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Gardening Newsletter

February 28, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 282nd 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!



NEXT SPRING'S EARLY COLOR HERBS . . . PATRIOTIC BLUEBONNETS . . . KEYHOLES

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

*How that a life was but a flower
And therefore take the present time,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino...*

-- "As You Like It," William Shakespeare (circa 1599)

I trekked out to [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#) the other day searching for color. I wanted perennials (so only had to plant once) already -- or still -- providing color at **THIS** time of year. It's been too cold and wet (for me!) to put in temporary color. In our new yard, I want plants that predictably show color during this roller coaster period we usually have until Spring arrives for good . . . Something that draws the eye . . . with NO work this time of year on my part.

Mercer's always a delight, providing hidden treasures even through winter and now, before most "spring" bloomers really start to strut their stuff. Everything will be absolutely gorgeous by the time [March Mart*](#) (an incredible plants sale) rolls around on Fri.-Sat., Mar. 15-16. I was talking with Linda Gay, former Mercer director, and ran some of my photos by her. This is not to say you'll get this color every spring. But these are perennials that might help gardens through winter-into-springs like this one.



L to r, WALTER'S VIBURNUM 'WHORLED CLASS' (Linda says was supposed to be a native dwarf. Now 5' tall & 8' wide!). ANGEL TRUMPET -- "Brugmansia ... only blooms at this time if a mild winter." ENCORE AZALEA and CAMELLIA JAPONICA (Camellias bloom January-March and are evergreen year round.)



Cassia (Senna splendida) usually a fall blooming shrub, but can go through winter -- did this year!. POSSUMHAW HOLLY (Ilex decidua) — great native small tree. SNOWFLAKES (Leucojum aestivum) Perfect winter perennial bulb for Houston. Plant in fall. SWISS CHARD, easy, grows through winter. Good series: 'Bright Lights.'

IF YOU'RE INTO HERBS . . .

. . . or would like to be – good pickin's coming up. [Fort Bend County Master Gardeners](#) are excited about Cardinal Basil, a hard-to-find variety that not only doesn't fade so quickly in our hot summers, it provides unusually beautiful basil blooms. Cardinal Basil, developed in Israel, has a slightly spicier-than-normal basil flavor with a licorice taste. 24" tall, bushy and naturally deters pests. Blooms range from magenta to deep red. It will be available (limited quantities!) at the:



Sat., Mar. 9 Fort Bend County Master Gardener's 11th Annual Vegetable and Herb Plant Sale ,

9am-noon, AgriLife Extension office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg .
fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale or 281-341-7068.

More upcoming Herb Sales:

- **SAT., MAR. 2: WALLER COUNTY VEGETABLE & HERB SALE** and **JUDY BARNETT** presentation, 9am-Noon, Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. Free. txmg.org/wallermg/events
- **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
- **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
- **(*March Mart will also have a large herb section)**

Best herb-growing advice I can give you: Learn from LOCAL experts! Our Upper Texas Gulf Coast best planting times and best varieties often differ from points north, south, east and west. Check Calendar below for numerous local upcoming classes.



RED BLUEBONNETS IN YOUR YARD? !

Hannah H. wants tips on growing bluebonnets. She ordered seed which, unfortunately, should have been planted last fall, around November. Seed for our spring-blooming wildflowers need some extended cold to germinate. Too late now to provide that! Fortunately . . .

1. Nurseries are full of bluebonnets, or soon will be. Plant now.
2. If planted in right conditions, these should multiply and return each spring

Full sun and EXCELLENT drainage are essential. They tolerate our heavy rains if planted on slopes, or in raised areas. Roots will not tolerate wet feet for any extended period. Given these two criteria, they will tolerate our often thick soils, although they prefer a more porous soil (sand, etc.).

Clover-like foliage disappears in summer. It's just dormant and reappears in early spring, about now. Don't mow down! You'll wipe out all flowers. Once over half the flowers have bloomed and faded, you can be sure enough seed has fallen to mow the area. Mowing all summer won't hurt the fallen seed. Just be sure not to mow sprouting leaves next spring!

PS. White and red bluebonnets do occur naturally in nature. But don't expect these colors to return if you plant them with the dominant blue bluebonnets. They'll revert.

Some insist on calling the red bluebonnets "maroon." Don't be fooled.

They're definitely "Cougar Red."

MORE ON KEYHOLE GARDENS...

Got several emails from folks who like the idea of keyhole gardens, but really aren't clear on the concept. Thanks to Josanna Smith in Sugar Land who put her queries into a nice question form that's easy to answer:

1. Is the chimney a full circle of wire? Yes. In the middle of the garden. The little opening is like you cut one section of the outer circle out so you can step in close to the compost chimney in order to add compost elements.

2. How do you "shovel" or turn the compost? You don't. Mix plant/food wastes, etc.) into the upper layers. A trowel helps. To discourage flies, cover all undecomposed materials with existing compost, leaves, soil, etc. Decomposition starts quickly (especially in our heat). Microorganisms will spread out to surrounding soil. Adding earthworms will help speed decomposition.

3. How do you turn the compost?

You don't. Keep a trowel handy to dig down when adding things. Or, keep a bag of topsoil or processed manure handy to provide a cover layer. You don't need that much.

4. Are the sticks and cardboard just to save adding so much soil? Yes, mainly at first. But they also decompose adding to the compost.

5. Is the output increased? I don't know. Definitely it's easier gardening and less work once it gets going. Reports say it requires less water. Logical. Compost-rich soil will hold water much more efficiently than unimproved soil.

6. Is it good to add fertilizer or processed manure? Yes.

Molly from Magnolia warned they not only made hers too small in diameter but also too high for comfortable harvesting. She recommends miming yourself planting, watering, harvesting, pulling weeds (courtesy of friendly birds, etc.). Let your arm and back muscles dictate the right height for you, remembering the compost chimney needs to be higher than surrounding soil so gravity will assist in the natural spread of decomposing materials to adjacent soil levels.

If anyone else has any other views or points to add, please do.
If you missed our first keyhole garden discussion, you can find it here:

<https://www.natureswayresources.com/NLpdf/281LGNewsletter.pdf>

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SUBMITTING CALENDAR EVENTS? NOTE: NO EVENTS . . .

are picked up from other newspapers, releases, etc. Event submissions be specifically designated for thisnewsletter. Submit to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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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NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 75

Over the last couple years, we have talked about the poor quality of our food today from toxic chemicals on and in it, to the lack of nutrition. One of the most

positive developments in soil science and gardening is the use of rock dusts to improve soil fertility and quickly regenerate soils to a healthy status.

As a society we have known for generations that rock dusts improve soils, however with the obsolete toxic chemical rescue model of gardening and farming that were taught by the chemical companies, we have forgotten important principles our forefathers knew. The book called "Bread from Stones" by Julius Hensel was written over 100 years ago explained how crushed rock improved fertility and yields. In the book "Survival of Civilization" by John Hamaker and Don Weaver they explain how adding rock dusts to our soils creates a massive carbon sink helping to fight climate change and restore fertility. The book "Geotherapy" in 2015 discussed studies all over the world, rock dusts were essential to restore fertility and rapidly re-build healthy soils.

In the 1980's Dr. Phillip Callahan published many papers on an effect called para- magnetism that increased plant growth and health and helped energy enter the soil. He showed how volcanic rock sands can help supply this property to soils, reducing insect pressure and increasing yields.

Most of the problems we encounter in gardening and farming are caused by nutrient poor soils, especially minor, trace, and micronutrients. Numerous studies have shown one of the fastest ways to rebuild soil health is with the use of rock dusts sometimes referred to as mineral enriched sands.

Microorganisms need these trace minerals to rapidly grow and reproduce to very high levels. When they die their bodies turn into a stable colloidal humus that is vital for plants, animals and humans to thrive on. We have learned that many microbes from bacteria to algae can collect nitrogen from the air **IF** there are the correct trace minerals (elements) available in the soil. These microbes also pull carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air to create many types of organic molecules that help feed our plants and form valuable humus.

My first experience with rock dusts occurred many years ago when planting a early spring vegetable garden. I planted Brussel sprouts, cauliflower, broccoli, and cabbage. This was on rich soil maintained organically and amended with leaf mold compost and organic fertilizers for many years. On every other transplant I applied a tablespoon of a rock dust product from New Zealand called Eco-Min to the bottom of the hole. Nothing showed a response except the Brussel sprouts, and Boy did they!



In horticulture there is a law known as “Liebig’s Law of The Minimum”, which states that plant growth is limited by the element (mineral) in shortest supply. Obviously, the rock dust had some element in it that the Brussel sprouts required that the other vegetables did not, and the lack of this nutrient was limiting the growth of the Brussel sprouts.

There are many types of rock dusts available in the market but they are NOT the same! For example, we often find powdered limestone (Ag Lime) which is a common rock dust, however it only contains two primary elements, calcium (Ca) and maybe magnesium (Mg). Often scientists and vendors (myself included) use the word minerals interchangeably with elements. Over 1,000 minerals contain calcium but they provide only the one element calcium. Hence, one needs to be careful when reading labels as they can be misleading.

The most nutrient rich sources (contains the most elements) are found in igneous rocks like granite and basalt and in some rocks that form in the deep body of the ocean like glauconite from which we get greensand.

Rock dusts or mineral sands are not soil. Healthy soil is formed by a very complex interaction between the weathering of rock minerals (geology) and soil biology. As the microbes and plant roots react with the decomposing of the rock minerals the elements in the minerals are released. Some of the most fertile, rich, and productive soils on the planet are found near volcanoes. This is why historically many cultures lived near volcanoes in spite of the dangers. When we use these type minerals to regenerate soils, we are just copying nature but greatly speeding up the process of soil restoration. Similarly, we find very fertile soils below glaciers where the moving ice sheets have ground the rocks down into dust. This dust gives the water from melting ice a milky appearance and is extremely rich in nutrients creating very fertile soils downstream. Many of the historically fertile fields of the USA were created as the glaciers grew and melted from the last ice age.

A couple years ago we went through all 79 elements found in the human body and found that hundreds of health problems are caused or aggravated by trace element deficiencies in our food supply. If these elements (minerals) are not in the soil, our fruits and vegetables cannot absorb them hence we have more health problems. The elements found in healthy human blood closely match those found in seawater. For reference, the 84 elements in seawater are shown in the chart below. Since greensand comes from the ocean it has these same elements in it.

Granites and basalts also have many of these same elements but in a different mineral form and these types of mineral rich sands are also para-magnetic which provides many additional benefits. When microbes in the soil eat the greensand, granite or basalt sands, the nutrients (elements) are released and become available for plants.

For example of the benefits, elements like molybdenum (Mo) and vanadium (V) are required for microbes to fix nitrogen from the air. Without these elements the microbes cannot provide the free nitrogen (N). As the mineral sands are broken down and these elements released, they become available for the microbes to capture nitrogen.

Particle size is another very important property of rock minerals. When the particle size gets smaller, the surface area increases, giving the microbes more area to attack and break down the minerals faster releasing the elements. If the particle size is very large then the breakdown and release of the elements is very slow. Conversely, if the rocks are ground down to a powder the minerals are released faster than the soil and plants can utilize them, hence they are leached out of the soil and washed away. For most purposes sand size particles offer the best balance between release rate of the elements and cost (grinding rocks into a powder or dust which is very expensive).

Application rates vary depending on many factors. Some types of rocks have low levels of various elements hence it may take up to 10 tons per acre to provide benefits. However, granite, basalt and glauconite (greensand) are some of the most nutrient (element) rich rocks in the world, thus they are the most cost effective. They provide more elements at lower application rates per acre. A mix of these rock minerals have shown results at as little as 400 pounds per acre. Many farmers and rancher like to use 5 tons per acre, however for most acreages a rate of one ton per acre is a good starting point, then repeat if needed. One ton per acre converts to approximately 5 pounds per 100 square feet, or a 40-pound bag will cover 800 square feet at this rate of application. These type of rock minerals will not burn plants hence they can safely be applied at much higher application rates.

Mineral sands can be applied through many types of commercial fertilizer spreaders on large acreage. Smaller spreaders are available for utility vehicles and mount on the trailer hitch. On standard size yards and gardens one can just scatter it like chicken feed by hand.

These mineral sands can be added as a feedstock to compost. The high microbial activity in a compost pile accelerates the release of the elements by

the microbes and converts them into a plant available form creating an enriched compost.

Benefits of Remineralization

- Provides slow, natural release of elements and trace minerals.
- Increase the nutrient intake of plants.
- Increase yields and increases Brix reading.
- Rebalances soil pH.
- Increases growth rate and diversity of microorganisms.
- Increases earthworm activity.
- Increases seed germination rates
- Speeds up formation of the humus complex in soil.
- Prevents soil erosion.
- Increases aeration and helps loosen tight soils.
- Increases the nutrient storage capacity of soils.
- Increases the moisture retention ability of soils.
- Increases resistance to insects, disease, frost and drought.
- Increases nutrient density of food crops.
- Increases a plants resistance to pathogens.
- Enhances flavor of crops.
- Reduces weed problems.
- Reduces plant mortality rate.
- Makes organic fertilizers work more efficiently.

84 Elements in Seawater

Element	Atomic weight	ppm	Element	Atomic weight	ppm
Hydrogen H ₂ O	1.0079	110,000	Molybdenum Mo	0.09594	0.01
Oxygen H ₂ O	15.999	883,000	Ruthenium Ru	101.07	0.0000007
Sodium NaCl	22.989	10,800	Rhodium Rh	102.905	.
Chlorine NaCl	35.453	19,400	Palladium Pd	106.4	.
Magnesium Mg	24.312	1,290	Argentum (silver) Ag	107.870	0.00028
Sulfur S	32.064	904	Cadmium Cd	112.4	0.00011
Potassium K	39.102	392	Indium In	114.82	.
Calcium Ca	10.080	411	Stannum (tin) Sn	118.69	0.00081
Bromine Br	79.909	67.3	Antimony Sb	121.75	0.00033
Helium He	4.0026	0.0000072	Tellurium Te	127.6	.
Lithium Li	6.94	0.170	Iodine I	166.904	0.064
Beryllium Be	9.0133	0.0000006	Xenon Xe	131.30	0.000047
Boron B	10.811	4.450	Cesium Cs	132.905	0.0003
Carbon C	12.011	28.0	Barium Ba	137.34	0.021
Nitrogen ion	14.007	15.5	Lanthanum La	138.91	0.0000029
Fluorine F	18.998	13	Cerium Ce	140.12	0.0000012
Neon Ne	20.183	0.00012	Prasesodymium Pr	140.907	0.00000064
Aluminum Al	26.982	0.001	Neodymium Nd	144.24	0.0000028
Silicon Si	28.086	2.9	Samarium Sm	150.35	0.00000045
Phosphorus P	30.974	0.088	Europium Eu	151.96	0.0000013
Argon Ar	39.948	0.450	Gadolinium Gd	157.25	0.0000007
Scandium Sc	44.956	<0.000004	Terbium Tb	158.924	0.00000014
Titanium Ti	47.900	0.001	Dysprosium Dy	162.50	0.00000091
Vanadium V	50.942	0.0019	Holmium Ho	164.930	0.00000022
Chromium Cr	51.996	0.0002	Erbium Er	167.26	0.00000087
Manganese Mn	54.938	0.0004	Thulium Tm	168.934	0.00000017
Ferrum (Iron) Fe	55.847	0.0034	Ytterbium Yb	173.04	0.00000082
Cobalt Co	58.933	0.00039	Lutetium Lu	174.97	0.00000015
Nickel Ni	58.710	0.0066	Hafnium Hf	178.49	<0.000008
Copper Cu	63.54	0.0009	Tantalum Ta	180.948	<0.0000025
Zinc Zn	65.37	0.005	Tungsten W	183.85	<0.000001
Gallium Ga	69.72	0.00003	Rhenium Re	186.2	0.0000084
Germanium Ge	72.59	0.00006	Osmium Os	190.2	.
Arsenic As	74.922	0.0026	Iridium Ir	192.2	.
Selenium Se	78.96	0.0009	Platinum Pt	195.09	.
Krypton Kr	83.80	0.00021	Aurum (gold) Au	196.967	0.000011
Rubidium Rb	85.47	0.120	Mercury Hg	200.59	0.00015
Strontium Sr	87.62	8.1	Thallium Tl	204.37	.
Yttrium Y	88.905	0.000013	Lead Pb	207.19	0.00003
Zirconium Zr	91.22	0.000026	Bismuth Bi	208.980	0.00002
Niobium Nb	92.906	0.000015	Thorium Th	232.04	0.0000004
			Uranium U	238.03	0.0033
			Plutonium Pu	(244)	.

Note: At Nature 's Way Resources we recently received permission from the Office of the State Chemist to start selling these mineral sands in bags. We call it " Re-Mineralizer " and it is a blend of the most valuable mineral sands to make it simple for gardeners. It is now available in 40-pound bags. We recommend 40 pounds per 800-1,000 square feet every few years, hence it is very inexpensive for the benefits it provides. Since all the material comes from Texas it is a lot cheaper and provides far more elements (nutrients) that other products being sold in our area shipped in from thousands of miles away.

Re-Mineralizer

- Texas Green Sand (all minerals in seawater)
- Granite Sand (rich in K and is para-magnetic)
- Basalt Sand (rich in Fe, Mg and is para-magnetic)

It provides all the elements found in the human body and then some!

Have You Tried . . .

BRIDAL WREATH

(*Spiraea prunifolia*)

Cousin to roses, bridal wreath's an old fashioned cascading shrub that doesn't need pruning, but easily tolerates it (AFTER lushly blooming in spring!). Sun or shade, fantastic fall foliage, attracts butterflies (tho' usually not deer!)



Nature's Way Resources carries bridal wreath.

Or, contact independent nurseries or our sponsors 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

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

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

SAT., MAR. 2: GROW FLAVORFUL & ORGANIC HERBS, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. calloways.com

SAT., MAR 2: PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am, Peckerwood Gardens, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org; peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232;

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

WED., MAR.. 6: CREATING AQUAPONIC PROJECT AT GALVESTON COUNTY DISCOVERY GARDEN by ROBIN STONE COLLINS, 9-11 am, Clear Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 16335 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners by the Bay event. gbtb.org

WED., MAR. 6: CREATING AQUAPONIC PROJECT AT GALVESTON COUNTY DISCOVERY GARDEN by ROBIN STONE COLLINS, 9-11 am, Clear Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 16335 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners by the Bay event. gbtb.org

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

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

SAT., MAR. 9: USE SUCCULENTS & CACTI INDOORS & OUT, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. calloways.com

SAT., MAR. 9: 11th ANNUAL FORT BEND COUNTRY MASTER GARDENERS' SPRING VEGETABLE-HERB PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, AgriLife Extension office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale/ ; 281-341-7068; FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu.

SAT., MAR. 9; HONING IN ON SPRING GARDEN, 8-10am, & START VEGETABLE GARDEN, 10:30am-12:30pm, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. \$5 each/\$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., MAR 9: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

MON., MAR 11: CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOUR GARDEN by Dr. Bob Randall, 6:30-9pm, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2929 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Free. Lake Houston Gardeners event. lakehoustongardeners.org

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

TUES., MAR. 12: CONTAINER GARDENING by LUCY HARRELL, 9 am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

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

THURS., MAR 14: SMALL SCALE BACKYWARD 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

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

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

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

SAT., MAR. 16: PLANT EDIBLES THAT THRIVE IN SMALL SPACES, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. calloways.com

SAT., MAR 16: HAVING FUN GROWING & KILLING COOL PLANTS IN TULSA by DR. TODD LASSEIGNE, 11:30am, free. GARDEN TOUR, 10am, \$10, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Free. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

SUN., MAR 17: WATERING PLANTS MADE EASY (DIY AUTOMATIC WATERING) by FRED ROBINSON, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfernsociety.org .

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

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

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 .

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

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

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. galvcountymgs@gmail.com ; 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT. MAR. 23: USE EDIBLES AS ORNAMENTALS, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. calloways.com

SAT., MAR. 23: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING PLANT SALE 9am-Noon. AgriLife Extension, 9020 FM 1484 Rd, Conroe. Free. mcmga.com; 936-539-7824.

SAT., MAR 23: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232;

eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

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

SUN., MAR. 24: ORGANIC FERTILIZING & PEST CONTROL by Marti Graves, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

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

FRI., MAR. 29: CYPRESS CREEK DAYLILY CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77388. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.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

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. 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; 281-309-5065, 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

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 events. galvcountrymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5065, 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

Sat., MAR 30: BUDDING OUT FESTIVAL, 10am-4pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Free. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

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

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

SAT., APR. 6: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER SPRING PLANT SALE , 9am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. hmns.org/spring-plant-sale, 713-639-4742

SAT., APR 6: COLLECTIONS LOCATED ACROSS THE CREEK PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org, peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

TUES., APR. 9: GARDENS OF EUROPE by VIVIANE TONDEUR, 9am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

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

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. APRIL 13: WHICH, WHAT & HOW OF SPRING BLOOMS, 8-10am, & MULTIPLYING YOUR BLOOMS, 10:30am-noon, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. \$5 each/\$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., APR 13: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

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

FRI., APR 20: "CAMELLIA RESEARCH – SPECIES AND CULTIVARS" with Dr. Jiyuan Li, 11:30am, free. TOUR, 10am, \$10. 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

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

FRI.-SUN., APR. 26-28: KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB HOME & GARDEN TOUR, 10am-4pm Fri.-Sat.; noon-4pm Sun. Tickets: kingwoodgardenclub.org.

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., APR. 27: 2019 OLEANDER GARDEN FESTIVAL & GRAND OLEANDER SALE, 2624 Sealy Ave, Galveston. oleander.org

SAT., APR 27: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

SUN., APR. 28: GINGERS-TROPICAL BEAUTIES FOR SUMMER GARDENS by Ceil Dow, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.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

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

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

SAT., MAY. 11: DAYLILY FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-3pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga, Houston, TX 77092 Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

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

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

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

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

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,
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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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