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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Gardening Newsletter

Aug 8, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 303rd 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!



NATIVE PLANTS -- WE'RE READY

TO MOVE UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL

***"When one tugs at a single thing in nature,
he finds it attached to the rest of the world."***

-- John Muir

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

As gardeners, we've come long way from the days when, back in the '70s & '80s, just the phrase "planting natives" literally caused neighbors to gasp, picturing their property's value plummeting downward as yards close to them become covered with out-of-control weeds.

Today, most of us have at least some natives in our gardens, some to attract pollinators and celebrate our flora, others simply for their beauty -- many without even realizing they're seeing the same plants, or close relatives, in vacant lots around town.

Lots of folks have worked hard over the decades to help bridge this period of change. Rare now are folks who cringe when a neighbor says she/he's putting a "Habitat (or Pollinator) Garden." Instead, curiosity reigns. Chances are their children know more than they do about "pollinators," given the popularity of elementary school Habitat Gardens.

Someone who will always stand out for me during that transition period is Chris LaChance, then with Texas WaterSmart, who came up with a bridging phrase I thought really touched at the heart of this new (to most of us) concept:

Make Your Yard Look 'Intended,' Not 'Untended.'

Not that there's anything wrong with a "manicured" garden. I also vividly remember my sister's response to the then-new "au natural" concept for home landscapes: *"I have so much chaos in my life. I want my garden to be organized!"*

Hearts were in the right place. But admittedly some good intentions did run a bit amuck. Gradually those promoting native plants realized that just as important as educating folks about local flora, was training the eye to see beauty in less-than-perfectly-manicured landscapes, such as Don Dubois' "prairie garden," right.



Gradually compromise reigned. Today many "organized" yards are filled with natives, and no one blinks an eye. But that wasn't very common back then.

Very few Texas natives could be found in any form in nurseries . . . and even fewer Gulf Coast natives. Even more scarce were guidelines for relocating native wildflowers into suburban gardens.

Not so today. Nurseries and plant departments are now full of natives, many hybridized into more "manicured" appearances. Some may argue these aren't true natives, but many of our beneficial insects don't seem to care.

A huge step happened twenty-one years ago, when Houston's Native Plant Society and Texas Parks and Wildlife cosponsored the first Wildscapes Workshop to:

- help identify landscape-friendly natives and to promote their use
- educate on how to use them wisely and successfully, and . . .
- actually offer for sale native plants being promoted for home gardens

The success of natives sales like Wildscapes and growing awareness of ecology challenges (such as excessive water usage and pesticide dangers) triggered greater efforts by governmental agencies and the horticultural industry to bring more low-water and pest-resistant varieties to the retail market. Many of the more successful ones turned out to be local natives.

Last year, Houston's Wildscapes Workshop celebrated its 20th Anniversary. The [2019 Wildscapes & Plant Sale](#) will be Sat., Sept. 21, 8am-3:30pm at Rice University's Anderson-Clarke Center. Registration: \$45 (before Aug. 31). Space fills quickly, don't wait. At 3pm, the sale will be opened to the public. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter. Register: npsot.org/Houston

Many of us grow natives now, some to attract pollinators and celebrate our flora, others simply for their beauty. Many probably don't even realize they're seeing the same plants, or close relatives, in vacant lots around town.

It's time to take things to the next level. In our Spotlight Article below, NPSOT/HC's Margaret Gnewuch does just that, focusing on common problems with vegetables, insects causing them and native plants that attract the beneficial insects that, in turn, will take care of your troublesome ones.

Mutually-beneficial companion plantings have been around since the beginning of time. But unfortunately often nationally-recommended plant combinations aren't as effective in our subtropical area with our often very different planting and blooming periods.

Ironically, Margaret wrote this Spotlight Article below for us in 2017. But Harvey wiped not only our newsletter, that year's Wildscapes Workshop was cancelled as well. Gardeners are tough folk. Knock us down and, like our centuries old native plants, we sprout right back up and keep on truckin'.

* * *

Speaking of NPSOT/HC, the wrong address was accidentally submitted for the group's new meeting location. Now the Houston Chapter meets in the

American Red Cross building at 2700 Southwest Fwy. This is where the next three upcoming Thursday meetings will be held, 6:45-8:30pm:

- Aug. 15: Ecological Benefits of Urban Wetlands by Mary Carol Edwards.
- Sept. 19: Native Trees in the Landscape: Why and How? by Brad Phillips
- Oct. 17: Katy Prairie Update by Wesley Newman npsot.org/Houston

LOOKING FOR CLUB SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS?

"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" — free — 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

[CLICK HERE](#) for PDFs OF PAST LG&F NEWSLETTERS

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

* * *



Got Veggies? Protect Them from Pests with Native Texas Flowers!

by **MARGARET GNEWUCH**

Native Plant Society of Texas

npsot.org/wp/houston

Vegetables depend upon beneficial insects when attacked by destructive plant pests. In her book, ***Attracting Beneficial Bugs to your Garden***, Jessica Walliser writes that plants under attack by plant pests release chemical signals. If beneficial insects are nearby, they respond to the chemical signal and eliminate attacking pest.

Native flowers not only attract beneficial insects but keep them around by providing food and shelter. You can intermingle natives and vegetables or plant a flower border because they have same full sun preference.

Vegetable pests that beneficial insects love to eat:

- **Asparagus beetles** - damsel bugs, ground beetles, ladybugs, lacewings
- **Cabbage worms** - syrphid flies, big eyed bugs, damsel bugs, parasitic wasps
- **Corn ear worms** - big eyed bugs, ground beetles, parasitic wasps, lacewings, minute pirate bugs, spiders
- **Colorado potato beetles** - ladybugs, robber flies, tachinid flies, assassin bugs, parasitic wasps, ground beetles, damsel bugs, lacewings

- **Cucumber beetles** - assassin bugs, parasitic wasps, tachinid flies
- **Mexican bean beetles** - tachinid flies, assassin bugs, ladybugs, robber flies, parasitic wasps
- **Squash vine borers** - ground beetles, parasitic wasps
- **Tomato hornworms** - assassin bugs, parasitic wasps

Native flowers that beneficial insects eat:



Lanceleaf Coreopsis (
***Coreopsis lanceolata*)**

Forms a fluffy round mound of lance shaped leaves topped with golden flowers on long stems. Yellow disk flowers, yellow ray flowers with notched edges; Lacewings, Syrphid flies, Parasitic wasps.

Carolyn Fannon,
Wildflower Center photos



Blue Sage
(*Salvia azurea*)

has spikes of blue flowers
spring through fall.

Carolyn Fannon,
Wildflower Center photos



Rattlesnake Master (
***Eryngium yuccifolium*)**
Spiky round whitish



Seaside Goldenrod (
***Solidago sempervirens*)**



Indi an Blanket
(*Gaillardia pulchella*)
Vivid red ray flowers

flower heads and yucca like spiny foliage.

Wildflower Center photo

Well-behaved, yellow flower plumes, resists salt spray; Ladybugs, Minute pirate bugs, Parasitic wasps and Lacewings.

Carolyn Fannin photo

and yellow petals, blooms through warm months, reseeds, attracts butterflies"



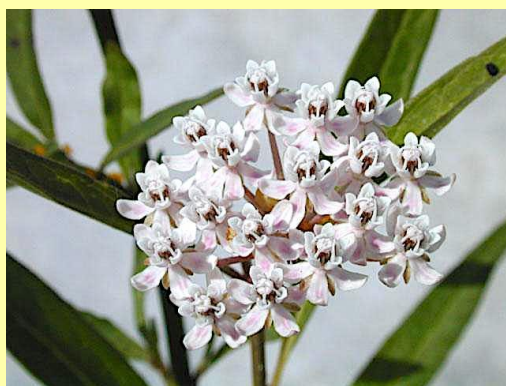
Lyre-leaf sage
(*Salvia lyrata*)

Stalks of dainty lavender trumpets in spring. Leaves hug the ground can naturalize in your lawn if you don't mow too low.



Texas Coneflower
(*Rudbeckia texana*)

Only found in coastal counties of Texas and Louisiana, yellow ray flowers May-November hang down like a skirt around brown cone.



Milkweed

Flowers have slippery central disk, monarch's legs slide into slits and pick up tiny saddlebags of pollen. Good for our area:



Aquatic Milkweed (left) (
Asclepias perennis)

White to pink flowers and
Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*) Green flowers with purple hoods; Ladybugs.



White Leaf Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum albescens*)

Masses of tiny white flowers June through September surrounded by white leaves which make mint tea; Lacewings.

James Garland Holmes photo

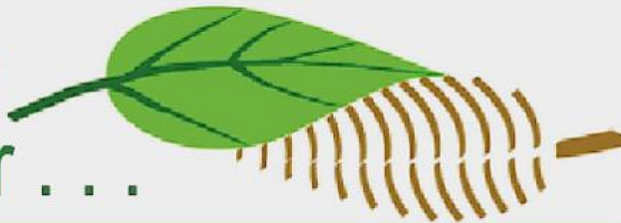
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NOTE: All these plants may be available at the **SAT., SEP. 21: ANNUAL WILDSCAPES WORKSHOP NATIVE PLANT EVENT**, 8am-3:30pm; (3pm - Sale opens to public). Anderson-Clarke Center at Rice University. \$45 before Aug. 31. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event.

npsot.org/Houston

* * *

John's
Corner . . .



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 94

Often one of the goals for gardeners is to provide habitat for wildlife. This can range from butterflies, moths and hummingbirds to birds and small mammals. Over the last few years I have been studying the role of fire in nature and its importance in creating habitat. Many readers of this newsletter have very large lots of an acre or more to weekend farms with dozens of acres or more. The benefits of using fire as a management tool continues to increase as we learn more about the role of fire in preserving eco-systems.

A new paper in the journal **Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment** (July, 2019) looked at the role of fire in preserving endangered species. In southern states the endangered species act has been used to justify the use of prescribed burns in our pine forests. As a result, a once endangered bird, the red-cockaded woodpecker has made significant recovery in recent years. However, in the western states it is the opposite. In that area they choose not to use prescribed burning and as a result the spotted owl population continues to decline. Both bird species require the more open habitat created by fires that remove understory and other unwanted species.

In the west this idea of not using prescribed fires has created a massive buildup of fuel on the forest floor that has led to the disastrous wildfires on the west coast this past year. Hats off to the John Warner and the Texas Forest Service team in their management of the Jones State Forest off FM1488 where prescribed burns are a regular management tool. To see a small controlled burn at the state forest:

<https://www.facebook.com/WilliamGoodrichJonesStateForest/>

Texas Park and Wildlife, NRCS, Texas Forest Service and other agencies along with the prescribed burn associations can help landowners use this tool to improve their properties.

Here is a link to a short video by the City of Austin's fire department uses prescribed burns and how their Wildfire Division conducts a prescribed burn:

[Click to watch this video of fire cadets conducting a training burn at Indiangrass Preserve.](#)

I read a paper this morning in the **Journal Nature Geoscience** (2019) from researchers studies at several universities. They found that although wildfires from landscapes emit carbon during the burning, however the rapid regrowth re-captures much of the carbon that was released. They also found that a lot of pyrogenic carbon is produced (charcoal, biochar, etc.) that is stable and locks up carbon for centuries or more in the soil. Over time there is a net storage of carbon in the soil by wildfires. They point out that this does not occur if forests or peatlands are burned as it may take hundreds or even thousands of years to recapture that carbon.

We have often talked about the dangers of eating genetically modified crops (GMO's). A bioengineer (Dr. Caius Rommens) who worked for Monsanto has revealed that the GMO potatoes contain and accumulate all kinds of deadly substances. He worked to genetically engineer over 5,000 varieties of potatoes and he found that NONE of these variations increased the vigor or yield potential of the plant. He later found that these GMO potatoes absorbed more toxic chemicals and at least two toxins that were not absorbed by regular potatoes. Additionally, the GMO potatoes had less flavor. They also hid bruised areas so consumers would buy potatoes with rotten areas that could cause illness. Some varieties also contained an antifungal protein that triggers violent allergic attacks in humans. He recently published a book about the dangers of GMO potatoes called, "**Pandora's Potatoes**". The best way to protect one's family is to purchase organic potatoes or at least Non-GMO varieties.

Potatoes are an easy to grow plant in our vegetable gardens or even a spot in our flower beds. A trick I use is to plant the cut potato into pieces and plant them as normal. As the leaf growth appeared, I place straw around the plant. As it grew taller, I would add more straw eventually reaching 12-15 inches thick. What I learned as the potatoes matured, I did not have to "dig" them. The potatoes would grow at the boundary of the soil and straw mulch. I could lift up the straw mulch and just break off the mature potatoes and leave the smaller ones and put the mulch back in place. This allowed the smaller ones to mature

and I could repeat the process several times. This method yields far more potatoes per plant than digging them up.

A study by the International Wines and Spirits Record shows that organic wine consumption continues to grow rapidly and is expected to hit 87.5 million cases annually by 2022. Europe will account for more than 78% of global sales. Several studies have found that organic wines just taste better and they do not have the toxic chemicals in conventionally produced wine.

Note: My wife and I often visit Rohan's Meadery and Winery located between La Grange and Round Top. They have some excellent wines and meads including some sparkling wines. Best of all they are all organic. They also sell raw unfiltered honey that is the best I have ever had. Visit their website for more information: <https://rohanmeadery.com/>

There are many methods to make compost, some of these are very fast and others are very slow. A report in the journal **Environmental Science and Technology** (June 2019) found that biodegradable food containers often contain chemicals called PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances. If given enough time microbes will break down these chemicals. However, over 95% of all commercial composters in the United States use fast methods where these chemicals do not have enough time to biodegrade as it is a cheap way to produce a low-quality low-value compost. When this cheap compost is used the toxic chemicals are absorbed by the plants and into our bodies. As in all things, "One gets what they pay for".

I recently read a paper titled, "The Orchard Ecosystem: Haphazard Mulching" published in the magazine **Edible Landscaping** by Michael Phillips. This paper was from his book, **The Holistic Orchard: Trees Fruits and Berries the Biological Way**. He states: quit worrying about the appearance of your garden and worry about the biology. Life thrives in a diverse environment hence this applies to mulch also. Our goal, plain and simple (in mulching) is to create fungal duff – that litter layer where mineralization and humidification take place. It is the preponderance of this fungal food that drive fungal dominance in our soils that we want for healthy trees and berries.

He explains that bark mulch (ex. pine or hardwood) which is high in tannins will **suppress** healthy plant growth in the garden and orchard alike. He talks about the issues and problems caused by many types of mulch then he goes into the good stuff. "Organic growers want ramial wood chips and ramial wood chips alone" applied directly to the living soil for a woody mulch. *Note: At Nature's Way Resources we call this same material made from hundreds of species our "Aged Native Mulch" rather than using the French word "ramial" since the 40 years of research was done at Universities in Quebec and published in French.* He goes on to explain that levels of macronutrients and micronutrients are consistently higher in the leaves and fruit trees that are mulched using the material. Michael also authored the book:

"Mycorrhizal Planet - How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility", Michael Phillips, 2017, Chelsea Publishing, ISBN: 978-1603586580

Michael has written this book in a down-to-earth format that is practical, warm, and often humorous. All gardeners need to understand the information in this book. It is extremely up to date on the fungi-plant relationship and how critical it is, **IF** we want to grow beautiful flowers, delicious fruits, magnificent shrubs or trees.

Michael is a holistic farmer and writer who has authored several books on gardening. He has a gift of explaining complex science in layman's terms that anyone can understand. The book is full of pictures, diagrams, charts and tables to help the reader. When we have a functioning fungi-plant system that is working, most of our insect, disease and weed problems go away. He covers not only why and how the fungi-plant system works, but explains practices that destroy it and explains how to restore it in our gardens.

"This book will resonate with anyone who is fascinated with the unseen workings of nature and concerned about restoring the health of our soils, our climate, and the quality of life on Earth for generations to come."



OHBA
ORGANIC HORTICULTURE
BENEFITS ALLIANCE

Organics Workshop

4+ Hrs of Superb Education on Organic Topics

August 22, 2019
9:30AM–3:45PM

McGovern Centennial Gardens
1500 Hermann Dr. | Houston TX 77004

TICKETS
\$25 Members | \$50 Non-Members
Register Online @ ohbaonline.org/events

Schedule

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 9:30AM–10:00AM Registration, Networking, & Light Bites | 12:45PM–1:30PM Bart Brechter Bayou Bend "Organic Care of Roses, Azaleas and Other Common Shrubs" | <p>Join us for this Excellent Educational Workshop</p> <p>for Landscape Pros, Master Gardeners, & Homeowners!</p> <p>Sponsored By</p> |
| 10:05AM–10:50AM Molly Pikarsky Lake Austin Resort "How to Sell Organics" | 1:40PM–2:25PM Angela Chandler The Garden Academy "Beneficial Insects in the Landscape" | |
| 11:00AM–11:45AM Heidi Sheesley Treesearch Farms "Habitat Gardening-Plant Materials for Butterflies, Bees, and Birds" | 2:35PM–3:25PM Danny Millikin Memorial Park Conservatory "Using Compost: Recent Research" | |
| 11:45AM–12:45PM Fantastic Lunch | 3:25PM–3:45PM Panel Discussion: Ask the Experts | |
| | | |










Have You Tried . . . DAVID VERITY CUPHEA (*Cuphea 'David Verity'*)

This large firecracker plant is a fast-growing evergreen 5-6' shrub. Narrow tubular orange flowers nearly year-round. Full sun to light shade. Root hardy down to 15° F. Believed naturally-occurring hybrid between *Cuphea ignea* and *C. micropetala*. Found in a garden and given to David Verity, well-known manager of several botanic gardens. Touted by horticulturists as "...most popular plant with hummingbirds of any ever grown."



David Verity cuphea is carried by Nature's Way Resources ([Map](#)).

Or . . . contact our sponsor, Montgomery Pines Nursery in Willis, our other sponsors below or your neighborhood nurseryman 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. Individual events must be submitted in exact format below to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

THURS., AUG. 8: BUILD YOUR OWN IRRIGATION SYSTEM by Baxter Williams
7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Houston Rose Society event. Free.
www.houstonrose.org

THURS., AUG. 8: FORM DICTATING FUNCTION: AN INTIMATE LOOK AT PLANT PARTS by BRANDI KELLER, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., AUG. 8: FALL VEGETABLES – 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., AUG. 8: LOCAL EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANT — AN INTRODUCTION by ERIK WOLF, 7pm, Rosenberg Convention Center, 3825 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg. Free. Texas Master Naturalists Coastal Prairie Chapter. 281-633-7033, mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu; txmn.org/coastal/

SAT., AUG. 10, DIY: COMPOSTING AND ENRICHING THE SOIL, 8-10am, & HONING IN ON YOUR FALL VEGETABLE BOUNTY, 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

WED., AUG. 14: BIRDS OF A FEATHER IN YOUR GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., AUG. 15: FALL VEGETABLES, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., AUG. 15: ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF URBAN WETLANDS by MARY CAROL EDWARDS, 6:45-8:30pm, American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

SAT., AUG. 17: PLUMERIA CLASS by JIM & MAAS & LORETTA OSTEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., AUG. 17: FALL VEGETABLES, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

MON., AUG. 19: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Plants for sale in the greenhouse. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., AUG 20: TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST/COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER CLASS begins, ends Oct. 12. \$50. Register: 281-633-7033, mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu or txmn.org/coastal.

THURS, AUG. 22: ORGANICS WORKSHOP, 9:30am-3:45pm, McGovern Centennial Garden, 1500 Hermann Dr., \$50. Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance event. Register: Ohbaonline.org/events

SAT., AUG. 24: FALL & WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

TUES., AUG. 20: ADDING QUESNELIA TO YOUR COLLECTION by CHARLIE BIRDSOING, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. Bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., AUG. 20: FALL VEGETABLES, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT. AUG 24: COMPOSTING by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register first: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT. AUG 31: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 10:30 am-12:30 pm; TEXAS TUFF PLANTS FOR THE GULF COAST by MARIE LEAL, 1:30-3:30 pm. Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register first: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, call 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THURS., SEPT. 5, SHADY GINGERS & THEIR FLIRTY COMPANIONS BY LINDA GAY, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

SAT. SEP 7: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA (FRANGIPANI) by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 14: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT. SEP 14: KITCHEN GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT, SUN., SEPT 14 - 15: GALVESTON BAY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW/SALE, 9am-5pm Sat., 9am-3pm Sun., Hilton Hotel-NASA Clear Lake, 3000 E. NASA Parkway, Nassau Bay. Free. galvestonbayorchidsociety.org

TUES., SEPT 17: MAKING YOUR BROMELIADS PHOTOGENIC by JOHN EDMONSON, 7pm, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

THURS., SEP . 19: NATIVE TREES IN THE LANDSCAPE: WHY AND HOW? by BRAD PHILLIPS, 6:45-8:30pm; American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

SAT., SEPT. 21: GARDENING FOR HUMMINGBIRDS & BIRDS CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & KATHRYN COURTNEY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., SEP. 21: ANNUAL WILDSAPES WORKSHOP NATIVE PLANT EVENT, 8am-3:30pm; Anderson-Clarke Center, Rice University. \$45 before Aug. 31. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

SAT. SEP 21: T-BUD GRAFTING OF CITRUS & FRUIT TREES by NANCY LANGSTON-NOH, 9-11 am; TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL – CREATING AN IDEAL SOIL by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

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

SAT., SEPT. 28: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., SEPT 28: LEAGUE CITY GARDEN CLUB GARDEN WALK: "UNDER THE MAJESTIC OAKS," 10:00 am-4:00 pm; Tickets \$15. leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com; leaguecitygardenclub.org.

SAT. SEP 28: HERBS FOR THE GULF COAST by NANCY LANGSTON-NOH and BRIANA ETIE, 9-11 am, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. SEP 28: RAINWATER HARVESTING by NAT GRUESEN, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., OCT. 5: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Dr. Free. 281-682-1073, cseverson57@comcast.net

TUES., OCT. 8: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT. OCT 12: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm; SALE PREVIEW, 8am, Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park-Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 & Jack Brooks Road, Hitchcock. Free. galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT. OCT 12: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 8-8:50am-Overview; 9am-1pm-Sale. Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park-Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 & Jack Brooks Rd, Hitchcock. Free. galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THURS., OCT. 17: KATY PRAIRIE UPDATE by WESLEY NEWMAN, 6:45-8:30pm; American Red Cross, 27000 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event.npsot.org/Houston

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, it then 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 which morphed into her Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD. which she now emails free upon request.

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 specialty shows on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

For over three decades, Brenda served as 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 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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