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## September 28, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 268th 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 [click here](#) 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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## MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN'S EXPANSIONS EPSON SALT "SNIFF" WARNING TIME TO BUY & PLANT BULBS!!

*"And all at once, summer collapsed into fall."*

- Oscar Wilde

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

I love it when one local expert's Spotlight Article expands on another local expert's input. This is happening twice this week:

- Dodie Jackson's Bulb Mart-related Spotlight Planting Guide for Bulbs/Bulb-Like Plants below picks up right where Linda Gay's article last week on [Naturalizing Bulbs](#) left off.
- And last week's Mercer Botanic Garden Botanical Collections Curator Suzanne Chapman's "[Take Your Habitat Garden to the Next Level](#)" is complemented by MBG Program Coordinator Melody Hill's look at the new expansions at this local horticulture treasure site. I'm letting Melody handle the Mercer update . . .



L to R, Mercer's new Tropical Garden, left, and Shakespeare Garden

## MERCER'S NEW GARDENS!

By MELODY HILL

[Mercer Botanic Gardens Program Coordinator](#)

*On August 27, 2018, one year after Hurricane Harvey, Mercer Botanic Gardens opened the Tropical Garden. One year before, up to 12 feet of flood waters covered this garden, but now it resembles the lush Yucatan area. The main feature is a stonewall in the plaza that is the backdrop for an Olmec head fountain. Featuring banana trees, plumeria, anthuriums, Coppertone loquats, bougainvillea, tropical bromeliads, palms and more, this garden replicates the feeling of being in an ancient tropical jungle.*

**Happily, this was not the first new garden to open since Harvey, which covered every inch of Mercer's 300 acres in floodwaters. In fact, three other gardens have been completed since the devastating flood.**

- **First was the Shakespeare Garden in April, replacing an underutilized lawn area. Featured are flora mentioned in Shakespeare's literature, including antique roses, boxwoods, and seasonal color surrounding a seating area, fountain and a bust of William Shakespeare himself.**
- **In May, with the help of the Native Plant Society of Texas and Monarch Watch grants, Mercer planted a new Pollinator Garden. While the physical design hasn't changed, over 130 different types of plants and 20 host plants are already attracting a wide variety of Texas pollinators. Ever-changing trials of additional pollinator-attracting varieties are being tested for shade-tolerance and ability to handle our often-erratic weather patterns (especially floods!)**
  - **Among the various habitat recommended plants in The Pollinator Garden (below left) are, center, lion's tail ( *Leonotis leonurus*) and friendship sage ( *Salvia x 'Amistad*). Also (lower strip, l to r) cigar plant ( *Cuphea ignea*), 'Pam's Pink' turk's cap ( *Malvaviscus x 'Pam Puryear'*), firespike ( *Odontonema strictum*), cardinal flower ( *Lobelia cardinalis*) and blue mist flower ( *Conoclinium coelestinum*)**



- **In June, Mercer opened the Children's Garden.**
  - **A larger-than-life succulent lizard, Lizzy, and Mondo grass Turtle, Turf, seem to be excite all ages.**
  - **A Plant Zoo highlights animal-named plants, such as elephant's foot jade, zebra aloe, and red bird plant and the under the sea garden mimics the ocean floor.**
  - **Sensory plants line the edges of the beds invite children to touch and smell, all while in the company of whimsical "garden people" made of terracotta pots. A wide variety of vegetables are also available for viewing.**

**Mercer Botanic Gardens not only restored many of the former gardens, additional new gardens have been put into place for the public to enjoy.**

**[Mercer's Sat., Oct. 6 Pollinator Festival & Plant Sale](#) will offer plants Melody describes above and many more, along with vendor booths, Pollinator Scarecrows and other gardener/family-oriented delights. 10am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble.**

\* . \* . \*

**HUMMERS ARE PASSING THROUGH! -- Judy Hill wants to know when hummingbirds migrate through Houston. We have hummers that stay year-round, but generally speaking the fall migration occurs August-September or later.**

**As a general rule, their fall stopovers last longer than spring visits, up to a month or more. For this reason, fall hummer-attracting plants are encouraged,**



*L to R, American basketflower, aquatic milkweed and flame acanthus*

Three great plants that ought to be used more often to attract hummers are these above from the inventory of the upcoming [Montgomery County Master Gardeners Fall Plant Sale](#). Their Sat., Oct. 13, sale runs 9am-noon at Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 FM 1484 Rd, Conroe. (Free program at 8am). [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com); 936-539-7824.

\* \* \*

**TIME TO PLANT MOST BULBS!** Fall is the ideal time for putting in bulbs and their cousins (tubers, corms & lookalikes such as daylilies). Most of these are so tough as a rule (aka ideal for lazy gardeners!) In the Spotlight Article below, Dodie Jackson takes us one step closer to a really low-care garden with even more suggestions.

The best part? All these are available at the big **FRI.-SAT., OCT. 12-13: 76th Annual [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).

\* \* \*

*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)*

\* \* \*





*L to R: Scadoxus, Gloriosa Lily, 'Avalanche' Daffodil*

## PLANTING GUIDE FOR NATURALIZING BULBS RHIZOMES AND TUBERS FOR THE HOUSTON AREA

By **DODIE JACKSON**  
[Garden Club of Houston](#)

Our changing temperature extremes (colder winter spells, hotter summers, flooding rains, potential droughts) are triggering adjustments in our planting strategies with naturalizing bulbs, rhizomes and tubers.

Hard freezes will only make these hardier. However, with the increasing temperatures, bulbs need to be planted in partial shade with good drainage. Do not overwater.

Two notes:

- Scadoxus thrives on full sun, poor soils and good drainage with little water.
- Gloriosa Lily, in particular, should be planted so the base of the vine is shaded. Plant beneath ground cover or behind a shrub.

For early to mid-Spring blooms consider planting any of the following:

- Daffodils: Avalanche, Carlton and Fortune
- Paperwhites: Italicus, Galilea and Chinese Sacred Lily
- Tulip: Clusiana and Lady Jane

Smaller bulbs: Lucojum, Ipheon, Ixia, Scilla, Spraxis and Roman Hyacinth

For late Spring and Early Summer try planting: Amaryllis, Calla Lily, Byzantine Gladiola, Gloriosa Lily, Bearded Iris, Louisiana Iris, Watsonia, Scadoxus, Triumpator Lily



*Clusiana tulip, Ipheon, Byzantine gladiola and Triumpator Lily*

For late Summer and into Fall plant: Oxblood Lily, Lycoris, Day Lily, Crinums, Gingers

For year round color try: Rain Lily

\* . \* . \*

**Note:**

- *All the bulbs mentioned will among the 500K bulbs available at this year's 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. Garden Club of Houston event. [gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info](http://gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info)*
- *Special speakers include: Heidi Sheesley of Treeseach Farms (Friday, 9:00 a.m.), Susie Marten of Katy Prairie Conservancy (Nine Natives presentation, Friday, 12:00 p.m.), and beekeeper Shelley Rice (Saturday, 10:00 a.m.).*
- *All sales are tax-exempt. Admission and parking are free. Pre-Orders are available online June 1, 2018 through October 7, 2018. . Mart proceeds fund Garden Club of Houston's wide array of community activities.*

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK "LG&F CALENDAR" AT END OF NEWSLETTER FOR FOR MORE GREAT UPCOMING EVENTS!**



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS

### #61

Many people are developing a condition called "leaky Gut Syndrome" that causes many health problems. A new study from several universities in Australia have found that the "Bt proteins" produced by GMO crops are not safe. Cells in the stomach are normally held tightly together to prevent bacteria, viruses, or food particles from escaping the stomach and getting into other body tissue where they can do harm (allergies, infections, etc.). The studies found that rats fed GMO corn had gaps in their cell walls that was five times greater than found in normal healthy stomachs. Glands in the stomach of rats fed GM corn were swollen and often contained debris and mucus. In addition

some of the glands showed signs of dysplasia (abnormal cells) that leads to cancer. Note: Most corn and corn products today are made from GMO corn. The only way to protect your families is to only purchase organic products or grow them yourself.

Research continues to reveal the environmental importance of wildfires to protect ecosystems. Plants remove carbon from the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from which they build their bodies by creating sugars, cellulose, lignin, etc. all of which have many carbon atoms in their structure. Studies by the University of Zurich published in the Journal Nature Geoscience has found that when wild fires burn grasslands, one third of the carbon in the plants is converted to "black carbon". This type of carbon can be stored in soils for thousands of years preventing the carbon from contributing to climate change.

Another study published in the journal Environmental Research Letters 2018 by the University of California-Davis has found that grasslands are even better carbon sinks (carbon storage) than forests. Grasslands sequester most of their carbon below ground in their roots and their exudates. Hence when grasslands burn only a small percentage of the total stored carbon is released to the air.

A plant throughout history known to promote health is Myrrh (*Commiphora myrrha*). Myrrh is best known for its fragrant scent and for embalming the dead. It has also been used as a natural antiseptic in cleaning wounds and preventing infection. When breathed the herb has a calming effect and is sometimes used in incense. Myrrh contains several compounds that support our immune systems and several reports have found that it fights inflammation. It is now being used to help fight intestinal disorders as it helps protect the lining of the intestines. Myrrh is used to fight the parasite that causes Schistosomiasis with a cure rate of almost 92% (Journal of American Tropical Medicine and Hygiene). Other chemicals in Myrrh help balance hormones producing those that make us feel good. Most recently a study in the journal Chemical-Biological Interactions 2017, myrrh was found to improve liver function and prevent the growth of cancer cells. The Journal of Medicinal Plants Research (2011) also reported anti-cancer effects. Good reasons to add this plant to our herb gardens.

Speaking about cancer and plant nutrients, the organization "The truth About Cancer" released a paper by Dr. David Jockers called "Are You Eating These 8 Nutrients That Block Cancer". Researcher believe that 30% of deaths associated with cancer today can be prevented from diet alone. These plants are easily grown in our vegetable and herb gardens. The top nutrients are:

- 1) **Ursolic acid** - a phytonutrient found in herbs like basil, oregano, the skin on apples and in bilberries.
- 2) **Vitamin-D** - This vitamin is critical to the production of cancer fighting proteins. We get this from sunlight or eating meat from organically raised animals or eggs.
- 3) **Curcumin** - This plant gives turmeric its yellow color and has many health benefits.
- 4) **EGCG** (epigallocatechin-3-gallate) - This is a phenolic compound found concentrated in green tea. It has been used for centuries in Chinese medicine to promote health.

**5) Sulforaphane** - This chemo-protective nutrient prevent the formation of free radicals and reduces inflammation. Organically grown Broccoli and other cruciferous vegetables like cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and kale are also high in this nutrient and others.

**6) Quercetin** - Quercetin is a super anti-oxidant that has many health benefits. It is found in onions, capers, blackberries, raspberries, black and green tea, dark cherries, cocoa powder, kale, apples and herbs like sage and parsley.

**7) Apigenin** - This is a flavonoid that reduces free radical damage and aids in the elimination of toxins from our bodies. One of the best sources of apigenin is parsley.

**8) Luteolin** - This another flavonoid found in green peppers, chamomile teas, and celery.

For more information see <https://thetruthaboutcancer.com/multi-vitamins-cancer-prevention/?mpweb=144-7303827-418122170>

**Note:**

Many of the flavonoids are produced by fungi living in a symbiotic relationship with the roots of plants, where the plant can then absorb them. In conventional agriculture fungicides are used that prevent this health benefit as it kills the good fungi. The reason to purchase or better yet grow organic foods continues to increase.

\* \* \*

## **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. [leaguacitygardenclub.org](http://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](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)**

**TUES., OCT. 9: GETTING IDEAS FROM YOUR GARDEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS by TONY HUFFMAN, 9am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45N, Shenandoah. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event. [thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)**

**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., OCT. 13: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL VEGETABLE-HERB PLANT SALE, 9am-12pm, AgriLife Extension Service Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. [fbmg.org](http://fbmg.org); 281-341-7068; [FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu).**

**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)**

**TUE., OCT. 16: CHECK YOUR BROMELIAD KNOWLEDGE by LINDA WHIPKEY, 7 pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.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: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065. [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html).**

**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](#)**

**THURS., NOV. 8: FERTILIZERS by BOB PATTERSON, 10am, MUD Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr. Free. Nottingham County Garden Club event. [ncgctx.org](http://ncgctx.org)**

**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 . .

**THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!**  
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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 and quality control.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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