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Gardening Newsletter

May 10, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 291th 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!



THE LITTLE TREE THAT COULD ... TREASURED DAYLILIES

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Considering all this depressing rain and flooding so many of us have learned to fear, I thought a little levity might be in order. So here's a story to which all gardeners can relate!

First, if you don't know about ficus trees, many (but not all) ficus varieties produce aerial, or air, roots, which grow out of the trunk usually up near where the canopy start.

They hang downward and, once they hit ground, function just as underground roots do. They can be removed without harming the tree or, as in the case of Deany Meinke's ficus, they may be life-saving!

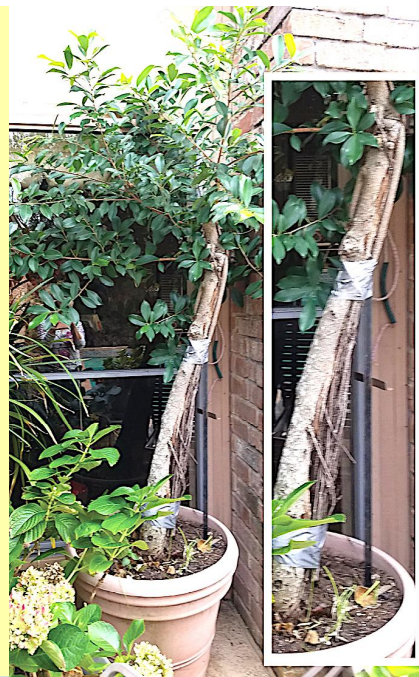
THE LITTLE TREE THAT COULD

By DEANY MEINKE

"Miracle"-The Ficus Tree" timeline:

- ***2017 Freeze ... big ole' Ficus tree was too heavy and big to move to the garage (9-10' tall, and had long since outgrown the house!) So the tree was left to "fend for his/herself."***
- ***It froze back completely. It had become pretty one-sided and not very attractive. But I've had it for years and was sad to see it go! I cut all the dead branches off. All that was left was a sad looking trunk about 4-5' tall! Finally I asked Ron to dig it out so I could at least reuse the big pot. I walked by the window and saw him, all muddy, as he ran water to try to loosen those tree roots, struggling to get them out of that pot.***
- ***As I walked by the window ... I saw ONE itty bitty green leaf about 1/4" coming out of the side of the trunk! I screamed out to Ron . . . "STOP! STOP! It's alive!" So, I watered and socked it with Fish Emulsion. It grew beautifully - prettier than it had been but only UNTIL the FOLLOWING February freeze!***

- Since it was no longer huge, Ron decided to try to move “Miracle” (the tree’s new name) into the garage, which was successful . . . until he moved “Miracle” out of the garage, and back into the light.
- He came inside, saying, “I’m so sorry ... I **“BROKE”** your tree!” I thought he meant the pre-lit Christmas tree we had in the garage (half the lights were missing), so I flippantly said, **“Just put it at the curb for the trash!”**. **“No-o-o-o”**, he said ... **“Not the Christmas Tree ... the Ficus!”** The trunk had snapped in half - with a bunch of dried up air roots hanging there - giving no life at all!



- Ron pushed an old iron yard sign stake into the pot and taped it and the tree together. Trusty ole’ duct tape to the rescue! Weeks later the top was still green and one air root from the tree’s top had grown about a nickel-wide and anchored itself to the ground! I purchase ‘prettier duct tape’ (that looks a bit like wood”). It’s **STILL** there - and might always be (until that ‘nickel size trunk gets hefty!)

- A horticulturist friend said to me, “Just throw it away – and buy a new one!” **“NO WAY”**, I thought!
 - “A large Ficus is **NOT** inexpensive (but their trunks sure look better).
 - I’ve had this tree 25 or so years.
 - Sure is a strange-looking trunk, but it’s still living and growing. If it’s not ready to “bite the dust” I’m not going to give up on it either’!
- Miracle continues today – and sometimes I think I hear her singing,
 - “I think I can, I think I can ---I thought I could, I thought I could!” – just like The Little Train that Could!

NOTE: I recently covered the trunk, iron stake, and ‘duct tape’ with some brown horticulture tree tape I found on Amazon. The tape looks a bit like the

crepe paper streamers we used at HS rallies! But this one is thicker, industrial strength and biodegradable – so I'm sure I'll need to replace it.

(Deany Meinke lives and gardens in Southwest Houston.)

* * *

SHOWING OFF! If our [April 26 issue](#) whetted your appetite for exhibiting your prizes blooms in a local flower show, two great resources:

- Bit.ly/flo2019 and
- youtube.com/watch?v=OT2XM00aJAw.

This latter link offers exhibiting advice from Meg Tapp, a chairmen of 2019 Florescence, biannual Garden Club of America flower show at Houston's Museum of Fine Arts. (Next show: April 27-28, 2021). Meg's presentation is also posted on [Garden Club of Houston's website](#) under Education.



A few of Leon Payne's daylily introductions, l to r, Lone Star Back Forty, Lone Star Special Tee, Madelyn D'Ann Payne, Red Wrangler Miss and Lone Star Powder Puff

CAN'T STOP CHANGE . . . but can pay tribute to great contributions from very special local horticulturists. Leon and Paula Payne have closed their decades-old Paynes in the Grass Daylily Farm. A sad day for a region that used to be dotted with numerous daylily farms. One of the last chances to own some of Leon's beautiful daylily introductions will be the Sat., May 18, Lone Star Daylily Society Flower Show and Sale (1-4pm, Epiphany Lutheran Church, 5515 Broadway St., Pearland. lonestardaylilysociety.org , 713-882-9958.

EVENT NOTICES FOR CALENDAR MUST BE SUBMITTED SPECIFICALLY FOR PUBLICATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER. NO EVENTS ARE PICKED UP FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS.

See Calendar for details. Always check to make sure submitted event IS published.

If you don't see it, email me: 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.

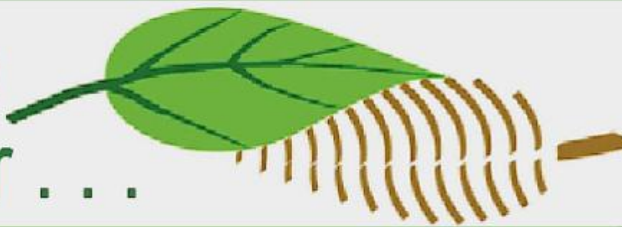
A PDF OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS POSTED AT

<https://www.natureswayresources.com/new.html>

We hope you will repost & share it with anyone and everyone!

* * *

John's Corner . . .



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 83

I had the pleasure to visit with Kim Konte of Non-Toxic Neighborhoods a few weeks ago. In Houston, her organization is working with the Herman Park Conservancy to make the park all organic so it will be safe for children and pets, as many cities around the country are doing.

Non-Toxic Neighborhood's Advisors and team believes it should be a basic human right that children are protected from harmful pesticides and chemicals where they play. Especially since a majority of the exposure is happening for purely cosmetic reasons (weed abatement).

From their website: "When we were lobbying in DC against the environmental riders in the Farm Bill, I shot a 3 min video of our landscape superintendent speaking to the benefits of switching to organic management":

<https://youtu.be/4hxogS-pal8?t=56>

From CA to FLA and everywhere in-between we have proven you can manage pest pressure organically:

<https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/bellaire/news/article/Organic-lawn-maintenance-planned-for-parts-of-13727177.php>

Non-Toxic Neighborhoods Advisors:

Dr. Dean Baker , MD, MPH University of California, Irvine Professor and Director of UCI's Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Epidemiology.

Dr. Bruce Blumberg , PhD. University of California, Irvine Professor of Developmental and Cell Biology, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Dr. Bruce Lanphear, MD, MPH Simon Fraser University Professor and Director of Children's Health and Environmental Health, Vancouver, Canada

Dr. Philip J. Landrigan , MD, MSc, FAAP, Dean for Global Health, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Pediatrics, Arnhold Institute for Global Health - Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City, NY.

Dr. Sandy DeSimone, Starr Ranch Audubon Director

The CDC reports there is a new extremely toxic fungus (*Candida auris*) that is very toxic to humans and it has evolved to be very resistant to all drugs due to agriculture's mass applications of fungicides. *C. auris* has been around thousands of years but this new strain first showed up in 2009. Another strain of *C. auris* showed up in 2012 with a different mechanism for resistance. The

careless use of fungicides in agriculture is creating new strains of pathogens of which there is no good treatment.

The journal HortScience, Vol. 53 had an article on the importance of trace elements in the soil. It found adding trace amounts of nickel (Ni) to the plants as a foliar spray, prevented/reduced cracking of the peel in Pomegranates. It also increased flavonoid concentrations and antioxidant capacity. Another reason to re-mineralize our soils. Another paper in the same issue found that insufficient Boron (B) resulted in poorer root growth and development as well as reproductive issues in cowpeas. These problems were corrected by foliar sprays. This one of the reasons foliar sprays of Super Seaweed from Microlife™ helps plants grow healthier.

The January 2019 issue of Life Extension found that sage extracts increased memory performance up to 60% compared to those taking a placebo. Another reason to have sage in our gardens. I often brush my sage plants to inhale the aroma, as it just makes me feel good.

More research at the University of British Columbia has confirmed that trees talk to each other. We have known for decades that they share nutrients and transfer them to each other by the fungal network in the ground. They found that trees can also recognize their own siblings and can nurture them hence the new term "Mother Tree". It is strongly suspected that the fungus receives a commission from the tree for providing this service in the form of carbon compounds that it requires.

Have you ever wondered why one study shows a food as beneficial and the next says it is not? In the Journal of Traditional, Complementary, and Alternative Medicines have found a possible reason. They found that aspartame may be one of the most damaging vectors for the widespread dumbing down of humanity. This toxic chemical, changes how many communication molecules in our bodies work, which then changes how we respond to different things as it destroys many of our neurotransmitter chemicals. Hence, if participants in a study use aspartame the researchers will get different results than that from those whom do not.

A large international study has found that children that have access to green spaces have fewer respiratory problems like asthma and wheezing as adults. Greenness from plants and trees produced better mental health and productivity, improved general mood and attitude, and reduced stress in adults.

Studies from Japan and Denmark have confirmed that gardeners live longer and are less stressed. Australian researchers found that gardeners had a 36% less risk of dementia. Other studies found that the social benefits of gardening also increased longevity. They did not define it but I guess this means garden clubs, plant sales, master gardeners, master naturalists, garden tours, etc. A Harvard University study found that people surrounded by lush greenery lived longer and had a lower chance of developing cancer or respiratory illness. Doctors in Scotland have joined Japan in prescribing walks in nature to treat a variety of ailments.

A study on the wildfires in 2011 in New Mexico, published in the Journal of The American Society of Agronomy (2018), found that low to moderate intensity wildfires increase soil moisture. The reduced vegetative cover reduces evapotranspiration and allows more water to enter the soil. High intensity fires remove the duff layer leading to soil sealing, erosion, and more runoff. The journal Biological Control (January 2019) had a paper studying harvester ants for weed control. Fields that used no-till methods had less weed pressure as it allowed larger nests of the ants whom eat many types of weed seeds. They also found that harvest or ants ate herbicide resistant weed seeds like rigid ryegrass.

A study in the British Journal of Nutrition combined the results of 67 published studies and found that organic meat had 47% higher levels of beneficial omega-3 fatty acids compared to conventional meat.

Another study in the Journal of Science of Food and Agriculture (February 2019) compared the nutritional properties of organic raised meat to conventional meat. They looked at bioactive compound's coenzyme Q10, carnosine, anserine, creatine, and taurine. The organic beef had 17% less cholesterol, 32% less fat, 16% less fatty acids, and 24% less monounsaturated fatty acids. Of the good stuff it had 170% more alpha-linolenic acid, 24% more alpha-tocopherol, 53% more beta-carotene, 34% more coenzyme Q-10, and 72% more taurine. This another study that shows even when we raise grass organically, the way God does it in nature, it affects the health of animals and the health of people that eat the animals.

I have always enjoyed a dark beer such as an ale or stout with a meal. Researchers at Oregon State University have found that a compound found in "Hops" known botanically as *humulus lupulus* and is used to add flavor, color, and bitterness to beer, produces a compound (Xanthohumol) and its derivative's that thwarts the growth of cancer cells. International Journal of Molecular Sciences (2019). Now I have another reason to enjoy a good dark beer...its now a health food.

I have always loved peppers from jalapenos to stuffed bell peppers. From the book "The Secret Life of Your Microbiome – Why Nature and Biodiversity are Essential to Health and Happiness", consumers whom regularly eat peppers have a 13% reduces risk of all cause's mortality. Peppers have a beneficial effect of our gut microbiome and our immune system. This fruit has also been shown to increase our lifespans. Other effects include; lowering obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease risk. Capsaicin in peppers is a natural anti-cancer compound. Another reason to add peppers to one's garden is they are very easy to grow and a great way to introduce children to gardening. Lastly, without peppers what would salsa be?

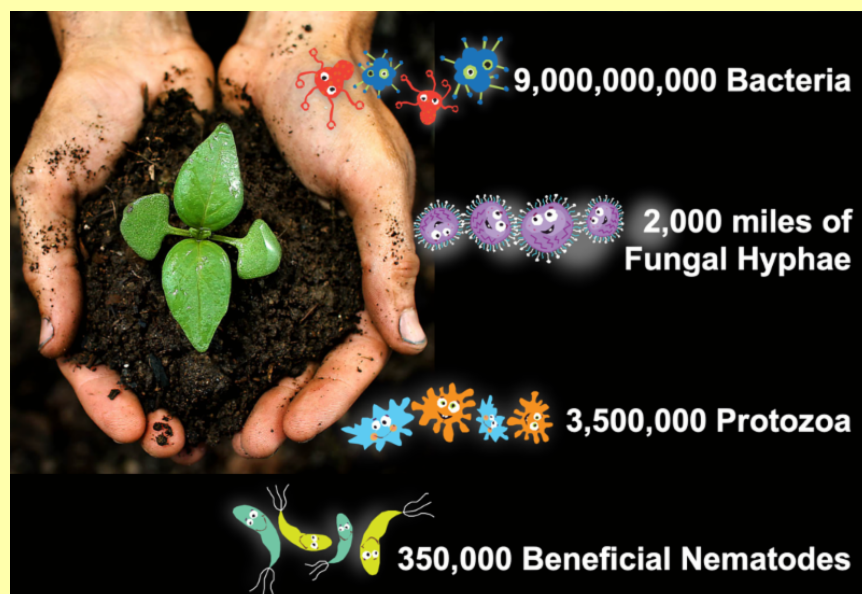
Healthy Soils * Healthy Plants * Healthy People
The key to successful gardening is to 'Go Underground'

We have fully launched into the 3rd Agriculture Revolution and it doesn't involve the plow or chemicals but our understanding of the soil microbes. Just as in the human gut with our own microbiome, plants are governed by their gut microbiome which we commonly call the soil microbes.

The main characters in this underground world are the millions of species of beneficial bacteria and fungi and the numbers involved stagger the mind of comprehension.

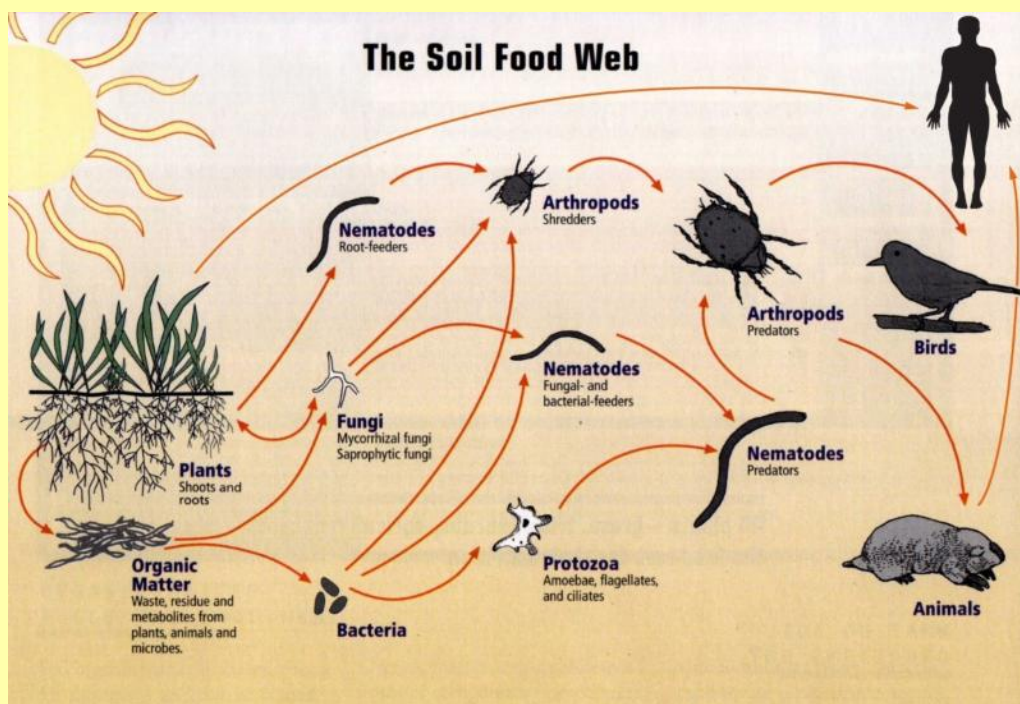


Look at the number of beneficial microbes contained in just 1 handful of healthy soil.



2,000 miles of fungal strand?! 9 billion individual bacteria?! Now think of your garden, your lawn or your plant container and imagine how many microbes that area contains. The numbers are unbelievable. If this information is new to you, that is completely understandable. We really haven't known of soil microbes till 1996 with the advent of the electronic microscope and the

fascinating work of Dr. Elaine Ingham, www.soilfoodweb.com . She built the first model of what we call The Soil Foodweb. See below



As we can easily see, the foundation of life is built on the shoulders of the soil microbes. Creation knows this and started the whole process and what a beautiful process it is. So remarkable, so intrinsic, so complex, yet so simple. And the plants know this too. Up to 80 % of the total food a plant makes through photosynthesis, it gives freely to the soil microbes to keep the microbes happy and close to it.

Now if you gave up to 80% of your paycheck to someone, surely you would expect many benefits back right? That is exactly what happens in the soil/plant world. The plant feeds the microbes and in return, the microbes protect the plant from harm and help it to grow healthier. Which is exactly what happens in the human gut with our own gut microbes.

In Organic Eco-System Management, we have a couple of sayings 'To the Soil, Do No Harm', and, 'Feed the Soil and the Plant'. This is critical as we decide what fertilizers or amendments to put on our lawns, gardens and food crops. When we say 'Feed the Soil' we don't mean to actually feed the quartz or silica in the soil but the little microorganisms that live there. Like the human microbiome, what you feed your plants/soils will determine the health of your soil. And, it's so important to note that you can't have healthy plants without healthy soils.

Another great saying is, 'You are what your plants eats'. This is absolutely critical for human health which most food providers and medical advisors just don't get. As a consequence, America is the sickest country in the world. We lead all other nations in rates of cancer, obesity, diabetes, dementia, celiac, heart problems and the list goes on and on. Most of the food that is available to us is of very poor quality and begins the onset of chronic disease and early

death. Please see The Lancet Report, 'How Diet effects Human Health' <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/324897.php> .

The plants and the soil microbes needing each other is the result of Natural Law. Natural Law is the way Mother Nature takes care of herself whether humans are present or not. Most importantly, when we follow Natural Law, which Organic practices do and chemical practices do not, then everything is easier, safer and less expensive. Organics do not cost more money, that is a huge falsehood.

With Organics we are supporting the soil microbes which directly supports us. Up to 30% of the human gut microbes are made up (or should be made up) of soil microbes. The soil microbes build much larger root systems on plants, up to a 100 x larger root system, which means the plant has much greater resiliency. Now it can find water and mineral easier and defend itself. One of the most fascinating family of microbes is the Mycorrhizal Fungi group. We are intimately familiar with them every time we eat mushrooms. But, below ground, they become part of the plant root system.

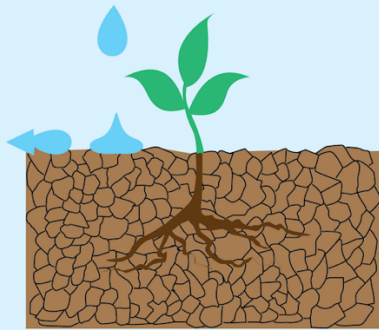
Mycorrhizal Fungi On Root



Even more fascinating is the communication network that microbes create underground, connecting with each other and all the other plants in the ecosystem. Our grasses, trees, tomato plants, flowers are all talking to each other via 'The Wood Wide Web' that the microbes have created. This communication system is quite stunning, and it shows how truly intelligent Creation is.

In addition to soil microbes building bigger plant root systems and an incredible communication network, the soil microbes will remediate toxic soil contaminate and improve soil dramatically. Think of your rock-hard clay becoming loam! That will happen with healthy populations of soil microbes. With looser soil we have better oxygen flow which plants adore and much enhanced water conservation. This translates to very significant water costs savings.

Chemical Soil



- Tight Soil
- Low Infiltration
- Low Oxygen
- Small Roots

Organic Soil



- Friable Soil
- High Infiltration
- More Water
- More Oxygen
- Bigger Roots

Going Organic will save you **\$3,000.00
per acre per year**



Bigger roots, healthier plants, better soil, reduce water use, Wow. So, what next? It does not stop there with healthy microbes for they will bring minerals to plants, manufacture fertilizer for the plants, fight weeds, pest insects and diseases. All this with just a little love and care on our part. In closing, a few bits of direction –

- Never use chemical fertilizers or chemical pesticides on your lawn as they are dangerous to you and kill the good soil microbes. Much like if we eat processed foods and what that does to our gut microbiome.
- Apply Humates or quality Compost once a year. Nature Way Resources makes the best compost & mulch in the area.
- Only use Quality Organic Fertilizers in your eco-system. The best available is what we make, The MicroLife Organic Fertilizer Product line. Complete information can be found at www.microlifefertilizer.com

Quality is extremely important, and I want you to be very successful and very happy.

Healthy Soils * Healthy Plants * Healthy People*

Mike Serant – Has been manufacturing MicroLife Organic Fertilizers since 1988. Some of his clients include MD Andersen Cancer Center, Bayou Bend Gardens, Centennial Gardens, The Houston Zoo, The George W Bush Library, Rice University, Mercer Arboretum and The University of Texas at Austin. Mike is also a co-founder of OHBA, a 501-c-3 Organic education provider; www.ohbaonline.org. His company **San Jacinto Environmental** is the maker of the MicroLife™ line of organic fertilizers and has been a sponsor of this newsletter since its inception.

Have You Tried . . . **MEXICAN MINT MARIGOLD** *(Tagetes lucida)*

Also known as Texas/Mexican/Spanish tarragon, this full sun/part shade perennial makes a 3+' mound of yellow, delightfully fragrant flowers. Low-water, deer-resistant, attracts birds and butterflies. Blooms fall but often summer too. Dies back in winter, returns from roots in spring. Deer-resistant.



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

* * *

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., MAY 11: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING, 9:30-11:30am. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Conference Room, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

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

SAT, MAY 11: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY CLUB SHOW & PLANT SALE. Show-Sale 1-4pm, St Mark's Lutheran Church, 501 Willow Drive, Lake Jackson. Free. 281-413-4844.

SAT., MAY 11: LONE STAR CHAPTER AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY HIBISCUS SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, Knights of Columbus St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. lonestarahs.org

TUES., MAY 14: NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDEN WEEK CELEBRATION, 6-8pm, Houston Botanic Garden, 8205 N. Bayou Dr. Free. hbg.org.

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

THURS., MAY 16: WATER CONSERVATION, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Ln.. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

SAT., MAY 18: WATER CONSERVATION, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., MAY 18: LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY SHOW & DAYLILY & COMPANION PLANT SALE. 10am-4pm, Epiphany Lutheran Church, 5515 Broadway St., Pearland, Free, www.lonestardaylilysociety.org, 713-882-9958.

SUN., MAY 19: WEST TEXAS FERNS AND OTHER PLANTS by MICHAEL EASON, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfernsoc.org

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

TUES., MAY 21: WATER CONSERVATION, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale, Houston. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

WED., MAY 22: ARIZONA CACTUS ODYSSEY by DAVID VAN LANGEN, HCSS member, 7:30 pm, at the Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. FREE. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society

WED., MAY 29: SUMMER VEGETABLE PLANTING CLASS, 6-7pm, McGovern Centennial Family Gardens, 1500 Hermann Dr. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540, urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

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

SAT. JUNE 1: PLUMERIA PROPAGATION WORKSHOP by LORETTA OSTEEN, 11 am-1 pm. Master Gardener Discovery Garden, Carbide Park, 4102 Main St. (FM 519), La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcounnymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SUN, JUNE 2: LONE STAR CHAPTER AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY HIBISCUS SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, Condit Elementary, 7000 S. 3rd. St., Bellaire. Free. lonestarahs.org

SAT., JUNE 8, BRINGING BEES TO YOUR GARDEN, 8-10am, & OTHER POLLINATORS BESIDES BEES, 10:30am-12:30pm. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. \$5 each/\$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-529-7824 or mcmga.com

SAT., JUNE 8: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT. JUNE 8: ASK A MASTER GARDENER PLANT CLINIC by Galveston County Master Gardeners, 10 am-1 pm. Keyworth's Hardward Store, 2209 FM 517 Rd E, Dickinson; GARDENING 101 by KAROLYN GEPHART, 1-3 pm. Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy St, Galveston. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

WED., JUNE 12: BEHIND SCENES AT A BOTANIC GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., JUNE 13: USING THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB by Bob Patterson 7:00pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston 77004. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

SAT. JUNE 15: PASSION FOR PLUMERIA by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm. AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (FM 519), La Marque. Free. , but Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THURS., JUNE 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

WED., JUNE 26: CSSA VIDEO "PROPAGATING PLANTS & CULTIVATING FRIENDSHIPS," 7:30 pm, at the Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. FREE. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. www.hcsstex.org

SAT. JUNE 29: RAINWATER HARVESTING by NAT GRUESEN, 9-11 am, AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park, 4102 Main St. (FM 519), La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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.

SUN., SEP. 22: TIDBITS FROM 50 YEARS WITH DAYLILIES by Hershal Theilen, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

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.



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience)
Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

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