



# LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



## Jan. 10, 2020 - Issue #322

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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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## DON'T MISS THESE CHANCES TO REAP VAST GARDENING REWARDS

**By Brenda Beust Smith**

Greater Houston area (and beyond) gardeners -- especially parents or those who work with children -- have an incredible opportunity Sun., Jan. 26, 2020, at the free public, one-day-only "soft opening" of the Susan Garver Family Discovery Garden -- first completed aspect of the new [Houston Botanic Garden](#) (2-4 pm; 8205 N. Bayou Dr., Houston, 77017).

This is a special, one-time-only opportunity to see the Garden, for now. HBF is still at least 8 months away from regularly opening the gates to the (admission-paying) public.

So this will be a unique -- perhaps-once-in-a-lifetime -- chance to watch Nature in action, to see how pros start from scratch to work with a surrounding ecology to develop what should one day be a world-class botanic garden.

Only by being there at the beginning can one later truly appreciate how professional horticulturists coax plants to grow in harmony with -- and often in spite of -- the natural world in which a garden is set.

Not to mention how it will zhuzh up your gardening image to be able to later knowingly point out to friends *"how much things have changed since . . .!"*



***Above, Susan Garver Family Discovery Garden's,  
l to r, Cypress Swamp and Rainbow Perennial Garden***

Children will reap the rewards of this opportunity the most, of course. They will be able to watch development far into the future and recall, *"I remember what it was like when . . ."*

This particular phase of the new Houston Botanic Garden is named for the late Susan Garver, long-time Girl Scout troop leader. Susan's husband Mike, daughters Beth and Gretchen, and sons-in-law Donald Black and Alan Hilyard made a transformational gift to the recently completed Grow Houston's Garden capital campaign

The free, Sunday, Jan. 26, "completion celebration" ceremony with Mayor Sylvester Turner and other officials will offer the first sneak peek at the first of three feature gardens in Houston Botanic Garden's Phase I.

The official opening of Phase 1 will be in Fall, 2020. Take lots of pictures. They'll be fun to show off years from now when Nature and HBG staffers have worked their joint magic.



***Susan Garver Family Discovery Garden's Lagoon***

This garden will soon be hosting educational programs for area school children and select families. Young "scientists" will identify plant parts, healthy soil, insects, flowering plant cycles and seeds, to name just a few of the many scheduled programs -- a grand opportunity to be *"in on the beginning."*



Houston Botanic Garden, a nonprofit organization, was formed in 2002 and broke ground in 2019 on a 132-acre site a short distance from downtown Houston. Planned phases extend over the next 30 years.

Not many folks get the opportunity to watch a world-class garden grow from its very beginnings. Don't let this chance pass you by. If you can, let them know how many will be coming with you. It would help. Details and RSVP: [hbg.org](http://hbg.org).

\* \* \*



## **WAGONS HO!**

### **BEST PLANTING TIME FOR FRUIT AND NUT TREES!**

Major local organizations' fruit, nut & berry tree sales abound throughout the Greater Houston area now, to take advantage of this, our best time for planting these. Shop smart! Check out the listed websites for sale inventories and great advice -- especially if you are new to this area. The Greater Houston Area is a unique subtropical area that in many cases will change the rules used for planting fruit, nut & berry trees in other area of not only the nation, but even Texas as well.

As John points out below, trees in general are major assets to not only our landscapes, but our whole ecology as well. Fruit and nut trees give an extra, delicious bonus!

Take advantage of the free information available from locally-experienced volunteers at these and other Master Gardener and organizational sales. Be sure to tell them WHERE you live and garden. The Greater Houston area encompasses several different climates and these DO make a difference.

**Most notable has to be:**

***The Nation's Largest One Day Fruit & Nut Tree Sale . . .***

- **SAT., FEB. 15: URBAN HARVEST 20th ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE**, 9am-1pm, Sawyer Yards, 2010 Winter St. UH's 4,000-plus fruit trees are selected specifically for the Greater Houston area. Member specializing in various varieties are always on hand to "get specific."

**As with all the Master Gardener sales** listed below, you can get a preview of varieties for sale by logging onto each group's website. So far, these are the ones submitted to us. Check our future calendars for more MG sales:

- **SAT., JAN. 25: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PLANT & FRUIT TREE SALE**, 9am-1pm, Richard & Meg Weekley Park, 19110 Longenbaugh Rd., Cypress. Preview list: [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)
- **SAT., JAN 25: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS 2020 FRUIT &**

**NUT SALE.** 8am: Preview. 9am-Noon: Sale (bring wagon), Agrilife Extension Building, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe; 936-539-7824. Preview list: [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

- **SAT. FEB 8. FORT BEND MASTER COUNTY GARDENERS 2020 FRUIT TREE SALE,** 9am-noon, Fairgrounds George Pavilion, 4310 Hwy 36S, Rosenberg. 281-341-7068. Preview list: [fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/fruit-citrus-tree-sale](http://fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/fruit-citrus-tree-sale)
- **SAT., FEB 15: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS 2020 SPRING PLANT SALE.** 8am: Preview. 9am-1pm: Sale (bring wagon). Fair Ground, Jack Brooks Park, Hwy 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd, Hitchcock; 281-309-5065. Preview list: [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

I dare say most of today's readers weren't around when our local Master Gardener groups, led by fruit & nut tree experts and homegrowers who formed the the Gulf Coast Fruit Study Group, started these wonderful sales decades ago. So you will appreciate what Heidi Sheesley is saying below, you need to know that, [in those early days - a review by Dr. Bob Randall](#), she and Bill Rohde, through Heidi's Treesearch Farms wholesale growing enterprise, were literally the lifeblood of these early sale inventories.

At that point in time, most of our retail fruit and nut tree varieties were imported from East and West growers. Some worked, some didn't, and frustrations ran high. It took a lot of cooperative experimentation to come up with varieties everyone felt comfortable recommending to John Q. Homeowner. Treesearch Farms was the site where a great deal of that (often donated) experimentation took place.

And still today, Heidi & Treesearch Farms continue as an active wholesale supplier for organizations' sales, retail nurseries and landscapers.

Remember, when it comes to success with fruit and nut trees in the Greater Houston area, as with any edibles here, the key to success: following LOCAL advice.

All the sales above will have many new and exciting varieties to try. But, if you're not experienced with a particular variety, talk to volunteers about what your planting situation will be. They will know best how to advise you. Remember, old favorites go quickly and supplies will be limited. A limited number of wagons are often provided, but smart shoppers bring their own.

Below, Heidi suggests a few varieties most sales should carry. Check their 'Preview Lists' (see above) to be sure.

For the less adventurous and those new to gardening here, Heidi suggests starting with of our longtime tried & true super-hardies. You can't go wrong, she says, with citrus and figs. Four proven successful producers Heidi highly recommends are . . .







**CITRUS**  
**MANDARIAN KISHU**  
**SEEDLESS**

Dwarf tree, easy to grow, easy to peel, small, delicious seedless fruit that tastes like tangerine candy. Ideal for garden or container. Cold-hardy to mid-20s once established



**CITRUS**  
**CARA CARA PINK**  
**NAVAL ORANGE**

Beautiful little evergreen tree. Seedless navel orange, juicy pink flesh. Almost seedless. Ripens early December. Like all citrus, super fragrant white blooms. Often mistaken for a grapefruit!



**FIG**  
**CELESTE**

**"Texas Sugar Fig"**

(Left) One of our most popular, figs. Very cold hardy. Easy to grow. Purple-brown skin, pink flesh, medium sized fruit, excellent sweet flavor. Mulch with leaves. No pruning necessary unless grows out of bounds!



**FIG**  
**LSU GOLD**

(Above) Unique large yellow fruit. Exceptionally sweet, heavy producer

*Photos by Heidi Sheesley, [TreeSearch Farms](http://TreeSearchFarms.com),  
[TreeSearch Farms/Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TreeSearchFarms)*

\* \* \*

If you feel you could use just a little more hands-on guidance, drop by the [Houston Urban Gardeners](http://HoustonUrbanGardeners.org) (HUG)'s Mon., Jan. 13, "Fruit Trees in Your Landscape" by Howard Starr (6:30pm, West Gray Multiservice Center, 1475 West Gray. Details: [houstonurbangardeners.org](http://houstonurbangardeners.org)

\* \* \*

*Check our calendar below for additional tree/plant sales coming up.*

*If you don't see your county listed, you can contact them at:*

[mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs/](http://mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs/)

\* \* \*



*What now? Holiday gift plants, l to r, Christmas cactus, chrysanthemums, cyclamen and poinsettias (Ed Holland's poinsettia in the Memorial Area.)*

### ONE LAST THOUGHT ON THE HOLIDAYS . . .

Wondering what to do with that gift plant — Christmas cactus, chrysanthemum, cyclamen, poinsettia? All can be planted IN your garden or in containers and will hopefully live to once again color-the-world. None of these are "indoor" plants, although some folks do have success with Christmas cactus. These don't like central heating or AC (too drying) and they need lots of light, the kind you get even in shade outside but which is very hard to reproduce inside. They love our humidity, but can't take overwatering.

- **CHRISTMAS CACTUS** - I'll be honest. The ONLY time I ever got one to rebloom was when I stuck in an extremely well-drained shady spot after Christmas and totally ignored it. The next fall, I had flowers blooming. Most of the time, however, it's pretty tricky. For detailed instruction, a great source: [Buchanan's Native Plants' website Christmas Cactus notes](#).
- **CHRYSANTHEMUMS** - better choices for lazy gardeners. Let the blooms die naturally, then cut stems back. Leave in pot in protected area until spring. Then plant in a sunny area. They bloom twice here, spring and fall.
- **CYCLAMEN** - These won't rebloom, they need a VERY cold dormant period to trigger flowering. However! Varieties on the market now will cheerfully bloom outdoors all though our winter, so are a great investment. Ideal for front door containers, etc. Water when flowers start to droop, but be sure drain hole is open. Can't stand wet feet.
- **POINSETTIAS** - These do survive outdoors here if you can get a good root system started. They like bright shade, under pine trees for example. The problem is, you don't know what happened to that plant before you bought it. If it was stressed in any way, chances are it won't survive. But it can't hurt to try. Wait until spring to plant in an extremely well drained area. Mulch well.

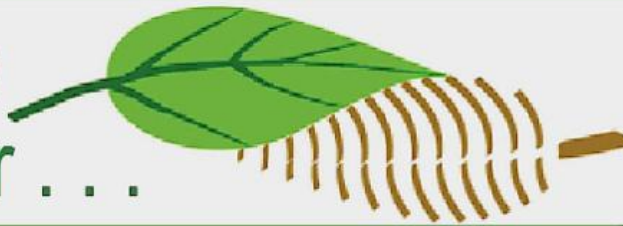
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**"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" & "PUBLICITY BOOKLET"**

are free — email request to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

**Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDENNEWSLETTER**  
is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener





## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOILS AND PLANTS #107

Questions we often get asked are: Why should I plant trees? When should I plant trees?

The answer to the second question is NOW! Late fall and winter are the best time to plant trees.

The answer to the first question is enormous. The benefits of trees are tremendous and without trees, life as we know it would not exist.

The benefits of trees can be broken down into several categories: Environmental, Social, Health, and Economic. So, let's go through each of these areas.

### **Environmental:**

- Planting trees are the quickest and cheapest way to fight climate change
- One acre of mature trees removes as much carbon dioxide as produced by driving your car 26,000 miles (this is 26 pounds of carbon!)
- In addition to storing carbon in the wood of their structure, trees produce root exudates composed of carbon atoms that feed microbes and store carbon in the soil as humus
- Trees absorb odors and pollutant gasses (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide, ozone, smoke, and other gasses)
- Trees remove particulate matter like dust and ash from the air that forms smog and causes breathing problems
- Reforestation protects topsoil from degradation from the baking heat of the sun, wind, and rain.
- Trees help prevent erosion as they act like an umbrella and reduce the energy from raindrops and reducing silting of bays and streams
- Tree roots help loosen soils allowing water to infiltrate the soil
- Microbes living on tree roots help biodegrade toxic chemicals
- Trees prevent desertification

### **Social:**

- Trees are beautiful and pleasing to look at
- Trees provide food for caterpillars which then provide the high protein food birds need to feed their young
- Trees provide beauty through their flowers
- Trees are host plants for many species of butterflies and moths
- Trees provide a tapestry of colors, scents, and forms to enjoy that change throughout the year
- The color green is relaxing and relieves eye strain
- Trees screen unattractive views and soften the hard outline of concrete, asphalt, steel, etc.
- Trees absorb and block sound, reducing noise pollution by 40-50% and

even more in some cases

- Under the canopy of a big shade tree is often a great place to relax and visit

### **Health:**

- Many trees produce a wonderful fragrance from leaves, flowers, roots, bark and wood that stimulates our immune system
- Looking at green leaves from trees help us relax and stimulate our immune system for better physical and mental health
- Exposure to trees and other greenery lowers heart rates and relaxes brain wave patterns
- Airborne chemicals emitted from green leaves lowers our blood pressure and helps us feel good.
- Many trees have medicinal properties
- Sounds from multiple song birds living in the trees lowers our stress levels
- The fragrance of the forest floor from fungi and other microbes decomposing dead wood (from the trees) lowers our blood pressure and sharpens our mental focus and it increase production of serotonin and other beneficial chemicals in our brains
- Parks with trees promotes greater physical activity
- Girls whom have a view of trees at home score higher on self-discipline tests
- Trees provide oxygen for us and other life forms to breathe
- The canopy of trees protects children from ultra-violet radiation
- Trees provide food for humans, animals, birds, insects and other life
- Studies have shown that if there is a view of trees out their windows patients heal faster with fewer complications
- Children with ADHD show fewer symptoms when they have access to trees and nature
- Neighborhoods with trees have less crime than neighborhoods without trees
- The environmental benefits of trees reduce asthma
- Trees by lowering particulate matter pollution outdoors reduced indoor particulate pollution in adjacent homes by 50%

### **Economic:**

- Trees provide shelter, fuel, food, medicine and building materials
- Trees reduce the heat island effect in our cities as well as lower our electric bills (as much as 50% in some areas)
- The evaporation from a single tree can produce the cooling effect of a ten-room sized air conditioner operating 20 hours per day
- A lush canopy can reduce summer temperatures 6-8 degrees as compared to neighborhoods without trees
- Trees around agricultural land increase yields of the main crop and reduce problems
- Trees clean the air, produce oxygen, intercept airborne particles, and reduce smog which helps meet urban air pollution requirements
- In urban areas with trees there are lower crime rates
- Trees used as windbreaks can reduce residential heating costs 10-15%, while shading and evaporative cooling can lower cooling costs by 20-50%
- Urban forests improve water quality
- A Palo Alto study found that trees in the city can intercept 135 million gallons of rainwater reducing flooding
- Trees capture and slow rainfall and their roots filter water and recharge the



water table this reduces run-off which reduces flooding which saves stormwater management costs

- For every 5% increase in tree cover added to a community, storm water runoff is reduced by approximately 2%
- Trees clean and reduce polluted water from reaching our bays
- Homes with trees sell more quickly and are worth 5-15% more than those without trees
- Homes where the entire street is lined with trees sell for an average of 25% more than the same house without trees
- Trees enhance economic stability by attracting businesses, since people linger and shop longer when trees are present and they spend more money
- When a canopy of trees is present, apartments and offices rent more quickly, have a higher occupancy rate, workers have less absenteeism and are more productive
- Trees reduce wind velocity during storms reducing the damage
- If only three trees were planted for every unshaded single-family home in US cities, this would be 100 million additional trees, saving society \$2 billion per year in energy costs
- Lower income neighborhoods have less trees and the lack of trees is associated with the problems they face

***“The wonder is that we can see trees and not wonder more”***  
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

\* \* \*

# TAKE BACK YOUR HEALTH

**OHBA**  
ORGANIC HORTICULTURE  
BENEFITS ALLIANCE

## A GREAT START TO 2020

2 LOCAL HOUSTON EXPERTS REVEAL THE DELICIOUS PATH TO YOUR BEST HEALTH!



### Eating for your Health | 5:45-6:45PM

**CHRISTINE VILLERE-BAILEY**

Christine is a Functional Nutritionist, board certified holistic health practitioner & graduate from the Institute of functional medicine. She will be teaching food as medicine, suggested diet & supplements, so you can have a long & happy life. Go from deficiency to sufficiency, take control over your own health while enhancing your life mentally and physically.



### Growing for your Health | 6:45-7:45PM

**DR. BOB RANDALL, PH.D**

Bob is a food systems anthropologist, permaculture designer and author who has gardened for 50+ years. Learn how to design a food garden that provides the healthiest, highest quality food year-round with minimum labor and cost. He will also share his sustainable design goals and climate adjustments to plant lists and planting schedules.

**JANUARY 14, 2020  
UNITED WAY**

**50 WAUGH DRIVE HOUSTON, TX 77007**

### ITINERARY

**5:00-5:45PM Registration & Networking**

**5:45-7:45PM Speakers**

**REGISTER ONLINE  
OHBAONLINE.ORG/EVENTS**

**OHBA MEMBERS \$10 + 1 FREE GUEST  
NON-OHBA MEMBERS \$20 + FREE GUEST**

Send guest name to Sara Wissinger  
[swissinger@sanjacsupply.com](mailto:swissinger@sanjacsupply.com)

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an organically based service company



**BUCHANAN'S  
NATIVE PLANTS**

**HomeShow  
GARDEN PROS**

**F&S**  
HORTICULTURAL

## Have You Tried ...

### MEXICAN WHITE OAK

*(Quercus polymorpha)*

Extremely hardy, low maintenance & disease resistant, Mexican White Oak is growing in popularity. Particularly noted for its drought-tolerance (which translates plant in a WELL-DRAINED spot here). Most "fast-growing" shade trees tend to be short-lived. Not this one. Average growth 4' per year to 40' height, making it great west-side shade to reduce



electric bills. Late winter leaf drop quickly filled in with spring green. Seldom need pruning except perhaps to raise the canopy, disease-resistant. Also called Monterrey oak or netleaf white oak.



**MEXICAN WHITE OAKS** are 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 PLEASE READ BEFORE  
SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR  
THEN CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS IN! HOWEVER . . .

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING EVENTS!

*Events NOT submitted in the EXACT format below may take 2 weeks  
or longer to be reformatted/retyped. Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net).*

*• No pdfs • Type text into email. • Put group name on the 'Subject' line  
AND BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE YEAR!*

FRI., JAN. 10, 2010: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE and  
RECYCLE, REDUCE, REUSE by Della Barbato, 10 am, First Christian Church, 1601  
Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free.  
[houstonfederationofgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationofgardenclubs.org)

SAT., JAN. 11: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS IN THE CITY TOURS, 9-  
11:30am. WORKSHOP: 10:30am, McGovern Centennial Garden, 1500 Hermann Dr.  
Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT. JAN 11: GROWING BLUEBERRIES by DR. DAVID COHEN, 9-10:30 am; PLANTING  
FRUIT TREES by HERMAN AUER, 1-3pm; Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main  
St., La Marque. Free. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), call 281-309-5065;  
[www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., JAN. 11: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA  
HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488;  
[maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

TUES. JAN. 14: 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., JAN. 14: CARING FOR ORCHIDS WITH BRANDIE HILL, 9am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 N, Shenandoah. The Woodlands Garden Club event. Free. [thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

THURS., JAN 16:, PRUNING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Ln. Free. 713-713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT. JAN 18: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES, PART 2 by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11:30am; GROWING PEACHES IN GALVESTON COUNTY by HERMAN AUER, 1-3:30pm; 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., JAN. 18: PRUNING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT., JAN. 18: FRUIT TREE by JIM MAAS & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook; 281-474-2488, [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com). \$35

SAT.- SUN., JAN. 18-19: 46th ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW AND SALE, 1:00-4:00pm, First Christian Church, 3500 North Loop 336 West, Conroe. Coushatta Camellia Society event. Free. [cousattacamelliasociety.com](http://cousattacamelliasociety.com).

SUN., JAN 19: DIVIDING FOOTED FERNS by PAT HUDNALL, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Texas Free. Gulf Coast Fern Society event. [tgcfernsoc.org](http://tgcfernsoc.org).

MON., JAN. 20: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., JAN 21: GARDENING WITH LOCAL NATIVE PLANTS by MARY SPOLYAR, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. [sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://sugarlandgardenclub.org)

TUES., JAN. 21: PRUNING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

WED., JAN. 22: CACTI IN HABITAT PART 3 by DAVID VAN LANGEN, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. Free. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org)

THURS., JAN. 23: GREG & ELIZABETH TROTTER'S GARDEN, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. [ofts.com/hhs/](http://ofts.com/hhs/)

SAT., JAN. 25: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PLANT & FRUIT TREE SALE, 9am-1pm, Richard & Meg Weekley Park, 19110 Longenbaugh Rd., Cypress. Preview list: [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

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SAT., JAN. 25: ORGANIC GARDENING & LAWN CARE by JIM MAAS & GREG COOPER, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., FEB. 1: NEW PLANTS & NEW PLANTING SCHEDULES IN OUR CHANGING CLIMATE by DR. BOB RANDALL, 11-12:30, Wabash Feed & Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd



Dr. Free, 713-863-8322, wabashfeed.com

SAT., FEB. 1: GROWING CAMELLIAS IN HOUSTON by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

THURS., FEB. 5: SPRING GARDENING, 10am, MUD Building 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [ncgctx.org](http://ncgctx.org)

SAT. FEB 8. FORT BEND MASTER COUNTY GARDENERS 2020 FRUIT TREE SALE, 9am-noon, Fairgrounds George Pavilion, 4310 Hwy 36S, Rosenberg. Preview list: [fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/fruit-citrus-tree-sale](http://fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/fruit-citrus-tree-sale); 281-341-7068.

SAT., FEB. 8: SPRING VEGETABLE PLANTING I by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

WED., FEB. 12: VEGETABLE GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES by Robert 'Skip' Richter, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160. [hcp4.net/parks/mercer](http://hcp4.net/parks/mercer)

THURS., Feb 13: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY ANNUAL PRUNING PARTY, 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

FRI., FEB. 14: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE. 10 am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org).

SAT., FEB. 15: URBAN HARVEST 20th ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE, 9am-1pm, Sawyer Yards, 2010 Winter St. Preview list: [UrbanHarvest.org/fruit-tree-sale](http://UrbanHarvest.org/fruit-tree-sale)

SAT., FEB. 15: ANTIQUE ROSES by JIM MAAS, & MIKE SHOUP, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., FEB 15: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS 2020 SPRING PLANT SALE. 8am: Preview. 9am-1pm: Sale (bring wagon). Fair Ground, Jack Brooks Park, Hwy 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd, Hitchcock; 281-309-5065. Preview list: [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., FEB. 22: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SUN., FEB. 23: CACTI AND SUCCULENTS by JACOB MARTIN, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77388. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

THURS., FEB. 27: TIM BELL'S DAYLILY GARDEN, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. [ofts.com/hhs/](http://ofts.com/hhs/)

SAT., FEB. 29: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., MAR. 7: SPRING VEGETABLE PLANTING II by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT.-SUN., MAR. 7-8: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB SHOW & SALE, Sat.: 9am-5pm Sale, 1-5pm show. Sun.: 10am-3pm Sale. Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. [kjwross@yahoo.com](mailto:kjwross@yahoo.com)

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. MAR. 13: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE. 10 am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. Refreshments will be served. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org).

SUN., MAR. 22: BIRDS OF THE BAYOU CITY by MARY ANNE WEBER, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77388. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

THURS., MAR. 26: BLUE RIDGE DAYLILY GARDENS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. [ofts.com/hhs/](http://ofts.com/hhs/)

SAT., MAR. 28: CYPRESS CREEK DAYLILY CLUB SPRING DAYLILY & PERENNIAL PLANT SALE, 10am-3pm. Wunderlich Historical Farm, 18218 Theiss Mail Route Rd., Klein. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

SAT., MAR. 28: TAKING CARE OF ROSES by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & KATHRYN COURTNEY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., APR. 4: HERB GARDENING by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & KATHRYN COURTNEY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

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)

SAT., APR. 11: WILD THYMES HERB GARDENING by JIM MAAS, & MELDA SIEBE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., APR. 18: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

THURS., APR. 23: MS. MARIKO GONDA'S GARDEN, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. [ofts.com/hhs/](http://ofts.com/hhs/)

SAT., APR. 25: PLANTING IN GLASS by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SUN., APR. 26: HOW TO GROOM A DAYLILY FOR A FLOWER SHOW by MARY GAGE, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

SAT., MAY 2: GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES & BEES by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., MAY 2: PARTY FOR THE PLANT, Armand Bayou Nature Center, [abnc.org](http://abnc.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)

SAT., MAY 9: DAYLILY PLANT SALE 10am-3pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga, Houston, 77092. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. Free. [ofts.com/hhs/calendar.html](http://ofts.com/hhs/calendar.html)

TUES. MAY 12: PLUMERIA IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS by NICOLE TIERRMAN, 7-9 pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)



SAT., MAY 16: PLUMERIA by JIM MAAS, & LORETTA OSTEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., MAY 23: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)

SAT., JUN. 13: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; [maasnursery.com](http://maasnursery.com)  
TUES., JUL 14: 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., OCT 13: FALL PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SOCIAL/LUAU 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,  
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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.



