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August 23rd, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 263rd 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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## 'TOO HAPPY FOR COMFORT' VS 'INVASIVE'? ... 'I'D RATHER PRUNE THAN FERTILIZE'

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

So grateful to everyone who responded about plants proving "too happy for comfort" in their gardens. Going to turn this space over to them today.

The best general tip on how to find out which plants might become overly aggressive in your specific area came from Audrey in Southwest Houston. She advised: Talk to your neighbors!!! They are the best to advise you on what plants might get out of hand where you live.

If your space and/or neighbor-contact is limited, maybe some of these reports will help with your decision:



L to r: wedelia, ruellia, cashmere bouquet (Mexican hydrangea) and Chinese tallow

- **BILLIE EMANUEL** in Mont Belvieu has spent the last 20 years trying to get rid of wedelia, ruellia and cashmere bouquet. She's now contemplating using a blow torch.
- **INGRID HAMILTON** in The Woodlands totally agrees on wedelia and cashmere bouquet (Mexican hydrangea) and adds wisteria and tall blue ruellia as *"Dirty Rats!": "... we "invite them in, nurture them and before you know it they are taking over the whole place!"*
- **Ken Warren** got specific, which will delight readers who want botanical names. He notes: *"Both Clerodendrum bungei (purple) and C. philipense (white) are called Cashmere bouquet and both spread vigorously by underground runners."*
  - Ken prefers the word "vigorous" to "invasive" and I agree. "Invasive" is a serious word and should be reserved for truly dangerous choice such as Chinese tallow that are major threats to native flora and fauna, not just nuisances to some gardeners





*L to r: crossvine, Rangoon creeper, yellow butterflyvine, orange ditch daylily*

- **PAM HASKER** in the Heights says to put her down for the red and orange crossvine. It was well behaved for five years. Then it "proceeded to take over the entire back yard."
- **POLLY SCHROEDER** lists two vines that, to be honest, I just planted as I now have extensive fencelines: Rangoon creeper and yellow butterfly vine. They do need LOTS of room.
  - I have to really thank you, Polly, for mentioning the orange ditch daylily. I had no idea these were SO invasive in areas east and north of us. As [this map](#) shows, ditch daylilies are already a major problem east of us. But word is, they're rapidly becoming "invasive" in East Texas as well and moving south.
  - Polly also lists as "aggressive" the dark purple passionvine (*Passiflora Incense*), Bauhinia orchid vine, Washington palm trees, crocosmia bulbs and banana trees.



*L to r: Passiflora Incense, Bauhinia orchid vine, crocosmia, banana trees*

**BEVERLY HARRIS**, as always, made me laugh with her off-beat observation. She recalled the time husband Bill came into the house quite literally weeping after mowing the lawn.

Turns out, she writes, *"I had planted chives in a flower bed and when we weren't looking, the little pretend onions jumped out of their boundary and flourished in the grass. It was a mean chore to identify and destroy the invaders. After that, I bought my chives at the grocery store."*



***L to r: Allium schoenoprasum/chives, horsetail Equisetum hyemale, coral vine and Mexican flame vine***

I also asked a number of gardeners I respect if they had any advice for folks who are coping with plants a little (or a lot) too happy in their yards.

- DORIS HEARD's recommendation on coping with overly-enthusiastic vines is to prune weekly during the growing season. She also added Katie ruellia and horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*) as two plants she avoids.
- [FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS](#) BARBARA, DIANA & KATHI added these tips for controlling invasive vines:
  - Dead-head blooms to remove seeds
  - Prune the vine and remove suckers
  - Kill the plant with hot water
  - Spray the plant with diluted vinegar
  - Plant in a container, set the container on concrete to contain the roots.

**NO SUCH THING AS A TOTALLY MAINTENANCE-FREE GARDEN.** Lazy gardeners come close by picking and choosing which plants fit the amount of time & effort they're willing to spend.

- J. J. MORAN loves his golden raintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*). He plans to keep it even though it "...causes me much work as I try to pick up all the seed pods then try to pull up all the seedlings EVERY Year." Ditto for his crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)  
I love & share [Joshua's Native Plants'](#) Joshua Kornegay's approach:
  - "I don't use the word 'invasive'. I prefer 'aggressive.' Personally I would rather prune than feed."

Me too and just bought three hot sun lovers that are definitely enthusiastic growers (another of my favorite terms): butterflyvine, Mexican flame vine & coral vine. Some readers listed all 3 as "no longer welcome!.

- The only one I've grown before (for over five decades) is coralvine. As a truly LAZY gardener, I found it a beautiful totally maintenance-free "blanket" to hide my neglect of certain areas. It does die back most winters. If it doesn't, it does try to overtake other plants. But the stems are so flimsy, they're easy to pull off. Like J. J. Moran, I think this plant is worth it.

Another important thing to remember is that hybrids of all these mentioned might, or might not, have different growth patterns from the native species. As a general rule, if you're into habitat gardening, trying to attract butterflies, hummers and other delightful wildlife, you'll have better luck with the natives. And these may, or may not, be more aggressive than their hybrid cousins.

Back to what Audrey said in the beginning, talk to your neighbors!

Two other great sources for advice for your specific area:

- [Your county Master Gardeners](#) and/or
- Your local nurserymen who want and need you to be happy so you'll continue as a good customer

Hope this helps! Thanks for all who shared.

\* \* \*

***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](http://natureswayresources.com)



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #57

In this month's Tree Care Industry magazine, there was an interesting article on why some trees produce large fruits or seed pods. It also explained why some trees like the Honey Locust produce very large sharp spines. "What do trees like the Honey Locust ( *Gleditsia tricanthos* ), Pronghorns ( *Antilocarpa americana* ), have in common? Why do Osage Orange ( *Maclura pomifera* ), Paw Paw ( *Asimina triloba* ), Kentucky Coffee trees ( *Gymnocladus dioica* ), and Avocado trees ( *Persea americana* ) put so much energy into producing such large seed packages that fall to the ground and rot?" Researchers have found that the traits evolved because of browsing by now extinct large animals called Mastadons and other large mammals. These large fruits evolved to attract these animals which ate them and then scattered the seed in their manure (a plant propagation strategy) as they roved around. However, the trees did not want the fruits eaten until the seeds in the fruit were ripe hence the plants developed different techniques to prevent animals from grazing on them. Some trees will not produce fruits until they are 7-10 years old and tall enough that the fruits are too high for the animals to reach. Other trees like the honey locust produce the large strong thorns starting at two feet above the ground up to 12 feet or so. This prevented the Mastodons from just pushing them over to get to the seed pods. I started reading a new book this morning called "Ghosts of Evolution" on this subject.

As many of you know I studied physics as part of both my undergraduate and graduate work. I found this new study from Duke University very interesting as it explains how physics governs the evolution of social organizations into larger and more complex communities. These same laws of physics gives rise to a scientific explanations to how tree branches grow or river deltas form, this is a concept called the constructal law. This law states that for a system to survive, it must evolve over time to increase its access to "flow". We see this all across nature from the human vascular system to modern highway and road networks, to river systems and tree branches. Living organisms have a tendency to organize themselves into increasing larger and complex societies. Gardens that have been designed with this concept have less problems, grow better and consume less resources as it copies nature.

International Journal of Energy Research 2018.

We have talked about the dangers of GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) many times. Due to the health and environmental hazards many countries will not allow GMO plants to be grown or even shipped into the country. These include France, Germany, Austria, Poland, Greece, Switzerland, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Russia also forbids GMO and is in the process of converting all its agriculture to organic methods.



The results of some new studies on Round Up (glyphosate) were published in the Pulse of Natural Health Newsletter (June 2018). In animal studies that consumed GMO soy or corn, the animals became unable to reproduce by the 3rd generation. The "inert" ingredient in Round-Up called POEA (polyethoxylated tallow amine) has been found to be 1,200-2,000 times more toxic to human cells than the active ingredient glyphosate. Also this week a California court has found Monsanto the maker of Round-Up falsifying safety data and has awarded a \$289 million to a plaintiff with cancer caused by Round Up exposure. The reasons to use organic methods in gardening and agriculture continue to increase.

For those interested, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) has paid to have many common cereals tested for this toxic chemical, since the EPA, USDA and FDA will not do it. The results can be found at:

<https://www.ewg.org/childrenshealth/glyphosateincereal/#.W3WIMsJOnDA>

A while back when we were studying minerals we discussed the dangers of mercury (Hg) in soils. Another source of mercury contamination has been identified, sewage sludge or the politically correct name biosolids. It turns out that one of the sources of this mercury is from vaccines. For example, the FDA allows the flu vaccines to contain **25,000 more times** the mercury than the EPA allows in drinking water. The mercury not absorbed by our bodies comes out in our manure (feces). This is another reason to avoid compost made with biosolids for ones yard and gardens. It has its place but not in our yards and gardens.

A study published in the Journal of Nutrition has found that walnuts play a role in heart health and in reducing colorectal cancer. Eating walnuts changed the gut microbiome and reduced LDL-cholesterol levels. The research suggests that it is these changes to the guts microbiome, that caused these benefits. It reinforces the old adage "You are what you eat".

As gardeners we spend a lot of time in the sun that leads to the production of vitamin-D which is essential for good health. At the same time too much sun (e.g. sunburn) can cause skin cancer. The University of Sydney found that the vitamin B-3 (Niacin) can prevent melanoma (skin cancer) and help repair DNA damage from ultraviolet light from the sun. A few foods naturally high in niacin are wild caught fish like tuna, mushrooms, organically grown peanuts, avocados, and green peas.

A study from the Harvard Medical School states that neglecting to get proper micronutrients "virtually guarantees disease". As we discovered in our study of the elements last year hundreds of human health problems are caused or aggravated by trace and micronutrient deficiencies. This is why it is becoming so important to grow our own food (fruits, vegetables, herbs) organically using heirloom varieties that have a high nutrient density. One of the things I do personally in my yard and garden as well as my farm, is apply trace minerals to everything I grow. I have found that a mix of 60% greensand, 20% granite sand, and 20% basalt sand provides all 79 elements found in the human body. I apply 40 pound per 1,000 square feet every 4-5 years as it is extremely cheap insurance against plant or human health problems. If these minerals are not in the soil, then the microbes cannot release them, hence plants do not absorb them and they are not in our food.

On the website (<https://www.mercola.com/>) he has an excellent guide to antioxidants "The Ultimate Guide to Antioxidants" that can be downloaded free. In that guide one method of getting antioxidant results is by walking barefoot on the soil, a process called "grounding or earthing". It allows one to

absorb large amounts of electrons (which have a negative charge) through our feet. The same benefit occurs when we plant or dig into the soil with our bare hands (another benefit of being a gardener). I cannot remember how many times over the years when showing a good compost or soil to someone that they would say "this even feels good". They could sense the health benefits.

One of the major insect pest control methods along with spiders is birds. A study in the Journal The Science of Nature has found that birds eat between 400-500 million tons of insects each year! These include beetles, flies, aphids, grasshoppers, crickets, arthropods and many more. Without birds to keep insects in check there would be no forests or food for us. The toxic agricultural chemicals are killing millions of birds each year. When birds eat the poisoned insects they get sick or die and if a cat or dog then eats the bird they often get sick or die.

When I am walking around in the garden one of my favorite things to do is brush/shake plants with fragrant foliage. One of my favorites is Spearmint, from just the aroma to having it crushed up in a glass of ice tea on a hot day. A recent article in Life Extension (August 2018, pp 24-30) compiled from 17 published studies that this herb has many health benefits. Tea made from this mint boosts mental focus, attention, and concentration while supporting restful sleep at night. The new data suggests "that spearmint polyphenols may promote neurogenesis (the growth of new brain cells), while protecting existing neurons and boosting neurotransmitter levels."

\* \* \*

## **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. 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](http://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](http://sugarlandgardenclub.org)**

**THURS., AUG. 30: URBAN FARMING by SCOOTER LANGLEY & COREY MCMULLEN, 11am-1pm, Coldspring Community Center, 101 W. Cedar Ave., Coldspring. San Jacinto County Master Gardener event. Free. [txmg.org/sjmg](http://txmg.org/sjmg)**

**WED., SEPT. 5: GROWING AND CARING FOR BROMELIADS** by JOANNE WOOLSEY, 9-11 am, Clear Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 16335 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners by the Bay event. [gbtb.org](http://gbtb.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: [wallermgardener2013@gmail.com](mailto:wallermgardener2013@gmail.com), 979-826-7651

**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](http://ncgctx.org)

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

**MON, SEPT. 10: SALVIAS BY PHOEBE LAKE**, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. [tomballgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:tomballgardenclub@gmail.com)

**MON., SEPT. 10: SUSTAINABLE GARDENING & PLANT EXCHANGE** by KAREN GERLACH, MD, 6:30-9pm, 2929 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Lake Houston Gardeners event. [lakehoustongardeners.org](http://lakehoustongardeners.org)

**WED., SEPT. 12: BEHIND SCENES AT A BOTANIC GARDEN**, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

**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; [hcmg.a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.tamu.edu)

**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; [hcmg.a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.tamu.edu)

**THURS., SEPT. 13: BAYOU BEND: PLANTS THAT SHAPED MISS IMA'S GARDEN** by Bart Brechter 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

**FRI., SEPT. 14: PLANT SALE and NEUTRALIZING OUR INDIVIDUAL CARBON FOOTPRINTS** by JIM BLACKBURN, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.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](http://maasnursery.com)

**SAT., SEPT. 15: TERRARIUM TIME**, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: [themerchersociety.org/event](http://themerchersociety.org/event)

**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; [hcmg.a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.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; [hcmg.a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.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; [hcmg.a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.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](http://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; [hcmg.a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.tamu.edu)

**SAT., SEPT. 22: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP**, 8:30am-2:30pm. University of St. Thomas, O' Rourke Bldg, 3800 Montrose Blvd. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)

**SUN., SEPT. 23: GULF COAST DAYLILY A DREAM WAITING TO BE LIVED** by EVERETT CRAINER, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)



**WED., SEPT. 26: 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](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

**THURS., SEPT. 27: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6-7:30pm. McGovern Centennial Family Gardens, 1500 Hermann Dr. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

**SUN., SEPT. 30: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE 1: SLTP 1. 2-6pm. Loop 610 & Stella Link area. \$55 Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

**THURS., OCT. 4: BULBS NATURALIZED FOR THE GULF COAST by LINDA GAY, time?, Place? Fee? Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [website/email](http://website/email) for more information?**

**SAT., OCT. 6: MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN POLLINATOR FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.**

**SAT., OCT. 6: BASIC FRUIT TREE CARE & PLANTING,. 9:30am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Classroom, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

**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.co](mailto:kjwross@yahoo.co)**

**SUN., OCT. 7: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE 2: SLTP 2. 12:30-5:30pm. University of Houston, Central Campus, 4800 Calhoun Rd. \$65. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

**WED., OCT. 10: MYSTERIOUS PLANTS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.**

**FRI., OCT.12: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE & A WITCH'S BREW FLOWER SHOW, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)**

**SAT., OCT.13: URBAN HARVEST EDIBLE ACADEMY: EAT SHARE, GROW!, 9am-noon. Gregory-Lincoln Educational Center, PVA, 1101 Taft St. \$50. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

**SUN., OCT. 14: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS THROUGH PERMACULTURE (6 Classes), 1-5:30pm, University of Houston, Central Campus, 4800 Calhoun Rd. \$325. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

**SAT, OCT 20: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE, United Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2038 FM 3171, Schulenburg. Free. [texasroserustlers.com/events/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://maasnursery.com)**

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

**FRI., NOV.9: THE PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS - TEXAS' STATE PLANT by LILIANA CRACRAFT, ", Speaker Liliana Cracraft. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)**

**WED., NOV. 14: SUCCULENT DESIGN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160**

**SAT., DEC. 8: HOLIDAY IN THE GARDENS, 11am-5pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160**

**WED., DEC. 12: WINTER COLOR, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160**

**FRI., DEC 14: WINTER WONDERLAND LUNCHEON GALA**, speaker: **BILL McKINLEY**. 10am, Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. \$30. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

**FRI., JAN.11: THE HISTORY OF THE PEGGY MARTIN ROSE** by **PEGGY MARTIN**, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

**FRI., JAN. 25: MONARCH TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOP**, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

**FRI: FEB. 8: PLANT SALE** and speaker **CORRIE TEN-HAVE**, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

**FRI: MAR. 8: NATIVE PLANTS ARE BEAUTIFUL TOO!** by Linda Gay, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

**FRI.,MAR. 16: MARCH MART PLANT SALE**, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

**FRI: APR. 11: PLANT SALE** and **REFUGEES FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM** by **MARGARET PICKELL**. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

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](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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