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## LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



### Gardening Newsletter

March 22, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 285th 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.

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!

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## SPRING MUSINGS: HEAVY RAINS ALTER EXPECTATIONS . . . BONSAI . . . 9 NATIVES

*Flowers bloom and fruit trees blossom while the pall of winter fades*

*Black and white are all forgotten as a rainbow now appears*

*And the cycle reinvigorates the passing of the years*

--- Richard Lackman

**By BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

I don't need a psychotherapist to get rid of winter doldrums. I've got Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers as neighbors. Watching wildflowers slowly popping out in full color in ditches and vacant lots around town is my "Valium" solution to the winter/rain blahs. RBA owns the huge vacant field I drive past each day. It's mowed in late winter (okay, for business reasons, not for wildflowers). But mowers don't return until long after spring wildflowers have dropped seeds and mostly gone dormant) the summer. Watching this annual emergence has become a highlight, a meditation, for me. Tip o' the Trowel to Ritchie Bros.

Thanks to recent, prolonged heavy rains, the **2019 Texas Wildflower Season Could Be the Best One in 10 Years**. Google 'Texas Wildflowers Viewing for great views this spring'.

But don't forget, everything else will be growing like crazy too (well, those that didn't die from water-rotted roots). Mary Alice Justice, our Keller Williams realtor extraordinaire, included this great tip in her realtor update: Trim tree branches less than 10 ft from your roof. They're going to creep closer and closer, posing a major damage threat in heavy winds.



*Left, the world's oldest known bonsai tree (1000 years old!). Center & right, prize bonsai will be on display at 2019 American Bonsai Society Convention co-hosted by the Houston Bonsai Society.*

If your New Year's Resolutions include expanding gardening horizons, a great opportunity is coming up here: **2019 American Bonsai Society Convention**. Bonsai is in the midst of a major popularity boom, and no wonder. This ancient Far East art of growing miniature trees in small pots, even indoors, fits right in with current trends -- if you'll forgive the audacity of taking such a simplistic approach to a very complex, sophisticated, exquisite art form. But, truth is, beginning bonsai is easy and fun to try. All you need: advice from experts!

Bonsai's small size, low-care regime and easy adaption to local small-leaf, woody trees/shrubs make it simple to incorporate into -- and add an artistic touch to -- any décor. Even herbs like rosemary can be used. Just remember, outdoor plants/trees prefer to be outside. That often goes for bonsai too.

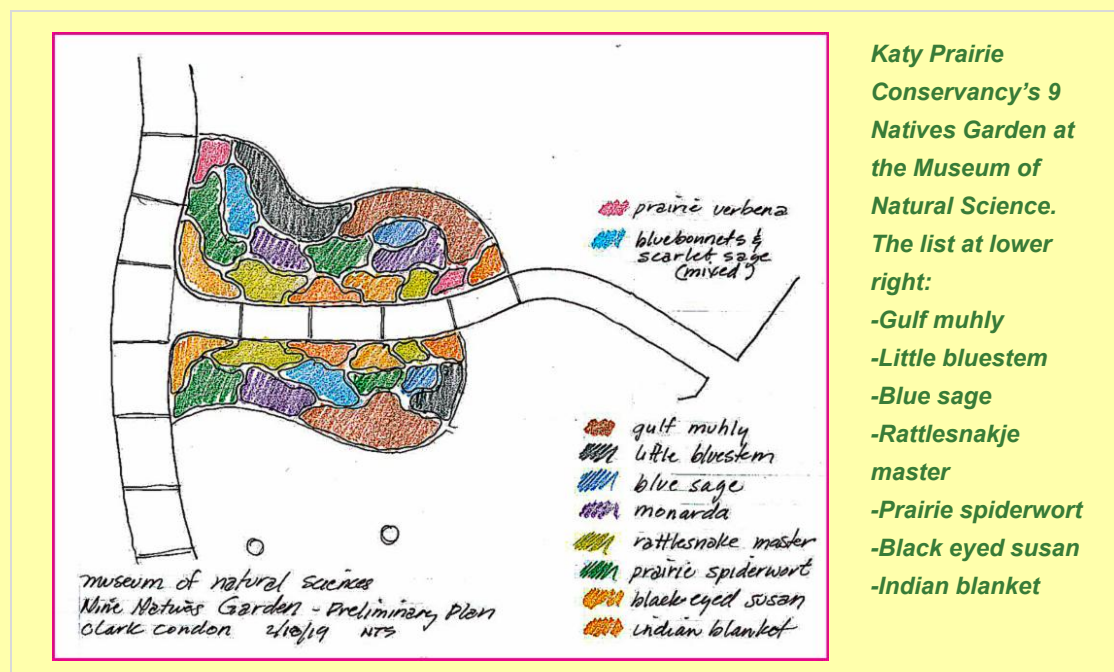
Best of all, it's healthy. Just ask Feng Shui friends about the positive life energies it is said to draw into a room. Another bonus: bonsai can be incredibly long-lived. In Italy's Crespi Bonsai Museum is what is believed to be the oldest Bonsai tree on Earth. Estimated age: 1,000 years old. And you can soon see the best of the best right here.

Bonsai enthusiasts from across the globe will convene in Houston April 11-14 for the **2019 American Bonsai Society Convention** co-hosted by the **Houston Bonsai Society**, at the Houston Marriott Westchase hotel.

The meet's Bonsai Exhibition will be a major public highlight with more than 1,000 trees companion plantings, and rocks called suiseki on display. The numerous workshops still have opening for those who sign up for the Convention. [Click for details.](#)

[Houston Bonsai Society Facebook page](#)

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**IF WORKING MORE WILDFLOWERS INTO YOUR LANDSCAPE** sounds good, some of our area's most knowledgeable groups have combined expertise to lend a helping hand. **Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC)'s "9 Natives Showcase Garden"** is being installed at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr., with funding by the Garden Club of Houston.

The 9 Natives Showcase Garden will be located near HMNS Cockrell Butterfly Center and in close proximity to the METRORail line on San Jacinto Street. The garden design, donated by Clark Condon's Beth Clark, features easy-to-find, pollinator-attracting wildflowers easily (legally!) imported from prairie to urban gardens. **[Click for Garden brochure.](#)**

The name "9 Natives" refers not to limiting yourself, but help make the overwhelming array of now commercially-available landscape-friendly native wildflowers more manageable. To help, KPC recommends adding nine new varieties at one time. See how these do, then try nine more. Or, whatever you can handle. No one's keeping count but your prospective pollinators!

If you need more guidance, these 9 natives below are currently recommended on the **KPC website** to get you started:



***L to r top: Texas Bluebonnet, Scarlet Sage, Indian Blanket, Prairie Spiderwort.  
Below: Black-eyed Susan, Lemon Beebalm, Rattlesnake Master, Gulf Muhly and Little Bluestem.***



Most of the plants planned for the KPC garden will be available Sat., April 6, at the **Cockrell Butterfly Center** 's huge annual **Spring Plant Sale** (9am-noon/or sell-out) now sited outside at the main entrance to Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. (713-639-4742).

This annual sale specializes in beautiful, healthy, and hard-to-find nectar and host plants for butterflies and other pollinators such as bees and hummingbirds. Also available will local raw honey and other bee products, ladybugs for natural pest control and caterpillars and chrysalides.

Speaking of "critters," did you know this current full lunar delight is known as the Super Worm Moon? It's the last full moon of winter (please, God!). It honors (or warns about) the 6,000 species of earthworm worldwide that tend to emerge around at the end of winter. Who else would tell you these things?

\* \* \*

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

**Cyber-gremlins abound. If it's not in, let me know! [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)**

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**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)**



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 78

We have talked about the multiple health benefits of gardening many times. A study found the most common hobby among centenarians is gardening! Coincidence?

Most gardeners intuitively would know this, however, a study by Cornell University found that apple orchards surrounded by agricultural lands are visited by a less diverse collection of bee species that orchards surrounded by natural habitats. This is important as the yields go up and is directly correlated with the number of species doing the pollination.

A study in the journal PLOS 1 (2019) has found that the ground beetle family Ozaena parasitize ant mounds. The larva of this beetle has adaptations that allow them to hunt and eat the ant eggs.

Dead wood is essential for a forest to regenerate and provide habitat from beneficial fungi to insects like the ground beetles mentioned above. The dead wood (rotting logs) that decomposers leave behind is habitat for a tremendous number of organisms like millipedes, microarthropod's, earthworms, to many birds like woodpeckers and owls. This dead wood can be standing dead trees to logs lying on the forest floor. For years I have always placed a few logs in my flowerbeds under the shrubs. This practice provides many benefits to a gardener from providing food for microbes (bacteria and fungi) that starts the

soil food web, to all the other life in the soil that helps our plants grow strong and healthy. Many beneficial insects that eat pests live in these rotting logs and come out at night to eat pests from aphids to scale and whiteflies. When the logs are fully decomposed, they have been turned into rich humus that helps build beautiful soil and helps the soil store water.

This same idea is behind the very successful gardening methods popular in Europe known as “Hugelkultur” where woody material is incorporated into mounded planting beds.

Organic gardeners have sworn for years that planting Marigolds intermingled with their tomatoes protected the tomatoes from many pests. A study by Newcastle University published in the journal PLOS 1 (2019) has found the chemical limonene released by marigold's is the main component that keeps whiteflies away from the tomato plants. Note: Limonene is the same chemical found in citrus peels and orange oil.

I have reported on the poor nutrient quality of our food many times. Most conventionally grown food beside using toxic chemicals also uses tillage which destroys the soil. A study published by the Rodale Research Institute has found that reduced-tillage increases the nutrient concentrations in winter squash.

A study published in the journal Molecular Ecology (2019) has found that exposure to certain pesticides like neonicotinoids, changes the expression of genes in bees. So, in addition to affecting the nervous system of insects it also alters their behavior, reducing their ability to forage and develop colonies.

A study by the National University of Singapore published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease (March 2019) has found that older people (seniors) whom consume more than two portions of mushrooms (fungi) weekly have 50% reduced odds of cognitive impairment. Many species of mushrooms provide health benefits. Growing one's own mushrooms is becoming a common practice amongst gardeners.

Earthworms are sometimes called a gardener's best friend. A study in the journal of the Soil Science Society of America (February 2019) has found that earthworms and bacteria working together was very effective at fixing nitrogen from multiple sources and prevent it from leaching by storing it in the soil which can then be used by plants.

A study published in the journal Frontiers of Plant Science has found that growing grasses along side blueberry plants corrects iron (Fe) deficiencies when growing in an alkaline soil with a pH of 8. When growing in an acid soil iron is naturally soluble and available to the blueberries. In an alkaline soil iron is not available and blueberries lack the enzymes required to release iron. However, when grasses are grown along side the blueberries the grasses provide the required enzymes to make iron available. The association produced other benefits from increased yield to increase levels of anthocyanins and other antioxidants compounds. Note: grasses have been found to improve plant growth and yield in olives, grapes, and citrus. We are

learning more and more about the benefits of companion planting and increasing species diversity in our plantings.

Researchers at Rice University have found a link between a diet low in the vitamin B-12 and an increased risk of infection by deadly pathogens in animal studies using nematodes (PLOS Genetics, 2019). The vitamin B-12 molecule is built around the cobalt atom (Co), if we do not have cobalt in the soil, the microbes do not produce B-12 for plants to absorb. This is why I recommend using the Re-mineralizer product ever few years around all our fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

A mega-study comprised of 46 independent studies, published in the journal of the American Agronomy Society (2018) found that cover crops provided early season weed suppression comparable to those provide by toxic chemical or mechanical weed control methods.

Research at the HeartMath Institute have found that the earth's magnetic field carries biologically relevant information that connects all living systems that helps to synchronize, energize, and support the interconnection of all these systems. For example, most people in the presence of trees experience pleasant, relaxed, comfortable feelings. Medical doctors in Japan are prescribing walks in the forest for many medical problems (Forest Bathing) and have found it if more effective than drugs for treating many health problems. In past issue I have talked about research on how trees communicate with each other and share resources (Wood Wide Web). We now know that fungi can connect trees miles apart and help them share information and even nutrients. Science is only now beginning to explore the many benefits that come from a conscious awareness of the interconnectivity with people, nature, animals, trees, and the microbes in the soil and in or on our bodies.

In past issues we have discussed how fluoride in our public water systems hurts the growth and health of many plant species. A recent article in the Journal of Well Being (vol. 28, No.1) talks about how fluoride blocks iodine receptors in our thyroid gland which then triggers weight gain, fatigue, depression and even hair loss. Another finding was that glyphosate the main ingredient found in the herbicide Round-Up, binds tightly to the metals mercury and aluminum and carries them directly into one's brain. This effect also cause endocrine disruptors to shut down our thyroid glands and trick your body into storing more fat. It was also reported that glyphosate blocks certain enzymes in our liver and prevents the liver from breaking down and removing many types of toxic materials. It also prevents the body from converting vitamin-D into its active form that we require for good health, which contributes to vitamin-D deficiency. Glyphosate is on most grains, soy, corn, and all GMO products. The GMO products also have many times higher levels of glyphosate on them (I call them products since they are not true foods). The good news is that sunlight and sulfur rich foods (garlic, onions, leeks, cruciferous vegetables) and pasture raised meat and eggs help the body get rid of glyphosate. The reasons to purchase organically grown food continues to increase ever day.



## Have You Tried . . .

### PORTERWEED

*Stachytarpheta*

A must-have butterfly/hummingbird attractor with bloom clusters up and down tall stalks that can reach 5' in this area. (Dwarf variety available.) A verbena cousin, it takes easily to pruning. Glossy green foliage and flowers spring to frost. Root hardy, sometimes evergreen. Sun/part shade. Well drained site. Multiple colors.



*Nature's Way Resources carries lavender and red porterweed.*

*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](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)*

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](mailto:galvcountymgs@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)

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

SAT., MAR 23: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](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. AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Register: Galveston County Master Gardener events. [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: PICK PERFECT PLANTS WITH YEARLY COLOR, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 South Voss Road. Free. [calloways.com](http://calloways.com)

Sat., MAR 30: BUDDING OUT FESTIVAL, 10am-4pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Free. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](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. [nmd.org](http://nmd.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)

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](http://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](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org), [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com). Galveston County Master Gardener event. 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://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](mailto:tomballgardenclub@gmail.com)

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](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

MON., APR. 8: PROPAGATION, CUTTINGS & SEEDS by JACOB MARTIN, 6:30-9pm, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2929 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Free. Lake Houston Gardeners events, [lakehoustongardeners.org](http://lakehoustongardeners.org)

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](http://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](http://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](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)

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

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

SAT. APR 13: BENEFICIALS IN GARDEN by DR. WILLIAM M JOHNSON, 1-3pm. Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood. Free. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com). Galveston County Master Gardener event. 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

TUES., APR 16: SKIMMERS & DANCERS & DARNERS, OH MY! – HOW DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES MAKE THEIR LIVINGS by BOB HONIG, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. [www.sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://www.sugarlandgardenclub.org)

THURS., APR. 18: NATIVE BEE NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION by MICHAEL ECKENFELS, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

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)

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](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org)

MON., APR. 22: EARTH DAY AT SEABOURNE CREEK NATURE PARK, 9am-3pm, Seabourne Creek Nature Park, 3831 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg. Free. Texas Master Naturalists/Coastal Prairie Chapter event. 281-633-7033; [mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu); [.facebook.com/TXMNCoastal/](https://www.facebook.com/TXMNCoastal/)

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)

FRI.-SUN., APR. 26-28: KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB HOME & GARDEN TOUR, 10am-4pm Fri.-Sat.; noon-4pm Sun. Tickets: [kingwoodgardenclub.org](http://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](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., APR. 27: 2019 OLEANDER GARDEN FESTIVAL & GRAND OLEANDER SALE, 2624 Sealy Ave, [Galveston.oleander.org](http://Galveston.oleander.org)



SAT., APR 27: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto: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](http://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](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., MAY. 11: DAYLILY FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-3pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga, Houston, TX 77092 Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://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.

THURS., MAY 16: GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY: TWO PRESENTATIONS by SUSAN CONATY and LAUREN SIMPSON, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

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](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.

THURS., JUN. 20: JUST ENOUGH LATIN TO GO PLANT SHOPPING by CAROL CLARK, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

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.

THURS., JUL. 18: VIRTUALLY WILD! TEXAS – CONNECTING STUDENTS DIGITALLY by JAIME GONZALES, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

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,  
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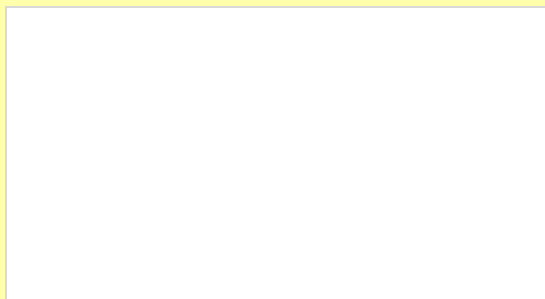
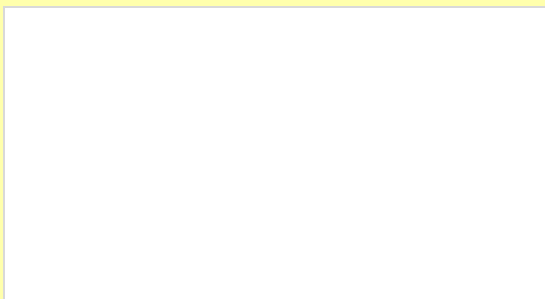
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## About Us

### 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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