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## Gardening Newsletter

April 18, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 288th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

This newsletter is a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith & John Ferguson. (John is with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . .Email your thoughts to: [lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com). Thanks so much for your interest.

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

Enjoy!



## ***FREE ADVICE ABOUNDS . . . WIND DAMAGED TREES . . . IDENTIFYING CRITTERS . . . GARDENING SENIORS***

**By BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Easter and Earth Day Cometh — Sunday & Monday, respectively, . And I have a great gift for you. It's the story of the Glazier Senior Garden, our Spotlight Article below.

First tho, 'tis the season for lots of gardening advice questions. Happy to answer. But if they involve "what to plant in . . .", our answers may be frustrating for you and us both.

We're always happy to suggest plants. But if you can't find them, what good are recommendations?

My first suggestion is always: get to know, and consult, your neighborhood nurseryman. He not only needs your patronage, he needs YOU to be happy and successful, so you'll come back. He shares your area's gardening challenges, and he's the first to know about new varieties available that might be great for you, but maybe not so hot for the gardener across town.

We live in a unique subtropical Gulf Coast pocket, closer to Southern Louisiana than any other part of Texas. We have more monsoon rains than anywhere in the state. We're not as tropical as South Texas, our soils are not as sandy and acidic as Northeast Texas and certainly a far cry from the dry, limestone soils of the Hill Country. We don't have as prolonged winter cold as North Texas, and are eons away from far West Texas climates.

All these factors can affect the success of plants if we don't compare our ecology to that in the areas where specific natives are most successful. For example, many if not most natives from other parts of the state must have GREAT drainage here. Beds may need to be raised if not on slopes.

Some natives may need more acidic soil than most of us have, or a slightly different ideal planting time. "Texas" native does not always translate into "just stick it in the ground and forget it" here. Get that first planting right, and then, yes, they're great for us too.

General advice is good. But always check actual planting advice with your local independent nurseryman, your county's Master Gardeners and other LOCAL experts. These are unique sources of good gardening advice for us. Take advantage of them!

**DON'T EVER UNDERESTIMATE** what treasures your county Master Gardeners can be to you garden more efficiently. In 2018, for example, 18,319 inquiries were answered on the dedicated Master Gardener phone lines alone and 653 youth & demonstration gardens were manned and used to educate the public, to name just a few of their contributions. All told, \$13,717,442.54 worth of time was donated by Master Gardeners in 2018. [\*\*Find & use them!\*\*](#)

Also utilize our nature centers, public gardens and organizations. For example, a trio of such entities will combine expertise Fri.-Sat., April 19-20 (9am-4pm) at the Houston Arboretum's annual **Spring Native Plant Sale**. Houston Audubon Society and Houston Parks and Recreation join the Arboretum in offering almost 100 local-sourced species ideal for our landscapes, including these below they would like to see us plant more often:



***L to r, fringe tree, two-winged silver bell, hawthorne and paw paw are some often hard to find flowering understory trees.***

When it comes to large trees, they're offering beautiful White Oaks, Swamp Chestnut Oaks and Overcup oaks, which are more native to this area (translation: hardier) than live oaks.

The complete Houston Arboretum Spring Native Plant Sale Inventory will be available online the week before the sale.

[\*\*houstonarboretum.org/events/spring-plant-sale-2019.\*\*](https://houstonarboretum.org/events/spring-plant-sale-2019)

\* \* \*

**SPEAKING OF TREES**, our recent violent thunderstorm winds took their toll, including a tree that has Melissa G. concerned. Her young tree's trunk took a hard split as branches were whipped around. What to do?

This happened to my pink magnolia when it and I were both young & clueless. I grabbed black electrical tape (closest thing at hand) and wrapped the still-slightly-attached, torn trunk back together. That tree healed itself and is still thriving after some 40 years. Was I just lucky? Or is this a good thing to do?

John Ferguson agreed re-securing with electrical tape is a good move, but only if the branch or trunk is not completely severed. If it is, leave remaining base alone. It needs to breathe to possibly heal. Do not paint. Usually hardened wood won't root, but can't hurt to try!



If the trunk is split but still joined at the base, tape it tightly, squeezing the wood together. Secure a long wood or metal strip to the trunk to act as a splint until the tree heals itself. John recommends a liquid fertilizer such as Microlife Ocean Harvest around the root zone.



## BOTTLEBRUSH BONANZAS

I've gotten several ID queries about those gorgeous "red brush-like flowers." It is a banner year for bottlebrush ( *Callistemon* spp) . Mary Jo Kruse thought she brought another "tree" (like this one at left in her neighbor's yard) to replace one she lost. Apparently her new one (lower right) is a dwarf! Check those labels! Bottlebrush is native to Australia (among other areas) where native folk closely associate it with tranquil and healing vibrations.

## EASTER LILIES OK FOR HOUSTON GARDEN?

Sure, in well-drained or raised site, with some sun. These bulbs don't like wet roots & need prolonged winter cold, two major challenges here. If happy, they will rebloom. Most often rebloom for a few years, then disappear. For 10 years, Sharon Ennis Axton treasured this multiplying planting at right started by her mother. Maybe a record here? Well worth planting in your garden!



**ANGELA J.: HOW DO I KNOW GOOD CATERPILLARS FROM BAD?** From this point on, many garden plants will be covered with caterpillars of beautiful butterflies or moths. Don't automatically kill or treat. First check out Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's [texashighplainsinsects.net/common-caterpillars](http://texashighplainsinsects.net/common-caterpillars) link.

Another good general bug ID aid: [insectidentification.org](http://insectidentification.org).

\* \* \*

**FOR ALMOST A DECADE** , Glazier Senior Education Center, a Harris County Precinct 3/Northwest Houston treasure, has offered an incredible array of activities, not the least of which is an active community garden that also serves as an excellent example of adaptations and techniques for those with challenges, including keyhole garden. ( [PBS video filmed at Glazier](#) ) .

Members meet every Monday to work. On April 22, they will welcome visitors at an Open Garden from 9-10am. **16600 Pine Forest Lane; 713-274-3250; [pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center](http://pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center)**

In our Spotlight Article below, Glazier Center Director Lisa Rice gives us a touching glimpse into how Glazier's dedicated gardeners coped with Harvey and other challenges.

\* \* \*

Favor? Check to make sure submitted Calendar events are published.  
If you don't see it, email me: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

\* \* \*

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener.

**A PDF OF THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE POSTED MONDAY ON**  
**<https://www.natureswayresources.com/new.html>**  
***We hope you will repost & share it with anyone and everyone!***

\* \* \*



## **GARDENING CHALLENGES INCURRED AFTER THE FLOOD**

**By LISA RICE , Director**

**[Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center](#)**

Glazier Senior Education Center officially closed August 29, 2017, after Hurricane Harvey floodwaters rose several feet into the building. Our very vigorous community garden was ravaged by high flood waters as well.

The raised beds were brimming with  
okra, tomatoes, eggplants,  
cantaloupe and other summer



vegetables when flood waters arrived in the garden. Several days after the flood, with water several feet in the building, we hauled out our computers and other office equipment that we could salvage.

We then waded to the back door that leads to the community garden. We noticed several deer took refuge in the raised gardens. They sustained themselves for days by eating the produce in the garden.

We noticed a baby boar that had drowned - his neck was stuck in our iron gate. Once the flood waters rescinded the deer, hopefully, found their way home.



The local sewage plant suffered mechanical failure during the disaster and the plant flooded our community garden with raw sewage. The soil in the raised beds needed to be replaced due to soil contamination. We called one of the best sources for potting soil and ordered enough soil to replace the contaminated soil. I explained in detail what the issues were and a potting soil was recommended.

The replacement soil was to be considered to be of excellent quality in its composition. However, after planting the spring vegetables they appeared to be sickly looking and displayed stunted growth. Little to no fruit was present on our tomatoes, pepper, and other spring vegetables.

I called the organization and they said they had removed a key element from the mix. I wish they had conveyed that during our discussion! It was a big disappointment. The fix was adding Microlife. This product is not only a fertilizer but adds microbes to the Earth.

The product was added and we noticed an increase in growth and robust plants. More was added for the fall planting and we had an excellent fall harvest. Gene Aman, the community garden leader, brought our garden back to its former glory. The fennel we are harvesting is beautiful, the kale and

mustard greens were bountiful in the fall, and now our spring garden is off to a great start.

Not only has our community garden brought great joy and pride to our community we were pleased to be a part of the solution for the displaced wild animals in our area during the disaster.

Look real careful at the first image. A baby deer is sleeping in the raised garden bed!

**NOTE: Glazier Senior Education Center gardeners will welcome visitors at an Open Garden Mon., April 22, 9-10am. 16600 Pine Forest Lane; 713-274-3250; [pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center](http://pct3.com/senior-centers/glazier-senior-center). Or, you can email Lisa Rice at [lrice@pct3.com](mailto:lrice@pct3.com)**



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 81

Years ago, I remember reading research by Bell Laboratories that plants respond to sound waves and it confirmed the old wife's tale that talking to plants helped them grow better. They even found that when plants were exposed to classical or soft soothing music they did better and if they were exposed to hard rock music they suffered. Research at Tel Aviv University has found that plants respond to sounds produced by the wings of pollinators. Within 3 minutes of exposure to these sounds the nectar in the flowers become 12-20 percent sweeter.

We have often talked about the health benefits of gardening and being in nature. A study by the University of Illinois looked at environmental data from 3,103 counties across America. They found that counties with more forests and shrublands had lower Medicare costs per capita. This amounted to a \$6 billion in reduced Medicare costs every year nationally.

Researchers at the University of Texas has found that the peel of apples, berries, and grapes have compounds (resveratrol) that can destroy cancerous cells without resorting to surgery or chemotherapy. They identified the three

most active compounds as curcumin (from turmeric), resveratrol from red grapes and berries, and ursolic acid from apple peels. In addition, these compounds help with prostate issues and help the immune system fight off disease.

For decades numerous antidotal reports from gardeners all over the country have stated they have less pest problems as the variety and diversity of species of plants in their landscapes increases. A national study by North Carolina State University found a strong relationship between the diversity of tree species and the number of pests. Part of the findings was at low diversity levels, as diversity increases, then the number of pests found increases. However, at a certain point as the diversity increases then the number of pests decreases (a tipping point). Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences 2019.

A study published in the Journal of Applied Ecology (2019) has found that dung beetles in conjunction with soil bacteria naturally suppress *E. coli* and other pathogens harmful to humans. Wild animals to feral pigs and livestock have human pathogens in their manure. When dung beetles bury this manure with chemicals from the dung beetles' bodies, the pathogens cannot survive. It is believed the beetles have antibiotic-like chemicals on their bodies. As part of the study the researchers looked at conventional farms (toxic chemicals) and compared them to organic farms. They found organic farms have a wide variety of dung beetle species that were very effective at keeping foodborne pathogens at bay. I would suspect that in organically maintained yards and gardens they would also reduce pathogens from wild animals and our dogs and cats.

There is a new research on biological weed control. Researchers in Australia have identified a pathogenic bacterium (*Pectobacterium*) that destroys the invasive weed "Angled Onion or Three-Cornered Leek". This good bacterium enters the weed and causes it to rot. It is believed it does this by tying up the weeds iron (Fe) which allows enzymes from the bacterium to rot the weed. PLOS Biol (2019).

In the Journal Environmental Health Perspectives (February 2019) there is a research paper on older women and depression. Consistent with many other studies they found the association with increased "Greenness" there was less depression. Another great reason to be an organic gardener! A worldwide study in the publication "Earth" (2019) has found that as carbon dioxide levels increased, levels of essential nutrients in plants like iron and zinc along with proteins decreased. These nutrients affect our immune systems, IQ, and strength. When one uses organic methods to maintain one's yard and gardens, not only does it give better results with lower costs, and is safer for children and pets, it also sequesters carbon in the soil. Another benefit to using the modern methods based on soil biology.

Above we mentioned that plants can "hear". Now researchers have discovered that plants can "smell". Researchers from the University of Tokyo, published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry (2018) has found that plants can detect a class of odor molecules known as volatile (airborne) organic compounds which



are required for many plant survival methods. These include attracting pollinators to deterring pests and disease.

I read in one of my newsletters this week, that several insurance companies will not cover (protect) a business or individual against loss or injury if they use or sell glyphosate products. If you have any containers of Round-Up or other herbicide it can be disposed of at your counties hazardous waste recycling centers.

## *Have You Tried . . .* **TEXAS SWEET OLIVE** ( *Osmanthus fragrans* )

Large 6'+ upright hardy evergreen shrub produces exquisite white bloom clusters winter, early spring and, periodically, all summer. Plant where can best enjoy the delightful fragrance similar to roses and gardenias. Adaptable to most soils. Sun to partial shade. Attracts birds, butterflies. Slow growing but very long-lived.



*Carried by Nature's Way Resources. Or contact our new sponsor, Montgomery Pines Nursery in Willis, your independent neighborhood nursery or our other sponsors below for possible sources.*

\* \* \*

## **LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

### **CALENDAR EVENTS**

#### **GARDEN/PLANT EVENTS ONLY**

*Events are in Houston unless otherwise noted. No events are picked up from newsletter, etc.*

*Events must be submitted in exact format below to [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)*

FRI.-SAT., APR. 19-20: HOUSTON ARBORETUM SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm, 4501 Woodway. [houstonarboretum.org](http://houstonarboretum.org)

SAT., APR. 20: HANGING BASKETS CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., APR 20: "CAMELLIA RESEARCH – SPECIES AND CULTIVARS" with Dr. Jiyuan Li, 11:30am, free. TOUR, 10am, \$10. 20559 FM 359, Hempstead. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org)

MON., APR. 22: EARTH DAY AT SEABOURNE CREEK NATURE PARK, 9am-3pm, Seabourne Creek Nature Park, 3831 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg. Free. Texas Master Naturalists/Coastal Prairie Chapter event. 281-633-7033; [mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu); [facebook.com/TXMNCoastal/](https://www.facebook.com/TXMNCoastal/)

WED., APR. 24: SUMMER VEGETABLE PLANTING, 6-7pm, McGovern Centennial Family Gardens, 1500 Hermann Dr. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](https://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)

WED., APR. 24: PLANTS OF SOUTHERN NAMIBIA & THE RICHTERSVELD by JEFFREY POELMANN, 7:30 pm, at the Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. FREE. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. [www.hcsstex.org](http://www.hcsstex.org)

WED., APR. 24: (Registration deadline for) 36th ANNUAL HERB DAY: HERBS FROM SOUTH OF THE BORDER, Sat., Apr. 27, 8:45am-3pm, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 5501 Main. Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit event. Register: [herbsociety-stu.org/herb-day.html](https://herbsociety-stu.org/herb-day.html) or [southtexasunit@gmail.com](mailto:southtexasunit@gmail.com)

FRI.-SUN., APR. 26-28: KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB HOME & GARDEN TOUR, 10am-4pm Fri.-Sat.; noon-4pm Sun. Tickets: [kingwoodgardenclub.org](https://kingwoodgardenclub.org).

SAT., APR. 27: PLANTING IN GLASS CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](https://maasnursery.com)

SAT., APR. 27: 2019 OLEANDER GARDEN FESTIVAL & GRAND OLEANDER SALE, 2624 Sealy Ave, Galveston. [oleander.org](https://oleander.org)

SAT., APR 27: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. [peckerwoodgarden.org](https://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org)

SAT., APRIL 27: PLANT SALE- Tried & True Plants From Our Gardens. 9am – noon, Lake Jackson Civic Center Outside Plaza, 333 Hwy 332 East, Lake Jackson Garden Club, [lakejacksongardenclubtx@gmail.com](mailto:lakejacksongardenclubtx@gmail.com)

SAT.-SUN., APR. 27-28: HERITAGE GARDENERS SPRING HOME TOUR, 1-5pm, and FLOWER & HORTICULTURE SHOW, PLANT SALE & SPRING VENDOR MARKET, 9am-5pm, Marie Workman Garden Center, 112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood.

SUN., APR. 28: GINGERS-TROPICAL BEAUTIES FOR SUMMER GARDENS by Ceil Dow, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](https://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

TUES., APR. 30: ENHANCE LONGEVITY WITH ORGANICS by DR. ZACH BUSH, MD, 7:30pm, McGovern Centennial Gardens, 1500 Hermann Dr. \$50. Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance (OHBA). Register: [ohba.z2systems.com/np/clients/ohba/event.jsp?event=8&](https://ohba.z2systems.com/np/clients/ohba/event.jsp?event=8&)

SAT., MAY 4: GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES & BEES CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](https://maasnursery.com)

SAT., MAY 4: SUCCULENT PROPAGATION, 9:30am, free; MODERN SUCCULENTS WITH TILLANDSIAS WORKSHOP, 1pm, \$30, both by PAULA SPLETTER and MARILYN HILL. AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. REGISTER: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); 281-309-5065; [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

SAT.-SUN., MAY 4-5: BROMELIAD SOCIETY / HOUSTON SHOW & SALE, Show 2 pm-5 pm Sat.; 11 am-3 pm Sun., Sale 9 am-5 pm Sat.; 11 am-3 pm Sun., Judson Robinson Jr.

Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event.  
[bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

SAT.-SUN., MAY 4 -5: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE,  
9am-5pm Sat., 9am-3pm Sun, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray St.  
Free. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org)

TUES., MAY 7: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500  
Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

WED., MAY 8: TEXAS SNAKES, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-  
Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., MAY 9: ORGANICS A TO Z, HEALTHIEST LAWNS & GARDENS EVER! by  
MIKE SERANT, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Bldg, 1202  
Genoa Red Bluff Rd. , Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-  
0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS., MAY 9: WATER CONSERVATION, 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817  
Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-  
0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS, May. 9 COMPANION PLANTS FOR YOUR ROSE GARDEN by Angela Chandler  
7:00pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston 77004. Houston Rose  
Society event. Free. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

SAT., MAY 11: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING, 9:30-11:30am. Houston Museum of Natural  
Science, Moran Conference Room, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest  
event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)

SAT., MAY. 11: DAYLILY FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-3pm. Gethsemane Lutheran  
Church, 4040 Watonga, Houston, TX 77092 Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

SAT, MAY 11: Brazosport Daylily Club Show & Plant Sale. Show-Sale 1-4pm, St Mark's  
Lutheran Church, 501 Willow Drive, Lake Jackson. Free. 281-413-4844.

THURS., MAY 16: GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY: TWO PRESENTATIONS by SUSAN  
CONATY and LAUREN SIMPSON, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway.  
Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

THURS., MAY 16: WATER CONSERVATION, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch  
Library, 16616 Diana Ln.. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-  
0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT. MAY 18: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY,  
9:30-11:30 a.m., AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Free. Montgomery  
County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824, [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

SAT., MAY 18: WATER CONSERVATION, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library,  
1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-  
0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., MAY 21: BROMELIADS OF ECUADOR by CRISTY BRENNER, 7pm, West Gray  
Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event.  
[bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

TUES., MAY 21: WATER CONSERVATION, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial  
Library, 930 Corbindale, Houston. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274  
0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)



SAT, JUN 1: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY CLUB PLANT SALE, 9am-2pm, Lake Jackson Civic Center, 333 Highway 332, Lake Jackson. Free. 281-413-4844.

SAT., JUNE 8: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

WED., JUNE 12: BEHIND SCENES AT A BOTANIC GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., JUN. 20: JUST ENOUGH LATIN TO GO PLANT SHOPPING by CAROL CLARK, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

TUES., July 9: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

WED., JULY 10: TREE IDENTIFICATION. Noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., JULY 13: TROPICAL SYMPOSIUM, 8:30am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Fee. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., JUL. 18: VIRTUALLY WILD! TEXAS – CONNECTING STUDENTS DIGITALLY by JAIME GONZALES, 6:45-8:30pm; Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

SAT., JULY 20: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

WED., AUG. 14: BIRDS OF A FEATHER IN YOUR GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

TUES., Oct. 8: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

SAT. DEC. 14, 2019: CHAPPELL HILL GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR, 10am-5pm., Chappell Hill. \$20 advance/\$25 tour day. 713-562-6191; 979-337-1200

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

**THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!**  
& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!

PLEASE READ BEFORE

SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR. \_

Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take two weeks or longer

to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.

Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

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[lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com)



[www.bartlett.com](http://www.bartlett.com)



## 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.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint 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.



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