



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Oct. 10, 2019 - Issue #312

[Nature's Way Resources](#)

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[Nature's Way Resources](#)

owner John Ferguson, "The Lazy Gardener" Brenda Beust Smith and Pablo Hernandez welcome your feedback and are so grateful to the many horticulturists who contribute their expertise.

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'FLOODS & ROSES' . . . MAGNIFICENT YELLOW TO SAVOR, BUT NOT PLANT

"For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive; in this century he is beginning to realize that, in order to survive, he must protect it."

-- Jacques-Yves Cousteau.

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

We might as well accept it. But -- taking a Tapleyistic approach -- hopefully it won't be as someone said not too long ago: "*There are two kinds of houses in Houston — those which have flooded and those that will flood.*" Chances are, however, this probably will be true of most of our landscapes.

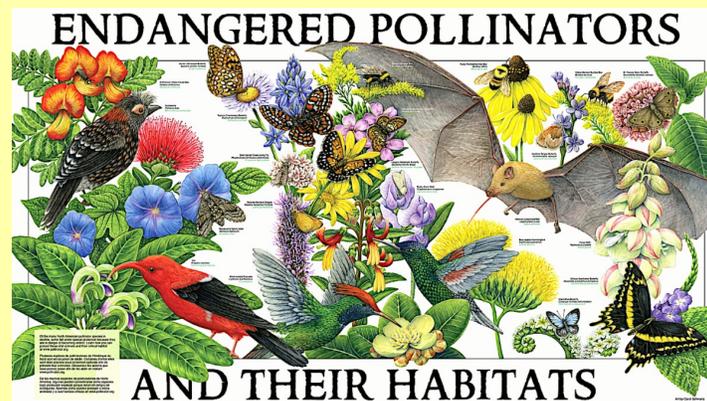
Even if flood waters drain off quickly, soil becomes so soaked, drought-tolerant plants may choose flight instead of fight. Hopefully they will just slide into a normal dormancy . . . rather than the other option.

It will be a good idea, going forward, to accept and plan now to protect your "drought-tolerant" natives and other pollinator-attractors:

- Put them in raised areas that will drain quickly.
- Use landscape timbers, rocks and other border material to keep the added soil from washing away.
- Use mulch to keep soil from becoming too dry during hot summer droughts.
- If you put natives/pollinator-attractors in spots where water stands after a rain, make sure in the wild they grow in similar situations.

In our Spotlight Article below, Houston Rose Society's Suzanne Gilbert and Baxter Williams offer some advice on both selecting flood-tolerant roses and how to care for them after flooding occurs. Although plants won't be for sale, you can buy prize-winning blooms and pick up more great advice SAT., OCT. 26: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY FALL SHOW, 12-4pm, Memorial City Mall, 303 Memorial City Way. Free. houstonrose.org

* * *



[Pollinator Partnership's "Endangered" poster](#) includes some local native plants available at the [Houston Arboretum sale](#).

TALK ABOUT NEW HORIZONS! Remember when our focus was just on choosing plants to attract monarchs? Then we expanded into helping to augment native habitats to help those lost to urban sprawl. Then the umbrella grew even larger to include plants beneficial as many additional pollinators as possible.

A HUGE TIP O' THE TROWEL TO:

- All the schools, churches, centers, etc., that now boast habitat/pollinator gardens. Today children are much better at pollinator-speak, and are more ecology-aware, than most of their parents. You folks have done a GREAT job.
- Nurseries and wildlife enthusiasts who are helping us to appreciate the role even many non-native old favorites garden plants play in the grand ecology scheme.
- Native plant enthusiasts. More than anyone, you have persisted in bringing more landscape-friendly, pollinator-attracting native plants to the retail markets. And that's real proof of success.

Below are a few of the often-overlooked, hard-to-find, pollinator-attracting natives

among the varieties available at the **FRI.-SAT., OCT. 25-26: HOUSTON ARBORETUM FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE**, 9am-4pm, 120 West Loop North. Free. houstonarboretum.org; 713-681-8433. (Notes provided by Houston Arboretum.) [A complete plant list.](#)



BURR OAK

(*Quercus macrocarpa*)

Oaks host the most butterflies and moths of all plant groups, about 470 species in our area. Known Burr Oak caterpillars range from the humble Juvenal's Duskywing butterfly to the stunning Imperial Moth.



INDIGO

(*Amorpha fruticosa*)

This shrub should be in every butterfly-enthusiast's yard. It hosts more than 25 species, including the showy Southern Dogface butterfly and Io Moth.



BIG BLUESTEM

(*Andropogon gerardii*)

Grasses are host plants too! Big Bluestem hosts at least 20 species, including the Common Wood Nymph and Arogos Skipper.



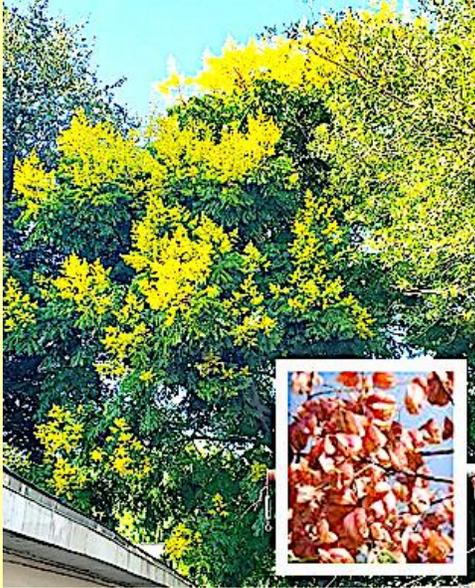
KANSAS BLAZING STAR

(*Liatris pycnotachia*)

Asters like this are pollinator powerhouses – they provide food for both caterpillars and adult butterflies. This one hosts 8 species, including the Wavy-lined Emerald and Glorious Flower Moth.

* * *

BEFORE WE GET TO "FLOODS &



ROSES," hope you've noticed all the spectacular yellowing-blooming trees. Sadly, golden raintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) is now on the invasive list. As anyone with one will tell you, seedlings sprout with frustrating frequency. Legend has it Johnny Appleseed mixed a single golden raintree seed in apple seeds he spread far and wide, a great peg Ross Lockridge Jr. used in his book-turned-movie "Raintree County." Often these yellow blooms are less spectacular, but this is a banner year. Its peach-colored seed pods are always show-stoppers.

* * *

"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

* * *



'Peggy Martin' - a flood-tough rose extraordinaire!

Rose Care Before & After a Flood By Suzanne Gilbert

Living in Southeast Texas unfortunately brings the possibility of heavy rain and flooding when storms come in from the Gulf. There are things gardeners can do before and after a flood to save their beautiful roses.

Planting roses in raised beds can help them survive days of rain or flooding. When designing new beds raise them 6 to 8 inches or higher.

Landscape timbers are a good choice; other materials such as brick or stone can be used. The soil in the beds should be high quality friable rose soil. This allows the excess water to drain away from the roots.

Soil compaction and contaminants from floodwaters are two problems that can be deadly to roses after a flood. When floodwaters sit on a rose bed the soil becomes compacted due to the weight of the water, oxygen is squeezed out of the soil and rose roots can no longer perform their job of delivering nutrients to the plant.

After floodwaters have subsided, here are steps to rehabilitate rose beds:

- Rinse mud covered foliage; this reduces the likelihood of disease spreading through wounds on leaves and canes.
- Remove storm muck from the base of the plants.
- Inspect for broken canes and remove them.
- No major pruning or fertilizing at this time, the plant is already stressed.
- After initial clean up, keep beds clean, and remove diseased leaves.
- Wear gardening gloves to protect hands and arms, be safe.

According to Baxter Williams, Master Consulting Rosarian and Past President of the Houston Rose Society the steps above will help, but “the thing to do is get air into the soggy soil.”

- Use a spading fork, plunge it into the soil about 12 inches from the rootstock or base of the plant.
- Wiggle it back and forth to create holes to allow the air to move down into the soil. Do this in several locations around the plant.
- Be patient! Recovery from flooding may take several weeks.
- When the roses begin to show new growth, help them to recover by feeding the soil. Use a water-soluble organic fertilizer containing humates at half strength.

The symbol of a tough, tenacious rose that survived twenty feet of salt water in Hurricane Katrina is the “Peggy Martin Rose.” Roses are survivors.

NOTE: a great place to talk to rose experts about, and buy, the best varieties for this area: SAT., OCT. 26: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY FALL SHOW, 12-4pm, Memorial City Mall, 303 Memorial City Way. Free. houstonrose.org



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 99

A new report from the Crowther research center in Switzerland has calculated that

223 million acres of global tree reforestation (about one trillion trees) would store enough carbon (205 billion tons) to stop climate change. This is about two thirds of the carbon emitted since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

As part of the study they found that trees planted with basalt rock dusts had an **8-fold increase in biomass, 2.17 increase in tree height, and four times increase in survivability over a five-year time frame**. Trees planted on local soil without the rock dusts did not survive.

Other studies have found that using rock dusts with compost or biochar also sequesters carbon more effectively than without rock dusts. This is why the NWR "Re-mineralizer" product is a mix of basalt sand, granite sand and greensand as it helps all plants grow better by restoring true fertility to the soil.

The organization "Bionutrient Food Association (BFA)", has found that nutrient levels varied greatly in the same crops grown under different conditions in their first report on carrots and spinach. The variation in minerals was from 400 to 1,800 percent depending on the mineral assayed. This means that depending on how a carrot or a leaf of spinach was raised, it could have 4-18 times more nutrients than one that is poorly raised.

When they analyzed health giving compounds such as antioxidants and polyphenols, they found extreme variations up to 200 to one throughout the samples! Translated this means that the best carrots had 200 times more beneficial health-giving stuff than the worst carrots.

In physics we have known for years that different levels of nutrients and minerals change how different frequencies of light are reflected. The association is developing a hand-held meter that uses this principle to help consumers test the food at grocery stores so they can only purchase healthy nutrient dense food. Many foods that are sold at grocery stores are visually appealing but nutritionally worthless.

Below is the link to a press release:

[Survey Says: Nutrient Levels Vary Greatly In Bionutrient's First Annual Report](#)

A new discussion has started in horticultural circles "Do Plants Have a Brain?" Recent research on plants have demonstrated that they do many things: they defend themselves against predators, they attract desirable visitors, they communicate with each other through their root systems and chemicals in the air, they listen, count, remember, recognize their kinfolds, and can feel emotions like pain.

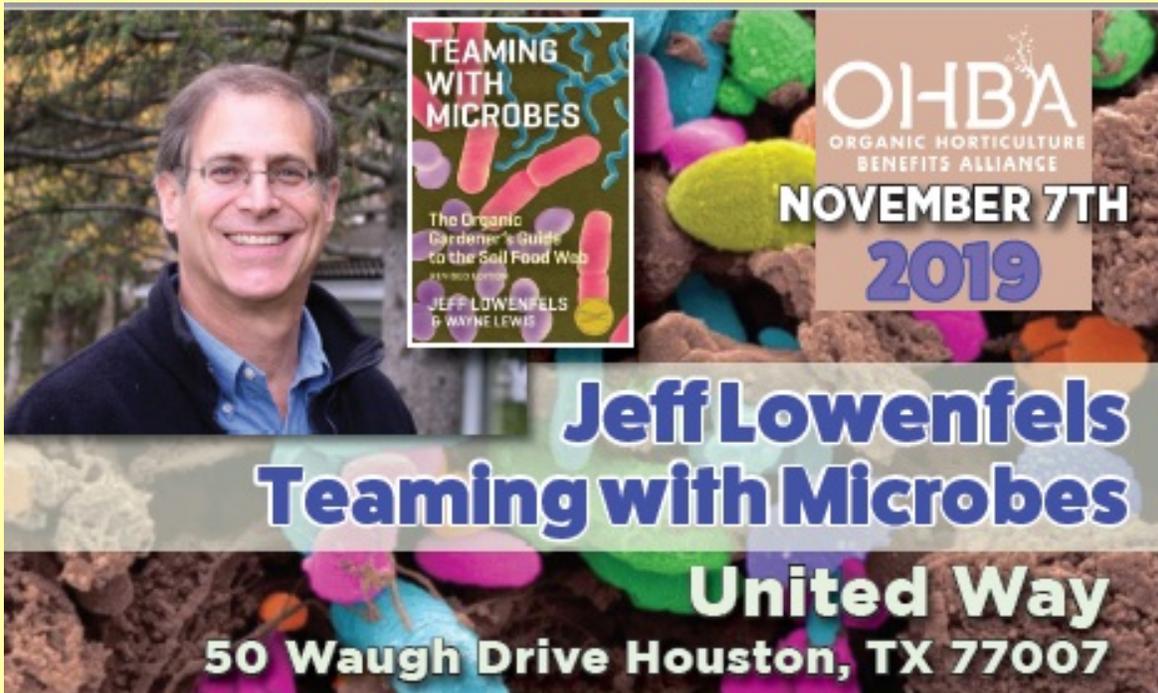
We have known for years that some plants make sounds, they listen (grow much better with classical music than rock), and respond to human voices especially kind loving and encouraging words.

Obviously, they do not have an animal like brain but electrical and chemical signaling systems exist which are similar to neurotransmitters found in humans like glutamate, serotonin, or dopamine.

Some researchers now believe the intelligence of plants is more like distributed

processing computers or group intelligence as seen in bird colonies, groups of insects or schools of fish where each individual contributes to the whole as a part of the "brain".

There is a new joint study by several universities in Europe that was performed over several years on a population of 20,000 people that was recently released. It found just spending as little as two hours a week in nature (greenspace) significantly increased the health and well being of the individuals. The reasons to be a gardener continue to multiply. The Scientist October 2019



The banner features a portrait of Jeff Lowenfels on the left. To his right is the cover of his book 'Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web'. Further right is the OHBA logo and the event date 'NOVEMBER 7TH 2019'. The background is a collage of colorful soil microbes and soil.

TEAMING WITH MICROBES
The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web
11TH EDITION
JEFF LOWENFELS & WAYNE LEWIS

OHBA
ORGANIC HORTICULTURE BENEFITS ALLIANCE
NOVEMBER 7TH 2019

Jeff Lowenfels
Teaming with Microbes

United Way
50 Waugh Drive Houston, TX 77007



The section is divided into two main areas: a list of sponsors on the left and event details on the right.

SPONSORS

- MicroLife ALL ORGANIC. NUTRITIONAL. 100% PURE.
- Joyce Serant Foundation
- ArborTrue
- Wabash Food & Garden
- Nature's Way Resources an organic with a social conscience company
- BERING'S ESTABLISHED 1946
- F&S HORTICULTURAL
- Life
- THE Ground UP THE SOIL IS WORKING
- Sustainable Growth Texas
- HomeShow GARDEN PROS
- BLACKWOOD

Come discover the fascinating world of soil microbiology with the most entertaining, Jeff Lowenfels. He is the author of the Teaming Series featuring the award-winning book 'Teaming with Microbes'. As a world renowned soil microbiology expert and leader in the Organic movement, Jeff will blow your mind with his findings from the soil food web.

Come join us as one of the most enlightening and captivating lecturers in the Organic Movement comes to Houston for this can't miss event.

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

ITINERARY
5:00-6:00PM
REGISTRATION, NETWORKING & LIGHT BITES
6:00-7:30PM
JEFF LOWENFELS

Have You Tried . . .

RED BAY

(Persea borbonia)

This handsome North American native evergreen tree can reach 50' high in the wild, but tends to be shorter and wider in open urban landscapes. Its showy, ridged, red-brown bark is pulls the eye and the glossy, leathery green leaves emit a spicy fragrance when crushed. Both the inconspicuous, spring flower clusters and attractive dark blue fruits attract birds and squirrels in fall. Leave on the low-growing branches for a more shrub-like appearance or prune them off for a more single-trunk tree.



RED Bay 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

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

SAT., OCT 12: SURFSIDE NATURE FEST, 10am-4pm, Surfside Bird and Butterfly Trail, 418 Parkview, Surfside. Surfside Tourism/Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful event. Free. 979-248-8257, sandy@windyescapes.com

MON. OCT. 14: BASIC BOTANY with Anita Tiller from Mercer Botanic Gardens, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM, Lake Houston Gardeners, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2929 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Free. www.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

THURS., OCT. 24: FARMER IN THE CITY DAYLILY GARDEN, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr.. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. Free. ofts.com/hhs/

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

SAT. NOV. 2: WHAT IS A GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER by DIANE SCHENKE, 1-2:30 pm; Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519. Free.

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

TUES., NOV. 5: ALL ABOUT SALVIAS by PHOEBE LAKE, noon-1pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950. hcmga.tamu.edu

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

SAT., NOV. 9: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANTS SALE, 10am, The Woodlands Wildflower Festival, Recreation Center, Rob Fleming Park, 6464 Creekside Forest Dr. Free. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

TUES., NOV. 12: MONARCH BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR GARDEN by AMY STODDARD, 9am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah. The Woodlands Garden Club event. Free. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

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

THURS., Nov.14:GROWING HEALTHY ROSES IN CONTAINERS by Donald Burger 7pm, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,1819 Heights Blvd. Houston Rose Society event. Free. www.houstonrose.org

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. NOV 23: THE GREAT PEPPER EXTRAVAGANZA by GENE SPELLER, 1-4 pm; AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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 _

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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





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.

