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## Gardening Newsletter

*February 15, 2019*

*Dear Friends,*

*Here is the 281th 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](mailto:lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com). Thanks so much for your interest.*

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*Enjoy!*



## KEYHOLE GARDENS AND REBLOOMING HYACINTHS!

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A KEYHOLE GARDEN. I discovered these decades ago when writing about Accessible Gardening. It didn't take long to realize any technique, suggestion, tool, etc., designed for those with physical challenges were ideal techniques, suggestions, tools, etc., for lazy gardeners!

The idea is said to have originated in Africa as a gardening solution to oh-so-prevalent drought. The keyhole shape starts with a wire cylinder used to make and constantly replenish compost. It is surrounded by a C-shaped, waist-high garden, allowing access to the cylinder, or "chimney," as it is often called. ("Waist-high" = what works best for you.)

Just as I began thinking about a keyhole garden article for this newsletter, an amazing coincidence happened. A wonderful childhood friend, Susie Parks Lilley, and I reconnected after about six decades of no contact. She nonchalantly mentioned she had several keyhole gardens at her rural Lampasas homesite!

I began bugging her for tips, although -- at that time -- I had no amenable site at our old home. Thanks to Harvey ( *sigh...* ), now I do.

As you can see from pictures below, designs are as varied as gardeners worldwide. The key is that all soil sections have access to compost so Nature can spread its benefits throughout. It's said keyhole gardens following the general guidelines require as little as 80% less water than inground gardens.

Susie first learned of this technique in an article in Texas Co-op Power Magazine article. Check out authors G. Elaine Acker and landscape architect Deb Tolman advice in [\*\*"Keyhole Gardening – Unlocking the Secrets of Drought-Hardy Gardens."\*\*](#)





Susie and Ed Lilley's keyhole gardens (only one is shown above) have been constructed with hay rings, stones cemented together, or even old fence staves woven together with wire. After the compost cylinder or "chimney" is inserted, Susie and Ed Lilley fill the planting sections first with layers of limbs and brush trimmings, topped by mulch, compost and finally transplants. On the bottom, Susie uses anything organic: jeans, fabric scraps, newspapers, cardboard, etc.

She advises transplants (rather than seeds) when first starting. After you get a feel for it, switch to seed if you want. Susie also raises earthworms and uses their soil on the beds. It seems to give them a boost after a few years of production, she says.

Below, more approaches:



**LOIS MCDANIEL** in Willis shared these pictures above of her neighbors Jim & Gerry Edwards' keyhole garden (top), and her own below. Everything grows well so far, she says, joking that hers isn't quite as nice as Jim and Jerry's, but she finds it perfect for those who find physical challenges a bit much as they grow older.

Lois has a chicken wire chimney in the middle of hers. She started with a cardboard floor, then a layer of sticks, then a layer of hay, then soil.

Lois' garden is about 6' in diameter. The Edwards keyhole is around 12' wide. If Lois were starting over, she'd make hers larger. The compost chimney fills up quickly and is hard to turn. On the plus side, it provides heat in the winter. They too used materials on hand so there was very little cost.

\* \* \*

**MORE ON KEYHOLE GARDEN TIPS FROM RONALD RICHTER** , ( *a gardening lecturer who also espouses -- and practices -- one of my favorite garden approaches; edibles in your front yard landscaping* ).

To get the most out of your keyhole garden, Ronald recommends:

- **The compost bin** needs to be in the center of the keyhole so that you can reach it from all sides.
- If the height of the garden is 4 ft then the compost bin needs to be six ft. This allows you to slope the soil from the top of the bin to the edge of the sides allowing water to flow to the root system.
- **Americans tend** to use traditional methods for soil composition and spacing of plants. In African gardens, recycled materials are used so it is like the lasagna garden. This reduces cost and is also sustainable.
- **Spacing of plants** is not traditional in that you plant in triangles which stabilizes the soil, increases production and assures cover for the soil to prevent evaporation of water into the air.
- **If you use the lasagna method** do not use in the summertime or fall. This is due to if the mix can become too hot and with our heat the garden may start on fire.
- **Options you can add** to the garden is canopy during the summer and a lid for the compost bin to prevent evaporation of water.

For more information, Ronald recommends: <https://goo.gl/images/LYXcim>

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Just want to re-emphasize Ronald's note about the heat produced as compost materials decompose. Keeping the compost 'chimney' well watered may be essential if you don't want a surprise fire during one of our extremely hot, dry summers/falls.*

\* \* \*

**HYACINTHS** may rebloom in our area, but it's not a common thing. Victoria Griffin bought





these in pots last year at a grocery store. After blooms faded, on a whim she planted the bulbs in her Panorama Village garden. "Was I ever elated to see these hyacinth blossoms!" she writes. Never say never!

Victoria expressed frustration that she can't find good bulbs in her area, I recommended she log onto [www.gchouston.org](http://www.gchouston.org) to get information on the Garden Club of Houston's annual fall 2019 Bulb & Plant Mart, Fri.-Sat., Oct. 12-13, at Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Boulevard. Bulbs at this sale are specifically selected for Southeast Texas gardens.



**CAROLINA JESSAMINE** Hope you had a great Valentine's Day. Here's my gift above. One of our earliest blooming native wildflowers, *Gelsemium sempervirens* vines, above, will soon burst in bloom all over Greater Houston area woods, especially to the north and east. This super hardy perennial native attracts native bees, hummingbirds and spicebush swallowtail butterflies. Look for them in nurseries soon. And, speaking of plants in our treasured "wild" areas . . .

**NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIE CONFERENCE.** We here along the low-land coastal plains are already experiencing the downside of climate change. Things are only going to get worse in our lifetime. We desperately need to protect and preserve our "living sponges" -- our prairies!

On June 2-5, an extraordinary conference will be held at the University of Houston-Clear Lake -- the North American Prairie Conference. If you can't afford the fee, consider what wonderful meeting programs updates from this conference will make to all of us. I recommend clubs join with other community groups to send representatives who will then report back to all members at individual or joint gatherings. Details: [northamericanprairie.org](http://northamericanprairie.org).

\* \* \*

**BE SURE YOU CHECK BELOW FOR "HAVE YOU TRIED . . . " and "LG&F CALENDAR"**

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](http://www.natureswayresources.com)**

\* \* \*

# John's Corner . . .



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 74

A study from Rutgers University has found a new method of how plants acquire nutrients from microbes called the “rhizopagy cycle”. “Rhizophagy” means root eating. They have found that bacteria and fungi cycle between a free-living phase in the soil and a plant dependent stage within cells of plant roots. Microbes harvest nutrients from the soil (nitrogen and other elements), the microbes enter the cells of the plants roots and the nutrients are extracted from the microbes by the cells of the plant. Over 50 species of plants have been studied so far, and this cycle was present in all of them, hence it is believed to be true to all plants. We have known for years that plants cultivate microbes on their roots by excreting exudates that feed the microbes especially sugars that provide energy for the microbes to do their work. The microbes grow and then enter the root cells at their tips where the cells are growing and lack hardened cell walls. The microbes become trapped and lose their cell walls, and chemicals produced by the plant remove the nutrients. The surviving microbes stimulate root hair growth, regrow their cell walls and then leave at the root tip to return to the soil to repeat the process. Journal of Microorganisms, January 2019.

When we do things that hurt the microbe’s (artificial fertilizers to toxic pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides), we destroy this natural cycle and lose the benefits. This mechanism helps explain why good compost and organic fertilizers are far more effective in growing healthy plants.

One of my favorite things to do when I am in the garden is to smell the flowers and herbs that I grow as it just makes me feel good. A paper in the journal Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience (2018) has identified a compound in the Lavender plant called linalool that when smelt (via neurons in our olfactory cells) it exerts it calming effects and helps relieve anxiety.

I have been asked to remind everyone that we now have a second gardening radio show in Houston called Home Show Garden Pros. This show is about sustainable methods of gardening using modern organic techniques and products. The host of the show is Danny Milikin, the conservation director at the Memorial Park Conservancy. The show airs every Saturday morning from 7:00 to 9:00 am on Sports Radio AM 610. The call-in number is (713) 572-4610. This show is supported by several of the major independent garden centers in Houston whom provide experts to answer questions in addition to Danny. There is also a lot of short Info videos on their website at

<https://homeshowgardenpros.com/> . Additional information can be found on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HomeShowGardenPros/>

The World Health Organization has called bacterial antibiotic resistance “one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today.” The EPA under pressure from pharmaceutical companies wants to open the floodgates to permit widespread use of antibiotics in citrus production (grapefruits, oranges and tangerines). Despite the building national and international crisis of deadly bacterial resistance to antibiotics, this new allowance would expand on an emergency use decision the Environmental Protection Agency made in 2017. It permits up to 480,000 acres of citrus trees in Florida to be treated with more than 650,000 pounds of streptomycin per year; 23,000 citrus acres in California will likely be treated annually.

The two approved antibacterial chemicals (antibiotics) to be used as pesticides in citrus production are streptomycin and oxytetracycline. Their use was permitted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under an emergency exemption in May, 2017 for a citrus greening disease caused by the bacterium *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas) in Florida citrus crops through December of 2019.

The Environmental Protection Agency announced March 15, “EPA is issuing these tolerances without notice and opportunity for public comment as provided in FFDCA [Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act] section 408(l)(6).” EPA states, “Time-limited tolerances are established for residues of streptomycin in or on fruit, citrus, group 10-10, at 2 ppm, and the dried pulp of these commodities at 6 ppm.” For oxytetracycline, EPA is allowing residues “in or on all commodities of fruit, citrus, group 10-10, at 0.4 ppm.” [See below; organic standards do not allow antibiotic use.] Now, EPA is moving forward with a permanent allowance of these chemicals. For more see [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org)

Dr. Mercola’s newsletter had a nice article on the health benefits of gardening. [It can be found here.](#)

For those whom want to learn how to protect their families from glyphosate exposure, [this short video](#) (7 minutes) talks about this poison in our food supply.

Another good video about our growing water crisis [is here.](#) (video 1 hour and 4 minutes)

## Have You Tried . . .

### WINECUP

( *Callirhoe involucrate* )

This beautiful Texas native is starting to bloom (usually on ditch tops). If we're lucky, flowers last into June. Low growing, vining stems create a 3'



sprawl with 1' high mound. Must be VERY well drained. Ideal for hot spots hard to water. Flowers open morning, close evening. Hardy perennial. Neat hanging over walls, work in hanging baskets. Butterflies love. Early settlers used for head colds & to reduce pains. Green for long periods, but may go dormant in late summer. Interplant with summer bloomers.

*Nature's Way Resources carries Winecup (Callirhoe invol.*

*Contact independent nurseries  
in your area to see if they do. Or, check  
with our sponsoring nurserymen (below).*

## LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

### CALENDAR EVENTS

#### GARDEN/PLANT EVENTS ONLY

*Events are in Houston unless otherwise noted. **No events** are picked up from newsletter, etc.  
Events must be submitted in exact format below to [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)*

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. [aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., FEB. 16: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm. University of Houston Downtown, One Main St.. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540 or [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://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](http://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](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT., FEB. 16: COME GET SCOOP ON HEALTHY SOIL by GREG COOPER, 11am-noon, Wabash Feed, 4537 N. Shepherd. Free. <https://bit.ly/2RFMRjI>, 713-863-8322, [wabashfeed.com](http://wabashfeed.com)

SAT., FEB. 16: PLANT GARDEN FRESH VEGETABLES, 9am-7pm, Cornelius Nursery, 1403 Westborough Drive, Katy. Free. [calloways.com](http://calloways.com)

SAT. & SUN., FEB 16 & 17: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FRUIT TREE SALE, Sat.: 9am-6pm, Sun., 10am-5:30pm, Cy-Fair Home and Garden Show, Berry Center, Cypress. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SUN., FEB 17: FERN AND LYCOPHYTE DIVERSITY THROUGHOUT FLORIDA by ADAM BLACK, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. [tgcfernsoc.org](http://tgcfernsoc.org)



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](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

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

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

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

THURS., FEB 21: HOW TO START & MAINTAIN AN ORGANIC GARDEN (, 7-9pm, Taylor High School, Rm. 1150, 20700 Kingsland Blvd, Katy. \$70. Register (#1003A): [katyisd.org/dept/ce](http://katyisd.org/dept/ce). 281-396-6365

THURS., FEB. 21: HOUSTON ARBORETUM MAKEOVER: MASTER PLAN by EMILY MANDERSON, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

FRI., FEB. 22: THE HOLISTIC GARDEN by DR. JOSEPH NOVAK, 10-11:30am, Anderson-Clarke Center, Rice University. Free. Register: [glasscock-info.rice.edu/garden](http://glasscock-info.rice.edu/garden)

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](http://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](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., FEB. 23: CREATE HEALTHY LAWNS, 10:15am-11am, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. [calloways.com](http://calloways.com)

SUN., FEB. 24: HERBS: THE INCREDIBLE EDIBLES by MARILYN O'CONNOR, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring . Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.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](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)

WED., FEB. 27: UNIQUE & OLD SUCCULENTS: AREN'T THEY ALL? by CRAIG HAMILTON, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulents Society event. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org)

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT. MAR 2: CULTURE & CARE OF PALMS by O.J. MILLER, 9am-noon AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Register: Galveston County Master Gardener event. [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT., MAR. 2: GROW FLAVORFUL & ORGANIC HERBS, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. [calloways.com](http://calloways.com)

WED., MAR. 6: 7th ANNUAL GULF COAST HERB FAIR, LECTURE, WORKSHOP, 9am-2pm, Moody Gardens Visitor's Center, Galveston. Free. Luncheon/hyperlufa lecture \$35/\$45. Friends of Moody Gardens event. Register: 281-796-0398, [pelicanway88@att.net](mailto:pelicanway88@att.net)

THURS., MAR. 7: BUTTERFLY SURVIVAL STRATEGIES by DON DUBOIS, 10am, MUD Building 81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event.

FRI. MAR. 8: NATIVE PLANTS ARE BEAUTIFUL TOO! by LINDA GAY, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://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](http://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](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., MAR. 9: USE SUCCULENTS & CACTI INDOORS & OUT, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. [calloways.com](http://calloways.com)

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

THURS., MAR. 14: BIRD MIGRATION: HOW PLANTS HELP by SARAH FLOURNOY, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

THURS, MAR. 14 ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW by Gaye Hammond 7pm, Lott Clubhouse, 6201 Hermann Park Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

THURS., MAR 14: SMALL SCALE BACKWARD COMPOSTING by John Ferguson, 10-11:30am, PLANT SALE, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS., MAR. 14: HERBS – 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

FRI.-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. 16: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON SALE, 9 am – 4 pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

SAT., MAR. 16: HERBS, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT., MAR. 16: PLANT EDIBLES THAT THRIVE IN SMALL SPACES, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. [calloways.com](http://calloways.com)

TUES., MAR. 19: HERBS, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., MAR 19: WHAT TO DO WHEN FAIRIES INVADE YOUR GARDEN by ARLEEN HARBIN, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. [www.sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://www.sugarlandgardenclub.org)

TUES. MAR 19: INSECTS AND OTHER PESTS IN THE GARDEN/GREENHOUSE by RAY PAGE, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray St. Free. Bromeliad Society event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org) .

THURS., MAR. 21: BIRD MIGRATION: HOW PLANTS HELP by SARAH FLOURNOY, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

THURS., MAR. 21: HERBS – 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Ln, . Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT., MAR. 23: ORANGE COUNTY MASTER GARDNERS ANNUAL BLOOMIN' CRAZY PLANT SALE, 8am-1pm, Cormier Park, 8235 FM 1442, Orangefield, Free, 409 882-7010, <https://txmg.org/orange>

SAT. MAR 23: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11 am; SNAKE SENSE by TOM WILKS, 1-3pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Register: Galveston County Master Gardener event. [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com) ; 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT. MAR. 23: USE EDIBLES AS ORNAMENTALS, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. [calloways.com](http://calloways.com)

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](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)

TUES., MAR. 26: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY, 10-11:15am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress. Free. Register (by Mar. 24): [ogd.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:ogd.harrishort@gmail.com)

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](http://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](http://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](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT. MAR 30: BUTTERFLIES & NATIVE PLANTS by LISA NICKLOW DAVIS, 9-11 am; BENEFICIALS IN THE GARDEN, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Register: Galveston County Master Gardener event. [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com) ; 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT., MAR. 30: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS SPRING SEMINAR, 9am-1pm, Green Meadows, 9655 FM 50, Independence. Free. [Texasroserustlers.com](http://Texasroserustlers.com)



SAT. MAR 30: BUTTERFLIES & NATIVE PLANTS by LISA NICKLOW DAVIS, 9-11 am; BENEFICIALS IN THE GARDEN, 1-3 pm. Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Register: Galveston County Master Gardener events. [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT. MAR. 30: PICK PERFECT PLANTS WITH YEARLY COLOR, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. [calloways.com](http://calloways.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](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., APR. 6.: WHITE OAK GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE, 10am-2pm (or sell-out); SALE PREVIEW by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 9am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. [nnmd.org](http://nnmd.org)

SAT., APR. 6: SFA GARDENS GARDEN GALA DAY PLANT SALE, 9am-2pm, SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St., Nacogdoches. Free, [sfagardens.sfasu.edu](http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu)

WED., APR. 10: INCREDIBLE EDIBLES, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

THURS.-SUN., APR. 11-14: BONSAI ON THE BAYOU – AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY 2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION, Marriott Houston Westchase, 2900 Briarpark Dr. Houston Bonsai Society/The Lone Star Bonsai Federation hosts. [houstonbonsaisociety.com](http://houstonbonsaisociety.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT.-SUN., MAY 4-5: BROMELIAD SOCIETY / HOUSTON SHOW & SALE, Show 2 pm-5 pm Sat.; 11 am-3 pm Sun., Sale 9 am-5 pm Sat.; 11 am-3 pm Sun., Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

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

WED., MAY 8: TEXAS SNAKES, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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](http://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](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

WED., JUNE 12: BEHIND SCENES AT A BOTANIC GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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

WED., JULY 10: TREE IDENTIFICATION. Noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., JULY 13: TROPICAL SYMPOSIUM, 8:30am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Fee. Register: 713-274-4160.

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](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

WED., AUG. 14: BIRDS OF A FEATHER IN YOUR GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

TUES., Oct. 8: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

SAT. DEC. 14, 2019: CHAPPELL HILL GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR, 10am-5pm., Chappell Hill. \$20 advance/\$25 tour day. 713-562-6191; 979-337-1200

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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Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take two weeks or longer

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Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

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## About Us

**BRENDA BEUST SMITH**



## WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- \* a national award-winning writer & editor
- \* a nationally-published writer & photographer
- \* a national horticultural speaker
- \* a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda's 45-year-old Lazy Gardener" print column a couple of years ago, it ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her Lazy Gardener's Guide book and now to her Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy Gardener run on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's BULLETIN magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER with John Ferguson and 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 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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