



# LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



**Jan. 17, 2020 - Issue #323**

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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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## CURES FOR WINTER 'FLOWER BLAHS'

*"Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience."* – Ralph Waldo Emerson

**By Brenda Beust Smith**

If winter dead stalks are getting you down, in the current [Maas Nursery](#) newsletter, Pat Cordray offers these suggestions for cold-tolerant annuals that should bloom for us now through spring when (hopefully) new perennial stalks should reappear.



*L to r, above: lobelia, calendula, dianthus, stock and English daisies.*

Pat likes cyclamen, pansy, viola, lobelia, calendula, snapdragon, dianthus, ornamental kale and cabbage, stock, English daisies, primrose, poppies, and the ever-fragrant sweet alyssum. Add a couple of these plants for early spring blooms: foxglove, delphinium and bluebonnets.

How long these will last is anyone's guess. Most fade when temperatures rise in late spring. Some (like dianthus) might even return for you next late-fall or winter -- but don't count on it. Everything depends on our impossible-to-predict winter.

It pays to subscribe to your local independent nursery's email newsletter. E.g., [Maas Nursery](#) is in Seabrook. These newsletters give gardening tips, let you know what's in stock, etc. The main benefit: everything is geared to your specific area. After all, your gardening successes keep them in business!



*L to r, primrose, poppies and, some early spring bloomers: foxglove, delphinium, bluebonnets*

\* \* \*

**"DOUBLE BENEFIT" PLANTS FOR SALE!** A lot of emphasis has been placed lately on area organizational fruit and nut tree sales. But check the calendar, "ornamental" plant sales abound too and they are great places to expand your gardens' horizons. For example, these two sponsored by the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs:

- **FRI. FEB. 14: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE. 10 am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd.**
- **FRI. MAR. 13: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE. 10 am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free.**

The Houston Federation can trace its records back to 1936, when America was just coming out of the Great Depression and World War II loomed dangerously close. Today 43 member clubs with membership totaling 1,559 from Houston and surrounding counties, including affiliate groups, junior clubs and individual

members. Associated with National Garden Clubs, Inc., and Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., HFGC is a major contributor to area horticultural projects, education activities and other civic improvements -- efforts made possible by these fundraising sales.

So when the Federation's Sandra Evans shares enthusiasm for delights members hope more Houston area gardeners will try, it pays to listen. For example, both sales will offer limited supplies of these beauties below.



*L to r, Red Cascade rose, Iresine and Serissa.*

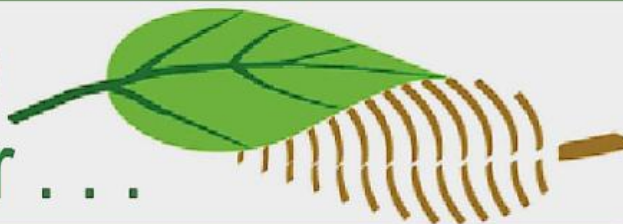
- **RED CASCADE ROSE.** Although the blooms on this climber are not big and showy, Sandra says, the low-care clusters are very colorful. She has three grown plants. The one in an understory site didn't bloom much in the summer, but really became a show with better light in fall. The one on her lattice-covered deck produces intermittent bloom cycles, most vividly when it gets more light. These only need light pruning, depending on your space.
- **IREFINE.** Sandra mistakenly thought this was a coleus, and it's never bloomed. But she loves the burgundy foliage, it thrives on her deck in containers and easily tolerates summer heat, lets her know when it's thirsty and perks right back up after watering. She does protect it in winter and the cuttings she makes when it gets leggy root easily in water.
- **SERISSA.** Sandra propagated this from cuttings. Also called Snow Rose, it makes a small 30" shrub with variegated leaves and small pink-tinged flowers. It blooms off and on year-round, but most profusely in Spring and later. Attracts the most bees in late winter when flowers tend to be scarce. Sandra finds it likes, and blooms best, in light shade. Although it will grow in deeper shade, it doesn't bloom as well.

**BRENDA'S NOTE: REMEMBER - WHEN YOU SHOP ORGANIZATIONAL SALES, YOU ALSO BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THESE GROUPS' MANY CIVIC PROJECTS! SO - CHECK THE CALENDAR BELOW FOR MORE ORGANIZATIONAL PLANT SALES**

\* \* \*

**"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 #108

Researchers at Stanford University have found that conventional toxic chemical agriculture degrades 24 million acres of land per year. They also found that farmers whom converted to No-Till practices increased yields and lowered production costs.

Reduced tillage works best under continuous implementation with the benefits continuing to increase for 11 years. Benefits show up the first year and continue until full benefits are achieved. (Environmental Research Letters December 2019).

A study in Scientific Advances (September 2019) found that the appearance of plastic now showing up in the geological fossil record marks the start of the newest geological period called the "Anthropocene". As they studied coastal sediments from 1834 to 2009 a steady increase in plastic and from 1945 to 2009 it increased exponentially.

There was an article in Greenhouse Management Magazine (January 2020) on fungus gnats. For gardeners this pest is often a problem during the cool wet days of winter when we bring plants indoors or keep our greenhouses closed. These pests feed on developing roots of cuttings and on young plants. They stated that fungus gnats can effectively be controlled by beneficial nematodes like *Steinernema feltiae*. It can be found in products like Nemashield, Nemasys, Scanmask, and Entonem that are applied as a soil drench in early mornings.

Soil dwelling mites (*Stratiolaelaps scimitus*), predatory rove beetles (*Dalotia coriaria*) and nematodes can all be used together as they are effective predators of fungus gnats.

The plant species we know as Cannabis easily takes up many elements, hence it is a bioaccumulator of heavy metals. This means growers of these plants should avoid sources of heavy metals like poultry manure, sewage sludge (biosolids), and artificial fertilizers.

A few days ago, I was asked by a customer "Why do we not hear more about the dangers of many toxic products?" [The Dr. Mercola newsletter](#) had an article on the subject last year.

Researchers have found a lot of uniformity of microbes around the planet. They

found that many microbes are picked up and ride the wind to new locations. The Scientist (December 2019).

**With the cool damp weather we have had, a lot of gardeners are experiencing a snail and slug problem. At the OHBA lecture last night I heard a quote that is absolutely true. *"You don't have a snail problem. You have a lack of ducks problem!"*** Bill Mollison

**Speaking of OHBA, at the next event we will be showing the award-winning documentary "**A New Resistance**" with Ed Brown in person. Uncover the truth about glyphosate & the next steps of action to join the fight against Round Up and how to protect your family and pets. This will be held at the United Way facility on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.OHBAONLINE.ORG](http://www.OHBAONLINE.ORG) to register.**

This is a documentary that illustrates the corruption in the USDA, EPA and many of our agricultural universities that have pushed toxic chemicals on the people of the world. It is titled "A New Resistance" and features Round-Up as it explains how glyphosate causes so many of our health problems. The trailer is less than 3 minutes in length and can be seen at the link below.

### [A New Resistance](#)

The last I heard, there are now 48,000 lawsuits against Bayer/Monsanto for causing cancer and other health problems.

There was an interesting article published in The Scientist (January 2020) titled "The Influence of Soil on Immune Health". The study was done in Europe where during WWII, Finland ceded a swath of land to the Soviet Union. The Finnish side became modernized and the people on the Soviet side remained rural with a traditional lifestyle.

The researchers at the University of Helsinki found there was a high prevalence of allergies on Finland's side of the border while there was very little on the Soviet side. They found the human microbiome between the two were very different. The people living on the Soviet side had much richer skin microbiota. They had higher numbers of microbes and they had much greater diversity of microbe species.

When they examined their blood, they found more anti-inflammatory chemicals in the Soviet side where there were more microbes.

They also found that when the soil had a larger density and diversity of microbes, then the humans had the same increased diversity on their skin and digestive system. This study supports numerous others that has found that human health is tightly associated with the health of our soil and our biome.

When we use toxic chemicals from artificial fertilizers to pesticides and herbicides, we destroy soil life which makes us healthy!

The reasons to be an organic gardener and get our hands in the soil increase daily.

Note: Microbial diversity is decreasing worldwide which is leading to more problems worldwide.

One of the major problems in society today is the increase of dementia as we get older. Research on Alzheimer's has shown that heavy metals play a major factor in contributing to this disease (Journal of Alzheimer's Disease). They have found that environmental factors play a far larger part than genetics. People with this disease have significantly higher amounts of mercury (Hg), cadmium (Cd), and aluminum (Al) than people without the disease. Heavy metals accumulate in our bodies over time and over one's lifetime can reach very toxic levels.

So, what are the sources of these dangerous metals? Artificial fertilizers are one of the single largest sources. When we apply them, we breath in the dust, when we eat food grown with these toxic chemicals, we get them. Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc. are another major source, from getting them on our skin, if we can smell them, they are in our lungs, and they are on the food we eat. Aluminum is in many soil amendments to acidify our soil, it is in cook ware, aluminum cans (the carbonic acid dissolves the aluminum) like soft drinks, aluminum foil, anti-acids, deodorants, vaccines and many cosmetics.

More reasons to eat and grow plants organically.

\* \* \*

## ***Have You Tried ...***

### **POSSUMHAW HOLLY**

**(DECIDIOUS HOLLY)**

***(Ilex decidua)***

This native holiday holly is a true holly, but one that loses its leaves in winter. Female blaze of color late fall-winter are often the bright spots in a winter landscape. Birds love the small orange to red berries. Large shrub or small tree, low maintenance, exceptionally hardy, sun to bright shade.



**POSSUMHAW HOLLY** 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**

**ALWAYS 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 and added to calendar.**
- **Events written in the email in this EXACT format will be copied & pasted immediately into the next upcoming calendar.**
- **No pdfs or flyers!!! They only delay publication.**
- **Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net).**
- **Put group name in email subject.**

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

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)

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., JAN. 25: 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. 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](http://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)

TUES., FEB. 4: MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM IN HARRIS COUNTY by BRANDI KELLER & PAUL WINSKI, noon-1pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414v Wirt Rd. HCMG event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

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

WED. FEB. 5: CONTAINER GARDENING WITH A WHIMSICAL APPROACH by DARLA RASZ McCenna, 9am-noon, Clear Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall , 16335 El Camino Real. Gardeners By The Bay event. Free.

SAT., FEB. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY TOURS, 9-11am. and WORKSHOP, 10:30am, McGovern Centennial Garden, 1500 Hermann Dr. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

\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)

THURS., FEB. 13: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

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)

Tues., Feb. 18: ORCHIDS IN HOUSTON FROM A "BOX" STORE with Jay Balchan, 7pm West Grey Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Grey. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. Free. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

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/](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://theplumeriasociety.org)

FRI. MAR. 13: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE. 10 am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](https://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](https://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/](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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/](https://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](https://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](https://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 Pavillion, 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,  
please let them know you heard about it in . . .*

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**NATURE'S WAY**  
**RESOURCES**  
*an organically based service company*

## 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.

