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September 14, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 266th 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](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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## 'MOVING ON WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS' ... DRAGONFLIES ... NATIVE AZALEAS

*"Deep in their roots, all flowers keep the light."*

-- Theodore Roethke

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

So many of us are still coping with Harvey-triggered landscaping challenges -- and grieving for lost plants. League City Garden Club members certainly empathize. When Harvey hit last year, they were busy preparing for their big annual (then cancelled) 2017 Garden Walk.

League City and surrounding cities were among the hardest hit by Harvey. So *"Moving on with Friends and Family"* is an incredibly appropriate name for this year's Sat., Sept. 22, Garden Tour.

Tightly interwoven with the six garden stops are so many members' stories that might give the rest of us some ideas about flood-tough plants we should be using:

- **LESLIE WONG** found one of her four not-yet-planted curcumas (hidden gingers) high up in a bush, and another -- still blooming albeit in a then-soiless pot -- about a block away. This year both bloomed as though they'd never been attacked by five feet of flood water. Unfortunately, succulents Harvey didn't kill, the following winter's freezes did.
  - Leslie also kept an eye on her Harvey-impacted El Capitolio hibiscus' remaining little nub all through winter and into July when, lo!, it suddenly re-spouted
- **LINDA MCKILLIP** had babied her mango tree for 7-8 years, carting it inside until it got too huge to move. She protected it this past winter but figured freezes on top of Harvey were just too much for it. It looked so dead. By July she was ready to dump the stump when, to her amazement, new shoots appeared on the old trunk.



*Leslie Wong's curcuma, left, and Linda McKillip's mango's new growth and original tree stump*

- **JUDY ANDERSON**, like many gardeners, expected Harvey-traumatized plants that did survive -- like her feather duster (powder puff) plant and firespikes -- to succumb in the unusually deep freezes that followed last winter. To her amazement, all made it through just fine.
- **LISA LOFARO's** totally post-Harvey-ignored aloe vera not only survived, it's also growing nicely again.
- **GLORIA JOHNSON** had written off her tropical allamanda but *"... I was cleaning the flower bed of tall weeds and noticed a little Allamanda growing on the mother trunk."* She hadn't taken

"mama" out . . just in case and her patience paid off. Since then she's found two more small seedlings. "Alleluia!" She lost one queen palm, but two others survived.

- KAYE COREY's survival story should delight readers of *Gulf Coast Gardener* Magazine. The "blooming" queen palm she detailed in a GCG article should be "colorful" again. Blooming?
  - At first it appeared Harvey had not only killed the palm, but also the (actual flowering) Rangoon creeper that had grown up into the queen palm fronds. Convinced of both's demise, Kaye planted a butterflyvine to climb up the dead palm trunk. Suddenly not only did Rangoon come back to life, the palm as well! Soon both should be neighborhood show stoppers again. Maybe Rangoon didn't want anyone else on its "fence"?
- SHARON NUZZI has two hallelujah stories. Her treasured potted pink impatiens came with her when she moved from Ohio two years ago. They survived Harvey, but died later from rot.
  - Or . . . so she thought! This spring, five tiny impatiens leaves were patiently growing on a tiny stalk in soil adjacent to the porch. Sharon was tempted to dig it up, but left it alone. It's happily spreading. Sharon's treasured jasmine did survive Harvey, but winter turned it into dead stump. To her amazement, she's now often cutting incredibly fragrant blooms to enjoy indoors.



*Sharon Nuzzi's beloved impatiens, left, and returning jasmine.*

- PENNY BROCKWAY's sago, pre-Harvey, was suffering from a persistent fungal infection. Ironically, Harvey successfully washed it away!

League City Garden Club's 8th Annual Garden Walk will be alive with more Harvey survival stories as members and visitors are "Moving on With Friends and Family." (Sat., Sept. 22, 10am-4pm).

Six garden stops will include a private petanque court (look it up!), pool plantings, vegetable gardens and views of the magnificent ancient League City oak trees. Proceeds benefit LCGC community activities. Tickets: [leaguecitygardenclub.org](http://leaguecitygardenclub.org); facebook.com/LeagueCityGardenClub, or [leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com)

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## SEEN ANY DRAGONFLIES SWARMING?

They usually don't, but such a swarm was seen in Susan Speer's neighborhood around a hole where a large tree had been removed. Bet she doesn't have many mosquitoes around!



A quick survey of my usual gurus said seeing large groups of these beneficial insects is not a normal situation, nor have any been reported to them. Anyone else see such swarms?

More important to all of us homeowners is a warning from Anita Schiller, Director Harris County Precinct 4, Biological Control Initiative, Mosquito Bio-Control Development.

While perhaps a delight to dragonflies, Anita warns holes in the ground, left from toppled trees, may result in huge problems. Says Anita: ". . . *they create perfect nursery habitat for floodwater and domestic, container breeding mosquito species. Adding grass clippings only exasperates the attractiveness and species known as competent vectors for disease will be attracted to the hole even more. Easiest thing is to fill in the hole.*"

Did you know there's a [Dragonfly Society of the Americas?](#) They have lots of pictures for identification.

**THIS JUST IN - AROMATIC EPSOM SALTS:** Many thanks to Ramona for this warning. She's been using Epsom salts for years on her plants. Recently she bought some at Walgreens and, when putting it around citrus trees, she noticed an unusual aroma. Suddenly Ramona realized, "... it was the Epsom salt! Companies are adding perfumes and 'essential oils' for use in a bath but they may be toxic to plants. I had to baby my trees back after that episode."

*Personal note: I find so many of these added product fragrances not only irritating but sometimes nauseating. I send my complaints the company CEO. Just google the company name + CEO. The same page usually gives you the snail mail address as well. These don't get ignored as easily as emails might.*

Who else would tell you all these things?

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## SAN JACINTO MASTER GARDENERS BRINGING IN NATIVE-TYPE AZALEAS FOR BIG SALE



*Typical of the native-like azaleas (though maybe not these exact two) at the Sept. 15 & Sept. 22 SJMC sales are Rhododendron 'Linda Guy' M van der Giessen and Rhododendron 'Spring Fanfare'*

For decades, we made an annual trek to Newton, northeast of Beaumont, to bask in the beauty of the Wild Azalea Canyon. There true native azaleas bloomed in abundance, until unforgivable thieves robbed the rest of us of this thrilling experience. Disgusting behavior. Don't get me started.

Finding true wild azaleas has always been a problem for ethical gardeners. And, to be honest, we do live a little far south for these airy, small tree-like azaleas to do that well here. The farther north and east you live from downtown Houston, the easier they will be to grow.

But hybridizing has been working wonders for our gardens and typical will be the native-like azaleas the San Jacinto Master Gardeners will be offering at their two big sales, one in Livingston (Sat., Sept. 15) and the second in Coldspring (Sept. 22). It will be interesting to see what success folks have growing these more-shrub-like hybrids in our areas further south and west. Let me know!

The hybrid/native species-cross Aromi Deciduous azaleas they'll be bringing in are native-like and more-heat tolerant true natives. Good news for us. Right now they're recommended for as far south as Zone 9, but are hoping the range will be deeper. Remember, azaleas need winter cold as much as they do tolerable summer heat, so they might do better in some years than others. It certainly never hurts to try!

Kudos to San Jacinto Master Gardeners who have garnered a healthy multi-colored supply from Alabama for their two upcoming Saturday sales, Sept. 15 at Livingston Trade Days at Pedigo Park, 925 U.S. Hwy. 59/69 in Livingston & Sept. 22 at Coldspring Community Center, 101 W. Cedar Ave., Coldspring. Details: <https://txmg.org/sjmg/>

Fall is a good time to plant. These incredibly delicate spring bloomers like the same conditions as other azaleas, camellias and dogwoods, including:

- EXTREMELY well drained soil (in Houston think slope, raised bed or container with bottom cut out and set out in the garden). Roots will not tolerate wet soil for prolonged period.
- Filtered shade - sun breaking through high overhanging tree limbs (ideally pines). Morning sun & afternoon shade will also work.
- Slightly acidic soil with lots of organic matter. Not likely to be happy in heavy gumbo clay soil.
- Heavy pine needle mulch
- No nearby plantings (roots fan out sideways in upper soil levels - hate competition)

Unlike our common azaleas, these are deciduous (lose leaves in winter). Flowers appear before the leaves do. They are small, light airy trees, great pollinators. A great place to see them in spring is at [Mercer Botanic Garden](http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer) (<http://www.hcp4.net/community/parks/mercer>) in Humble and [Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden](#) in Nacogdoches -- both great sites to visit year-round to see what could be blooming in your garden at any given season.

Although Newton's annual Wild Azalea Days celebration is a thing of the past, the City of Jasper will host its 2019 Wild Azalea Festival, March 16, 2019, if you'd like to mark your calendar. Wild azaleas can be seen in the wild along with dogwoods in East Texas, usually around March & April. If you want to see them, though, better go soon. Lumber companies' clear-cutting has already wiped out most of their -- and our native dogwoods -- habitat.

\* \* \*

*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)



## A BOOK REVIEW

"Your Brain on Nature - The Science of Nature's Influence on Your Health, Happiness, and Vitality", by Eva M. Selhub MD and Alan C. Logan ND, Collins Publishing, 2012, ISBN: 978-1-44342-808-8

This book is for anyone whom loves gardening or nature. On many occasions I have wrote about studies that show how gardening drastically improves one's health and well being. Numerous scientific studies have shown that natural environments can have remarkable benefits for human health. Natural environments are more likely to promote positive emotions, and viewing and walking in nature have been associated with heightened physical and mental energy. Nature has also been found to have a positive impact on children who have been diagnosed with impulsivity, hyperactivity and attention-deficit disorder.

This book gives hundreds of additional ways that being exposed to nature helps reduce our risk of many health problems from dementia to heart attacks and strokes. "Physician Eva Selhub and naturopath Alan Logan examine not only the effects of nature on the brain, but the ubiquitous influence of everyday technology on the brain, and how IT overload and its many distractions may even be changing it. Offering an antidote for the technology-addicted, the book outlines emerging nature-based therapies including ecotherapy, as well as practical strategies for improving your (and your children's) cognitive functioning, mental health and physical well-being through ecotherapeutic, nutritional and behavioural means. A powerful wake-up call for our tech-immersed society, Your Brain on Nature examines the fascinating effects that exposure to nature can have on the brain."

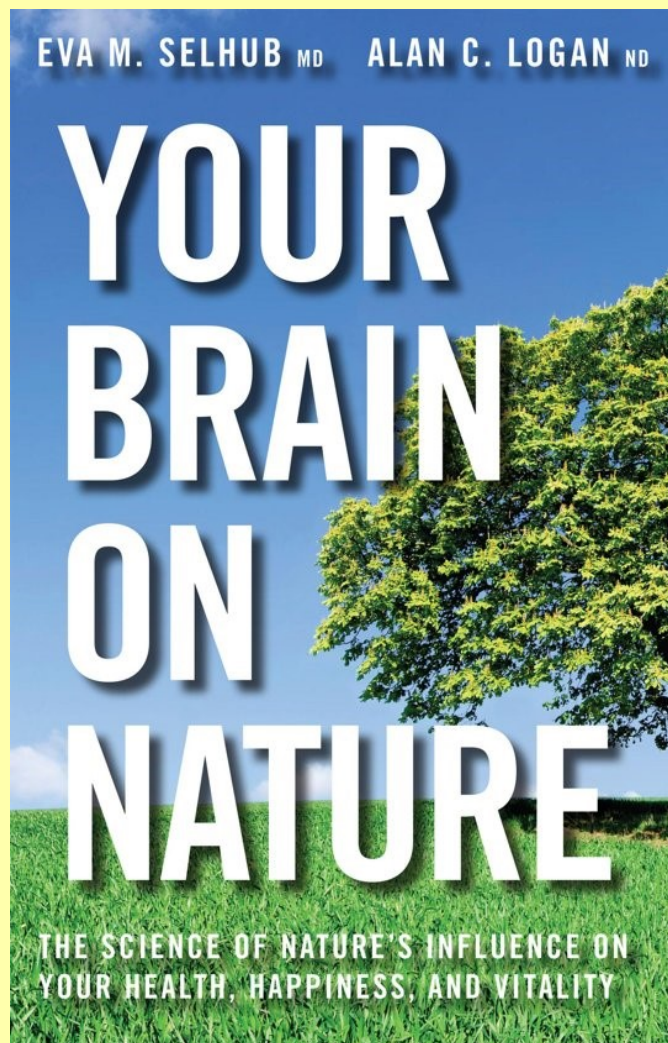
A statement from the book that I love is: "We are long past the time when the difference between soil and dirt should be a point of confusion: soil must no longer be confused with dirt. It is a living, breathing form of nature."

### About the Authors:

**Eva M. Selhub** , MD, is a Clinical Associate of the Benson Henry Institute for Mind/Body Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital and an instructor in medicine at Harvard Medical School. She is the author of *The Love Response* has been published in medical journals and featured in national publications including *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Self*, *Shape*, and *Fitness*.

**Alan C. Logan** , ND, is a naturopathic doctor, scientist, and independent researcher focusing on nutritional medicine and ecotherapy. He is currently invited faculty in the mind-body medicine courses in Harvard's School of Continuing Medical Education. He is the author of *The Brain Diet* and co-author of *The Clear Skin Diet* and several other books. He was among the first contemporary scientists to discuss the connection between friendly microbes and mental health.





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

**DON'T SEE YOUR ORGANIZATION EVENT LISTED? DID YOU SEND IT IN?**  
**NO EVENTS ARE PICKED UP FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS, MASS RELEASES, OTHER PUBLICATIONS, ETC.**

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

**[lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)**  
**\_ IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT**

**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: [themercersociety.org/event](http://themercersociety.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)

**SAT., SEPT 15: FALL PLANT SALE FEATURING NATIVE AZALEAS**, 9am-3pm, Livingston Trade Days, Pedigo Park, 925 U.S. Highway 59, Livingston. Free. San Jacinto County Master Gardener event. [txmg.org/sjmg/](http://txmg.org/sjmg/)

**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. [tgcfernsoc.org](http://tgcfernsoc.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](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)

**TUE., SEPT. 18: A SHORT VISIT TO COLUMBIA AND COLLECTING THE WORLD'S LARGEST TILLANDSIA** by DENNIS CATHCART, TROPIFLORA NURSERY, SARASOTA, FL, 7:00pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://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](http://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. [leaguecitygardenclub.org](http://leaguecitygardenclub.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](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)

**SAT., SEPT 22: FALL PLANT SALE FEATURING NATIVE AZALEAS**, 9 AM - 2 pm. Coldspring Community Center, 101 W. Cedar Ave., Coldspring. Free. San Jacinto County Master Gardener event. [txmg.org/sjmg/](http://txmg.org/sjmg/)

**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)

**WED. SEPT. 26: THE PHOENIX ARISES: NEW AND RESTORED GARDENS AT MERCER BOTANICAL GARDENS** by JEFF HEILERS, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulents Society event. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org)

**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)

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



- WED., OCT. 3: PREVIEW: GALVESTON MASTER GARDENER OCT. 20 FALL SALE PLANTS** by CAROLYN GEPHART, 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., OCT. 4: BULBS NATURALIZED FOR THE GULF COAST** by LINDA GAY, time?, Place? Fee? Nottingham Country Garden Club event. website/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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065. [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://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.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.
- WED., OCT. 10 : PLUMERIA PHOTOGRAPHY** by KAREN ABRAMS and Fall Social. 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society event. [www.theplumeriasociety.org](http://www.theplumeriasociety.org)
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/adult-nature-series/) or 713-667-6550
- SAT., OCT. 13: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL PLANT SALE, 8am Program, Sale 9am-Noon**. Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 FM 1484 Rd, Conroe. Free. [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com); 936-539-7824.
- 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 CAROLYN 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: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065. [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

**SAT.,-SUN., OCT. 13-14: HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY/CHINESE BONSAI SOCIETY FALL SHOW.** Sat. 10am-56pm,, Sun. 11am-5pm, Memorial City Mall. [houstonbonsaisociety.com](http://houstonbonsaisociety.com); [facebook.com/houstonchinese.bonsai/](https://facebook.com/houstonchinese.bonsai/)

**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)

**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](http://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](http://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](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

**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 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](http://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](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

**WED. OCT. 24: HISTORY OF TEQUILA & MEZCAL by LILIANA CRACRAFT,** 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulents Society event. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org)

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

**SAT., 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**

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

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Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

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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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