



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Mar. 13, 2020 - Issue # 330

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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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CORONAVIRUS CANCELLATIONS

If your event in our calendar below is cancelled, please let us know as soon as possible at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net
Include DATE, FULL TITLE and SPONSOR of cancelled events.



PLANTS BEHAVING STRANGELY? . . . LOOK CLOSELY BEFORE PRUNING!

*"Earth's warming trend continued in 2019,
making it the second-hottest year NOAA's
140-year climate record -- just behind 2016."*

*-- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
& [National Aeronautics and Space Administration](#)*

By Brenda Beust Smith

If your plants are behaving strangely, could be our climate changes.

"... Record daytime high temperatures and record-high overnight minimums were recorded at all four of the agency's Houston-region stations on Jan. 15 – Houston, Houston's Hobby Airport, Galveston and College Station."

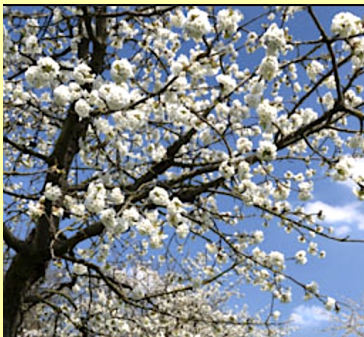
If we think we're in uncharted climatic waters, imagine how our plants must feel!

Still, I find it kind of a silver lining to see normally-spring bloomers strutting their stuff earlier than usual this year. Generally speaking, in early March, tree flower colors mean :

- White — Mexican plum or Bradford pear.
- Purplish/pure pink — Redbud or Japanese magnolia, [spotlighted last week](#).



At right above is my Purple Snail Vine (*Vigna caracalla*). Internet sources say this blooms late summer-fall. Mine has been blooming nonstop (in varying degrees) since last spring. Obviously no one told it to die back in winter!



MEXICAN PLUM

Prunus mexicana

Fragrant, 15-25' native tree. Edible plums emerge yellow, turn rose-to-purplish. Can be messy, so plant away from walks, driveways. Great bark & fall color, attracts butterflies & birds.



REDBUD

(Cercis canadensis)

Most seen here are Eastern redbuds but natives ('Texas,' 'Oklahoma,' etc) better choices. (Related to *Cercis siliquastrus*, Judas's hanging tree) [Great Greg Grant redbud article](#).



CAROLINA JESSAMINE

Fabulous native vine now blooming on the edges of wooded areas and in a lot of trees (no threat). Great choice for trellises, fences or as informal groundcover. Sun helps to increase blooms. Evergreen foliage.

* * *



GIANT TURK'S CAP



TRUMPET VINE



MEXICAN FLAME VINE

I shot these three bloomers above earlier this week in my yard. All three should have died back, but instead bloomed off and on all winter and are now covered with buds and flowers. I never expected this. Any surprises in your garden? Do share!

MARCH MART COMETH! If you would like to see whatever else wonderful is blooming now, a great spot is Mercer Botanic Gardens in North Harris County where, on Mar. 20-21, you can visit MARCH MART, one of the Gulf Coast's largest and oldest plants sales. Over a thousand different often-hard-to-find, ideal-for-us-plants for sale. Bring your wagon! Details: themercersociety.org

* * *



TIP O' TROWEL TO CEC (Citizens Environmental Coalition) for these notes on aspects we might not know about our local public gardens. Did you know ...

- [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#), one of nation's 38 leading botanical gardens, maintains the National Collection of Endangered Plants for the Center of Plant Conservation, sheltering over 24 rare plants, some on display in the Mercer's Endangered Species Garden.
- Houston Zoo, long a wildlife conservation leader, also actively maintains and promotes [pollinators plantings](#).
- [Armand Bayou Nature Center](#), [Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge](#), the [Gulf Coast Bird Observatory](#), and the [TWRC Wildlife Center](#) are actively helping protect wildlife in the Greater Houston region, including habitat native plants

If you're not receiving the CEC's weekly reports, you're missing out on a fantastic local ecology news resource. [Check it out](#) and [become a member!](#)

* * *

PRUNING OFF DEAD BRANCHES? WATCH OUT FOR HUMMINGBIRD NESTS!

Yes, that's a quarter next to a hummer nest at left. These may be as small as a thimble, with tiny jelly



bean-size eggs. Thirty-four hummingbird species are now officially critically endangered (50/50 chance of extinction with in 10 years). Their extremely delicate, well-camouflaged nests made of spider webs, lichen, and plant matter, are often positioned on a downward-slant twiggy branch hanging over an open space or running water ([The Hummingbird Project](#)). Both this website and [NestWatch.org](#) have tips on helping create habitat for hummingbirds. A few suggestions:

- Reduced mowed lawns with more native shrubs and trees.
- Multiple layers (tall trees, medium shrubs, short grasses & wildflowers)
- [More area-appropriate plants to attract nesting birds to your area](#)
- Clean water source and fewer pesticides/synthetic fertilizers

* * *

GARTER = GARDENERS' GOOD FRIEND!

Quit cringing! This little snake is a great friend to gardeners! She's not harmful, she doesn't want to be around you or your pets, so will quickly disappear if ever seen at all. Best of all, she eats slugs, snails, many plant-eatings insects and small rodents, like MICE!



She is so welcome in my garden even though I seldom get to see her. Now that it's warming up, I expect I'll get quick daytime glimpses more often so I can say: *THANKS FOR BEING HERE!*

* * *



THINK 'RECYCLE!' That's what Ingrid Hamilton did with an old 4' wide metal fire pit they never use. It already had ash holes in the bottom and its top with its smoke holes also made a great planter when flipped over. Ingrid filled both pit and upended cover with soil and, rather than buy new plants, "willy-nilly" (she says) stuck in plantlets off her already tried-'n'-true successes: including airplane plants and succulents. When pieces of her kalanchoes and begonias break off, she sticks them in too. Give you an ideas for unused tuck-aways in your own garage?

* * *

PECKERWOOD GARDEN NAME IS CHANGING. This famed Hempstead-area garden will henceforth be known as the "The John Fairey Garden" by decree of the [Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation](#).

***Personal note:** I'm delighted John will be getting more much deserved*

recognition for his creation of this horticultural treasure. But I am sad too. [Peckerwood Garden](#) was such a delightful name, easily standing out amid the world's noteworthy (but not with particularly easily-recalled-names) gardens, and I loved the whimsical touch of his naming it after Auntie Mame's Beau's southern estate. An era passes.

* * *

"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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NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #112

A few months ago, we talked about the benefits of algae, from a fertilizer, a bio-stimulant to a food source. A recent study published in the Journal Progress in Cardiovascular Disease in February 2020 found that “the algae called 'spirulina' has the ability to boost our bodies type 1 interferon response to fighting RNA viral infections such as influenza and the coronavirus”.

Other nutraceuticals such as sulforaphane from cruciferous vegetables and elderberries have been found to be beneficial in fighting viruses like influenza and the common cold.

From Issue #109 where we discussed Elderberries as a super food: “Modern researchers have found that some of the phytochemicals found in the fruit make it harder for viruses and bacteria to reproduce. The berries (actually drupes for those whom want to be picky) also contain health promoting chemicals called flavonoids, more than any other berry. They also have the highest antioxidant properties of any of the berries. Additionally, they are higher in minerals and other nutrients than other berries. Several doctors in recent news interviews have recommended elderberries to help strengthen one’s immune system and help protect against viruses”.

Several studies have shown that eating fermented members of the cabbage family like sauerkraut and bok choy slows the development of viruses.

A few years ago, in our study of all the elements in the human body, we found

that a lack of selenium (Se) allows viruses to replicate more quickly. We also found that zinc (Zn) lozenges have been proven to support the immune function of our cells that reduce the symptoms of viruses and greatly speed recovery from colds and flu by 300%.

With all the hype on the corona virus we are reprinting the information on selenium. This has been updated with new material that has come out in the literature since we first published the information a few years ago.

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

Part 26

34) Selenium (Se) - In general selenium is found in igneous rocks at 0.05 ppm, shale at 0.6 ppm, sandstone and limestone at 0.05-0.08 ppm, fresh water at 0.02 ppm, sea water at 0.00009 ppm, and soils at 0.2 ppm. However, selenium is not evenly distributed hence much higher levels can occur in some areas while some areas of the earth have none.

Marine plants can have 0.8 ppm, land plants can have 0.2 ppm, and land animals at 1.7 ppm. Selenium has an electrical oxidation state that ranges from -2 to +6, which allows it to combine with many elements creating over 50 known minerals.

The lowest amounts of selenium occur in light sandy soils. Clay soils have the ability to absorb selenium as do organic soils. Soil microbes play an important part in making selenium available for plants to absorb.

Selenium is another element that has the property "hormesis" which means small amounts are beneficial and large amounts are bad. It was first discovered that selenium was critical to human health in 1975 by a researcher in Galveston, Texas.

Selenium was first used in pottery to give a red glaze and later as a pigment for dyes to get an orange and maroon color. Selenium was used in many solid-state electronics before silicon and germanium semi-conductors became available.

Selenium photocells were used in photographer's light meters and Xerographic photocopiers and laser printers. They use selenium in a form that when dark it acts as an insulator but when exposed to light it becomes a conductor of electricity.

Selenium sulfide (Se_3S_5) is a common ingredient in dandruff shampoos.

Selenium is an efficient anti-oxidant (anti-peroxidant) and is found in the molecule glutathione peroxidase enzyme system. It prevents body fats from going rancid.

Selenium is an essential micronutrient that comes from our diet. It is estimated that over one billion people in the world are selenium deficient.

Higher levels of selenium in the blood are associated with a decreased risk of developing liver cancer (American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, International

Many areas of the United States (Texas, southwest, lower southeast, and northwestern mountain states) have very selenium deficient soils hence plants grown in the area also selenium deficient. Medical studies have found that America's "Stroke Belt" runs right across America where selenium content in soils is low.

Selenium is important in protecting humans against chronic degenerative diseases, as it is required in the production of powerful antioxidants such as vitamin E and glutathione peroxidase (an enzyme that converts hydrogen peroxide into water).

A study found that when older people who took a combination of CoQ10 and selenium daily for four years, they suffered far 50% fewer heart attacks.

The amount of beta-carotene and vitamins C and E contained in herbs (mints), are linked to the amount of selenium in soil. The effectiveness of anti-oxidants in our bodies has also been linked to the presence of this element. Animals and humans obtain selenium from the foods they eat, however, if it is not in the soil then it will not be in the food.

A lack of the mineral selenium leads to muscular dystrophy, cancer, heart disease, cirrhosis of the liver, and cataracts along with cardiomyopathy and joint problems.

Selenium is a co-factor for at least 25 enzymes that cannot function without it. It helps protect the body from DNA damage, and it helps eliminate toxic heavy metals from the body. As long as the body has adequate levels of selenium then the body also rids itself of excess beryllium. Selenium helps protect the body against toxic metal poisoning as it can block heavy metal bioavailability and reduce the toxicity.

Mercury can cause a depletion of selenium in our bodies. Selenium binds readily with mercury into a compound that can be removed from the body as a waste product. Methyl mercury blocks selenium related enzymes from functioning correctly. Note: Methyl mercury is found in fish.

Studies show that those with lower selenium levels have much higher incidence of all forms of cancer. Studies of colon cancer survivors with highest levels of selenium were found to be the least likely for recurrence. Research has shown that selenium contributes to anti-oxidant pathways which stimulate apoptosis (cell death) in human cancer cells. A lack of selenium (Se) allows viruses to replicate more quickly.

The body cannot absorb selenium very well in some forms like L-selenomethionine, however one of the best forms for the human body to absorb selenium is from selenium enriched yeasts (fungi).

Cardio-myopathy (heart attacks), white muscle disease in animals, liver spots and age spots are all linked to selenium deficiency. Low levels of selenium have been associated with pancreatic cancer. As we get older, we tend to lose the ability to absorb selenium. As men's level of selenium decrease, their sperm count and quality does also.

Recent studies have linked low levels of selenium to cognitive decline in the elderly. Mothers whom have adequate selenium levels tend to have children with better brain function. Children that have adequate selenium levels tend to perform better on all cognitive tests.

An animal study published in the journal Cell has found that selenium helps prevents neurons from dying, illustrating the elements role in mitigating cell death and preventing dementia. Selenium is used in an enzyme called GPX4, it was found essential to life. Another study in the Journal of Nutrition, found that adequate selenium levels helped prevent the onset of depressive symptoms and negative mood.

A study in the American Journal of Epidemiology showed that selenium intake reduced brain loss associated with aging.

There is also a strong link to osteoporosis, as higher rates of problems are associated with low selenium levels. The human thyroid gland has the highest level of selenium.

Some of the health problems and diseases that have been linked to a selenium deficiency are:

- HIV (Aids)
- Anemia (RBC fragility)
- Age spots and Liver spots
- Asthma
- Fatigue
- Fertility issues
- Muscular weakness
- Myalgia
- Scoliosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Cardiomyopathy
- Multiple Sclerosis (associated with mercury poisoning)
- Heart palpitations
- Irregular heartbeat
- Liver cirrhosis
- Pancreatic atrophy
- Lou Gering's Disease (also with mercury poisoning)
- Alzheimer's disease (with high vegetable oil consumption)
- Infertility, Low birth weight babies
- High infant mortality
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Cancer
- Sickle Cell Anemia

A study in Nutritional Health and Ageing on elderly people in Italy found that having a high selenium level was associated with a 29% lower risk of death from all causes.

As one Doctor stated, "a high intake of vegetable oils, cooking oils, and margarine concurrent with a selenium deficiency is a quick way to a heart

attack".

Most of the selenium we absorb, 50-80% is excreted in our urine. It is not common but excess selenium can cause garlic breath and is the first sign of selenium poisoning.

Selenium in the form hydrogen selenide gas (H_2Se) is extremely toxic. A few sources of selenium are sodium selenite a simple chemical salt (Na_2SeO_3), Selenium-methyl L-selenocysteine, and high selenium brewer's yeast. Brazil nuts are a good source of selenium. Pasture raised eggs, shellfish, organ meats, wild caught Alaskan salmon and many seeds.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Selenium (Se)

Some plants require selenium while other does not. Members of the *Astragalus* family tend to colonize selenium rich soil, as they require it. Some members are known as "Locoweed" due to the high levels of selenium they absorb and its effects on animals whom eat it. Its presence often indicates soils with high selenium levels.

Rhizobium bacteria and root exudates stimulate the oxidation (adds an extra oxygen atom to the molecule) of SeO_3 to SeO_4 which increases the availability of selenium to plants.

Some studies have found that adequate selenium in the soil stimulates the growth of grasses and other plants, while too much can be toxic.

Brassica plants have a high ability to absorb selenium from the soil, as do many mushrooms and ferns that can absorb selenium in larger amounts. The mushroom *Albatrellus pes-caprae* that is a popular food in Italy can have 3,700 ppm of selenium.

Sources: Brazil nuts, free-range chickens, turkey and pork, fish, free range organic eggs, shellfish, liver from grass fed beef or lamb, some coal ash (10-6,000 ppm), Coconuts

I was asked the other day how to get selenium into our soils so the vegetables and fruits can absorb it. The Re-Mineralizer product from Nature's Way Resources is a source of selenium since it has granite and basalt sands in it. Additionally, it has all the other trace and micronutrients. One must also use biological methods (organic) or the toxic chemicals will kill the microbes that help plants absorb selenium

.

Remember from our study of glyphosate a couple years ago, this toxic chemical used in products like Round-Up, prevents the body from absorbing elements like calcium, magnesium, *zinc and selenium*. If your food is not certified organic, then most likely it has glyphosate in them. Genetically modified foods have even higher levels of this dangerous chemical in them.

HAVE YOU TRIED . . .

PRIMROSE, GANGES VARIEGATED

(*Asystasia gangetia*)

This perennial subshrub**s heart-shaped variegated evergreen leaves, highlighted with yellow blotches and splattering, are as eyecatching as the funnel-shaped flowers that open white or yellow, gradually picking up purple tones as they age. Attractive to honeybees, butterflies and long-tongued moths. Full to partial sun, blooms best with consistently moist soil. Works as groundcover and trailing plant for containers.

* Subshrub - "a dwarf shrub, especially one that is woody only at the base."



PRIMROSE, GANGES VARIEGATED (*Asystasia gangetia*) 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.

NOTE: WE REMOVED ALL CANCELLED EVENTS FOR WHICH WE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION. WE RECOMMEND CALLING SITES OR CHECKING WEBSITES BEFORE ATTENDING THESE BELOW.

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

THUR., MAR 19: OWN LAND, NOW WHAT? (Ranchers), 6:30 pm. 21017 CR 171, Angleton. Brazoria County Extension Service event. \$20. Register: brazoria.agrilife.org. 979-864-155

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: 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: BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS 2ND ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE. 9am, Brazoria County Environmental Education Station, 585 CR 443/Hospital Dr.) Angleton. txmg.org/brazoria/.

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.

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

SAT., MAR. 28: BROMELIAD SOCIETY HOUSTON SPRING SALE, 9am-4pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. bromeliadsocietyhouston.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

TUES., MAR 31: WEED ID/2020 FORAGE MANAGEMENT SERIES 6:30pm, LaMarque. Brazoria County & Galveston County Extension Services. Register: counties.agrilife.org/galveston/agnr/forage-series; brazoria.agrilife.org; 281-534-3413

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

THURS., APR. 2: NOTTINGHAM COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE, 10am, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. ncgctx.org

SAT., APR. 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; 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

SUN., APR. 5: POLLINATION CELEBRATION, noon-4pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd. Pasadena. abnc.org. (281) 474-2551

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

FRI., APR. 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., APR. 11: SOIL ISSUES, 8-10am, & BEST HERBS FOR YOUR GARDEN, 10:30am-12:30pm, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. Montgomery County Master Gardeners event. \$5/\$8 both. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., APR. 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., APR. 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 PLANET, 6-10pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd. Pasadena. abnc.org/pftp; party@abnc.org; 281-474-2551

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 Pavillion, 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.-SUN: MAY 16-17: BROMELIAD SOCIETY HOUSTON SPRING THE DECADE OF BROMELIADS SHOW & SALE, Sat.: Sale 9am-5pm, Show 2-5pm. Sun.: both 11am-4pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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 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.

