Nov-05-2021 | Issue 412

Nature's Way Resources is proud to produce & email you this free weekly newsletter. We have no ads, but sponsors do graciously help support this project as a public service. Please note their names below & show your gratitude for this free service by patronizing their businesses! To become a sponsor, call (936) 273-1200

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

.

Click here to join our email list

CLICK HERE for PDFs OF PAST LG&F NEWSLETTERS

PEGGY'S ROSE, A 'NATIONAL PARK' YARD PLANTING FOR BIRDS

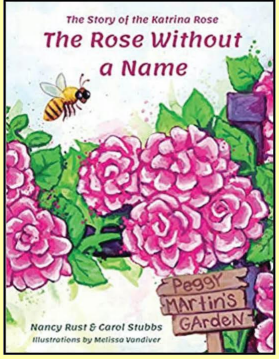
"A mountain of water rushed down the bayou, flooded the garden and swept roses from their garden bed."

--"The Rose Without a Name - The Story of the Katrina Rose"
by Nancy Rust & Carol Stubbs

by BRENDA BEUST SMITH

It isn't often I read a book -- much less a young children's book -- and end with both a smile on my face and tears in my eyes. ***"The Rose Without a Name"*** by Nancy Rust and Carol Stubbs ***(Crimson Dragon Publishing)*** is a delightful, yet poignant tale of the Peggy Martin rose. It's a wonderful way to draw children into gardening (she has no thorns!) and hopefully a mildly cathartic moment for adults who have suffered Earth's increasing traumatic weather

onslaughts.



As delightful as Melissa Vandiver's drawings are, my eyes teared at simple words describing the terror of buildings, homes, trees and gardens washing away, including hundreds of "named" roses in Peggy Martin's Louisiana bayou-side garden.

"All the roses were gone except one. The rose without a name was all alone . . . An earthworm tunneled through the slushy soil. 'Your roots are still strong,' said the earthworm . . . With the flicker of wings, the dragonflies spread the news of the rose that survived the hurricane."

Take out "slushy" and "hurricane" and it could be the aftermath of any garden anywhere destroyed by intense cold, heat, drought, fire, tornadoes, etc. The book ends, in child vernacular, with easily readable facts about hurricanes and.antigue roses, beloved for their haecceity, if nothing else. And, how our own (and Texas A&M's) Dr. William C. Welch spearheaded a campaign to:

- officially name this previously-unidentified rose after its owner and
- successfully organize commercial propagation and sale of the Peggy Martin rose to benefit restoration of Gulf Coast gardens. Look for her in your neighborhood nursery. Cuttings are easy to root.

Crimson Dragon Publishing — crimsondragonpublishing.com/product

* * *

A CALL-TO-ACTION FROM DOUG TALLAMY,

a nationally-acclaimed conservationist who, among other major contributions (including articles for this newsletter), now urges us to create ***HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARKS.*** Think of it as the next step in the already forward-moving, albeit baltering, trend of incorporating more native plantings into our home yards.

Doug points out national parks, even if grand scale, are too small and separated to preserve species to needed levels. His "Homegrown National Parks" are our yards and he has issued, *"a grass roots movement to regenerate habitat where we live . . . extending national parks to our yards and communities."*

It's a mouthful, and perhaps, at this point, almost too grand an idea to digest all at once. But it's worth adding to your store of gardening wishes, so it will influence future plans and purchases. Doug's mapping input from Texas in general and Greater Houston Area in particular could sure use some input! *How you can help.*

* * *

POTPOURRI:

- **TIP O' THE TROWEL** to ***The John Fairey Garden***, highlighted in the 2021 update of Phaidon classic "***The Garden Book***," which now showcases 500 of the greatest garden-makers of all time. John Fairey, creator of the garden, formerly known as Peckerwood Gardens, passed away in 2020. Pictured: Camellia 'Autumn Spirit' is bloom right now in the Hempstead-area garden. *Visiting information*

- **TODAY IS TEXAS ARBOR DAY (NOV. 5).** Great day to start thinking about viewing your yard as a one of Doug Tallamy's "Homegrown National Parks" to help restore the damage done to our native ecology and the wildlife so dependent upon it.

Why celebrate now instead of during Texas' past traditional January Arbor Day? Or the national April Arbor Day? Because, unlike much of the rest of the nation, we live in an area where now through winter is the best native tree and shrub planting period. Roots need time to become well established before they're hit by our "almost as bad as 2021" predictions for this coming winter.

Give thought to helping to replace area-wide food/shelter resources 2021 Winter Storm "Uri" stole from our native wildlife. Feeders help, but native plantings provide food plus protection and nesting sites.

In our Spotlight Article below, Cullinan Park Conservancy President**Robbin Mallett** previews bird-attracting plants she'll recommend in her free Tues., Nov. 16, "Feeding Winter Birds" presentation (10 am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land). Hosted by *Sugar Land Garden Club*.

* * *

Brenda Beust Smith's column in the
LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

* * *

INVALUABLE UNDERSTORY PLANTS THAT PROVIDE FOOD SUPPORT FOR MIGRATORY AND RESIDENT BIRDS

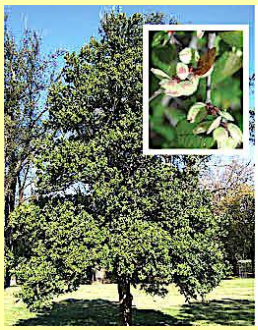
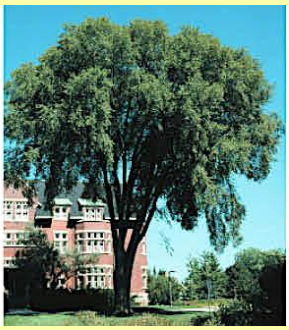
By ROBBIN MALLETT
President, ***Cullinan Park Conservancy***

Pigeonberry (*Rivina humilis*), left above, and **American Beautyberry** *(Callicarpa americana*), right, are invaluable understory plants that provide food support for migratory and resident birds. Beautyberries are eaten by more than 40 species of birds, including finches, mockingbirds, robins, cardinals and thrashers.

These above are great small trees for winter feeding, above, l to r:

- **Wax Myrtle** (*Morella cerifera*),
- **Possumhaw Holly** (*Ilex decidua*).
- **Yaupon Holly** ((*Ilex vomitoria*). ***(Pictured: Yaupon Holly 'Will Fleming')***

Yaupon and Possumhaw hollies produce tremendous amounts of colorful berries that Cedar Waxwing and others devour.

Above, more great trees (l to r):

- **Cedar Elm** (*Ulmus crassifolia*)
- **American Elm** (*Ulmus americana*) Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red-belliedthers.
- **Texas Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*) Flowers morph into seeds that are

eaten by granivorous birds. ***(Pictured: Cercis canadensis var. Texas)***

For overwintering hummingbirds —above l to r: salvias, Turk's Cap and lantana. ***(All native salvias pictured are from npsot.org/wp/story/2010/1428/)***

More suggestions: ***npsot.org/plant lists/HoustonAreaList.pdf*** ***(download)***

EDITOR'S NOTE:

- Contact Robbin at ***Cullinan Park Conservancy***.
- Or meet her in person:
  - **TUESDAY, NOV 16: FEEDING WINTER BIRDS** by **ROBBIN MALLETT**, 10 am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. *sugarlandgardenclub.org*.

* * *

Brenda's LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER column is based onher 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

* * *

NATURE'S WAY RESOURCES
an organically based service company

$3.00 EACH !

NOW CARRIES SEEDS FROM
NATIVE AMERICAN SEED COMPANY

- AMERICAN BASKET FLOWER
- ANTELOPE HORN
- BLACK EYED SUSAN
- BLUE CURLS
- BUTTERFLY RETREAT MIX
- BUTTERFLY WEED
- CADDO MIX
- COWPEN DAISY
- CULEAF DAISY
- DEER RISISTANT MIX
- GREEN MILKWEED
- GREENTHREAD
- HUMMERS & SINGERS MIX
- ILLINOIS BUNDLEFLOWER
- INDIAN BLANKET
- LADY BIRDS LEGACY MIX
- LANCELEAF COREOPSIS
- LAZY DAISY
- LEMON MINT
- MEXICAN HAT
- MAXIMILIAN SUNFLOWER
- NATIVE TEXAS MIX
- PARTRIDGE PEA
- PLAINS COREOPSIS
- PLANT IN SPRING OR FALL MIX
- POLLINATOR ESSENTIALS MIX
- PURPLE CONEFLOWER
- SHADE FRIENDY WF MIX
- STANDING CYPRESS
- TEXAS BLUEBONNET
- TX-OK NATIVE ROADSIDE MIX
- WINECUP – PERENNIAL
- WINECUP – ANNUAL
- TEXAS BLUEBELLS

John's Corner

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 173

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

Today we continue with our study of all the minerals (elements) in the human

body, what they do, with a look at elements number 16, 17, and 18 on the Periodic table. See previous newsletters (9/17/21 and 9/24/21) for a list of references and introduction to the Periodic Table.

Today we look at elements 16-18 which are sulfur, chlorine, and argon.

16) **Sulfur (S)** - Found in igneous rocks at 260 ppm, shale at 2,400 ppm, sandstone at 240 ppm, limestone at 1,200 ppm, fresh water at 3.7 ppm, sea water at 885 ppm, and soil at 700 ppm, marine plants at 12,000 ppm, land plants at 3,400 ppm, marine animals 5,000-19,000 ppm, land animals at 5,000 ppm.

Sulfur is one of the few elements that is found in pure form in nature and has a yellowish color. It is often found in association with salt domes that create many of our oil reservoirs. Sulfur occurs in several forms, however, in nature sulfur is most commonly found and used as the compound sulfate (SO_4^{-2}).

The mineral pyrite or iron sulfide (FeS_2) is known as fool's gold, manganese sulfate ($MnSO_4$) is used as a fertilizer and as a supplement in animal feed, gypsum or calcium sulfate ($CaSO_4$) is often used to release excess sodium in clay soils and used in many fertilizer formulations, iron sulfate ($FeSO_4$) is sometimes used in gardening.

When in college I remember Lake Nacogdoches being constructed. As the construction crews built the dam, they excavated several hillsides exposing the buried rock layers. In one of them were beautiful large (3-5" long) clear crystals of a mineral known as selenite which is calcium sulfate with two water molecules attached.

Sulfur is a basic ingredient of gunpowder, hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) smells like rotten eggs and is dangerous at high concentrations; it is a common ingredient in smog from burning diesel fuel or coal. Sulfur is used in car batteries in the form of sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4). Many of the scents we consider odorous contain sulfur.

Sulfur is found in many enzymes and vitamins, it is a main component of keratin, which composes our hair and nails or feathers. Sulfur is an important structural element used in most proteins and many amino acids. Sulfur is a component of vitamins, coenzymes, thiamin, biotin, lipoic acid and participates in many enzymatic reactions.

Sulfur is found in MSM (Methylsulfonylmethane) that is found in plants and animals that reduces inflammation and decreases joint and muscle pain in mammals.

Deficiency of sulfur results in degenerative types of arthritis involving cartilage, ligaments, tendons, Systemic Lupus, Sickle cell anemia and various collagen disorders. Sulfur helps detoxify the body, increase blood circulation, reduces muscle cramps and back pain, helps remove inflammation, and helps the body have more energy that is useful.

Sulfur has recently been found to help protect the myelin sheath over nerve endings.

Sulfites, sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and sulfites (SO_3^{-2}) are a common preservatives and antimicrobial agents added to foods and medicines (think wine) as they kill microbes. Sulfites can trigger adverse reactions in sensitive people, from asthma issues to behavior in autistic children, the FDA records that several deaths have occurred to excess sulfites used in foods.

Sulfur is essential for good health: eggs, onions, garlic, and cabbage and other cruciferous vegetables are good sources of sulfur. Nuts and seeds are often good sources on sulfur. However, for proper absorption one needs high levels of vitamin-C.

The main dietary sources of sulfur include allium, shallots, garlic, onions, and cruciferous vegetables, animal proteins, dairy, legumes, nuts, and seeds.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Sulfur (S)

In soils up to 90% of sulfur is tightly bound to humus, so SO_4^{-2} is the major exchange anion. It is interesting that soils around the world have carbon to sulfur ratios of 100:1 and most sulfur in soils only occurs in organic forms. Sulfur is a structural component of humic and fulvic acids which are components of humus that is so essential to healthy soils.

Sulfur is considered a primary plant nutrient (.05-1% of a plants tissue contains sulfur) and it is used by plants only in the sulfate form. Soil microbes are responsible for converting sulfur into a sulfate form that plants can use and then plant roots extract sulfate ions (SO_4^{-2}) from the soil.

Nitrogen fixing plants (legumes) require adequate sulfur for good nodule development. If there is not enough sulfur in the soil or it is out of balance in relation to other elements in the soil, then the plant-microbe system cannot obtain nitrogen from the air and fix it in the soil.

All organisms from microbes to earthworms use sulfur in the form of the amino acids (cysteine and methionine) that are used to build proteins.
Plants use a lot of sulfur as it is required in the production of proteins and seeds plus it improves the taste of our foods.

A few plants have been found to emit carbon disulfide (CS_2) from its roots to protect them from parasitic nematodes. Excess sulfates in the soil reduce selenium absorption by plants and can create soils that are too acidic for most plants.

Sulfur is one of the easiest leached of all mineral nutrients and it is easy to mistake a sulfur deficiency as a nitrogen deficiency as well as magnesium, iron or potassium deficiencies. Shortages of sulfur are signaled by sick crops, insect, bacterial and fungal attack, upper leaves may turn yellow, stems stay small and woody, root become long and slender, symptoms often resemble a nitrogen shortage.

Sources: compost, native mulches, molasses, sulfates, gypsum, elemental sulfur, feathers, green sand, fish emulsion

17) **Chlorine (Cl)** - Chlorine is found in igneous rocks at 130 ppm, shale at 180 ppm, limestone at 150 ppm, sandstone at 10 ppm, fresh water at 7 ppm, sea water at 19,000 ppm, marine plants at 4,700 ppm, land plants at 2,000 ppm and land animals at 2,800 ppm. Most soils only have around 100 ppm of chlorine.

If you notice that chlorine is found in the same column on the periodic table as fluorine (F) and bromine (B), hence it has very similar chemical properties and is highly reactive.

Chlorine is an element where small amounts are essential to health from microbes, plants, animals, and humans and too much is toxic.

Chlorine exists as a molecule in the form of two chlorine atoms that are coupled (Cl_2) which is extremely reactive and dangerous. It is a dense greenish-yellow gas with a sharp pungent smell. Chlorine is extremely reactive and will form compounds with all elements except the noble gases.

Chloride is a chlorine atom that has a negative electrical charge (Cl^-) which is stable and relatively safe. Chlorine is commonly found in nature as Halite (rock salt) which is a crystal form of sodium chloride (NaCl) and is the main source of chlorine for all living organisms.

Chlorine is essential for all living species, used in electrochemical and catalytic functions, activates numerous enzyme functions, and raw material our digestive system uses to make stomach acid which is hydrochloric acid (HCl). It is required for vitamin B-12 absorption.

Chlorinated lime or calcium hypochlorite $Ca(ClO)_2$ was one of the first disinfectants used by doctors to wash their hands between patients, reducing mortalities by 90% after it started being used. Chlorine is the most common disinfectant used in public water systems.

Chlorine is required to make plastics like (PVC) poly vinyl chloride $(CH_2CHCl)_n$ which is long chains of carbon atoms with a chlorine atom attached to every other one. Chlorine is used in the manufacture of hundreds of products.

Chlorine gas (Cl_2) was used as a chemical weapon in WW-I due to its extreme toxicity, as it effectively attacks all living cells (both good and bad). It starts attacking eyes and lungs in concentrations as low as 3 ppm. Studies have found that our white blood cells use chlorine gas to fight infections.

When we drink chlorinated water, it kills the good bacteria in our stomachs leading to many intestinal disorders. Reports in the Journal Scientific American have linked chlorine in public water systems to rectal and breast cancer. Exposure to chlorine diminishes vitamin E, vitamin C, and polyunsaturated fatty acids in our skin that makes one more sensitive to eye and skin irritations. It often leads to dry skin issues.

Chlorine is an active ingredient in bleach, in the form sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl). Chlorine dioxide (ClO_2) is used in bleaching paper pulp or white flour. It is a major ingredient in pesticides, fungicides, other chlorinated compounds like dioxin/furans and PCB's. Many other cancer-causing chemicals have

chlorine in them. Women with breast cancer have 50-60% higher levels of organochlorines (chlorine by-products) in their breast tissue than women who are cancer free. People who bath in chlorinated water have a significantly higher risk of bladder cancer and people who swim in chlorinated water have higher risks of asthma and allergies.

If we combine chlorine with ammonia, we get chloramines (monochloramine (NH_2Cl), dichloramine ($NHCl_2$), trichloramine (NCl_3)) depending on the acidity of the water. Chloramines are known to cause cancer in rats and the byproducts of chloramines are more toxic than those of chlorine. See Citizens Concerned About Chloramine (CCAC) http://www.chloramine.org for a more detailed list of health effects.

Chlorine in its anion form chloride readily combines with copper (Cu), mercury (Hg), zinc (Zn), lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd) and other heavy metals and makes them soluble and easier to absorb.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Chlorine (Cl)

Chlorine levels in soils are low compared to other elements and they tend to decrease as one moves inland away from the coastline.

Chlorine is used in the process of photosynthesis; it raises osmotic pressure that affects the stomata, increases the hydration of plant tissue, believed to be related to the suppression of leaf spot and take-all diseases. It is considered an essential element for plants where it concentrates in the chloroplasts. Cereal grains absorb very little chlorine (10-20 ppm) while potatoes can contain over 5,000 ppm. Celery, seaweed, and table salt are other sources of chlorine

If chlorine levels in the soil drop below 2 ppm plant growth will suffer (extremely rare). Plants deficient in chlorine exhibit chlorosis of younger leaves and wilting of the plant. Plants that are deficient in chlorine are more likely to develop the disease "take-all".

If chlorine levels reach only 700 ppm in the soil, many plants begin to suffer (beans, apples, etc). Other plants like tobacco, tomatoes, cotton can tolerate levels as high as 3,000 ppm before suffering damage.

It is an essential growth element as it influences plant growth in several ways but not fully understood. Chlorine is required for strong stalks, it stimulates crops to grow, required for disease resistance, plays a role in photosynthesis, and regulates water movement in plants. Plants can absorb chloride by their roots or leaves.

Chlorine inhibits the growth of many microorganisms in the soil that help plants grow by disturbing their biological activity. Too much chloride (most common form is sodium chloride) in soil prevent plants from absorbing water.

Chlorine exists in the soil solution as chloride anion (Cl), thus the chloride anion competes with other anions required by plants. Too much chloride (think salt) in the soil prevents required nutrients like nitrate (NO_3^-) and sulfate (SO_4^{-2}) from being absorbed by plants, which starves them, making them more

susceptible to insects and disease.

One of the most toxic forms of chlorine in landscaping and gardening is chloramines from our public water systems. Chloramines are highly toxic to fish, amphibians and other aquatic life forms (Note - Canada's EPA has ruled chloramines as toxic). If one overwaters their landscape, the water will enter our streams and may cause fish kills. If one has a pond in their landscape, it may kill your fish as water from irrigation collects in the pond. Chloramines in the runoff from broken water mains enter our storm sewers and into our rivers and streams which kills the minnows and crayfish that eat the mosquito eggs and larva aggravating the mosquito problem.

Chloramines make the water acidic, which over time can change our soil pH. This may result in nutrient tie-up and create yellowing (chlorosis) problems in many plants. Chloramines prevent the absorption of other nutrients, which also may lead to yellowing.

The action of chlorine and chloramines kill bacteria both good and bad. Many good bacteria that live in the soil control fungal diseases. When we lose these good bacteria there is no natural control, and turf grass diseases like "Brown Patch, Take All and St. Augustine Decline" become rampant. In other words, the more one waters, the greater the chance that one will experience disease problems in their grass and other plants.

Chlorine and chloramines kill the nitrifying bacteria that fix nitrogen from the air into the soil. Hence, additional nitrogen must be supplied to the plants to replace the loss of free nitrogen from nature. Container plants (hanging baskets, pots, etc.) are more susceptible to damage from chloramines as they tend to require more watering. Other studies have shown that chloramines hurt the germination of seeds from many species of plants. Another problem caused by using artificial fertilizers is that chloramines can also be formed in the soil when ammonia (from artificial fertilizers, animal manures, pesticides, etc.) is combined with chlorine in the water.

Chloramines is neutralized in the soil by chemical reactions with organic matter (humus) which is destroyed in the process. Organic matter in the form of humus can hold 15 times its weight in water, hence every time we water with municipal water, the soil loses some of its ability to hold and store water. Chloramines hurt the production of compost tea as it kills off some of the microbial species that one is trying to grow to high densities. Note: One teaspoon of humic acid (liquid form of humate) can neutralize the chloramines in 100 gallons of water depending on the exact concentration of chloramines.

Using high humus products like a quality compost, native mulches (that have been composted) and humate in one's landscape is the easiest way to minimize the damage from chloramines and chlorine. This ensures that even if some of the organic matter is destroyed and some of the beneficial microbes are killed, there is plenty left over so the soil life can quickly regenerate and prevent problems.

Sources:

Chloride toxicity often occurs after application of potassium chloride (KCl) which is also known as muriate of potash and used in artificial fertilizers. Dairy

and feedlot manure can have 50,000-100,000 ppm of salt (sodium chloride). Most poultry manure is another source of salt along with sewage sludge (bio-solids). Spent mushroom substrate (mushroom compost) is generally very high in salt but it varies greatly around the world. Other sources include manure-based compost, Biosolids (sewage sludge) compost, municipal water supplies, artificial fertilizers, some organic fertilizers made from poultry manure, thunderstorms and storm water run-off from roads treated with salt, burning coal, and ammonium chloride (NH_4Cl) is also used in artificial fertilizers.

18) **Argon (Ar)** - The name argon comes from the Greek meaning "inactive" as argon is the cheapest totally inert gas. It is a colorless, odorless gas that is soluble in water. One percent of our atmosphere is argon, it is found in igneous rocks at 3-5 ppm, fresh and seawater at 0.06 ppm, and in mammalian blood at 0.75 ppm.

Argon is used to date ancient rocks and artifacts by various dating methods and it is used in scientific instruments. It is used as a filler in the old incandescent light bulbs, used to fill partially empty wine bottles to keep them from oxidizing and going bad, sometimes used as the gas in double pane windows. It is also used to make the blue lasers used in eye surgery. Argon is produced by the decay of radioactive potassium atoms and has built up in the atmosphere over billions of years.

Argon has no known biological role. However, bacteria in the nodules of certain plants like beans can absorb argon but cannot process further.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Argon (Ar)

None known, good or bad.

* * *

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

SUBMITTING EVENTS? PLEASE READ!

- ***Only events submitted specifically for LG&FHGN calendar are used***
- ***Put your group's FULL name in email subject.***
- ***Very long links will be shortened, but full link activated when clicked***
- ***Submit events to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com***

EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

WED., NOV. 3: PLANTING AND CARE OF TREES, by **MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS,** 1pm-2pm, Free. Register. *countylibrary.org/calendar.htm*

WED. NOV 3: HOW TO BE A GREAT GARDENER by **JAY WHITE.** 9:30-11am, Webster Presbyterian Church 201 NASA Parkway, Webster.

Gardeners By The Bay event. gbtb.org

SAT., NOV. 6: RAINWATER HARVESTING CLASS by **THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP**, 9am-noon., The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 IH-45 South, The Woodlands. Free. Register: *thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment*

THURS., NOV. 4: CITRUS TREES FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE by **BRANDI KELLER (**virtual)**,** 10am, Register: *homegrown2021Q4.eventbrite.com/*

SAT., NOV. 6: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALEat the **WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL**, 10 am, Rob Fleming Park, 6055 Creekside Forest Dr, The Woodlands. *thewoodlandsgardenclub.org*

THURS. NOV. 11: "GROWING ROSES IN CONTAINERS by **SUZANNE HORN** (virtual), 7-9pm, Houston Rose Society/Houston event. Free. *houstonrose.org/*

FRI., NOV.12: GARDENS OF EUROPE by **VIVIANE TONDEUR**, 10am, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. *houstonfederationgardenclubs.org*

SAT. NOV. 13: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE AND FOOD DRIVE. 10am-1pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman. *houstonfederationgardenclubs.org*

SAT., NOV. 13: KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB 21st ANNUAL NATIVE TREE & SHRUB SALE & GIFT MARKET, 8am-4pm, Kingwood Town Center,8 N. Main St. Kingwood. Free. *kingwoodgardenclub.org/*

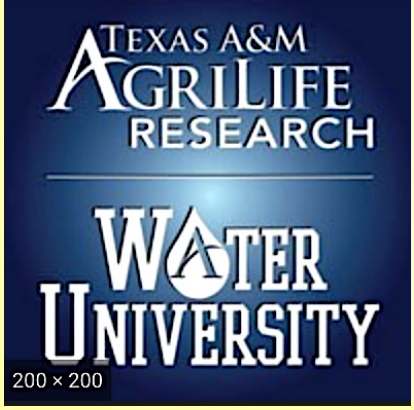
MON., NOV. 15: GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd.

TUES., NOV 16: FEEDING WINTER BIRDS by **ROBBIN MALLETT**, 10 am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. *sugarlandgardenclub.org.*

SAT.,DEC 4: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES FROM SEED, (1 of 3) by **IRA GERVAIS**, 9-11:30.AgriLife Extension Office, 4102-B Main Street (FM 519), La Marque. Preregister: *galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/*

Check contacts for covid-triggered changes and/or masking policies
NOTE! Only events submitted specifically for this calendar publication will be used. We do not pick up events from other newsletter or mass emails.
Links will be fully linked if clicked but word-shortened if too long.

* * *



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 . . .

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!

& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com

YearRound

Organic Fertilizers
Core Aeration
Compost Top Dressing

YearRoundHouston.com

MicroLife™

f&S landscaping L.L.C.

Complete Organic Solutions

Nature's Way Resources

an organically based service company

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 -- started in the early '70s as a fun side-project to reporting, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from reporter into gardening writing -- first as a just-a-fun side Chronicle assignment in the early '70s, 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 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 Humble, TX, and is married to the 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.