



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Gardening Newsletter

Sep 6, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 307th 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!



COUNTING DOWN TO FALL

"Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day."

– Shira Tamir

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Fall may be coming (some day!) for us. But in many ways, our plants are

experiencing their own special "spring."

Our actual Spring never comes as a smooth transition from the nasty cold of winter to a period of blooming delight. It comes in fits and starts, just as days now are starting that gigantic rollercoaster slide from blistering hot temperatures gradually into more "smile" days, when the temperature (and humidity) drops enough to make walking outdoors more bearable.

Dormancy can be triggered just as much by intense heat as it can by cold, as well as by weather traumas (like Harvey). When a plant figures "*this too has passed,*" it may celebrate by producing flowers out of season. My pink magnolia, officially a confirmed spring-only bloomer, is sprouting a lovely flower bud. New leaves may emerge, and even flower buds, on many plants that appeared to non-lazy gardeners as having given up the ghost.

If you want to help them along, cut off spent flowers and dead leaves. They not only sap a plant's strength, they might contribute to the plant's innate trigger to produce only X number of blooms to produce X amount of seed to continue the species. Once the plant senses the decreed amount of seed developing, why should it expend it's precious energy to produce more?

Speaking of hurricanes, however, take a good look around your yard for dead overhead limbs or even extremely weak-looking trees. High winds can rip off even healthy-looking limbs.

Many times, trees die from the inside out, continuing to produce healthy looking leaves while the inside is slowly rotting away. Along comes a big wind and plop! Over they go. One suspicious sign: cracks in trunk, ants running up & down the trunk or other insects that look like they may be homesteading inside the trunk.



Summer heat and droughts also often cause tree roots to grow upward into top soil levels. Drought can cause our gumbo soil to harden and become impenetrable. Even heavy rains may not be able to penetrate more than a few inches into the soil level before running off (especially since we have now actually designed our yards to encourage runoff). Then come the heavy rains of storms or hurricanes and the tree topples over so its roots are suddenly pointing skyward. (Deep watering devices are a good way to avoid this.)



BARK LICE ARE GOOD GUYS!!! Don't mistake as "bad guys" these silky white

stocking-like webs (left and center above) that will soon start encircling trees all over this area. The bark lice under these beautiful "tents" are Nature's wonderful landscape crews, come to give her magnificent tall sons a good fall cleaning. They're eating undesirable fungi, algae, dead bark and other materials that occur on tree trunks and large limbs.

Don't disturb or destroy their webs trying to see them. Instead give them a wave and tell them "thank you"! They do not eat leaves or bark or damage trees in any way. When their bellies are full, they'll move on. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/beneficial-21_barklice.htm

As hard as it is for some gardeners to grasp, spring is NOT our best overall planting time. Fall is. Our summers are to plants what winter cold is to plants in northern regions. It's important that they go into this most traumatic period with as strong a root system as possible. That's why so many need to be planted now through winter in order to have plenty of time to establish that foundation.

Don't use a national planting guide for fall. We just don't have the prolonged extreme cold periods nor soil that actually freezes. Some plants require this cold. Use a guide geared to this area or, at the least, to Texas. Typical of plants that will do best long term here once temperatures start to drop are most bulbs, most shrubs, most trees, winter vegetables, most herbs, get the idea?



L to r: Mexican mint marigold, firespike, sweet autumn clematis vine and schoolhouse lily

Depending on the weather, many flowers bloom spring through fall here. But some do primarily prefer fall, when they tend to be the most beautiful. I've been waiting patiently for my firespikes, Mexican mint marigolds and coral vine to flower. Finally am seeing some buds. Also look for flowers on Copper Canyon daisies, schoolhouse lilies, some cupheas, and sweet autumn clematis vine. (Firespike was always my best hummer-attractor. Coral vine drew the most bees.)

Gulf muhly isn't technically a "bloomer," but those wispy clouds of rose-purple seed pods certainly deserve a mention. Rainlilies and lycoris march to their own drummers, which makes predicting blooms difficult as best. But they do appear more often in fall!



L to r: Gulf muhly grass, rainlilies and lycoris (hurricane lilies/naked ladies)

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- **TIP O' THE TROWEL TO MASTER NATURALIST ALISA KLEIN** who has not only started a [Buffalo Bayou blog](#), but also leads bayou walks, to educate interested folks on our native flora, fauna, and insects that call the bayou home.
- **SUBMITTING CALENDAR EVENTS?**
 - We have no deadline. We publish events from time submitted until occurs. How quickly it gets published depends on how -- not when -- you submit it.
 - Our format is carved in stone (capital/lower case letters, punctuation, order, info included, etc).
 - Type event notices in our exact format right into email (no pdfs) and it will probably run in the next issue. Attached Word docs ok, but slow process.
 - Dont use our EXACT format & it will probably take longer to get it in.
 - I don't mind retyping/reformatting your notice, but be prepared for delay.
 - We do **NOT** pick up any events from other newsletters or general PR releases.
 - We only use event notices earmarked specifically for publication in the **Lazy Gardener & Friends Houston Garden Newsletter**.
 - Email to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net.

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LOOKING FOR CLUB SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS?

"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" — free — lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

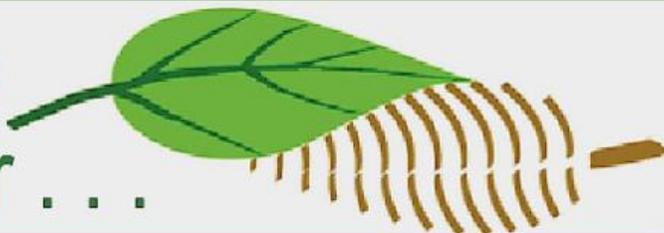
is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener

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

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

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John's
Corner . . .



**NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL
WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 97**

A study published in the journal *Microbiome* (2019) has found that it is the lactic acid bacteria used to ferment dough used in making rye bread, that modify bioactive compounds in the rye, making them easily absorbed by our bodies. Our gut microbes also modify these compounds in rye partially the same way, this process gives the rye bread so many of its health benefits. Maybe this is one of the reasons I enjoy a good Rye sandwich on rye bread with sauerkraut that is loaded with pro-biotics.

Researchers at Penn State University have discovered a mechanism of how plants protect themselves from insect predators called “leaky gut syndrome”. On maize plants they found several types of bacteria that when the leaves are eaten by insects, the bacteria on the leaves then cause the insects gut to let microbes into the insect body through their gut wall causing septicemia which kills the insect. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, (July 2019).

A study from Ohio State University has found that the biodiversity of microbes that strengthen our immune system from babies growing up in rural communities was far greater than babies from urban environments. The found evidence that this led to a more robust respiratory immune system. This has led to a new health theory called “hygiene hypothesis”. This is built upon the idea that hyper-clean modern life with antibacterial soaps, hand sanitizers, and scrubbed clean homes and offices has led to an increase in autoimmune and allergic diseases, by killing good microbes. They found it was the association with farm animals that provided the extra microbes needed for good health. This is another reason for creating a habitat garden as it attracts all types of animals that can provide the good microbes. Having a few pets around the home will also prove beneficial. *Frontiers in Immunology* 2019.

In the American Chemical Society’s “*Journal of Natural Products*” (2019) the researchers have identified a chemical called pericosine-A, that is produced by fungi. They found that when this chemical is mixed with the stinky chemicals from Skunk spray, it converted them into stable odorless compounds! They also determined by eye and skin tests that the fungal chemical is non irritating to humans. This should lead to new natural products to eliminate skunk odors from being sprayed.

One of the reasons to switch to organic gardening or regenerative agriculture is water savings. The University of California at Santa Barbara analyzed data from 12 million wells across the USA going back decades. The study strongly confirms we are running out of groundwater across the country. It also found that wells are now being dug deeper which is more expensive and not solving the problem "*Journal of Nature Sustainability*" (2019). The Bible states that we are to conserve and protect natural resources (be good stewards of the environment) and one of the best ways is to use organic methods which require far less water.

Speaking of water, an article in the *Journal Environmental Science & Technology* (2019) by researchers at Washington University in St. Louis found that the chlorine added to public water systems changes lead carbonate (a common scale deposit in lead pipes) into a different chemical form called lead oxide which

is insoluble, reducing the amount of dissolved lead in drinking water. However, when chloramine was used (mandatory in many states like Texas) it dissolved the lead oxide which then generated high concentrations of lead in the tap water. If the element manganese is also present, it accelerates the process creating even higher lead levels. Many cities use lead-based service lines to deliver the water which allows lead to get into our drinking water.

It has been known for decades that lead negatively affects behavior and causes a dumbing down of people whom consume it. Numerous times in this newsletter I have discussed how chemically treated public water hurts microbes, soils and plants. If one is growing food crops from vegetables to fruits another reason to filter the water especially in older areas of the city where it is likely that lead based pipes were used.

Research confirms that fluoride lowers children's IQ. Many times, over the last few years in this newsletter we have talked about how fluoride damages soil, microbes and plants.

A new study by a combination of Canadian and USA researchers published in the Journal of The American Medical Association Pediatrics (August 19, 2019) has found that ingesting fluoride **significantly lowers children's IQ.**

There are now over 2,700 studies showing the dangers of fluoride. Dr. Paul Connett has stated "You can repair a child's tooth; you cannot repair a child's brain." We now know that the studies showing the benefits of fluoride on tooth decay were falsified as they were designed to take a hazardous waste and get rid of it.

So how does this relate to gardening? It turns out that the majority of fluoride produced today comes from the artificial fertilizer industry production of phosphate. It is often contaminated with lead, arsenic, uranium, radium, aluminum and other industrial wastes. "At the fertilizer company it is classified as a hazardous waste then suddenly it is turned into a health product when it is added to water".

Ohio State and Miami Universities have a joint publication on this issue called: "Toxic Treatment: Fluoride's Transformation from Industrial Waste to Public Health Miracle" in the March 2018 issue of Origins.

To learn more the Fluoride Action Network has a lot of information on the dangers of Fluoride at <https://fluoridealert.org/>

When one purchases an artificial fertilizer, you support the polluting of our water and soil by toxic chemicals.

Other artificial fertilizer companies often deliberately dispose of hazardous waste in their fertilizers. A book exposing this unethical process is:

Fateful Harvest by Duff Wilson, Harper Collins Publisher, ISBN 0-06-019369-7, A history of how hazardous waste is disposed of in synthetic fertilizers and ends up contaminating the food supply. Wilson was an investigative reporter for the Seattle Times Newspaper and published a series of articles in July-August 1997-1999.

This is another reason to only use good organic fertilizers besides them providing better results. I only use organic fertilizers in my yard, my farm and my business. As a soil scientist and having used and tested many brands over the years, my personal favorites are the MicrolifeTM family of products.

By the way the only groups saying fluoride is safe are the front groups funded by the toxic chemical industry and the ADA (American Dental Association) whom does not want to be sued like Monsanto for lying to the public.

If you want to do something, below is a link to a non-profit organization trying to get the toxic chemicals out of our drinking water: [Read More](#)

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT: Do you ever wonder why health problems are sky rocketing? There is a good article by Dr. Mercola on the connection of our health and our soil. [Read More](#)

Along the same lines there is a new product called the Impossible burger that is extremely bad for the environment despite the advertising. For a discussion on how damaging it is to ecosystems see: ecofarmingdaily.com

Lastly, I found a new web site that helps with insect identification called whatsthatbug.com

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Fall Organic Gardening Workshop

Learn how to have the best gardens & lawns ever!

The A-Z of Organic Growing

Healthy Soils • Healthy Plants • Healthy People

Saturday
September 21st
8:00AM–1:00PM

McGovern Centennial Gardens
1500 Hermann Drive
Houston, TX 77004

Taught by Houston's Premier Organic Educators:

8:00–8:45AM

Registration, Social, Light Bites

8:45–9:55AM

Mike Serant

Mike has been teaching Organics for 25+ years. His clients include the University of Texas and The Houston Zoo. Mike has manufactured MicroLife Organic Fertilizers since 1988. He will speak on 'Why Organics,' how to have the best lawns and gardens ever, pest control and the vast cost savings with Organics.



10:05–11:15AM

John Ferguson

John started Nature's Way Resources in 1994, the state's premier manufacturing facility for soils, compost and mulch. John is a licensed soil scientist and will explain how to achieve healthy soils, why soil health determines plant production, soil microbiology and how to easily grow great plants.



11:30AM–12:35PM

Brad Phillips

Want to have the most beautiful and healthiest trees possible? Then this seminar is for you! Brad has been in the tree business for 20 years and is co-owner of ArborTrue. He is a nationally recognized arbor consultant. Come learn how to make your trees thrive and protect your landscape's most valuable asset.



12:35–12:50PM

Q&A with Speakers

Tickets
\$10

Register Online @
organicfall.eventbrite.com

Brought to you by....

MicroLife™

Nature's Way
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For more info contact Mike Serant | 713-957-0909 | mserant@sanjacsupply.com

Have You Tried . . .

SWEET ALMOND VERBENA

(*Aloysia virgata*- 'Incense bush')

An ideal super-fragrant planting near porch, patio or door, " Large shrub or small tree (with pruning) ideal

by door, patio or porch for full experience of the lovely, delicately sweet fragrance. Deer-resistant, full sun to light shade, fast-grower, 10-12' tall by 3-4' wide. Repeat bloomer late spring through fall, maybe with break in hottest dry summer. Favorite of hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Usually evergreen performs best if sheared back to the ground in late winter. Light mid-summer pruning triggers more fall flowers. Ideal for low-water, well-drained site.



Vitex agnus-castus 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.

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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.
Individual events must be submitted in exact format below to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net*

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: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 7: The MERCER SOCIETY SPECIALTY PLANT SALE, 9am – 2pm, & CACTUS & SUCCULENTS by WALLY WARD, 11am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

SAT.-SUN., SEPT 7-8: GALVESTON HOME & GARDEN SHOW, 10am-6pm Sat., 11am-4pm Sun., Galveston Island Convention Center, 5700 Seawall Blvd. galvestonhomeandgarden.com

SAT,-SUN., SEPT. 7 - 8: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW & SALE, 9am-5pm Sat., 9am-3pm Sun., Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray, . Free. www.hcsstex.org

MON. SEPT. 9: GARDENS NEAR AND FAR by SUZZANNE CHAPMAN, 6:30-9pm, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2929 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Lake Houston Gardeners event .Free. lakehoustongardeners.org

TUES., SEPT. 10: PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL GARDEN, 7-8pm, Messiah Lutheran Church Community Room, 11522 Telge Rd., Cypress. messiahhc.org

Wed., SEPT. 11: DON'T LOSE YOUR PLANTS THIS WINTER, noon – 2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., SEPT.12: BLACKSPOT, BUGS & GARDEN SAFETY BY DR. ALLEN OWINGS, 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion,1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

THURS., SEPT. 12: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 11-12:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 12: Q&A WITH HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 6:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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., SEPT. 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., SEPT. 14, PATIO GARDENING. 8-10 am, & LANDSCAPING FOR CURB APPEAL, 10:30am-12:30pm. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. \$5 each/\$8 both. 936-539-7824, mcmga.com

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

SUN., SEPT 15: MERCER'S TISSUE CULTURE TRIALS by JACOB MARTIN, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org.

MON., SEPT. 16: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

TUES., SEPT. 17: BIRDS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS by GARY CLARK, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

TUES., SEPT. 17: Q&A WITH HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 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

THURS., SEPT. 19: Q&A WITH HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

FRI., SEPT. 20: HOLISTIC GARDENING WORKSHOP by Joseph Novak, Ph.,D. 10am-noon, 6 Fridays-Oct. 25, Rice University. \$325. Betty & Jacob Friedman Holistic Garden, Biosciences at Rice and Garden Club of Houston event. Register: glasscock.rice.edu/community

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., SEPT. 21: ANNUAL WILDSCAPES 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., SEPT 21,: GROW YOUR OWN FALL VEGETABLES by FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9am-11am, in the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/; 281-342-3034; brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu.

SAT. SEPT. 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: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT.21: Q&A WITH HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

SUN., SEPT. 22: Reservation deadline for Tues., Sept. 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDEN DAY, 10-11:15am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.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," 10am-4pm. Tickets \$15. leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com; leaguecitygardenclub.org.

SAT. SEPT. 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: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. SEPT. 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: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 28: WOODLANDS LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS, 9am - noon, Recreation Center, Rob Fleming Park, 6464 Creekside Forest Dr., The Woodlands. Free. thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment

SAT., SEPT. 28: ORCHID CARE 101, 9am–11am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT. SEPT 28: NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS/CLEAR LAKE CHAPTER FALL PLANT SALE, 8am-Plant Overview, 9am-noon plant sale. University of Houston Clear Lake – Environmental Institute of Houston, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. npsot.org/wp/clearlake/

MON, SEP 30: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2019 TREE SALE PRE-ORDER DEADLINE. Pre-order pick-up Oct 26. txmg/wallermg/treesale, Facebook Waller County Master Gardeners; 979-826-7651 x3068.

TUES. & THURS., OCT. 1-NOV. 12, FALL 2019 FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CLASS, 9am-11am, AgriLife Extension office, 1402 Band Rd., Rosenberg. Register: fbmg.org, 281-633-7033 or mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu.

THURS., OCT. 3: BIBLICAL GARDENS by JEAN FEFER, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

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

SAT., OCT. 5: HEALTHY LANDSCAPES = HEALTHY WATERWAYS CLASS, 8am - Noon, The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 IH-145 South, The Woodlands. Free. Register: thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/environment

SAT., OCT. 5: POLLINATOR FESTIVAL, 10am–4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

SAT., OCT. 5: HIBISCUS CLASS W/HIBISCUS GRAFTING by JIM MAAS & JOE MILLER, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

WED., OCT. 9: SURPRISINGLY SPOOKY, MARVELOUSLY MYSTERIOUS PLANTS, noon–2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., OCT. 11: PLANTS OF THE BIBLE by JEAN FEFER, 11:30am, Jim & JoAnn Fonteno Senior Education Center, 6600 Bissonnet St., Free. pct3.com/Senior-Centers/Jim-JoAnn-Fonteno-Senior-Education-Center

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

SAT., OCT. 12: FRUIT TREE CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESTRA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

MON. OCT 13: BASICS OF BOTANY by ANITA TILLER, 6:30-9pm, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2929 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Lake Houston Gardeners. Free. lakehoustongardeners.org

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., OCT 19:: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTINGS EXCHANGE & Q&A by DR. WILLIAM C. WELCH & GREG GRANT, 9am-3pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 414 E. McAlpine St., Navasota. Free. texasroserustlers.com

SAT. NOV 2, TEXAS ARBOR DAY, 1pm – 4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, West Side Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

SAT., NOV. 2, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDENS, 9-11:30 am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Free. 936-539-7824, mcmga.com

SAT., NOV. 2: BULB CLASS by JIM MAAS & MARGARET CHERRY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

WED. NOV. 13, GARDENS (MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS COLLECTIONS), noon–2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., NOV. 16: 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. 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.

