



April 19, 2104

Dear Friends,

Here is the 54th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. This a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith, John Ferguson and Mark Bowen (both John and Mark are with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . Email your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

Please or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!

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The best daylilies (Hemerocallis) for our gardens will be found at numerous upcoming local daylily society sales. Among stars at the May 3 Houston Hemerocallis Society/Houston Area Daylily Society sale will be (l to r) H. 'Mark's Choice' and H. 'Sir Frances Drake.' Among highlights of the May 17 Lone Star Daylily Society sale will be, second from right, H. 'Mambo Maid' and, right, H. 'Small Carbon Footprint.'

DO AS I SAY, DON'T DO AS I DO ... ESPECIALLY WITH DAYLILIES!

by **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Daylilies are in today's Society Spotlight and if ever there were a plant that could be crowned "Queen of the Lazy Gardeners," it's the daylily. If you take the time to find the right varieties, they'll decorate your garden from spring through fall.

You can't go wrong by buying from local sources, in particularly at our many upcoming daylily society sales. Wish I'd waited to do that.

Last fall my sisters gave me a birthday gift certificate to Old House Gardens mailorder company - a fabulous gift.

After looking quickly at the OHG catalog, I decided to spend it all on daylilies, ordering them on Sept. 4, 2013. I figured they probably wouldn't arrive until

Spring. When I'd heard nothing by March, I wrote them. Here's the reply I received on March 24, 2014 (please appreciate the fact that it's so embarrassing to admit all this):

"All of the daylilies you ordered are actually outside of their recommended hardiness zone. They are recommended through 8b and you are a zone 9a . . . We just can't guarantee them outside of their hardiness zone."

Okay, not bright. Setting aside the fact that they took seven months to tell me this, I didn't check the zones.

I was ordering from a catalog from MICHIGAN for Pete's sake and I didn't check the zones!

Even after advising folks for over four decades to be extra special careful when catalog ordering outside of the "Deep South," I didn't check the zones!

The problem is, of course, those gorgeous catalog pictures are so mesmerizing, good sense goes out the window. Learn from my error. When you're dealing with catalogs, check those zones! Better yet, buy from local sources. Our numerous daylily societies all have sales coming up. Check out the pictures above and below!

I have lots of daylilies that bloom faithfully every year. They are never fertilized, thinned or watered (except by rain). If they have insect or disease problems, I've never noticed. The foliage is pretty when they're not in bloom. The flowers are spectacular beyond words and the color range huge.

Mine bloom in both sun and shade, although some varieties are better for one than the other. Ask the daylily society members on hand at local sales for recommendations for your particular situations. While you're at it, ask about extending the daylily bloom period through to fall. You can do this with the right varieties . . . for us, that is.

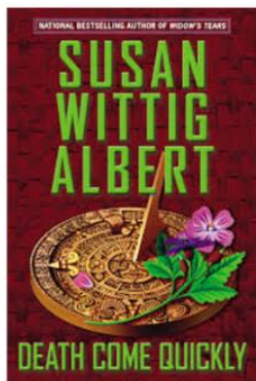
Houston is blessed with a number of commercial daylily farms, and most are run by dedicated daylily society members. These sales are such great resources for us, I'm going to list them here, and they'll continue to be published in our calendar below.

* Sat., May 3 - Houston Hemerocallis Society/Houston Area Daylily Society sale, 10am-4pm (or sellout), St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd., 281-469-4109, lorisgarrett@comcast.net

* Sat., May 10 - Cypress Creek Daylily Club sale, Mercer Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield Rd, Show (no Sale), 281-356-2534, billyandjean@sbcglobal.net

* Sat., May 10 - Brazosport Daylily Society sale, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Lake Jackson, 979-297-1889, ninaimperial@comcast.net

* Sat., May 17 - Lone Star Daylily Society sale, Alvin, Show/Sale, 281-485-4567, peskine@comcast.net



Left, China visits Lucia! Above, Jerry Seymore plans farewell plant sale.

Lucia Bettler stars in new book, left, and Jerry Seymore bids farewell all his gardening fans.

KUDOS TO LUCIA!

In "Death Comes Quickly," Susan Wittig Albert's latest Austin-area-based murder mystery, herbal shop owner/parttime detective China Bayles visits Houston herbalist extraordinaire Lucia Bettler at our own Lucia's Garden, 2360 W. Alabama, (713) 523-6494; <http://www.luciasgarden.com>. In fact, Susan dedicates this 22nd book in the Bayles series to Lucia. It's available at Lucia's Garden among other places (but there you might be able to get Lucia's autograph!) Keep tuned for Lucia's upcoming activities to celebrate the book.

WE LOVE YOU, JERRY!

An event takes place this weekend you really shouldn't miss. Jerry Seymore of [Jerry's Jungle Garden](http://www.jerrysjungle.com) will host the final sale from his incredible collection of amazing tropicals, all of which do really well in the Greater Houston area, as his North Harris County garden proves! Friday, Apr. 18, and Saturday, Apr. 19, 9am-5pm are the final sale dates. Bring your own wagons. It may be the last sale, but Jerry's influence on our gardens will live on in the many plants that are now commonplace here, like Brazilian red cloak and myriads of crinums, Louisiana iris, to name just a few. "Bakers Backyard" in Old Town Spring will continue to sell plants from Jerry. But this will be your last chance to visit his fantastic 5-acre "Jungle" at 712 Hill Road in Aldine (North Harris County, that has been the source of his legacy to all of us. www.jerrysjungle.com).

Spotlighting Our Plant Societies.
Houston Daylily Societies



Among the stars at the May 10 Brazosport Daylily Society sale will be, l to r, H. 'Big Doc,' H. 'Dragon King' and 'Rapid Eye Movement'

Growing Daylilies in the Greater Houston Area"

By Mary Gage
Houston Area Daylily Society & Cypress Creek Daylily Clubs
& American Hemerocallis Society

Daylily clubs welcome visitors/new members, eagerly sharing knowledge to flesh out these "bare bones". Check out websites: www.daylilies.org and www.ahsregion6.org

1. Variety choice. Evergreens and semi-evergreens are safest choice but many dormants do well here. Learn which hybridizer's cultivars work well this far south.
2. Daylilies require minimum 6 hours of sunlight. Full sun okay but dark colors benefit from a bit of mid-day shade. Pine trees allow filtered light,
3. Daylilies need neutral to slightly acid soil. Add amendments to correct extreme highs or lows
4. Well drained beds essential. Raise beds six inches or more as needed.
5. Planting. Avoid air pockets by spreading roots over a mound in the planting hole. Cover the crown (where roots and leaves join) no more than one inch. Water in well, then wait a week before watering again.
6. Water deeply and less often so roots go deep instead of near the surface. Over-watering, especially in extreme heat may lead to rot.
7. Use light, airy mulch, don't pile too close to plants Heavy mulch buries the plant deeper. Pine needles are excellent and increase acidity.
8. Spacing. Planting 18" to 24" apart allows the daylilies room to clump. Divide clumps every three to five years.
9. Fertilizing. There are various good formulations but growers agree that too much phosphorous is bad for daylilies.
10. Do keep daylily names. Required when you get "daylily fever" and want to exhibit in flower shows.

John's Corner

Soil Amendments #20 - Paper Sludge



This week I want to mention another wood waste product that is used in horticulture and agriculture. Sludge is a generic term for several types of residues from pulp and paper making. In general the paper mill sludge's are highly fibrous containing a lot of cellulose and lignin. After reading over 50 technical papers and going through many textbooks on soil amendments, I found that there is a large variety in the sludge's produced. Some sludge's were very beneficial to plant growth while others were harmful and polluting.

The sludge's today are much better than a couple decades ago where PCB's (sludge's that used carbonless copy paper), or dioxins were often found.

Chlorine was used for many years to bleach the fibers white. Today many companies are using hydrogen peroxide which breaks down quickly in the environment to harmless components. The inks used to be petroleum based with heavy metals but today they are mostly vegetable oil based. Other ingredients include clay fillers, coating agents, inks, etc.

Historically paper sludge's were disposed of by land filling, incineration or dumping into the ocean. Due to the current laws regarding air and water pollution the last two methods are not a viable option. Landfill rates are often over \$100/ton in many areas of the country hence a very expensive option for companies producing paper products. Thus the paper industry is looking for less costly ways to get rid of paper sludge. Public Relations firms were hired and nice sounding names are given to the sludge's similar to sewage sludge being renamed "Biosolids".

There are two basic types of sludge's, a primary or fresh sludge and a secondary sludge that has undergone some form of treatment (usually biological). They have very different properties and values. Fresh sludge's tend to have a very high C:N ratio that causes many forms of nutrient tie-up when applied to soils resulting in poor growth of plants. The secondary sludge's have often gone through a biological treatment where many nutrients (nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous, calcium, iron, etc.) have been added so the microbes can grow and break down the cellulose and lignin into more useful forms of carbon (humus like) and lower the C:N ratio to a useable range. Most studies with secondary sludge's have yielded positive results in agriculture and horticulture. However, it costs companies more money to treat the sludge hence fresh and treated are often mixed together before applying to a field.

For the gardener, the fresh dewatered sludge often get used as filler in many bagged soil products similar to sawdust. It is a raw wood fiber with a high C:N ratio and creates many problems when used in ones garden. It is sometimes found in the low cost bagged products sold by big box stores or discount nurseries.

Some modern paper sludge's has been found to be useful in: silviculture, agriculture, horticulture, potting media, mine soil reclamation, landfill cover, making cement, asphalt, animal bedding, ethanol production, bio-char production. Other sludge's have been harmful, so it has to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Paper sludge is a special purpose product and its use should be left to experienced soil scientists.

PROS:

- source of organic matter and will eventually degrade into humus
- improves soil physical properties
- increases a soils CEC
- increases a soils water holding capacity
- improves a soils aggregation, porosity, tilth and reduces erosion
- increases microbial activity
- sequesters carbon in the soil
- easy to spread
- feedstock for making compost

CONS:

- quality, type, and risk varies greatly
- often has strong odors for months (smell of vomit or sewage are common)
- possible chemicals that can harm our health (naphthalene, phthalates, chloroform, PCB's, dioxin, etc.)
- nutrient content varies from none to significant
- high carbon content causes a nutrient imbalance causing other nutrients to be tied up and unavailable for months to years
- hidden costs from extra fertilizer and liming agents required to loss of one's plants

WEEKLY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

(Events in Houston unless otherwise noted. No events picked up from other newsletters or media releases. Submit written in the format below, specifically earmarked for publication in the Lazy Gardener & Friends Newsletter.)

Sat., Apr. 19: Jerry's Jungle Garden Spring Sale, 9am-5pm, 712 Hill Rd. Bring your own wagon. www.jerrysjungle.com, 832-978-5358

Sat., Apr., 12: Proven Flowers for Your Texas Garden Clinic, 10:15 a.m. at both Cornelius Nursery locations, 1200 N. Dairy Ashford and 2233 S. Voss. Free. <http://www.corneliusnurseries/clinics>

Mon., April 21: Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 Open Garden Day, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. 9:30am: Educational Program. Master Gardeners Q&A. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubP2.aspx>

Tues., Apr. 22: Planning a Vegetable & Herb Garden by Dr. Joe Novak, 6-8pm, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. \$30 Near Northwest Management District event. Details: 713-895-8021, , info101@nnmd.org or www.nnmd.org/Programs/GardeningWorkshops.shtml

Sat., Apr. 26: Choosing the Right Vine by Margaret Sinclair, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Details: 281-937-9449. Repeated: 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Details: 281-341-1206. <http://myenchanted.com>

Sat., Apr. 26: Self-Watering Containers by Angela Chandler, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920 Rd, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851, www.arbortgate.com

Sat., April 26: Backyard Basics - Fruit Production by Deborah Birge, 8:30-11am, Fort Bend County Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. \$15 (\$25 couple). Details: brandyrader@ag.tamu.edu, 281-342-3034, www.fortbend.agrilife.org or www.fbmj.com.

Sat, Apr. 26: Orchids Intermediate Class, 2pm, Clown Alley Orchids, 3119 Lily Street, Pasadena. \$35. Details: 281-991-6841 or www.clownalleyorchids.com

Sat., Apr. 26: Hibiscus Clinic, 10:15 a.m. Cornelius Nurseries, 1200 N. Dairy Ashford and 2233 S. Voss. Contact: www.corneliusnurseries/clinics

Sat., Apr. 26: Earth Day Native Plant Sale, 9am-5pm. Also: Edible Wild Plants, 9am-1pm (\$65). Both: Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr. Details: www.houstonarboretum.org

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 26-27: "Through the Garden Gate" Heritage Gardeners of Friendswood Spring Garden Tour, Sat. 12-4pm, Sun. 1-5pm, five gardens in Friendswood, 112 W. Spreading Oaks; tickets \$10. Details: 281-992-4438 or www.heritagegardener.org

Sun, Apr., 27: Space City Hibiscus Society Sale, 1-4pm, East Harris Co. Activity Center 7340 Spencer Highway, Pasadena: www.spacecityahs.org

Sun., Apr. 27: Designing Rain Gardens & Nature Ponds, 3-5pm, \$65, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr. Details: www.houstonarboretum.org

Tues., Apr. 29: Growing Vegetables in Containers by Dr. Joe Novak, 6-8pm, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. \$50 Near Northwest Management District event. Details: 713-895-8021, , info101@nnmd.org or www.nnmd.org/Programs/GardeningWorkshops.html

Sat., May 3: Know Your Enemy (garden bugs), 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Details: 281-937-9449. Repeated: 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Details: 281-341-1206. www.myenchanted.com

Sat., May 3: Houston Hemerocallis Society and Houston Area Daylily Society Daylily Sale, 10am-4pm or sell-out, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd. Details: 281-469-4109, lorisgarrett@comcast.net or www.ofs.com/hhs

Sat., May 3: Drip Irrigation by Fort Bend Master Gardeners, 8:30-11am. Demonstration gardens open for tour. Fort Bend County Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. \$15 (\$25 couple). Details: 281-342-3034; brandyrader@ag.tamu.edu; fortbendagrilife.org or www.fbmj.com

Sat., May 3: Native Plants - Texas Style Clinic, 10:15 a.m. Cornelius Nurseries, 1200 N. Dairy Ashford and 2233 S. Voss. Contact: www.corneliusnurseries/clinics

Sat., May 3: Garden to Kitchen Demos, all day, Sunshine Farm, 5800 Jackson Road, Montgomery. Details: www.goodcleanlivin.com or www.goodcleanlivin.com.

Fri.-Sat., May 3-4: Houston Pond Society and Lone Star Koi Club, 2014 Water Garden and Pond Tour, 10am-6pm. Self-guided tour. Tickets \$10 available at 30± water gardens and (starting April 26) at Nelson Water Gardens in Katy (<http://nelsonwatergardens.com/>). Details: <http://houstonpondsociety.org>, <http://lonestarkoi.com> or 713-822-5515

Fri.-Sat., May 3-4: 2014 Oleander Festival and Grand Oleander Sale, 10am-4pm, Moody Gardens Visitor Center, 7 Hope Blvd., Galveston. Details: www.oleander.org

Tues., May 6: Aquaponics by Jim Bundscho, noon, Agrilife Extension Office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Details: 281-627-6818

Tues., May 6: Soil Management for Home Gardens by Dr. Joe Novak, 6-8pm, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. \$30 Near Northwest Management District event. Details: 713-895-8021, , info101@nnmd.org or www.nnmd.org/Programs/GardeningWorkshops.shtml

Sat., May 10: Sugar Land Garden Club Annual Spring Garden Tour, East New Territory Subdivision, Sugar Land. 9am-3pm. Map and details: <http://sugarlandgardenclub.org/>

Sat., May 10: Space City Hibiscus Society Sale, 1-4pm, Nessler Center, 2010 5th Ave. N. Texas City. Details: www.spacecityahs.org

Sat, May 10 - Brazosport Daylily Society sale, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Lake Jackson. Details: 979-297-1889, ninaimperial@comcast.net; Nancy Freshour, 979-285-9664 www.facebook.com/brazosportdaylilysociety

Sat., May 10: Cypress Creek Daylily Society Show (no sale), Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, 281-356-2534.

Sat., May 10: Culinary Herbs by Fort Bend Master Gardeners, 8:30-11am. Demonstration gardens open for tour. Fort Bend County Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. \$15 (\$25 couple). Details: 281-342-3034; brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu; fortbendagrilife.org or www.fbmg.com

Sat., May 10: Rainwater Harvesting by Jim Jahnke. 9-11:00 a.m. at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Email reservations to galv3@wt.net. Details: www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

Sat., May 10 Shrubs: Roses & Azaleas Clinic, 10:15 a.m. Cornelius Nurseries, 1200 N. Dairy Ashford and 2233 S. Voss. Contact: www.corneliusnurseries/clinics

Sat.-Sun., May 10-11: Houston Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Sale, 9am-5pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. Details: www.hcsstex.org

Sun., May 11: Plant a Butterfly Feeder Hanging Basket, 2-4pm, \$65, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr. Details: www.houstonarboretum.org

Tues., May 13: Insects in Your Garden, 6:30pm, Clear Lake Park Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubP2.aspx>

Tues., May 13: Garden Pests - Identify and Manage! by Dr. Joe Novak, 6-8pm, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. \$30 Near Northwest Management District event. Details: 713-895-8021, , info101@nnmd.org or www.nnmd.org/Programs/GardeningWorkshops.shtml

Thurs., May 15: Insects in Your garden, 6:30pm, Trini Menenhall Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Details: 281-627-6818

Thurs., May 15: Greening the Prairie by Lisa Gray: 7:30-9 pm, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston chapter event. Details: www.npsot.org/houston.

Sat., May 17: Creating a Backyard Wildscape by Tricia Bradbury, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Details: 281-937-9449. Repeated: 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Details: 281-341-1206. <http://myenchanted.com/>

Sat., May 17: Lone Star Daylily Society Show/Sale, 1-4pm, Alvin Senior Center 309 West Sealy, Alvin. Details: Details: www.lonestardaylilysociety.org

Sat., May 17: Galveston County Fruit Growers Tour, 9am-noon. Free. Details: Galveston County AgriLife Extension, 281-534-3413; galv@wt.net or www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston.

Sat., May 17: Insects in Your Garden, 10am, Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Details: 281-627-6818

Sat., May 17: Perennials Clinic, 10:15 a.m. Cornelius Nurseries, 1200 N. Dairy Ashford and 2233 S. Voss. Contact: www.corneliusnurseries/clinics

Sun., May 18: Celebration of Daylilies, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Payne's in the Grass Daylily Farm, 2130 O'Day Road, Pearland, Texas 77581. Details: 281-419-6661, 281-485-3821. Details: <http://paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com>

Sun., May 18: Lone Star Hibiscus Society Sale, 1-4pm, Knights of Columbus Hall 702 Burney Rd. Sugar Land. Details: www.lonestarahs.org

Mon., May 19: Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2's Open Garden, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Program at 9:30am. . Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubP2.aspx>

Wed., May 21: Birds in Our Area by Paul Fagala, Wild Birds Limited, 10am, Clear Lake Park Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. Free. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubP2.aspx>

Sat., May 24: Enjoy a Night Blooming Garden, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Details: 281-937-9449. Repeated: 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Details: 281-341-1206. Details: <http://myenchanted.com/>

Sat., May 24: Butterfly & Hummingbird Gardens & Landscape Design Clinics, 10:15 a.m. Cornelius Nurseries, 1200 N. Dairy Ashford and 2233 S. Voss.

Contact: www.corneliusnurseries/clinics

Tues., May 27: Insects in Your Garden, 6:30pm, Recipe for Success, 4400 Yupon St. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Details: 281-627-6818

Tues., May 27: Insects in Your Garden / Open Garden Day, 9-11:30am, AgriLife Extension Office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Details: 281-627-6818

Sun., June 1: Space City Hibiscus Society Sale, 1-4pm, East Harris Co. Activity Center 7340 Spencer Highway, Pasadena. Details: www.spacecityahs.org

Sun., June 8: Lone Star Hibiscus Society Sale, 1-4pm, Knights of Columbus Hall 702 Burney Rd. Sugar Land. Details: www.lonestarahs.org

Sat., June 14: Bolivar Peninsula Plant Sale and Bazaar, 11am-4pm, free, Bay Vue United Methodist Church, 1441 Jane Long Highway (Hwy 87), Crystal Beach. Details: 409-684-2634

Sat, June 14 : The Plumeria Society of America Show & Plant Sale, 9 to 3pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway, Seabrook, Texas 77586 - Clear Lake area. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

Thurs., June 19: Plants That Like Wet Feet by Mary Carol Edwards, 7:30-9 pm, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston chapter event. Details: www.npsot.org/houston.

Sat., June 21: 4th annual Tomato & Vegetable Contest, Kingwood Garden Center, 1216 Stonehollow Drive, Kingwood. Details: 281-358-1805 or www.Kingwoodgardencenter.com

Sat, July 26 : The Plumeria Society of America Show & Plant Sale, 9 to 3pm, Ft. Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 1st Street, Rosenberg. Details: www.theplumeriasociety.org

WANT YOUR EVENT IN THE LG&F CALENDAR? PLEASE NOTE!

You have to send it to us!

EVENTS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS OR MEDIA RELEASES.

All submitted events should be written in the exact format used for events above and must be specifically labeled for publication in LAZY GARDENER AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER. Email to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

Need speakers for your group? Or tips on getting more publicity for events?

Brenda's free booklets that might help: "[Lazy Gardener's Speakers List](#)"

of area horticultural/environmental experts, and "[Lazy Gardener's Publicity Booklet](#)"

(based on her 40+ years of her Houston Chronicle "Lazy Gardener" coverage of area events) Email specific requests to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net.

Please help us grow by informing all your membership of this weekly newsletter!

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 a couple of years ago, it 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 and now to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

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

In addition to her position as Production Editor on the Garden Club of America's magazine and her freelance writing career, Brenda's latest venture is "THE LAZY GARDENER'S & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER" with John Ferguson and Mark Bowen 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.

MARK BOWEN

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a coordinator and occasional article contributor.

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, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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Save 20%: Redeem this coupon for a big discount on Nature's Way Resources "Tropical Soil Mix" (<http://natureswayresources.com/>). Please note: this offer is for bagged or bulk material purchases by retail customers only at Nature's Way Resources, located at 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX.

Offer Expires: 04/27/14