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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Gardening Newsletter

January 17, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 279th 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 this link "[Join Our Mailing List](#)". We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!



GARDENS TRENDS FOR OUR FUTURE? ... FERNS FOR BASKETS

"The single greatest lesson the garden teaches is that our relationship to the planet need not be zero-sum, and that as long as the sun still shines and people still can plan and plant, think and do, we can, if we bother to try, find ways to provide for ourselves without diminishing the world."

— Michael Pollan, [The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals](#) (2007)

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Trend reports are fun to read, but not often do we give them much heed. This is one time maybe we probably should.

In the long run, if certain trends below pick up momentum, they might just impact the resale value of our homes. The trends below are those considered most important by the nation's leading grower of premium ornamental/landscaping plants.

Monrovia believes the biggest overall trend is how we are " ... letting nature nurture us. We're increasingly aware of how plants and gardening enhance our lives and connect us to something both ancient and modern – the rhythm of the natural world. And, this is only the beginning."

Getting more specific, Monrovia foresees growing use of:

- **THE CONSIDERED GARDEN:** The "Considered Garden" continues the "I care" theme, as we are increasingly interested in sustainability, handcrafting, authenticity. We want to feel good – especially on an ecological and humanitarian level – about our landscaping. Where do our plants originate? Is their production, etc., contributing to, or hurting, Earth's overall health?
- **ARCHITECTURE RULES.** Ironically, within this more naturalistic global approach, Monrovia is seeing more demand for intriguing, sophisticated (often formal) plants "...shapes, forms, textures, cernuous and branching habits." Sort of a yin-yang effect. Makes sense. Good sellers, they say, will be topiaries, along with cascading plants, espaliered fruit trees, plants that add a touch of "oomph" to a landscape.
- **DESPERATELY SEEKING SEASON.** Newcomers from "up nawth" often fuss about our lack of seasons. Fact is, seasonal blendings are taking places all across the globe as summers get longer and winters get shorter. For plant growers, this creates a demand for plants that, for example, show stark-yet-allicent winter beauty (form, bark or high contrast color), even if it's for a smaller window. Longer summers create demand for plants that bloom longer in the heat or rebloom after brief rests.

- **DO IT FOR ME!** More of us are also finding, as Monrovia puts it, “a beautiful garden installed and managed by someone else is worth every dime.”
- **WORKING OVERTIME.** Our home lots are getting smaller. So is time available to garden. What’s growing is a demand for plants that do double, or even triple, duty in the landscape. Increasingly popular are plants that look pretty for a long time, attract wildlife, provide food, privacy, fragrance, etc. And, of course, provide us gardeners with bragging rights!
- **ONE STOP GARDEN SHOP.** Large and small garden centers alike across the nation are increasingly adding inducements to stop, shop and more. More are selling groceries, creating must-see actual garden niches and offering beauty treatments, farm-to-table cafes, non-gardening classes (like yoga and drop-off-children’s activities), etc.
- **INTO THE WOODS.** “Woodland gardens” or even just small niches within a landscape are seen as combating urban pollution, lending a “welcome sense of organic zen,” using the cool, mossy allure of ferns, mosses and like plantings. (More on ferns below!)

*Monrovia shade-lovers for a woodland niche or garden, below
 l to r, Snowdrop Anemones (Anemone sylvestris), Midnight Rose Coral Bells
 (Heuchera x 'Midnight Rose') and White Feather Hosta (Hosta 'White Feather')*



A personal note: When I started writing about gardening five decades ago, Houston's Bulb Lady Sally McQueen Squire always responded when asked about growing hostas: " *Be forewarned, hostas are hostile in Houston .*" In other words, they didn't like us much. But now . . . they do! More evidence of climate change.

Monrovia also tossed in some upcoming micro-trends they think will become increasingly important

- **ALL GREEN GARDENS** – *These were popular in the past and seem to be making a comeback.*
- **BRIGHTER COLORS** – *Good indicator, Pantone's Color for 2019 is a vivid coral.*

WHY CORAL FOR 2019? Usually Colors of the Year are picked for a wide variety of reasons, including political, economical, environmental, etc., factors.

Pantone says it picked coral for this year because it is “... *vibrant yet mellow, sociable, spirited, nurturing and embracing with warmth and nourishment, while embodying our desire playful expression.*”

Works for me. I love coral. Obviously Monrovia agrees, including these coral beauties below in its recent releases:

*L to r, Monrovia's Coral Yucca (Hesperaloe parviflora , also called red yucca),
 Coral Aloe (Aloe striata) and Sombrero™ Hot Coral Coneflower (Echinacea x 'Balsomcor')*



* * *

SPEAKING OF WOODLAND NICHES . . . THINK FERNS!!! As Jere Noerager tells it, *“Once upon a time, in a galaxy far, far away, business travel repeatedly took me to SE Asia. Thus began my “love affair” with epiphytic, tropical ferns. Rather than heading towards the local night life on my time off, I headed off into the nearby jungle ... and its plants.”*

On Sun., Jan. 20, Jere will share this love at a free Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society gathering, 2pm at Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. At this event, Jere will focus on two fascinating Epiphytic ferns:

- *Drynaria*, in addition to landscape value, have been economically important as medicinal plants in traditional Chinese medicine for over a thousand years. (The literal name of drynaria in Chinese is "mender of shattered bones.")
- *Aglaomorpha*, with its thick, scaly rhizomes, are among the largest ferns. *A. heraclea* of Malaysia with its 8+ foot long fronds is the largest epiphytic fern in the world.

*Below left, oakleaf fern (Drynaria quercifolia).
Right, Bear's Paw Fern (Aglaomorpha meyeniana)*



* * *

In our Spotlight Article below, Jere takes a broader view, offering an expert's tips on using ferns in hanging baskets. But first . . .

* * *

TWO MORE FRUIT, ETC., SALE NOTICES have been submitted to add to the [Jan. 1 Newsletter listings](#) :

- **SAT., JAN. 26: MONTGOMERY COUNTY FRUIT & NUT TREE SALE.** 8am Program, Sale 9am-Noon, AgriLife Extension, 9020 FM 1484 Rd, Conroe. Free. mcmga.com/936-539-7824
- **SAT, MAR. 2: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS VEGETABLE & HERB SALE** with MARY KARISH & JUDY BARRETT LECTURES, 9am-1pm, Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. txmg.org/wallermg/events

For the rest of many upcoming fruit, etc., sales, click [here](#) or check calendar below.

* * *

Now . . . growing ferns in hanging baskets!

* * *

BE SURE YOU CHECK BELOW FOR THE "HAVE YOU TRIED . . ." COLUMN FOR GREAT PLANT IDEAS and the "LG&F CALENDAR" FOR MORE UPCOMING GARDENING EVENTS!

Favor? Check to make sure submitted events are published.

Cybergremlins abound. If it's not in, let me know!

* * *

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener. Download PDF copies at www.natureswayresources.com

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L to r, Blue Star fern and Staghorn fern

Tips for Growing Tropical Hanging Basket Ferns

By JERE NOERAGER
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
tgcfernsoc.org

Ferns are admirable plants for interior decoration. Epiphytic ferns, in particular, are adapted to a drier habitat than most terrestrial types, so are more suited to the centrally heated and air conditioned environment of a Houston home, and for much of the year will flourish in filtered light or shady sites outdoors.

Epiphytic ferns grow naturally in a totally soilless condition. These ferns grow without using the typical water and nutrient storage of soil. The plants obtain water and nutrients (leached from tree leaves or other collected debris) only during rain. Between periods of rain, the tree bark of the branch is dry. For these reasons:

- Epiphytic ferns should be grown in very well-drained media composed mainly of fir or redwood bark, osmunda fiber, Styrofoam beads, tree fern fiber,

shredded pine bark, or sphagnum moss.

- Thoroughly soak your epiphytic fern each time you water and allow it to remain dry 2-4 days before watering again.
- Low concentrations (1/2-strength) of soluble fertilizer, organic or inorganic, can be added monthly (or use a slow-release, pelletized fertilizer).
- Use room temperature or lukewarm water when watering. Avoid using softened water.
- Fertilize only when the plants are actively putting on new growth, or if the foliage appears a paler green than normal. They can be damaged more easily than most houseplants if you over-fertilize.
- Some people still mist their indoor ferns to increase humidity, but it is not very effective.
- Misting also increases the likelihood of foliar leaf spot diseases. It's obviously not needed outside in Houston.
- You can try to over-winter your fern by cutting it back as needed in the fall and placing it in a light-filled area indoors.
- Even a dormant fern likes moisture and a heated home can dry out a plant quickly.
- Give your plant a good soaking in the shower a few times throughout the winter months.
- If you choose to protect your outside ferns in place, drop them to the ground and cover with frost cloth as you would a tender shrub. Soil is much warmer than the surrounding air.



Great for hanging baskets: Bird's Nest fern, left, and two Rabbit's Foot ferns, center and right

* * *

Jere Noerager can be contacted at janoerager@aol.com.

Or, you can speak to him in person at the SUN., JAN 20: TROPICAL HANGING BASKET FERNS: AGLAOMORPHA & DRYNARIA by JERE NOERAGER, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org.



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 72

I am often asked why organic matter is important in our soils. Here is another reason to add to the list of the many benefits of organic matter. For every 1% of organic matter in the soil, 100 square feet of soil will hold **two pounds** of pure nitrogen (N). Depending on the

weather and microbial content of one's soil, 1-4% of this nitrogen is released each year. This nitrogen is released (mineralized) as nitrate or ammonium depending on the plant species and the type microbes in the soil. When one has a high organic matter content in their soils, it will supply all the N-P-K (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) our plants require. In addition, the organic matter will supply minor nutrients (calcium, iron, magnesium, etc.) and micronutrients. Note 1: Artificial fertilizers have none of these extra benefits. Note 2: Really healthy soil will have organic matter of 8% or more.

The next question I often receive is "How do I build my organic matter?" The two major ways and the most cost effective, are to use a high-quality compost like our "Leaf Mold Compost" and the second is to use our composted or "Aged Native Mulch". According to Dr. Elaine Ingham (microbiologist), the majority of material sold in this area as compost, is actually putrefied organic matter which can be harmful to plants. As the old adage goes, "One gets what they pay for".

As gardeners we often hear that we need to aerate our soils. In nature (forest or prairies) soils do not have to be aerated. So why do we need to aerate the soils in our yards and gardens?

- 1) Artificial fertilizers are chemically salts, that lock soil particles together.
- 2) Artificial fertilizers kill beneficial life in the soil from microorganisms to earthworms that naturally work to keep the soil loose and aerated.
- 3) Herbicides kill the plants that we call weeds, one of their roles in nature is to loosen compacted soil and restore nutrient balance (Often if one corrects the soil problem the weed often goes away as it has done its job and is no longer needed).
- 4) Minerals are formed from the chemicals in our municipal water supply that cement our soils and create hardpan. Two common ones are Fluorapatite $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{F}$ and Chlorapatite $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$, (from Principles of Soil Chemistry, 4th Edition, Kim H. Tan). If you notice in the chemical formulas above, we first notice our friend the phosphate ion (PO_4) that is required for healthy soils and plants. We next notice calcium (Ca) that all gardeners know is essential to having healthy plants. However, when these good guys are exposed to fluorine (F) as in the fluoride and chlorine (Cl) that are found in our water systems it turns them into minerals that cement our soil particles together creating hardpan. So, the more one waters, the more often one will need to aerate and in general the more problems one will have.
 Note: Following a conversation with Bob Daily several months ago about how long has it been since we have watered our yards, I have been asking friends, customers and colleagues the same question. Gardeners whom have been using the modern organic methods for many years, have not needed to water their grass or flowerbeds since the drought of 2011 (saving thousands of dollars in water bill expense).

We have talked about the link between soil care and human health many times. When one eats foods grown or treated with the herbicide Round-Up, the body cannot absorb magnesium. This is one of the reasons 90% of Americans are magnesium deficient. [This link is to a short article on the health benefits of magnesium \(Mg\).](#)

Another article published in the journal of The American Osteopathic Association (2018) found vitamin-D cannot be utilized without sufficient magnesium (Mg) present in our bodies.

Many gardeners enjoy green tea. A study published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, scientists from Lancaster University found that a compound found in green tea breaks up and reduces the protein plaques found in blood vessels and those with similar structure to the amyloid plaques found in Alzheimer's disease. Another study from Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden (2018) has found that eating whole grains like rye, oatmeal, and muesli was found to prevent type 2 diabetes. Since European countries do not use/allow GMO grains hence in the USA look for organically grown grains to obtain the same results.

We often hear about how we as a people are using up the Earth's resources faster than they can be replaced. It reminds me of the prophecy from the book of Isaiah 51:6 (NIV) that states, "the earth will wear out like a garment". If you would like to find out how much your lifestyle is contributing to this problem there is a new [Environmental Footprint Calculator available online](#).

OHBA 2019 JANUARY 29TH SEMINAR

DR. EVA SELHUB, MD

"NATURE IS MEDICINE"


THE UNITED WAY BUILDING 50 WAUGH DRIVE. HOUSTON. TX

TICKETS

OHBA MEMBERS \$25 | NON-MEMBERS \$50


OHBAONLINE.ORG/EVENTS

REGISTER HERE



Dr. Eva Selhub, M.D. author of *'Your Brain on Nature'* is an internationally recognized expert, physician, speaker, and scientist. Her focus is working with the natural environment to achieve maximum human health. Board certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Eva served as an instructor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Her book *'Your Brain on Nature'* reveals global research that has proven the profound effects nature has on humans. Every landscape and garden is a health care center giving us incredible benefits. In this fascinating seminar Dr. Selhub will reveal the huge impact nature has on our cognitive brain function, mental health, and our physical well-being. Come learn how nature is vital to improving your health.



SCHEDULE

5:00PM-6:00PM REGISTRATION, NETWORKING, LIGHT BITES


6:00PM-7:30PM DR. EVA SELHUB ON 'YOUR BRAIN ON NATURE'


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ALL ORGANIC BIOLOGICAL FERTILIZERS

Have You Tried . . .



DWARF FLOWERING ALMOND

(*Prunus grandulosa*)

Late spring bloomer before leaves open. Shrub, 4' tall, 3'wide. Great cut flower. Severe pruning after blooming encourages more compact, healthier growth and heavier flowering next spring. Once very popular, now found mainly in older gardens. Great for us.

Nature's Way Resources carries the old-fashioned Prunus grandulosa variety. Contact independent nurseries in your area to see if they do. Or, even though this is not a native, check out local nurserymen through this site: <https://npsot.org/wp/resources/finding-natives>

* * *

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR EVENTS

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: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5065; aggiehorticulture.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

SUN., JAN 20: TROPICAL HANGING BASKET FERNS: AGLAOMORPHA & DRYNARIA by JERE NOERAGER, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org.

WED. JAN. 23: CACTUS 101: BACK TO BASICS by JOSIE WATTS, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston 77019. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulents Society event. <http://www.hcsstex.org>

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: galvcountrymgs@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: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., JAN. 26: ORGANIC GARDENING & LAWN CARE by JIM MAAS & GREG COOPER, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., JAN. 26: MONTGOMERY COUNTY FRUIT & NUT TREE SALE. 8am Program, Sale 9am-Noon, AgriLife Extension, 9020 FM 1484 Rd, Conroe. Free. mcmga.com/936-539-7824

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

SUN., JAN. 27: BIODIVERSITY LOSS & WHAT YOU CAN DO by KERRI CRAWFORD, Christ the King Evangelical Church, 2353 Rice Blvd. Register. eventbrite.com/e/biodiversity-loss-what-you-can-do-tickets-52943938746); gcs.lrc@gmail.com

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

SAT., FEB. 2: GROWING CAMELLIAS IN HOUSTON CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT, FEB. 2: ROSE PRUNING & PROPAGATION by GAYE HAMMOND & WALLER COUNTY MASTER, 9-11am, Waller County Community Center, 21274 FM1098 Loop,

Prairie View. Free. REGISTER: 979-826-7651, x3068;
wallermgardener2013@gmail.com. txmg.org/wallermg

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

THURS., FEB. 7: TEXAS SUPERSTAR PLANTS by Suma Mudan, 10am, MUD Building 81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. ncgctx.org

THURS., FEB. 7: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., FEB. 7: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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/

SAT., FEB. 9: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS I by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

THURS, FEB. 14: PRUNING FOR BLOOM TIME by CONSULTING ROSARIANS, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr., Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

THURS., FEB 14: HEALTHY SOILS, 10:00-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd, Pasadena. Free. Plant sale. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

SAT., FEB. 16: ANTIQUE ROSES CLASS by Jim Maas & Mike Shoup, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$20. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., FEB. 16: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., FEB. 19: UPDATE ON MERCER ARBORETUM, PHOENIX ARISES by JEFF HEILER, 7:00pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., FEB. 19: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale, Houston. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

THURS., FEB. 21: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Ln, Houston. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

SAT., FEB. 23: HANGING BASKETS CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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.

SAT., MAR. 2: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

SAT., MAR. 9: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS II by Jim Maas, Pat Cordray & Paul Nesrsta, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

TUES., March 12: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:00-9:00pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Plumeria Society of America event Free. www.theplumeriasociety.org

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.

SUN., MAR. 24: RESTORING NATURE THROUGH PERMACULTURE (4 classes). First: 10am-3pm, Shlenker School, 5600 N. Braeswood. \$190. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

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

SAT., MAR. 30: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30am-noon, 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., MAR. 30: TAKING CARE OF ROSES CLASS JIM MAAS & LOTHAR BEHNKE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., APR. 6: HERB GARDENING CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

SAT., APR. 13: EDIBLE LANDSCAPES, 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., APR. 13: WILD THYMES HERB CLASS by JIM MAAS & MELDA SIEBE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., APR. 20: HANGING BASKETS CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

WED., APR. 24: SUMMER VEGETABLE PLANTING, 6-7pm, McGovern Centennial Family Gardens, 1500 Hermann Dr. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., APR. 27: PLANTING IN GLASS CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., MAY 4: GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES & BEES CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

TUES., MAY 7: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT., MAY 11: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING, 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., JUNE 8: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3:00 pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

TUES., July 9: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT., JULY 20: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3:00 pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

TUES., Oct. 8: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.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
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

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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 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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