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JANUARY 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 278th 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. . . .Email your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

Please 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!



'TIS THE SEASON TO PLANT TREES & SHRUBS & TO THINK ABOUT THE PLANET & SQUIRRELS

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

-- "Ode to the West Wind" by Percy Bysshe Shelley

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

You know how they say the three most important words in real estate are location, location, location? Well, when it comes to growing fruit and nut trees in Houston, the three most important words are variety, variety, variety.

Not all varieties of the same fruit do well here. The same goes for ornamental plants. Most plants now have been hybridized for market and given different variety names. So much of success depends on tolerance for weather (summer & winter), rainfall, soil, drainage, and probably even more environmental factors than we'll ever know.

January and February are our best months to plant almost all trees and shrubs. Why? So roots will have time to become well established before the soil starts seriously warming up a few months from now. Our heat is much harder on plants than are our winters, especially on plants not really adapted for such challenges.

Where do you find all great-for-us varieties, whether ornamental or edible?

'Tis the season! January & February are packed with great fruit and nut tree sales held by folks in groups primarily driven by a love of gardening and sharing gardening advice. County Master Gardeners, for example.

A special tip o' the trowel to Urban Harvest. On Sat., Feb. 9, [Urban Harvest](#) will celebrate the 19th anniversary of its annual "Fruit Tree Sale." Urban Harvest's sale is the Largest Single Day Fruit Tree Sale in the nation and, now offers over 100 varieties of fruits best suited to the climate and soils of the Greater Houston area.

Our soils and climates do vary greatly, so it's worthwhile to also patronize those sales in your specific area.

UPCOMING SALES OF FRUIT & NUT TREE -- AND OTHER PLANTS:

- TUES., JAN 8: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS GARDENING IN THE GREATER
 - HOUSTON AREA & PLANT SALE, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-

0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

- **SAT-SUN., JAN. 12 -13: COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY'S 45th ANNUAL CAMELLIA**
 - **SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, First Christian Church, 3500 North Loop 336 West, Conroe. Free.**
coushattacamelliasociety.com
- **SAT., JAN. 26: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FRUIT TREE PLANT SALE,**
 - **9am-noon (or sellout), 19110 Longenbaugh, Cypress (formerly Bear Creek Park). Free.**
713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu
- **SAT., FEB. 9: 19th ANNUAL URBAN HARVEST FRUIT TREE SALE, 9am-1pm, Sawyer Yards,**
 - **2101 Winter St. Free.** urbanharvest.org/fruit-tree-sale
- **SAT, FEB. 9: 13TH ANNUAL BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS CITRUS**
 - **& FRUIT TREE SALE, 8am-11am, Brazoria County Fairgrounds, 901 S. Downing St.,**
Angleton. Free. txmg.org/brazoria/
- **SAT. FEB 16: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING**
 - **PLANT SALE; 8-8:50am Sale Plant Seminar; 9am-1pm - plant sale, Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd, Hitchcock. Free.** aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston
- **SAT., FEB. 23: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FRUIT TREE & TOMATO**
 - **PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm (or sellout), Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu**

Many of these groups post sale inventories on their websites so you can check in advance to see what will be available.

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IF ONE OF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS is to become more involved in protecting our world ecology as well as native flora and fauna closer to home, consider joining others of like mind.

The Greater Houston area is literally overflowing with hundreds of gardens, parks, horticulture focus groups and related organizations/sites worth joining and supporting. One easy way to keep up with who's doing what is by joining:

- [CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION.](#)

CEC's extensive monthly calendar of events and announcements will keep you up-to-date on happenings around the Greater Houston.

Google "Houston Area Public Gardens," "Houston Area Nature Centers" or inserting your general area's name in place of "Houston" for more sites and resources than you probably ever dreamed! At least try to get to know and support those that benefit your general area, as well as those that benefit your special interests.

Your \$\$\$ may well spell the difference between success and failure in this era of such severe government cutbacks. No longer can we assume our tax dollars will be spent to support and protect the environment. A good example below . . .

* . * . *

UPDATE: The Houston Arboretum & Nature Center will institute paid parking beginning in early 2019, with the revenue supporting the organization's ongoing restoration efforts and educational programming. Arboretum members will receive free parking. Additionally, there will be free parking on every Thursday throughout the year.

* . * . *



*Beauty's Community Garden sign at left quotes Martin Luther King:
'Everyone can be great . . . because anybody can serve.'*

TIP O' THE TROWEL TO [BEAUTY'S COMMUNITY GARDEN](#), 3201 Airline Dr. in Independence Heights. Garden volunteers (above) recently shared their mustard, turnip and collard greens harvests with seniors at Primrose Casa Bella Senior Apartments and soon will be taking these, plus snow peas, cabbage, cauliflower (to name just a few winter harvests) to Independent Heights Elder Care Apartments. Major improvements were made possible by generous folks who participated in the garden's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace through Pie community social. The 3rd annual free family-friendly Peace Through Pie social is coming up Sat., Jan. 19, 10am-noon at St. Matthew United Methodist Church, 4300 North Shepherd Dr. Details: 3rdmlkpeacethroughpie.eventbrite.com

* * *



WILL 2019 BE YEAR GARDENERS WIN OVER SQUIRRELS?

Don't hold your breath, and DON'T send me any "tasty" recipes!

Better to laugh. Love this "squirrel's-eye-view" of us gardeners from the creative whimsy of reader Lynn Schoepfle. Hopefully those of us plagued by these "rats with cute tails" (as Husband calls them) are in a reprieve moment -- thanks to the cold -- and able to smile at Lynn's "transcript":

THOUGHTS OF SQUIRREL #1 . . .

1. *We only remember about 10% where we hid those nuts.*
2. *It's easier to steal nuts than to remember where they are hidden.*
3. *People must be hiding some really BIG nuts. Let's steal them!*
4. *Making a mess is fun. Whoopie!*

THOUGHTS OF SQUIRREL #2 . . .

DAY 1 - *What's that big guy doing in my tree?*

He is messing around with my favorite sitting branch.

DAY 2 - *Why are all these birds making such a fuss?*

DAY 3 - *Hey, there's food on the ground! The birds are fooling with the thing the Big Guy did.*

DAY 4 - Hey, that's food in that thing in the tree! Neato! Dinner!

DAY 5 - Hey, what's that obstacle on the food tube? If he thinks

that this stops the Mighty Squirrel, he's got another think coming!

DAY 6 - Hey, who put the hot stuff on the food! Water! Water! WATER!

Thanks, Lynn! Happy New Year to you, and to all our readers.

* * *

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK "LG&F CALENDAR" AT END
OF NEWSLETTER 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 find past issues and/or download PDF copies, go to www.natureswayresources.com*

* * *



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 71

We have talked about the benefits of Mycorrhizal fungi on many occasions and their benefits to plants. Below is a summary of all they do for us.

NUTRITION

- Increase surface area of nutrient uptake
- Unlocks phosphorus for plants
- Acquires nitrogen from organic matter
- Improves uptake of trace minerals
- Enhances nutrient density of crops

SEEDLINGS

- Prevents "damping off" disease

- Reduces Transplant Shock
- Supports root initiation on cuttings

FIELD & FOREST

- Stabilizes soil aggregates
- Sequesters carbon
- Improves plant growth and yield
- Delivers moisture as needed
- Augments deeper root penetration
- Suppresses root pathogens

PRACTICLE ADVANTAGES

- Mediates heavy metal toxicity
- Helps plants cope with soil salinity
- Breaks up subsoil compaction layer
- Suppresses non-mycorrhizal weeds
- Cuts fertilizer requirements
- Improves tolerance of higher soil temperatures

HEALTHY PLANT METABOLISM

- Improves rate of photosynthesis
- Provides cofactor role of protein synthesis
- Provides reserve energy in lipid form
- Stimulates induced systemic resistance

MYCORRHIZAL NETWORKING

- Ensures balanced nutrient uptake
- Ensures healthy forest succession
- Facilitates plant-to-plant communication
- Provides the foundation for ecosystem resiliency

Taken from the book, Mycorrhizal Planet: How Fungi and Plants Work Together to Create Dynamic Soils, by Michael Phillips

In horticulture we often see plants botanical classification or name changed as we learn more about the species. Similarly in microbiology the scientific names are changed. If one is using older books for guidelines as to which inoculants to purchase, the newer packages ones will have the new names. Below is a table listing some of the changes.

Endo Hit Parade

A quality inoculum product will offer a diverse range of Endomycorrhizal fungi. Insist on the first four, then glory in the inclusion of yet even more species.

Glomus aggregatum [now renamed *Rhizophagus aggregatus*]

- Functions well in sandy soils
- Assertive root colonization at seeding stage
- Tolerant of high fertility levels
- Improves soil aeration
- Enhances fruit tree vigor

Glomus intraradices [now renamed *Rhizophagus intraradices*]

- Highly effective in a wide range of conditions
- Quick colonization of seedlings
- Improves performance of turf grasses and nursery stock
- Provides disease resistance against Fusarium

Glomus mosseae [now renamed *Funneliformis mosseae*]

- Stabilizes soil aggregates
- Increases nitrogen and phosphorus uptake
- Moderates drought stress
- Increases flowering and fruiting
- Improved performance of woody ornamentals

Glomus etunicatum [now renamed *Claroideoglomus etunicatum*]

- Good scavenger of low-fertility soils with high acidity
- Consistently beneficial in agricultural soils
- Cofactor influence on protein synthesis
- Increases aromatic plant production of essential oils
- Improves plant establishment
- Helpful in strip mine reclamation

Glomus clarum [now renamed *Rhizophagus clarus*]

- Well adapted to a wide variety of plants and soil conditions
- Mediates heavy metal toxicity
- Improves nitrogen fixation activity
- Increases grain and legume crop yields

Paraglomus brasilianum

- Thrives in rich organic soils
- Stimulates root enzyme activity
- Protects against heavy metal toxicity
- Enhances soil remediation efforts

Glomus deserticola [now renamed *Septoglomus deserticola*]

- Common in semiarid and arid conditions
- Improves yields in alkaline soils
- Very effective in reducing drought stress
- Promotes salt tolerance
- Delivers phosphorus from nearby rock

Gigaspora margarita

- Indigenous across many ecosystems
- Forms extensive external mycelia
- Phosphorus go-getter
- Improves production of tropical and subtropical fruits

Credit for compiling an earlier rendition of this information is due Dr. Mike Amaranthus of Mycorrhizal Applications.

Michael Phillips, *fungus emissary*

WWW.GrowOrganicApples.com

Have You Tried . . .



PALM LEAFED MIST FLOWER

Mistflowers are one of our best butterfly-attractors but our common native variety sometimes tends to be a little too-happy in some gardens. Might want to try palm leafed mistflower (Conoclinium

greggii) with its frillier, ferny looking leaf. Likes sun but will tolerate some shade. Likes well drained site. Attracts wide variety of butterflies, especially impressive number of Queens in fall and is host plant for Rawsons Metalmark. 2' high, makes nice groundcover. Nature's Way Resources carries this. Contact independent nurseries in your area to see if they do. Or, check out local nurserymen through this site: <https://npsot.org/wp/resources/finding-natives/>

* * *

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR EVENTS

NO EVENTS ARE PICKED UP FROM NEWSLETTERS, MASS RELEASES, OTHER PUBLICATIONS, ETC.

SUBMIT TO: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net SPECIFICALLY EARMARKED FOR THIS CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE > Events NOT submitted in EXACT 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 immediately

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

WED., JAN. 2: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11 am, Clear Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 16335 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners by the Bay event. gbtb.org

THURS., JAN. 3: NATIVE PLANTS FOR SHADY PLACES by Tricia Bradbury, 10am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org.

TUES., JAN. 8: GROWING CAMELLIAS IN OUR AREA WITH TOMMY WEEKS, COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, 9 am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

TUES., JAN 8: GARDENING IN THE GREATER HOUSTON AREA & PLANT SALE, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., JAN. 10: GROWING ORGANIC VEGETABLE SERIES BEGINS. 10 classes. First class 6:30-9:30pm. University of Houston Central Campus, Charles F. McElhinney Hall, 3623 Cullen Blvd. \$280. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

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, 11: KNOW & GROW: GET READY FOR UPCOMING GROWING SEASON CONFERENCE, 10am-2pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. \$20. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: know-n-grow.eventbrite.com; 713-274-0950.

SAT. JAN 12: GROWING BLUEBERRIES by DR. DAVID COHEN, 9-11:30am, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/Hwy. 519, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free-but-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. JAN 12: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 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

SAT., JAN 12: GROWING FRUIT TREES IN SMALL SPACES, 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Conference Room, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., JAN. 12: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT-SUN., JAN. 12 -13: 45th ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, First Christian Church, 3500 North Loop 336 West, Conroe. Free. Coughatta Camellia Society. coughattacamelliasociety.com

TUES., JAN. 15: PREPARING GARDEN BEDS & LAWNS, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., JAN 15: BEAUTIFUL, EASY CARE, TEXAS-TOUGH PLANTS FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE by SKIP RICHTER, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

TUE., JAN. 15: THE SECRET LIFE OF SOIL by SHERRI HARRAH, 7 pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

THURS., JAN. 17: PREPARING GARDEN BEDS & LAWNS - 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Ln. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., JAN. 17: PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES & BARRIERS TO GERMINATION by JEAN FEFER, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/houston

THURS, JAN. 19: 10 GARDENING BASICS FOR THE GULF COAST by Beverly Welch 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

SAT., JAN. 19: PREPARING GARDEN BEDS & LAWNS- 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT. JAN 19: KITCHEN GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 1-3pm. AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free-but-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., JAN. 19: FRUIT TREE TRAINING & PRUNING. 1st of 3 classes, 10am-12:30pm, University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose Blvd. \$90. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., JAN. 19: FRUIT TREE CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAUL NESTRA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SUN., JAN. 20: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE. Class#1. 1-5pm, instructor's garden near 610 & Gulfton. \$55. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

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

SAT., JAN. 26: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FRUIT TREE PLANT SALE, 9am-noon (or sellout), 19110 Longenbaugh, Cypress. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT. JAN 26: "TEXAS TOUGH" PLANTS by MARIA LEAL, 9:30-11:30am; HERBS FOR THE GULF COAST by NANCY LANGSTON-NOH and BRIANA ETIE, 1-3pm. Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy Street, Galveston. Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., JAN. 26: WEDGE GRAFTING by SUE JEFFCO, 9-10:30am, Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free-but-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SUN., JAN. 27: THE SECRET LIFE OF SOIL- FEED YOUR SOIL & IT WILL FEED YOUR PLANTS! by SHERRI HARRAH, 2pm, Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

SUN., JAN. 27: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE. Class#2. 1-5pm. University of Houston Central Campus, Charles F. McElhinney Hall, 3623 Cullen Blvd., Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., FEB. 2: DESIGNING OUR GREEN HOMES & COMMUNITIES THROUGH PERMACULTURE, 1st of 7 classes, 9:30am-1:30pm. University of Houston Central Campus, Charles F. McElhinney Hall, 3623 Cullen Blvd. \$305. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

WED., FEB. 6: PLANNING A NEW GARDEN, 7-8pm, Messiah Lutheran Church, 11522 Telge Rd., Cypress. First of 3 classes (also Feb. 13 & 20). Free. Register: messiahlc.org/Sign-up-Forms

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

SAT, FEB. 9: 13TH ANNUAL CITRUS & FRUIT TREE SALE with **BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 8am-11am, Brazoria County Fairgrounds, 901 S. Downing St., Angleton. Free. txmg.org/brazoria/

TUES., FEB.12: LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS TO SAVE WATER BY **MARK BOWEN**, HORTICULTURIST, 9 am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

WED., FEB. 13: SOIL PREPARATION & COMPOSTING, 7-8pm, Messiah Lutheran Church, 11522 Telge Rd., Cypress. Free. Register: messiahlc.org/Sign-up-Forms

SAT. FEB 16: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE; 8-8:50am Sale Plant Seminar; 9am-1pm - plant sale, Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd, Hitchcock. Free. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., FEB. 16: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, at., Feb. 16: Urban Harvest's Starting a Community or School Garden Workshop. 8:30am-2:30pm. University of Houston Downtown, One Main St., Houston, TX 77002. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

WED., FEB. 20: PLANT SELECTION & STRATEGY, 7-8pm, Messiah Lutheran Church, 11522 Telge Rd., Cypress. Free. Register: messiahlc.org/Sign-up-Forms

SAT., FEB. 23: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FRUIT TREE & TOMATO PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm (or sellout), Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

WED., FEB. 27: IN THE GARDEN SPRING VEGETABLE PLANTING, 6-7:30pm, McGovern Centennial Family Gardens, 1500 Hermann Dr. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., MAR. 2: VEGETABLE & HERB SALE with presentations by **JUDY BARNETT & WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 9am-Noon, Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. Free. txmg.org/wallermg/events

SAT., MAR. 2: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE & WORKSHOP, Sale: 10am-4pm. Workshop: 1pm. Free. Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Dr. 281-682-1073; cseverson57@comcast.net.

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

SAT., MAR. 9: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PLANT SALE: TOMATO/PEPPER, HERBS, VEGETABLES, ROSES & PERENNIALS, 9am-1pm (or sellout), 19110 Longenbaugh, Cypress. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

FRI.-SAT., MAR. 15-16: MARCH MART PLANT SALE, Fri., 10am-4pm; Sat., 8am-4pm. Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

SAT., MAR. 30: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PLANT SALE: PEPPERS PERENNIALS & PLANTS, 9am-1pm (or sellout), Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

Come Visit the Plant Nursery at Natures Way Resources for End of Season Clearance. 50% off most plants; the following exceptions apply: Does not include cool season color or herbs, 25% off citrus and 75% off Pomegranates. All cool season vegetables are now \$1.00 (4" pots).

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 Pablo Hernandez 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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