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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Gardening Newsletter

Aug 15, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 304th 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. 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!



***“If the bee disappeared off the face of the earth,
man would only have four years left to live.”***

— Maurice Maeterlinck, [The Life of the Bee](#) ”

GOOD TIMES AHEAD (If We Save Our Bees)

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Now's probably not the best time for in-ground plantings. But buying plants? YES! Bargains abound as nurseries make room for fall inventories. Keep new plants in pots well watered in shade until slightly cooler weather arrives.

Fall is truly our best gardening time — cooler days, fewer insects, blooms often even more plentiful than in Spring. Fall is our best time to plant almost everything so roots become established before cold arrives. This is certainly true of most of the bee-beneficial plants listed below.

I am awed by the number of readers now asking about planting for bees. What a long way we've come my early speaking dates. Back then, just the sight of a bee in a flower slide triggered almost-visible shades to descend over eyes in the audience. I quit showing any slides with bees.

In many gardens today, sighting a bee brings sighs of relief, a feeling of actually helping to save these tiny pollinators. Donald Burger is one of the few of our truly experienced gardeners who have long openly promoted bee-friendly plants. His [burger.com](#) website is one of our best general gardening advice resources. Below are his [bee-supporting plant recommendations](#) , with excerpts of his observations from over the years.

Even if you don't want to add bee-attracting plants to your gardens, at least see if you already have some of Don's recommendations in your yard.

Knowing a plant may be helping to save bees might give it more value than you originally thought.

- **Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)** - Easy-to-grow annual herb planted in spring.
- **Blackberry, Brazos (*Rosaceae* 'Brazos')** - Blackberries bloom on current year's canes. To avoid that bramble look, prune off old canes after fruiting.
- **Black & Blue Sage (*Salvia garranatica*)** - Recommended: plant in groups of at least seven, close together, to attract bees.
- **Bulbine (*Bulbine frutescens*)** - Recommended: plant at least three (five better) to make bees' visit worthwhile
- **Catmint (*Nepeta faassenii*)** - Bees love as much as cats do.



L to r, blackberry, catnip, crown of thorns and duranta

- **Crown of Thorns (*Euphorbia splendens*)** - To get early blooms when few other nectar plants are available, move pots inside on freezing nights. Best in clay pot, 12" in diameter or above.
- **Duranta (*Duranta repens*)** - Donald's favorite bee plant. Beloved by honeybees, bumblebees and butterflies.
- **Goldenrod (*Solidago* ssp)** - Another plant that, for bees, signals the honey flow in and around Houston. Bees, of course, love the bright yellow flowers, Donald adds.
- **Grapefruit (*Citrus x paradisi* 'Rio Red')** - Want a small plant? Donald advises getting a variety growing on Flying Dragon root stock.



L t r, gaura, hamelia, kumquat, lace cactus

- **Gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri*)**^[SEP] - VERY well drained site.
- **Hummingbird Bush (*Hamelia patens*)** - Fall bloomer, may take a while to come back out if dies back in winter. Bees like regular and dwarf varieties.
- **Kumquat (*Fortunella margarita x japonica*)** - Don has a small version of this tree on Flying Dragon Root stock (keeps it dwarf).
- **Lace Cactus (*Echinocereus caespitosus*)** - Small (3"), but bees love.
- **Lemon (*Citrus limon* 'Meyer')**^[SEP] - Bees love blooms.
- **Lime (*Citrus aurantifolia*)** - Susceptible to freezing. Donald wraps with old-fashioned Christmas lights and freeze cloth.



L to r, Mexican heather, penta, poppy, portulaca

- **Mexican Heather (*Cuphea hyssopifolia*)** - Perennial. Donald cuts back in late April so not too "leggy" after bees have feasted.
- **Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*)** - Nectar plants for butterflies, honey bees and bumble bees.
- **Poppy (*Argemone albiflora*)** - Bees love white version. Plant in groups.
- **Portulaca (*Portulaca oleracea/purslane*)** - Bees love yellow flowers.



L to r, rosemary, Russian sage, purple heart flower (wandering Jew) and torenia

- **Purple Heart (*Setcreasea pallida*)**^[SEP] - Has to be grown in sufficient numbers for bees to find attractive. Bees work pink/purple blooms spring into summer.
- **Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)** - Bees love both upright and prostrate versions. Prostrate version seems to flower better.
- **Roses (*Rosa* ssp.)**^[SEP] - Only single blooms (4 toe-tight petals) and semi-doubles (9-to 16) draw bees.
- **Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)** - Blooms summer-fall.
- **Satsuma (*Citrus unshiu*)** - Bees love the abundant blooms.
- **Tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*)** - Blooms trigger start of "honey flow" for beekeepers. Now considered invasive. *(Brenda note. We raised bees. Husband always watched for tallows to bloom, said they made the best honey.)*
- **Texas Sabal Palm (*Sabal texana*)** - Our most freeze-tolerant palm.
- **Torenia (*Torenia fournieri* 'Catalina Midnight Blue')**
- **Water Lily (*Nymphaeaceae* ssp)** - Bees seem to always work these even when there is only a single bloom.
- *"For the rest of the story . . ." (growing tips, care, etc.) about these plants, log onto Donald's website: burger.com/beeplant.htm.*
- *Don't recognize local bees landing on your plants? Check these two websites:*
 - Texas A&M txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/public/bee-identification.
 - National Butterfly Center Native Bees of Texas nationalbutterflycenter.org/

* * *

SPEAKING OF POLLINATORS . . . the [National Butterfly Center's website](http://nationalbutterflycenter.org/) has posted a spectacular photographic study of 50 documented native bee species. "AY MARIPOSA," an update film on the Center in Mission, TX, will be aired free Wed., Aug. 21, at 6:30pm, at Rice University Media Center.



This HOUSTON GREEN Film Series movie will be followed by a Q&A panel with NBC Executive Director Marianna Wright, Houston Wilderness' Director/CEO Deborah January-Beavers and Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter President Wally Ward. [Click for Details](#)

SNAPPED ANY GREAT BUTTERFLY PICTURES? Enter 2019 Texas Butterfly Festival, Nov. 2-5 at the Center in Mission. [Click for Details](#).



BUILDING A BUTTERFLY PUDDLE STATION -

As Angela Chandler of [The Garden Academy](#) explains to The Arbor Gate's Beverly Welch in this [Arbor Gate Video](#), butterflies need not only moisture but also minerals for good health. They're drawn moist puddles, but don't need or want open water. The video link above details step-by-step how the puddle station at left was built in The Arbor Gate's " [Insectary](#) ." (Don't know what this is? Click link to find out!)

* * *

WANT TO BE THE ENVY OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Waller County County Master Gardeners suggest these two trees as great choices (*both of which will be available at their upcoming sale*):



- **RISING SUN REDBUD** (left above). Ideal for a brilliant "pop" of color. Classic purple blooms in spring, incredible cascades of apricot, yellow, lime and green heart-shaped foliage spring through fall. Best showcased in full sun. Low maintenance.
- **COFFEE CAKE PERSIMMON** (above right). Non-astringent fruit with a rich, spicy sweet cinnamon flavor.

Both these trees and other new citrus varieties will be among the 40+ expertly-curated varieties and pollinating pairs for the Houston area available at Waller County Texas Master Gardener fruit, nut, and shade tree fundraiser. Sale Order Window opened today (Thurs., Aug. 15). (Some supplies limited.)

Pickup will be Oct. 26. Inventory lists and details: txmg.org/wallermg/treesale, [Facebook Waller County Master Gardeners](#) or 979-826-7651 x3068 (leave message)

As a bonus, their website also notes great pairings where a pollinator plant will enhance the flavor or quality. For example, Coffee Cake Persimmon's flavor is

intensified when its paired (planted near) a Saijo variety. Other trees may require a pollinator and that is so noted.

* * *

PS. BE FOREWARNED! John's column below is a really fun spoof on how to create an ideal garden climate for WEEDS -- a challenge we all share!

See anything in there that you're ACTUALLY DOING to encourage weeds to grow in your landscape? Tsk, tsk!

* * *

LOOKING FOR CLUB SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS?

"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" — free — 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

[CLICK HERE](#) for PDFs OF PAST LG&F NEWSLETTERS

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

* * *



How to Grow Weeds

The plants we call weeds have a role in nature. This means they have a purpose and that purpose is most often to fix soil problems. To ensure we have a good supply of weeds in our gardens and lawns, we need to use bad soil or mess up the soil that we have and turn it into dirt.

The plants we often call weeds love soils (really just dirt) that are full of bacteria and very little fungi. So how can we create dirt full of bacteria?

One of the best ways is to apply a full spectrum fungicide. Healthy soil can have up to 3,000 species of fungi in a tablespoon of soil. A broad-spectrum fungicide will kill all or most of these good guys. To ensure we do a thorough job it is best to reapply the fungicide several times.

Step two is to apply a glyphosate-based herbicide like Round-Up. Glyphosate is broken down by bacteria hence it creates an explosion of bacteria in the soil that weeds love. This is why weed problems tend to become worse after using these type herbicide products. As a bonus, glyphosate also acts as a mineral chelator, and minerals such as calcium, zinc, copper, and manganese act as

cofactors in many enzymes. This mineral suppression opens the plant up to disease, especially our perennials which again selects to make a better dirt for weeds to grow.

Step three is to reduce the oxygen levels in the soil as bacteria can live in low oxygen levels where the good guys -- like beneficial fungi, microarthropods, earthworms, etc. -- cannot live. One of the best ways to do this is to apply an artificial fertilizer. All artificial fertilizers are chemically salts.

To use an analogy, what happens to a pair of pliers left out in the rain and dew for a few weeks? It becomes locked up (frozen) as the salt called iron oxide or rust is formed. Similarly, the salts in artificial fertilizers can lock up soil particles forming hardpan that prevents oxygen and water from entering the soil.

Another benefit of these salts is that they often kill earthworms. Earthworms aerate the soil just the opposite of what is required for a good crop of weeds. Additionally, many species of earthworms eat weed seeds! How can we have a good crop of weeds if we let their seeds be eaten and destroyed. Note: Another way to get rid of these pesky earthworms is to apply a pesticide as many of them also kill earthworms.

Another way to help ensure a good crop of weeds is to water regularly and watering daily is best. Water in the dirt fills up the pore space preventing oxygen from being there. Municipal water also has chlorine in it. Many of the soils along the gulf coast are high in sodium hence when we water a lot, the sodium (Na) combines with the chlorine (Cl) in the water, forming table salt (NaCl). Note: This salt effect can be increased by using amendments high in salt such as cow manure or poultry manure products which ensure that you are creating conditions to help the weeds grow strong.

As an extra bonus fluoride in the municipal water generally remains in solution and plants are exposed to this chemical by water, air and soil. Fluoride is a poison that accumulates in plant foliage and often leads to toxicity symptoms on sensitive plants. This happens over time thus we may not realize why are plants are getting sick and declining or just die suddenly.

Fluoride strongly inhibits photosynthesis and other processes in many plants. It is absorbed by the roots (or stomata) and moves through the plant accumulating in the leaf margins. A wide variety of plants are fluoride sensitive. A few examples by common name are: apricots, box elder, blueberry, sweet corn, Douglas-fir, gladiolus, grapes, Oregon grape, western larch, peach, pine, plum, blue spruce, tulip, corn plant, yucca, spider plant, Tahitian bridal veil, liliium spp.

Some of our plants are very fluoride sensitive to as little as 1 ppm in water and a wide variety of plants are subject to fluoride damage which weakens them. However, many common weeds are not sensitive to fluoride which allows the weeds to out-compete our other plants. Hence, make sure those irrigation systems are set to come on every day to ensure the best and highest number of weeds. Watering regularly is also loved by the sedge family of weeds like nutsedge and others like dollar weed. These weeds really appreciate you helping them out.

Healthy fertile productive soils have a carbon to nitrogen ratio (C:N) of 30 to 1 written 30:1. To have a lot of weeds we must prevent this from occurring. One of the best ways to do this is use a dyed mulch (black, red, blue, etc.) on our flower beds. For the dyes to stick it works best on mulch made from old pallets, trash wood, etc. that have a C:N ratio of over 500:1. This helps ensure that required nutrients for healthy plants are tied up and weakens the ornamental plants so they cannot compete against the weeds.



Many companies want you to be successful in growing weeds and want to help you as it helps them also, as it is very profitable for them. Below is an advertisement from a trade magazine that explains why so many companies sell dyed mulch as they take your money and help you kill your plants so one can have a good weed crop.

COLORFUL MULCH = INCREASED PROFITS



Broad range of Colorfast colorants

- ▶ Mold and fungus resistance available
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- ▶ Most cost-effective coloring unit

Visit our website – mulchcolorjet.com

Many weeds prefer soil low in nutrients or elements. Weeds like dandelion will not grow very well if at all, or the seed will not even germinate IF the soil has plenty of available calcium (Ca). This means we should never use products like re-mineralizer or greensand, bone meal, etc. that provide extra calcium in the correct form. Most weeds do not like soils with lots of available nutrients. Another effective way of growing weeds is to never mulch at all. This allows the soil to quickly dry out, soil temperatures to soar which cooks the roots of our ornamental plants greatly stressing and weakening them. Nature hates bare ground hence nature will quickly cover the soil with a good crop of weeds which can easily out compete the stressed plants.

In lawns one of the best ways to have happy weeds is to cut the grass very short. For example, St. Augustine grass will naturally grow to 15-18 inches tall. When we cut it to 3 inches or less, we stress the grass out which weakens it. As a result, it cannot out compete the weeds. Many species of weeds require sunlight for their seeds to germinate. Cutting the grass short ensures that plenty of sunlight reaches the ground to help the seeds out. If the grass is cut at four inches or higher the blades of St. Augustine are so thick, they block the sunlight from reaching the ground which shades it, preventing the weeds from germinating.

Luckily, most lawn mowers are made for Northern grasses that need to be cut short and can only cut 2-3 inches tall without modifications. Another item that helps the weeds grow in lawns is make sure one uses a dull mower blade. The duller the blade the more it tears and stresses the grass weakening it which makes it easier for weeds to get established. Another benefit of cutting the grass short (lack of leaf surface for photosynthesis) is that the roots of the grass will not go deep into the dirt. For grass to be healthy it needs an even amount of water, when we mow the grass short it reduces the amount of

nutrients and water the roots can get, which also weakens the grass and helps the weeds. The grass dries out easily and quits growing very much allowing the weeds to gain the advantage.

As most weeds like poor quality soil or dirt, one should never top dress their lawns or flower beds with a good compost. Also avoid humates at all cost as both of these materials improves the soil and helps the soil become healthy. Most weeds do not like healthy soil. It goes without saying one should never aerate one's soil before topdressing as it allows oxygen to enter the soil and undo the compaction that many weeds like.

For those whom want extra credit there are a few more things one can do to increase the number of weeds one has. A common method of increasing your weed population is to apply nutrient amendments when they are not needed. For example, applying Epson salts (magnesium sulfate) is a common practice. If these elements are not needed as shown by a soil test, this will load the soil with extra magnesium (Mg) changing the calcium to magnesium ratio. This will cause many soils to turn into hardpan full of compaction issues that many weeds love. Similarly applying gypsum (calcium sulfate) when calcium is not needed will also cause soil problems and help many species weeds to grow better.

Another way to increase weeds is to use what is known as ashen mulch. Many companies take coal ash that is full of heavy metals and is extremely alkaline (more alkaline than drain cleaners like Drano) and mix it into their mulch. In a couple days it chemically burns the mulch black. When one applies it to their soil it changes the pH (acidity) making the soil alkaline tying up nutrients so our plants cannot absorb them. This makes our weeds very happy and they go out and grow wonderfully.

If a gardener follows these guidelines, they are assured of having lots of weeds of many kinds for years to come.



Organics Workshop

4+ Hrs of Superb Education on Organic Topics

August 22, 2019
9:30AM-3:45PM

McGovern Centennial Gardens
1500 Hermann Dr. | Houston TX 77004

TICKETS
\$25 Members | \$50 Non-Members
Register Online @ ohbaonline.org/events

Schedule

<p>9:30AM-10:00AM Registration, Networking, & Light Bites</p> <p>10:05AM-10:50AM Molly Pikarsky Lake Austin Resort "How to Sell Organics"</p> <p>11:00AM-11:45AM Heidi Sheesley Treeseach Farms "Habitat Gardening-Plant Materials for Butterflies, Bees, and Birds"</p> <p>11:45AM-12:45PM Fantastic Lunch</p>	<p>12:45PM-1:30PM Bart Brechter Bayou Bend "Organic Care of Roses, Azaleas and Other Common Shrubs"</p> <p>1:40PM-2:25PM Angela Chandler The Garden Academy "Beneficial Insects in the Landscape"</p> <p>2:35PM-3:25PM Danny Millikin Memorial Park Conservatory "Using Compost: Recent Research"</p> <p>3:25PM-3:45PM Panel Discussion: Ask the Experts</p>	<p>Join us for this Excellent Educational Workshop</p> <p>for Landscape Pros, Master Gardeners, & Homeowners!</p> <p>Sponsored By</p>
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Have You Tried . . . **BATFACE CUPHEA** (*Cuphea llavea*)

This eye-catching, prolific-blooming evergreen thrives in heat and drought. Unique flowers with dark purple "bat face" and bright orange "ears" spring through fall. 1'-2' tall, rounded shrub. Butterflies and hummingbirds. Best with regular watering, especially in high heat! Ideal for border edges or in hanging baskets where unique flowers can be seen up close.



Batface cuphea is carried by Nature's Way Resources ([Map](#)).
Or . . . contact our sponsor, Montgomery Pines Nursery in Willis, our other
sponsors below or your neighborhood nurseryman 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*

THURS., AUG. 15: FALL VEGETABLES, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., AUG. 15: ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF URBAN WETLANDS by MARY CAROL EDWARDS, 6:45-8:30pm, American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

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

SAT., AUG. 17: FALL VEGETABLES, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

MON., AUG. 19: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Plants for sale in the greenhouse. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., AUG 20: TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST/COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER CLASS begins, ends Oct. 12. \$50. Register: 281-633-7033, mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu or txmn.org/coastal .

THURS, AUG. 22: ORGANICS WORKSHOP, 9:30am-3:45pm, McGovern Centennial Garden, 1500 Hermann Dr., \$50.Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance event. Register: Ohbaonline.org/events

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

TUES., AUG. 20: ADDING QUESNELIA TO YOUR COLLECTION by CHARLIE BIRDSONG, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. Bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., AUG. 20: FALL VEGETABLES, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT. AUG 24: COMPOSTING by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register first: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., AUG. 24: FALL ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS, 9am-Noon, The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 IH-145 South, The Woodlands. Free. Register: thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/environment

WED., AUG. 28: BACKYARD TRANSFORMATION by DICK & PHYLLIS MCEUEN, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. www.hcsstex.org

SAT. AUG 31: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 10:30 am-12:30 pm; TEXAS TUFF PLANTS FOR THE GULF COAST by MARIE LEAL, 1:30-3:30 pm. Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, call 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THURS., SEPT. 5, SHADY GINGERS & THEIR FLIRTY COMPANIONS BY LINDA GAY, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

THURS., SEPT. 5: ONE-ON-ONE TIME WITH HOUSTON GARDEN GURU RANDY LEMMON, 6:30 pm, Rosenberg Convention Center, 3825 TX 36 South, Rosenberg. Free. Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter. 281-633-7033, mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu, txmn.org/coastal

SAT., SEP 7: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA (FRANGIPANI) by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 7: The MERCER SOCIETY SPECIALTY PLANT SALE, 9am – 2pm, & CACTUS & SUCCULENTS by WALLY WARD, 11am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

Wed., SEPT. 11: dON'T LOSE YOUR PLANTS THIS WINTER, noon – 2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., Sept.12: Blackspot, Bugs and Garden Safety by Dr. Allen Owings 7:00pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston 77004. Houston Rose Society event. Free. www.houstonrose.org

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

SAT., SEPT. 14: KITCHEN GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT, SUN., SEPT. 14 - 15: GALVESTON BAY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW/SALE, 9am-5pm Sat., 9am-3pm Sun., Hilton Hotel–NASA Clear Lake, 3000 E. NASA Parkway, Nassau Bay. Free. galvestonbayorchidsociety.org

TUES., SEPT. 17: MAKING YOUR BROMELIADS PHOTOGENIC by JOHN EDMONSON, 7pm, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., SEPT. 17: BIRDS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS by GARY CLARK, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

THURS., SEPT. 19: NATIVE TREES IN THE LANDSCAPE: WHY AND HOW? by BRAD PHILLIPS, 6:45-8:30pm; American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

FRI., SEPT. 20: HOLISTIC GARDENING WORKSHOP by Joseph Novak, Ph.,D. 10am-noon, 6 Fridays-Oct. 25, Rice University. \$325. Betty & Jacob Friedman Holistic Garden, Biosciences at Rice and Garden Club of Houston event. Register: glasscock.rice.edu/community

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

SAT., SEPT. 21: ANNUAL WILDSAPES WORKSHOP NATIVE PLANT EVENT, 8am-3:30pm; Anderson-Clarke Center, Rice University. \$45 before Aug. 31. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

SAT., SEPT 21,: GROW YOUR OWN FALL VEGETABLES by FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9am-11am, in the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/; 281-342-3034; brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu.

SAT. SEPT. 21: T-BUD GRAFTING OF CITRUS & FRUIT TREES by NANCY LANGSTON-NOH, 9-11 am; TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL – CREATING AN IDEAL SOIL by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SUN., SEPT. 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

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

SAT., SEPT 28: LEAGUE CITY GARDEN CLUB GARDEN WALK: "UNDER THE MAJESTIC OAKS," 10:00 am-4:00 pm; Tickets \$15. leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com; leaguecitygardenclub.org.

SAT. SEPT. 28: HERBS FOR THE GULF COAST by NANCY LANGSTON-NOH and BRIANA ETIE, 9-11 am, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. SEPT. 28: RAINWATER HARVESTING by NAT GRUESEN, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 28: WOODLANDS LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS, 9am - noon, Recreation Center, Rob Fleming Park, 6464 Creekside Forest Dr., The Woodlands. Free. thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/environment

SAT., SEPT. 28: ORCHID CARE 101, 9am-11am, Mercer Botanic Gardens , 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., OCT. 3: BIBLICAL GARDENS by JEAN FEFER, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

SAT., OCT. 5: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Dr. Free. 281-682-1073, cseverson57@comcast.net

SAT., OCT. 5: HEALTHY LANDSCAPES = HEALTHY WATERWAYS CLASS, 8am - Noon, The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 IH-145 South, The

Woodlands. Free. Register: thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/environment

SAT., OCT. 5: POLLINATOR FESTIVAL, 10am–4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 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

WED., OCT. 9: SURPRISINGLY SPOOKY, MARVELOUSLY MYSTERIOUS PLANTS, noon– 2pm, [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#) , 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., OCT. 11: PLANTS OF THE BIBLE by JEAN FEFER, 11:30am, Jim & JoAnn Fonteno Senior Education Center, 6600 Bissonnet St., Free. pct3.com/Senior-Centers/Jim-JoAnn-Fonteno-Senior-Education-Center

SAT. OCT 12: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm; SALE PREVIEW, 8am, Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park-Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 & Jack Brooks Road, Hitchcock. Free. galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT. OCT 12: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 8-8:50am-Overview; 9am-1pm-Sale. Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park-Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 & Jack Brooks Rd, Hitchcock. Free. galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THURS., OCT. 17: KATY PRAIRIE UPDATE by WESLEY NEWMAN, 6:45-8:30pm; American Red Cross, 27000 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event.npsot.org/Houston

SAT. NOV 2, TEXAS ARBOR DAY, 1pm – 4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, West Side Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

WED. NOV. 13, GARDENS, noon – 2pm, featuring gardens depicted in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#) , 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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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Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: 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, 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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