



OCTOBER 2, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 126th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

This newsletter is a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith, John Ferguson and Mark Bowen. (John and Mark are with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . Email your thoughts to: [lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com). Thanks so much for your interest.

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## HARDSCAPES THAT "SPEAK TO US" . . . SO, RELEASE THE KRAKEN! . . . SCARECROWS & AVOCADOS

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Just as the personal pictures, knickknacks and/or more priceless *objets d'art* are how we turn a house into a home, so do hardscapes that "speak to us" weave a web of intimacy that turns look-like-everyone-else's landscapes into something very personal, comfortable, more enjoyable . . . or whatever moves you to put hands to dirt.

Hardscapes are actually any non-plant additions to our garden. But here not talking about bricks, landscape timbers and other "foundation" materials.

I'm talking more about those nontraditional non-plant additions. For example, in the case of Trish Smith's garden, pictured at center above, a common wooden pallet\* painted, tweaked a bit, set up on-end behind some Mexican

poinsettias and turned into a great holder for small potted marigolds to add an extra splash of color at a slightly higher level.

Gardens tend to be viewed a "whole" and it often takes something slightly askew - maybe simply beautiful or striking or slightly quirky, like Trish's upended pallet, to give the garden personality, a sense of humor, a smile-provoking ambiance.

Particularly effective, I find, are those "little hardscapes" that aren't visible until you turn a corner, or stand at a particular angle, something that's beautiful, whimsical or touching on it's own, but gains even deeper significance when someone comments on it and you explain what it means to you.

I get this in our garden when someone notices two small narrow decorative wrought iron edging stakes nailed to our wooden fence. They are all that was left - only because they were nailed to the pilings awaiting a climbing vine - at our Ike-swept-away beachhouse. About that time I saw the movie *Notting Hill*, and loved the Chagall "La Mariée" reference to the fiddle-playing goat. I copied the ascending angle in positioning the stakes and it's my little private memory that makes me smile every time I see it.

**RELEASE THE KRAKEN!** The fun part about hardscapes is that there are no "hard" rules. It's all in what YOU want and often the more unusual will attract the most notice. For example, the Kraken, pictured at left above, is a mythical, medieval sea creature. How more appropriate for a beachhouse or lake house garden can you get? Thanks to Jules Verne and Johnny Depp, young visitors are more likely than older ones to immediately identify this hardscape rising from the depths of a garden!

This particular Kraken (*donated by Nautical Antiques, Galveston*) will be a Silent Auction item at the free Sat., Oct. 10, 6th [Jane Long Festival](#), 10am-4pm at [Fort Travis Seashore Park](#) on Bolivar Peninsula. It can be viewed now at the Bolivar Gallery (1980 Hwy 87, Ste. A, upstairs, open 10am-4pm, Thurs-Sat). Trish's "plant shelf" pallet is one of gaily-painted ones that will be sold during this same festival by the clever ladies of Bay View Methodist Church in Crystal Beach.

**WITH FALL (HOPEFULLY!) CREEPING IN**, it's would be criminal not to mention that truly ancient garden hardscape favorite, the scarecrow. That's my 'lazy gardener' scarecrow pictured at left, below, with my (unfortunately late) "Moi" hibiscus.

Although we use scarecrows now mostly as fun garden protectors, almost every country on Earth has used them in one form or another since the beginning of time. The first recorded use is from the year 712, the Japanese mythical deity Keubiko, who cannot walk, yet knows everything about the world. Dorothy knew what she was doing!

At center below is pictured a Vidor Junior High entry in Texas' largest Scarecrow Festival, at [Shangri La Botanical Garden and Nature Center](#) in Orange, TX. Visitors vote on the winners. Entry deadline is Oct. 7 for the festival that runs from Oct. 13 to Nov. 7.

Chappell Hill has our oldest nearby celebration. This picturesque little town northwest of Houston will hold its [38th annual Scarecrow Festival](#) Oct. 10-11.



One couldn't exactly call an avocado tree a hardscape, but it's certainly still unusual enough in this area to be a true eye-catcher when it's fruiting. Even as recently as 10 years ago, I would never have believed I'd be standing under a fruit-bearing avocado tree as large as the one at right (that's me at Nature Way Resources' under John Ferguson's extremely prolific avocado in The Woodlands.)

And most certainly my eyes would have popped if I'd gotten a plant sale notice that included avocado trees.

Yet here comes one from the Galveston County Master Gardeners who are selling not one, but nine different avocado varieties touted as great this area. Tips on growing avocados in Houston abound online.

Two you might want to check out:

\* Ray Sher/Urban Harvest's blog: [Avocado Trees For Houston](#)

\* Buchanan's Native Plants has a great [Avocado Selection, Planting and Care Guide](#)

Note these recommended variety names below. All are rated as cold-hardy enough for us to grow. All will be available the Galveston County Master Gardener's Sat., Oct. 10 Fall Sale, 8am-Preview; 9am-1pm Sale, at the Wayne Johnson Community Center in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; [aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston):

\* Pancho \* Don Juan \* Brazos Belle \* Joey \* Lila \* Mexicola \* Mexicola Grande

All need great drainage and can get quite large if they really like you. And they will probably need some protecting the first few years.

Avocados are one tree you should purchase from a source you truly trust. Not all varieties will do well here, or they might grow, but never bear fruit (typical of store-bought avocados). Be sure to tell your seller exactly where you live, as that might influence the variety recommended.

\*\*\* *Brenda's column in the **LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** is based on her 45+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener.*

*Please help me honor the MOTHER OF TEXAS by sharing this information on your Facebook, etc., page! The 6th Annual Jane Long Festival, will be Sat., Oct. 10, at historic Fort Travis on Bolivar Peninsula, Jane Long Highway (87) near the Bolivar Ferry Landing. Free - 10am-4pm. Want to know more about Jane? [www.janelongfestival.org](http://www.janelongfestival.org) or [www.facebook.com/janelongfestival](http://www.facebook.com/janelongfestival). Or, for a complete Jane Long Festival kit, email: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)*

**JOHN'S CORNER will return next week.**



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## WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

**TO SUBMIT EVENTS - PLEASE - USE OUR FORMAT!**

**Find a similar event in our calendar below and copy the format EXACTLY.**

**Then you can add additional information. Email to [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net).**

**Not using our format will result in a delay in publication! Events will not be picked up from other newsletters.**

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

**THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!**

FRI.-SAT., OCT. 2-3: 2015 BULB & PLANT MART, 9am-5pm Fri., 9am-2pm Sat., St. John the Divine Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Free. Garden Club of Houston event. [gcahouston.org](http://gcahouston.org)

SAT., OCT 3: COOL SEASON COLOR by T. Polk, 9-11am, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe. Free. 936-321-6990; [natureswayresources.com](http://natureswayresources.com)

SAT., OCT. 3: ART OF FALL LANDSCAPE DECORATING, 10:15am, AND FAMILY DAY! FALL FESTIVAL, 9am-6pm, Cornelius Nursery, 2233 S. Voss Road; free. [corneliusnurseries.com/events](http://corneliusnurseries.com/events)

SAT., OCT. 3: CONTAINER VEGETABLE GARDENING. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT., OCT. 3: FALL FESTIVAL WITH URBAN HARVEST, 10-11am. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th Street, free, [www.buchanansplants.com/calendar/events](http://www.buchanansplants.com/calendar/events)

SAT., OCT. 3: GARDENING FOR JEWELS ... HUMMINGBIRDS BY DEBORAH REPASZ, 9-11am; TEXAS TUFF LANDSCAPE PLANTS - BLOOMING & BEAUTIFUL BY SANDRA DEVALL, 1-3pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. 281-534-3413; [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net); [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., SUN., OCT. 3-4: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, 10am-3pm, Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Karla Ross, 281-748-8417; [kjwross@yahoo.com](mailto:kjwross@yahoo.com)

SUN., OCT. 4: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE - CLASS 2. 12:30-5:30pm. University of Houston Central Campus. \$50. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

TUES., OCT. 6: THE ABC'S OF COMPOSTING BY KEN STEBLEIN, 6:30-8pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. 281-534-3413; [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net); [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

THUR., OCT 8: HERBS - THE BASICS & MORE, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com); 281-351-8851

THURS, OCT 8: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

THUR. OCT. 8: COMPOST TEA - NATURE'S ELIXIR BY JOHN FERGUSON. 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Center, Hermann Park. [Houstonrose.org](http://Houstonrose.org)

FRI., OCT. 9: 12th ANNUAL WATER QUALITY SYMPOSIUM FEATURING CHAD PREGRACKE, 7:30am-3pm, United Way Community Resource Center, 50 Waugh. Bayou Preservation Association event. [bayoupreservation.org](http://bayoupreservation.org)

FRI., OCT. 9: WATER FOR TEXAS, WATER FOR THE FUTURE BY KATHLEEN JACKSON, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardencubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardencubs.org)

SAT., OCT. 10: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL SALE, 8am-Preview; 9am-1pm Sale, Wayne Johnson Community Center in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston).

SAT., OCT. 10: CONSTRUCTING THE HOME VEGETABLE AND FRUIT GARDEN. 9-11am. Westbury Community Garden, 12581 Dunlap. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT., OCT. 10: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

SAT., OCT 10: HERBS - THE BASICS & MORE, 10:00 am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com) or 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 10: ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN WITH KATHY ADAMS CLARK. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, 281-937-9449, and at 2pm. Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. 281-341-1206, [myenchanted.com](http://myenchanted.com)

SAT., OCT. 10: FALL BULB WORKSHOP BY DIANE BULANOWSKI. 10-11am. Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11<sup>th</sup>. Pay for supplies used. [buchanansplants.com/calendar/events](http://buchanansplants.com/calendar/events)

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 10-11: 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHAPPELL HILL SCARECROW FESTIVAL, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-5pm. Festival free, \$5 parking. [chappellhillmuseum.org/scarecrow.html](http://chappellhillmuseum.org/scarecrow.html); 979-203-1242 or email [chappellhillfestivals@gmail.com](mailto:chappellhillfestivals@gmail.com)

SUN., OCT. 11: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS THROUGH PERMACULTURE. 6-classes. University of Houston Central Campus. \$404. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

WED., OCT 14: HERBAL BEVERAGES, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com) or 281-351-8851

WED., OCT. 14: BEYOND CURB APPEAL - THE RESTORATIVE EFFECT OF NATURE by David Renninger. Noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

WED., OCT. 14: AUTUMN GARDENING TIPS BY DEBBIE BANFIELD, 1pm, Dennis Johnson Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Rd., Spring. Free. 281-350-1029 or visit [hcp4.net/community/ccommunitycenters](http://hcp4.net/community/ccommunitycenters).

THURS., OCT. 15: PECKERWOOD GARDEN TAKING ROOT LUNCHEON WITH MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH, 11:30am-1pm, Bayou Club, Houston. \$150. Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation event. Reservations: [squareup.com/market/peckerwood-garden-conservation-foundation](http://squareup.com/market/peckerwood-garden-conservation-foundation)

THUR.-SUN., OCT. 15-18: MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM & OCT. 15: BASICS OF COMPOSTING BY JOHN FERGUSON, 5:40pm, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. Steve Stelzer, 832-394-9050, [steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov](mailto:steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov)

THURS., OCT 15; PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

FRI., OCT. 16: TEXAS POLLINATORS GARDEN SYMPOSIUM with FELDER RUSHING: 8am-5pm, Veteran's Conference Center, 455 Hwy 75, Huntsville. \$75. Walker County Master Gardeners event. [walkercountymastergardeners.org](http://walkercountymastergardeners.org); 936-435-2426

**SAT., OCT. 17: MOONLIGHT OVER MERCER GALA / BRENDA BEUST SMITH HONOREE, 5 pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$75. The Mercer Society event. 713-274-7160; [msociety@hcp4.net](mailto:msociety@hcp4.net); [themerchersociety.org/2013/07/garden-party-2015/](http://themerchersociety.org/2013/07/garden-party-2015/)**

SAT. OCT 17: WALKER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL AND FALL PLANT SALE. Free.

[walkercountymastergardeners.org](http://walkercountymastergardeners.org) 936-435-2426

SAT., OCT 17: ORGANIC VEGETABLES BY THE GUNTER SISTERS, 9am-12pm, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe, free, 936-321-6990, [natureswayresources.com](http://natureswayresources.com)

SAT., OCT. 17: THE EDIBLE LANDSCAPE. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT, OCT 17; PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen, Katy. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT 17: GARDENING IN THE HELL STRIP, 10am, and TOUGH AS NAILS, PRETTY AS A PICTURE, 2pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com) or 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 17: PUMPKIN PALOOZA. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond, and at 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. 281-341-1206 or [myenchanted.com](http://myenchanted.com)

SAT. OCT 17: WALKER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL AND FALL PLANT SALE. Free. [walkercountymastergardeners.org](http://walkercountymastergardeners.org), 936-435-2426

SAT., OCT 17: "TOUGH AS NAILS, PRETTY AS A PICTURE" BY FELDER RUSHING, 2:00 pm, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com); 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 17: MOONLIGHT OVER MERCER: DINE DANCE AND DONATE. 5pm. Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Reservations: [msociety@hcp4.net](mailto:msociety@hcp4.net); 713-274-4160.

SAT., OCT. 17: BURIED TREASURES ... BULBS & OTHER PERENNIALS FOR GULF COAST LANDSCAPES BY ANNA WYGRYS. 9-11am, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net); [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., OCT. 17: PLANT TEXAS NATIVES! 1pm. Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Dr. Humble. 281-446-8588

SUN., OCT 18: BEE FORUM BY ANGELA CHANDLER & MATT & KELLY BRANTLEY, 11am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com); 281-351-8851

MON., OCT. 19: GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN OPEN GARDEN DAY and PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., OCT 20; PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

TUES., OCT. 20: THE JOY OF DAYLILIES BY NELL SHIMEK. 6:30-8pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net); [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

TUES., OCT. 20: REDESIGNING THE SOUTHERN LANDSCAPE: RESEARCH PROJECT RESULTS BY DR. WILLIAM WELCH, 10am, St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land; 10 am; free; Sugar Land Garden Club event. [Sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://Sugarlandgardenclub.org)

WED., OCT. 21: BACKYARD COMPOSTING AND VERMICULTURE. 10am-noon. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. Details: 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

WED., OCT. 21: NATIVE PLANTS BY MARK BOWEN, 10am, Clear Lake Park Meeting Room, 5001 NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

THUR. OCT. 22: SOIL FOOD WEB BY JOHN FERGUSON, Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/wp/houston/](http://npsot.org/wp/houston/); 713-254-4778

SAT., OCT. 24: PROPER GARDENING TECHNIQUES BY DENNIS MCDONALD, 9am-12pm, Nature's Way Resources, 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe, free, 936-321-6990; [natureswayresources.com](http://natureswayresources.com)

SAT., OCT. 24: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY'S ROSE-A-PALOOZA, Harris County AgriLife Extension Center, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. 10am educational programs; noon - Rose Show. \$30. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org); [suzzieq1971@gmail.com](mailto:suzzieq1971@gmail.com)

SAT., OCT. 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. Details: [www.peckerwoodgarden.org](http://www.peckerwoodgarden.org), [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

SAT., OCT. 24: BACKYARD COMPOSTING AND VERMICULTURE. 10am-noon. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT., OCT. 24: MIX-UP A PARTY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. 10am. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond, 281-937-9449, and at 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond. Free. 281-341-1206; [myenchanted.com](http://myenchanted.com)

SAT., OCT. 24: GUNTER'S HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES BY PAM & LEAH GUNTER, 9am-1pm, & HERBS & WINES BY ANN WHEELER & CHRIS CROWDER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com); 281-351-8851

SAT., OCT. 24: GARDEN TOOL CARE PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP BY TIM JAHNKE & HENRY HARRISON, III. 9am-noon, Galveston County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. 281-534-3413; [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net), [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., OCT. 24: RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE WATER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP, 8:30am-noon, Recreation & Tennis Center, 2701 Cypress Point Dr., Missouri City. \$25. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Missouri City Green, City of Missouri City and Fort Bend County Master Gardener event. [fortbend.agrilife.org/water-conservation/](http://fortbend.agrilife.org/water-conservation/), [www.missouricitygreen.org](http://www.missouricitygreen.org) or 281-633-7029

SUN., OCT. 25: HOW TO ROOT A ROSE BY GAYE HAMMOND, 11am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com); 281-351-8851

TUES., OCT 27: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING, 9-11:30am, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-open-garden-days.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2015-open-garden-days.pdf); 281-855-5600

WED., OCT. 28: INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY KEWPIE GAIDO LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING. Lydia Miller, 409-770-4312: [www.oleander.org](http://www.oleander.org)

SAT., OCT. 31: HIGH DENSITY ORCHARD. 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540 or [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT., OCT. 31: FRIGHTFUL FUN IN THE GARDEN WITH CLINT THE SNAKE MAN. 10am-noon. Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond, 281-937-9449 and at 2-4pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359, Richmond, 281-341-1206. Free. [myenchanted.com](http://myenchanted.com)

SAT., OCT. 31: HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL FALL SHOW, 9am-5pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

MON., NOV. 2 & 9: GARDEN DOCENT TRAINING BY JENNIFER GARRISON, 9am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

THURS., NOV. 5: SHADE GARDENING WITH ELIZABETH BARROW. 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Drive, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [nottinghamgardenclub.org](http://nottinghamgardenclub.org)

SAT., NOV. 7: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY. 10am-3pm. Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

SAT., NOV. 7: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Room 14, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$20. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org).

WED., NOV. 11: FIRE ANTS & CRAZY ANTS BY DR. PAUL NESTER, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

WED., NOV 11: EDIBLE LANDSCAPES. 10am-2pm. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest' event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

FRI., NOV. 13: MOTHS OF TRINITY RIVER REFUGE - GOOD, BAD AND UGLY BY STUART MARCUS, 10:15 am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT., NOV. 14: PRUNING/PREPARING FRUITING TREES & VINES FOR WINTER BY BILL ADAMS, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com); 281-351-8851

SAT., NOV. 14: EDIBLE LANDSCAPES. 9-11am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest' event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

TUES., NOV. 17: THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE BY WILLIAM HALDIK, 10am, St. Basil Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land; 10 am; free; Sugar Land Garden Club event. [sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://sugarlandgardenclub.org)

SAT., DEC. 5: CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, 3-7pm, The Arbor Gate, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com); 281-351-8851

SAT., DEC. 5: GROWING CITRUS IN HOUSTON, 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT., DEC. 5: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 10am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th Street, free, [buchanansplants.com/calendar/events](http://buchanansplants.com/calendar/events)

WED., DEC. 9: CHRISTMAS CRAFTS USING NATURAL PLANT MATERIALS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., DEC. 11: A WARM GARDENING WELCOME BY BARBARA BAKER, 10:15 am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Tickets required. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT., DEC. 19: CHRISTMAS GARDENS BIRD COUNT, 8am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register at 713-274-4160.

FRI., JAN. 8: PERSONALIZING YOUR GARDEN FOCAL POINTS BY DARNELL SCHREIBER, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

MONDAYS., JAN. 25-FEB. 29: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER, TIER III: THE ART OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN. 9am-3pm. Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. 713-274-4160

WED., JAN. 13: TOP BAR BEEHIVES BY DEAN COOK. Noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

WED., FEB. 10: SPRING INTO YOUR LAWN - ORGANIC LAWN CARE & SPRINGTIME PREP BY BOB DAILEY. noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., FEB. 12: THE HOLISTIC GARDEN, BY DR. JOE NOVAK, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

WED. MAR. 9: MARCH MART VOLUNTEER TRAINING, 10:30-11:30am, MARCH MART PREVIEW OF SALE PLANTS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., MAR. 11: BULLET PROOF VIBURNUMS FOR THE GULF SOUTH BY DR. DAVID CREECH, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

WED. MAR. 12: MARCH MART VOLUNTEER TRAINING, 9:30-10:30am, and MARCH MART PREVIEW OF SALE PLANTS, noon-2pm,

Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI.-SAT., MAR. 18-19: MARCH MART, 8am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., APR. 9: XPLORING CREATIVITY BY LILLIAN RICO, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

FRI., MAY 13: NIGHT SOUNDS - TWILIGHT WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN BY DEBBIE BANFIELD, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs; [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

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

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!

TO SUBMIT EVENTS:

Find a similar event in our calendar below and copy the format EXACTLY.  
Then you can add additional information. Email to [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)  
Not using our format will result in a delay in publication.  
Events will not be picked up from newsletters.



## THE ADOPTABLE ANIMAL OF THE WEEK

**Winnie is a super sweet, well socialized little black kitten that we think was most likely dumped at Nature's Way Resources. She seems to be about 6-7 weeks old and appears to be in good health. She absolutely loves being an inside cat and is already all set in terms of making it to the litter box. She would be perfect for someone that is home a good bit and/or has children. She loves to play and cuddle.**

**We are looking for someone to either foster or adopt her.**

**For more information, please contact Jill Limbaugh or Mark Bowen at (936) 321-6990.**

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<http://natureswayresources.com/>

## ABOUT US

### BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

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

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda's 45-year-old "Lazy Gardener" print column a couple of years ago, it ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* book and now to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

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 run on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's **BULLETIN** magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** with John Ferguson and Mark Bowen of Nature's Way Resources.

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

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

### JOHN FERGUSON

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

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



societies. John is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

### MARK BOWEN

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist, certified permaculturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a co-editor and periodic article contributor.

### 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, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



**COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 20% off our: Garden Mix Light**

Plus. <http://natureswayresources.com/products.html> . (Offer good for retail purchases of this product by the cubic yard at Nature's Way Resources (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 10/10/15.

**COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 25% off our: PEAR TREES .**

(Offer good for retail purchases of this product by the cubic yard at Nature's Way Resources (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 10/10/15.