



**Nov. 8, 2019 - Issue #316**

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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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## **FERNS LINK US TO OUR DEEPEST ROOTS . . . FALL IS FOR PLANTING BULBS!**

**BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

***"Ferns . . . have inhabited Earth about 200 million years before the first dinosaur ever hatched from its egg..."***

[earthbuddies.net/ancient-plants-ferns/](http://earthbuddies.net/ancient-plants-ferns/)

SOMETIMES we become so focused on our own plants, we forget about the greater world from which they come. Our loss. Think of how broadening the historic horizons of your ferns, for example, would enrich appreciation of them.

In our Spotlight Article below, Panayoti Kelaidis, Denver Botanic Gardens Senior Curator /Director of Outreach, helps us to envision the wider world of the ferns that fill such an important role in our own gardens.

Our treasured trees do limit the range of plants we use, which makes ferns all the

more valuable for those shady spots. Our Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society is a collection of pteridologists are always happy to introduce new "fernies" to the incredible world of these prehistoric treasures. Their [newsletter](#) alone is a wealth of information. Ferns will be focus of the first of Panayoti Kelaidis' two upcoming presentations (*the second sounds equally as fascinating*):

- **SUN., NOV 17: LOOKING FOR FERNS IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES** by Panayoti Kelaidis, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. [tgcfersoc.org](http://tgcfersoc.org).
- **SAT., NOV. 16: TEXAS IN EXILE - HOW TEXAS NATIVES HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED COLORADO LANDSCAPES** by Panayoti Kelaidis, 10am), Peckerwood Garden, 20559 F.M. 359 Road Hempstead. 11:30am, free. (10am tour, \$10): [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org)

Before we enclose ourselves in the ancient roots of ferns, however . . .

\* . \* . \*

## IT'S OFFICIALLY FALL -- PLANT THOSE BULBS!

Planting times for bulbs in our unique subtropical pocket often differs from other areas, so I try to periodically republish my late longtime mentor/close friend Sally McQueen Squire's **"Planting By the Holidays" chart**. Sally was best known as "Houston Bulb Lady.". Her recommended regime:



- **NOVEMBER (actually HALLOWEEN through this month)**

Plant these above: Agapanthus, allium, anemone, bletilla, lycoris, ranunculus (claws down!), crocus. And these below: Dutch iris, freesia, leucojum, milla, muscari, sparaxis and watsonia.



**Brenda's Note:** try all these in containers too. Most bulbs like cold. In fact, the reason tulips, hyacinths, crocus and other "Holland" bulbs don't naturalize here is that our winters aren't cold enough for them to go into the true dormancy needed for bloom production. That's why we need to refrigerate tulips, hyacinths and crocus 4-6 weeks before planting. Otherwise, they "blast" (bloom deep down in the foliage base).

- **VETERANS DAY (Nov. 11)**

Start 'Paperwhite' narcissus in pebble-filled shallow dishes for holiday blooms. To extend season, plant new bowls every two weeks. The later you plant bulbs, the



shorter time until blooming. Bulbs planted on Feb. 5 bloom about Feb. 22.

- **THANKSGIVING (Nov. 28)**

Plant: Daffodils and pre-refrigerated hyacinths in ground. Plant unchilled hyacinths anytime in hyacinth glasses or containers, Then refrigerated until roots fill glass. Start amaryllis bulbs in pots in a low-light area for holiday blooms.

- **NEW YEAR'S EVE (Dec. 31)**

Start planting tulip bulbs that have been refrigerated at least 4-6 weeks. Tulips can be planted anytime until Feb. 13. Why not on Feb. 14, you ask? Because that's the traditional day for pruning roses in the garden!

- **NEW YEAR'S DAY (Jan. 1, 2020)**

Plant all the bulbs you forgot to plant in the fall — especially those tulips and hyacinths! They won't bloom in the refrigerator!

- **VALENTINE'S DAY (Feb. 14)**

Don't worry about bulbs. This is the day to prune your roses!

- **WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY/PRESIDENT'S DAY (Feb. 22, 2020)**

Start caladiums in flats inside so will be ready to put into the ground on Easter. Alstromeria, if you haven't planted them already, need to go into the ground quickly. Stagger gladiolus planting at two-week intervals to produce a long season of color.

- **ST. PATRICK'S DAY (Mar. 17, 2020)**

Oxalis (those 4-leaf clovers sold in grocery stores love our gardens!) Dahlias can be started now but tubers usually require a full season of growing before producing flowers.

- **EASTER SUNDAY (Apr. 12, 2020)**

Plant amaryllis and caladiums in the ground now. Don't plant caladiums earlier because these rot too easily in cold soil. Amaryllis will naturalize here; no need to lift.

- **MOTHER'S DAY (May 10, 2020)**

Plant achimenes. Crinum and cannas can be planted any time, except the dead of winter.

- **MEMORIAL DAY (May 25, 2020)**

Okay to plant caladiums this late if you use plants.

Thanks, Sally! I miss you so much.

\* \* \*

**"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" & "PUBLICITY BOOKLET"**

are free — Just email [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

\* \* \*

*"Only spread a fern-frond over a man's head and worldly cares are cast out, and freedom and beauty and peace come in." -- John Muir*



*Fern wall at Guangzhou airport China (PANAYOTI KELAIDIS photo)*

## **LOOKING FOR FERNS IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES**

by **PANAYOTI KELAIDIS**

[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)

Senior Curator / Director of Outreach

If you want to see a fern in Colorado, good luck! Although we have nearly a hundred kinds of ferns and fern allies, most are tucked on inaccessible cliffs, or deep gorges. Unlike humid regions, where ferns can blanket the landscape, ferns in cold or dry regions are subtle, but they are present.

I have been astonished to find a vast assortment of ferns above treeline, well above 14,000 in the Himalaya, in the deserts of Central Asia and the American Southwest. I have found them in the arctic and above tree line in New Zealand, the Andes and in the hot, dry corners of South Africa.





**Asplenium trichomanes (above left with Cyclamen purpurascens) and above right in a garden. Below, Cystopteris fragilis near Denver, CO. (PANAYOTI KELAIDIS photos)**

Some, like Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*, *Asplenium trichomanes*, *Cystopteris fragilis*) are global—found on most continents and in many habitats. Others are highly specialized and local, like some of the dryland ferns of our Southwest such as *Bomera hispida* that grows only in a corner of Texas and Mexico.

I am especially intrigued by the strange distribution of a few ferns, like the Interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*) which I've always associated with the hardwood forests of eastern North America. But I found this growing abundantly in forests of Yunnan, in the Chinese Himalaya!



**Osmunda claytoniana Tianchi Lake, left, and ferns planted on walls along streets in Chengdu China (PANAYOTI KELAIDIS photos)**

Ferns seem to love to grow in scenic spots and in special places, from temples in Tibet to even in crevices of the Acropolis! At Denver Botanic Gardens we have tried to promote a regional garden style that reflects our Western landscape more faithfully.

A surprising number of Texas natives, like Undaunted Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia reverchonii*), Silver (*Vernonia larseni*) and Texas Oak (*Quercus buckleyi*) have emerged as stars in Rocky Mountain landscapes. The extraordinary biodiversity of Texas is a resource that benefits all of America.

**NOTE: More explorations with Panayoti Kelaidis:**

- **SUN., NOV 17: LOOKING FOR FERNS IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES** by PANAYOTI KELAIDIS, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Texas Free. Gulf Coast Fern Society event. [tgcfersoc.org](http://tgcfersoc.org).

- SAT., NOV. 16: **TEXAS IN EXILE - HOW TEXAS NATIVES HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED COLORADO LANDSCAPES** by Panayoti Kelaidis, 10am), Peckerwood Garden, 20559 F.M. 359 Road Hempstead. 11:30am, free. (10am tour, \$10): [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org)

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## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOILS AND PLANTS #102

A term we will be hearing more of is “Earth Overshoot Day”. This is the day when the Earth’s capacity to regenerate itself has been exceeded by consumption of its natural resources. Some folks think it has already occurred while others believe it will occur in the next couple years.

As gardeners we can do our part to help out by using modern methods based on biology often referred to as organic methods. Thousands of papers and studies now exist that show these modern methods work far better than the old obsolete toxic chemical rescue methodologies. Not only do they give better results at far lower cost, they help protect the Earth’s natural resources and help be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

I was told the other day that the National Federation of Garden Clubs has a new organic program called: “I took the Pledge – The Great Healthy Yard Project”.

So, a question I often get asked is “why do so many people continue to recommend toxic chemicals?” There are several reasons from ignorance to being too lazy to learn new things. However, the main reason is money.

It starts with artificial fertilizers that pollute our waterways and kill off the beneficial life in the soil. Using turf grass as an example, without the beneficial microbes one then gets a disease problem like brown patch and then they are told to purchase a fungicide (with even higher profit margins). This kills off most all fungi, good and bad. Without the good fungus we get a thatch buildup in our lawns that makes a good home for webworms or chinch bugs. Now we are told to purchase very toxic pesticides like diazinon, dursban or anyone of several other choices (these all have very high profit margins).

These chemicals kill earthworms, micro-arthropods and other soil life that recycle nutrients and help create soil structure. This leads to compaction and weeds, now we are told to aerate our lawns and use weed and feeds with even higher profit margins..... Get the picture!

The other reason is that many of our agricultural universities are funded by multi-million-dollar grants from Monsanto, Dow, Scott’s, etc. Hence, they dance to the



tune of their corporate masters.

**As** gardeners we are always concerned with improving and protecting our soil. Another study published in the Soil Science Society of America Journal (June 2019) looked at soil enzymes which are indicators of soil health. Enzymes are used to cycle nutrients, make nutrients available to plants, create soil structure, etc. The study found that the highest level of enzymes was found when cover crops were used with good compost. Conversely the lowest levels were found when compost was not used. As gardeners we can expect similar effects (healthy soil) when we have plantings with lots of species diversity and we use lots of good compost.

**Have** you ever had a tree stump in your yard that would not decompose as it stayed alive even without foliage? Researchers have discovered the reason as a paper published in the Journal Science (July 2019) explains. They found that trees with foliage transferred energy and carbon compounds to the stump to feed it and keep it alive. In return the stump with its huge root system collected minerals and water and gave them to the other trees. It is well known that roots from different trees can merge as well as transfer nutrients over the fungal “wood wide web”.

**As** we grow older, we often worry about mental decline. The Dr. Mercola newsletter had an article about Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*) an herb that is a member of the nightshade family, has been used in natural medicine for centuries. This herb improves memory, improves cognitive function, improves attention, and improves our information processing speed.

**We** often hear about toxic algal blooms and masses of seaweed contaminating the water and washing up on our beaches. A paper published in The Scientist on a study from the Gulf Coast of Mexico has found the cause was nutrient discharge (fertilizer runoff) from the rivers in the Amazon Basin that currents carried to the Mexican shores. I suspect that the toxic algal and seaweed problems from Texas to Florida are coming from the Mississippi which is known to be the primary source of the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico. I am tired of having my tax dollars used to clean up the mess caused by the artificial fertilizers. Maybe it is time that we impose a tax on artificial fertilizers to cover the cleanup costs so homeowners do not have to.

**One** of the wonders of nature is photosynthesis which scientists have studied for decades but have not fully explained. A new model has emerged that provides a better description of the reactions to convert sunlight into stored energy as carbon compounds. The new explanation uses a property of matter called quantum tunneling. Sunlight (photon) excites an electron in the chlorophyll molecule to create a structure called an exciton. This exciton travels as a wave instead of a particle hence it can explore all possible paths simultaneously and take the most efficient route to complete a chemical reaction. Nature (God) is amazing!

**Last** week I asked and discussed the question “are plants intelligent”. This week let’s ask “are fungi intelligent”?

We know that fungi communicate (ex. Wood wide web, chemical signals, etc.)

Fungi hoard nutrients (savings and investment accounts)

Fungi reward plants that provide ample carbon foods (exudates) and punish those plants that do not (a judicial system)

We know that fungi barter for nutrients and energy to get the best deal for themselves (they evaluate)

Fungi are sophisticated information processors (Quantum Magazine August 2019) and pass on information about pests, water, and other resources (for a fee of course).

**Do** you ever wonder why bananas do not taste as good as when we were kids? The famous, large, slippery, and delicious banana called “Gros Michael” developed Panama disease in the early 1960’s, which destroyed this banana and eliminated it from cultivation.

The growers of bananas then switched to a variety called “Cavendish” that is smaller and not as flavorful, that we have today. Now this variety of bananas is becoming infected with this disease (*Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. Cubense*) or Tropical Race 4 (TR4) as Gros Michael did.

A few year ago, I did a study on this issue. It was caused by chemical abuse of our soils, artificial fertilizer’s (salts) killing natural biocontrol agents, and mono cropping. Unless large plantations learn and switch to ecological methods, we as a society will soon loose the Cavendish banana also.

**A** study from the University of Melbourne published in the journal PLOS Pathogens (2019) has found that the disease *Pneumonia* caused by bacteria, has a strong nutritional link. This disease kills over one million people each year. They found that animals with low levels of Zinc (Zn) succumbed t the disease 3 times faster than those with normal levels. Zinc is required by the immune system of mammals to kill this bacterium.

Over two billion people around the world are deficient in this nutrient. Zinc is a common element and added to most fertilizers, hence why are people deficient?

I suspect the toxic chemical glyphosate, used in the Round-Up herbicide as a major cause. Zinc has a +2 electrical or valence state. In our study on the dangers of glyphosate a few years ago we found out that glyphosate binds strongly to elements with a +2 electrical state like calcium and magnesium. It binds so tightly that it was used to clean mineral scale out of pipes (US Patent # 3,160,632).

Unless one buys certified organic food, common items like corn, wheat, oats, etc. are contaminated with glyphosate. GMO foods have even higher and more dangerous levels of this carcinogen. Bottom line is that when we eat foods with glyphosate in and on them, our bodies cannot absorb the zinc in the food making us more susceptible to this disease.



As gardeners we know to keep our beds and gardens mulched to prevent erosion. [This short video clip](#) shows what happens to soil without mulch. The raindrop is like a tiny bomb exploding, throwing soil fragments every where as it hits the ground. This effect quickly leaches the clay and silt particles along with many nutrients destroying the health of our soil.

\* \* \*

## Have You Tried . . .

### FRAGRANT MISTFLOWER

*(Chromolaena odorata)*

(Formerly known as *Eupatorium odorata*)

This 2'-6' rapidly-growing shrub has virtually-evergreen leaves with eye-catching lilac to bright purplish-blue fragrant flowerlets in showy cluster heads August through October. Shrubbiest form in full sun, more lanky growing in part-shade.

Although will die back in hard winters, is root hardy. Low-water plant so make sure in well-drained site. Makes excellent patio pot plant. Attracts butterflies, birds and bees. Valued in some countries for its wound-healing properties.



*FRAGRANT MISTFLOWER 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.*

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## LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

### ***ADULT GARDEN / PLANT EVENTS ONLY*** **PLEASE READ BEFORE** **SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR**

Events **NOT** submitted in the **EXACT** written format below may take 2 weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net).  
• No pdfs please! • Type text into email. • Put your group name on the 'Subject' line.

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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

FRI., NOV. 8: NATURE'S KALEIDOSCOPE: A HORTICULTURE SPECIALTY SHOW, 12:30-2pm, The First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://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](http://thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

MON. NOV. 11: ARBOR DAY CEREMONY & BLUE STAR MEMORIAL BY-WAY MARKER DEDICATION. 1.30pm, Fisher House III, 2002 Holcombe Blvd. A District IV Coastal Prairie Council & Texas Garden Club event.

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](http://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. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

FRI., NOV 15: HOUSTON URBAN TREE CONFERENCE, 8am-3pm, Weekly Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road, Cypress. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, HAUFC and ISA-TX event. \$45. [harris.agrilife.org/event/houston-urban-tree-conference-2/](http://harris.agrilife.org/event/houston-urban-tree-conference-2/)

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](http://maasnursery.com)

SUN., NOV 17: LOOKING FOR FERNS IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES by PANAYOTI KELAIDIS, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Gulf Coast Fern Society event. Free. [tgcfernsociety.org](http://tgcfernsociety.org).

TUES., NOV. 19: HECHTIAS by ANDY SIEKKINEN, 7pm, West Grey Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Grey. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. Free. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

TUES., NOV. 19: HECHTIAS by ANDY SIEKKINEN, 7pm West Grey Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Grey. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. Free. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

TUES., NOV 19: A TRIP TO THE MONARCH OVERWINTERING SITES IN MICHOACAN by DR. DIANE RUSSELL, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. [www.sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://www.sugarlandgardenclub.org)

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

THUR. DEC. 5: CITRUS SEMINAR & TASTING by MONTE NESBITT, 6-8:30pm; Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065; [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT. DEC 7: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES (1 of 3, GROWING FROM SEED by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11:30am; Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065; [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)



TUES. JAN. 14, 2020: PLUMERIAS IN THAILAND by MARK WRIGHT, 7-9pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

TUES. MAR 10, 2020: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH PLANT SOCIETIES by MARK WOMACK, 7-9pm ; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.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](http://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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

TUES., MAY 12: BONSAI by SCOTT BARBOZA, 7-9pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

TUES., JUL 14: PLUMERIA IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS by NICOLE TIERRMAN, 7-9pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

TUES., OCT 13: FALL PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SOCIAL/LUAAU 7-9:00 pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

If we inspire you to attend any of these,  
please let them know you heard about it in . . .

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[www.bartlett.com](http://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 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.



