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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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*Pretty little daylily, so gay, so bright...why do you timidly close  
all your colorful petals to hide in the darkness of the brooding night?*

-- Author unknown

**BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH**



**Yep! All daylilies! L to r, 'Dr. Doom,' 'Always Jiggy,' and 'Dr. Octopus'**

## THINK YOU EASILY RECOGNIZE A DAYLILY? DON'T BET ON IT!

**GARDENERS-IN-THE-KNOW** usually immediately spot daylilies in a garden. But maybe not all these! Daylilies are very close to -- if not THE -- most popular garden flower. This year the 100,000th-named daylily has been registered! But, boy, have they come a long way, baby, from their original Asian home! (Pictured: *H-Town Star*. YEAH, COUGARS!)



Folks who first spotted a blooming daylily on American soil probably figured it was a native wildflower. Wrong! Classic orange ones spotted here were (and

still are) ancient native Asian species *Hemerocallis fulva*. No one knows for sure when or how these were officially spotted, but the botanical name "Hemerocallis" for daylilies was given to them by Carl Linnaeus in 1753.

That lovely classic daylily has helped produce some amazing offsprings! Fortunately our two wonderful local groups, **HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY** (founded in 1953) and **LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY** (founded in 1996) are making some of the best on market available at their upcoming 2025 sales, highlighting new "looks" such as these above! Remember, these pictured are exciting news, but so new, might not be readily available

In our Spotlight Article below, LSDS's Paul Eskine give great overview of newest daylilies! Remember, this is a update overview of how daylilies have changed. It's **NOT** a list of those that will for sure be available at these shows. Those inventory lists are posted on the club websites!

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Want to know more?**

- **SAT., APR. 12: LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY SPRING PLANT SALE** , 9am-3pm, 7124 Booth Lane, Manvel., Free. [lonestardaylilysociety.org](http://lonestardaylilysociety.org), 281-331-0162.
- **SAT., May 3: LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & DAYLILY PLANT SALE**, Sale: 8am-3pm, Show 1pm-3pm, Senior Citizens Bldg, 309 W Sealy, Alvin., Free, [lonestardaylilysociety.org](http://lonestardaylilysociety.org), 281-331-0162.
- **SAT., MAY 10: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS (DAYLILY) SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW AND DAYLILY PLANT SALE**, Sale: 8am-3pm; Show 1-3pm, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga Dr., Free, [ofts.com/hhs/](http://ofts.com/hhs/)

\* \* \*

**IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER ABOUT MOST MAJOR PLANT SALES:**

- Most large nonprofits' plant sale inventories are posted on their websites BUT always subject to last minute changes for a variety of reasons. Looking for one special plant? Check before you go and go early!
- When you shop organizational plant sales (see calendar below), you do more than beautify your own garden. Sale profits help them contribute plants to area public & private gardens, among other activities.

\* \* \*

## Potpourri

- **TEXAS FIREFLY UPDATE FROM BEN PFEIFFER**'s sighting-update in our area: 2025 appears to be mild year for firefly flashing. Persistent drought conditions over the last 2 years. On plus side, recent rains may improve conditions into May, typically best time to see fireflies here is through mid-July (*tho they're often spotted as early as April and as late as October, depending on weather*). **More from Ben:** [Appearance on Central Texas Gardener](#) & [How to Attract and Protect Fireflies](#).





- **FENCE CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS**

Several readers have asked about increasing privacy with fences plantings. I'll start with my big mistake: didn't check how huge it might grow. Can't see it, but mine is about to overpower my Red Yucca! Do share fence planting successes and (especially) failures. Why is it dying? How do these work with neighbors? Don't know who owns a shared fence? Check state law here:

- [Guides.sll.texas.gov/neighbor-law/fences-and-boundaries](http://Guides.sll.texas.gov/neighbor-law/fences-and-boundaries).
- [Signs-vines-on-fence-cause-damage/](#)



- **ATTN. GARDEN/PLANT GROUPS --**

*Nature's Way Resources* offers free guided tours of NWR's extensive nursery/soil/mulch enterprise to plant-oriented, organized groups. As usual, NWR's now-expanded meeting site is free to above groups. Reservations a must for both. Great time to visit!



- **SUBMITTING CALENDAR EVENTS?:** For next upcoming newsletter, submit in our exact format (see top of calendar). Otherwise, they may be held for reformatting. PS. Apr, 14 National Gardening Day. - [You take it from here!](#)

\* \* \*

*Brenda Beust Smith's column is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's "Lazy Gardener" column, continuing sponsored by Nature's Way Resources in 2013 — (lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)*  
*Brenda's column focuses ONLY on the Greater Houston Area*

\* \* \*

Spotlighting . . .

**LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY**

Lazy Gardener and Friends Houston Garden Newsletter



*I to r, 'Dr. Doom,' 'Always Jiggy,' and 'Dr.Octopus'*

# ***'What is that?' 'It's a Daylily' 'Really? It looks totally different!'***

**By Paul Eskine,  
Lone Star Daylily Society  
[lonestardaylilysociety.org/](http://lonestardaylilysociety.org/)**

This year, the 100,000th named daylily was registered! The patterned daylily is the newest thing. Daylilies are registered as Miniature, Small, Large, Extra Large, Double, Spider and the Unusual Form. But lately, the things the hybridizers are doing with the 'eye zone' of the daylily, is really interesting. It could be a small size, it could be a large size, it doesn't matter, it is what is going on within the inner part of the flower ***Pictured: Erins Fantasy Scene***



They call these Patterned Eyes or a Patterned Daylily. They have different colors or variations in hue, value, or saturation. The design is formed in the daylily's eye. They can have stippling or variegation, or concentric rings or feathering of color.



***L TO R Zella Panchaud, Butterfly Cove, Digital Divide, Erins Fantasy Scene***



***L to R: 'Galactic Chameleon,' 'Italian Summer,'  
'Water Drops' and 'Italian Summer.'***

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# OHBA

## Urban Design Day 2025

*Reimagining Our Cities*



### About the Conference

Join us for an inspiring event featuring three sustainability experts who will share their knowledge on creating a greener, healthier, and more vibrant city! From homes and public parks to water detention, commercial spaces, and beyond, discover how we can transform our urban environment into a more livable, joyful, and sustainable place for all.

### What You'll Learn

- Effective watershed design
- Working with + understanding the ever changing nature cycle
- Regenerative solutions in urban design and sustainability
- Supporting biodiversity



**TED MAAS**

Owner of Maas Verde Landscape Restoration. Ted educates + applies ecological principles to design, build, and function to urban landscapes.

**TOPIC: Landscaping in a Changing Climate: Developing Water Wise, Functional, and Aesthetically Pleasing Landscapes**



**ANDREW MILLISON**

Globally Renowned Permaculture teacher and practitioner, media maker, and gardener. Founder of Oregon State University's Permaculture Design program

**TOPIC: How Watershed Design is the Answer to Flooding, Drought, and Extreme Heat.**



**MARY KEILERS**

Innovation & Research Principal at Clark Condon, with extensive experience managing complex projects across diverse ecological and urban environments.

**TOPIC: Design Considerations for Resiliency, Stewardship, and Innovation: A Landscape Architect's Perspective on the Urban Landscape**

FRIDAY  
**MAY 9, 2025**  
FROM 9 AM - 4 PM

UNITED WAY OF  
GREATER HOUSTON  
50 WAUGH DR  
HOUSTON, TX 77007

MEMBERS  
**\$75**

NON- MEMBERS  
**\$90**

SCAN HERE



FOR MORE INFORMATION + TO REGISTER: **[OHBAONLINE.ORG/REGISTER](https://OHBAONLINE.ORG/REGISTER)**

# *Urban Design Day 2025*

## SCHEDULE

8 – 8:45 AM Registration, Coffee + Tacos, Visit Exhibitors, Networking

9 - 10:30 AM Andrew Millison Presentation

10:30 – 11 AM Networking

11 AM - 12 PM Mary Keilers Presentation

12 – 1:30 PM Lunch, Visit Exhibitors, Networking

1:30 - 2:15 PM Ted Maas Presentation

2:30 - 4 PM Andrew Millison Presentation

FRIDAY  
**MAY 9, 2025**  
FROM 9 AM - 4 PM

UNITED WAY OF  
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FOR MORE  
INFORMATION +  
TO REGISTER  
FOR EVENT:



## John's Corner

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL  
AND PLANTS # 327

**Subject: plant band-aids chickens silicon organic farms gophers nutrition**

Researchers have discovered a Band Aid for plants. They have made patches made from cellulose produced by bacteria. When applied to injured plants, 80% healed within one week for the plants with patches, but only 20% healed without the patches.



**A** growing trend amongst gardeners is having a few chickens in their gardens. Chickens like to eat many of the plants species we call weeds, they devour insects like grasshopper and crickets, and will search for caterpillars.

As a bonus these free-range eggs have far less cholesterol and saturated fat than store bought eggs. They taste better and are much higher in vitamins A & E, beta carotene, and polyunsaturated fatty acids as well as minerals.

**We** have known for thousands of years that the plant *Curcuma longa* that we get the spice turmeric which contains curcumin. A new study in the journal Microbiology Spectrum (2025) found that adding curcumin increases the effectiveness of several antibiotics. It also boosts the effectiveness of tuberculosis medications.

**Researchers** have found that adding silicon (Si) to one's soil can help tomato plants resist damage from pests like the American tomato pinworm. Silicon is found in many soils from sand to clay; however, the silicon atoms are locked up chemically and are not available for plants to absorb.

Silicon is available from rock dust and products like remineralizer. These often contain granite and basalt minerals which were formed under extremely high temperature and pressures hence they are unstable at normal temperatures and can break down more easily in the environment, releasing their silicon in a water-soluble form. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (2025)

**More** and more people are growing their own vegetables as part of their gardening experience due to the poor quality and very low nutrient density of food from conventional toxic agriculture. I read a white paper last month that illustrates the poor nutritional density of our food supply. It can be found in a paper by the Ortho molecular Medicine research organization titled, "Measles: A nutritional Deficiency Disease – Integrative Orthomolecular Medicine for the Prevention and Management of Measles" at <https://orthomolecular.org/>

The April 28<sup>th</sup> Orthomolecular Medicine News Service newsletter had a good article on how poor nutrition in our food supply affects our health and mental functioning. **"What is smart food for smart kids? - Cognition for Smart Kids and Teens"**  
<https://orthomolecular.org/>

**Organic** agriculture continues to grow. The state of Sikkim in India has become the first state in the world to implement a 100% organic policy! The article stated that 45,000 farmers in India have converted to modern organic methods.

**As** gardeners we need to learn how to work with other life forms in our gardens from earthworms and insects to small mammals and birds. I read an article a few months ago in Acres USA magazine on Mount Saint Helens that erupted in 1980.

Once the ash and pumice had cooled researchers brought in a few gophers by helicopter in 1983 for a day. There were very few plants and most were growing poorly. Six years later there were over 40,000 plants growing on the plots where the gophers were. The untouched land was still mostly barren.

The gopher's burrowing brought up microbes (bacteria and fungi) required by plants that were buried under the pumice. The benefits of this experiment are still visible today in 2024. The full paper can be found in the journal *Frontiers in Microbiomes* (2024).

God's creation is amazing when we learn to work with nature instead of destroying it with toxic chemicals.



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## LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

### WANT EVENT IN RIGHT AWAY? FOLLOW RULES!

#### GREATER HOUSTON AREA EVENTS ONLY!

3-LINE (max) **EXACT** FORMAT (our re-formatting = *delay!*)

**DAY, DATE: TITLE** (by **NAME** *if talk*), time, site. Sponsor (*if not in title*).  
website/phone (NOTE CAPITALS VS lower case)

- **Gardening w/plants events ONLY! No harvest, cooking, shows, etc**
- **ONLY events sent SPECIFICALLY TO US FOR CALENDAR are used!**
- **NO events picked up from flyers. NO PDFS! TYPE IN EMAIL ONLY.**
- **No city unless not "Houston" -- Don't add "Houston" or "Texas"**
- **Submit to: [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com). Check published entry!**

**FRI-SAT. MAY 2 & 3: HCSS SPRING SALE**, Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-3pm,  
Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Cactus and Succulent Society  
event. Free. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org)



**SAT., MAY 3: LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW AND DAYLILY PLANT SALE**, Sale: 8am-3pm; Show 1-3pm, Alvin Senior Citizens Building, 309 W Sealy, Alvin. Free, [lonestardaylilysociety.org](http://lonestardaylilysociety.org), 281-331-0162.

**SAT., MAY 3: "BUTTERFLY CELEBRATION**, 9am-noon. 1402 Band Road, Rosenberg. Fort Bend Master gardeners. Free. [fbmg.org](http://fbmg.org); 281-342-3034

**SAT.-SUN., MAY 3-4: HOUSTON BROMELIAD SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE.** Sat. noon-4 pm, Sun. 11am-3pm. Judson Robinson Center, 2020 Hermann Dr.. Free. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

**THURS., MAY 8: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING** by **TERRA BURNS**, 6:30pm, Texas A&M Extension AgriLife Extension Service -- Montgomery County, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Montgomery County Master Gardeners. [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

**THURS., MAY 8: IT'S 110 DEGREES...NOW WHAT DO I DO?** by **LOU PAVLOVICH**, 7pm, Houston Rose Society. Free.  
[9785pwd=JrgelM9cJYNz0mKP2lb05byOSxgGxp.1&omn=86592085512](https://www.paidlink.com/9785pwd=JrgelM9cJYNz0mKP2lb05byOSxgGxp.1&omn=86592085512)

**SAT., MAY 10: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS (DAYLILY) SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW AND DAYLILY PLANT SALE**, Sale: 8am-3pm; Show 1-3pm, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga Dr., Free, [ofts.com/hhs/](http://ofts.com/hhs/)

**SAT.-SUN., MAY 10-11: GALVESTON ORCHID SOCIETY ORCHID SHOW & SALE**, Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun. 10am-4pm. Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave, Webster. [bit.ly/4iUjjHh](http://bit.ly/4iUjjHh)

**SAT., MAY 10: BE A SUPERSTAR WITH PERENNIALS & PRE-ANNUAL**, 9-11 am and **PLUMERIA PROPAGATION**, 1-3 pm, by **GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**. AgriLife Extension Bldg., Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (FM 519), La Marque. Free. Register: [galveston.agrilife.org/events/](http://galveston.agrilife.org/events/) 281-309-5065

**WED., MAY 14: HISTORY OF MERCER ARBORETUM & BOTANIC GARDENS** by Jamie Hartwell, Noon-2pm, MA&BG Visitor's Center, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd. Free. Register: [pct3.com/MBG](http://pct3.com/MBG)

**FRI., SAT., MAY 16-17: AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, SHOW AND SALE**, 9am - 4pm, Hilton Garden Inn Willowbrook, 7979 Willowchase Blvd. Free, [begoniahouston.org/](http://begoniahouston.org/)

**TUES., MAY 20: LANSCAPING WITH BROMELIADS IN HOUSTON** by **JOANNE WOOLSEY**, 7 pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray, Free, Bromeliad Society/Houston. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

**FRI., MAY 23: SHADE GARDENING**, 1-2:30 p.m. Online. Fort Bend MG. Registration required: [fortbend.agrilife.org/landscape-success](http://fortbend.agrilife.org/landscape-success), 281-342-3034

***If your event didn't get in right away, IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE you didn't submit it in our EXACT - NEVER CHANGING format. HAVING to REFORMAT (WE WILL!) delays your event publication and opens doors for errors. Your choice! SEE TOP OF CALENDAR FOR EXACT FORMAT.***



If we inspire you to attend any of these,  
please let them know you heard about it in . . .  
**THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!**  
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If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us  
at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: [lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com)



## About Us

**BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

**WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .**

but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- \* a national award-winning general feature 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 later was said to rank 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 general reporting into also doing gardening reporting 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 show on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

For over three decades, Brenda served 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 had 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.

About her column, Brenda says: "I don't consider myself a 'garden writer.'" I started out 50+ years ago as a very lazy "gardening reporter." I still feel that way today. I hope my columns inspire/help newcomers, but I do not write to them. I write to very experienced gardeners who want to expand their horizons.

## **JOHN FERGUSON**

John is a native Houstonian and has over 35 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. For years he represented 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.



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