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MAY 10, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 250th 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!](#)



Flowers spied in fields now: tickseed, black-eyed Susans and mimosa

QUESTIONS TRIGGER MEMORIES . . . SOME "OLD WIVES" ARE OUT OF DATE . . . ENABLING GARDENS HELP US ALL!

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Love it when readers' questions bring back wonderful memories. One favorite came back when Becky asked about "*grassy plant that has little yellow flowers and a black center*." I assume she means tickseed, a coreopsis blanketing bayou banks and thriving atop ditches now. Also coming into bloom are black-eyed susans. Like tickseed, "black-eyed Susan" is used for a number of different, often unrelated plants, which is a frustration to those who care about botanical exactitude.

I recalled walking through Jesse H. Jones Park with noted native plant expert Carmine Stahl decades ago. Every time I asked him the name of a different yellow daisy-like flower, he replied, "That's a NYC." When I asked what that stands for, he said, quite straight-faced, "*Damn Yellow Composite*." Yellow wildflowers have crossed so much, he explained, it's very hard to tell exact names.

Not exactly sure native plant experts would agree with that! But if you need a good source, go to wildflower.org. This is the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website and it includes an easy-to-use wildflower identification chart.

I included mimosa (not a native) in the photos above because Lorrie McMahon asked me about the tree with the "fluffy pink flowers." [Mimosas](#) are gorgeous trees but are now on the invasive list. Enjoy the flowers but please don't plant.

* * *

OLD WIVES TALES -- PLEASE DON'T BRAID THE DAFFS!

When longtime gardening friend Ed Holland reported with delight that his daffodils were blooming, I jokingly noted how amazing I was some gardeners were actually so bothered by fading daff foliage, they braided it, then rolled the braids and tucked them down into the soil. I actually never personally knew anyone who really did that, but it was common advice way back when.

Ed responded he heard that "old wives tale" has been declared null & void. I checked with longtime friend Sally Ferguson, former director of the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center, representing the Dutch flower bulb sector in North America. Sally, who's now with [Colorblends](#), wrote back that the Dutch have been trying, somewhat in vain, since the late 1800s to stop Americans from braiding our daffs!

Daffs recharge for next year's blooms through photosynthesis (shades of biology class!), a process that takes place in leaves. Braiding (or, even worse, cutting off) leaves severely reduces the plant's ability to recharge.

This exchange made me wonder what other old wives tales have also been debunked? I queried some local gardening experts for Old Wives Tales (OWT) that drive them berserk.

- **DR. BOB RANDALL** (co-founder of [Urban Harvest](#)) gets frustrated when folks talk about "average" dates of first frosts, rainfall and other gardening weather milestones. It depends on where you are, he says. In Galveston, the average first frost is in December; in Conroe, November. And even that is constantly changing, as is rainfall, as recent weather shows. So why even talk about them?
Bob regularly updates his "Year Round Gardening for Metro Houston / Gardening Vegetables, Fruits and Other Plants" -- our local gardening bible, especially for best varieties of vegetables and other edibles: "[yearroundgardening.me](#)).
- **SUSAN WOOD**, [Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit](#), wanted to know who decreed: "***If you thank someone for giving you a plant, it will die?***" Me too! I've tried over the years totally without success to research the origin of this one. Susan believes this was taken from a book written by

Eudora Welty and adds, *"It seems rude and stupid. I always thank anyone who gives me a gift, plant or otherwise. And I tell those who repeat that phrase about plants that I don't believe in it."*

- **STEVE BENDER**, [Southern Living's Grumpy Gardener](#) columnist, cringes when folks repeat the oft-said OWT: "Always amend soil with organic matter when planting a tree." Steve notes: *"This makes no sense because tree roots are supposed to spread far and wide, not stay in the comfy confines of a 2-foot wide hole filled with organic matter. It's better to just a big hole at least three times as wide as the root ball but no deeper and backfill with your existing soil."*
- **ROBERT E. "SKIP" RICHTER**, [Harris County AgriLife Extension Horticulturist](#), counters some very familiar OWTs with these DON'TS! and gives his reasons why:
 - **OWT: Put Styrofoam peanuts or gravel in the bottom of a pot for drainage.** Why? Adding gravel doesn't facilitate drainage but rather just results in less potting medium in which roots can colonize to take up water and nutrients. *"I encourage folks to use larger containers in our hot climate anyway so doing something to lessen the soil volume isn't helpful."*
 - **OWT: Scalp your lawn.** The weed seeds waiting for sunlight will thank you.
 - **OWT: Bag grass clippings.** Leave them to fertilize roots and to help mulch the soil surface, which deters weed seeds from germinating.
 - **OWT: Use grits to kill fire ants.** This always sounded crazy to me too & Skip confirms it doesn't work, adding, *"Remember, these are SOUTHERN fire ants. They think grits are great!"*
 - **OWT: Scoop up one one fire ant mound and put it on another so they will "fight it out"** *(Is anyone really that brave?)* Actually, Skip admits, there may have been something to that way back when fire ant mounds were one queen colonies. Now the predominant situation is multiple queen colonies, so a yard full of mounds are usually closely related and they will consider such action a "family reunion."

(Remember, fire ants are after the protein in your skin. Unlike native ants that scurry around in all directions, when disturbed, fire ants will attack human skin with great speed.)



Recommendation: forget old wives tales about using styrofoam peanuts in potted plants and "scalping" lawns

- **SARAH FLOURNOY**, Houston Audubon Society, recommended the highly praised ["Garden Revolution"](#) by Larry Weaner. This book explores conventional gardening practices that are actually very counter-productive. A few examples:
 - **OWT: Eliminate weeds by pulling them out, roots and all.** Weaner points out, "Disturbing soil in this fashion only creates opportunities for more weed invasion and promotes germination of dormant weed seeds." Smarter way: Cut weeds off at the base, repeating as necessary so that native neighbors can crowd them out."
 - **OWT: Amend soil before planting by deep digging and adding organic matter, topsoil, and fertilizers.** Weaner notes it's far smarter to plant species that are adapted to the existing character of your soil. This sort of "one size fits all" soil preparation recommended by traditional horticulture is not only labor and resource intensive, it creates a situation that promotes virtually every kind of weed.
 - **OWT: Fertilize and irrigate to give a boost to established plantings.** Weaner advocates choosing plants adapted to your soil and site. Once rooted, they won't need such artificial

assistance.

I really like the last one. Of course, he's not quite a proponent of my Lazy Gardener attitude: ***If I give a plant the right sun/shade/drainage site and for a while at first, and then it dies, it doesn't belong in my garden)***

Weaner, it seems, is more energetic than I am. He does advocate artificial assistance "perhaps in the rare case of an extreme and prolonged drought."

I don't have this book yet, but do plan to get it. I like the way he thinks!

* * *

NOTES:

- **HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN's** call for volunteers to help with its upcoming tree planting (Trees for Houston) was incorrectly dated May 10 in last week's issue. The date is Saturday, May 19. To volunteer, email mariah@HBG.org by May 16.
- **TEMPORARY NEW SITE REMINDER:** For the Thurs., May 10, meeting only, the Houston Rose Society is meeting at 7:30pm, at the Lott Clubhouse, 6201 Hermann Park Dr. The free HRS program will feature Marjorie Forester's "Which Rose Is Right for You?" program. houstonrose.org.
- Talk about coincidence! Got an email from Alice Brown looking for a low-care, tough, flowering groundcover for a spot that gets morning and afternoon sun but is in shade in middle of day. I had just been introduced a delightful nonblooming but very colorful planting that's proving very successful for Sharon Ennis Axton. Sharon had carefully nurtured her late mother's planting of Easter lilies in this Southwest Houston circle garden below. But, as with so many true lilies, their lifespan in our subtropical climate eventually went downhill. Still, a 10-year-run for Easter lilies is a pretty good one.
 - Sharon wanted low care color that could thrive with only early morning and late afternoon sun. She found it in [Monrovia's 'Snow-N-Summer' Asiatic Jasmine](#). No blooms, just really happy colorful leaves (below).



* * *

ENABLING GARDENS As the mother of a young man with disabilities (autism/epilepsy), I am always delighted to help publicize "enabling gardens." It's been my experience that any gardening technique or design that helps those with more severe challenges are also really good ideas for those of us with comparably lighter challenges, such as bending, reaching, prolonged standing or just plain laziness!

Below, the Brazoria County Master Gardeners review the steps involved in the establishment of their "Enabling Garden" at [Brazoria Environmental Education Station](#), 21017 County Rd 171 at Angleton. MGs are more than happy to help advise anyone interested in starting such a garden, so don't hesitate to ask them!

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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



BRAZORIA COUNTY ENABLING GARDEN

"When properly designed, an Enabling Garden eliminates any physical barrier to gardening"

By MARY RUTHE MILLER
[Brazoria County Master Gardener](#)

The Brazoria County Enabling Garden is a unique facility located at the Brazoria Environmental Education Station (BEES) in Angleton. The Enabling Garden demonstrates gardening as part of an active lifestyle and is a place where people of all ages and abilities can participate in gardening. When properly designed, an Enabling Garden eliminates any physical barrier to gardening.

Work to create this garden began as early as 2010 and was completed last year thanks to financial support and grants from Multiple Sclerosis-Lone Star Chapter, Dow Chemical and Kroger Company. Valuable support and consultation was also provided by managers with the holistic Garden at Texas A&M University.

The project began with the construction of 19 raised beds of various heights and shapes. While the facility originally complied with the ADA specifications, accessibility proved to be difficult and unsafe.

In 2016, the entire area was paved with concrete and sidewalks were installed from the parking area to the gardening area. Safety fencing was installed around the perimeter of the gardens, and special tools designed for people with disabilities were purchased. In addition to these improvements, automatic drip irrigation was installed so that gardening projects would have a better chance of providing successful results. Finally a gazebo was built to provide a place for gardeners to take a break from sun or rain.

With the exception of pouring concrete surfaces, all construction was done by Master Gardener volunteers. This work included building raised beds, building the safety fencing, building the gazebo, installing the automatic drip irrigation system and painting.

The Brazoria Master Gardeners have been working closely with a privately-owned assisted living facility. This facility brings their residents to our site where gardening projects, including both planting and harvesting, take place. We would like to expand use of this unique facility to other adults and to school age children that would gain therapeutic benefits that gardening can bring.

* * *

The Brazoria County Master Gardeners welcome visitors. To find out more about the Enabling Garden, Brazoria County Master Gardeners Association, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Brazoria County programs, contact the Brazoria County AgriLife Extension at 979-864-1558.

* * *

HOSTED BY



THE POISON IN OUR FOOD SUPPLY


FEATURING: CAREY GILLAM
REGISTER HERE \$20

light bites included

DATE: MAY 15, 2018

Registration	4:45pm - 5:30pm
Intro	5:30pm - 5:45pm
Carey Gillam	5:45pm - 7:15pm

LOCATION: THE HEALTH MUSEUM

 1515 Hermann Dr.
Houston, TX 77004

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's Round Up, is the most widely used weed killer in the world. It is linked to a huge variety of deadly diseases including cancers as well as autism, liver failures, reproductive concerns and more. Sadly, glyphosate contaminates much of our food, air and water.

Is there no escaping?

Government protection has failed us as Monsanto has corrupted many areas of academic science and public policy safety. Come listen to Ms. Carey Gillam, the author of 'Whitewash - The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science', explain how this happened and what you can do to protect yourself and your family.

This is an edge of your seat event!
Ms. Carey Gillam's Bio
Why You Should Come
SPONSORS


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NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #44

The March 2018 issue of Life Extension stated that a flavonoid from the Hops plant called xanthohumol, has been found in human studies to reduce chemically induced DNA damage in cells which may reduce one's risk of cancer. Maybe this is why I enjoy a good dark beer. The study also found that chlorophyllin and watercress extract also reduce DNA damage. Plants cannot get out of the sun hence they develop ways of minimizing DNA damage to their cells.

Another plant that has been found to reduce after meal rises in glucose and insulin is the Maqui-Berry. It contains compounds known as delphinidins that lowers after meal blood glucose. Another plant compound that helps reduce after meal glucose surges is cloves as their extracts have been shown to be very effective.

The March 2018 issue of Life Extension has an article on Cilantro which is from the leaves and stems of the coriander plant (*Coriandrum sativum*). Cilantro is the Spanish name for coriander and is considered a Super Food. Cilantro helps relieve anxiety, helps the body eliminate heavy metals (lead, mercury, arsenic, etc.), helps prevent infections (the essential oil from cilantro is very effective against Listeria), helps regulate blood sugar and support healthy liver function which helps with diabetes. Along with herbs like parsley, cilantro is high in hyaluronic acid which lubricates our joints to keep them moving smoothly. Hyaluronic acid is also used to keep our skin soft and supple and is used in the treatment of osteoarthritis.

A new paper from ATTRA (National Center for Appropriate Technology) has found that artificial fertilizers not only shuts off the production of root exudates in plants, it also kills microbes through desiccation due to their high salt content.

Another ATTRA study found that tall grass amplifies the amount of plant sugars and proteins that are exuded to feed soil microbes, greatly increasing their population density and in turn more plant nutrients are collected and provided to the plant. This one of the reasons that people whom cut their St. Augustine grass short 2-3 inches have more weeds and disease problems and require more water than those whom cut the grass at 4-5 inches tall.

For years broiler litter (poultry manure) has been used as a fertilizer. A study published in The Journal Of Environmental Quality (March 2018) has found the amount of arsenic (As) in run-off was 6X greater in test plots when boiler was used as a fertilizer. Repeated applications of broiler litter increased the amount of arsenic as expected. They also found that broiler litter was a significant source of boron, copper, iron, manganese, sodium, and zinc in addition to the arsenic, all of which can harm plants if there is too much as one would get from repeated applications.

A study in the Soil Science of America Journal (February 2018) found that using chipped branches as a mulch was an effective practice to reduce surface runoff and to control soil water erosion. The amount of erosion was reduced by up to 98.6% as compared to cleared but un-mulched ground or bare ground. Note: What the researchers called chipped branches are called "Native Mulch" in gardening and horticulture.

A study in the publication Science on ants found that worker ants could sense if a ant pupae was infected with the ant killing fungus (*Metarhizium brunneum*). They then proceeded to rip the pupae apart and cover it with formic acid that they produce killing the fungus.

A senior researcher at MIT stated that at the current rate of increase, that half (50%) of the children born in 2025 will be autistic. This trend is closely correlated with the increase use of glyphosate (Round-Up) and eating GMO crops. Note: On a recent study by the USDA that tested pesticide residues on food, they found acceptable levels of poisons. However, they did not even test for the most extensively used pesticide, glyphosate. Talk about FALSE news!

Copied from The Center for Food Safety:

By now you've seen the ominous headlines: The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) just approved the merger of two chemical corporate giants, Monsanto and Bayer. With Bayer buying out Monsanto for \$62.5 billion, this is the largest all-cash buy-out in history.

Why is this deal so dangerous?

This megamerger and others by transnational chemical companies signify an even greater effort to promote and push pesticide-dependent GMO crops around the world, and ever greater amounts of toxic pesticides on the market and in our food.

But the problems don't stop there. The new chemical giant, Monsanto/Bayer, will own about 1/3 of all the world's commercial seeds. They will have a virtual lock on vegetable seeds, own 3/4 of corn seeds and almost the same percentage of cotton seeds. Now only 10 companies own 73% of the entire world's commercial seed supply.

This monopoly on seeds means that Monsanto/Bayer and these other megacorporations can raise the prices of seeds at will, wreaking havoc on farm communities in the US and internationally. Moreover, Monsanto/Bayer gets to decide which seeds to make available to farmers, gardeners and the public. And since these corporations sell pesticides in addition to seeds, they will try to provide and promote only genetically engineered (GE) seeds to farmers, seeds designed to use Monsanto/Bayer brand pesticides, and make it difficult to find and purchase non-GE and organic seeds.

The result? Monsanto/Bayer controls our food supply! And because it's pushing GE crops, this monopoly creates a massive reduction in seed diversity and availability of seeds around the world. This is especially tragic because we desperately need that seed diversity to have food security, decrease hunger, and deal with the changing agricultural conditions created by climate change.

What you can do?

In addition to fighting the spread of GE crops in court, CFS is taking back control of the world's seed diversity and giving the power back to you, the people. CFS has created a unique peer-to-peer online network for sharing seeds with the ultimate goal of creating a non-corporate, independent, and diverse seed supply. This will undercut the Monsanto/Bayer seed monopoly and empower independent farmers and home gardeners to be protectors of the world's seed diversity instead.

CFS's Global Seed Network is the first-ever free, peer-to-peer seed sharing website that connects and unites seed savers from around the world with the goal of breaking up the corporate seed monopoly and establishing an independent, diverse seed supply.

CFS' Global Seed Network allows users to create a profile and share seeds with other independent farmers and gardeners around the world. It also includes resources like a school curriculum, listings of local seed swaps, seed saving tips, and an online discussion forum for people to share questions and information about seeds.

Join and support CFS's Global Seed Network today and become part of the seed revolution!

Let's work together to fight the seed monoculture promoted by Monsanto/Bayer and create an independent, diverse seed supply for future generations.

<https://www.globalseednetwork.org/index.php>

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**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

_ 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

THURS., MAY 10: WHICH ROSE IS RIGHT FOR YOU? by MARJORIE FORSTER, 7:30pm, The Lott Clubhouse, 6201 Hermann Park Drive (temporary site). Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org.

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

FRI., MAY 11: TEA IN THE GARDENS, 2:30pm - 4:30pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Fee: \$30. Register: themercersociety.org/eventsSAT., MAY 12: DAYLILY SHOW & SALE, 10am-3pm sale; 1-3pm show, Gethsemene Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society & Houston Area Daylily Society event. ofts.com/hhs/

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 12: HEALTHY SOILS: THE ULTIMATE CONSERVATION TOOL by John Ferguson, 8:30am (part of 8am-2pm Smarter About Water Workshop), The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 I-45. Free. Register: Teri MacAuthur, 281-210-380

SAT., MAY 12: CELEBRATE DAYLILIES - TEXAS STYLE SHOW & SALE, 10am-3pm Sale, 1-3pm show, Gethsemene Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga. Free. The Houston Hemerocallis Society and The Houston area Daylily Society event

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

SAT.-SUN., MAY 12-13, HOUSTON CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE, 9am-5pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray St. Free. hcsstex.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

THURS., MAY 17: 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

THURS., MAY 17: SOME LIKE IT SALTY: HOUSTON SALINE PRAIRIES by ANDY NEWMAN, 6:45-8:30 pm; Houston Arboretum, West Loop N access road (before Woodway Dr.). Free. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter event. Free. npsot.org/houston

THU., MAY 17: CHINA: A HORTICULTURAL JOURNEY by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 6:30pm, Canopy Restaurant: 3939 Montrose Blvd A. \$30. Peckerwood Garden event. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232.

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. MAY 19: HOME ORCHARD TOURS, 9 am-noon; sites: 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: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065. 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

SUN., MAY 20: HARDY FERNS by DARLA HARRIS, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org

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

WED., MAY 23: "TEN YEARS LATER: HCSS BIG BEND FIELD TRIP, JUNE 2008" by Wallace Ward, 7:30pm., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. hcsstx.org.

SAT. JUNE 2: SUCCESSFUL VEGETABLE GARDENING by HERMAN AUER, 9-11 am; Crystal Beach Fire & Rescue, 930 Noble Carl Drive, Crystal Beach. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/

SAT., JUNE 2: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA with LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm, Galveston County 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/

THURS., JUNE 7: HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES by PAM AND LEAH GUNTER, 9-10 am; Waller County Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. Waller County Master Gardener event. Free. RSVP: wallerimgardener2013@gmail.com, 979-826-7651

FRI., JUNE 8: AQUAPONICS WORKSHOP, 9:00am-3:30pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. \$45. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: <https://aquaponicsworkshop.eventbrite.com>

MON., JUNE 9: CHILDREN'S GARDEN GRAND OPENING, 10am-12:30pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free.

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

WED., JUNE 13: BUTTERFLY GARDENING, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens West Side Arboretum Pavilion, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., JUNE 14: 25 YEARS OF CHANGES & CHALLENGES IN THE RAINFOREST PYRAMID by Donita Brannon, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event & plant sale. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., JUNE 16: ORCHID CARE, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: themercersociety.org/events

SAT., JUNE 16: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS, JUNE 14: ORGANIC ROSE PROTOCOLS & PLANT HEALTH by DANIEL MILLIKIN, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

SAT. JUNE 16: SOIL HEALTH by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm. Galveston County 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/

MON., JUNE 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 9-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., JUNE 19: PROPAGATION AND SEED SAVING - 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., JUNE 21: PROPAGATION AND SEED SAVING, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

WED., JULY 11: PUTTING WETLANDS TO WORK IN YOUR HOMETOWN, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens West Side Arboretum Pavilion, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., JULY 21: MONARCHS ON THE MOVE, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: themercersociety.org/events

FRI., JULY 27: HOUSTON FOOD PRODUCTION CONFERENCE, 9am-3:30pm, University of Houston Downtown, 201 Girard. Harris County Master Gardener event. \$50 (\$30/students).

SAT., AUG. 18: THE ART OF KOKEDAMA: JAPANESE GARDENING, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: themercersociety.org/events

THURS., SEPT. 6: ROSES by GAYE HAMMOND, 9-10 am; Waller County Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. Free. Waller County Master Gardener event. RSVP: wallerimgardener2013@gmail.com, 979-826-7651

SAT., SEPT. 15: TERRARIUM TIME, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: themercersociety.org/events

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
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
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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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