



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Gardening Newsletter

Sep 26, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 310th 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!



BULBS, BEES, NATIVES & AFRICAN VIOLETS . . . OH, MY!

All gardeners know better than other gardeners.
-- Chinese Proverb

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Going to let reader's emails take over this column:

- **VIRGINIA GRIFFIN IN PANORAMA VILLAGE IS LOOKING FOR EASY-CARE BULBS.** Over the years, I've been amazed at the number of bulbs that survived and thrived in my gardens in spite of my total neglect.

My tip #1: Ask specifically for "naturalizing" bulbs. This means they come back year after year. Many gorgeous bulbs bloom here, but they're one shot visitors (tulips, hyacinths, cold-loving lilies and many irises, etc. Also ask for advice on planting these. For example, tulips and hyacinths should be refrigerated 4-6 weeks before planting or they'll "blast" (bloom too soon on very short stalks close to the ground).

Amaryllis is perhaps queen of those bulbs that regularly return and multiply beautifully in my Lazy Gardener Laboratory (aka my yard). Elvas was my Mother's Day gift this year. Now I want the other two shown below!).



L to r, Elvas, Santiago & Pretty Nymph will be among the amaryllis available at the Galveston County Master Gardener 2019 Fall Plant Sale (& seminar), 8am-seminar; 9am-1pm sale, Jack Brooks Park (fairgrounds), Hwy. 6, Hitchcock. 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

- Other successes (aka survived total neglect): crinums, giant white spider lilies (hymenocallis), ground orchids, lycoris (spider lilies/naked ladies), monbretia, oxalis, paperwhite narcissus and rainlilies. Bulb-like flowers that are great favorites: daylilies, gingers and Louisiana iris. Also . . .



L to r, blood lily, freesias, and ground orchids (Bletilla)

I don't know how many of these will be available at the **THURS.-SAT., OCT. 3-5: HOUSTON BULB & PLANT MART**, but an inventory can be found at gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info. The Mart will be open 5-7pm Thurs (Oct. 3/Early Bird fee), 9am-5pm Fri., Oct. 4 & 9am-2pm Sat., Oct. 5 at Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Garden Club of Houston event. (Note: Proceeds of this Garden Club of Houston event are used to finance [GCH's many community projects](#))

- **CHRIS FITZGERALD** in the Heights, a avid bee enthusiast, followed up on our **Sept. 13 look**

at bees houses. Chris notes bee "houses" are for solitary bees like wood bees and bumblebees, which will use these since their natural homes are fewer and fewer. She has had them house in the dead stalks of her Texas Star Hibiscus (far right), which is hollow like bamboo at that stage. *"What takes the cake,"* Chris adds, *"is the bee who drilled himself a home in the wooden base of my hanging wind chimes."* She could see him going in and out so has decided *"a nice bee house is in order for my garden."*



• **MARTHA RICHESON** with Native Plant Society of Texas/Clear Lake, would like to see a wider use of lesser-known native milkweeds favored by bees as much as by butterflies and other pollinators. One to consider -- given our increasing flooded yards -- is aquatic milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*), at left.

Found naturally in ditches, it thrives in low spots in the yard, or in a pot sitting on a saucer of water. She noted this past spring her aquatic milkweed produced only 20 leaves before monarch caterpillars consumed it down to the stems. Not a problem, it leafs right back out.

NATIVES IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

- Aquatic milkweed will be among the many pollinator-attracting plants offered at **NPSOT/CLEAR LAKE & ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE OF HOUSTON'S SAT., SEPT. 28, PLANT SALE** in the University of Houston Clear Lake's ElH Garden, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Details: npsot.org/wp/clearlake/
- **SAT., SEPT. 28: WOODLANDS LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS**, 9am - noon, Recreation Center, Rob Fleming Park, 6464 Creekside Forest Dr., The Woodlands. Free. thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment
- **SAT., SEPT. 28: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE**, 9am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. hmns.org/fall-plant-sale, 713-639-4742.
- **THURS.-FRI., OCT. 3-6: NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS 2019 FALL SYMPOSIUM.** A uniquely wide-ranging look at the Greater Houston area's native flora & fauna through speakers and field trips, South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center, League City. Field trips, speakers including Marissa Llosa, Glenn Olsen, Karia Klay, Mark Vorderbruggen, David Bezanson, Suzanne Simpson and more. Register & details: npsot.org
- **SAT., OCT. 5: POLLINATOR FESTIVAL**, 10am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

* * *

AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE SPOTLIGHT. Below, Cynthia Severson of the Spring Branch African Violet Club takes a look at the different aspects of these beautiful houseplants that are so called because the flower itself bears a

striking resemblance to the true violet, which it is not. It's said to be used for treating bruises, skin ulcers and other wounds. On SAT., OCT. 5: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB will hold its ANNUAL PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Dr. Free. 281-682-1073, cseverson57@comcast.net. First, though . . .

* * *

SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY OUR HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN was just a proposal, a dream. Now it's actually scheduled to open in 2020. How much do you know about it?

Take a minute to check out the website: hbg.org. This garden is funded by grants and contributions from huge to very modest. As we've all seen now, tons of small donations also add up and, sometimes, can trigger major successes.

This garden can mean so much to so many, most importantly our children, through its many proposed school-related projects, especially with lower-income schools. Check out the website and if you feel inspired, help in any way you can:

hbg.org/support

* * *

**LOOKING FOR CLUB SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS?
Or . . . HOW TO GET MORE PUBLICITY FOR EVENTS?
"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" & "PUBLICITY BOOKLET"**

are free — Just email 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

* * *



AFRICAN VIOLETS YEAR-ROUND BLOOMERS

By CYNTHIA SEVERSON

African Violets are not fussy plants. They should be tended to once a week (watering, removing spent leaves and blooms), then left alone. If one pays too much attention to them, then the grower may accidentally overwater them, or touch the leaves too often.

African Violets are watered from the bottom up, potted with a wick extending from pot bottom. The pot and wick then are placed on saucers or reservoirs. Water placed in the saucers travels from the wick into the soil and plant. Wicks, a material similar to kitting string, or twine, but more refined, can be found in Home Depot or Lowe's or online.

- **ADEQUATE LIGHT** -- Bulbs or fluorescent lights with a low wattage. Aquarium lights are good, for example. Timers can be put on the lights where the AVs receive 10-14 hours of light.
- **NATURAL INDIRECT WINDOW LIGHT**. If blinds are used, try to sway the light upward, so the AVs won't get direct exposure to the sunlight.

AFRICAN VIOLET SIZES:

- **STANDARD** — a large plant with single or double blooms, and can grow to a foot in diameter. The pots are usually 4" pots.
- **SEMI-MINIATURE** — a smaller version of a Standard, which would require a 2-3" pot. The leaves are smaller than a Standard AV.
- **MINIATURE** — smaller version of a Semi-miniature, which would require a 2" pot.)

LEAVES — Solid dark green, variegated (white and green) or curled.

BLOOMS — White, pink, purple, lilac, light blue, red. Curled white, purple, lilac, light blue, pink (these leaves are colored with a green, curly frame on the outside). Double bloom

HYBRIDS: Can apply to standard, miniature or semi-miniature plants, as long as the yellow pollen sac from the plant center of one violet is taken and applied pollen yellow sac of another violet. A tiny scrape of the pollen will suffice, as long as it is done gingerly. All hybrids can have dark green, variegated leaves or curled leaves.

EPISCIAS are standard plants or trailers, depending on how a grower trains them. For a standard plant snip leaves in the bottom layer for a fuller center; or if the plant is to become a trailer, then let the leaves drape from the pot, but keep the center propagated to keep its new growth stationary. Episcia blooms are red and burnt orange with solid or variegated leaves - for red blooms, the leaves are light, fuzzy green. For burnt orange blooms, the leaves are variegated dark brown with dark yellow edges.

EPISCIA (cousins of African violets), grow just like AV with striking, variegated leaves and deep red or rust blooms. They can grown as trailers, or can be propagated as a standard



plant.

NOTE: 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

* * *

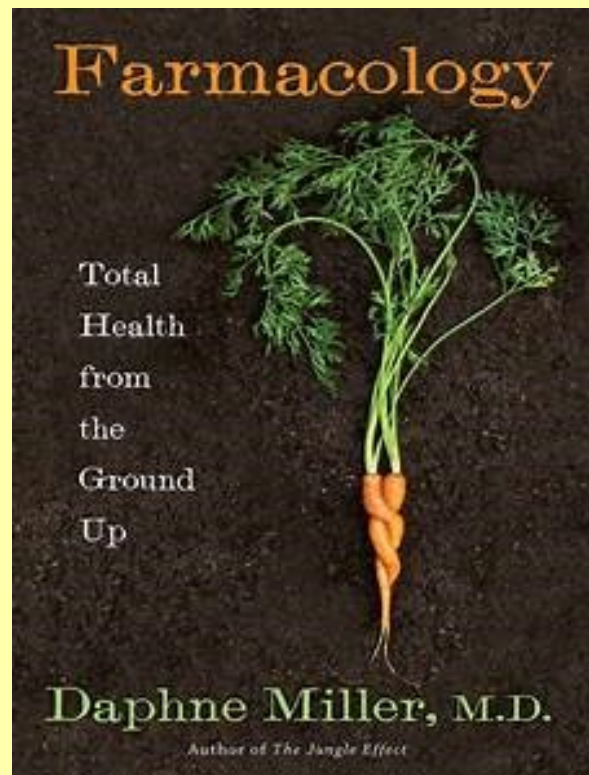


BOOK REVIEW:

Farmacology – Total Health from the Ground Up, by Daphne Miller, M.D., William Morrow (Harper Collins), 2013, ISBN: 978-0-06-210315

OHBA (Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance) will be bringing in Dr. Miller to lecture in Houston during March 2020. This book has been on my reading list for several years but just never got around to ordering it. Since she will be lecturing in Houston next year, I purchased a copy and read it last week.

More and more medical doctors are realizing that conventional medicine is failing very badly, especially in the area of preventing health problems. This book is about Dr. Miller's quest to learn more about natural cures and prevention of health issues by eating healthy food grown on healthy soils.



During her study she visited many organic farms and other sustainable companies and learned why they did not have the health problems that most folks suffer from. From her travels she learned that health begins with the soil.

"In the book she explores and answers the questions:

- Is there a connection between microbes in the soil and in our bodies?
- Why does a dirty farm offer protection from allergies while a dirty urban apartment does not?
- What can pastured hens teach us about "good" stress and "bad" stress?
- How can a vineyard pest management system inspire more effective cancer treatment?

- What can cows teach us about raising healthy eaters?

Can urban farms reduce neighborhood crime? These may not sound like typical questions for a family physician to consider, but in *Farmacology*, Daphne Miller, MD, ventures out of her medical office and travels to seven innovative family farms around the country on a quest to discover the hidden connections between how we care for our bodies and how we grow our food. Miller also seeks out the perspectives of noted biomedical scientists and artfully weaves in their insights and research, along with stories from her own medical practice. *Farmacology* offers a profound new approach to healing, combined with practical advice for how to treat disease and maintain wellness."

Dr. Miller is humorous at times as she explains her "Ah Ha" moments as she realizes the connection between healthy soil and our health.

* * *

Have You Tried . . . **Gayfeather**

(Liatris)

Liatris is a genus of flowering plants in the boneset tribe within the sunflower family, a native to North America. (*Who else would tell you these things?*) Also called blazing star, these fall-blooming 1'-5' perennials flower from top to bottom. Foliage remains green throughout growing season before turning a rich bronze color in fall. Excellent cut flowers, low care, pest resistant, attract pollinators, full to part sun. Plant in early spring or late fall.



GAYFEATHER 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

ADULT 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

PUT ALL INFO IN EMAIL, PICTURES ATTACHED, WITH SPONSORS NAME IN EMAIL SUBJECT LINE

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," 10am-4pm. 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: galvcountymgs@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: galvcountymgs@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.

SAT. SEPT 28: NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS/CLEAR LAKE CHAPTER FALL PLANT SALE, 8am-Plant Overview, 9am-noon plant sale. University of Houston Clear Lake – Environmental Institute of Houston, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. npsot.org/wp/clearlake/

SAT., SEPT. 28: DAYLILY AND PERENNIAL PLANT SALE, 10-2pm. Wunderlich Farm Market, 18218 Theiss Mail Route Rd. Klein. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

SAT., SEPT. 28: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE & FAMILY EVENT, 9am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. hmns.org/fall-plant-sale, 713-639-4742.

MON, SEPT. 30: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2019 TREE SALE PRE-ORDER DEADLINE. Pre-order pick-up Oct 26. [txmg.org/wallermg/treesale](https://www.txmg.org/wallermg/treesale), Facebook Waller County Master Gardeners; 979-826-7651 x3068.

TUES. & THURS., OCT. 1-NOV. 12, FALL 2019 FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CLASS, 9am-11am, AgriLife Extension office, 1402 Band Rd., Rosenberg. Register: fbmg.org, 281-633-7033 or mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu.

WED., OCT. 2: MONARCH BUTTERFLIES by CHRIS ANASTA, 9-11 am, Clear Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 16335 El Camino Real. Gardeners By The Bay event. Free.

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

THURS.-SAT., OCT. 3-5: HOUSTON BULB & PLANT MART, 5-7pm Thurs., 9am-5pm Fri, 9am-2pm Sat. Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Garden Club of Houston event. gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info/

THURS.-SAT, OCT. 3-5: NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS 2019 FALL SYMPOSIUM, South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center, League City. Register: npsot.org/wp/symposium2019/

SAT., OCT. 5: VISIT WITH RANDY LEMMON, 11am-1 pm., Wabash Feed and Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd. Free, 713-863-8322, wabashfeed.com

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.

SAT., OCT. 5: HIBISCUS CLASS W/HIBISCUS GRAFTING by JIM MAAS & JOE MILLER, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., OCT 5: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS 2019 FALL PLANT SALE, 8am Sale Preview, 9am-noon Sale. Agrilife Extension Building, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Free. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

TUES., OCT. 8: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

TUES., OCT. 8: MAKE HOUSE A HOME WORKSHOP USING PLANTS & FLOWERS FROM GARDEN by BETTY LAHIRI, 9am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah. The Woodlands Garden Club event. Free. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

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

THURS., Oct.10: BEHIND GARDENLINE SCENES by RANDY LEMMON, 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

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. galvcountymgs@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. galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., OCT. 12: FRUIT TREE CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESTRA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., OCT. 12: FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS VEGETABLE-PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Bud O'Shields Community Center, 1330 Band Rd. fbmg.org/files/2019/09/2019Fall-V-H-Sale-Plant-List-VeryShort.pdf

MON. OCT 13: BASICS OF BOTANY by ANITA TILLER, 6:30-9pm, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2929 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Lake Houston Gardeners. Free. lakehoustongardeners.org

TUES., OCT. 15: UNDERSTANDING BROMELIADS by DENNIS CATHCART, 7pm, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. Free. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., OCT 15: WONDERS & BEAUTY OF NIGHT GARDENING by DALE RAMEY, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

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., OCT 19:: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTINGS EXCHANGE & Q&A by DR.

WILLIAM C. WELCH & GREG GRANT, 9am-3pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 414 E. McAlpine St., Navasota. Free. texasroserustlers.com

SAT., OCT. 19. GROW YOUR OWN - FALL & WINTER GARDEN COLOR by FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9-11am, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. Register: fbmg.org; Brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

SAT.-SUN, OCT. 19-20: HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY FALL SHOW, 9am-5pm Sat., 10am-5pm Sun., Memorial City Mall. houstonbonsaisociety.com

WED., OCT. 23: PROPAGATION OF HAWORTHIA by WALLY WARD, 7:30 pm, at the Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. FREE. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. hcsstex.org

FRI.-SAT., OCT. 25-26: HOUSTON ARBORETUM FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm, 120 West Loop North. Free. houstonarboretum.org; 713-681-8433

SAT., OCT. 26: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY FALL SHOW, 12-4pm, Memorial City Mall, 303 Memorial City Way. Free. houstonrose.org

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

SAT., NOV. 2, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDENS, 9-11:30 am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Free. 936-539-7824, mcmga.com

SAT., NOV. 2: BULB CLASS by J JIM MAAS & MARGARET CHERRY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., NOV. 2: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDENS, 9-11:30 am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Free. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

THURS., NOV. 7: HOLIDAY LOOK AT THE GARDEN by FRANKIE GREEN & ALICE BROWN, 10am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. Free. ncgctx.org

FRI., NOV.8: CREATING A BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY by ANNA VALLERY, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

WED. NOV. 13, GARDENS (MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS COLLECTIONS), noon–2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., NOV. 16: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

WED., Nov. 20: CACTI IN HABITAT PART III by DAVID VAN LANGEN, 7:30 pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. Free. hcsstex.org

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

FRI., JAN. 10, 2020: RECYCLE, REDUCE, REDUCE by Native Plant Society of Texas, & PLANT SALE. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., APRIL 10, 2020: EXCITING UNDERUTILIZED PLANTS ADAPTABLE TO HOUSTON REGION by ADAM BLACK. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Federation

of Garden Clubs event. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI. MAY 8, 2020: THINGS I WISH I HAD LEARNED SOONER (ABOUT ROSES) by BAXTER WILLIAMS. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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 _

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE
BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS**

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com





www.bartlett.com



About Us

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

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

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda's 45-year-old "Lazy Gardener" print column, 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 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.

