefits for free.

There has been a lot of media coverage recently on depression and the side effects of many drugs to treat the condition. Over 350 million people suffer from depression worldwide. Many of the drugs used cause irrational behavior and violent behavior. Many researchers believe that this problem is linked to the extremely poor quality of our food supply. Additionally, most pesticides are neuro-toxins and the brain is composed of neurons hence when we eat these poisons, why do we wonder why these things happen. Gardening and growing our own food from vegetables to fruits and berries is a great way to avoid most of these issues. For example:

- Researchers have found that a polyphenol found in grape juice, grape seed extract and trans-resveratrol along with some other phytochemicals from grapes improve blood flow to the brain and enhance several aspects of brain function.
- exposure to the sun helps our bodies produce vitamin-D which helps stabilize our brain function.
- from our study of the elements last year, several trace minerals in our diets can make huge improvements in our mental function.
- many herbs, both smelling them and eating them help with our brain function
- bacteria in the soil produce chemicals (scents) that promote brain function and well being when we inhale them. Other bacteria in the soil are probiotic in nature and help with our overall immune system when we

ingest them or just inhale them.

- physical activity and sweating helps the body remove toxic chemicals that effect our mental function.

The glyphosate poisoning of America continues to get worse. The organization "Moms Across America" commissioned a recent study in 2017 that found glyphosate in almond milk, breads, Skippy's Natural peanut butter, and Lipton's natural teas. They also found glyphosate in orange juice like Tropicana and Minute Maid. If you want to learn more about the issue of glyphosate poisoning (the active ingredient in the herbicide Round-Up), Carey Gillam the author of the book White Wash on how Monsanto falsified safety data on glyphosate, will speaking in Houston on May 15 at the Museum of Fine Arts in the evening. See www.ohbaonline.org for more information.

We have talked about the benefits of cinnamon for human health before. Now research has found a new use for this spice, Fire Ant control. In the Journal for the Society for Neuroscience (February 2018) researchers found that cinnamon activated an ion channel in the ants antenna and legs that repelled them. They hope this leads to new biological pesticide products

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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

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. 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. bromeliadsociety/houston.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

SAT., MAR. 24: CYPRESS CREEK DAYLILY CLUB SPRING PLANT SALE, 9:30am-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring, _Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.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

WED., MARCH 28: "PRACTICUM ON RAISING SUCCULENT PLANTS" by JOSIE WATTS, Houston Cactus & Succulent Society, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. hcsstx.org.

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., APR. 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

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

FRI., APR. 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, 9am-3 pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

SAT., APR. 14: BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE, 8am-noon, B.E.E.S. 799 Hospital Drive Angleton. txmg.org/brazoria, 979-864-1558

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, 7pm, 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

SAT. APR 28: GROWING CUCUMBERS, SUMMER SQUASH, CANTALOUPE & OTHER CUCURBITS by HERMAN AUER, 9-10:30 am; Galveston County Bayside Community Center, 4833 10th St., Bayside Park, Bacliff. Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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.



Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.