



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Mar-4-2022 | Issue 426

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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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DORMANCY -- A LOST CONCEPT? PLANTING BY THE HOLIDAYS

"The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size."

~Gertrude Smith Wister (1905–1999)

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING and longtime gardening experts seem to agree.

It's been my observation that our readership includes many experienced gardeners who know the basics of growing in our unique subtropical climate, especially for their favorite plants. Like all avid gardeners, they are always interested in expanding their horizons, growing new things, finding new "loves."

But recent queries both to me and on other platforms indicate a definite lack of knowledge about what dormancy means — both with newcomers from other areas and longtime Houstonians for whom the pandemic triggered a new (perhaps first) intense interest in gardening. A frequent refrain these days: "It's

dead! I need something that won't die!" ([See 02-18-22 issue/pdf download](#)).

A surprising number of recent gardening queries indicate an amazing lack of awareness that many of our plants drop leaves on purpose to help roots survive freezes, leaving dead stalks for our wide range of beneficial wildlife to use for winter survival. More on this next week. Sometimes it seems rules of non-gardening entities are starting to replace the rules of Mother Nature.

Oddly enough, all folks seem to accept that bulbs die back, so no panic there. As noted in an earlier column, planting guides are relatively easy to find for edibles. But not for ornamentals. Maybe it's time to reprint the Bulb Planting Guide created by the late Sally McQueen Squire and based on holidays to help newcomers adjust to OUR subtropical planting times for her favorite bulbs.

Sally's original guide started with Fall, our most popular best bulb planting time, to draw attention to her beloved [Garden Club of Houston's Bulb & Plant Mart](#). Sally, forgive me, but it's almost spring now, so I'm rearranging your timeline a bit. Hopefully this will be helpful to our rapidly-expanding number of incomers and pandemic-forced stay-at-home'ers who are a bit at sea with our recommended subtropical planting times that sometimes differ greatly from other parts of Texas as well as for the rest of the nation! So, here goes . . .

PLANTING BY THE HOLIDAYS

by SALLY MCQUEEN SQUIRE

NEW YEAR'S DAY (Jan. 1)

Plant all the bulbs you forgot to plant in the fall -- especially those **tulips** and **hyacinths**! Remember, they won't bloom here without 4-6 weeks of refrigeration! (*Note: nurseries often carry already-budded tulips.*)

VALENTINE'S DAY (Feb. 14)

Don't worry about bulbs. This is the day to prune your (grafted) roses.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY / PRESIDENTS DAY (3rd Monday in February)

Caladiums (*pictured*) can be started in flats inside so they will be ready to put into the ground when soil warms up. They may, but usually don't, return the next year. **Alstromeria**, if you haven't planted them already, need to go into the ground quickly. Stagger **gladiolus** planting at two-week intervals for a long season of color.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY (Mar. 17)

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

EASTER SUNDAY

(usually between 22 March and 25 April)

Plant **amaryllis** and **caladiums** in the ground now. Amaryllis (*pictured*) will naturalize here; no need to lift. (*UPDATE: It's getting warmer now so can probably plant caladiums earlier if warm*)



constantly. *Amaryllis* can be planted anytime.)

MOTHER'S DAY

(second Sunday in May)

Plant **achimenes** (pictured). **Crinums** and **cannas** can be planted any time, except the dead of winter.



MEMORIAL DAY (last Monday in May)

Put in **caladium** plants only. Too late for bulbs

LABOR DAY (1st Monday in September)

Start tilling new beds or rejuvenating old beds, allowing adequate time for soil to settle before our big bulb-planting season ahead! One of the best places to buy bulbs is the big annual Bulb and Plant Mart in the fall.

COLUMBUS DAY (2nd Monday in October)

Add dirt to bulb beds if the soil has settled. Start **amaryllis** in containers so they will bloom for the holidays. Then plant them in the garden, in a raised area, in the spring.



HALLOWEEN (October 31)

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

VETERANS DAY (Nov. 11)

Start '**Paperwhite**' **narcissus** in shallow dishes filled with pebbles for holiday blooms. Continue planting additional bowls every two weeks, to extend blooming season. The later you plant the bulbs, the shorter time until blooming. If you plant bulbs on Feb. 5, they will bloom about Feb. 22.

THANKSGIVING (4th Thursday in November)

Plant: **Daffodils** and pre-refrigerated **hyacinths** in the ground. Unchilled hyacinths can be planted anytime in hyacinth glasses or containers and refrigerated until the roots fill the glass. Start **amaryllis** bulbs in pots in a low-light area for holiday blooms.



NEW YEAR'S EVE (Dec. 31)

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

CAUTION: Don't wait any later than New Year's Day to put in tulips and hyacinths. They need cold and usually they don't get enough as it is here. Neither come back, simply because it takes so much out of the bulb as it is to produce flowers in our too-warm-for-them climate.

* * *

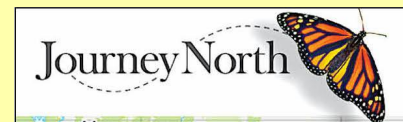
HELP ME UPDATE!

- Newer bulb varieties on the market may handle our weather differently. For example, Sally's advice on dahlias should still work. But at this point in time, a safer route is to buy them already started. However . . .
- Several readers have reported good luck with dahlias now. Let's share the varieties (if you know) and/or your growing system. Hope those of you who have mentioned them before report in again!
- What are your favorite Texas Gulf Coast-hardy bulbs NOT on this list? Email me at lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com.
- **TEXAS NATIVE BULBS.** We haven't done much on these, except for hymenocallis, crinum, etc. Would like to hear about success with others. One source: [Wildflower Center](#).
- Sally's ["Complete Guide to Growing Bulbs in Houston"](#) may still be available at nurseries and on Amazon. If you know a source, do share!
- Two books that include good Houston area bulb recommendations:
 - ["The Bulb Hunter" by Chris Wiesinger & William C. Welch](#) (Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Service Series)
 - [A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast by Lynn M. Herbert](#) (River Oaks Garden Club)

Would love to hear about more but BE SURE they specifically say Houston area.

* * *

POTPOURRI . . .



- **MIGRATIONS THROUGH YOUR GARDEN**
— Want to know what's coming and when?
Keep track through regularly updated [JOURNEY NORTH](#) website maps, supported by reported sightings of migrating birds, butterflies and more by gardeners throughout the nation. Contribute your own observations!
- **CHECK CALENDAR BELOW FOR PROTOCOL CHANGES.**
 - Eg. Houston Rose Society's **THURS., MAR. 10: ART OF FERTILIZATION** by **GAYE HAMMOND** has changed from both virtual-and-on-site to virtual only. Event notices are frequently updated.

NEXT WEEK: a look at our changing landscape challenges from some of my gardening gurus.

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NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Level 1

Introduction to Native Landscapes

hosted by the
Native Plant Society of Texas, Pines and Prairies Chapter

Two-part class an online classroom session and an in-person outdoor session (1.5-hour plant identification walk).

- Learn the value of including and preserving natives in landscapes.
- Discover the differences between conventional and sustainable landscaping. Understand your Texas vegetation region and soils.
- Learn 45 native Texas plants for your landscape and 5 plants to avoid.
- Receive Native Plant Society of Texas competency certificate after taking the class and passing the test, although no test is required to progress to other levels.
- TX Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA): 6 CEUS
- TX Master Naturalists or Master Gardeners: 7 hrs advanced training
- Level 1 is a prerequisite for Levels 2-4, which may be taken in any order.



Session 1: Saturday, March 12th - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Online - Zoom link sent week of class

Session 2: Sunday, March 13th - 2 hr time slot between 8:30 and 11:30 am
Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road Humble, TX 77338

Cost: \$45 for all.

[Register here](#) - registration information - Linda Foss at nlcp@npsot.org or 830.218.1316 class specific information - Kathie Herrick at kjherrick@gmail.com or 282.292.2232.



John's Corner



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 186

I recently read an article in the Journal Environmental Pollution (2021) on children's health. They found that, "healthy diets including organic diets are richer than fast food diets in nutrients necessary for the brain, such as fatty acids, vitamins and antioxidants, which together may enhance cognitive function in children".

They also found that children who ate organic diets displayed higher scores measuring intelligence and working memory. Conversely, many studies have found that conventional diets increase the presence of pesticides and their metabolites in a person's urine. Higher levels of glyphosate and other toxic pesticides in their bodies result in developmental problems in children. The reason to use modern organic methods in our garden, to grow food, and purchase organic products continues to increase every day.

Note: A study published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives (2021) found that organically produced meat (grass fed) had far lower overall contamination (pathogenic bacteria and chemicals), than conventionally raised animals.

One of the reasons we garden is for our health and home vegetable gardening has exploded the last couple years. One advantage of growing and eating Kale is that it contains a substance known as bile sequestrants, which bind to bile acids in our gut preventing them from being reabsorbed. This reduces the amount of cholesterol in our system.

Other cruciferous vegetables and their relatives like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, turnips, kohlrabi, bok choy, and radishes all contain sulforaphane which has been shown to help fight cancer. These are cool season plants that do best in early spring and in the fall as most are frost tolerant.

A new study by Oregon State University has found another chemical found in the cruciferous vegetables called DIM (3,3'-Diindolymethane) which also shows strong promise in treating and preventing many forms of cancer. Studies in the journal PLOS-1 and by the University of California have also found strong anti-cancer benefits of DIM.

Plants require microbes to provide them with the nutrients they need to grow and reproduce. A study published in the journal American Naturalist (2021) by researchers from Stanford, found that plants often use the rule "equal pay for equal work" in their relation with microbes. Microbes that provide the most nutrients tend to get paid the most in carbon rich root exudates.

For those new to the newsletter, carbon is the currency used by many forms of soil life. Carbon is often referred to as the energy of the soil.

Microbes in the soil and living on the roots have now been found to help prevent pathogens on plants leaves. Research at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research published in the Journal Nature Plants (2021). This is similar to how microbes in the human gut help our immune system work better.

When we use any product that harms the microbes from chlorinated water, to artificial fertilizers and other salts, pesticides, fungicides, etc. we lose this protection (similar to eating junk food above). The reasons to only use organic methods continue to increase.

In January 2020 the World Economic Forum launched the One Trillion Tree Initiative, which is a global movement to grow, restore, and conserve trees around all over the Earth. Several other organizations have similar initiatives.

However, there is too much focus on the number of seedlings planted, but far too little on how to keep them alive for the long term. As part of the global effort, we have several tree planting initiatives in the Houston area. However, I want to highlight a couple of problems that nullify the results.

One of the problems is a lack of knowledge by those planting the trees and their managers. The picture below shows a chlorotic tree in a median in west Harris County a few years ago.



The problem was caused by using a low-quality mulch (essentially raw wood) that caused a nutrient tie up. In an effort to save the trees the county applied a strong liquid fertilizer that burned the grass as seen in the photo below.



All the trees died along the stretch of road for many blocks (these trees counted as planted even though they died). The county came in last year and replanted the entire stretch and did the same thing and almost all of the trees have died or they are very sick. These trees were counted again (not to mention wasting a lot of tax payer dollars). As the old proverb states “cheap is not always the lowest cost”.

The second item is the species of trees we plant. Some species provide lots of environmental benefit from sequestering carbon to food for birds and other wildlife, cleaning and cooling the air, etc. Many others are useless and even cause harm. A friend showed me a recent article on Facebook by the Houston Chronicle that was promoting the Bradford Pear which is a useless tree and should be prohibited.

The organization Houston Wilderness led an effort to establish and publish good guidelines about planting trees in our region. It covers the best species to plant and how they benefit society. The manual is free and can be found at: www.houstonwilderness.org.

Researchers at the University of Maryland and Berkley did a meta-analysis of 394 studies on the effects of non-target organisms (invertebrates) that have

eggs, larva or spend part of their life in the soil, on the effects of pesticides.

Invertebrates are essential in breaking down organic matter, cycling nutrients, creating soil structure and aeration, controlling pests, and providing other ecosystem services.

They looked at 2,842 separate parameters and found that pesticides of all types (includes herbicides, fungicides, miticides, etc.), were a hazard to the soil invertebrates. Journal Frontiers in Organic (2021).

When we lose soil life, the quality of our soil degrades and we have more insect and disease problems in our gardens. The reasons to use the modern horticultural methods based on biology (organic) continue to increase.

NWR NOW CARRIES SEEDS FROM NATIVE AMERICAN SEED COMPANY

\$3.00 EACH !

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

SUBMITTING EVENTS? PLEASE READ!

- *Only events submitted specifically for LG&F calendar are used*
- *Put sponsor's FULL name in email subject & use our exact format **
- *Very long links will be shortened, but full link activated when clicked*
- *Submit events to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com*

EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

SAT., MAR.5: FRUIT TREE PRUNING AND CARE CLASS by MICKEY KLEINHENZ, 9-11am. Lantrip Elementary School. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

SAT., MAR. 5: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL VEGETABLE AND HERB SALE. 9am-1pm, Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. txmg.org/wallermg.

SAT., MAR. 5: BRAZORIA MASTER GARDENER VEGETABLE SEEDLING SALE, 9am - Noon (no cash sales), Brazoria Environmental Education Station, 583 CR 443, Angleton. txmg.org/brazoria/, 979-864-1558

SAT., MAR. 5: MISSOURI CITY GREEN "POP UP" NATIVE PLANT

WORKSHOP & SALE. Educational Workshop: 9-11am; Sale:9am-1pm,
Missouri City Farmer's Market. missouricitygreen.org

SAT., MAR 5: NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM. (LEVEL 1: INTRODUCTION) by **NPSOT Clear Lake Chapter**. Zoom: 9am-4pm. \$45.
Register: <https://bit.ly/NLCPspring2022>

TUES., MAR 8: GROWING PLUMERIAS, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org 281-796-7185

WED., MAR.9: HOW TO MAKE A GARDEN --AND EAT IT TOOby **BETH CLARK**, 5-6pm: Garden Tours; 6-7pm: Program. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/stec_event/how-to-make-a-garden-and-eat-it-too/

TUES., MAY 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org 281-796-7185

THURS., MAR. 10: ART OF FERTILIZATION: RIGHT PRODUCT, RIGHT TIME, RIGHT REASON by **GAYE HAMMOND** (virtual), 7-9pm, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd. Free. Houston Rose Society event. Link: houstonrose.org/

FRI., MAR. 11: THINGS I WISH I HAD LEARNED SOONERby **BAXTER & PATSY WILLIAMS**, 10AM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman St., Free. Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

SAT. MAR 12: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENTby **IRA GERVAIS**, 9-11:30am. **GARDENING FOR JEWELS—HUMMINGBIRDS**, by **DEBORAH REPASZ**, 1-3pm. Register: galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/

TUES., MAR. 15: OF COURSE YOU HAVE NATIVE BEES IN YOUR GARDEN! By NANCY SHAFER & EMMA DOW, 10am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. Fort Bend Master Gardener event. sugarlandgardenclub.org.

FRI-SAT., MARCH 18-19: HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA PIONEER UNIT 27TH ANNUAL HERB AND PLANT SALE 9am-5pm, Round Top Festival Institute, 248 Jaster Road, Round Top. herbsocietypioneer.org/events

SAT., MAR.19: INTRO TO HORTICULTURE THERAPY(Zoom) by **BETTY BAER; KAY HARNDEN**, 10-11am. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/stec_event/benefits-and-intro-to-horticulture-therapy/

SAT., MAR 19: CUCURBITS—SQUASH & CUCUMBER FAMILYby **KEVIN LANCON**, 9-11:30am. **SUCCESSFUL CONTAINER GARDENING** by **KAROLYN GEPHART**, 1-3. Register: galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/

SAT., MAR. 19: THE JOHN FAIREY GARDEN BUDDING OUT PLANT SALE & FESTIVAL, 10am-4pm, 20559 FM 259 Rd., Hempstead. 979-826-3232

SAT., MARCH 19: NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRDS by **NPSOT Houston**

& Clear Lake Chapters. Zoom 9am-4:15pm. \$50. Register: npsot.org/wp/nlcp/

FRI-SAT., MAR 25-26: NPSOT CLEAR LAKE CHAPTER NATIVE PLANT SALE. Zoom, Fri, Mar 25. 7pm. Shop in-person: Saturday only, 9-11am, University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd, parking in Lot D4. npsot.org/wp/clearlake/native-plants/native-plant-sale/

FRI.-SAT., MAR. 25-26: MARCH MART, Fri: 9am-4pm; Sat. 8am-4pm [Mercer Botanic Gardens](https://www.mercerbogardens.com/), 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble. Free. Fri AND SAT., MAR. 26, 8 am – 4 pm. [MARCH MART](https://www.marchmart.com/), 713-274-4166.

SAT., MAR. 26: BRAZORIA MASTER GARDENER CITRUS SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am - noon (no cash sales), Brazoria Environmental Education Station, 583 CR 443, Angleton. txmg.org/brazoria/, 979-864-1558

SAT., MAR. 26, HERB FESTIVAL AT THE WYNNE HOME 8am-2pm. Wynne Home Arts Center, 1428 11th St., Huntsville. The Herb Society of America/Thyme Unit event. texasthymeunit.org; 936-891-5024

SAT. MAR 26: IRISES FOR THE GULF COAST GARDEN by **MONICA MARTENS**, 9-11:30am. **RAINWATER HARVESTING** by **NAT GREUSEN**, 1-3pm. Register: galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/

SAT., MAR. 26: BUILDING HEALTHY SOIL SAVES MONEY NOW by **JOHN FERGUSON**, 10:30am, Wabash Feed & Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd. Register: <https://bit.ly/3McOgqm>, [wabashfeed.com](https://www.wabashfeed.com)

SAT., MAR. 26-APR. 3: NEAR NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT VIRTUAL SPRING PLANT SALE, Presentation by **HEIDI SHEESLEY**, White Oak Conference Center. Pickup: Treeseach Farms. nnmd.org

SAT., APR 2: MASTERS OPEN GARDEN DAY: LOUISIANA IRISES by **MONICA MARTINS**, 10am-noon, talk/tours, Galveston County Master Gardeners event. galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/

WED., APRIL 6: GARDENERS BY THE BAY PLANT SALE 9:am-noon, Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 NASA Pkwy, Webster. 281-935-6442, leslie.j.wong@gmail.com

THURS., APR 7: BEING A TOUGH TEXAS GARDENER by **RANDY LEMMON**, 9am, Community Center, 21274 FM1098 Loop, Prairie View. Free. Waller County Master Gardeners event. Register: 979-826-7651 ext. 3068

SAT., APR.9: AN EDIBLE EDEN - TURNING YOUR LANDSCAPE INTO A BEAUTIFUL FOODSCAPE (Zoom) by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30am. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

SAT., APR.9: EDIBLE ACADEMY: SPRING GARDENING AND NUTRITION EDU by **CAROL BURTON**, 9 am-noon. Gregory Lincoln Education Center. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

TUES., APR.12: URBAN COMPOSTING FOR SMALL SPACES by **CHRIS WOOD**, **MOONSHOT COMPOST** and **PHILIPPA JOHNSTONE**, 5:30-7pm., Urban Harvest Teaching Garden. Urban Harvest

event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

FRI., APRIL 14: MAKE GARDENING EASIER by **DR. JOSEPH R. NOVAK**, 10am Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman. Free. Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

TUES., APR.19: NINE NATIVES PROGRAM-- CREATING SIMPLE GARDENS WITH NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTS by **BETH CLARK**, 5-6pm: Sip and Stroll Garden Tour: 6-7pm Program. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

SAT., APR. 23 & SUN. APR. 24: HERITAGE GARDENERS SPRING GARDEN TOURS & MARKET, tours 1-5 pm; Spring Market (Sat) and Garden Market (Sun.) 9am-5 pm, 112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. Tours \$15; markets free. Heritage Gardeners on Facebook.

TUES., APR.26: THE WORMERY MEG TAPP (Zoom) by **MEG TAPP**, 5-6pm. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

SAT., APR. 30: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON SPRING BROMELIAD SALE, 9am-4pm, Metropolitan Multi-services Center, 1475 W. Gray. Free. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., MAY 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7pm, (ZOOM & in-person), Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org 281-796-7185

FRI., MAY 13: NATURE'S BURIAL, LEAVING A NATURAL LANDSCAPE AS YOUR LEGACY, by **THE KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY**, 10am, Trinity Episcopal Church. 1015 Holman. Free. Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

SAT.-SUN., MAY 21-22: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON ANNUAL SHOW-SALE, 9am-5pm Sat.; 11am-4pm Sun., Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

SAT., JUN 11: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 5002 NASA Parkway, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook, theplumeriasociety.org, 281-796-7185

TUES., JULY 12: GROWING PLUMERIAS, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org 281-796-7185

SAT., JULY 23: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 5002 NASA Parkway, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook. theplumeriasociety.org, 281-796-7185

TUES., OCT 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org 281-796-7185

-- PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING EVENTS --

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- **NO PDFS/FLYERS.** No specific deadlines for submission

- **FOR FASTER PUBLICATION, COPY EXACT-CARVED-IN-STONE FORMAT ABOVE.** Otherwise notices may be held until time permits reformatting. Events stay in calendar until they occur.
- **Links will be fully linked if clicked but word-shortened if too long.**
- **NOTE! Only events submitted specifically for this calendar publication will be used. We do not pick up events from other newsletter or mass emails.**

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

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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 -- started in the early '70s as a fun side-project to reporting, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from reporter into gardening writing -- first as a just-a-fun side Chronicle assignment in the early '70s, 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 Assistant Production Manager of the **GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA'S "BULLETIN"** magazine. Although still an active 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 Humble, TX, and is married to the 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 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.

