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October 12, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 270th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

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

Please or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!](#)



... including, at right, a stop at my mailbox pentas!

MONARCH MIGRATION IS STARTING -- IS YOUR GARDEN WELCOMING?

The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.

-- Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

The annual Monarch Migration is starting to pass through our section of the Gulf Coast. Our peak time is normally the last two weeks of October, although this is just an average. This year these jewels are right on time, according to Marianna T. Wright, Executive Director of the [National Butterfly Center](#), a treasure of a site near the South Texas town of Mission.

Monarchs will pass in (hopefully) peak numbers through Mission around November 3-6, dates of the 2018 - 23rd Annual Texas Butterfly Festival. More on this later along with butterfly-attracting plant tips.

This migration period is also closely watched by the Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas (BEST), who are in the process of numerous "Butterfly Counts." More volunteers are needed and, I can tell you from experience, it's a great family outing.

We've had some pretty heavy duty weather lately. Will this affect numbers or routes?

BEST's Don Dubois doesn't think Harvey or Ike had significant impact on migrations, noting: "The number of monarchs migrating in the fall is mainly dependent on reproductive success in the northern breeding grounds and, to a lesser degree, on weather conditions and other factors encountered during the migration."

Even so, he adds, our recent heavy rains . . . "should be beneficial to fall flowering plants and should have a positive effect on the monarch migration."

BEST's longtime authority Farrar Stockton adds while she's seen no confirming data, she feels butterflies in general still appear to be recovering from our brutal drought of 2011.

Do habitat gardens make a difference to migration routes? Although most monarchs, like hummingbirds, are primarily interested now in getting to Mexico as quickly as possible, Don notes habitat plantings can only improve their to "fuel" supply to complete the long journey.

And, remember, some monarchs and hummers stay year-round here. Monarchs are always plentiful on Bolivar Peninsula, but in the 50+ years we've been down there, I've only seen one spectacular monarch migration. At first I thought I was seeing smoke clouds, that the field was on fire. It turned out to be billions of monarch. It's quite a sight to behold!

Just to let folks in the rest of the nation know we have this advantage, report Monarch sightings to the (international) Journey North website. So far, their maps don't show any Monarch sightings in our area. journeynorth.org/monarchs.

For more information on BEST's Butterfly Counts: naba.org/chapters/nababest

Back to the 2018 - 23rd Annual Texas Butterfly Festival (Nov. 3-6), this celebration draws an international crowd, many arriving early and staying afterwards to truly appreciate why the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) chose Mission, TX, for its pilot National Butterfly Center project.

The Rio Grande Valley is home to the greatest volume and variety of butterfly species in the nation. Visitors can hope to see many of the Center's identified 300-plus butterfly species on expert-guided tours. It's hard to time peak migration arrival times, but generally the festival hits it pretty close every year. Links for more info:

- BEST's Butterfly Counts: naba.org/chapters/nababest
- National Butterfly Center / Texas Butterfly Festival: texasbutterflyfestival.com
- Or facebook.com/TexasButterflyFestival/

IN OUR SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE BELOW, Marianna offers sage advice on great native plants for Monarchs. Generally speaking, butterflyweed is the common name for the tropical or imported Monarch attracting plants. Milkweed is the common name for the native varieties. Most (but not all!) belong to the genus *Asclepias*.

(Asclepias is the Greek god of healing -- who else would tell you these things).

Even if you choose not to plant the natives listed in your home gardens, it's important to recognize and help protect these treasures in our environment, especially on vacant properties near your home. They're valuable wildflowers, not just nasty "weeds."

(FYI, Columbus Day this year was on Oct. 8).

**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**

* * *

Spotlighting . . .
National Butterfly Center
Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter



Photos from the National Butterfly Center website & Facebook page

MILKWEEDS IN OCTOBER LANDSCAPES HELP PRODUCE 5th GENERATION OF MONARCHS

by **MARIANNA T. WRIGHT**

Executive Director, [National Butterfly Center](#)
 Mission, TX

Look to the skies! The Monarch migration is headed for the Gulf Coast, right on time. Historically, the first migrants to reach Texas arrive on Columbus Day - you can practically set your clocks by them. Of course, weather plays a big factor in this. Monarchs are large butterflies with an incredibly efficient, sailing flight that allows them to ride currents up to 12,000 feet high. This prevents them from hitting windshields and from having to navigate around trees and buildings.

The expected cold front will provide precisely the tail wind Monarchs need to get here. Most will pass through, but the Houston-Galveston Gulf Coast area is known to have at least one over-wintering, non-migratory colony. Scientists have yet to study this group of Monarchs, but suspect climate change is making it possible for some to stay instead of traveling



L to r, Sand (Asclepias arenaria) to Shore (Asclepias perennis), and Slim (Asclepias linearis) to Longleaf (Asclepias longifolia).

To support species health and increase (for all butterflies, not just the Monarch), the best thing people can do is plant native host and nectar sources. There are several milkweeds native to Texas and good for this region, from Sand (*Asclepias arenaria*) to Shore (*Asclepias perennis*), and Slim (*Asclepias linearis*) to Longleaf (*Asclepias longifolia*).

Get to know your local native plant society or join the [Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas \(BEST\)](#) Chapter of the [North American Butterfly Association](#), to learn more about what will work best in your yard.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has also published an excellent photographic guide to Identification of [Milkweed in Texas](#). Having milkweed in the landscape in October helps produce the 5th Generation of Monarchs. This special crop does not mate or lay eggs after eclosing*; they are simply born to fly to Mexico, where they may survive the winter and return in the spring to bear the 1st Generation in a new year.

(*eclosing: to come out of the egg or the pupa case)



Top two favorites of Monarchs, left, are Blue Mistflowers and Seaside Goldenrod

If you only have room for two nectar sources, I strongly recommend the two most preferred nectars for Monarchs: Blue Mistflower (*Chromolaena odorata*) and Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens* L.). Both bloom predictably in fall and require little maintenance.

Frostweed, scarlet sage, cowpen daisy and tickweed (*Bidens pilosa*) are also good -- but may all be considered "invasive" -- as may goldenrod and mistflowers.



Other great Monarch flowers, l to r, tickseed, scarlet sage, cowpen daisy, thistle and spiny aster

Thistle and spiny aster (*Chlorocantha spirosa*) are also good, but may not be favored for home gardens/landscapes. Spiny aster is pretty, but not at all showy or dense. Not something that people see here and say, "Do you have that for sale? I want to grow that!"

* * *

2018 - 23rd Annual Texas Butterfly Festival info: texasbutterflyfestival.com



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 63

We have talked about the dangers of fluoride for years from harm to soils and microbes to plants and humans. The prestigious European medical journal Lancet, has officially classified fluoride as a neurotoxin. This puts this chemical in the same category of danger as arsenic, lead, and mercury! A recent article in the journal Medscape found that fluoride ingestion (poisoning) affects the gastrointestinal tract. Fluoride when ingested forms hydrofluoric acid in our stomachs which leads to GI irritation or corrosive effects. Once this chemical is absorbed into the body it binds calcium (Ca) ions preventing them from being used by the body causing numerous health problems (for example calcium is required to have strong bones). The herbicide Round-Up (glyphosate) also binds calcium and prevents it from being absorbed and used by our bodies. Tens of millions of Americans suffer from calcium deficient diseases like osteoporosis. The research team in the Lancet article also found that fluoride also contributes to neurodevelopmental disabilities including ADHD, dyslexia, and other cognitive impairments. The Harvard School of Public Health and the Mount Sinai school of medicine has found similar results including a link to autism. More reasons to grow one's own food continue to increase or at least eat only organic produced food. As reported in the past, if one wants good health they need to filter their drinking water to remove the toxin and do not use or ingest products like toothpaste that contain it.

Food for thought - A problem that gardeners in our area frequently encounter is blossom end rot on tomatoes that is attributed to a lack of calcium in the soil. I wonder is it really a calcium shortage OR is the calcium being tied up and unavailable due to watering our plants with municipal water contaminated with fluoride?

As gardeners we all know about how important bees are to pollinate our food crops and flowers. In the United States we have over 4,000 species of native bees that do

not produce honey but they do pollinate a lot of plants. We also know that bees are dying by the millions with various names like colony collapse disorder in honeybees. A study from the Imperial College of London published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society 2018 has found that native bees normally avoid neonicotinoid pesticides. However, once exposed to the poison on their food (pollen) they become addicted to it. Another study by the University of Texas (published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 2018) has found that when bees eat pollen from plants treated with the herbicide glyphosate (Round-Up) it kills beneficial bacteria in a bees digestive system. This allows pathogens to grow and makes the bees more susceptible to infection and death. People using these toxic and dangerous chemicals are not only putting the worlds food supply at risk, they are committing a crime against nature (God).

On another note many studies have shown the benefits of essential oils derived from plants. Researchers from the University of Ibadan have found that that oils from lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citratus*) and oranges (*Citrus sinensis*) have antioxidant and antibacterial properties. These oils can scavenge free radicals and chelate metals helping the body to remove them (European Journal of Medicinal Plants, 2018). Other oils known to provide health benefits are:

Tea Tree Oil - *Melaleuca* sp. provide anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral activity. Often used to help with skin conditions.

Oregano Oil - this oil works better than many antibiotics, it also exhibits anti-oxidant anti-fungal and anti-inflammatory properties.

Bergamot - this oil has strong anti-bacterial activity and is used to treat many conditions from meningitis, urinary tract infections and mouth ulcers.

The website www.naturalnews.com has many articles on the benefits of essential oils from plants.

Over the years many customers have used compost as a mulch as they like the dark color and it improves the quality of the soil in their flower beds. They also swear that the plants grow better, look healthier and just grow better. A article in the journal HortTechnology (August 2018) on using compost as a mulch on the lettuce plant, has found that not only does compost help suppress weeds, it increased yields in all plants tested. The lettuce also had larger and more attractive leaves.

I am reading a fascinating new textbook right now on fungi titled "Radical Mycology - A Treatise On Seeing and Working With Fungi" by Peter McCoy. One of the chapters is called "The Pharmycopeia" and is on the health benefits provided by fungi. Fungi have been used for thousands of years as medicine and as food. I love the introductory paragraph: "Fungi are the grand healers of the world. Theirs is a medicine of uniting, drawing in, and deep cleansing that tonifies whole ecosystems and raises the vitality of all those with whom they synergize. For the individual, fungi can be worked with in the body ecology to uplift one's physical and energetic health in powerful ways that are not readily equated by the medicinal plants alone. Indeed, the medicinal yeasts that cover wild fruits and the endophytes that live inside of foraged plants have likely been the source of many of the medicinal benefits long attributed to plants. Invisibly and subtly, the healing power of fungi have always been part of our food and medicines. The history of health is a history of fungi." I will not go through all 28 pages on the health benefits of fungi but a few tid-bits.

- Moldy bread is an effective disinfectant that was used for thousands of years. It is from these types of molds that we get the drug penicillin.
- Fungi collected in the natural environment have far more potent benefits than those that are farmed. Herbalists have long noted the difference between wild and cultivated fungi.
- Breathing spores from fungi that live on pine trees stimulates our feeling of well being.
- Fungi are some of the most nutrient dense foods we have and they taste good. Preparing mushrooms in hot water as in soups and teas, helps release many of the beneficial nutrients.

When I see mushrooms growing in my yard or garden, I count my blessings that these wonderful life forms are cleaning and enriching my soil to make it better for all plants from grass to trees. I just enjoy their beauty as they will be gone in a few days. I cringe whenever I hear someone call into our local gardening shows and want a toxic chemical to get rid of them. Our education system has failed in teaching people about the benefits of nature and natural systems.

Some plant crops, such as oats and wheat, naturally produce very important stable extremely long chain molecules related to sugars that are called medicinal beta-glucans. Beta-glucans strengthen and stimulate our immune system. However, these good sugars have been bred out of these plants as they interfere with the processing of

many food products. Hence, we have gone from the beneficial grains mentioned in the Bible (remember the importance of gleaning in the book of Ruth?), to a product (grain), that has lost all its health benefits and now causes health problems for many people. For example Celiac disease is an autoimmune disease characterized by a severe intolerance to gluten. In 1900 wheat only had 1/2 percent gluten and today wheat can have over 20% gluten content depending on the variety. This same breeding has created a worthless food.

* * *

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.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: galvcountrymgs@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.arbortgate.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.arbortgate.com

SAT., OCT. 20: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANTS & CRAFTS SALE, 10am, The Woodlands Wildflower Festival, Restaurant Row at Hughes Landing. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event. facebook.com/TheWoodlandsGardenClub/

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.arbortgate.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: galvcountrymgs@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.arbortgate.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

MON, NOV. 5: SOUTHERN BULBS BY CHRIS WIESINGER OF THE SOUTHERN BULB COMPANY, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

WED., Nov. 7: COLOR PLANTS AND BONSAI by PHILLIP DRILLING, 9-11 am, Clear Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall,16335 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners by the Bay event. gbtb.org

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

FRI., NOV. 16: HOUSTON URBAN TREE CONFERENCE, 8:15am-3pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd.. \$45. Register: houston-urban-tree-conference.eventbrite.com

SAT., DEC. 8: HOLIDAY IN THE GARDENS, 11am-5pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160

WED., DEC. 12: WINTER COLOR, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

FRI., DEC 14: WINTER WONDERLAND LUNCHEON GALA, speaker: BILL McKINLEY. 10am, Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. \$30. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

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

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

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

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

FRI., MAR. 16: MARCH MART PLANT SALE, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI: APR. 11: PLANT SALE and REFUGEES FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM by MARGARET PICKELL. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonsfederationgardenclubs.org

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

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

PLEASE READ BEFORE
SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.

Events **NOT** submitted in the **EXACT** written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us. Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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

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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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