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Gardening Newsletter

March 15, 2019

Dear Friends,

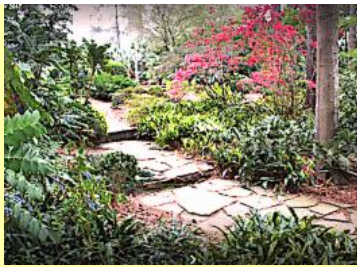
Here is the 284th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

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!



TREASURED FRIENDS WITH SO MUCH TO SHARE -- PECKERWOOD & DAYLILIES

Joy is seeing sunshine's reflection
in Mother Nature's flowers.

--Gail Sobotkin

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Two exciting reports today offer a peek into the worlds of two horticulture treasures of our area. The first is Peckerwood Garden (left above) just SE of Hempstead, creation of John G. Fairey. Although only open periodically to visitors, this unique, internationally-recognized flora haven usually offers rare and collectable plants for sale during open events, along with numerous educational offerings.

Many of us "oldies" remember well Yucca Do Nursery (owned by John's partner Carl Schoenfeld), always a trove of never-seen-here-before delights. We have John and his fellow enthusiasts to thank for numerous introduced plants and flowers we now take for granted. Many came from his journeys not only into all corners of Mexico but across the globe, before and well after he began teaching design in Texas A&M's College of Architecture.

Saturday at Peckerwood is the perfect opportunity to take your garden to the next level with its garden tour (\$10) and Tulsa Botanic Garden's Dr. Todd Lasseigne's free 11:30am lecture, "Having Fun Growing & Killing Cool Plants in Tulsa." It gets every bit as hot and dry in Tulsa as it does here and they have experience with cold we now need to expect. We both need plants that take both extremes!

Best of all, many of Peckerwood's great introductions will be for sale. Below, Adam Black, Peckerwood's Director of Horticulture, gives us an advance peak at some of these to view (and for sale) at the full array of Peckerwood Garden events listed at the end of his column.

* * *

Following Adam's report is one that also delights my soul. Like John Fairey, the name Mary Gage (center above) tingles my blood with wonderful memories. Both were among my gurus, my teachers, when I began the Chronicle's Lazy

Gardener column back in the '70s. Mary's daylilies thrilled my "lazy" heart and I decided right off the bat daylilies had to be Queen of all Lazy Gardener plants.

Back then, daylily farms ringed Houston, including the Gages' Spring Creek Daylily Farm. Although it's out of business (as are most of the old gardens), how neat that now Mary and Eddie took the same [Keyhole Garden concept we discussed earlier](#) and adapted it to their beloved daylilies! Below Jeannie Mallick, Cypress Creek Daylily Club President, traces the garden construction of their longtime member Mary Gage.

[Cypress Creek Daylily Club](#) offers two upcoming opportunities to learn from daylily experts like Mary:

- **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
- **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

* * *



Lauren Simpson photos

NO ROOM FOR A HABITAT/POLLINATOR GARDEN? One doesn't have to have a specific dedicated area to attract beneficials to a landscape. Three extremely effective plants that work in established gardens include, l to r, above: Texas lantana (*Lantana urticoides*), Texas Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) and Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*). A lot more information about these plants will be detailed, and they'll be available for sale, at "Pollinators Eat Local Too" workshop Sunday, March 24, 3-6pm at Wabash Feed & Garden Center, 4537 N Shepherd Dr. Edible Houston event. [Details](#)

NOW OUR SPOTLIGHTS! First a peek at a few of the delights you can see (and buy!) at Peckerwood, and then Mary & Eddie Gage's clever way to make daylilies even greater for lazy gardeners!

* * *

Favor? Check to make sure submitted Calendar events are published.

Cyber-gremlins abound. If it's not in, let me know! lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

* * *

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

Spotlighting . . . Peckerwood Garden

Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter

Six Distinctive Rarities Adaptable to Gulf Coast Gardens

by **ADAM BLACK**
Director of Horticulture
[Peckerwood Garden](#)

GREEN-FLOWERED BAHAMA MALLOW (*Pavonia bahamensis*)

Strange green flowers among similarly green heart shaped foliage make this hibiscus relative a true novelty. Though subtly-colored, the flowers are irresistible to hummingbirds. Don't let this tropical Bahamian fool you – if planted early in the year in full to part sun it will grow to over six feet high before winter freezes cut it to the ground, returning vigorously in spring.



BRAZILIAN WORM PLANT (*Spathicarpa hastifolia*)

Having always considered this a tropical, I was amazed to see this has been reliably cultivated in Peckerwood Garden's shady zone 8b woodland garden for years. After emerging from dormancy in spring, this rare aroid soon begins producing a strange bloom spike that consisting of a row of tiny, congested flowers that combined give the illusion of a worm or caterpillar crawling on the leafy spathe.

GIANT-SEED MEXICAN OAK (*Quercus insignis*)

With the largest acorn of all the world's oak species, how could anyone resist growing this rarity? Until mature enough to produce the astonishing, baseball sized acorns, the velvety crimson emerging leaves will provide quite a spectacle. It is best shielded from the afternoon sun.





RED-SEEDED SEDGE (*Carex baccans*)

When I first spotted the shocking red seed spikes of this sedge growing along a forested road in the central Taiwan mountains, I couldn't believe my eyes. The two-foot tall clump of emerald green grassy foliage will become dense with age and hold multiple dangling, bold red infructescences in late summer through fall.

NAKED-FLOWERING SPIDER LILY (*Hymenocallis eulae*)

Unlike any other spider lily, this little-known, drought-resistant native bulb produces blue-green succulent leaves that emerge in late winter. After the foliage dies back in early summer, the real show occurs in late summer when "naked" flower spikes strangely burst from the ground like a *Lycoris* !



FLORIDA FALSE ROSEMARY (*Conradina canescens*)

A "scrub mint" native to the xeric sandhills of the Florida panhandle, it also handles the frequent gulf coast wet spells provided it has good drainage. Blooming most heavily in spring among its silvery needle-like foliage, it reblooms occasionally through the remainder of the year. Generally pale purple, we are introducing some nice darker purple selections.

ALL THESE PLANTS (AND MANY MORE) WILL BE AVAILABLE AT PECKERWOOD'S BIG . . .

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

Don't miss these other great Peckerwood events (20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead, Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232):

- **SAT. MAR 23: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, \$10**
- **SAT., APR 6: COLLECTIONS LOCATED ACROSS THE CREEK PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am, \$15. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org.**
- **SAT., APR 13: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, \$10. (Also April 27)**
- **FRI., APR 20: "AMAZING DIVERSITY OF IRISES FOR THE GARDEN" by Dr. Yike Gao, 11:30am, free. TOUR, 10am, \$10. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org**

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Mary & Eddie Gage's "Smart" raised garden ideal for daylilies

'Smart' raised daylily garden adapts Keyhole Garden concept -- easy on plants AND on your back

by JEANNIE MALLICK, President,
[Cypress Creek Daylily Club](#)

Cypress Creek Daylily Club members Mary and Eddie Gage, previous owners of the commercially successful Spring Creek Daylily Garden, had to relocate in May of 2016. It was difficult for them to move so many of their favorite plants, but they took all they could. They built a "Smart Garden" at their new home, a practical well-designed raised flower bed, perfect for showcasing their gorgeous daylilies. They borrowed part of the design from the concept of a keyhole garden. This is a raised bed with a notch or "keyhole" so one may reach in to easily weed, groom, and tend the plants. Doing less bending and kneeling saves knees and backs.

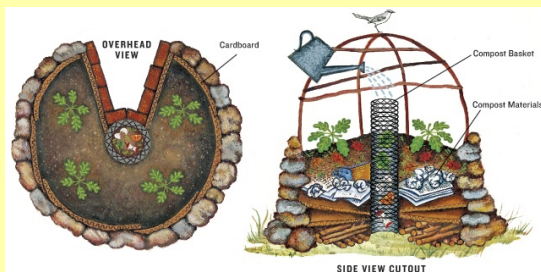


Diagram of a "Keyhole Garden" from G. Elaine Acker, Feb. 2012 issue of Texas Co-Op Power Online Community, Drawing by Aletha St. Romain. ([Lazy Gardener & Friends Houston Garden Newsletter - Feb. 15, 2019](#)).



Left, Mary and Eddie Gage's "Smart Garden" under construction and planted. Right, note the insert -- access "openings" for easy reach into the far right side of the beds.



Left, Mary Gage takes advantage of access openings to tend daylilies with help from 'Charlotte.'. Right, Cypress Creek Daylily Society members visit.

It was a long wait over the winter months, but last June Mary and Eddie invited us out to their new place to see the garden. The daylilies had grown tall and beautiful as their roots took hold of all that fresh fluffy new soil. Their Spring Creek Daylily Garden lives again!

* * *

- You can hopefully speak in person with Mary Gage and Jeannie Mallick at these free [Cypress Creek Daylily Club](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com) events:
 - SUN., MAR. 24: ORGANIC FERTILIZING & PEST CONTROL by Marti Graves, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com
 - FRI., MAR. 29: CYPRESS CREEK DAYLILY CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 77

A while back I was at a lecture at Rice University and it was stated that there are now over 42 million food gardens in the United States. Have you ever wondered why are so many people growing their own food? OHBA's (Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance) next seminar will address this issue on April 30th at the United Way facility. One can register at www.ohbaonline.org.

"The Soil Microbiome, Ground Zero of our Modern Disease Epidemics"

Dr. Zach Bush, triple board certified with expertise in internal medicine, endocrinology, diabetes, hospice care and chemotherapy is a strong believer that our health is dependent on the quality of our food. From this presentation you will gain incredible knowledge on the connection between the soil & gut microbiome. Learn what foods to eat & what foods to avoid. Discover how to have a healthy, long life & free of diseases.

The connection between our health by microbes in our gut and the microbes in the soil continues to grow. A recent paper in the Journal Nature by the European Molecular Biology Laboratory have identified 2,000 new previously uncultured gut bacteria species. It is believed that thousands more will be discovered as data from Africa, South America, and Asia are included. When we use toxic chemicals on the soil to grow out crops these beneficial bacteria are destroyed, hence they are not in our food and do not make it to our digestive system. Since our digestive system and the microbes that live there are a major part of our immune systems, we become more susceptible to health problems. Another reason to buy organic.

A paper published in the British Journal of Nutrition reviewed 343 studies regarding the compositional difference between organic and conventional crops. They focused on secondary plant metabolites critical for our health (antioxidants, vitamins, chemical pesticide residues, toxic metal, macronutrients and minerals (trace elements). They found that switching from artificial fertilizers to organic fertilizers lead to significant changes in the plant's gene and protein expression patterns and the secondary metabolites that plants produce. The organic crops contained more antioxidants, phenolic acids, flavanones, stilbenes, flavones, flavonols, and anthocyanins. These chemicals have been associated with a lower risk of chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease and cancer. The non-organic crops (conventional) had more toxic metals like cadmium (Cd) and four times more pesticide residues, that lead to behavioral and learning problems, breast cancer, and a weakened immune system.

A recent analysis by Consumer Reports tested 45 different fruit juices (apple, grape, pear, and blends). They found elevated levels of arsenic, cadmium, and lead. Children exposed to heavy metals experience lowered IQ, cancer, type 2 diabetes, and behavioral problems.

A report by the Organic Consumers Association has found that DowDuPont buried the truth about the dangers of the pesticide chlorpyrifos similar to how Monsanto buried the truth about the toxic herbicide Roundup. Chlorpyrifos is a neurological toxicant that damages the brains of young children and fetuses even at very low levels. Effects include decreased cognitive function, lowered IQ, attention deficit disorder, and developmental and learning delays. This dangerous pesticide is used on over 50 crops and has been banned by most other countries.

There is hope for the future. A new study published in the journal Environmental Research (2019) has found that switching to an all organic diet for just one week reduced the levels of pesticides found in all participants by an average of 60%. They found a drop of 61% on chlorpyrifos mentioned above. Our bodies will heal themselves if given proper nutrition.

Moms Across America funded testing on glyphosate in the top selling brands of orange juice labeled as "Natural". They found Round-Up in the top six selling brands; Florida's Natural, Tropicana, Minute Maid, Starter Bros, Signature Farms and Kirkland. The sad part is that they charge customers extra to include this poison in their orange juice products and it is definitely not Natural.

Several times in recent weeks we have had customers asking about problems with their Japanese Maples that appears to be salt damage. Japanese Maples cannot tolerate salt. When I give talks to garden clubs I often talk about the issue with salt and growing plants. Many of the soils around Houston are naturally high in salt. Many common products sold for use in horticulture are high in salt (all artificial fertilizers, cow manure, poultry manure, poultry manure fertilizers, spend mushroom substrate aka mushroom compost, etc.). Even water from some of our wells, recycled irrigation water, and especially water from sewer treatment plants also contain salts. When we think of salts, we most often think of table salt which is sodium chloride (NaCl). However, there are many additional types of salt that can form from sulfates or chloride. When we water with municipal water which has chlorine in it, it will react with many types of metal ions and form salts.

Salt damage may take several years to show up as they build up in the soil. Plants may become stunted, off colored leaves (blue green tint), yellowing, tip burn, etc. If you have a salt problem some species of plants are salt tolerant. For example, Oleanders are very salt tolerant do very well in the soils around Houston. Many desert plants are also salt tolerant.

Research by the University of Oklahoma published in the journal Ecology (2019) has found that insects crave salt (NaCl known as sodium chloride or table salt). They studied 32,430 species of insects and found they all search out salt. All animal life needs lots of sodium but plants only require small amounts. This means that plant eaters like insects require salt and search out plants high in salt to eat. When one uses high salt products like cow manure, poultry manure, mushroom compost, etc.) we increase the salt content of the soil and in the plants growing in the soil which then attracts more insects. This is another reason to use a good quality low salt organic fertilizer.

Many artificial fertilizers acidify the soil and when the soil becomes acidic aluminum (Al) becomes soluble and available to plants causing root growth problems, yellowing, stunted growth, or even death of the plant. We then have to add calcium (Ca) to the soil to help neutralize the problem. This is another reason to use a good organic fertilizer. My favorite brand is Microlife™ and it is available at most nurseries all over the region and they are financial supporters of this newsletter.

Cancer and other health problems in our pets has exploded in recent years. The Tuft University School of Veterinary Medicine has found that cancer in the family dog (s), is caused by toxic lawn chemicals. A summary can be found below. If toxic lawn chemicals are causing cancer in our pets then what is it doing to our children?

https://emagazine.com/canine-cancers-linked-to-lawn-care-chemicals/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=earthtalk_this_week_march_13_2019&utm_term=2019-03-12

Have You Tried . . .

BUTTERFLY AZALEA

Rhododendron X 'Koromo shikibu'

Also known as Spider Azalea, these strappy flowers with 1½" long and ½" wide petals bloom in spring but can reappear in fall. Unlike its cousins, our more familiar azaleas, this one has a distinctive sweet fragrance. These can be seen in full glory in [Stephen F. Austin U's SFA Gardens](#) in Nacogdoches



*Nature's Way Resources carries butterfly (spider) azaleas.
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*

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

SAT., MAR. 16: PRUNE LIKE A PRO & RUSTLE UP SOME NATIVES! by HEATHER THORMAHLEN-MOLIK, 10am, Bluebonnet House & Garden Center, 5095 Main St., FM-1155, Chappell Hill. -

SAT., MAR. 16: POLLINATION, POLLINATORS & GARDENING by ED ERWIN, 11 am-noon, Wabash Feed & Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd. Free. Register: bit.ly/2SEJxAw. wabashfeed.com, 713-863-8322.

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. galvcountrymgs@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

WED. MAR. 27: THE PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS; THE STATE PLANT by LILIANA CRACRAFT, 7:30 pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray.. Free. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society, [Houston Cactus and Succulent Society](http://HoustonCactusandSucculentSociety.org).

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. galvcounnymgs@gmail.com ; 281-309-5065, aggiehorticulture.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. galvcounnymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5065, aggiehorticulture.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., MAR. 30: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE, 8 am, Farmer's Market, Grogan's Mill. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

SAT., MAR. 30: POLLINATORS by KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY Family Workshop: 9am, \$5 per child; Walking Tour, 10am; Native Plant Workshop & Plant Sale, 11am, \$10, Houston Botanic Garden, 8205 N. Bayou Drive. HBG event. Register: HBG.org/engage

MON, APR 1: WILDSAPES by SUZZANNE CHAPMAN, 10am, First Baptist Church Tomball, 412 Oxford St, Bldg 400, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

WED., April. 3: SPRING PLANT SALE by GARDENERS BY THE BAY, 9-noon, Clear Lake United Methodist Church parking lot, 16335 El Camino Real. gbtb.org

THURS., APR. 4: THINGS I WISH I HAD NEVER KNOWN SOONER ABOUT ROSES" by Baxter Williams, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr. Free. Nottingham Country Club event. ncgctx.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

SAT. APR 6: SUCCESSFUL CONTAINER GARDENING by KAROLYN GEPHART & KAYE COREY, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, & GARDENING FOR JEWELS—HUMMINGBIRDS by DEBORAH REPASZ. Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr, Friendswood. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. Galveston County Master Gardener event. 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT, APR 6: TOMBALL GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE, 9am-1 pm, Tomball Museum Center, 510 N Pine St., Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

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, APR. 11 HYBRIDIZING, A CHILD CAN DO IT AND SO CAN YOU by Mary Fulgham 7:00pm, Lott Clubhouse, 6201 Hermann Park Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

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

THURS, Apr. 11 HYBRIDIZING, A CHILD CAN DO IT AND SO CAN YOU by Mary Fulgham 7pm, Lott Clubhouse, 6201 Hermann Park Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.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 13: BENEFICIALS IN GARDEN by DR. WILLIAM M JOHNSON, 1-3 pm. Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood. Free. Register: galvcounnymgs@gmail.com. Galveston County Master Gardener event. 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

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

SAT.-SUN., APR. 27-28: HERITAGE GARDENERS SPRING HOME TOUR, 1-5pm, and FLOWER & HORTICULTURE SHOW, PLANT SALE & SPRING VENDOR MARKET, 9am-5pm, Marie Workman Garden Center, 112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood.

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, MAY 11: Brazosport Daylily Club Show & Plant Sale. Show-Sale 1-4pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 501 Willow Drive, Lake Jackson. Free. 281-413-4844.

SAT, JUN 1: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY CLUB PLANT SALE, 9am-2pm, Lake Jackson Civic Center, 333 Highway 332, Lake Jackson,. Free. 281-413-4844.

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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THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!
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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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