



Mar. 6, 2020 - Issue # 329

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Nature's Way Resources owner John Ferguson, "The Lazy Gardener" Brenda Beust Smith and Pablo Hernandez welcome your feedback and are so grateful to the many horticulturists who contribute their expertise.

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Among Peckerwood Garden's treasures, l to r, Campsis grandiflora 'Morning Calm', Echinopsis huascha var grandiflora and, of course, John Fairey!

A TRUE GARDENER'S TREASURE ... TOWERING TO TINY ... POPPING NEIGHBORS' EYES!

John G. Fairey's eyes widen when he is asked to name a favorite plant, as if he's been asked to choose his favorite child.

'Why, all of them,' he replies softly in a sandpapery Southern lilt.

-- PAM PENICK "The Plant Man" - Garden Design magazine, 2013

By Brenda Beust Smith

So begins an award-winning article by Pam Penick (["DIGGING" blog](#)), just one of many articles that have -- across the globe -- sung the praises of John and his Peckerwood Garden, a true gardeners' treasure.

In the '70s, the artist John G. Fairey purchased an old Hempstead-area farm to nurture his treasure of gathered seeds. Increasingly these began to include

rare and endangered plants -- among others that proved good for Texas gardens -- many gathered in Mexico and, eventually, from other countries as well. He named the now internationally-resourced garden after Beau's Peckerwood Plantation in "Auntie Mame."

The history of this unique horticultural delight includes massive damage from a 1983 tornado, a monumental boost from Mexico treks with Houston extraordinaire Lynn Lowery and, in 1999, a collaboration with the Garden Conservancy which, among other delights, helped John open his gardens periodically to the public. Peckerwood is a regular stop on the Garden Conservancy's national ["Open Gardens"](#) schedule of many of the nation's most significant private gardens.

One of Peckerwood's immediately-noticeable aspects is the way John Fairey-the-artist incorporates the visual, so visitors -- as he says -- *"are forced...to touch and feel and smell, whether you want to or not."* Direct vs filtered light, horizontal vs vertical branching, swirling palm fronds and spherical spikes blend with vivid color into soothing vignettes.



Visitors to Peckerwood are almost always welcome by appointment. A special treat Sat., Mar. 28, Peckerwood's annual [Budding Out Festival](#) opens both the gate and plant nursery to the public. Not only will flowers be wearing their spring finery, but specialty plant and art vendors from around Texas will introduce unique inventories to the public.

In our Spotlight Article below, Peckerwood's Nursery Manager Craig Jackson gives us all a glimpse of a few unique Peckerwood plants he wishes all of us would try.

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POPPING NEIGHBORS' EYES -- who doesn't like to do this! That's what's happening to passers-by at Jere Noerager's front yard who spot this species East Cape Poker (*Kniphofia rooprei*), right. Brilliant orange & yellow flowers (that open from bottom upward) are "chubbier" than typical red hot pokers. Although labels say stalks will be 3-4', Jere's now top 5'. Jere's name is probably familiar from his contributions to this column on ferns (he's a [Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society](#) stalwart) and shared advice from his [Mercer Botanic Garden](#) and [Houston Zoo Garden](#) volunteering.



Jere also popped my eyes with his Hong Kong Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia blakeana*), left. Jere reports it's 6" blossoms have covered the tree for a couple of months now with no sign of stopping. It's sterile, he says, hence the longer-than-usual bloom period and no



pesky seedlings!

* * *

FROM TOWERING TO TINY . . . Whether you call them teacup, pixie, fairy, or just tiny container plantings, these miniature gardens are popular these days. Young aloe vera, hen & chicks, jelly bean plants, kalanchoes and zebra plants are favorite choices of Coldspring Garden Club members now preparing both readymade plantings and do-it-yourself tables for their annual Spring Fling sale.



Succulents work best since they are more drought-tolerant. An absolute must: a drainage hole in containers! The free annual Spring Fling on Sat., Mar. 28, will be 9am-3pm at Coldspring Community Center, 101 E, Cedar Ave. in Coldspring. coldspringgardenclub.org

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MEA CULPA, MASTER NATURALISTS! Huge thanks to Martha who noted in last week's local Master Naturalists listings that I failed to include two of our most active groups, [Master Naturalist chapter, Galveston Bay Area](#) and [Native Plant Society of Texas chapter Clear Lake](#). As Martha so rightly pointed out: "Both of these serve the southeast area of Houston and beyond." If you missed John Ferguson's great Master Naturalist column, read it [here](#).

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And now, Craig Jackson's Peckerwood Garden Spotlight Article. . .

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"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" & "PUBLICITY BOOKLET"

are free — email request to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDENNEWSLETTER

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

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TREASURES TO SAVOR FROM PECKERWOOD GARDEN

By **CRAIG JACKSON**
Nursery Manager, Peckerwood Garden



BAUHINIA GALIPINII

This sprawling red orchid shrub from South Africa will make August, September and October your favorite months of the year! Plethora of red-orange flowers held aloft over typical bi-lobed foliage will attract butterflies galore. Root hardy in zone 9a, possibly lower in a protected area.



ANISACANTHUS *(Anisacanthus puberulus)*

Anisacanthus like no other! This species, *puberulus*, has a much kinder and gentler appearance than the cultivated species but, hailing from central Texas, still has impressive drought resistance. Flowering is less profuse, which means reseeding is negligible.



QUERCUS GLAUCA *(Ring-cupped oak, Japanese blue oak)*

Decades ago, Peckerwood acquired the original seed from the Fujita Seed Co, LTD in Osaka, Japan. Now those mature trees are thriving on all parts of the property including areas that have never received any supplemental water. Beautiful multi-trunk form and 100% evergreen foliage make this our best selling tree.

CONDALIA HOOKERI This Hill Country gem was brought to us by Will Fleming and has really been a quiet stand-out in the dry garden. In addition to lime green foliage in spring and jet black edible berries in fall, this buckthorn has a smaller form than its rambling kin Hill Country folk are used to seeing. Better with some shade. Low water.



**NOTE: SAT., MAR 28: ANNUAL BUDDING OUT FESTIVAL 10am – 4pm,
Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Rd. Hempstead. Free. 979-826-3232;**



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #111

A new study from the University of Portsmouth has discovered that mature plants help younger plants survive and as a result they are more successful themselves. This is contrary to the assumed long held belief that plants are always in competition. In ecology this process of helping young plants (nurturing?) is called facilitation. This supports other research that diversity is the key in having healthy gardens or ecosystems. *Journal of Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics*, 2019

We often talk about the importance of trace elements for the soil to animal and human health. A talk that started researchers to study the link between elements (minerals) in the soil and human health was given by Dr. Joel Wallach in 1994. Every thing he mentioned in this talk has been confirmed numerous times by other researchers. This talk is now available on YouTube for free. The talk is not only informative but at times funny with his country boy humor to make a point.

[“Dead Doctor’s Don’t Lie”](#), by Joel Wallach, DVM, DO – nominee for a Nobel Prize

For many years I have been teased with comments like “Compost Grandma and enjoy her forever”. There is now a company based in Seattle called “Recompose” that provides this service. Composting has been used for many years in agriculture as a clean and effective way to get rid of dead animals. In addition to Washington state, Colorado is also considering legalizing the process as it is less costly and safer than traditional methods.

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center has found a new environmentally friendly way to kill mosquitoes. The researchers discovered that mosquito larva love to eat yeast. They have developed a way to incorporate orange oil into the fungus we call yeast, hence when the larva eats the yeast with the orange oil they die. They found this method is especially effective for the mosquitos that carry dengue, chikunguya, and Zika diseases. Field trials are in progress in Brazil. *Journal of Parasites and Vectors*, 2020.

Researchers at the University of Montana have discovered that birds communicate by the sounds they make even from different species. Many species of birds have developed special sounds that are specific warning calls that state “snake on the ground”, “flying hawk” or “perched hawk”.

Other birds recognize these calls and pass them on. This communication can be relayed and speed through the woods at 100 mile per hour. For example, when a bird hears the warning call for a hawk they dive into the nearest bushes for cover.

A chickadee can vary the call to even the type of threat (low threat like a great horned owl versus high threat pygmy owl). They also determine if the threat is direct or just “fake news”. As stated by one of the researchers “There is a lot of intelligence being used”. Journal of Nature Communications, 2020

With the news full of stories about viruses, what can we do to strengthen our immune systems? Many medical studies have shown that fermented vegetables and pickled vegetables help us to be more resistant to viruses. One of my favorites is pickled okra. Okra is a warm season vegetable that grows extremely well along the Gulf Coast and a great way to stimulate one’s immune system. It is an excellent source of vitamins C and K-1, both are known for strengthening our immune system. It is a source of protein and fiber, full of antioxidants and polyphenols that help fight inflammation. Additionally, the lectins in okra naturally suppress some types of cancer cells. As a bonus it also has contains some A and B vitamins.

Okra produces large yields in small spaces all summer long and will grow in most soils with minimal care. As a member of the mallow family It has beautiful hibiscus like flowers.

It is a great addition to the spring vegetable garden, and yes for the purists out there, okra is technically a fruit and not a vegetable.

* * *

HAVE YOU TRIED . . .

ORANGE FLAME JUSTICIA

(Justicia chrysostephana)

This beautiful long-blooming root-hardy tropical is easy, rewarding and a magnet for hummingbirds.

Richest color is triggered by very bright shade or early morning sun. Rounded clusters of 2" orange-yellow tubular flowers with large rich green tropical foliage on small (2') herbaceous plant. Great for warm shaded patios. Easy and rewarding, the Golden Crown Jacobinia flowers throughout the year creating a small herbaceous plant to about 2' high and wide. Excellent for hummingbirds!



An excellent choice for a warm shaded patio as a specimen plant or in mixed containers.

ORANGE FLAME JUSTICA *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

ADULT GARDEN PLANT EVENTS ONLY

ALWAYS CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS IN! HOWEVER . . .

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING EVENTS!

- *Events NOT submitted in the EXACT format below may take 2 weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped and added to calendar.*
- *Events written in the email in this EXACT format will be copied & pasted immediately into the next upcoming calendar.*
- *No pdfs or flyers!!! They only delay publication.*
- *Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net.*
- *Put group name in email subject.*

SAT., MAR. 7: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VEGETABLE & HERB SALE, 9am-1pm, VEGETABLES by MARY KARISH; VEGETABLES by HENRY FLOWERS. Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. wallermgardener2103@gmail.com

SAT., MAR. 7: SPRING VEGETABLE PLANTING II by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., MAR. 7: HERBS FOR THE GULF COAST by BRIANA ETIE, 9-10:30am; KITCHEN GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 1-3pm, Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/FM 519, La Marque. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., MAR. 7: PARTY FOR THE PRAIRIE!, 11am-2pm, Safari Texas Ranch Palm Pavilion, 11627 FM 1464, Richmond. Native Prairies Association of Texas. texasprairie.org/party; 512-392-2288.

SAT. MAR. 7. SPRING VEGETABLE-HERB PLANT SALE by FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 9am-12pm, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale; 281-341-7068.

SAT., MAR. 7: AZALEA (BONSAI) CARE ON THE TEXAS GULF COAST by DR. HOE CHUAH, 10:15am, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt. Houston Bonsai Society event. houstonbonsaisociety.com

SAT. MAR. 7: SPRING VEGETABLE-HERB PLANT SALE by FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 9am-12pm, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale/ 281-341-7068.

SAT., MAR. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING TOMATO, PEPPER, HERB, VEGGIE & PERENNIAL SALE, 9am-1pm, Richard & Meg Weekley Park, 19110 Longenbaugh Rd. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT.-SUN., MAR. 7-8: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB SHOW & SALE, Sat.: droppable-15833500399579am-5pm Sale, 1-5pm show. Sun.: 10am-3pm Sale. Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. kjwross@yahoo.com

TUES. MAR 10, 2020: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH PLANT SOCIETIES by MARK WOMACK, 7-9pm ; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

WED., MAR. 11: A MARCH MART PREVIEW, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160. hcp4.net/parks/merce

THURS., March 12: COMPANION PLANTS FOR ROSES, 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. www.houstonrose.org

THURS., MAR. 12: HERBS, 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., MAR. 12: NATURAL HABITATS by TIM PYLATE, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road,. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

FRI. MAR. 13: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE. 10 am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

SAT., MAR. 14: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT 3 by IRA GREVAIS, 9-11am. free; BONSAI WORKSHOP by CLYDE HOLT, 1-4pm, \$25. Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/FM 519, La Marque. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., MAR. 14: MUST DO, SHOULD DO, DON'T DO IN YOUR GARDEN, 8-10am, & ATTRACTING BEES, BUTTERFLIES & OTHER POLLINATORS, 10:30am-12:30pm, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. \$5/\$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardeners event. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., MAR. 14: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL SPRING PLANTS SALE, 8 am, The Woodlands Farmers Market, 7 Switchbud Pl., The Woodlands. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

SAT., MAR. 14: MCGOVERN CENTENNIAL GARDENS TOURS, 9-11:30am, & WORKSHOP, 10:30am, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

MON., MAR. 16: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE AT GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDENS, 8:30-11am, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., MAR. 17: USING BROMELIADS FOR IKEBANA by NANA KO TINGLE AAF, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., MAR. 17: HERBS, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., MAR 17: PASSIONATE FOR PLUMERIAS by RAY ALLISON, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

THURS., MAR. 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., MAR. 19: HERBS, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana In. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

FRI.-SAT, MAR. 20-21: MARCH MART PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Info: 713-274-4160.
hcp4.net/parks/mercer

SAT., MAR. 21: LOUISIANA IRISES by MONICA MARTENS, 9-11am; AQUAPONICS by GENE SPELLER & BRIANA ETIE, 1-3pm, Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/FM 519, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardeners event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., MAR. 21: HERBS, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., MAR. 21: GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDENS PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7601 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., MAR.21: CY-FAIR HOME & GARDEN SHOW PLANT SALE, 9am-6pm, The Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Rd., Cypress. Harris County Master Gardener booth. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., MAR. 21: GROW YOUR OWN WARM SEASON VEGETABLES, 9-11am, in the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd, Rosenberg. Register: fbmg.org/grow-your-own-registration. 281-342-3034, brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

SUN., MAR. 22: BIRDS OF THE BAYOU CITY by MARY ANNE WEBER, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77388. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

THURS., MAR. 26: BLUE RIDGE DAYLILY GARDENS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. ofts.com/hhs/

SAT., MAR 28: ANNUAL BUDDING OUT FESTIVAL 10am – 4pm, The John Fairey Garden (formerly Peckerwood Garden), 20559 FM 359 Rd. Hempstead. Free. 979-826-3232; peckerwoodgarden.org/budding-out-festival/

SAT., MAR. 28: CYPRESS CREEK DAYLILY CLUB SPRING DAYLILY & PERENNIAL PLANT SALE, 10am-3pm. Wunderlich Historical Farm, 18218 Theiss Mail Route Rd., Klein. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

SAT., MAR. 28: TAKING CARE OF ROSES by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & KATHRYN COURTNEY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., MAR. 28: GREENHOUSE SELECTION & MANAGEMENT by BRIANNA ETIE, 9-10:30am; RAINWATER HARVESTING by NAT GRUESEN, 1-3pm, Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/FM 519, LaMarque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5056; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston.

SAT. MAR. 28: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE, 8am sale preview; sale 9-noon, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Bring wagon.936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., MAR 28: HERB FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE AT THE WYNNE HOME, 8am-2pm. Wynne Home Arts Center, 1428 Eleventh St., Huntsville. Herb Society of America Texas Thyme Unit event. Free. texasthymeunit.org

SAT., MAR. 28: WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, 10:30am-2pm, 12581 Dunlap St. WestburyCommunity garden.org

SAT., MAR. 28: MCGOVERN CENTENNIAL GARDENS TOURS, 9-11:30am, & WORKSHOP, 10:30am, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., MAR. 28: COLDSRING GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL SPRING FLING, 9am-3pm, Coldspring Community Center, 101 E, Cedar Ave., Coldspring, Free. coldspringgardenclub.org

MON., MAR. 30: INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE LIGHTING INSTITUTE DESIGN REVEAL, 6:45pm-10pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Info: 713-274-4160. hcp4.net/parks/mercer

WED., APR. 1: GARDENERS BY THE BAY GIANT PLANT SALE, 9:30am-noon, Clear Lake United Methodist Church 16335 El Camino Real.

SAT., APRIL 4: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr., hmns.org/spring-plant-sale, 713-639-4753.

SAT., APR. 4: HERB GARDENING by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & KATHRYN COURTNEY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., APR. 4: WHITE OAK GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE 10am-2pm; PREVIEW by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 9am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. nnmd.org.

SAT. APR. 4: SUCCESSFUL CONTAINER GARDENING by KAROLYN GEPHART & KAYE CORLEY, 9-11 am; PROMOTING INNER PEACE: HOW TO MAKE A ZEN/SERENITY GARDEN by TRISH REUSTLE, 1-2:30 pm; Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519), La Marque. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

THURS., APR. 9: FABULOUS FRAGRANT ROSWES OF DAVID AUSTIN, 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr.. Houston Rose Society event. Free. www.houstonrose.org

FRI., APRIL 10, 2020: EXCITING UNDERUTILIZED PLANTS ADAPTABLE TO HOUSTON REGION by ADAM BLACK. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., APR. 11: WILD THYMES HERB GARDENING by JIM MAAS, & MELDA SIEBE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., APRIL 11: SOIL ISSUES, 8-10am, & BEST HERBS FOR YOUR GARDEN, 10:30am-12:30pm, by MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. \$5/\$8 both. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., APRIL 11: LAKE JACKSON GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE/GARDENERS FLEA MARKET, 9am –noon, Lake Jackson Civic Center Outside Plaza. 333 Hwy 332 East, Lake Jackson. lakejacksongardenclubtx@gmail.com

TUES., APR. 14: HOW TO ENRICH GARDEN SOIL WITH WORM CASTINGS by GARY GREEN, 9 am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 N, Shenandoah. The Woodlands Garden Club event. Free. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

SAT., APR. 18: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., APR. 18 : MANNERLY CLIMBERS ON PROPER STRUCTURES by CLAUDE GRAVES, 10am, Charles B. Stewart West Branch Library, 202 Bessie Price Owen Dr., Montgomery. Texas Rose Rustlers event. Free. texasroserustlers.com

SAT., APR. 18: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY SALE, 9am-3pm (or sell-out), Lake Jackson Civic Center Plaza, 333 TX-332 East, Lake Jackson. lorisgarrett@comcast.net

SAT. APR 18: TREES AND THEIR CARE 101 by SUSAN ROTH, 9-11am, COMPOSTING

by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm,; Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519), La Marque. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. 281-309-5065; waggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/

TUES., APR 21: HEIRLOOM GARDENING IN THE SOUTH: YESTERDAY'S PLANTS FOR TODAY'S GARDENS by GREG GRANT, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

WED., April 22: HOUSTON BOTANICAL GARDEN UPDATE by JOYCE COLUMBUS, 7:30 pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. FREE. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. hcsstex.org

THURS., APR. 23: MS. MARIKO GONDA'S GARDEN, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. ofts.com/hhs/

SAT., APR. 25: PLANTING IN GLASS by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., APR. 25: 2020 HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY SPRING ROSE SHOW, 1pm, Memorial City Mall, Gessner @ I-10 W. Free. houstonrose.org

SAT. & SUN., APR. 25 & 26: SPRING GARDEN TOUR 1-5pm, \$15. SPRING MARKET & PLANT SALE 9am-5pm, Free. Heritage Gardeners Garden Club, 112 W Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. 281-992-4438. heritagegardener.org

SUN., APR. 26: HOW TO GROOM A DAYLILY FOR A FLOWER SHOW by MARY GAGE, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

SAT., MAY 2: GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES & BEES by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., MAY 2: PARTY FOR THE PLANT, Armand Bayou Nature Center, abnc.org

SAT., MAY 2, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDENS DAY, 9:30-12:30. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Free. 936-529-7824; mcmga.

FRI. MAY 8, 2020: THINGS I WISH I HAD LEARNED SOONER (ABOUT ROSES) by BAXTER WILLIAMS. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., MAY 9: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY DAYLILY SHOW, 1-3pm, & PLANT SALE 10am-3pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga, Houston, 77092. Free. ofts.com/hhs/calendar.html

SAT., MAY 9: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 501 Willow Dr, Lake Jackson, nfreshr@aol.com

TUES. MAY 12: PLUMERIA IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS by NICOLE TIERRMAN, 7-9 pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT., MAY 16: PLUMERIA by JIM MAAS, & LORETTA OSTEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., MAY 23: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., JUN. 13: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

TUES., JUL 14: BONSAI by SCOTT BARBOZA, 7-9pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

TUES., OCT 13: FALL PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SOCIAL/LUAU 7-9:00 pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

For event submission rules, see top of calendar

If we inspire you to attend any of these,
please let them know you heard about it in . . .

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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.

