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April 5, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 246th 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!

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## SPRING EYE-POPPERS . . . BEE-SAVING HERBS ORCHIDS TO MOVE OUTDOORS . . . NOW!

by **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

If ever a flower truly lived up to its rather ambitious name, it's Knockout rose this spring. **WOW!**

These are absolutely gorgeous. I don't know if it's a Harvey-triggered '[beating-the-plant' phenomenon](#) , our exceptionally cold winter, the excessive spring rains or what. But Knockouts are spectacular. And it's not only Knockout roses (below left) that are knocking our eyes out . . .



'PEGGY MARTIN' ROSES (above right) are also absolutely overwhelming. Have to brag about the pictures at right. Cousin Trish Smith planted cuttings from ours. This photo combo is the result from the street of their Crystal Beach home, and (in insert) the stairs behind.

Harvey didn't slow my Peggy Martin one bit, but say a prayer she survives the forced, mid-bloom move to our new landscape. But I have faith in Peggy. She's one tough Southern broad.

As a New Orleans-born Texas transplant, I love her story. Hope you'll all buy one:

[aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/PeggyMartinrose.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/PeggyMartinrose.html)

Readers are sending in photos of their extra-beautiful old favorites:



Victoria Griffin transplanted this amaryllis, left above, from very old stock on her father's property in Montgomery County. At center, Mary Alice Horne sent in this evidence of azaleas' banner year - a delight across this whole area.

And, at right, can you identify this particular herb? Susan Gail Wood, who sent in her lovely rendering, says borage replenishes its nectar every two minutes! It's highly recommended to help restore our bee populations. We know now how important they are to pollination. We know bee populations are declining. Do we know what to plant to help remedy this crises?

That's right. Plant herbs like borage, and learn about others at the big upcoming April 28 - 35<sup>th</sup> annual Herb Day. "Herbs, Hives & Honey" will be the focus of this Herbal Marketplace, silent auction, box lunch and lectures by such experts as Susan, who will speak on "Bee Happy Herbs." Advance registration required: [herbsociety.org](http://herbsociety.org), by April 22.

\* \* \*

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

\* \* \*



*L to r: pseudo-bulb at base, Tolumnia 'Alemeda Beth,' and Onc. Irish Mist 'Wintergreen' with closeup insert*

**DANCING LADIES & OTHER ORCHIDS THAT LOVE OUR SUMMER HOUSTON CLIMATE!**



By **ELIZABETH FISHER**

**Houston Orchid Society**

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

The Oncidium group of orchids is one of my favorites to grow. Flower sprays (multiple) last about a month and wonderful fragrances are easy to find.

Sometimes referred to as Dancing Ladies, many oncidiums love our Houston climate, making them easy to grow.

They have pseudo-bulbs at the base (see photo left above). Some oncidiums are very small (about 6 inches); some over 3 feet with flower sprays.

They prefer brighter light than a *phalaenopsis*. Some can even handle a little direct light in mornings or evenings. They don't like to get colder than 55 F at night but can tolerate up to 100 F during the day good air circulation and humidity (30-60%).

Grow oncidiums under a tree or on a patio during spring, summer and fall with minimum direct light, good air circulation and good watering practices. Oncidiums like to almost completely dry out between waterings.

I usually pot mine in bark mixture and water twice a week in the summer, less than once a week in the winter. I fertilize "weakly weekly." They stay in the greenhouse during winter (if no greenhouse - bring in the house). I usually repot oncidiums every two to four years.



**L to r: two views of Oncidium 'Sweet Sugar'; Odcdm. Wild Willie 'Wonka' and Trichocentrum 'Lundum' x Trichocentrum 'Cavendishianum'**

- *Oncidium* 'Sharry Baby' - one of the most famous because it smells like chocolate and who doesn't love that.
- *Tolumnia* - wonderful small plants if you don't have a lot of space and I like the color of 'Alameda Beth'.
- *Oncidium* Irish Mist 'Wintergreen' - nice medium sized plant with lovely light yellow green color with white on the lip (or the skirt of the dancing lady). 'Sweet Sugar' is a very pretty yellow.
- *Odcdm.* Wild Willie 'Wonka' is a medium sized plant with a nice white and purple lip (skirt).
- *Trichocentrum* 'Luridum' x *Trichocentrum* 'Cavendishianum' (my favorite in the greenhouse) - takes up about two feet. Flower spikes are at least two feet long with beautiful brownish-yellow flowers.

If you don't have a lot of space I would get a *tolumnia* in a color that you like. If you can go for a larger plant I would pick a fragrant oncidium.

\* \* \*

**SAT.-SUN., APR. 14-15: HOUSTON ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 11am-4pm, Memorial City Mall - Dillard's Court, 303 Memorial City Way. Free. [Houstonorchidsociety.org](http://Houstonorchidsociety.org).**

## JOHN'S CORNER

I finished reading another great book on health this week. The author is a cardiovascular research scientist whom exposes the lies we have been taught on eating salt. As a leading cardiovascular research scientist he upends the low-salt myth, proving that salt may be one solution to-rather than a cause of-our nation's chronic disease crises.

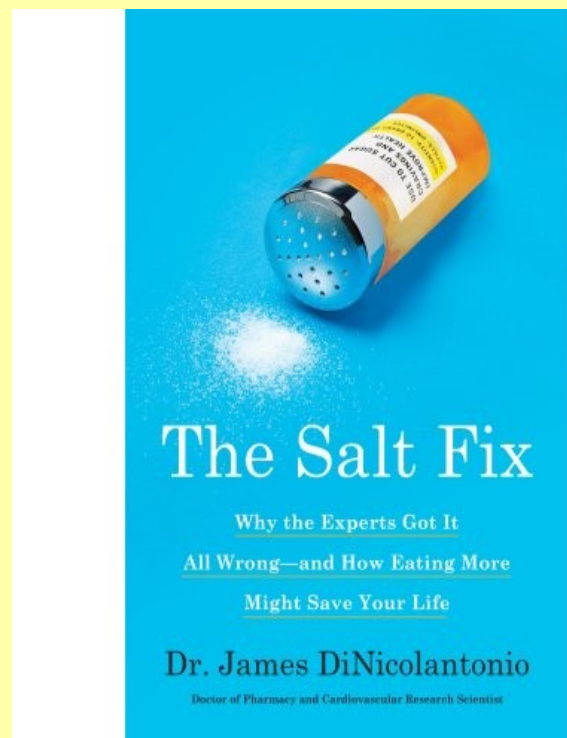
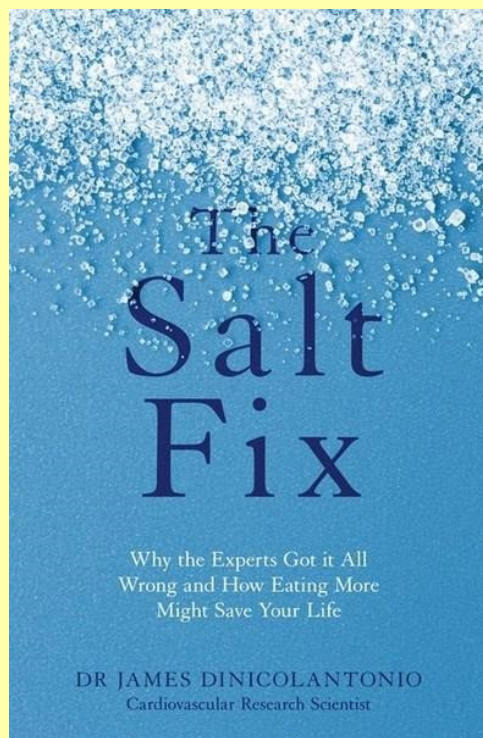
Besides being a compelling read, this work is extremely well documented-replete with 670 references and notes. DiNicolantonio's resume is very impressive. James J. DiNicolantonio, PhD is a research scientist and doctor of pharmacy at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City, MO. He has published more than two hundred papers in the medical literature, along with numerous articles on nutrition in the lay press. DiNicolantonio is the associate editor of BMJ Open Heart, and is also on the editorial advisory board of several other medical journals.

Dr. James DiNicolantonio reveals the incredible, often baffling story of how salt became unfairly demonized-a never-before-told, century-spanning drama of competing egos and interests. Not only have we gotten it wrong, we've gotten it exactly backwards: eating more salt can help protect you from a host of ailments, including internal starvation, insulin resistance, diabetes, and even heart disease. (The real culprit? Another white crystal-sugar.)

Dr. DiNicolantonio in The Salt Fix shows how eating the right amount of this essential mineral will help you beat sugar cravings, achieve weight loss, improve athletic performance, increase fertility, and thrive with a healthy heart.

"The Salt Fix - Why The Experts Got It All Wrong and How Eating More Might Save Your Life", Fr. James DiNicolantonio, 2017, Piatkus Publishing, ISBN: 978-0-349-41738-7

The book is available with two different covers which are shown below to avoid confusion.



\* \* \*

## LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DON'T SEE YOUR ORGANIZATION EVENT LISTED? DID YOU SEND IT IN?**

**NO EVENTS ARE PICKED UP FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS, MASS RELEASES, OTHER PUBLICATIONS, ETC.**

**Events *NOT* submitted in *EXACT* written calendar format below may take 2+ weeks to be posted.**  
**Adult gardening/plants events only -- If you don't see your submitted event, email us**

**[lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)**

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

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. [nmd.org](http://nmd.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

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](http://houstonrose.org)

THURS., APR. 12: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SATELLITE OPEN GARDEN and DAY COYOTES IN OUR AREA by Jason Naivar, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road. Free

THURS., APR. 12: BEGONIAS; PROPAGATING & POTTING by CHERYL LENERT. 10am-1pm. Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet @Hillcroft. Free. Houston Area Daylily Society. Event 281-723-7409

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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

THURS., APR. 12: COYOTES IN OUR AREA by JASON NAIVAR, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT., APRIL 14: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER SPRING PLANT SALE, 8:30am-noon, & GARDEN FESTIVAL, 8:30-4pm, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Drive. [hmns.org](http://hmns.org), 713-639-4742.

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. 14: GARDENING IN SHADE, 8-10am; HERBS!, 10:30-12:30, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. \$5 per session; \$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

SAT., APR. 14: BROMELIAD SALE, 9am-3 pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://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](http://txmg.org/brazoria), 979-864-1558

SAT., APR. 14: SOILS AND COMPOSTING, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT.-SUN., APR. 14-15: HOUSTON ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 11am-4pm, Memorial City Mall - Dillard's Court, 303 Memorial City Way. Free. [Houstonorchidsociety.org](http://Houstonorchidsociety.org).

SAT.-SUN., APR. 14-15: HOUSTON ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 11am-4pm, Memorial City Mall - Dillard's Court, 303 Memorial City Way. Free. [Houstonorchidsociety.org](http://Houstonorchidsociety.org).

MON., APR. 16: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 9-11:00am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., APR. 17: SOILS & COMPOSTING, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS., APR. 19: SOILS & COMPOSTING - 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS., APRIL 19: DEEP RESILIENCE: LEARNING THE SONG OF OUR LAND by JOHN JACOB, PH.D., 6:45-8:30 pm; Houston Arboretum, West Loop N access road before Woodway Dr., Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter event. Free. [npsot.org/houston/](http://npsot.org/houston/)

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, 7pm, 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

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](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)

SAT., APR. 21: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING PLANT, 9am-noon (or sell-out), Farm & Ranch Lot at Bear Creek, 1 Abercrombie Dr. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SUN., APR. 22: DEADLINE TO REGISTER for APR. 28 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HERBS, HIVES & HONEY HERB DAY, 8:45am-3pm. \$50. Herb Society of America, South Texas Unit event. Register: [herbsociety-stu.org](http://herbsociety-stu.org).

TUES., APR. 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY, 10-11:15am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd. Free. Apr. 22 registration deadline: [ogd.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:ogd.harrishort@gmail.com)

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](mailto: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](mailto:lmiller4511@att.net).

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)

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

SAT., APR. 28: GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAYS PROGRAM TOUR & PLANT SALE - HOUSTON, 10am-4pm, \$7 per garden; children 12 & under free: Begin at Itchy Acres, 405 Martin Street, Houston. <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/open-days-schedule/houston-tx-open-day-2>. 888-842-2442.

SAT. MAY 5: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDENS DAY, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Free. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

SAT. MAY 5: WHAT IS AN ORCHID by JOYCE MC MILLAN & CLYDE HOLT, 9-11 am; BENEFICIALS IN THE GARDEN with DR. WILLIAM M. JOHNSON, 1-3 pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065. [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

TUES., MAY 8: PLUMERIAS!, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Plumeria Society of America. Free. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

THURS., MAY 10: BATS IN OUR AREA & HOW THEY ARE BENEFICIAL by SUZZANNE JUREK, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

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](http://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](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)

SAT.-SUN., MAY 12-13, GALVESTON BAY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 9am-4pm, South Shore Harbour Resort Hotel, Marina Plaza, 2500 South Shore Blvd., League City. Free. [galvestonbayorchidsociety.org](http://galvestonbayorchidsociety.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

TUES., MAY 15: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS., MAY 17: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS GREEN THUMB SERIES: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN - 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

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](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)

SAT. MAY 19: HOME ORCHARD TOURS, 9 am-noon; sites: [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html) . Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free.

SAT. MAY 19: TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3pm. AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County 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., MAY 19: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

MON., MAY 21: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SALE, 9-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

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



Road One, Seabrook. Free. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

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

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## ABOUT US

### BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## JOHN FERGUSON

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

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

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

## MARK BOWEN

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

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

## PABLO HERNANDEZ

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

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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