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## Gardening Newsletter

April 26, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 289th 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!



## SHOW OFF THOSE "WOW!" FLOWERS . . . . . STILL-DORMANT? . . . SHIP CHANNEL BLOOMS

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

**HAVE A PRIZE BLOOM** you're dying to show off? Why not see if there's a local flower show where it just might win a blue ribbon?

Many specialty plant societies welcome nonmember submissions if they meet certain entry criteria. Each is different. You need to make your own contacts.

At my last count, we have 20+ area specialty societies (some have multiple chapters) with annual or periodic shows for African violets, begonias, bonsai, cacti & succulents, camellias, chrysanthemums, daylilies, ferns, herbs, native plants, oleanders, palms, plumerias and roses. Google "Houston," "plant name" and "society." Group names should come up, even if "society" isn't part of the official name.

But it's not just a matter of showing up with a beautiful flower. Most shows have rules and have to approve entries before accepting them.

Society members have a long tradition of preparing for shows. In our two Spotlight articles below, Mary Gage, Jeannie Mallick and Marti Graves are generously offering tips to help you if your prize bloom happens to be a daylily or an hibiscus, respectively.

Mary & Jeannie's and Marti's articles below were originally written for Serious Flower Show Participants. With their permission, I edited them down to encourage novices, to give a taste of the high level of professionalism demanded of show entrants and to hopefully to make you want to try.

If you're serious about a spectacular bloom, at the very least you will be delighted at how encouraging and happy experienced growers will be that you entered their show. Links to the full, original articles follow each Spotlight.

Mary Gage, a daylily Exhibition Judge and operator of the well-known Spring Creek Daylily Garden for 35 years, is this area's go-to expert for daylily scape (bloom stem) for show. Jeannie is Cypress Creek Daylily Club President. Marti Graves, longtime member of the Lone Star Chapter/American Hibiscus Society, is editor of LSC/AHS's newsletter, "***The Petaloid***."

Shows highlighting both daylilies and hibiscus are coming up. Check after each Spotlight article and our calendar below for details. You need to contact individual event sponsors for their specific show submission rules.

Before we get to the Spotlight articles, however, want to help Daisy W. She's worried. Her beautiful Pride of Barbados plant still hasn't leafed back out. Is it dead-dead?



*Caesalpinia pulcherrima* are tropical trees that demand excellent drainage and tend to do better the further south of Houston you live. Daisy is in the Atascocita area, a little far north but worth trying. Our cold winter with its multiple heavy rains probably added a lot of stress.

My advice on a slow-reappearing plant: "Don't panic until July 4<sup>th</sup>." If you're not celebrating its return on the 4th, go ahead and plant something different there. Or, try another one in another full-sun spot where NO water stands after a rain.



In the meantime, don't touch those maybe-dead stalks! Instead, around it, plant spring bloomers like (l to r, above) dianthus, marigolds, snapdragons, Shasta daisies, violets or violas. They will probably die anyway in our summer heat. By then should your Pride of Barbados decide to return, you'll have lots to celebrate!

**IT'S TIME TO AGAIN SPOTLIGHT MY FAVORITE SPRING DRIVE** on I-610 between the Ship Channel Bridge and I-10 East. They are as fabulous right now as I have ever seen them. Enormous. Solid color. Incredible! Major tip o' the trowel to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).





If you have a favorite freeway planting, send me a picture. I love to give touts to TxDOT and its local partners for such plantings so will try to find out who they are. (lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

\* \* \*

Now, our two Spotlight Articles that will hopefully encourage you to try your hand at entering blooms in a specialty flower show. Remember, these are just broad overviews. You'll need to read the additional recommended information as well. Although these focus on just two popular flowers, remember, many other specialty societies also have show. Check our calendar below.

\* \* \*

*Favor? Check to make sure submitted Calendar events are published.*

*If you don't see it, email me: 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 IS POSTED AT**

**<https://www.natureswayresources.com/new.html>**

*We hope you will repost & share it with anyone and everyone!*

\* \* \*





*L to r, Hemerocallis 'Classic Edge'; Mary Gage, and, right, H. "Little Orange Tex" wins a ribbon!*

## GROOMING DAYLILIES FOR A FLOWER SHOW

by **MARY GAGE & JEANNIE MALLICK**  
Cypress Creek Daylily Club

<http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com/>

May is peak blooming season for the beloved Hemerocallis. A great way to celebrate: participate in a local flower show! Two Daylily Shows that welcome entries from nonmembers are coming up Sat., May 11, in Houston and Lake Jackson (details at end of article).

Want to enter your prize daylilies?

- As show day approaches take note of possible winning scapes. If you can, tag them by cultivar name. Show entry card information can be found at [www.daylilies.org](http://www.daylilies.org)
- Protect the daylily from bruising in garden and travel to show. Wrap transporting container openings with masking tape to cover sharp edges. Early show day, cut labeled scapes with open blooms. Secure with cotton or foam wedges to hold scapes steady and prevent blooms from touching.



*Daylily scapes ready for transport in special carrier, left, and in bucket with newspaper rolls. Right, judged daylilies at a show.*

- Vases will be provided in the show Prep Area. The proper size vase is one that holds enough water to steady the scape without the vase tipping over.
- Preparing bloom scapes is an important step, but too complicated to detail here. See below for links to more information.

Judges look at each scape and evaluate how well it conforms to the characteristics listed in the cultivar's registration data.

#### **(1) FLOWER :**

- **COLOR** — clear, lustrous, bright, and rich.
- **FORM** — All parts intact, no missing segments, anthers or malformed pistils.
- **TEXTURE** — surface quality of the tissue structure.
- **SUBSTANCE** — tissue structure thickness (determines holding quality).
- **SIZE** is bloom diameter

#### **(2) SCAPE:** — Harmonious relationship to flower, height and strength

- **BUDS** reflect the potential length of blooming
- **BRANCHING** — most desirable quality (more terminal ends for buds to form).

**(3) CONDITION AND GROOMING:** Condition — fresh, clean, well-groomed, and unblemished.

A daylily flower show is where you experience for yourself the amazing rainbow spectrum of brilliant color and form that exists for this excitingly diverse, beautiful flower.

Yes, you have to grow, groom, and transport your daylily to the show, but remember nature is on your team. Right now, she is working patiently and wondrously to provide you a healthy vibrant flower. You never know what you will find as you step into your garden the morning of the show and find a daylily at the peak of blooming and poised to win top honors.

A single daylily bloom may raise its lovely face to the sun for only one day but the thrill of winning a ribbon and the bragging rights last for years.



If you're interested in showing flowers, be sure you check all these links:

- [ofts.com/hhs](https://ofts.com/hhs) (to download the schedule and complete show entry rules)
- [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](https://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com) (for Mary's complete article and additional information)

**Two upcoming Daylily Shows** — contact each about open entry rules:

- **SAT., MAY. 11: DAYLILY FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE**, 1-3pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga, Houston. Free. Cosponsored by the Houston Hemerocallis Society, Houston Area Daylily Society and Cypress Daylily Club. Details: [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](https://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.

\* \* \*



## HIBISCUS SHOW BLOOM PREPARATION

By MARTI GRAVES

Lone Star Chapter/American Hibiscus Society

[lonestarahs.org](https://lonestarahs.org)

Hibiscus Show season is here. Start fertilizing for larger, more frequent blooms: a good hibiscus fertilizer with Epson Salts (1 tbl. per gallon) at the start of the season, not for each show.

A week before a show, we foliar feed (spray leaves and buds) with Space City fertilizer mixed at 1 tbl. per gallon of water with 1 tbl. fish emulsion, 1 tbl. liquid seaweed and 1 tbl. potassium nitrate.

Three days before a show we drench (water well until it runs through pot) with the same solution. Yes, all our plants are in pots to help control fertilizer and for easy moves for sun conditions and temperature conditions in winter.

Friday before a Sunday show, record buds on each plant you think will open on Saturday or Sunday. If they begin to open, pick them. Place, in a cone, in your refrigerator crisper. Sunday morning, pick all buds you think will open, even if they look tight. Place in a cone and then in the container to go to the show. Put the container in the car or in the sun. Do not place back in refrigerator. Heat will help them open.

At the show, place tight buds in sun to help them open. The cone helps protect edges from brushing up against another bloom or object that could damage them. Reds, especially, bruise easily and turn black when touched. Arrange cones in your container so cone sides or points touch each other and not the open end. They will move in transport but this should minimize damage.

At the show, place tight buds still in cone in sun to help them open. Cone helps protect edges from brushing up against another bloom or objects that could damage them. Reds bruise easily and turn black when touched. Try to arrange cones in the container so cone sides or points touch each other not the open end. They will move in transport but this should help minimize damage.

At the show, take blooms out cones. Place carefully on the provided block and wire. Amateurs should be able to handle task of filling out cards at the show.

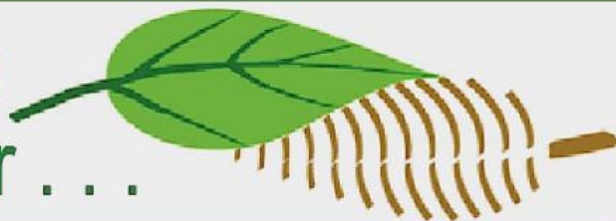
Then watch the judging and count your gold ribbons! It is fun and can be very rewarding.

\* \* \*

**NOTE: Lone Star Chapter American Hibiscus Society Hibiscus free 2019 Shows and Plant Sales are:**

- **Sat., May 11: 1-4pm, Knights of Columbus St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land (next to St. Theresa Catholic Church).**
- **Sun., June 2: 1-4pm, Condit Elementary, 7000 S. 3rd. St., Bellaire (across Rice Ave. from Bellaire Community Center)**
- **Planning to enter a bloom. Contact the society through its Facebook page: [facebook.com/pg/Lone-Star-Hibiscus-Society-273163146528/events/](https://facebook.com/pg/Lone-Star-Hibiscus-Society-273163146528/events/) or website: [lonestarahs.org](http://lonestarahs.org).**
  1. **MARTI'S COMPLETE ARTICLE** on preparing blooms for a show (from which this article was excerpted) was published in the Society's April 2019 "The Petaloid" Newsletter. For a copy of this issue, email me ([lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)). "The Petaloids" newsletters are only available to members, but I can send you this one.
  2. **WONDER EXACTLY WHAT HIBISCUS JUDGES SEE** when evaluating hibiscus? The [May 23, 2018, Lazy Gardener & Friends Houston Garden Newsletter issue](#) includes Marti's full article on this topic





## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 82

There is an exciting branch of plant research going on that discovered plants produce small membrane wrapped spheres called vesicles encased in a larger membrane. We have known for some time that mammals and even fungi produce these vesicles called exosomes. It is believed that these vesicles are how plants send out defensive compounds to protect themselves against pathogens. For example, when a pathogenic fungus tries to infect cells in the wall of a plant, the plant sends out these spheres to deliver molecules to reinforce the cell wall. These vesicles may also penetrate the fungal cell and carry defensive proteins that disrupt the transmission of fungal proteins. Once established inside a fungus's cells they deliver complex molecules that are anti-fungal.

A study in Sweden published in the Journal of Landscape Ecology found that for pollinating butterflies, it is important for them to be close to forests rather than agricultural fields. They examined 32,000 butterflies from 77 species while studying how landscapes affect the butterflies. When grasslands were surrounded by forests there were higher density of butterflies and increased number of species. This study reinforces many of the modern ideas on how to landscape our yards and gardens. An excellent book on the subject recommended for all gardeners is: "Bringing Nature Home - How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants", by Douglass W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2014, Edith Printing, ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-992-8.

A study in the Journal Genome Research (2019) has found drug resistant pathogens in the waste water from sewage treatment plants. These drug resistant strains were being released into the environment from the waste water discharge or when used for irrigation (purple pipe). The counts of these pathogens were higher if there is hospitals sewage going to the treatment plant. Using ultra violet light as an additional treatment significantly reduced these pathogens but is seldom used. This is another reason for gardeners to avoid products made from biosolids (sewage sludge cake).

Here is another reason to grow one's own vegetables or purchase from a local farmers market. Farmers are using wastewater from the oil industry's fracking technology to water vegetables both conventional and organic. Fracking waste water often contains benzene a known carcinogen, heavy metals like lead, numerous petrochemicals and even radioactive elements like radium. There are also dozens to hundreds of unknown chemicals used that the industry refuses to release as they are "trade secrets".

One of the newsletters I subscribe to had an article on a common garden insect (actually a crustacean) often known as “rollie pollies” or “pill bugs”. They feed on dead organic matter and have many types of microorganisms in their guts to help them process the organic matter which greatly helps speed up the decomposition process. They also eat several species of bad fungi and help cycle the nutrients back into the soil. Another benefit of these creatures has been discovered. They have the ability to take in heavy metals like lead, arsenic, and cadmium and crystalize these metals in their guts into a form that is inert in the environment and cannot do any harm. They can survive in sites heavily contaminated with toxic metals and help clean it up. Note: If there is not enough decaying organic matter, they will eat tender shoots.

The health newsletter from Dr. Mercola had a recent article on the link between our health and gardening and agriculture “Degeneration Nation: GMO’s, Toxic Chemicals and Factory Farms”.

<https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2019/03/19/degeneration-nation.aspx>

I do a lot of gardening for wildlife both at my home and at our farm near LaGrange. I recently finished reading a book with a lot of good information on many of the bird species found in Texas. “The Upland and Migratory Game Birds of Texas”, multiple authors, Texas A&M University Press, 2017, ISBN: 978-1623494988. It covers many things from the type of shelter they require to foods that they eat. It is a good reference for anyone whom wants to increase the number of birds on one’s property by defining which plants they need to have to attract a certain species of birds.

For those of us whom love coffee I read an article in the journal Science Advances (January 2019) on coffee plants. Of the 124 known wild species it was found that 75 (60%) are now in danger of extinction. This is important because wild organic shade grown coffee has many health benefits while the hybridized varieties that grow in full sun to increase yields no longer provide the health benefits.

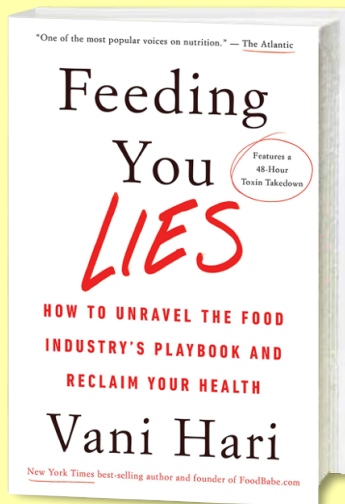
Now that the wall of invulnerability around Monsanto has been broken more research reports are being published. A study in the Journal Mutation Research (2019) by the University of Washington has found that exposure to glyphosate the active ingredient in the herbicide Round Up, increases the risk of all cancers and some cancers by 40%.

Independent testing by the organization “Friends of The Earth” has found that all oat cereals have glyphosate in them. They also found that pinto beans 4.5 times more than the EWG’s benchmark for lifetime cancer risk.

Researchers at Oregon State University and the U.S. Geological Survey have found that some tree species “eat” rocks. They found that red alder in a symbiotic relationship with microbes uses bacteria to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and dissolves rocks releasing elements like calcium and phosphorus. This process accelerates rock dissolution releasing more minerals

to help trees and plants grow. Which will eventually help form rich fertile soils. Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences (2019).

I was called for jury duty recently and while waiting in the jury assemble room, I read an excellent book on the issues with our food supply. "Feeding You Lies – How to Unravel the Food Industry's Playbook and Reclaim Your Health", by Vani Hari (a.k.a. The Food Babe), 2019, Hay House Publishing, ISBN: 978-1-4019-5454-3 As the title suggests she goes discusses many common products produced by the food industry and how they are designed to be addictive and make us fat, creating hundreds of health problems in the process. This book is for anyone concerned about the health of their children and family. More information can be found on her website at [www.foodbabe.com](http://www.foodbabe.com)



This book gives hundreds of reasons we need to grow as much of our own food (fruits and vegetables) as possible or at least buy from local farmers markets.

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## Enhance Longevity with Organics!

**Dr. Zach Bush, MD**

**April 30th || 5:00 - 7:30PM**

**McGovern Centennial Gardens**

**1500 Hermann Drive Houston, TX 77004**



Dr. Zach Bush, triple board certified with expertise in internal medicine, endocrinology, diabetes, hospice care and chemotherapy is a strong believer that our health is dependent on the quality of our food.

From this presentation you will gain incredible knowledge on the connection between the soil & gut microbiome. Learn what foods to eat & what foods to avoid. Discover how to have a healthy, long life & free of diseases.

### TICKETS

OHBA Members \$25

Non-OHBA Members \$50

**REGISTER HERE**

### SCHEDULE

5:00 - 6:00 PM Registration,  
Networking, Light Bites

6:00 - 7:30 PM Dr. Zach Bush

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## *Have You Tried . . .* **BALLOON FLOWER** ( *Platycodon grandiflorus* )

Kiddos love balloon flowers, which get their names from unopened buds that swell up like little balloons before opening! Squeeze a bud and it makes a fun noise. Also known as bellflowers, these 2' high bloomers will appreciate good morning

sun and afternoon shade here. Soil must be well-drained. Deadheading isn't necessary, but will prolong bloom season.



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

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

SAT., APR 27: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://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](http://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&](http://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](http://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](http://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.

SAT., MAY 11: LONE STAR CHAPTER AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY HIBISCUS SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, Knights of Columbus St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. [lonestarahs.org](http://lonestarahs.org)

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.

Sun., JUNE 2: LONE STAR CHAPTER AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY HIBISCUS SHOW & PLANT SALE, 1-4pm, Condit Elementary, 7000 S. 3rd. St., Bellaire. Free. [lonestarahs.org](http://lonestarahs.org)

SAT., JUNE 8, BRINGING BEES TO YOUR GARDEN, 8-10am, & OTHER POLLINATORS BESIDES BEES, 10:30am-12:30pm. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. \$5 each/\$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-529-7824 or [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

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!**  
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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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## 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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