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## September 21, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 267th 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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## NINE NATIVES TO GET YOU STARTED GREAT BULBS FOR REPEAT BLOOMS MERCER CELEBRATES POLLINATORS

*"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons."*

-- Jim Bishop

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Fall -- in many ways -- is a much easier, even better, gardening season for us than is spring.

- Days are getting steadily cooler (I promise!)
- Bugs are getting less active
- Plants will start responding to all this rain we've been getting with great growth and blooms. And . . .
- Great plant sales and events are "sprouting" everywhere!

**NOTE:** a new location for Harris County Master Gardener's big annual Fall Perennial Sale on Sat., Oct. 6: Berry Center of Northwest Houston, 8877 Barker Cypress Rd, Cypress. 9am-noon (or sellout). 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu. See calendar below for additional plant sales.

We have three special guest Spotlight articles this week, all of which are running in advance of events where you can get so much more information. So, without further ado, I give you . . .

### #1 BULB & PLANT MART & 9 NATIVES PROJECT

One of many highlights of Houston's Grande Dame of plant sales, the Garden Club of Houston's 76th Annual Bulb & Plant Mart (Oct. 12-13) will be the "NINE NATIVES" program created by the Katy Prairie Association to promote the value of using native plants to create pockets of prairie in all gardens, even in the middle of the city.

"Nine" refers not to just nine specific plants, but to goal of getting homeowners to incorporate nine natives at a time into their home landscapes. The actual list is much longer (and many plants on it will be available at the Bulb Mart). GCH is one of many local organizations helping to promote KPA's list of natives ideal for this area. Below, GCH's Margaret Pierce explains further and lists nine great choices to begin making the switchover:



*Texas bluebonnets, scarlet sage, Indian blankets & prairie spiderwort*

## "9 NATIVES" PROJECT ENCOURAGES URBAN START TO COMPENSATING FOR LOSS OF PRAIRIE HABITAT FOR POLLINATORS

By MARGARET PIERCE  
Garden Club of Houston

[gchouston.org](http://gchouston.org)

As our native prairies have been destroyed by development and invasive plants, we have endangered and even lost many species of animals, and have created a host of other problems as well.

We can choose plants wisely to create miniature prairies to support pollinators. But not all of us are ready or able to replace our entire yard with prairie.

Katy Prairie Conservancy has created a 9 NATIVES program to promote pockets of prairie in city gardens. From KPC's master list of area-appropriate natives, this smaller starter list (below) provides a complete urban appropriate habitat for pollinators with four-season interest.



The Garden Club of Houston, Memorial Park Conservancy, and Katy Prairie Conservancy partnered to grow a collection of these plants that will be shared with the community in a variety of ways.

Remember, diversity is a prairie's strength. Establish these nine, and then discover nine new natives to add. Enough pollinator-friendly urban havens will make a major positive impact on our ecosystem.

- **1. TEXAS BLUEBONNET, *Lupinus texensis*.** Reseeding annual that blooms with a cluster of blue pea-like flowers with white tips in March to May. Grows 1-2 ft. tall in sun and sandy or clay soil. Our state flower is larva host for butterflies and may be toxic to humans or animals, if ingested. Reseed or plant transplants in fall.
- **2. SCARLET SAGE, *Salvia coccinea*.** Reseeding annual or perennial with red tubular flowers that bloom from spring to the first frost. Grows 1-3 ft. tall x 1-2 ft. wide in sun, part shade, and shade. Tolerates moist to dry soils. Very tolerant of frequent trimming to keep plant bushy. Provides nectar for hummingbirds, bees, and other insects.
- **3. INDIAN BLANKET, *Gaillardia pulchella*.** Reseeding annual or short-lived perennial with red, yellow, brownish-centered, daisy-like flowers that bloom from spring to the first frost. Grows 1-2 ft. tall x 1 ft. wide in sun or part shade; prefers well-drained, sandy soils. Cut back when leggy, leaving some stems until seedhead matures. Water in summer to prolong bloom. Pollen source.
- **4. PRAIRIE SPIDERWORT, *Tradescantia occidentalis*.** Perennial with clusters of blue or pink, 3-petaled blooms that open spring to summer. Grows 2-3 ft. tall x 1 ft. wide in sun to part shade in moist to dry, sandy or clay soils. Water before soil becomes too dry to prevent summer dormancy.



*Black-eyed susans, lemon beebalm, rattlesnake master, Gulf muhly and little bluestem.*

- **5. BLACK-EYED SUSAN, *Rudbeckia hirta*.** Reseeding annual or short-lived perennial with yellow, dark-centered flowers that bloom from late spring to fall. Grows 2-3 ft. tall x 1-2 ft. wide in full sun and in dry to moist, well-drained soil. Larva host for butterflies; provides nectar for pollinators and seeds for birds.
- **6. LEMON BEEBALM, *Monarda citriodora*.** Reseeding annual with whorled lavender-pink to white flowers; blooms May - July or into fall, if watered. Grows 12-30 in. tall x 12 in. wide in sun or part shade, tolerates dry soil of any type. Nectar source. Plant has lemony aroma.
- **7. RATTLESNAKE MASTER, *Eryngium yuccifolium*.** Perennial with yucca-like foliage and clusters of greenish-white, 1-inch thistle-like globular flowerheads

cresting above the foliage during May - August. Grows in full sun and in moist well-drained soils. One of the best pollinator attracting wildflowers. Self-seeder.

- 8. GULF MUHLY, *Muhlenbergia capillaris*. Perennial bunchgrass with stunning pink/purple feathery blooms in October that turn tan in winter. Grows 2-3 ft. tall x 2-3 ft. wide in sun and is adaptable in moist to dry, sandy or clay soils. Only maintenance required is cutting to about 8" tall in January or February.
- 9. LITTLE BLUESTEM, *Schizachyrium scoparium*. Perennial bunchgrass grown for its structure - a dense clump of colorful stems that ranges from blue-green in late summer to golden rust in late fall. Grows 1.5-3 ft. or taller in sun or part shade and in dry, sandy or clay soil. One of the dominant climax grasses of the prairie, it's a larva host for skipper butterflies and its silver-white seeds provide food for small birds.

For more information about the 9 Natives, please visit  
<http://www.katyprairie.org/nine-natives/>

\* . \* \*

The 76<sup>th</sup> annual Bulb and Plant Mart will be Oct.12-13, 2018, at Church of St. John the Divine,  
 2450 River Oaks Blvd. 9am-5pm Friday; 9am-3pm Saturday. Special speakers include Friday: 9am-Heidi Sheesley of Treeseach Farms & noon-beekeeper Susie Marten of Katy Prairie Conservancy on Nine Natives presentation. Saturday: 10am-beekeeper Shelley Rice. Weblink includes a manual of sale plants :  
[gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info](http://gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info)  
 For more information about the 9 Natives, please visit  
[katyprairie.org/nine-natives/](http://katyprairie.org/nine-natives/)

\* . \* \*

## #2 PLANT BULBS NOW FOR SPRING BLOOM

When Linda Gay, one of our premier horticulturists, speaks, gardeners-in-the-know listen. Fall is when we plant bulbs, almost all need the cold of winter to really produce in spring. Below is a preview of just some tips Linda, former longtime Mercer Botanic Gardens director, will share about great naturalizing (reproducing) bulbs for this area on Thurs., Oct. 4, 10am, at the MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr. This Nottingham Country Garden Club event is free and open to the public.  
[ncgctx.org](http://ncgctx.org)





*Centennial Gardens narcissus spring bloom*

## NATURALIZING BULBS FOR SPRING GARDENS

By: **LINDA B. GAY**

Horticulturist and Gardener

[lgay4756@gmail.com](mailto:lgay4756@gmail.com)

Naturalizing bulbs are deciduous beauties that pop up in our garden during a Texas winter, strap-like leaves emerging as soil temperatures cool off in January and February.

### BULB TALK:

- "Deciduous" is another name for losing leaves or dying down, returning when conditions are right.
- "Naturalize" means to establish "in the wild" a flourishing stand of non-native bulbs or plants.

Many winter-growing, spring-blooming, summer-dormant bulbs naturalize easily here. October-December we plant spring (March-May) flowering bulbs such as Narcissus/Daffodil, Leucojum, Ipheon, Dutch Iris, and Scillas. After blooming they sleep all summer, re-emerging in early winter. They need cold to produce those spring flowers.

Narcissus and Daffodil are closely related:

- Narcissus normally produces a cluster of flowers on one stem.
- Daffodils have one flower per stem.

These bulbs are poisonous so you don't have to worry about wild animals eating them. Some of the popular Narcissus planted: Paperwhites, 'Grand Primo', 'Erlicheer' and the sweetly fragrant Campernelles.





*L to r, lecojum, ipheon, Dutch iris, scillas and double Campernelles*

### PLANTING TIPS

- In general, plant bulbs two times deeper than the bulb depth. A bulb 1" from nose to root would be planted 2" deep, not counting mulch, in well drained soil. (tip: work expanded shale deep into the heaviest part of the clay so bulbs won't rot during a wet summer.)
- Bulbs are usually shared after they bloom, when they are going dormant anyway.
- Plant perennial bulbs (keep foliage year round) like crinum, amaryllis, and agapanthus right away. These have long necks. Plant with necks halfway out of the soil.

### LANDSCAPING:

- **PLANT NATURALIZING BULBS** in groups, NOT in straight lines. Bulbs that go dormant do not make good borders, as it's hard to keep them from being "shoveled" when they are sleeping.
- **SUN/SHADE:** Bulbs reproduce better in full sun but can take a little filtered light. Our winters are cloudy with little sun. Find the sunniest spot underneath a tree that loses leaves during winter -a great little rock garden for your special bulbs.

You can contact Linda at: [lgay4756@gmail.com](mailto:lgay4756@gmail.com). Or, drop by:

- **THURS., OCT. 4: BULBS NATURALIZED FOR THE GULF COAST** by LINDA GAY, 10am, MUD Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [ncgctx.org](http://ncgctx.org)

Linda also recommends: Oct.6: *Bulbs & Buddies* by Chris Weisinger at The Arbor Gate. [www.arborgate.com](http://www.arborgate.com)

\* \* \*

## #3 MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS IS EXPANDING . . .

. . . with incredible new gardens (thanks to Harvey), with a grand Pollinator Festival & Plant Sale kicking off the introductions

The array of informational booths at the Sat., Oct. 6, Pollinator Festival & Plant Sale is truly impressive and too numerous to mention. But in addition to the sale (featuring pollinator plants, especially natives), special focus will be, to name just a few, bees, monarchs, Pollinator Scarecrows and a local vendor marketplace.

*Sat., Oct. 6, 10am-4pm, 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble. Free*

So many gardeners now have active Pollinator Gardens, in the Spotlight below, Mercer Director of Volunteers (& my plant ID guru) Suzanne Chapman is going to help take us these native habitats up to the next level:

# Spotlighting . . .

## Mercer Botanic Gardens

*Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter*



*Coneflowers, weeping yaupon & verbena*

## TAKING YOUR HABITAT GARDEN TO THE NEXT LEVEL

**By SUZANNE CHAPMAN**

**Mercer Botanic Gardens**

**V olunteer Coordinator**

**Work with what you have. Expand on it!**

- Home gardens serve as green corridors through neighborhoods, a great way to increase habitats, major migratory flyways of birds and monarch butterflies.
- Natural areas are dwindling due to development. Home gardens are one way to help support wildlife still all around us.
- Local parks increase greenspace along watershed areas to diminish the flooding potential of our creeks and bayous. These linear habitats in Harris County Precinct 4 are being planted with edible fruit trees and flowering and host plants for us and creatures to enjoy.

**A big recommendation for all gardeners who enjoy nature and its variety of wildlife, is to stop using any chemicals in your garden:**

- No pesticides, no herbicides, no fungicides.
- Recent news connects fungicide usage as detrimental to bees of all kinds, insects we rely on to pollinate so many food crops.
- Most fungi are beneficial. Trees and smaller plants rely on mycorrhizae and the expanding symbiotic network between the plant roots and fungal hyphae for nutrients they all share.
- Use organic fertilizers and compost to improve soils and health of plants.
- Prune only when you must. Flowers with striking seed heads such as the cone flowers (Echinacea species) provide nectar and pollen, but also seed for migrating finches in autumn.
- Allow plants to reseed throughout your garden. Many plants will find their favorite spot to thrive, albeit maybe in cracks in paved areas.



- Plant in masses for visual impact and allow plants to tumble over the edges to soften hardscape. Less open area means fewer weeds.
- Hummingbirds and dragonflies like to sit on dead twigs as they survey the tree canopy.
- Native bees nest in hollow stems.
- Large predatory birds like to nest inside big dead trees.



*Salvia, dianthus and alyssum*

- Plant for year-round interest.
- In winter don't prune grasses, they are a perfect spot for birds to find shelter and hiding insects.
- Include evergreen interest like yaupon/hollies (Ilex species) for berries.
- Include annual flowers like native verbena and salvias, or dianthus and alyssum to fill in during the colder months for birds and insects that are still out foraging.
- Include early flowering trees like native redbud (Cercis species).
- Always provide a water source, and food for birds during extreme spells of weather.
- Check out these great local online resources:
  - <https://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-plant-info/>
  - <https://www.naba.org/chapters/nababest/>
  - <http://www.birdfriendlyhouston.org/get-started/the-basics/>

\* \* \*

**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 #60

A new study published in the journal Nature Sustainability has found that organic farming promotes overall pest control by supporting beneficial predators. The study showed that insect pests and disease infestations were similar between conventional and organic farms, suggesting that the use of toxic chemicals were no more effective than organic methods.

I often get asked, "Why is compost recommended to treat so many problems in gardening?" Properly made compost is full of beneficial microbes that do everything from preventing disease, provide nutrients, creating soil structure, etc. Compost becomes the "guts" of the soil-plant system. It is similar to how fecal transplants (loaded with good microbes) from healthy people into autistic children relieves many of the autistic symptoms. Microbes in good compost produce scents that stimulate our brains and make us feel good. The microbial part of soil life is far more important than the chemistry and physics of the soil put together. When we get life (microbes) in the soil, the chemistry and physics naturally correct themselves. One of the many reasons good compost is often referred to as "black gold" by experienced gardeners.

A study by 17 scientists in five countries led by Washington State University published in the journal Nature Sustainability has found that 10% of farmland is now under some form of sustainable practices. These sustainable methods have increased yields and quality while lowering production costs and minimizing harm to ecosystems and people.

A study from the Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University published in the journal Nature Climate (August, 2018), has found that rising levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) causes nutrition levels in food to decrease. The researchers emphasized that billions of people are currently living with nutritional deficiencies and it will get worse. From this study and others a new field of study called "planetary health" is emerging.

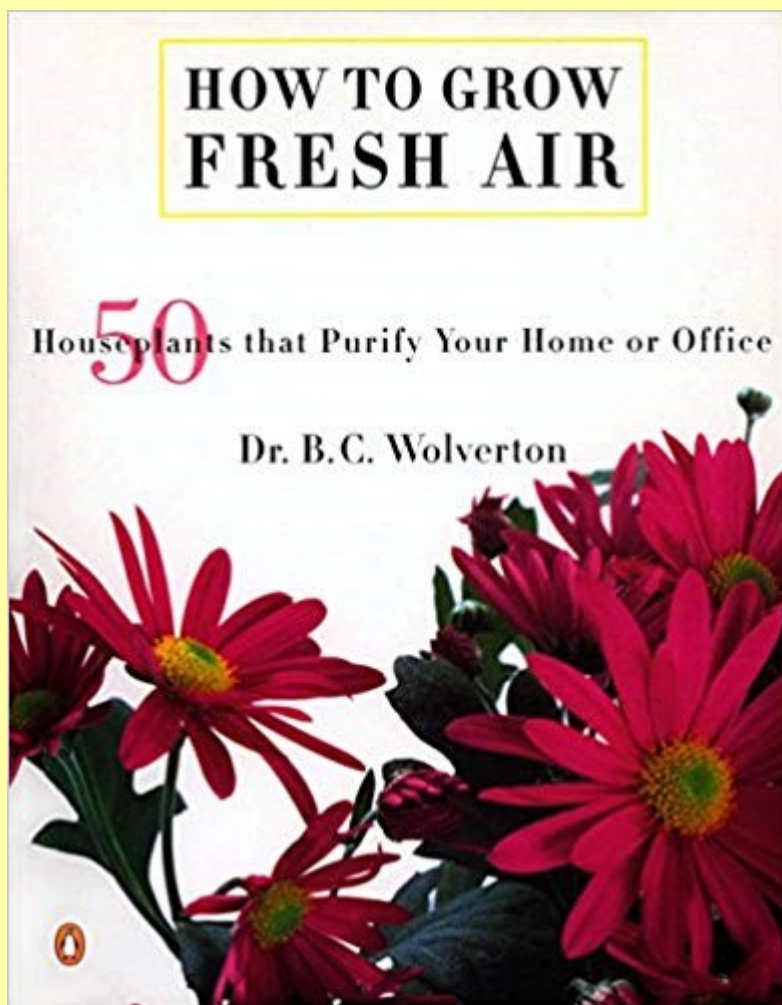
Scientists have discovered that when mycorrhizal fungi colonize a plants roots (help the plant grow, collect nutrients and water, and protect the plants roots from disease), it changes the type microbes that lives on the surface of the leaves of the plants. The plant-fungi interaction produces chemicals that show up in the leaves, this will allow scientists to determine which plants are colonized by mycorrhizal fungi without digging up the plant and killing it. Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology 2018.

Garlic's health benefits have been known for thousands of years. A report in the October issue of Life Extension was on the benefits of aged garlic. Several studies have now found that consuming 2,400 mg of aged garlic daily was able to prevent and even reverse early heart disease. They also found that that aged garlic had anti-atherosclerotic effects as well. Another report in the same issue mentioned other plants with beneficial health benefits. Valproic acid comes from the plant *Valeriana officinalis* and has been found to induce cancer cells to die (apoptosis). The French Lilac plant *Galega officinalis* produces the chemical metformin which is used to treat diabetes. It also reduces blood sugar which helps fight cancer as cancers need sugar.

A report in the Cincinnati News has found that toxic chemical farming has reduced the amount of vitamin-A in broccoli by over 80% and calcium by 50% in the last 70 years.

Many people have heard of "sick building syndrome" where the air in the building is polluted from toxic chemicals that escape from carpet, furniture, paints, etc. The same problem exists in our homes and leads to many health problems. Many studies have found that plants can remove these toxic chemicals from the air. Some of the top plants for this purpose are: Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum wallisii*), Spider Plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*), Snake Plant (*Sansevieria trifasciata*), Ficus (*Ficus benjamina*), and Pothos (*Epipemnum aureum*). A summary of the work done by NASA can be found at [https://spinoff.nasa.gov/Spinoff2007/ps\\_3.html](https://spinoff.nasa.gov/Spinoff2007/ps_3.html). Dr. Wolveron was the lead researcher and the results of all the studies are in his book below and a great way to practice indoor gardening.





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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**

**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, 10am, MUD Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [ncgctx.org](http://ncgctx.org)

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., OCT. 6: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING by DR. BOB RANDALL, 11am-noon, Wabash Feed and Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd, \$10 Register: [bit.ly/2xdnl7V](http://bit.ly/2xdnl7V)

**SAT., OCT. 6: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. Free. [hmns.org](http://hmns.org), 713-639-4753.**

**SAT., OCT. 6: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL PERENNIAL SALE, 9am-noon (or sellout), Berry Center of Northwest Houston, 8877 Barker Cypress Rd, Cypress. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)**

**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 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: [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)**

**TUES., OCT. 16: SUCCULENT CONTAINER GARDENS by LISA HOLDEN, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. [www.sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://www.sugarlandgardenclub.org)**

**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, 9:30am, 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](http://seabourne-nature-fest.com)**

**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)**

**TUES., NOV. 13: CREATIVE HOLIDAY IDEAS FROM YOUR GARDEN by Betty Lahiri, 9 am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event.**

**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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**PLEASE READ BEFORE**  
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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)

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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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