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Gardening Newsletter

April 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 286th 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!



*March comes in like a lion
and goes out like a lamb*

-- author unknown but some credit Thomas Fuller's 1732 compendium

BRING BACK DARK SKIES! MONARCHS, BONSAI, ROSES & MORE

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Our night skies are disappearing. The fast-growing global [Dark-Sky Movement](#) is focused on far more light pollution than just that triggered by private landscape lighting.

But, as a group, we homeowners are major contributors to this growing concern. Among many other danger signs, Scotobiologists' studies now show light pollution has been found to affect not only our own circadian rhythms but those of wildlife and plantlife as well.



A Dark Sky-compliant landscape in Naples, FL.

One helpful solution is so simple: lighting fixtures that cast little or no upward light. Such wasted lighting is expensive and reducing our visual access to the beauty and experience of our night skies.

In our Spotlight Article below, Dark-Sky enthusiast Deborah Moran speaks more specifically about how we use lights in our yards. Deborah is the 2017 International Dark-Sky Association [Hoag-Robinson award-winner](#) for her Houston City Hall efforts.

She sadly adds that, apparently, she's ID-SA's only "unsuccessful winner." Houston is behind other major cities in focusing "light pollution." But her supporters say Deborah is a true "force" in changing the tide here.

It's estimated 80% of Americans have never seen the Milky Way. One contributing reason: mis-aimed landscape lighting makes the Milky Way and other night treasure invisible to our eyes. It's so "pointless."

We mostly use landscape lighting for safety first, then to better enjoy being out-of-doors at home at night. Both objectives are better, more efficiently and less expensively achieved with lights projected downward, not outward or upward.

Is your landscape guilty of light pollution? Does your landscape lighting:

- Produce glare that limits your ability to see at night, making you less safe and secure rather than more?
- Create light trespass (light shining where it isn't wanted)?
- Waste money by lighting areas unnecessarily, including the sky?
- Obscure your view of stars and planets?
- Impact the health of all life, both human and animal?

If you're in the [Dripping Springs](#) area this weekend, drop by the [Texas Night Sky Festival](#) . At the end of Debbie's Spotlight Article are links to more information on what's happening locally, nationally and global-wide to reduce light pollution of our skies.

Before we get to Deborah 's landscape lighting observations, lots of thanks today:

• **TIP O' THE TROWEL TO VICKIE GOSS** who shared this: "*A wise old gardener once told me no more frost once the buttercups bloom . . . Spring has officially sprung!*"

I never heard this but sure hope it's true!
Note: In other areas, buttercups are yellow. Our pink evening primroses are called buttercups. If you smush the bloom on someone's nose, it leaves a bright yellow smudge. Cup of butter, get it?



• **TIP O' TROWEL TO EVERYONE WITH POLLINATOR/BUTTERFLY PLANTS** -- or, better yet, a full habitat/butterfly/pollinator garden.

Pat yourselves on the back! Various monarch migration trackers predict a major increase this spring. After several years of decline, populations have increased by as much as 144 percent in the past year.

If possible, don't mow clusters of native wildflowers -- these attract more valuable pollinators, including monarchs, to your yard and help them survive

life-threatening urban sprawl. Mow around them, as with the pink buttercups below. When half the flowers have faded, enough will have reseeded to ensure next spring's blooms. Then you can safely mow them down.



- Plant milkweed now and through summer. While the colorful tropical butterflyweed is good, even better are our native milkweeds. Below, l to r, are two native milkweeds: the orange Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and the white Texas Milkweed (*A. texana*) with, right, imported red/orange/yellow Tropical Butterflyweed, (*A. Curassavica*).



AND SPECIAL NOTES TO BONSAI & ROSE ENTHUSIASTS:

1. Mea culpa to Bonsai enthusiasts for error in last week's info on the international-draw [2019 American Bonsai Society Convention](#) in Houston April 11-14. The public exhibits will feature the top 100 (not 1000) exquisite examples of bonsai approved for display by the Society.
- **ROSES NOT BLOOMING YET?** Don't feel alone. The April 13 Houston Rose Society show has been cancelled due to lack of blooms. It isn't a "bad year," says HRS' Suzanne Gilbert. Rather, Feb-Mar's cool days slowed production. Roses need sun. With lots of sunshine now, the first major flush will probably be the third weekend in April. In the meantime, mark calendar for the Sat., Oct. 29 HRS' Fall Rose Show. For growing tips, log on houstonrose.org. Houston has the largest rose society in the nation.



HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN

Hope you saw Molly Glentzer's great Houston Chronicle updates on the [Houston Botanic Garden](#). HBG's website now has posted that article "



[Botanic Garden, coming in 2020, will celebrate Houston's biodiversity . "](#)

Sign up for free updates on this 132-acre garden. Phase One is slated to open in 2020 The website also includes gardening advice and a calendar of already-happening events.

* * *

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

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Recommended use of a low intensity warm white LED light.

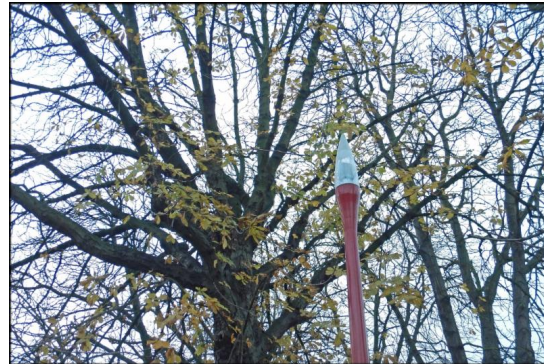
**PLANTS, TREES, NIGHT TIME POLLINATORS
NEED ALTERNATION OF LIGHT AND DARK**

BY DEBORAH MORAN***droppable-1553899330944******(www.softlighthouston.com)***

How can we showcase our gardens without compromising the beauty of the night? Landscape lighting is often uplighting which is anathema to dark skies. Instead, try lighting your landscape softly from above by pointing lights downward from the eaves of your house and/or nearby trees.

Landscape lighting is great when there are people around but not such a good idea to use at all times.

Plants, trees, and night time pollinators depend on the alternation of light and dark to thrive as well as their relative length to determine the season. At right is a tree affected by light pollution. While all the leaves have fallen elsewhere, the dead leaves near the light do not fall off the tree readily, delaying buds for spring.



There are excellent warm white or amber path lights that conceal the bulb or LEDs in the top of the fixture, creating a soft wash of light on the ground with no glare. Blue rich light is highly disruptive to circadian function for plants as well as humans and is perceived as higher glare.

Finally, some bullet shaped landscape lights make great Dark Sky patio lighting when mounted under eaves due to their strongly angled shields.

I am using some Nuvo landscape lights mounted high to create an even gentle light over my entire 20 foot long patio with zero glare. The shape allows the bulbs to be aimed at a 45 degree angle while remaining fully shielded from view as seen from the patio.



The Nuvo landscape light which I advocate for using under eaves and pointing downward. It is a modular system that comes with separate mounting plates. The strongly angled shield allows it to be pointed outward at 45 degrees while completely shielding the bulb from view if it is mounted high. I have two of these under my eaves on either side of my patio. (Key words to look for when purchasing shielded lighting are "Dark Sky.")

I use soft warm white LED bulbs. They can be used when entertaining and left off overnight. There is no point lighting a back yard no one can see. Motion detection in an otherwise dark or very subdued environment not only makes it much more likely an intruder will be noticed, it often prevents a crime from being committed in the first place.

In fact, someone in my old neighborhood of Woodside was filmed breaking off a car burglary when the motion detector went off. Meanwhile, in nearby brightly lit neighborhoods which live in perpetual daylight, they get great photos of perpetrators who often can't be recognized anyway, breaking into their cars after the fact.

- **Deborah Moran's website - softlighthouston.com - includes tips on finding shielded, downward pointed lighting.**
- **Speak to Deborah in person at the free April 5, Houston Astronomical Society meeting, 6:30pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd, . Debbie will speak on "Energy Efficient Night Lighting for Safety, Security, Health and the Environment"**

Links for more information:

- darksky.org/2107-ida-award-winners/
- tpwd.texas.gov/spdest/programs/dark_skies/
- naples.outdoorlights.com/blog/2016/12/5/dark-sky-compliant-outdoor-lighting-naples-quick-guide/



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 79

Gardeners often use corn meal or corn gluten meal in their gardens. A topic came up the other day as to what happens if the source of the corn is from a GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) variety. GMO corn contains dangerous proteins called Cry toxins that KILL insects and other organisms. Some strains of this dangerous type corn now may contain six strains of these proteins. A study published in the Journal Toxins (2019) has found that the GMO (Biotech) industry uses other chemicals (hidden ingredients) to mask the negative effect of these toxins (effectively falsifying safety studies). These toxins work by eating a hole through the guts of the insects that eat them which causes them to die. These toxins are believed to kill other organisms from the beneficial green lace wings to many non-target species including mammals and humans (where it is suspected of causing the leaky gut syndrome). These toxic Cry proteins are found in all parts of the plant from the leave and stalks to the pollen and nectar the plant produces. As a result, many organisms are affected like swallowtail butterflies, lace wings, caddisflies, bees, water fleas, and mammals. Swallowtail butterflies can die from just 14 pollen grains (a very miniscule amount). We do not need these toxins in the environment, hence only purchase organic corn products for use in the garden.

The picture below illustrates what happens when GMO corn or products from GMO corn are used and is from previous newsletters. A few years ago, when we were talking about the dangers of the herbicide Round-Up and the real reason to create GMO corn was to sell more of this dangerous chemical.

Chronic Toxicity of GMO Crop or Roundup®

GMO and/or Roundup cause adverse health effects

- 50% males & 70 % females died prematurely
- (Tumors developed after 4-7 months vs 23 mo in control)
- Females = 2-3 X mammary tumors & pituitary disorders
- Males = kidney & skin tumors, liver & kidney damage
- All GMO and RU had digestive disorders

Livers (L) UTC; (R) GMO+R

Mammary cancer: GMO, GMO+RU, RU @ (1 ppb)

Kidney damage (below)

(L) UTC GMO GMO+R RU

The image is a composite of several photographs. The top row shows two livers (A and B) and three mice with mammary cancer (C, D, and E). The bottom row shows four kidneys (F, G, H, and I) and three more mice (J, K, and L). The labels for the livers are '9129 C' and '9135 GM+R'. The labels for the kidneys are '9528 C', '8897 GMO', '8891 GMO+R', and '9118 R'. The labels for the mice are '255 GMO', '9344 GMO+R', and '9202 R'.

Look at the tumors that developed when the mice were fed GMO corn!

Another study published in the International Journal of Environmental Safety has found that the glyphosate in Round-Up binds to toxic heavy metals (arsenic, lead, cadmium, etc.) and transports them to our kidneys. This effect has claimed the lives of at least 25,000 people in Sri Lanka and another 20,000 people in Central America.

Many people have reported that their trees are dying. A broadleaf herbicide Aminocyclopyrachlor often sold under the names "Imprelis®, Perspective®, Streamline®, and Viewpoint®", is extremely toxic to trees and is often the cause. The roots of trees can often grow out to distances over 100 feet from the trunk of a tree, hence damage may occur to your trees if it was used nearby. Its use was recently banned on home lawns but it is still used on right of ways, easements, public property, etc.

More and more gardeners are growing their own herbs. A popular herb is Parsley which is native to the Mediterranean region. Even though this herb is often used as a garnish it is a nutritional powerhouse. It is a rich source of flavonoid compounds and other that have potent anti-mutagenic and anti-inflammatory properties. Several other compounds in Parsley are being studied for other health benefits. The chemical eugenol found in Parsley has been found to reduce the swelling around joints which also helps against many age-related diseases. This herb has also been found to have anti-cancer

effects and in some animal studies it stopped the growth of even aggressive cancers and even killing cancer cells in other studies.

Another study published in the Asian Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology (2019) has found that consumption of high amounts of allium vegetables (garlic, leeks, onions, etc.) reduced the odds of colorectal cancer by 79%. The greater the consumption the greater the protection.

Speaking of nutritional and medicinal plants, the pepper family (*Capsicum sp* .) have been known for centuries to have many beneficial health effects. The capsaicinoids compound found in peppers which are responsible for their heat or pungency have well established medicinal and anti-microbial effects. Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science 2019. Peppers are easy to grow and the soils are now warm enough to plant them, hence no reason not to have a few in the garden.

A six-year study by Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine has found that exposure to lawn chemicals raised the risk canine malignant lymphoma by as much as 70%! The Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at Purdue University has concluded that garden and lawn chemicals are linked to bladder cancer including common herbicides that contain 2,4-D or dicamba. They also found these dangerous chemicals over 50 feet from the application area as they are easily carried by the wind.

A study published in the Phytobiomes Journal (2018) by researchers at Penn State University has found that the nutrient history of a soil changes the function of soil microbes for generations! It has been known for years that phosphorous (P) is required for plant growth. However, they found if phosphorous from artificial fertilizers is applied, the microbes become conditioned not to help plants grow. The researchers extracted the microbes from the soil that had artificial fertilizer applied and then applied them to soil and plants that had never been exposed to phosphorous from artificial fertilizers and they still would not help the plant. So even one application of artificial fertilizers can have negative effects on plant growth for years. Another reason to only use organic fertilizers.

A paper from the Baylor College of Medicine has found that the equivalent of only 12 ounces of a beverage sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup accelerated the growth of intestinal tumors in animal studies (Journal Science, 2019). Another reason to use raw sugar from plants like sugarcane or sorghum that still have the minerals and vitamins in them. White or bleached sugar has these good components naturally found in sugar removed.



***Thanks to our new sponsor, Montgomery Pines Nursery
for your support***

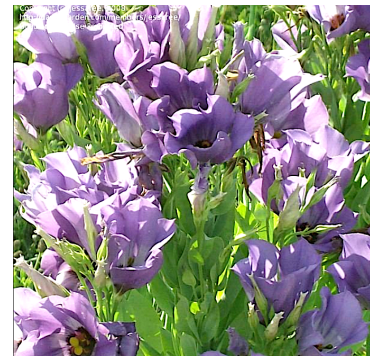
If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us at
936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com

Have You Tried . . .

'TEXAS BLUE' BLUEBELLS

(Eustoma exaltatum subsp. russellianum)

Also called Lisianthus or Prairie Gentian, this 1-2' perennial (for us) produces delicate tulip-like flowers in sun or part shade. Needs excellent drainage. Wildflower version often seen growing wild on Bolivar Peninsula at the tops of ditches.



***Nature's Way Resources carries 'Texas Blue' bluebells.
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***

MON, APR 1: WILDSCAPES 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. 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

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

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

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, 1-3pm. 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

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

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

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

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; [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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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,
please let them know you heard about it in . . .
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!
& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!

PLEASE READ BEFORE

SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR. _

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

to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.

Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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About Us

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

* a national award-winning writer & editor

- * a nationally-published writer & photographer
- * a national horticultural speaker
- * a former Houston Chronicle reporter

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

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

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

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

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Aldine and is married to the now retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

JOHN FERGUSON

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is the co-author of the book Organic Management for the Professional.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

PABLO HERNANDEZ

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management and quality control.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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