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September 7, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 265th 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. (John is 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!

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TRIED THESE GARDEN OPTIONS? . . . SAY NO TO WATER HYACINTHS . . . TRICKY TREES

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

AS ANYONE WHO has read my columns for any period time probably knows, I love quirky, funky, outside-the-box or just plain ol' fun gardening ideas, approaches, techniques, etc.

Two have been brought back to my attention lately by readers: straw bale gardens and keyhole gardens. Both are ideal for folks with challenges, especially with bending over and reaching across regular inground beds. I really appreciate these now!



Left & center, two keyhole garden styles. Right, straw bale gardening.

- **KEYHOLE GARDENS.** These are shaped like a keyhole and usually have two approaches. One leaves the center "hole" open for easy access to all plantings. The other is filled with a porous bin that is filled with a continuous supply of compost materials
- **STRAW BALE GARDENS.** Note these are straw, not hay. Hay is feed and as such will have seeds. Straw is a dried stalk, actually a hollow tube, a waste product after harvest. This "tube" will collect and hold water, one of its assets as a garden structure material.

Both ideas have been around a long time, but I have never seen either actually successfully done in our Greater Houston area. That's not to say they haven't been. Just that in the 50+ years I've written about and interviewed gardeners, I've never seen one even tried, much less been successful.

Usually lack of general use tells me there are good reasons why particular gardening techniques, or particular plants, aren't that effective in our area. But our climate's changing and with these changes are coming expanding gardening techniques as well.

If you have tried either or both, I would love to hear about your experiences -- good or bad -- and any advice you'd give to someone who'd like to give one of these a try.

I don't want to discuss either one in detail until I hear from someone who's used them here. If you're interested, just google "keyhole garden" or "straw bale garden." Be forewarned: Neither one is

"lazy" gardening in the beginning. Hope someone out there has tips to share for the rest of us.
lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

Speaking of compost, Houston's Green Building Resource Center has scheduled a Certified YardWise Master Composter Training Course Sept. 20-23 at 1002 Washington Ave. \$40. Space limited.

codegreenhouston.org/images/master_composter_program_2018.pdf

* * *

ONE LAST WORD ON INVASIVES . . . A reader, who asked to be named, wrote about lovely "hyacinths" spotted blooming in a stream in the Winnie-High Island area.

These were **WATER HYACINTHS**, below left, one of the most invasive, destructive -- you name it - aquatic plants. Well-meaning folks anxious to share its beautiful flower have transported this South American Amazon native literally across the globe. And it's wreaking havoc in waters everywhere it's allowed to set roots.

This reader lives in Kingwood and wondered if it would grow in canals there, adding someone said these are invasive. Is that true?

This is not only true, thank your lucky stars your friend warned you. I imagine readers in Kingwood are gasping as they read this.

Water hyacinths can and will cover streams, lakes and ponds, affect water flow, block sunlight, kill native aquatic plants, deplete oxygen supplies, kill fish and turtles, provide habitat for mosquitoes and other disease vectors and much more.

It is almost impossible to kill once established. (They even considered, back in 1910, importing hippopotamus from Africa into Louisiana to eat it. The proposal failed by one vote.)

So, please, do not transport water hyacinth ANYWHERE!

earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/earthmatters/2016/06/01/seven-things-you-didnt-know-about-water-hyacinth/



Water hyacinths, left, are causing massive waterway damage worldwide (center). Right, esperanza

OLD-TIMEY REMEDIES - Reader Paula Bazan sent in an update on an earlier suggestion for a nonblooming esperanza (yellow bells, *Tecoma stans*, above right). Paula wrote: "*Epsom salt was suggested so I gave mine a dose, then two weeks later another dose. I am thrilled to report I now have two blooms plus a number of buds.*" For another reader who wanted to know where to get Epsom salts, drugstores usually carry them. I bought two nice sized bags at Walgreens and put them on my plants after reading Paula's note!

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OBSERVING TREE DAMAGE? Longtime Houston nurseryman Steve Moore, now with Calloways in Fort Worth, posted a tree observation on Facebook I'd like to share too. Steve wrote:

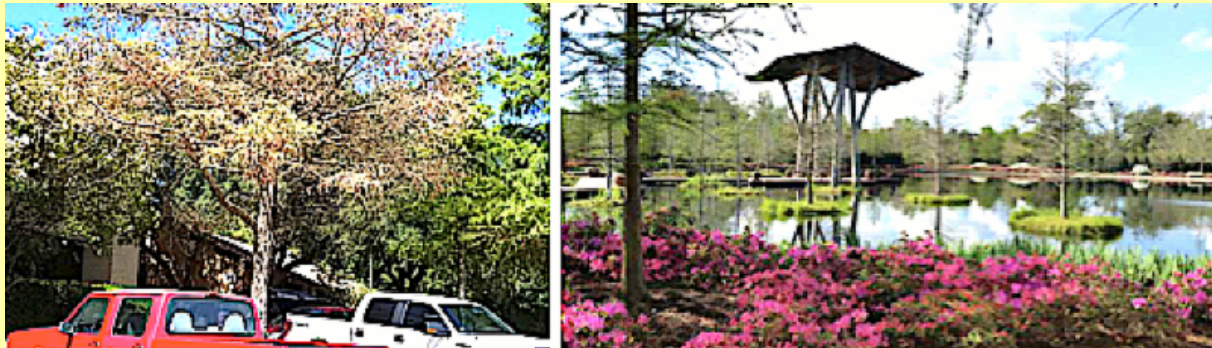
"Sometimes trees look like they're in trouble when actually their survival mechanisms have kicked in. In this photo (below) two Bald Cypressess, side by side, are very different. The left one looks rough, but it's actually using its genetic tool of dropping leaves when conditions are dry.

The right tree has some different genes, owing to seedling diversity no doubt, that allow it to withstand Summer drought conditions without dropping leaves. Plants are amazing"

Steve now reports that "rough-looking" tree on the left is now sporting new leaves.

The Houston Chronicle's Molly Glentzer recently did a great overview of tree concerns in this area: houstonchronicle.com/life/article/Zombie-trees-invade-Houston-landscapes-13203177.php

* * *



Steve Moore's photo of two ball cypresses, left. Right, Shangri La Gardens pre-Harvey

TIP 'O THE TROWEL TO SHANGRI LA GARDENS. This Orange, TX, horticultural delight (above right pre-Harvey) is reopening Wed., Sept. 12, after recovery from devastating flooding. Entrance is free opening day at this outdoor treasure, 2111 W. Park Avenue. starkculturalvenues.org

Shangri La Gardens' traditional Scarecrow Festival will be Oct. 9-Nov. 3. Individuals, groups, businesses, schools and churches participate in this funny, clever, often wacky and weird competition. Visitors vote for winners, announced at the Nov. 3 Autumn Fair. Anyone can enter. starkculturalvenues.org/shangrilagardens/scarecrow-festival

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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



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #59

Is Our Food Becoming Less Nutritious? A few weeks ago we discussed some of the issues (hybrid vegetables, mineral deficiency, etc.) of why our modern food supply is insufficient for health and long life. The short video below discusses another reason below. Research has found that the protein content of a common wildflower called Golden Rod has dropped over 30% in the last hundred years.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI_K2Ata6XY&feature=youtu.be

Mike Papantonio and Author Carey Gillam discuss her new book (White Wash) which reveals how Monsanto viciously worked to cover-up the fact that their weed-killer could cause cancer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f72fEfBTq4o>

I finished an interesting book today called, "The GHOSTS of Evolution - Nonsensical Fruit, Missing Partners, and Other Ecological Anachronisms", By Connie Barlow, Basic Books, 2000, ISBN: 0-465-00552-7. This book is about how different plants evolved various strategies to disperse their seeds and why these strategies are no longer relevant. "It's a fascinating evolutionary whodunit, and the 'who' is us" Dallas Morning News. It does explain why some seeds are so hard to germinate as the required mechanisms no longer are alive.

A study published in the journal Scientific Advances (August 2018) has found that forest conservation in addition to the many benefits provided by trees have found that when children have access to a variety of forest products, including animal, plant, and mushroom species they have greatly improved diets. These forest products provide essential micronutrients that contribute greatly to nutrition. The researchers discovered that the effect is greater for poorer communities.

Another study in the International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health 2018, has found that the risk of breast cancer is much lower in women whom lived near green spaces however this association is dependent on land use. If the green space is an conventional agricultural farm then the risks of cancer increase. Other studies have found that being in association with green space slows cognitive decline in older humans.

A French wine study has found that our food is so contaminated with pesticides that wine and culinary tasters can now taste them in the wine. Note: The professional tasters preferred organic wines 77% of the time!

The International journal Pedosphere 28(3): 463-477, 2018 had a study on citrus orchards and soil physical quality. They found under organic farming methods the soil had more plant available water holding capacity and saturated hydraulic conductivity. This means the soil could store more water than conventional methods yet drain off the excess very quickly. They also found that the organic soils had greater root penetration. The conventional strategies (toxic chemical methods) unequivocally led to soil degradation (loss of organic matter, soil compaction, reduced structural stability and higher water requirements).

The book above GHOSTS found that for some seeds to germinate, not only did the seeds have to pass through an animal's digestive system the animal had to also eat clay. A study in the International Journal of Antimicrobials by researchers at Arizona State University has found that some clays help

prevent infections in wounds including some treatment resistant bacteria (many cultures have used clay mud for wound treatment for generations). I remember when I was a student up at SFA, I would often see poor people eating the red clay from road cuts. So in addition to helping seeds germinate, preventing toxins in some plants from harming mammals, providing needed minerals, clay may help prevent infections. So maybe I should stop complaining about gardening my black gumbo clay as I always feel better after working in some compost and giving a plant a new home.

How often do you notice the unsightly galls on trees that are caused by parasitic wasps. Researchers from Rice University (published in Current Biology, 2018) have found that a parasitic plant (*Cassytha filiformis*) that is known as the Love Vine grows into the galls and mummify the wasp larva growing there. This was the first discovery of a parasitic plant and a parasitic gall wasp sharing the same host plant.

I finished a book the other day titled "DEATH by REGULATION - How We Were Robbed of a Golden Age of Health and How We Can Reclaim It", Mary J. Ruwart, PhD, 2018, SunStar Press, ISBN: 978-0-9632336-1-5

Dr. Ruwart was a researcher for a pharmaceutical company for many years helping to develop new drugs. The book is about how corruption in the FDA prevents lifesaving medicines and nutritional therapies from reaching the American public leading to tens of thousands of pre-mature deaths each year. Their abuse has led to drugs costing hundreds of time more than just a few years ago. From the book: "Every day we are discovering how important vitamins, minerals, and other natural substances are to optimal health. Most Americans are, however, are unaware of those discoveries, because manufacturers risk bankruptcy and criminal prosecution if they inform the public about some of the new findings. Most people are unaware that the recommended daily allowances (RDAs) of vitamins and minerals might prevent overt disease, but that much larger amounts of those nutrients are necessary for optimal health."

A couple years ago I wrote a book review by a group of medical doctors on the same issue.

FDA - Failure, Deception, Abuse - The Story of an Out-of-Control Government Agency and What It Means For Your Health , Life Extension Foundation, Praktikoa Books, 2010, ISBN: 978-1-60766-001-9

Growing our own food organically, on mineral rich soils, with heirloom varieties is becoming critical if we want good health.

* * *

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., SEPT. 8: HOUSE BEAUTIFUL SHOW In The Woodlands at the Waterway Marriott, 10am-6pm Sat. & 10am-5:30pm Sun. Featuring gardening programs by John Ferguson and Dany Millikin. <http://www.woodlandsshow.com/speakers/>

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

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

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

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

TUES., SEPT. 11: FALL GARDENING FOR OUR ZONE by BOB DAILEY, 9 am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event. thewoodlandsgardenclub.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: 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

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

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

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

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: 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

SUN., SEPT 16: Ferns of nepal by george yatskievych, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org.

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

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

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

TUE., SEPT. 18: A SHORT VISIT TO COLUMBIA AND COLLECTING THE WORLD'S LARGEST TILLANDSIA by DENNIS CATHCART, TROPICFLORA NURSERY, SARASOTA, FL, 7:00pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.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

SAT., SEPT. 22: LEAGUE CITY GARDEN WALK: MOVING ON WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, 10am-4pm. \$15. League City Garden Club Event. leaguacitygardenclub.org.

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

SAT., SEPT. 22: LEAGUE CITY GARDEN WALK: MOVING ON WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, 10am-4pm. \$15. League City Garden Club Event. leaguacitygardenclub.org.

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

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

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

FRI., SEPT 28: VEGETABLE GARDENING 101 (6 part series), 1-3pm, Alice Young Library, 5107 Griggs Rd, Urban Gardening Certificate Program. 713-274-0950, Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu

SAT.-SUN., SEPT. 29-30: BROMELIAD SOCIETY / HOUSTON SHOW & SALE, Show 2pm-5pm Sat. & 11am-3pm Sun., Sale 9am-4:30pm Sat. & 11am-3pm Sun., Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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

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

FRI., OCT. 5: *URBAN GARDENING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM starts, 6 classes*, 1-3pm, Alice Young Library, 5107 Griggs Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event.\ 713-274-0950, Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu

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

SAT. OCT 6: URBAN SMALL BACKYARD GARDEN by HERMAN AUER, 9-11 am., Crystal Beach Fire & Rescue, 930 Noble Carl Drive, Crystal Beach. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free but register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., OCT. 6: HERBS FOR THE GULF COAST by CINDY CROFT, 9-11 am, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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

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

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

THURS, OCT. 11 : ORGANIC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN HOUSTON by Lanson B. Jones 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

THURS., OCT 11: PLANTS FOR ALL SEASONS - by SHERRIE HARRAH, 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

THURS., OCT. 11: TREES: PLANTING & CARE (+ FRUIT TREES), 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

FRI.-SAT., OCT. 12-13: BULB & PLANT MART 2018, Fri.: 9am-5pm; Sat.: 9am-3pm Sat., St. John the Divine Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Free. Garden Club of Houston event. gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info

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

SAT., OCT 13: GARDENING FOR POLLINATORS, 9:30am - noon, Nature Discovery Center, 7712 Newcastle, Bellaire. \$15/person. Registration: naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/adult-nature-series/ or 713-667-6550

SAT. OCT 13: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 9-11:30 am; FAVORITE FALL VEGETABLES by GENE SPELLER, 1-3 pm. MASTER GARDENER OCT. 20 FALL PLANT SALE OVERVIEW by KAROLYN GEPHART, 3:15-4:15 pm., AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free but register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html.

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

MON., OCT. 15: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY, 9-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Plant sale. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., OCT. 16: TREES: PLANTING & CARE (+ FRUIT TREES), 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., OCT. 18: TREES: PLANTING & CARE (+ FRUIT TREES), 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Ln. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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 20; GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 8am: Plant Preview Seminar; 9am-1pm: sale. Fair Grounds Rodeo Arena, Jack Brooks Park, Hwy 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd, Hitchcock. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., OCT. 20: TREES: PLANTING & CARE (+ FRUIT TREES), 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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. OCT 27 : "TEXAS TUFF" PLANTS by MARIA LEAL, 9-11 am; TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL-CREATING AN IDEAL GARDEN by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free but register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html.

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

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

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

FRI., DEC. 14: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TRAINING PROGRAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE. Begins Thurs. Jan. 17. \$160. txmg.org/wallermg/training

FRI., JAN.11: THE HISTORY OF THE PEGGY MARTIN ROSE by PEGGY MARTIN, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. 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

FRI: MAR. 8: NATIVE PLANTS ARE BEAUTIFUL TOO! by Linda Gay, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. 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

If we inspire you to attend any of these, please let them know you heard about it in . . .

**THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!
& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!**

**PLEASE READ BEFORE
SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.**

Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.

Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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

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ABOUT US

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

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

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

Houston area.

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN FERGUSON

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

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

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

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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