

Like 0

Share

Share:

Tweet

-
-
-
-



August 3rd, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 260th 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!](#)



EVEN VERY YOUNG GARDENERS KNOW SCORE . . . INSTEAD OF 'THAT,' PLANT 'THIS' LOCAL NATIVE

*Doing the vegetable rock. (Like we knew we could.)
And it wasn't a shock. (Because they taste so good.)
Green leafy vegetables, yellow, or red,
Onions and asparagus, you won't be underfed.
Doing the vegetable rock.*

-- [The Vegetable Rock](#) by Catherine Slonecki, M.S. and Adrienne Denmark, M.S.

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

So many parents, schools and organizations now are encouraging even very young children to participate in vegetable gardens. Many, if not most, include small areas where the very young get to decide on one or two plants they'd like to grow themselves.

I wondered, if very young children plan an entire garden, what would they plant? A few friends quizzed youngsters 10 and under about their 'Dream Garden.' The results delighted me:

- **Murray Aguillard Schiller** asked her grandsons:
 - Korbyn, 5, wants green beans, lettuce, carrots and sunflowers
 - Rene, 7, prefers apples, bananas, carrots, tomatoes, strawberries



Korbyn's Dream Garden: green beans, carrots, lettuce and sunflowers



Rene's Dream Garden: apples, bananas, carrots, oranges, strawberries & tomatoes

- **Dona Boudreaux Clay's** granddaughters, 10-year-old twins Madison & Klayton, and Ashlyn, 8, decided their ideal garden would include bell peppers, lettuce, radishes, tomatoes, strawberries and watermelons, along with apple, grapefruit lemon trees and a peony, which they describe as "those flowers with all the petals."

(I wondered about "peony." I have never seen one growing this far south. But, hey, it never hurts to try. Maybe one of them will be the first to successfully grow peonies down here!)



Madison, Klayton and Ashlyn's Dream Garden: apples, bell peppers, grapefruit, lemons, lettuce, radishes, tomatoes, strawberries, watermelons & peony



- **Jeff & Christi Megow** think their home garden is the reason their children happily eat so many vegetables. Could be. When asked what their ideal garden would contain,
 - 8-year-old Grace said, "Tomatoes."
 - 6-year-old Matthew said, "Watermelons . . . if they can be really big."



***Grace's Dream Garden must include tomatoes.
Matthew's must include a "really BIG" watermelon***

Grace and Matthew agree on why a vegetable garden is a good thing to have:

- Grace: *"It has lots of yummy foods."*
- Matthew: *"Getting to eat from it".*

When asked "What's gross about helping with the garden?":

- Matthew said, *"Having to pull the weeds."*
- Grace hates *" . . . trying to keep the cats from using potty in it."*

Out of the mouths of babes . . .

Are you surprised at their amazingly-sensible choices? Maybe you need to get more in touch with today's very-young generation!

* * *

SPEAKING OF VEGETABLES: August 5-11 is National Farmers Market Week. If you aren't now participating in, or taking advantage of, one of the Greater Houston Area's Farmer's Markets, don't let one reason be that you can't find one near you. Just click on [this link](#): Or, click here for info on the [Farmers Market Coalition](#).

* * *

TIP O' THE TROWEL TO:

- **AREA MASTER GARDENERS & PUBLIC LIBRARIES:** Master Gardeners' outreach is wonderfully obvious in the number of usually free, usually walk-in gardening classes now being offered at area branch libraries. Sometimes registration is required so attendance can be anticipated, so be sure and note "Register" in the calendar below. Check the calendar for gardening events your conveniently-close neighborhood library!
- **LEVY PARK** Conservancy, Upper Kirby Redevelopment Authority and the entire Levy Park project team. The 3801 Eastside St. park is one of five finalists for the prestigious 2018 Urban Land Institute's Urban Open Space Award, a worldwide competition.

* * *

PLANT THIS, NOT THAT -- NATIVE SUBSTITUTES

The now pervasive inclusion of Texas native plants into home landscapes is great on so many levels, low maintenance being not the least of them. But what many don't take into consideration is: Texas is a land of many different growing situations.

Compared to our Upper Texas Gulf Coast's unique subtropical ecology, West Texas receives far less rainfall:

- Central Texas has extremely porous limestone soil,
- North Texas has far longer, colder winters,
- East Texas has very sandy, fast-draining, slightly-acidic soil and
- South Texas has longer hotter summers and milder, shorter winters.

Throughout the Greater Houston and surrounding regions, we have -- in so many areas -- thick, poorly-draining gumbo clay soil, intermittent subfreezing winter cold spells mixed with sometimes even "hot" days, monsoons in spring and fall, all the insect/disease threats of subtropics everywhere and/or soil that tends more to the alkaline side.

On the plus side, all the rivers in Texas drain into our Upper Gulf Coast area, giving us a nutritious soil richness not many other Texas areas have.

Since natives are low maintenance BECAUSE they're so well adapted to their environs, it would be smart for us to at least take a look at our own flora, and incorporate as many of these plants as we possibly can.

That's not to say we shouldn't be planting varieties native to other Texas areas. We should! They're great for our landscapes too and tend to be much lower-maintenance than many commonly used plants. Also, they're the most readily available plants commercially (more people/more \$\$\$ in sales).

Just remember to compensate for climatic differences, like putting those native to well-draining soils in raised beds if you have gumbo clay soil to compensate for our monsoons. But then, raised or well-draining beds are best for almost all landscapes.

In our Spotlight article below, Katy Emde of the Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter gives three great LOCAL native substitutes for commonly used landscape plants. Katy will expand this idea, along with ideas for smooth transitions, Thursday, Aug. 16, 6:45 pm in a free NPSOT/H gathering at the [Houston Arboretum & Nature Center](#). (Remember the arboretum's entrance is now on West Loop N access road, just south of Woodway.)

And before you fuss about never being able to find recommended native plants, all those Katy discusses will be available for purchase at the big upcoming Sat., Sept. 22 Wildscapes Workshop, 8am-3:30pm, at Houston Community College West Loop Center, 5601 W. Loop South. Better sign up now -- space is limited: npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop/.

NPSOT/Houston also includes a list of good native plants sources on its website: npsot.org/wp/houston.

* * *

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

* * *



L to r, roughleaf coneflower, wild violet petunia and Cherokee sedge

(Photos credits: Carolyn Fannon/[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](http://LadyBirdJohnsonWildflowerCenter.com), fireflyforest.com, and bakerenvironmentalnursery.com)

REPLACING NON-NATIVES WITH LOCAL NATIVES

by KATY EMDE

Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter

npsot.org/wp/houston

Every year native plant enthusiasts learn of more reasons why growing LOCAL native plants:

- support our wildlife by providing shelter and food.
- increase the number of insects, lizards, and birds and wildlife activity in one's garden.

Many local native plants ideal for home landscapes can be found at the September 22 Wildscapes Workshop, at specialized local nurseries listed on npsot.org/wp/houston/ and at NPSOT/HOUSTON'S

November plant and seed swap. Three excellent choices:

- **ROUGHLEAF CONEFLOWER** (*Rudbeckia grandiflora*). This Aster/Sunflower family member has flowers similar to Black-Eyed Susans, but is taller with larger flowers. These coneflowers can grow to be 2 ½-5', with only a 18-24" wide base . . . a striking plant that doesn't take up a large space.
 - They grow on prairies so happily take full sun but do well in part shade. Plants need only average moisture, maybe a little water in dry times, like now. Late spring flowers attract bees, flies, butterflies, and other pollinators, including two small green *Synchlora* moths, whose caterpillars camouflage themselves by putting bits of petals on their backs. These wonderful caterpillars can also be found on *Gaillardia* and Black-Eyed Susans.
- **VIOLET WILD PETUNIA** (*Ruellia nudiflora*). This is so hardy, its lovely lavender flowers can be seen in dry, dusty and often mowed freeway green spaces. When not mowed or pruned, plants can be 1-2' tall. They take full sun, part shade, and perhaps shade. Moisture needs are low to medium - not a fussy plant. Flowers last only a day, but they bloom from April to October -- at my house it is more like June through August. They can be found at Mandell Park and at the Nature Discovery Center where they are being used to fill open spaces.
 - *Ruellias* spread by flinging seeds when pods pop open. After a couple years, you might want to thin them, which gives you plants to share. These plants are host plants for several butterflies. *(These have more of a vining groundcover appearance and different leaf structure, unlike the often-invasive tall and clumping "Mexican petunia" ruellias)*
- **CHEROKEE SEDGE** (*Carex cherokeensis*). This evergreen grass-like plant is gaining popularity as a groundcover, particularly if one is trying to get rid of lawn but maintain a grassy green look. It grows 12-18" high, although seed stalks can be a little taller. Long drooping blades give a lovely airy feeling at first and over the years slowly creeping rhizomes create nice green clumps. The plant also spreads by new growth from seeds.
 - This sedge likes part shade but can take full sun. It likes a moist area but can survive a drought, though a little watering helps. I am watering mine once a week right now. The plants are important as cover for birds and other small animals so it is worthwhile to consider them as a substitute for *liriope*. Nice companion plants for this sedge might be Violet Wild Petunia or Gulf Coast Penstemon.

Every native plant that is planted makes our area a little better.

* * *

Katy's NPSOT/HC presentation will be:

- **THURS., AUG. 16 : GARDENING WITH LOCAL NATIVE PLANTS AND HOW HOUSTONIANS ARE DOING IT,"**
6:45-8:30 pm; Houston Arboretum, West Loop N access road. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter.
- **The SAT. SEPT. 22. WILDSCAPES WORKSHOP, 8am-3:30pm, at Houston Community College West Loop Center, 5601 W. Loop South. Better sign up now -- space is limited:**
npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop
-



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #54

Studies have found that beneficial nematodes are very effective at reducing damage from the alfalfa snout beetle. Now research from Cornell University since 2014 has found that they can use beneficial nematodes to control corn rootworm. The nematodes reduce damage better than using GMO corn that produces Bt. This saves farmers from having to purchase the expensive BT-CRW corn seed.

Several new studies were published in the Journal of Environmental Quality on the usage of poultry manure as a fertilizer. The first was a six year study that found fertilization with poultry manure greatly increased bacteria populations in the soil but not fungi. Most perennial plants require far more fungi in the soil than bacteria (Note: Weeds prefer bacterial dominated soils). The second study found that the nutrients (especially nitrogen) in poultry manure were rapidly volatilized and lost (38-50% in just 83 days). The third study found that adding FGD (flue gas desulfurization) gypsum to the chicken manure would reduce the negative impact of surface water degradation (pollution).

The USDA continues to weaken the National Organic Program under pressure from chemical companies. They now allow hydroponics and CAFO's (Concentrated Animal feeding Operations) to be certified organic. Many microbes that provide plants with many nutrients and beneficial compounds do not live in a hydroponic environment and these feedlots are pathogen breeding grounds. A non-profit group called "The Real Organic Project", has developed additional standards to help protect consumers. (www.realorganicproject.org)

When animals are raised in CAFO's they require massive amounts of antibiotics to keep them alive (it also makes many animals gain weight faster which equals dollars). Each year tens of millions of POUNDS of antibiotics are fed to cows, pigs, poultry and other animals. When we eat meat from these animals we are exposed to these antibiotics which then create super bugs that are resistant to antibiotics greatly handicapping our medical community. To make matters worse conventional manure treatment does not remove these bacteria and they are then dumped into our rivers and streams. The good news is most of these antibiotics can be destroyed by long timeframe composting. Some antibiotics will have a 70% reduction in just 150 days of composting. However, most composters only go a few weeks and use the incorrect method of composting to destroy these antibiotics.

We have known for many years that a substance called *glomalin* produced by the glomulas fungi is one of the glues that help form good soil structure. Glomalin is composed of long strings of carbon atoms that are resistant to decay, hence it helps sequester carbon in the soil increasing the organic matter. Numerous studies have tied soil fertility to the amount of organic matter in the soil. Other studies have shown that prairies with grazing animals can sequester carbon more efficiently and at higher levels than forests. It turns out that animal manures from grazing animals stimulates the growth of the glomulas fungi. Soil Science Society of America Journal, 2000

Manure from grazing animals like cattle can help correct soil acidity problems by increasing the pH and making some nutrients more available to plants. Soil Science Society of America Journal, 2000

We mentioned the health benefits of eating nuts high in healthy fats last week. A study published in the Journal of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (July 2018), has found that the inclusion of raw nuts in a our diet significantly improves the quality and function of a man's sperm.

In the United States 50% of our population is deficient in zinc (Zn) and 20% is severely deficient according to the U.S. National Institute of Health. Over 3,000 proteins use this vital mineral which affects many aspects of our health. In addition to the benefits of nuts previously mentioned, some nuts like pecans are a good source of zinc. Maybe, I can now call Pecan Pie a health food?

* * *

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

SAT., AUG. 4: HANGING BASKET CLASS CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

THURS., AUG. 9: MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM IN THE COMMUNITY by PAUL WINSKI & BRANDI KELLER, w/PLANT SALE, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., AUG. 9: WATER, THE NECESSARY INGREDIENT by BAXTER WILLIAMS, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org.

THURS., AUG. 9: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING - 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

FRI., AUG., 10: GREATER HOUSTON ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT. Citizens' Environmental Coalition event. cechouston.org

SAT., AUG. 11: WASTE NOT, WANT NOT . . . BOKASHI AND VERMICOMPOSTING, 9:30-11:30am. University of Houston Downtown, 201 Girard St. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

THURS., AUG. 16: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING - 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., AUG. 16: GARDENING WITH LOCAL NATIVE PLANTS AND HOW HOUSTONIANS ARE DOING IT" by KATY EMDE, 6:45-8:30 pm; Houston Arboretum, West Loop N access road. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/wp/houston

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

SAT., AUG. 18: PLUMERIA CLASS CLASS by JIM MAAS & LORETTA OSTEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT. AUG 18: BONSAI by CLYDE HOLT, 9-11 am, \$25; URBAN SMALL BACKYARD GARDENING by HERMAN AUER, 1-2:30pm, free; and PROPAGATING TOMATO PLANTS USING CUTTINGS, 2:30-3pm, free, AgriLife Extension Bldg., Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy. 519), LaMarque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., AUG. 18: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING - 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

MON., AUG. 20: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY w/PLANT SALE, 9-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES. AUG 21: GARDENING BY THE SQUARE FOOT by JOHN JONS, 6:30-8pm; Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg,

Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

TUES., AUG. 21: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUE., AUG. 21: MY BROMELIAD RETROSPECTIVE by CHARLIE BIRDSONG, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

SAT., AUG. 25: FALL & WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

TUES., AUG. 28: DIVERSITY OF FERNS by DARLA HARRIS, 1:30pm; Sugar Land Branch Library, 550 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

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 8: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 1-3 pm. Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr, Friendswood. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Must register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THURS., SEPT. 13: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 6: INSECTS; THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE NOT SO UGLY BY MARY KARISH, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

SAT., SEPT. 15: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

SAT., SEPT. 8: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Conference Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

THURS., SEPT. 13: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING by CHRISTINE HAMMON, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., SEPT. 15: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

MON., SEPT. 17: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY, 9-11:00am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Plants for sale in greenhouse. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., SEPT. 18: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., SEPT. 18: LOVE YOUR HIPPEASTRUM AKA AMARYLLIS by CHARLES PRASEK, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

THURS., SEPT. 20: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT. SEPT 22: COMPOSTING by JIM GILLIAM, 9-11am; A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA (FRANGIPANI) by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm. 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., SEPT. 29: HANGING BASKET CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT. SEPT 29: T-BUD GRAFTING OF CITRUS & FRUIT TREES by SUE JEFFCO, 9-10:30 am, 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., OCT. 6: HIBISCUS CLASS WITH GRAFTING by JIM MAAS & JOE MILLER, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 6-7: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, Sat., 10am-4pm; Sun., 10am-3pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.com

SAT, OCT 20: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE, United Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2038 FM 3171, Schulenburg. Free. texasroserustlers.com/events/

SAT. OCT. 20: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE. Plant sale seminar: 8-8:50am. Sale, 9 am-1 pm. Galveston County Fair Grounds ,Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd., Hitchcock. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., OCT. 27: FRUIT TREE CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., NOV. 3: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., NOV.3: SEABORNE NATURE FEST, 10am-4pm, Seaborne Creek Nature Park, 3831 TX 36, Rosenberg. Free. [SEABOURNE NATURE FEST](#)

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

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE
 BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS**



COMPOST TOP DRESSING
LAWN, TREE, & BED FERTILIZATION

<http://www.greenprotexas.com/>



<http://www.yearroundhouston.com/>



www.bartlett.com



<http://natureswayresources.com/>

Save 50% **Coupon**

**ROSES: BUY ONE, GET
ONE FREE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**

101 SHERBROOK CIRCLE, CONROE TX
www.natureswayresources.com or 936-321-6990

Offer Expires: WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

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.