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## Gardening Newsletter

Jun 21, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 297th 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!



# READERS "DOCUMENTING" ... POLLINATOR GARDEN UPDATE

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

I love it when readers respond. Especially love these responses below triggered by last week's column, "Just Call Me an Occasional Gardener" -- which was, itself, totally triggered by a reader's query.

- Mattie K., an "occasional gardener," periodically cellphone videos her garden, first focusing on a dated printed sheet, then shooting plants while she recalls special memories about each one. Someday, she says, she'll index filed videos. Even if that never happens, she'll always have wonderful memories. Sure wish I had done this all along.
- The great visuals at top belong to Don Dubois. Don and I may disagree on his claim to be a "lazy" gardener, but he definitely has a handle on his own energy perimeters. In the Spotlight Article below, Don updates -- and shares new photos of -- the 2015 Spotlight he did for us on this garden. ([natureswayresources.com/NLpdf/110LGNewsletter.pdf](http://natureswayresources.com/NLpdf/110LGNewsletter.pdf)).

One thing I love about Don's photos is their absolute honesty. They show native flowers often do not provide the density of color popular hybridized plants do. Or the color masses many wildflower shots tend to project . . . sometimes falsely. Don's photos show happy natives may spread more than expected.

Don's plantings -- in many ways -- are far more indicative of actual native habitats pollinators may seek first. Native wildlife doesn't really need the masses of solid color we so often demand in our gardens. They just need the right plants.

We may not all have Don's wide-open spaces (photographed above in May), but he does know his bugs, especially pollinators, and what attracts what. Don belongs the [Native Plant Society of Texas/Huntsville Chapter](#), the [North American Butterfly Association](#), leads NABA Butterfly Counts and hosts an annual Monarch tagging event in October in his own backyard. Don't miss Don's Spotlight Article below.

\* \* \*

**First, however, a bit of potpourri:**

- **SPEAKING OF TAKING PICTURES . . .** Some photos readers have sent me are certainly prize-quality. Sept. 9 is deadline for Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition's annual photo contest, a fundraiser for TWRC's environmental conservation efforts. If you capture any wildlife in your floral shots, consider entering: [gogophotocontest.com](http://gogophotocontest.com).

- **IF YOUR MAIN FOCUS IS MONARCHS**, consider joining the July 27-Aug. 4 Int'l Monarch Monitoring Blitz. U.S., Mexico and Canada gardeners volunteer to help identify monarch breeding sites essential to its survival. [namonarchs.org/international-monarch-monitoring-blitz/](http://namonarchs.org/international-monarch-monitoring-blitz/)
- **GARDEN IF YOU WANT TO LIVE TO 100:** A [study of five places on Earth](#) famed for the longevity of residents has found gardening a common factor among all 100+/- -year-olds in the "Blue Zones." In Okinawa (Japan), Nicoya (Costa Rica), Icaria (Greece), Loma Linda (CA) and Sardinia (Italy), folks are exceptionally healthy and active well into their 90s and 100s. A separate Australian study following men and women in their 60s in these areas found those who garden registered a 36% lower risk of dementia than study participants who didn't garden.
- **HAPPY SUMMER SOLSTICE** -- if you're reading this around Sat., June 21, enjoy this year's longest days and shortest nights. Summer Solstice is traditionally a celebration of beautiful flowers, plenty of birds & butterflies and warm (try HOT here) weather. Ancients harvested herbs now, believing medicinal values are peaking. Native Americans called Summer Solstice the "Moon of Making Fat". Time to start eating and storing calories (and food) for the coming winter.

One warning: nationally-printed advice lists now as best time to plant a lot of "summer" bloomers and edibles we here have to start in Feb.-April -- or they'll roast before they produce. Always check edible (especially) plantings against a LOCAL source, such as a trusted neighborhood nurseryman (who wants you to be a repeat customer). Two other excellent sources for edible gardening in the Greater Houston Area:

- DR. BOB RANDALL'S [Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro Houston](#), available at Urban Harvest's office, 3302 Canal, #73, Houston 7700
- URBAN HARVEST PLANTING GUIDE: [urbanharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SUMMER-Planting-Chart-2019.pdf](http://urbanharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SUMMER-Planting-Chart-2019.pdf)

**LOOKING FOR CLUB PROGRAMS ?** The latest LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST is free for the asking. [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 IS POSTED AT**  
<https://www.natureswayresources.com/new.html>  
*We hope you will repost & share it with anyone and everyone!*

\* \* \*



*Spotlighting . . .*  
**Native Plant Society of Texas / Huntsville Chapter**  
*Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter*



*L to r, maypop or passionvine ( Passiflora incarnata ), plains coreopsis ( Coreopsis tinctora ), white prickly poppy ( Argemone albiflora ), zexmenia ( Wedelia hispida ), standing cypress ( Ipomopsis rubra ) and Indian blanket ( Gaillardia pulchella )*

## DOCUMENT WHATEVER IS BLOOMING NOW!

**By DON DUBOIS**

*Native Plant Society of Texas/Sam Houston Chapter*

[facebook.com/shnpsot/](https://www.facebook.com/shnpsot/)

I liked your suggestion, Brenda, to occasionally document whatever is blooming now. Like you, I don't water in my backyard. But even though I grow mostly natives pretty well adapted to our weather, even these are fading out as the hot, dry season takes over.

I did find about 20 varieties ( *pictured above & below* ) hanging on and occasionally thriving in this latest hot and dry stretch in an area that receives no supplemental water. This spring was very favorable with timely rains so things looked great a couple weeks ago before the current hot dry spell began. The garden usually has peak blooms about the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May and then takes a hit during the June-August period before coming back to life in October.

I do water in areas close to the house and front yard, but these photos are all in the backyard beyond the reach of any watering. These plants likewise don't get any fertilizer but the soil has been improved with organic materials and is mulched to help retain moisture.



***L to r, baptisia, black-eyed Susans ( Rudbeckia hirta ), butterfly milkweed ( Asclepias tuberosa ), compact prairie clover ( Dalea compacta ) and Gregg's mistflower ( Conoclinium greggii )***

Most of the plants are several years old and are well established but obviously some are annuals (partridge pea, Indian blanket, standing cypress, prickly poppy, coreopsis, etc.) and some are short lived perennials – all of which re-seed and tend to move around on their own. I can't say they are neglected but they are definitely not "coddled".



***L to r, Gulf vervain ( Verbena xutha ), Lindheimer's beebalm ( Monarda lindheimeri ), violet wild petunia ( Ruellia nudiflora ), obedient plant ( Physostegia ), partridge pea ( Chamaecrista fasciculata ), and rattlesnake master ( Eryngium yuccifolium )***

Maintenance generally involves mulching, thinning and maintaining a border so that Bermuda grass doesn't get into the planting areas. Like you, I use pine straw that I rake up from my yard as much as possible. I have gotten a lot from my neighbors who consider it a nuisance instead of a resource, although at least one neighbor has since decided it was a good use and has now adopted this practice!

I usually need additional mulch and use composted hardwood mulch I get from a nearby mulch yard. I get their oldest, most decomposed mulch. I avoid the mulch that comes in bags. It is often not well composted (poor as a mulch).

I'll need to chop back the monarda and Mexican hat soon.





*L to r, Mexican hat ( Ratibida columnifera ) and three coneflowers:  
giant coneflower ( Rudbeckia maxima ), purple coneflower  
( Echinacea purpurea ) and Texas coneflower ( Rudbeckia texana )*

\* \* \*

**NOTE:** On selected days in fall, Don opens his Magnolia-area gardens for public viewing and butterfly tagging, teaching children and adults alike to catch, tag and release these jewels of nature. Details: [donandchrisdubois@att.net](mailto:donandchrisdubois@att.net)

Don volunteers as a Native Plant Propagator at Mercer Botanic Gardens and urges everyone to attend Mercer's big "Pollinator Plant Sale" Sat., Oct. 5, where many of the plants he grows will be available for sale. Details: [themercersociety.org](http://themercersociety.org) or [facebook.com/MercerBotanicGardens/](https://facebook.com/MercerBotanicGardens/)

\* \* \*



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 89

**A**nother reason to avoid high nitrogen artificial fertilizers or other high nitrogen manures like poultry manure has been discovered. The Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research has discovered that in conditions of high nitrogen in the soil, plant roots do not grow deep or wide. Conversely, they discovered that in low nitrogen conditions plants expand their root zone searching for nitrogen. Journal of Nature Communications 2019. This is another reason people have to water so much, as they regularly apply artificial fertilizers to green up the grass hence between the salt build up creating hardpan and the excess nitrogen, roots of turf grass do not grow deep.

**R**easons to avoid artificial fertilizers continue to grow. A new study from Cornell University has found that the polluting emissions from artificial fertilizer plants (think ammonia an extremely toxic and potent greenhouse gas) were 100 time higher than the fertilizer industries self-reporting estimates. When one uses these toxic products, they contribute to climate change during manufacture, escape of methane from the fertilizer, pollution of our waterways and destruction of organic matter in the soil releasing carbon dioxide. Journal Elementa Science of The Anthropocene (May 2019).

**O**ver the last few years I have been doing a lot of study on how plants use nutrition (minerals and elements) to grow. I recently read a paper published in the American-Eurasian Journal of Agronomy (2010) on the effects of chicken manure on the growth of sweet potatoes. Poultry manure has been used for generations as a fertilizer for plants and works well if only used occasionally. Long term usage can lead to a salt buildup in the soil which is harmful and it is not a balanced fertilizer, hence repeated usage can lead to chemical imbalances in the soil. This study found that small amounts of poultry (chicken) in this case gave satisfactory to good results. However as increasing amounts of manure were applied yields actually declined.

Note 1: Never use poultry manure from factory farms as it is often contaminated with antibiotics, arsenic, and other toxic materials.

Note 2: Poultry manure is high in water soluble phosphorous (P). When there are high levels of phosphorous in the soil, the extremely beneficial mycorrhizal fungi DO NOT colonize a plants roots. The picture below courtesy of Mike Amaranthus, PhD, illustrates the importance of mycorrhizal fungi. This study was done in Southern California in highly saline soils in a very dry drought prone area. The only difference between different sides of the fields is the lemon trees on the right had been inoculated with mycorrhizal fungi at planting time.



Note 3: Over 80% of plants on earth require mycorrhizal fungi to be healthy.

**A** study of 3,600 people by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health found that adults who were exposed to natural outdoor environments as children, have several health benefits. These range from better cognitive development, better mental and physical health when as children they were exposed to green space (gardens, parks, forests, urban parks) and blue space (canals, ponds, creeks, rivers, lakes, beaches, etc.). International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2019)

The Australian National University has found that children who spend one half an hour per day out in the sun decrease their risk of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, (2019). This is another reason school gardens and playing outside are important to their health.

**O**ur pollinators are in serious decline and a recent study (2018) by the University of Hawaii confirmed that exposure to glyphosate (Round-Up) disrupts the healthy gut flora of bees. Other studies have found similar gut disruption effects in chickens and cows. Several studies have found that glyphosate targets an enzyme found in beneficial gut bacteria that plays an important role in detoxifying harmful chemicals, and it is now considered a possible cause of the rise in modern human diseases worldwide.

To make matters worse testing by the consumer advocacy group, Moms Across America (MAA), has revealed that the meat free Impossible Burger



(made from genetically engineered soybeans) is full of glyphosate. This chemical also is believed to be related to the tremendous increase of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).

The reasons to “go organic” in our gardening and “eat organic” in our food continue to increase.

## *Have You Tried . . .*

### **FUZZY BOLIVIAN SAGE**

*( Salvia oxyphora )*

Vigorous perennial, major hummingbird-attracting salvia with fuzzy deep fuchsia tubular flowers on short dense spikes. Blooms spring through fall. 4'. Moderately shade-tolerant, likes mid-day shade in summer. Deadheading promotes more blooms, but will produce great color even without deadheading.



*Fuzzy Bolivian Sage is carried by Nature's Way Resources. Or contact our 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. Individual events must be submitted in exact format below to [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)*

SAT. JUNE 15: PASSION FOR PLUMERIA by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm. AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (FM 519), La Marque. Free. , but Galveston County Master Gardener event. 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., JUNE 15: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., JUNE 15: STARTING A COMMUNITY/SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm. University of Houston Downtown, Rm A629, One Main St. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

SAT., JUNE 15. GROW YOUR OWN - FRUIT TREES AND SEMI-TROPICALS by FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9-11am, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. Register: [fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/](http://fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/) ; 281-342-3034; [brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu).

SAT., JUNE 15: PASSION FOR PLUMERIA by VIRGINIA McCLOSKEY, 11am-12:30pm, Wabash Feed & Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd, Register: [bit.ly/2XxCywQ](http://bit.ly/2XxCywQ), 713-863-8322. [wabashfeed.com](http://wabashfeed.com)

SUN., JUNE 16: A LIVING WREATH WITH FERNS by LARRY RUCKER, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. [tgcfernsociety.org](http://tgcfernsociety.org) .

TUES., JUNE 18: NOMENCLATURE CHANGES FOR BROMELIADS by CAROLE RITCHMYER, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

TUES-THURS, JUNE 18-20: EDIBLE ACADEMY 8am-3pm Tues-Wed, 8am-noon Thurs. Gregory Lincoln Education Center, 1101 Taft. \$350. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

SAT., JUNE 22: HIBISCUS CLASS by JIM MAAS & JOE MILLER, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

THURS., JUNE 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)

SAT., JUNE 22: RAINWATER CAPTURE FOR IRRIGATION by NELL WHEELER, 11am-12:30pm, Wabash Feed & Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd, Register: [bit.ly/2HXbnGm](http://bit.ly/2HXbnGm) , 713-863-8322. [wabashfeed.com](http://wabashfeed.com)

TUES., JUNE 25: SEED ASSETS: FOOD, FIBER, FLOWERS & FUTURE, 6:30-8:30pm, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$16. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

WED., JUNE 26: CSSA VIDEO "PROPAGATING PLANTS & CULTIVATING FRIENDSHIPS," 7:30 pm, at the Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org)

THURS., JUNE 27: BRINGING NATURE HOME by DOUG TALLAMY, PhD, 5-7:30pm, United Way, 50 Waugh Dr., \$50. Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance (OHBA) event. Register: [OHBAONLINE.org/events](http://OHBAONLINE.org/events)

SAT. JUNE 29: RAINWATER HARVESTING by NAT GRUESEN, 9-11 am, AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park, 4102 Main St. (FM 519), La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. 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., JUNE 29: BONSAI CLASS by JIM MAAS, CLYDE HOLT, & PAUL NESTRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., JULY 6: CACTI & SUCCULENTS CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT. JULY 6: BEST PRACTICES OF WATERING by KAROLYN GEPHART, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (FM 519), La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. 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)

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.

THURS, JULY, 11: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND SUMMER CELEBRATION, 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr.. Free. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

THURS., JULY 11: GARDENING ORGANICALLY by DIANE NORMAN, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS., JULY 11: 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)

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

SAT., JULY 13: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN W/WATER FEATURE CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$55. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

MON., JULY 15: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11:00am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., JULY 16: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN UPDATE by JOY COLUMBUS, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

TUES., JULY 16: WATER CONSERVATION – 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THURS., JULY 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. [npot.org/houston](http://npot.org/houston)

THURS., JULY 18: 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., 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)

AT, JULY 20: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS SUMMER MEETING, 10am-3pm, Antique Rose Emporium, 10000 FM 50, Independence. Free. [Texasroserustlers.com](http://Texasroserustlers.com)

SAT., JULY 20: 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)

SUN., JULY 21: MULCH - SECRET WEAPON OF SUCCESSFUL GARDENERS by JOHN FERGUSON, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free., Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. 713-284-1994

SAT., AUG. 3: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)



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

SAT., AUG. 17: PLUMERIA CLASS by JIM & MAAS & LORETTA OSTEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., AUG. 24: FALL & WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., SEPT. 14: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., SEPT. 21: GARDENING FOR HUMMINGBIRDS & BIRDS CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & KATHRYN COURTNEY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SUN., SEP. 22: TIDBITS FROM 50 YEARS WITH DAYLILIES by Hershail Theilen, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

SAT., SEPT. 28: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

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)

-

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE  
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If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: [lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com)



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*About Us*

## BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- \* a national award-winning writer & editor
- \* a nationally-published writer & photographer
- \* a national horticultural speaker
- \* a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda's 45-year-old Lazy Gardener" print column, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her Lazy Gardener's Guide book which morphed into her Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD. which she now emails free upon request.

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy Gardener specialty shows on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

For over three decades, Brenda served as as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's BULLETIN magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER with John Ferguson and Pablo Hernandez of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Aldine and is married to the now retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

## JOHN FERGUSON

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens"



magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is the co-author of the book Organic Management for the Professional.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

### **PABLO HERNANDEZ**

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management and quality control.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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