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October 5, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 269th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

This newsletter is a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith & John Ferguson. (John is with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . E mail your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

Please [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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NAKED LADIES AUTUMN SURPRISES & HAY BALES DELIGHT LAZY GARDENER

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Just as I was thinking frustrated thoughts about a favorite Autumn delight, Joyce Heard emailed, asking if those beautiful spidery flowers (left above) are really called hurricane lilies? Yes, Joyce, they are. They usually bloom at the height of our hurricane season.

Personally I'd rather hear them called by more commonly used names: naked ladies, resurrection lilies or their real name, lycoris. It seems mine aren't the only ones pouting this fall. Suzanne Chapman at Mercer Botanic Gardens reports theirs haven't been as pretty as usual either. I need mine to bloom so I can find & move some to our new house. Drat!

Perhaps all this rain is the reason they aren't sending up as many single stalks topped by spidery flowers this fall as prolifically as usual. (Leaves appear in spring, disappear in summer.) Most bulbs go dormant during summer and don't want to be overwatered while they're sleeping.

I love it when I learn something new about a plant I've written about for years -- and that certainly includes these fall beauties. Linda Gay shared a great note on *Lycoris radiata*. Quoting [Texas Gardener magazine](#), Linda reports the Japanese believe "Higanbana" grow on the bank of the river that separates the living from the dead where they encourage departed souls to cross over.

I can buy this. I always swore mine wandered around underground, blooming in places I know I never planted them. Houston's Bulb Lady, the late Sally McQueen Squire, called lycoris "Greta Garbo" lilies. "They want to be ALONE!" she would explain. Translation: give them their own spot where they don't have to cope with too many other plant roots.

SPEAKING OF "PASSING OVER": Not too late to sign up for Armand Bayou Nature Center's Oct. 10 Prairie Pandemonium, a volunteer team-planting project to help restore one of the last stands of Texas coastal tallgrass prairie.

<http://signup.com/go/mRTXQDH>

* * *



Mary Johnson's hay bale delights include, l to r, cantaloupes, watermelon and "clean!" potatoes. This Sugar-baby watermelon grew from 3 evenly-spaced seeds planted in pockets of soil troweled into the top of the bale.

HAY BALE GARDENS: Thanks to everyone who sent in great comments on hay bale gardening. All were so positive, just might have to try this myself.

Several folks noted if Google doesn't give you much on "hay" bales, try "straw" bales. These seem to be more highly recommended for other areas. No weed seed, they say. But our readers who responded said:

1. Straw bales are very hard to find in this area and
2. They've never had weed problems with hay.

Actually, no reader said anything negative nor reported any problems. The most enthusiastic responses came from Mary Johnson and A. Lynette Parsons:

- **MARY JOHNSON** describes herself as *"truly an acolyte of Lazy Gardening!"* She started hay bale gardening after seeing it described in a Rodale book as *"no tilling to plant, nor bending to harvest."* No deep bending when harvesting, she says, is her favorite part.

Resources recommend "priming" or "conditioning" the bales before planting, but Mary said they didn't and everything grows wonderfully. (Google [straw bale hay garden conditioning](#))



Mary's husband Jody checks out their hay bale crop of butternut squash, grown from 3 evenly-spaced seeds

They've had no damage from grubs or cutworms. Best of all the bales do discourage feral cats (a problem they do have).

"Depending upon the crop, we sometimes use chicken-wire across the tops of the bales to thwart the cats. Prickly-vined crops provide their own deterrent," Mary says.

Another thing she truly loves is the ease of covering plants when temperatures drop too low. *"The decomposing inside the bale keeps plants fed & roots toasty."* she says.

"We bend concrete reinforcing wire into an arc over a few bales & cover the arc with old sheets, pulling the sheets back during the day. This enables us to have fresh lettuce & spinach all season. I plan to try basil this winter... we'll see whether it's able to survive." (The Johnsons live in Woodville where it get colder than it does around Houston.

Now Mary now recommends Joel Karsten's books, even though his advice is on straw (not hay) bale gardening. There's really no difference in the actual growing.

A favorite trick of Mary's: re-using grocery store plants. Celery leaves are available all winter. She's also done this with onions and organic potatoes. Currently trying turnips... hoping to get a few tops.

- **A. LYNETTE PARSONS**, Galveston County Master Gardener, has been using bales for about four years in her Anahuac garden. She too uses hay (no straw available). She stacks them 2 bales high, but has does as many as 3, although these 'towers' will topple if not supported.

You are planting in a compost heap in progress, she explains. Her conditioning recommendation: water daily for a couple of weeks, and it doesn't hurt to sprinkle a little manure on top to soak in.

A. Lynette usually just ". . . puts baby plants right out of their pots directly into the hay bales by making a slit in the bale and sticking them in. I have planted the hay bales by seeding, but don't get as good a germination rate that way; now I put a small layer of soil on them with the seed if I want to do that."

Fortunately A. Lynette also has a keyhole garden where she does do direct seeding. A good thing since Harvey "took" her hay bale gardens!

More of A. Lynette's thoughts on keyhole gardens will be coming soon.

Would love some more input on keyhole gardens ("Do ...", "Love this about mine...", "Don't make my mistake...", "Watch out for ...", "Got rid of ours because ...", etc. Email me at lazygarder@sbcglobal.net)

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

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener. To sign up for this free, weekly Greater Houston area gardening report or read past issues, go to natureswayresources.com



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 62

The British Food Standards Agency has found that foods with a lower nutritional density (quality), is associated with an increased risk of developing cancer. In Issue #52 I talked about the declining nutrients in conventional food. The study was published in the journal PLOS Medicine 2018.

More research on the dangers of fluoride continue to be released. Fluoride is a known neurotoxin and over 50 human studies have shown that exposure to fluoride lowers intelligence. A new study from the Harvard Medical School linked elevated levels of fluoride to lowered IQ's in children. Other studies have found it causes memory impairments and brain damage. Note: I wonder if a life time of exposure to this toxic chemical via our water and toothpaste has contributed to the massive rise in dementia in our older population. Fluoride also accumulates in our aorta, which leads to oxidative stress creating an inflammatory response which then contributes to atherosclerosis and heart damage. Other studies have linked fluoride to high blood pressure and a higher risk of stroke and heart attacks. Over 60 studies have linked fluoride exposure to male infertility, reducing both the quantity and quality of a man's sperm and reducing testosterone levels. Several studies have now linked fluoride exposure with weakened bones resulting in common diseases. Lastly new studies have found that fluoride causes genetic damage that can contribute to cancer. Last week we talked about a condition called "leaky Gut Syndrome" caused by eating GMO foods, ingesting even small amounts of fluoride can damage the stomach lining making this problem worse. Fluoride also damages our plants and our soils. Several companies are now making filters to remove this toxic chemical. The following websites have updated information on the dangers of fluoridation.

<https://fluoridealert.org/news/>

<https://fluoride.mercola.com/>

<http://www.angelfire.com/az/sthurston/fluoride.html>

Another food we do not often think about is the nuts from Pine trees or Pine Nuts. Not only is pine nuts a good source of magnesium they contain pinolenic acid which triggers the release of appetite suppressing hormones. The Dr. Mercola website has a good article on the benefits of pine nuts. <https://www.mercola.com/>

Here is a brain teaser for you: "Why does the FDA allow processed junk food like chocolate pudding, toaster pastries, and sugar laden cereal to be labeled as healthy and will not allow organic free range eggs to be labeled as healthy? The Environmental Working Group has found that many common cereals are full of the toxic cancer causing chemical glyphosate.

Most of us know that heavy metals like lead, cadmium, mercury, etc. cause many types of health problems. An article in the Microchemical Journal (March, 2012) was on cadmium (Cd). In the articles on minerals last year we talked about the dangers of this element. It turns out the major source of this toxic element is the rock phosphate used to make artificial fertilizers. Some of the rock phosphates had levels of cadmium over 507 ppm. Year after year farmers keep applying the phosphate and the cadmium builds up in the soil. When food crops are grown on this contaminated soils the toxic cadmium enters the food supply. Cadmium is highly toxic if we have too much, where it will damage kidneys and other organs (in high levels it is also toxic to plant tissue). The human body tries to remove cadmium from our bodies by transporting it to our kidneys in an attempt for it to be eliminated. However, it binds tightly to many enzymes and can be stored for over 30 years! Cadmium replaces zinc and binds over 300 times tighter to the enzymes. This is why having sufficient zinc in our diets is very important as it prevents most cadmium from being absorbed. For a more detailed discussion, see page 90-91 in "Nature's Building Blocks - An A-Z Guide to the Elements, John Emsley, Oxford University Press, 2011, ISBN 978-0-19-960563-7". NOTE: There is no commercial means of removing the cadmium from the fertilizer. In addition, one of the major sources of the toxic fluoride is the mining and manufacture of rock phosphate for artificial fertilizers. To prevent this issue from occurring only use high quality organic fertilizers as found in the Microlife™ family.

A good natural source of zinc (Zn) is the nuts from pecan trees (*Carya illinoensis*). Pecans also provide many other nutrients and benefits. They raise good cholesterol and lower the bad. Men whom regularly consume pecans have a lower risk of gallstones and several studies have shown that pecans help protect against

cardiovascular disease. Other studies have shown that a diet rich in pecans helps with diabetes. Pecans are drought tolerant, wonderful shade trees, and the wood is great for grilling and bar-b-que as well as firewood. No wonder it is the state tree of Texas.

The bayous and streams in Houston have had elevated levels of bad bacteria in them for years. According to a lawsuit filed this week, the City of Houston has had over 9,300 cases of illegal dumping of sewage into our bayous and streams over the last 5 years. When runoff from properties using the water soluble artificial fertilizers, the nitrogen gets into our streams when it rains or people over water their yards. Bacteria are the most nitrogen rich life-form on earth and without nitrogen they cannot grow and reproduce. The sewage provides the source of the pathogens and the artificial fertilizers feed them. If we want to correct the bacterial issue in our streams we have to quit dumping pathogens into the water and quit feeding them. When one uses artificial fertilizers they are part of the problem. Switch to organics and be part of the solution.

* * *

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAT., OCT. 6: HEIRLOOM BULBS by CHRIS WIESINGER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851. www.arborgate.com

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 6-7: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, Sat., 10am-4pm; Sun., 10am-3pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

THURS., OCT 11: PLANTS FOR ALL SEASONS - by SHERRIE HARRAH, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event/plant sale. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

THURS., OCT. 11: EDIBLES FOR ANY SPACE by JEREMY KOLLAUS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851. www.arborgate.com

THURS., OCT 11: WETLANDS - by TIMOGTHY PYLATE & PLANT SALE, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

FRI., OCT.12: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE & A WITCH'S BREW FLOWER SHOW, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardencubs.org

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

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

SAT., OCT 13: GARDENING FOR POLLINATORS, 9:30am - noon, Nature Discovery Center, 7712 Newcastle, Bellaire. \$15. Register: 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; 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, 281-309-5065. 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; 281-341-7068; FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu.

SAT., OCT. 13: GUNTER'S HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES by PAM AND LEAH GUNTER, 9am-Noon, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851. www.arborgate.com

SAT., OCT. 13: SPRING'S AHEAD-PLANT NOW & ENJOY THEN by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851. www.arborgate.com

SAT.,-SUN., OCT. 13-14: HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY/CHINESE BONSAI SOCIETY FALL SHOW. Sat. 10am-56pm,, Sun. 11am-5pm, Memorial City Mall. houstonbonsaisociety.com; 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

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

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

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

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

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

THURS., OCT 18: ATTRACTING BLUEBIRDS TO THE GARDEN by LINDA CRUM, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851. www.arborgate.com

SAT, OCT 20: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE, United Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9:30am, 2038 FM 3171, Schulenburg. Free. texasroserustlers.com/events/

SAT. OCT. 20: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE. Plant sale seminar: 8-8:50am. Sale, 9 am-1 pm. Galveston County Fair Grounds ,Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd., Hitchcock. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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

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

SAT., OCT 20: KICKING IT UP A NOTCH-CROP ROTATION, SUCCESSION PLANTING, & INTERCROPPING by ANGELA CHANDLER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851. www.arborgate.com

SUN., OCT 21: BEE FORUM by ANGELA CHANDLER AND MATT & KELLY BRANTLEY, 11am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851. www.arborgate.com

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

SAT., OCT. 27: FRUIT TREE CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

SAT., OCT 27: A NEW YEAR OF HERBS STARTING NOW! by ANN WHEELER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851. www.arborgate.com

SAT., NOV. 3: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

SAT., NOV 3: 46th ANNUAL HERB FAIR, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004. The Herb Society of America, South Texas Unit. Free admission. herbsociety-stu.org

SAT. NOV 3: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 1-3:45pm, Rosenberg Library Wortham Auditorium, 2310 Sealy St, Galveston. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

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

THURS, Nov. 8 ROOT-A-ROSE CLINIC by GAYE HAMMOND, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.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

SAT. NOV 10: WHAT IS A GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER? by DIANE SCHENKE, 9-11am; **EVALUATING YOUR SOIL'S HEALTH** by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm., AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener events. Free but register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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

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

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

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

FRI: FEB. 8: PLANT SALE and speaker CORRIE TEN-HAVE, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

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

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

PLEASE READ BEFORE
SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.

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

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

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

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www.natureswayresources.com

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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