



# LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Mar-11-2022 | Issue 427

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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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*L to r: Shamrocks! (aka oxalis); winter>spring coming out of dormancy!  
(Anita Nelson photos), kind words for gardeners and sunflowers-go-to-work!*

## DORMANCY-DENIAL, SHAMROCKS & SUNFLOWERS

*May your heart be as glad as the shamrocks.*

*May your heart be as light as a song.*

*May each day bring you bright happy hours,*

*That stay with you all year long.*

*-- - Ancient Irish blessing — Author Unknown*

**By BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

**AS NOTED LAST WEEK**, dormancy-denial seems to have become epidemic among new-to-Houston gardening folks. It's a personal (or HOA-enforced) choice, of course, if someone wants to plant afresh every year in our roller-coaster period between winter and spring.

But it's sad if novice gardeners accept incorrect assumptions certain plants will

never return, when experienced folks know they eventually will. And their roots will be stronger and more established than any new plant could have.



A quickie survey of some of my (over-the-decades) gardening gurus was reassuring. They're as surprised as I am. For example, [\*\*Southern Living's Grumpy Gardener STEVE BENDER\*\*](#) suspects those too-ready-to-replant include the high volume of West Coasters-turned-Texans who *"are used to wildfires and droughts, but not snow, ice and torrential rains."* Many of us, he points out, are still suffering PTSD after 2021's freeze. He recommends the "old scratch test" on bark, which works on many (BUT NOT ALL!) "dead" plants, noting: *"If they find green, the branch will probably leaf out again."*

[\*\*Texas A&M's Landscape Horticulturist Emeritus WILLIAM C. \(BILL\) WELCH\*\*](#), (pictured) reminds us: *"Chill hours are GOOD for many plants!"* Perennials as so called because they return from dormancy! Bill notes many of our best perennials are Texas natives such as (*I to r, below*) Turk's Cap Hibiscus, (*Malvaviscus arboreus*



*var. Drummondii*) or Summer Phlox, (*Phlox paniculata*). Non-native perennials blue pumbago (*Plumbago capensis*) and shrimp plant (*Justicia specigera*) thrive in our hot, dry and sometimes cold climate.



[\*\*DR. DAVID CREECH of Stephen F. Austin garden fame\*\*](#) recalls with frustration workmen cutting down three of their choice, thriving bald cypress trees. WHY? The reply: *"Hey, they shed their needles!"* He recommends signs. **"I AM DORMANT, NOT DEAD! DO NOT CUT ME DOWN!"**

Many bemoaned misguide advice info from out-of-area sources, a typical pitfall for new-to-area gardeners. [\*\*Rosarian extraordinaire GAYE HAMMOND\*\*](#) recalled a gardener whose \$100+ of online-ordered barefooted roses came with instructions to soak roots in water for 72 hours. (Not here!) Nor was it noted to cut 1" off roots so they can up water, which we do need to do. Will they survive? Only time will tell.

Another of my Rosarian gurus, [\*\*BAXTER WILLIAMS\*\*](#), says when someone complains to him about a rose not surviving a winter, his first thought is that the rose wasn't watered correctly (a must for healthy roots). *"In our summertime heat,"* Baxter adds. *"roses need to be watered almost daily."* (NOTE: this doesn't apply to antique roses.)

[\*\*MARY GAGE & NELL SHIMECK\*\*](#) who, combined, represent over a century of experience with daylilies in this area, point out their favorite flower does not even need to be covered in winter. The right varieties for our area go dormant and return all on their own. Daylilies are often described as evergreen, semi-evergreen, or dormant. Dormants lose their leaves regardless of the temperature and need the cold to do their best.



[FREESEARCH FARMS' HEIDI SHEESLEY](#) is amazed at what has come back at their site after 2021's freeze. *"Very late, but came back ... looked very dead on top, but the roots were fine."* She adds: *Mulching crowns of plants made a huge difference in my beds. Pine straw is a fabulous insulator!"* Heidi's now advice: *"March should be a good month to cut back and get everything ready to flush out ... fresh compost around the plants and fertilize later in March."*

[GLENN OLSEN](#), longtime native plant specialist/landscaper, agreed incomers often have false view of gardening here. In helping to transform landscapes for attract more birds and butterflies, he finds most plants in client's yards now, "... are *"tropical plants with few temperate plants"* and agrees many do not understand our area life cycles.

[SUZZANNE CHAPMAN](#), Retired Botanical Collections Curator, Mercer Botanic Gardens mentioned the oft-quoted PLANTING ZONE MAP, last USDA-updated in 2012.. While it is good for general references, it does not reflect developing climate changes. Good example, Houston is listed as Zones 9 & 10. Many knowledgeable gardeners now scoff at the "9". Suzanne points out, *"plants that flourish in California zone 9, like Echeverias, (I have killed many of these) may not grow well in the Houston humidity with warm nights."*

**I WISH I HAD SPACE TO** add a hundred more longtime Houston horticulturists to these mentioned above and below to whom I owe so much. The good news is great newcomers are helping us cope with changing climates, especially at our treasured Mercer Botanic Garden and, now, Houston Botanic Garden.

[DANY MILLIKIN, \(now\) HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN \(HBG\) Director of Education](#), a well-recognized gardening name, adds another perspective. *"After the drought of 2011, we all wanted central Texas drought-loving plants. After Harvey and the floods we looked to rain gardening and bog plants in our normal landscaping. It doesn't surprise that we might be sensitive to cold."* But, he adds, *"Home gardens should wait until spring growth, new buds and flowers, and prune back what is dead in mid-April, no earlier."*



[HBG'S BRENT MOON](#) and others expressed regret at growing demand for year-round "green" lawns and landscapes, *"which is practically impossible."* Brent wishes folks would incorporate *"winter interest such as ornamental grasses, the nice form of a deciduous tree or shrub, or the berries on an Ilex decidua (possumhaw, pictured), as acceptable."*

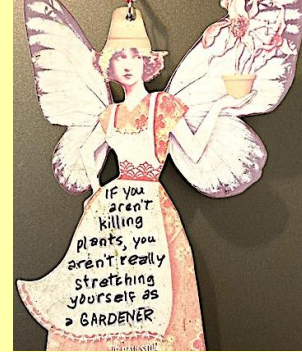
**AND EQUAL TIME FROM A WELCOME ADDITION TO OUR GARDENING SCENE . . .** [FRAN DE LA MOTA, Ph.D., Houston Botanic Garden Director of Horticulture](#): *"As a newcomer ... coming from a part of the world with a distinct winter pause, I was surprised to discover impatience with winter here . . . Houston is supposed to have some winter. Perhaps the issue is the increasing number of tropicals in Houston's landscapes, which, inevitably, get bruised with a light freeze."*

Bruised foliage is, fortunately, all they seemed to have suffered at Houston Botanic Garden. But Fran observed: *"Many think we live in a tropical area. We don't. When I came to Houston last year in March, after the 2021*

February freeze, the garden looked to me like any other garden coming out of winter.

**PS.** New to this area, or new to any of these folks? Click on their blue name links. They helped me in a million different ways over the years. Still, my favorite advice comes from that extraordinary horticulturist [J.C.](#)

[Raulston](#):



**"IF YOU AREN'T KILLING PLANTS, YOU AREN'T REALLY STRETCHING YOURSELF AS A GARDENER"**

\* \* \*



**GOOD LUCK FLOWERS** Our white shamrock clover (*Oxalis*) isn't exactly same as Irish shamrocks (*Trifolium dubium*). But both symbolize good luck and St. Patrick's Day, this coming Thursday (Mar. 17).

Our white shamrocks (*oxalis*) are blooming now, a delightful, non-invasive clumping plant that will go dormant in summer and return next winter. Many available now in nurseries, grocery stores and plant depts. Fun gift for special folks! Good luck links with both 3- & 4-leaf clovers trace to ancient times, even to the Garden of Eden. Legend says Eve grabbed one when leaving, a memento of a neat place. St. Patrick used clover to symbolize the Holy Trinity, three leaves = three beings of God. Stem shows all 3 united into one.

Rare 4-leaf clovers symbolize good luck — 1 appears in every 10,000+/- plants! I actually found one in my long-lived clump at our old house. Friend Mary Kay Tortorice says her white *oxalis* is over 25 years old!

\* \* \*



**SUNFLOWERS ARE ALL OVER THE 'NET NOW** for political reasons (Ukraine national flower). But they are even more important than most of us ever realize, fighting radiation across the globe.

[gardencollage.com/change/sustainability/scientists-using-sunflowers-clean-nuclear-radiation/](https://gardencollage.com/change/sustainability/scientists-using-sunflowers-clean-nuclear-radiation/)

\* \* \*

*Brenda Beust Smith's column in the  
LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER  
is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener  
Email: [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)*

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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](mailto:nlcp@npsot.org) or 830.218.1316 class specific information - Kathie Herrick at [kjherrick@gmail.com](mailto:kjherrick@gmail.com) or 282.292.2232.



## John's Corner



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS

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The journal Environmental Health Perspectives (2021) had a paper that found an association with pesticides and the disease called shingles. Bottom line, the more pesticides one is exposed to and the longer times one has been exposed to pesticides, is correlated with increased risk of getting shingles as we get older. They also found that women are more susceptible.

Another study in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives (2021) found that exposure to fluoride sometimes increased bone density, however it made bones more brittle. They found that the bone that is formed is of lower quality, hence easier to break.

Women with the highest third of fluoride exposure/consumption had a 59% increased chance of hip fractures. Fluoride is found in many pesticides and other toxic agricultural chemicals, toothpaste, cosmetics and drinking water to name a few.

FYI - The journal of the American Chemistry Society (Environmental Science & Technology Letters 2021) had an article titled "Fluorinated Compounds in North American Cosmetics" that discusses some of the issues in more detail.

We all like our floodlights, garage lights, street lights, etc. Research from Lund University and Witwatersrand University published in the journal Current Biology (2021) found that city lights disrupt and limit the ability of nocturnal animals to navigate by natural light in the night sky. This effect is seen on many insects from dung beetles to moths.

Toxic chemical-based gardening and farming is a major source of greenhouse gasses. The earth's soil contains more carbon than the atmosphere and vegetation combined (The Nature and Properties of Soil, 2016).

However, toxic chemical farming and gardening has released an estimated **133 billion** metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere. The production of artificial fertilizers creates even more greenhouse gasses, and the breakdown of the artificial fertilizer's releases methane gas and nitrous oxides that are far more damaging than just carbon dioxide.

Using obsolete toxic chemical rescue methods not only has destroyed the quality of our food supply and damaged our health, it is also a major source of greenhouse gasses.

Disposing of organic waste in our landfills also generates a tremendous amount of greenhouse gasses. These wastes should be turned into compost and mulch.

As gardeners we can do our part by using compost and native mulch, organic fertilizers, and mineral or rock dusts in our lawns and gardens. Not only does it give better result at far lower cost, we are part of the solution.

Other research has shown that using mineral sands (like Re-mineralizer) in our gardens not only help plants grow stronger and healthier, it also increases the

amount of carbon being stored in the soil by orders of magnitude. As the carbon is being stored it is often in the form of humus increasing the health of our soils, making them better homes for our plant's roots.

As one can see from the paragraphs above, organic gardening is more than just not using toxic chemicals.

The four main principles of organic gardening are seen as consistent and applicable to regenerative agriculture. These are health, ecology, fairness to all life, care of current and future generations by our actions.

"Plants feed the soil microbiome with the molecules of life that they create through photosynthesis. These molecules are the basis of organic matter – carbon-based molecules – that all life on earth depends on. Organic matter is fundamental to all life and soil organic matter is fundamental to all life in the soil".

Gardening practices that increase soil organic matter, also increase fertility, water holding capacity, pest and disease resiliency and thus the productivity of our gardens.

The Acres USA magazine (August 2021), had a nice article on this subject of regenerative agriculture.

Research from the University of Cambridge has found that plants hedge their bets. Many horticultural factors affect when seeds will germinate hence plants have seeds that will germinate at different times and different environmental conditions.

Plants use several techniques to enhance their seed's chance of successfully germinating. They often do this by the use of plant hormones, abscisic acid (ABA) inhibits germination while gibberellic acid (GA) promotes germination.

By balancing these hormones in different amounts, can cause seed germination to be staggered. Another example is that hard seed coats will biodegrade at different rates hence staggering germination, some seeds require chill hours and there are many other strategies plants use.

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# 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](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)*

***EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED***

**FRI., MAR. 11: THINGS I WISH I HAD LEARNED SOONER** by **BAXTER & PATSY WILLIAMS**, 10AM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman St., Free. Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org).

**SAT. MAR 12: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT** by **IRA GERVAIS**, 9-11:30am. **GARDENING FOR JEWELS—HUMMINGBIRDS**, by **DEBORAH REPASZ**, 1-3pm. Register: [galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://urbanharvest.org/stec_event/benefits-and-intro-to-horticulture-therapy/)

**SAT., MAR 19: CUCURBITS—SQUASH & CUCUMBER FAMILY** by **KEVIN LANCON**, 9-11:30am. **SUCCESSFUL CONTAINER GARDENING** by **KAROLYN GEPHART**, 1-3. Register: [galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://MercerBotanicGardens.com), 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble. Free. Fri AND SAT., MAR. 26, 8 am – 4 pm. [MARCH MART](http://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/](http://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](http://1428.11th.St.Huntsville). The Herb Society of America/Thyme Unit event. [texasthymeunit.org](http://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/](http://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/3McOggm>, [wabashfeed.com](http://wabashfeed.com)

**AT., MAR. 26: CYPRESS CREEK DAYLILY CLUB SPRING DAYLILY AND PERENNIAL PLANT SALE**, 10am -2pm. Wunderlich Historical Farm Market, 18218 Theiss Mail Route Rd., Spring, 77379. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Admission Free.

**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](http://nnmd.org)

**FRI.-SUN, APR. 29 - MAY 1: KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB'S GARDENSAPES GARDEN TOUR**, Fri: 10am-4pm; Sat: 10am-4pm, Sun: 12pm-4pm. \$25. Self-paced tour of 6 private gardens and plant sale. Details at [www.kingwoodgardenclub.org](http://www.kingwoodgardenclub.org) and social media.

**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/](http://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](mailto: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/](http://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/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT. APR 9: GRAFTING PECANS** by **STEPHEN BRUEGGERHOFF**, 9-12NOON. Free Galveston County Master Gardener Events for Interested

Gardeners For information and pre-registration: <https://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/>

**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/](http://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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org).

**THURS., APR. 14: AMERICAN ROSE SELECTIONS** by **PAT SHANLEY** (virtual), 7-9pm. [meet.goto.com/875520813](https://meet.goto.com/875520813)

**TUES., APR.19: 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/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT., APR. 23: 2022 OLEANDER FESTIVAL**, 9am-1pm, Betty Head Oleander Park, 2624 Sealy Ave., Galveston. Free. International Oleander Society event. [oleander.org/](http://oleander.org/)

**SAT. APR 23: INCREDIBLE EDIBLE HERBS** by **GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**. \$10. Register: [galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/](https://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/)

**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** (Zoom) by **MEG TAPP**, 5-6pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

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

**SAT., JUN 11: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**, 5002 NASA Parkway, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook, [theplumeriasociety.org](http://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](http://theplumeriasociety.org) 281-796-7185

**SAT., JULY 23: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**, 5002 NASA Parkway, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://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](http://theplumeriasociety.org) 281-796-7185

**-- PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING EVENTS --**

- **SUBMIT EVENTS VIA EMAIL to [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)**
- **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.**

\* \* \*



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.

