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Gardening Newsletter

April 5, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 287th 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!



"You can't make everyone happy. You're not an avocado."

-- Anonymous (as far as I can tell) but now popular as a meditation mantra

GROWING AVOCADOS HERE? HOW ABOUT PEONIES? MERCER TOP SELLERS

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Guess it's time to talk about growing our own avocados, right?

Yes, we can grow avocados in Houston and, if all goes right, they will produce delicious fruit. But be forewarned, avocados are NOT lazy gardener plants.

Grocery store avocado seeds make beautiful plants (grouped several to a pot). But fruit? Chances slim to none if from California (usually Hass), as most are.

If the store avocados are from Mexico, chances improve. But it's often impossible to know the fruit's origin or how it was treated before it got to your store. That matters. Best bet: buy an already-started tree from an independent nursery you know and trust. Recommended varieties for us include Wilma, Opal, Pancho, Fantastic, Joey, Lula and Mexicole Grande.

Avocados can grow 25' tall with a 15' canopy. Make sure you have room or don't mind sharing a canopy (aka avocados) with a neighbor. Ideal is a well-drained, sunny site at least 10' from the nearest building and 15'-25' from any large evergreen tree. They can take shade, but need sun to produce fruit.

Avocado trees here that don't make it usually have died from . . .

- Not being able to tolerate our extreme summer heat and sun (especially first few years when shading young growth is essential)
- Roots staying wet too long during heavy rains or, worse, flooding.

A raised area, with sand or organic matter worked into heavy clay soil, will help, especially the first few years. Mulch well to keep soil cooler in summer and warmer in winter. It's normal for these evergreens to drop leaves in spring to make room for new ones, so that's not a reason to panic.

I wondered how far north one could grow avocados. They are, after all, semi-tropical fruit trees and will need to go in the ground eventually.

Angela Frye of **Montgomery Pines Nursery** says they grow and produce in Willis, 50+/- miles north of Houston. She recommends customer keep young avocados in containers for a few years so they can be moved around while developing bark. If that's not possible, she recommends a sheltered spot with southern exposure. Christmas lights can provide warmth on cold nights.

For more information, check out Ray Sher's Urban Harvest column: urbanharvest.org/blog/-/blogs/avocado-trees-for-houston . While you're logged on, join Urban Harvest. UH's newsletter information is fantastic for us and you'll be helping to support hundreds of area community gardens.

Another MUST source is your county's Master Gardener office. See which varieties they recommend for your specific area. Don't know how to reach them? Perfect time to find out: mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs/

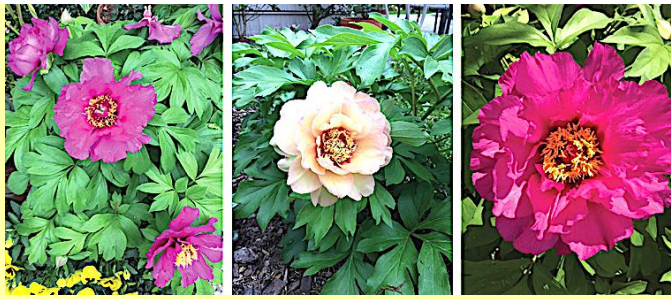


PEONIES IN HOUSTON?

For the first time in my 40+ years garden writing, I can report on peonies actually growing here. And have been for a number of years! These cold-loving, blooming shrubs are usually found where the ground actually freezes in winter, with snow cover for extended periods. But Tom, in Meyerland/Bellaire area, is why I never-say-never when it comes to trying new plants!



Tom's peonies above, l to r, 'Takara,' 'Joanna Marlene' and 'Keiko'
Below, l to r, 'Morning Lilac', 'Callie's Memory' and 'First Arrival'



Tom grows the new **Itoh peonies** , seven different varieties. He so missed the peonies he grew in Tulsa, Tom was delighted to find Itoh's are rated for Zone 9. Most peonies are recommended for Zones 3-8 (Tulsa is 6; Houston, 9 & 10).

Tom started with well-established, 3' high plants from **Monrovia growers** . Some are in 4-gal. containers, three in ground. Tom does move his around during different seasons, but says Itoh's do appear to require MUCH less winter chill than regular herbaceous peonies.

"One thing they dislike is very wet soils and non draining ones...they will rot," Tom says. His general advice: Put in raised beds or containers. Plant the crown just below soil line, so plant "eyes" of plant are a little above ground. This exposes the eyes to maximum cold during winter.

Over the decades, I've been proven wrong too often after telling folks certain plants won't grow here -- especially cold-demanding varieties. Although a few succeeded, most literally withered away after a few years. Tom's got several years of success on his side.

Hope springs eternal and I bet Tom will inspire a lot of northern transplants to at least try these Itoh peonies. And might inspire those longing for lilacs to think about giving them a try too!



Edibles were among the fastest sellers above, 1 to 4, tomatoes (went the fastest), figs, blueberries and herbs,

What are gardeners-in-the-know buying this year? Mercer Botanic Garden's annual March Mart draws this area's most experienced, most sophisticated home gardeners. Fastest sellers this year? Tomatoes, of course, then all edibles, then plants in bloom (more on this below). Popular edibles:

- FIGS - Celeste and LSU Gold
- BLUEBERRIES - Climax, Premier, and Tifblue
- TOMATOES: 'Celebrity,' 'Sun Gold' & 'Supersweet 100'

- HERBS: LAVENDER, CATNIP, ROSEMARY

In various other categories, first choices were . . .



L to R above: SHADE : Rex Begonias. NATIVES : Milkweed - all native varieties – (Asclepias species) . PERENNIALS : Fuzzy Bolivian Sage (Salvia oxyphora). ROSES : 'Julia Child". GINGERS : Curcuma 'Twister'



L to R above: TREES : New Zealand Tea Tree (Leptospermum scoparium) and Japanese Maples (Acer palmatum), in particular 'Purple Ghost'. SHRUBS : Altheas (Rose of Sharon, Hibiscus syriacus), especially 'Purple Pillars" and 'Sugar Tip Gold'

Kitt Burnsides, 2019 March Mart Chair, hopes to have many of these available at other events. The Mercer Society will run specialty (weekend) sales during the year at Mercer Botanic Gardens. For Mercer Botanic Garden updates:

- hcp4.net/parks/mercer
- themercersociety.org/events/



• **NOTE: BUYING PLANTS ALREADY IN BLOOM** is NOT a good idea unless your shopping for instant beauty (guests? party?). Flowers in bloom have a couple of strikes against them:

- Open flowers quickly fade. It takes time for plants to produce new buds.
- Blooming takes energy from setting roots, essential for plant survival.
- Except in rare cases (bromeliads, orchids), flowers are so temporary.
- Chances are excellent retail plants have flowered before, faded blooms cut off and new buds triggered with bloom stimulants. More stress.

- Change of environments is rough on a plant. It has to have a rest period before blooming again. This is particularly true of hibiscus.

Use flowers in bloom to pick colors you want. Buy plants not in yet in bloom or with the most buds. If you absolutely have to have flowers, at least pick plants with the most partially-opened flowers.

* * *

MICHAEL BETTLER, A TREASURE LOST. Houston lost a true treasure with the passing Michael Bettler. Michael helped found Houston's first organic food store (Streetfarmer's Co-op) and was one of the first to advocate for organic gardening through his many herb/cuisine classes. He and his late wife Lucia created and ran Lucia's Garden, one of Houston's most wonderful and most quirky gathering places. He will be so missed.

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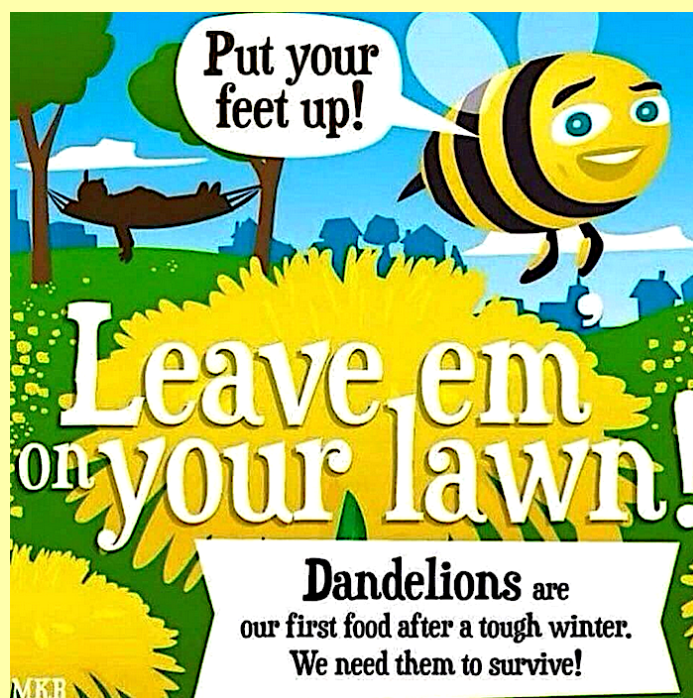
EARTH DAY COMETH! MONDAY, APRIL 12.

It doesn't matter what you and your family & friends do to celebrate, as long as you at least take a moment to remember Earth is the only home we -- and your grandchildren -- will ever know.

There is no Plan B .

* * *

AND . . . DON'T FORGET: IT'S DANDELION TIME!



* * *

Favor? Check to make sure submitted Calendar events are published.
Cyber-gremlins abound. If it's not in, let me know! 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

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NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 80

Here are a few books I have finished reading over the last couple months that a gardener might enjoy.

“The Secret Life of Your Microbiome – Why Nature and Biodiversity are Essential to Health and Happiness”, Susan I. Prescott, MD, PhD and Alan C. Logan, ND, 2017, New Society Publishers, ISBN: 978-0-86571-851-7

This book is about the connection between our health and the microbes in the environment. From the cover: “For too long our bodies have been viewed as capsules, sealed off and protected from 'bugs' by our immune systems and an arsenal of antibiotics, pesticides, processed foods, and antibacterial soaps. The more insulated from nature, the better.

The Secret Life of Your Microbiome shatters this deeply held myth, presenting a revolutionary new paradigm, backed by vast science; we're deeply connected to the biodiversity of nature through our microbiomes, the rich microbial ecosystem of our guts and skin, and this connection is essential to health and happiness.

From sugar-rich diets wiping out good gut bacteria and exacerbating depression, to microbes mediating phytonutrient absorption in the brain, to inflammation and cancer, the influence of biodiversity on our bodies is everywhere. The great communicator is our immune system, a 'mobile brain' that interacts with micro-organisms in and around us with profound health consequences. Written with pace, clarity, and humor by world-renowned

scientists in immunology, nutrition, and environmental health, *The Secret Life of Your Microbiome* makes the irrefutable case that health and happiness depends fundamentally on the health of biodiversity, and shows how we can nurture this nature."

Dr. Susan L. Prescott, MD, PhD is an internationally acclaimed immunologist and pediatrician. She has authored 250 scientific papers and *The Allergy Epidemic*, *The Calling*, and *Origins*.

Dr. Alan C. Logan ND is a naturopathic doctor and researcher, a trusted media commentator, and co-author of *Your Brain on Nature* and *The Clear Skin Diet*. He and Prescott live in New York and Perth, Australia.

The North American Butterfly Association has their new book out called **Butterfly Gardening**, by Jane Hurwitz, Princeton University Press, 2018, ISBN: 978-0-691-17034-3

This book is a great guide whether one is an experienced butterfly gardener or just getting started. There is lots of information on everything from pollen and nectar plants to host plants for the caterpillars. A feature I liked is that they divided the country into many regions and then talked about which plants and butterflies can be found in each region. It covers the migratory species like Monarchs and several others and shows their travel routes. There is lots of information on propagation as many of the best plants to attract butterflies are wild flowers and herbs that one will not find in the local garden center. Even though I have been butterfly gardening for 40 years, I found the book full of useful information. The photographs alone of both plants and butterflies make this book a nice addition to anyone's gardening library.

The Ground Beneath Us – From the Oldest Cities to the Last Wilderness, What Dirt Tells Us About Who We Are, by Paul Bogard, 2017, Little, Brown and Company publishers, ISBN: 978-0-316-34226-1

This book is about how we as a people have treated our soil from a historical and archeological approach. It explores the physical, intellectual and emotional connections between humans and the Earth. It goes on to describe the connection to our culture and ecology and the importance of ground for our future. A piece of information presented is that we have more than 40 million acres of turfgrass (sixty thousand square miles) which is three times the amount of land devoted to growing corn. It explores the effects of paving over the earth and how it may affect our future as a species.

Sustainable Landscaping for Dummies, Owen E. Dell, 2009, Wiley Publishing, ISBN: 978-0-470-41149-0

Owen Dell is a licensed landscape architect and contractor from California with 40 years' experience in design and installation of landscapes. He explains while traditional landscaping is an environmental nightmare and then shows how sustainable methods not only look better but cost far less. This is a practical guide to a new gardener or home owner that will help one design a landscape safe for children and pets that is free of toxic chemicals.

Garden Revolution – How Our landscapes can be a source of environmental change, Larry Weaver and Thomas Christopher, 2016, Timber Press, ISBN: 978-1604696165

This book is about liberating your landscape to follow natural principles. For me it follows Doug Tallamy's book "Bringing Nature Home" which explains why natural landscaping is important. This book goes on to explain "How" to design your landscape. This book is an American Horticultural Society Award winner. This lushly-photographed reference is an important moment in horticulture that will be embraced by anyone looking for a better, smarter way to garden. Larry Weaver is an icon in the world of ecological landscape design, and now his revolutionary approach is available to all gardeners. *Garden Revolution* shows how an ecological approach to planting can lead to beautiful gardens that buck much of conventional gardening's counter-productive, time-consuming practices. Instead of picking the wrong plant and then constantly tilling, weeding, irrigating, and fertilizing, Weaver advocates for choosing plants that are adapted to the soil and climate of a specific site and letting them naturally evolve over time. Allowing the plants to find their own niches, to spread their seed around until they find the microclimate and spot that suits them best, creates a landscape that is vibrant, dynamic, and gorgeous year after year.

I enjoyed reading this book and it has a lot of good information on improving our landscapes. I will let the following Editorial reviews speak to its value:

"This beautiful book shows us that guiding natural processes rather than fighting them is the key to creating healthier landscapes and happier gardeners. An essential addition to our knowledge of sustainable landscapes." —Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*

"An essential reference for conservation-minded home gardeners and stewards of larger landscapes." —Rick Darke, author of *The Living Landscape* and *The American Woodland Garden*

"There's inspiration here, from the honesty with which the authors address climate change to the experiential wisdom they bring to every aspect of the complex process of creating a landscape." — *Booklist*

"In this text-heavy volume, a landscape designer and a horticulturist teach us that gardening can be a partnership with nature when gardeners shed conventional practices, exploit plants' life cycles, and embrace unpredictable plant communities." — *Library Journal*

"What is marvelous about reading this book is the powerful sense of those lifetimes of knowledge and skill being shared, and so concisely—there is hardly a spare sentence here. . . . Illustrations are plentiful, clear and enticing. . . . I wholeheartedly recommend this book to anyone who wants to work with wild or ecological planting styles; we can all learn a lot from it." — *Gardens Illustrated*

"A guide to every aspect of a new kind of garden based on age-old laws—nature's law." — *Country Gardens*

"There's a way to design and plant that's beneficial to the environment, that looks beautiful, and that saves you—the homeowner—from a lot of toil and trouble. . . . the principles he outlines can be adapted for almost any garden,

so it's a book that you'll want on your bookshelf. . . . This is a book that's long, long overdue." — ***Garden Design Online***

"This book shows how [Larry Weaner] evaluates the natural habitat, chooses plants, and watches them grow and reseed, then edits if necessary. . . . This is a book that will guide a designer through a planning process, including a demonstration of the use of themed maps to show microclimates and other features of a site." — ***San Francisco Chronicle***

" *Garden Revolution* reinforces what we've been told again and again—and thankfully are beginning to heed—that as garden makers, we need to pay attention to the local ecology. . . . Throughout the book, practical content is presented alongside anecdotal planting examples. . . their observations and analysis open our eyes and invite us to adopt an approach that can be deeply meaningful and filled with 'surprises and revelatory events.'" — ***Pacific Horticulture Magazine***

" *Garden Revolution* gives land managers the toolkit to work with land on large and small scales in order to create ecologically sensitive landscapes. For anyone who is a steward of land or interested in the topic, this is a book to find and read sooner rather than later." — ***NYBG's Plant Talk***

"A thoughtful meditation on ecology, garden design, and theory of native landscapes." — ***Garden Collage***

Have You Tried . . . **HINCKLEY COLUMBINE**

(*Aquilegia chrysantha* var. *hinckleyana*)

Delightful ferny foliage, canary yellow flowers. 3.5' tall; native only to Capote Falls in Presidio County. Popular in nurseries. These short-lived perennials reseed to replace mother plant. Let seed mature on plant and drop. April/May bloomer. Shade/part shade. Well drained site. Attracts birds, butterflies, bees.



*Carried by Nature's Way Resources, and our new sponsor, Montgomery Pines Nursery in Willis.
Or, contact independent nurseries or our other sponsors below for possible sources.*

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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR EVENTS

GARDEN/PLANT EVENTS ONLY

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

SAT., 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

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

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

MON., APR. 8: GROWING UP IN HUGELKULTUR MOUNDS by GLEN MIRACLE, 6:30pm, West Gray MultiService Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Urban Gardeners event. houstonurbangardeners.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

SAT. APRIL 13: WHICH, WHAT & HOW OF SPRING BLOOMS, 8-10am; MULTIPLYING YOUR BLOOMS, 10:30am-12:30pm, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. \$5 each/\$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824, mcmga.com

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

FRI.-SAT., APR. 19-20: HOUSTON ARBORETUM SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm, 4501 Woodway. houstonarboretum.org

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

SAT., APR 20: "CAMELLIA RESEARCH – SPECIES AND CULTIVARS" with Dr. Jiyuan Li, 11:30am, free. TOUR, 10am, \$10. 20559 FM 359, 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., APRIL 27: PLANT SALE- Tried & True Plants From Our Gardens. 9am – noon, Lake Jackson Civic Center Outside Plaza, 333 Hwy 332 East, Lake Jackson Garden Club, lakejacksongardenclubtx@gmail.com

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. npot.org/houston

SAT. MAY 18: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY, 9:30-11:30 a.m., AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Free. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824, mcmga.com

TUES., MAY 21: BROMELIADS OF ECUADOR by CRISTY BRENNER, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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-3pm, 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-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.

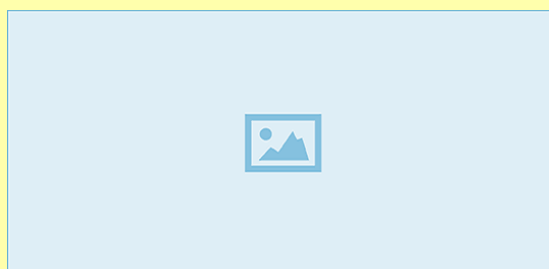
John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized 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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