



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Feb. 14, 2020 - Issue #327

Nature's Way Resources is proud to produce & email you this free weekly newsletter. We have no ads, but sponsors do graciously help support this project as a public service. Please note their names below & show your gratitude for this free service by patronizing their businesses!

To become a sponsor, call (936) 273-1200

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.

[Click here to join our email list](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) for PDFs OF PAST LG&F NEWSLETTERS



LAZY GARDENER'S DELIGHT, A MUST FILM AND INTERNET MUSINGS

"But a weed is simply a plant that wants to grow where people want something else. In blaming nature, people mistake the culprit. Weeds are people's idea, not nature's." -- Anonymous

By Brenda Beust Smith

LAZY GARDENER'S REWARD -- Don't automatically write off suddenly-appearing "weeds." A now-new little plant friend I'd never seen before appeared last fall in one of my backyard planted niches (*an area that hasn't yet risen to the level of "garden"!*)

As usual, I ignored it. It was a pleasant green and not spreading too quickly, (*unlike my dollarweed which spreads too rapidly, even for me*). Fortunately, I think dollarweed is a cute groundcover, so not to worry . . . yet!

To my amazement, after our unusual Nov.

2019 freezing temperatures, it suddenly produced a mass of lovely little white daisies (right). They have bloomed nonstop ever since. I suspect they're on the *Bidens alba* family tree, known as beggarticks, Spanish needles or butterfly needles. They are said to be particularly attractive to native bees. The beggartick name comes from the sticky leaves. I don't know.



I never got that close. In areas of Africa, Asia and tropical American states, beggartick roots, leaves and seed are used as antibacterial, antidiarrheal, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antimalarial, diuretic, hepato-protective and hypotensive medicinal aids. Wow. All I know is they have continued to bloom beautifully with absolutely no help (aka watering, feeding, etc.) on my part. My kind of plant!

* * *

P.S. ON LAST WEEK'S BASIL ARTICLE.

Thanks to David Sharp in NW Houston who reported on his experience with old standard basil and basil downy mildew. He lost about 15 Genovese plants last year, but notes *Eleonora* continued to produce. He will try two new Rutgers varieties this season and favors [High Mowing Seed Catalog](#) for a good discussion of both this disease and resistant varieties.



* * * *



"Innovative and fascinating techniques for growing our food"

— Estimates are that we have 60 years of soil left on Earth, according to the documentary "The Need to Grow" that will be shown by the Houston Green Film Series on Wed., Feb. 10 (6:30 p.m. at Rice Media Center, 2030 University Blvd. Free. RSVP on Eventbrite). This review is typical of many I read: "*By 13 minutes in I was glued to the screen, in awe of the innovative and fascinating techniques for growing our*

food and not only growing it, but healing our planet!" Houston Green Film Series is presented by a coalition of non-profit, grassroots, environmental organizations to bring awareness to the Greater Houston area's environmental crisis. Be sure to take the kids! [Tickets are free on Eventbrite.](#)

* * *

TIP O' THE TROWEL TO



MIKELL'S FARM HONEY for capturing and sharing on its Facebook page this great picture, left, of a dead bee with dandelion pollen on its legs.

However, reader Mary Carter is concerned that, as with most FB posts, only the first sentence or two is published and readers have to click to get "...the rest of the story."



Mikell's Farm Honey

January 30 · 🌐

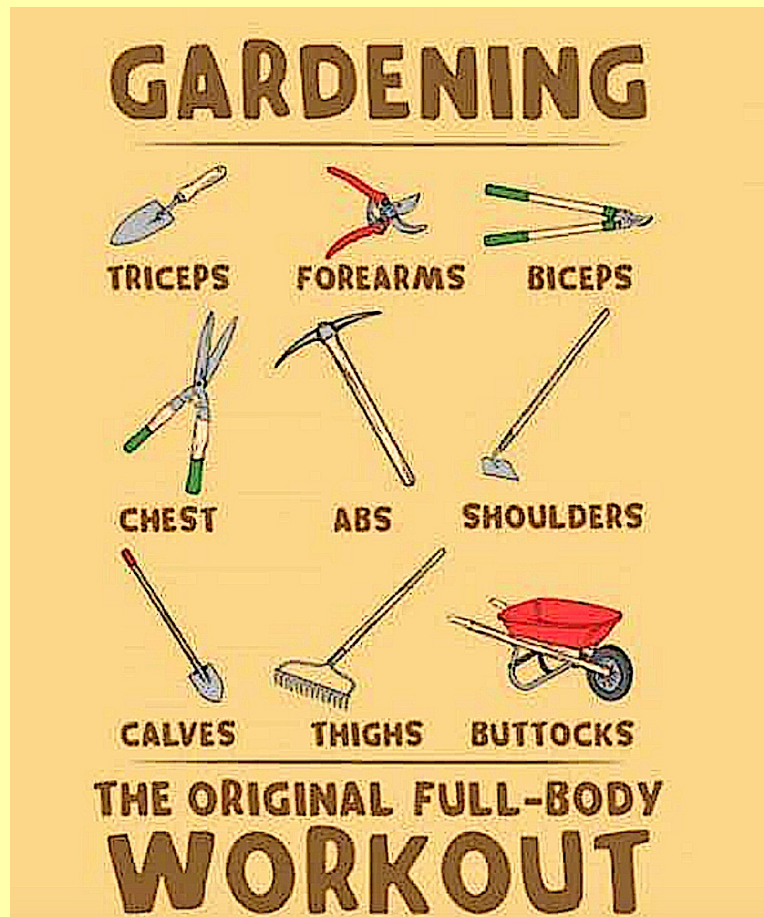
PLEASE READ (and Like our Page), Spring will be here soon: This is a honey bee. The pollen on her legs is from dandelions. The bee is now dead, with her tongue out.

It's spring, dandelions are the bees first food. Bees can die/be harmed from weed killer spread on what we see as weeds, but what nature sees as food. Please don't spray for weeds until you see the blackberries blooming. In this area, weeds, flowers and fruit trees are bees only source of food until middle of June. There are FAR more weeds than flowers or fruit trees, so it's their only food source. No bees, no food crops for us and we all starve.



The opening wording on this, she wrote, makes it sound as if dandelion pollen kills bees. But, as the full post above right shows, it's the herbicides we put on dandelions that are the real culprits. Dandelions are good for bees!

And, speaking of neat Facebook posts, I couldn't find the origin of this one below, but this is nice to know!



"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" & "PUBLICITY BOOKLET"

are free — email request to: 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 SOIL AND PLANTS #110

A question I often get asked is; "Why is habitat gardening important"? There are multiple reasons but one of them is that it saves the homeowner money.

Driving to work the other day I noticed a truck for an exterminator company. It made me realize that we have not had an exterminator at my home in at least 35 years as there is no need for one. We do not have insect problems inside the house since we have a functioning habitat in the landscape.

I have so many lizards (several species), toad frogs, birds, and even an occasional ribbon snake in my landscape that if a cockroach showed up, he would be committing suicide. His life span would be measured in seconds before he was dinner for some critter.

I did an experiment this past summer after a long dry spell. The soil-mulch layer had pulled away from the brick wall a little creating a small gap where insects like roaches or moths could hide. I turned on the garden hose and laid it up against the brick wall so it would flood the gap and drive any insects out.

In a couple minutes various insects from moths to earwigs began scurrying out. They did not travel more than a couple feet up the brick wall when several lizards appeared out of no-where and they rushed out and consumed them.

Occasionally, when the outside garage light is on, numerous toad frogs will line up and wait for the feast to begin. When a June bug or other insect appears, their life cycle ends in a couple seconds. After a toad has consumed 20-30 June bugs, they are so gorged they can't hop and can barely walk, so they slowly crawl back into the shrubbery to their homes and another one takes its place.

I have many fruit trees in my yard including a large Mulberry that occasionally gets bagworms. By the time I notice them, they are large bags with hundreds of caterpillars. All I have to do is tear a hole in the webbing or bag and wait. It is usually not long before wasps show up, grab a caterpillar and fly off with it. In short order they are almost gone (the wasps always leave 2 or 3 caterpillars

behind).

During the winter months I occasionally get a few fungus gnats in my greenhouse. Before the population grows enough to be an issue, some beetle shows up and eats them all, preventing a problem. Similarly, I will get lots of yellowish aphids on my milkweeds. I just leave them alone; in a few days they are gone.

Several times in my life I have watched a Mocking Bird grab a small snake (or lizard) and fly over 100 feet up over a concrete driveway or street and then drop the snake. The birds will often do this several times till the snake is dead. Then they will take it into a tree where they will enjoy their lunch at their leisure.

The point of these stories is twofold. First, not having to pay 35 years' worth of exterminator fees has saved me many thousands of dollars. Secondly, it is very enjoyable to watch and study nature and see how God works. It always reminds me of these verses:

Job 12:7 (NIV) "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; 8) or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you.

Another study was published in the journal Science last fall, on the anti-cancer benefits of eating cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, kale, brussels sprouts, etc. They found a compound called indole-3-carbinol that suppressed growth of prostate tumors in animal studies. This chemical is also found in turnips. Previous research has shown that other chemicals in these same greens can interfere with the genes that promote cancer growth. Other studies have shown these greens are also effective in preventing breast cancer.

Crucifers and vegetables in general have higher levels of nutrients from dietary fiber to vitamins, minerals and phytonutrients than other foods. If they are grown organically on soils full of microbes and micro-nutrients (mineral rich soil), they are even more beneficial. Another reason to grow one's own food.

Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis have discovered that some bacteria species absorb electrons directly from the surrounding, liquid, soil or rock (In other words they eat electricity). This mechanism allows bacteria to survive in low nutrient conditions. Comment: I suspect that if enough electrons are removed from a rock or mineral particle, it would weaken the chemical bonds of the elements composing the rock molecules allowing them to decompose (weather) quicker. Journal mBio, Nov. 2019

One of our readers shared that she has had very good results on snail and slug control using a homeopathic remedy using *Helix tosta*. "Helix" is the Latin name for gastropods (snails) and "tosta" means toasted.

If anyone else has had experience with this remedy, please let us know. The information below was copied from [this website](#) for those whom want more information.

Make Your Own Snail Repellent Remedy

The following instructions will have you producing 100,000 liters of snail and slug repellent from just one small snail shell.

Instructions:

1. First, catch your snail.
2. Drop it quickly into a pot of boiling water to ensure a quick death then remove its body from its shell. If this is a little grisly for you, find an empty shell from one that has hopefully died of old age after a full life.
3. Clean the shell well, place it into an electric oven or kiln, and roast it at 850°C until the shell turns into a white powder.
4. Triturate (grind) this powder with lactose (sugar of milk) to a 3X potency, at which time it will easily dissolve into a water-alcohol solution. Then, continue to potentise the remedy to a 6X potency (tutorials [3](#) and [4](#) explain how this is done).
5. You can either continue to use the total volume of the water-alcohol solution produced at each potency stage so you end up with your full 100,000 litres or, for more manageable quantities, just save and use 10% of the liquid from each stage to produce the next potency.
6. For small gardens, add 10 ml of the 6X stock liquid to 10 litres of water and water into the ground or on the plants. A whole hectare can be treated by adding 500 ml of the 6X stock liquid to 500 litres of water.
7. If you want larger stock amounts simply start with more snail shells.
8. If you prefer to not to do it yourself, [Helix tosta](#) is available in our [online store](#).

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church regularly sponsors webinars on environmental issues. For those whom might be interested, I will be doing a webinar on soils. The Press Release is below.

Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Continue...

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church invites you to a monthly environmental education web meeting series whose theme in 2020 is the wonders of nature.



The Wonders of Soil

Sunday, February 23, at 6 p.m., online

Think that soil is just dirt? Think again! Join John Ferguson, soil scientist, owner of Nature's Way Resources, and an organic gardening expert, in February as he explains the wonders of soil. You'll leave this talk amazed at what lies beneath your feet. To join the conversation, please register for this talk on www.eventbrite.com. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at gcs.lrc@gmail.com with any questions.

* * *

HAVE YOU TRIED . . .

STRAWBERRY BUSH

(*Euonymus americanus*)

This beautiful shade-loving shrub has unusual greenish-white flowers tinged with pink or purple that gradually ripen into a warty, red, globular fruit that eventually opens to reveal five brilliant shiny scarlet berries. It's other names: "Hearts-a-bursting" and "Deer Ice Cream"! One of the first plants early botanists took back to Europe from the "New World." Ideal for woodland border or light shade. Compact growth, 6'x6', good drainage. Beloved by birds and deer. Green winter stems, purplish yellow fall color and good fall color (purplish yellow).



STRAWBERRY BUSH is carried by Nature's Way Resources ([Map](#)). Or . . . contact our sponsor, *Montgomery Pines Nursery in Willis*, our othersponsors below or your neighborhood nurseryman for possible sources.

• • •

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.
- Put group name in email subject.

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

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

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

SAT., FEB. 15: GROW YOUR OWN by FORT BEND MASTER GARDENERS, 9-11am, Bud O'Shields Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own; 281-432-3034.

SUN., FEB 16: SIMPLE TRICKS FOR EFFECTIVE PHOTOGRAPHY by CAROLYNNE WHITE, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfernsoc.org.

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

TUES., FEB. 18: A PLANT LOVER'S TOUR OF PUBLIC & PRIVATE GARDENS IN ST. KITTS & NEVIS by Joan Pritchard, 10am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney, Sugar Land. Sugar Land Garden Club event. Free.

WED., FEB. 19: AMERICAN EDEN: DAVID HOSACK, BOTANY, AND MEDICINE IN THE GARDEN OF THE EARLY REPUBLIC by VICTORIA JOHNSON, 2020 Nancy Stallworth Thomas Horticulture Lecture, 10am, St. Luke's Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 3471 Westheimer. Free. gchouston.org

THURS., FEB. 20: MUSHROOMS: THEIR NICHE IN ECOSYSTEMS by TERI MACARTHUR 6:45-8:30pm; American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

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

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

TUES., FEB. 25: INVASIVE PLANT? JUST PULL IT! 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Info: 713-274-4160. hcp4.net/parks/mercer

WED., FEB. 26: THE GREAT PLANT SWITCH! FROM INVASIVE TO INVITING! 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Info: 713-274-4160. hcp4.net/parks/mercer

WED., Feb. 26: THE SPIRAL DANCE / CHIHUAHUAN DESERT INSTITUTE, 7:30 pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. hcsstex.org

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/

THURS., FEB. 27: INVASIVE PLANT? JUST PULL IT! 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic

Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Info: 713-274-4160.
hcp4.net/parks/mercer

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

TUES., MAR. 3: A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO WEED CONTROL by JOHN JONS, 6:30-8pm, Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/FM 519, La Marque. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

THURS, MAR. 5: SHERRI HARRAH SPEAKING ABOUT WEEDS AND DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS, 10am, MUD Building 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

THURS., MAR. 5: KOKEDAMA-THE JAPANESE ART OF HANGING MOSS BALLS by KAROLYN GEPHART, 10am, Heritage Gardeners Garden Club, 112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. Free. 281-992-4438; heritagegardener.org

SAT., MAR. 7: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VEGETABLE & HERB SALE, 9am-1pm, VEGETABLES by MARY KARISH; VEGETABLES by HENRY FLOWERS. Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. wallerimgardener2103@gmail.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

SAT., MAR. 7: HERBS FOR THE GULF COAST by BRIANA ETIE, 9-10:30am; KITCHEN GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 1-3pm, Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/FM 519, La Marque. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., MAR. 7: PARTY FOR THE PRAIRIE!, 11am-2pm, Safari Texas Ranch Palm Pavilion, 11627 FM 1464, Richmond. Native Prairies Association of Texas. texasprairie.org/party; 512-392-2288.

SAT. MAR. 7. SPRING VEGETABLE-HERB PLANT SALE by FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 9am-12pm, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale; 281-341-7068.

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

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

WED., MAR. 11: A MARCH MART PREVIEW, by Mercer Staff, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.
hcp4.net/parks/merce

THURS., March 12: COMPANION PLANTS FOR ROSES, 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. www.houstonrose.org

FRI. MAR. 13: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE. 10 am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

SAT., MAR. 14: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT 3 by IRA GREVAIS, 9-11am. free; BONSAI WORKSHOP by CLYDE HOLT, 1-4pm, \$25. Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/FM 519, La Marque. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., MAR. 14: MUST DO, SHOULD DO, DON'T DO IN YOUR GARDEN, 8-10am, &

ATTRACTING BEES, BUTTERFLIES & OTHER POLLINATORS, 10:30am-12:30pm, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. \$5/\$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardeners event. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., MAR. 14: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL SPRING PLANTS SALE, 8 am, The Woodlands Farmers Market, 7 Switchbud Pl., The Woodlands.
thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

TUES., MAR. 17: USING BROMELIADS FOR IKEBANA by NANA KO TINGLEAAF, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

THURS., MAR. 19: NATIVE TREES IN THE LANDSCAPE: WHY AND HOW? by BRAD PHILLIPS, 6:45-8:30pm; American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

FRI.-SAT, MAR. 20-21: MARCH MART PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Info: 713-274-4160.
hcp4.net/parks/mercer

SAT., MAR. 21: LOUISIANA IRISES by MONICA MARTENS, 9-11am; AQUAPONICS by GENE SPELLER & BRIANA ETIE, 1-3pm, Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/FM 519, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardeners event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

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

THURS., MAR. 26: BLUE RIDGE DAYLILY GARDENS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. 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

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

SAT., MAR. 28: GREENHOUSE SELECTION & MANAGEMENT by BRIANNA ETIE, 9-10:30am; RAINWATER HARVESTING by NAT GRUESEN, 1-3pm, Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main/FM 519, LaMarque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com; 281-309-5056; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston.

SAT. MAR. 28: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE, 8 am sale preview; sale 9-noon, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Bring wagon. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., MAR 28: HERB FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE AT THE WYNNE HOME, 8am-2pm. Wynne Home Arts Center, 1428 Eleventh St., Huntsville. Herb Society of America Texas Thyme Unit event. Free. texasthymeunit.org

MON., MAR. 30: INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE LIGHTING INSTITUTE DESIGN REVEAL, 6:45pm-10pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Info: 713-274-4160. hcp4.net/parks/mercer

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

SAT., APR. 4: WHITE OAK GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE 10am-2pm; PREVIEW by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 9am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free.

nnmd.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

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

SAT., APRIL 11: SOIL ISSUES, 8-10am, & BEST HERBS FOR YOUR GARDEN, 10:30am-12:30pm, by MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. \$5/\$8 both. 936-539-7824; mcmga.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

SAT., APR. 18: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY SALE, 9am-3pm (or sell-out), Lake Jackson Civic Center Plaza, 333 TX-332 East, Lake Jackson. lorisgarrett@comcast.net

WED., April 22: HOUSTON BOTANICAL GARDEN UPDATE by JOYCE COLUMBUS, 7:30 pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. FREE. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. hcsstex.org

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/

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

SAT. & SUN., APRIL 25 & 26: SPRING GARDEN TOUR 1-5pm, \$15. SPRING MARKET & PLANT SALE 9am-5pm, Free. Heritage Gardeners Garden Club, 112 W Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. 281-992-4438. heritagegardener.org

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

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

SAT., MAY 2: PARTY FOR THE PLANT, Armand Bayou Nature Center, abnc.org

SAT., MAY 2, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDENS DAY, 9:30-12:30. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport= Road, Conroe. Free. 936.529.7824; mcmga.com

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

SAT., MAY 9: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY DAYLILY PLANT SALE 10am-3pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga, Houston, 77092. Free. ofts.com/hhs/calendar.html

SAT., MAY 9: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, St., Mark's Lutheran Church, 501 Willow Dr, Lake Jackson, nfreshr@aol.com

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

SAT., MAY 16: PLUMERIA by JIM MAAS, & LORETTA OSTEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery,

5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; 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

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

TUES., JUL 14: BONSAI by SCOTT BARBOZA, 7-9pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. 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

For event submission rules, see top of calendar

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

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!

& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

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



green
PRO
healthy lawns. happy families

COMPOST TOP DRESSING
LAWN, TREE & BED FERTILIZATION

YearRound

Organic Fertilizers
Core Aeration
Compost Top Dressing

YearRoundHouston.com



www.bartlett.com



About Us

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

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

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

then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her Lazy Gardener's Guide book which morphed into her Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD. which she now emails free upon request.

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy Gardener specialty shows on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

For over three decades, Brenda served as as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's BULLETIN magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER with John Ferguson and Pablo Hernandez of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Aldine and is married to the now retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

JOHN FERGUSON

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is 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.

