



# LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



April-2-2022 | Issue 430

**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](#)



## ATTRACTING (OR CHASING AWAY?) GARDEN'S WINGED TREASURES DAYLILIES LOVE US!

*"There's nothing like a squirrel for keeping you humble!"*

—*"The Cat Who Went Up a Creek"* by Lilian Jackson Braun

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

**A SILVER LINING** in the past two Covid-altering years are the many new gardeners who now realize how delightful birds, butterflies and other natural treasures can be tempted to visit even the smallest of backyards.

Ironically, many of us unknowingly break some of Mother Nature's adamant rules, actually chasing away the very treasures we want to attract . . . especially migrating birds. As Former First Lady and founder of [Texan by Nature](#), **LAURA BUSH**, explains: ". . . every spring and fall, between a third



*and a quarter of all birds migrating at night through the United States travel through Texas."*

Natural flyways that would normally route these winged delights through our area are, in part, being forced-altered by our vast expanses of upward-pointing commercial & home security lighting. We may have little/no control over commercial lighting. But, remember, potential home invaders are below, not above. Electricity is expensive and getting more so. Why waste it lighting up the heavens? Laura puts it succinctly in a [Dallas Morning News editorial](#):

*"Light pollution is a growing and underrecognized threat to birds. The light emanating from cities like Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston attracts and disorients birds, leaving them confused and vulnerable. Large numbers of light-related collisions have been documented in cities across the country for decades, including here in Texas."*

The Greater Houston area is now in an official "Lights Out" period through Earth Day, Sun., April 10. [Details](#). Join this campaign by making sure all your landscape lighting is aimed down at your property, not up at the heavens!

**AT GROUND LEVEL** ...be aware how many common garden practices may actually push winged treasures away from your yard. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter's **MARGARET GNEWUCH &**

**RUSSELL KANE's** article in a [2020 LG&F newsletter](#) detailing such wildlife-thwarting errors is well worth repeating in a Spotlight Article below. *(Pictured: [NPSOT-H Facebook page](#))*



Landscape-friendly native plants are highly encouraged, such as those available at **NPSOT Pines and Prairie Chapter's SAT., APR. 23: NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SALE, 9:30-2:30**, New World Botanical, 2701 Lone Star Parkway, Montgomery. Sale plant list: [npsot.org/wp/pinesandprairies/](http://npsot.org/wp/pinesandprairies/)

**PS. NANCY HANNAN** (NPSOT committee member) added a note worth sharing: ". . .all my native plants survived last year's big freeze as well as this year's current ones. My beds have welcome spots of green - and even blooms (spiderwort

and Carolina jessamine)- whereas my neighbors are still waiting for their plants to recover." *(Pictured: file photo spiderwort)*

Margaret & Russell's advice follows a Spotlight Article on one of lazy gardeners' favorite plants: daylilies, especially timely since everyone's asking now for plants that easily survive our deeper cold spells. Mary Gage has been a daylily doyenne for decades. Do you know which daylilies often can't take our hot summers so aren't the best choices? You better, if you ever order online.

\* \* \*

## **POTPOURRI NOTES FROM PROS**

- **DEBORAH DUTY** at [Maas Nursery](#) shares notes



on Vanilla Bean Orchid, a definite attention-getter ideal for a shaded (or just morning sun) spot on Houston area patios. Source of natural vanilla flavoring used in desserts and beverages, this tropical plant loves high temperatures and humidity (sound familiar?). *(Deborah Duty photo)*



- **EVEN EXPERTS STILL WAITING! ANGELA CHANDLER**

of [\*The Garden Academy\*](#). reports better luck this year than last when both her Hannah Ray Bottlebrush and Aloysia (left & center took months to return. It was late summer before she saw new growth. Her Scadoxus (blood lily, right) was late too but bloomed after the 2021 freeze. No blooms yet this year. She figures the bulbs may have been set back in 2021. All her fruit trees bloomed later this year by several weeks. She's "*always amazed at the resilience of plants,*" Me too!



\* \* \*

**FAVOR? IF SUBMITTING EVENTS FOR CALENDAR . . .**

*Event notices limited to 3 lines type. Type info, in exact calendar format, format, directly into email. so it can be copied/pasted into next issue. NO event notices as pdf or jpg flyer. Otherwise, expect publication delay.*  
[lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)

\* \* \*

*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)*

\* \* \*





*Above, a daylily display from Mary and Eddie Gage's (now closed) Spring Creek Daylily Farm in Spring. Mary recalls, "Those cut out places enable old folks like me, who cannot crawl around on their knees anymore, to sit on a low stool and reach plants in a raised bed for weeding and such."*

## **Daylily Culture in Texas**

***(Don't Be Misled by  
Advice for Other Regions!)***

**by MARY GAGE**

- Best location for growing daylilies: a well-drained, neutral-to-slightly acid soil in full sun or at least 6 hours per day. Daylilies do not do well under oaks. Their shade is too solid and roots too shallow. Daylilies will grow under pine trees (dappled shade and deep root system).
- "Good drainage" bears repeating. Daylilies need plenty of water but can tolerate being too dry better than too wet. More die from overwatering than underwatering.
- Best time to plant in this area: October — early enough for a good root system to develop before freezing weather. Spring planting should wait until danger of freezing is past. If you must plant in June, July, August or September, best to pot and keep in a semi-shaded area until October.
- Loosen bed soil to 12+/- inches. Raised 6" above ground to insure good drainage. Add compost, peat moss, sand if needed to amend the soil. Inside planting hole, build a soil mound. Set crown (point where leaves join roots) atop mound. Spread roots around mound. Replace soil. When finished, crown should be no more than 1" below soil surface. Water in well but very little more, if any, for the first week until you see new growth.
- Best daylily mulch: Pine needles! They do not pack down and cover the plant deeper as a ground up mulch would, but stay light and airy, shading the ground from the sun in the summer time as well as holding in moisture. As they decay they keep the acidity in the soil.
- Divide daylilies every 3-5 years. If they get too root bound, the whole clump may die.
- A well balanced fertilizer with trace elements is best. Avoid fertilizers with a high middle number. Too much phosphorous ties up other elements daylilies need. Super Thrive, a plant vitamin, not a fertilizer, is an excellent product for daylilies and any other plants as well.
- If severe freezing is expected, cover plants, especially evergreens, with row cover fabric.
- If a large clump with full foliage freezes, trim foliage back before it dries and makes an airtight cover that prevents air circulation. When the weather heats up it will cook the daylily and cause rot. (I learned that from experience)

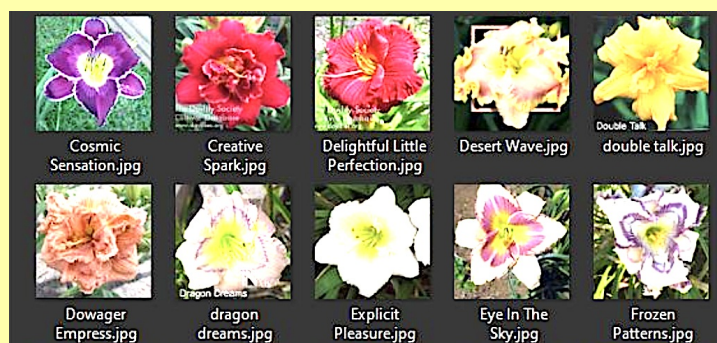


- Daylilies have three types of foliage habit.
  1. **Evergreen daylilies** keep green foliage the entire year unless there is severe freezing weather. Some evergreens are too tender to grow in the northern states.
  2. **Dormant daylilies** lose foliage completely even in our warmer winters. Some dormant daylilies will not grow here as they need cold and cannot take our hot summers.
  3. **Semi-evergreen daylilies** lose some or most foliage in winter.

\* \* \*

#### EDITOR'S NOTE: BUYING LOCAL IS THE BEST WAY.

- For upcoming events planned by Mary's Cypress Creek Daylily Club, check their website: [www.cypresscreekdaylily.wixsite.com/ccdc](http://www.cypresscreekdaylily.wixsite.com/ccdc)
- In the meantime, if you can't wait to buy daylilies, check out this sale:
  - **SAT MAY 7: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY ANNUAL DAYLILY SALE**, 9am-2pm, 5705 Pinemont Dr. Inventory: [www.ofts.com/hhs/plantsales.html](http://www.ofts.com/hhs/plantsales.html). Below, two of more than a dozen rows of daylilies displayed on this link which will be available at this sale



\* \* \*



*L to r, Turks Cap with hummingbird, warbler, yellow Indian grass, bee on gayfeather, and Indian blankets*

## MISTAKES EVEN EXPERTS MAKE

# WHEN LANDSCAPING FOR BIRDS

By MARGARET GNEWUCH  
& RUSSELL KANE

[Native Plant Society of Texas, Houston Chapter](#)

(Reprint from [2020 LG&F newsletter](#))

- **Mistake #1 – Relying totally on bird seed mixes.** Backyard feeders attract birds, but communal activity may cause problems from infectious diseases to parasites. Seeds don't provide a balanced diet. Most terrestrial birds feed nestlings caterpillars to stimulate immune systems, improve color vision, add brilliant feather colors.
  - Better choice: Oaks, cherries/plums, river birch, maples, elms, pines, hawthorn.
  - Berrying shrubs provide sugar in spring/summer; Winter berries contain fats for cold weather nutrition and migration fuel. They support small vertebrates, insects and larvae for more nutrition.
  - Flowering natives provide perfect food for resident/migrating birds
- **Mistake #2 – Relying only on non-native exotic plants** Exotic (imported) plants please our human senses. Adding natives supports more birds and brings diversity.
- **Mistake #3 – Not providing a multi-layer habitat** Large lawn areas and ground level gardens offer no shelter, food or water. Create layers by using groundcovers, flowers, understory shrubs, small trees; midstory/canopy trees, each layer benefits different birds. Unpruned shrubs and trees protect birds and provide nest sites.
  - NPSOT–H recently-updated its spreadsheet of local-area native plants beneficial to birds. [npsot.org/wp/houston/native-plant-info/](https://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-plant-info/)
- **Mistakes #s 4, 5 and 6**– Using pesticides; disposing of leaves; and not providing water. Leaves and leaf litter provide homes for butterfly chrysalises and insect eggs and larvae, and insect forage for ground feeding birds. Later, this litter breaks down into free plant food.
  - Birds are attracted to water as an essential of life, but if flowing or agitating they will come to bathe and frolic.

## EDITOR'S NOTES:

- Questions? Experts will be on hand at the **SAT., APR. 23: NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SALE**, 9:30-2:30, New World Botanical, 2701 Lone Star Parkway, Montgomery. NPSOT/Pines and Prairies Chapter event. Sale plant list: [npsot.org/wp/pinesandprairies/](https://npsot.org/wp/pinesandprairies/)
- Our calendar below is loaded with more upcoming plant sales, most of which will feature at least some landscape-friendly native plants. Check it for more sales in your area!

\* \* \*



# John's Corner



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 190

**Plants** have microbes on their leaves just as humans have microbes on our skin. A group of microbes that are beneficial or neutral to their hosts are called commensals.

A pathogen called *Pseudomonas* often infects our landscaping plants and vegetables causing disease. However, researchers discovered that wild species of these plants can live in harmony with these bad microbes. They discovered that there were commensal *Pseudomonas* that suppressed the growth of their pathogenic kindred.

If researchers can discover the mechanism that turns bad organisms into good guys, it would open up another avenue of environmentally friendly disease control. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 2022.

For me, it also raises the question of why they are non-pathogenic in Nature, but cause problems when the plants are grown in our landscapes?

**We** continue to learn about the importance of microbes to our lives every day. A new study from Harvard University has found that some species of microbes can breathe rocks!

They use electrons in the rocks for energy. The genes required for this process is called EET (extracellular electron transfer) and has been found in several species of microbes all over the planet. It seems that many species of microbes have acquired this ability.

This is analogous to how installing an APP on one's phone gives it a new functionality. *mBio*, 2022.

**A** new phenomenon has been discovered by scientists at North Carolina University that is called ghost forest tree "farts". These are caused by methane gas being released by microbes living in the trees that were killed by rising seawater.

Methane is a major greenhouse gas, hence it is very important to understand how it moves through the environment. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 2022 and *Biogeochemistry*, 2021.

**A** study from the University of Illinois has found the mechanism of how the toxic heavy metal cadmium gets into the cacao plant (think chocolate). Chocolate is a major source of cadmium in non-smokers. As soils



become more acidic, cadmium becomes more soluble hence plants absorb more cadmium from the soil. PLOS ONE, 2022.

The USGS has found that as deeper phosphate deposits are being mined for artificial fertilizers, the deeper layers are contaminated with cadmium. Artificial fertilizers tend to acidify the soil making the issue worse. More reasons to only use organic fertilizers.

**A** while back I had a person comment to me that it was a waste to preserve wetlands. It is hard to imagine someone so ignorant of the value of wetlands and the plants that grow in them, to our planet's health.

For example, scientists at the University of Waterloo released a study of wetlands in just a small area of southern Ontario. They found the wetlands performed many ecosystem services including sediment removal and phosphorous filtration.

The value of this service is \$4.2 Billion per year in this small region. To use conventional water treatment facilities to provide the same service would cost \$164 Billion per year!

One way a gardener can help our planet is putting in rain gardens and bioswales in one's yard, and only use modern biological methods (organic). Hydrological Processes, 2021.

**A**nother study published in the journal (Cell, 2021) re-enforced the importance of the element magnesium in our diet. Researchers at the University of Basel found that magnesium is essential for our immune system to fight cancer and viral diseases.

From our study of the elements, 80% of all Americans are magnesium deficient! Without a healthy soil full of organic matter and microbes, plants cannot absorb magnesium easily from the soil. Using and eating foods with the herbicide glyphosate on and in them prevents the absorption of magnesium from the food even as it digests.

GMO foods have the highest levels of glyphosate on them which prevents the absorption of magnesium and many other essential elements.

More reasons to plant modern Victory Gardens and grow our own food, using compost, organic fertilizers, and re-mineralizer to ensure one is getting all the essential elements to be healthy.

**T**alking about elements and nutrition density, I was at a class on foraging (eating wild native plants) this week. I was able to eat a couple dozen different edible wild plants that actually tasted very good. The instructor was Mark Vorderbruggen, PhD in biochemistry and expert on foraging.

Many of our edible wild plants have many times more vitamins and minerals than our conventionally grown foods and they are very low in calories. Many of these nutrient dense plants, we were taught to call weeds. We as gardeners



need to rethink our perception of plants, as God does not make mistakes and all plants have a purpose. Note: Mark will be speaking at the OHBA organic education day in August at the United Way Center.

Another international study has found a link between gut microbiota and chronic inflammatory diseases like arthritis. They found that if we do not have a healthy gut microbiome, molecules can form that make these diseases worse. Journal of Clinical Investigation Insight, 2022.

When we constantly use chemicals from soaps and disinfectants to pesticides and fungicides, we are killing off the microbes we need to be healthy.

One of the advantages of gardening as a hobby is that we are constantly exposed to beneficial microbes when we handle healthy organic soil and compost. Also when we eat wild foods like from foraging above or fruits and vegetables from our garden our bodies receive beneficial microbes.

Last week I mentioned chemicals in foods called flavonoids. Researchers at Penn State University have found that people with Parkinson's disease whom eat richly colored foods that are high in flavonoids have a lower mortality risk in men than those whom don't. The effect did not show up for women. Previous studies have shown that eating foods high in flavonoids reduced the risk of developing this disease. Journal Neurology, 2022

Last week I mentioned a group of fluorinated chemicals (8,000) known collectively as PFAS that are found in sewage sludge. These chemicals are in sewage sludge from the food we eat and they are absorbed by our skin through contaminated items when we touch or hold them. This sewage sludge is often used in agriculture and horticulture as a fertilizer.

Consumer Reports tested many the packaging of many fast foods and other products and found these toxic chemicals in them. From their newsletter **“The longer food sits in packaging, the more likely it is for PFAS to migrate to your food, especially for hot food** that comes in wrappers made with these chemicals. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are known as ‘forever chemicals’ because they are so difficult to break down. It's estimated that *97 percent of Americans have PFAS in their blood*, and frequent exposure to these chemicals has been linked to certain cancers, immune system, and other health problems”.

Consumer Reports' investigation that found high levels of these ‘forever chemicals’ in some food wrappers of four fast food chains, Arby's, Nathan's Famous, Chick-fil-A and Burger King.





### **Dangerous PFAS Chemicals Are in Your Food Packaging**

In 1938, a 27-year-old chemist named Roy Plunkett stumbled across a new type of chemical, one with a bond so strong it would end up sticking around long after he died—in fact, almost forever.

[Read more](#)

[www.consumerreports.org](http://www.consumerreports.org)

I read an article this morning that these toxic chemicals have been found in beef. Guess what the pastures had been fertilized with?

\* \* \*

## **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 to LG&F calendar are used*
- *Use our exact format, type into email, no pdfs/jpgs/flyers*



- *3 lines max allowed per entry. We will edit down if you don't.*
- *Too long links activated by word "Details."*
- *Submit events to: [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)*

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

**FRI-SUN., APR. 1-3: NEAR NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT VIRTUAL SPRING PLANT SALE**, Presentation by **HEIDI SHEESLEY**, White Oak Conference Center. Pickup: Treesearch Farms. [nnmd.org](http://nnmd.org)

**FRI.-SAT., APR. 1-2: HOUSTON ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER SPRING PLANT SALE**, 9am-4pm, 120 West Loop North. [houstonarboretum.org](http://houstonarboretum.org); 713-681-8433.

**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

**THURS., APR. 7: STARTING PLANTS FROM CUTTINGS** (virtual) by **PAUL WINSKI**, 10am, Free. Texas A&M Agrilife Extension event. Register: [homegrown2022.eventbrite.com](http://homegrown2022.eventbrite.com)

**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 event. Register: [galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/](http://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/)

**SAT., APR. 9: HOME GROWN SHOW** (virtual) by **PAUL WINSKI, BRANDI KELLER & SHANNON DIETZ**. 9am-noon., Trini Mendenhall Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. \$20. Harris County AgriLive event. [Register](#).

**MON., APR. 11: COMPOSTING** (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 10-11:30am, HCMG/Houston Community College event. Free. Register: [hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops](http://hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops)

**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. [Details](#).

**FRI., APR. 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)

**SAT., APR. 16: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ONLINE PLANT & SPRING VEGETABLE SALE.** [hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales/](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales/). Pickup Mon., Apr. 18, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., on-site sale.

**MON., APR. 18: GENOA FRIENDSHIP OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT/VEGETABLE SALE**, 8:30-11am., 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [Advance online orders](#).

**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/)

**MON., APR. 19: COMPOSTING** (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 11am-noon. Free. HCMG/Harris County Public Library event. [facebook.com/harriscountyppl/events/](https://facebook.com/harriscountyppl/events/)

**TUES., APR. 19: CARE, PROPAGATION AND CULTURE OF FAMILY** by **LINDA GAY**, 10am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. <https://sugarlandgardenclub.org>.

**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/](http://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/)

**SAT., APR. 23: NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SALE**, 9:30-2:30, New World Botanical, 2701 Lone Star Parkway, Montgomery. [Pines and Prairies Chapter - NPSOT](#) event. Availability list: [npsot.org/wp/pinesandprairies/](http://npsot.org/wp/pinesandprairies/)

**SAT-SUN, APR. 23-24: HERITAGE GARDENERS SPRING TOURS/MARKET**, tours (\$15) 1-5 pm. Markets Sat. & Sun, 9am-5 pm, 112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. 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/)

**FRI.-SUN, APR. 29 - MAY 1: KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB GARDENSCAPES TOUR & PLANT SALE**, Fri: 10am-4pm; Sat: 10am-4pm, Sun: 12pm-4pm. \$25. [kingwoodgardenclub.org](http://kingwoodgardenclub.org)

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

**FRI.-SAT., MAY 6 & 7,: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**



**SPRING SALE.** 9am-5pm Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray.  
Cash Preferred. [hcsstex.org](https://hcsstex.org)

**SAT MAY 7: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY ANNUAL DAYLILY SALE,** 9am-2pm, 5705 Pinemont Dr. Inventory: [ofts.com/hhs/plantsales.html](https://ofts.com/hhs/plantsales.html)

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

**FRI., MAY 13: NATURE'S BURIAL, NATURAL LANDSCAPE AS YOUR LEGACY,** by KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY, 10am, Trinity Episcopal Church. 1015 Holman. Free. Federation of Garden Clubs event. [\(Details\)](#)

**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](https://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

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

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

\* \* \*



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!

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us



**Saturdays 7-9am • SportsRadio 610**



## 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. The name, she says, is not just fun, it's true.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from 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.

Brenda became a Harris County Master Gardener and, over the years, served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations. She 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.

