



August 19th, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 169th 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. Thanks so much for your interest.

Please or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Enjoy!

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!](#)



A CORNUCOPIA OF PLACES TO LEARN & BUY, ESPECIALLY OUR NATIVES!

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

*The roadside flowers, too wet for the bee,
Expend their bloom in vain.
Come over the hills and far with me,
And be my love in the rain.*

"A Line-Storm Song" by Robert Frost

Monsoons . . . drought . . . triple digit temps . . . subfreezing nights . . . more monsoons . . . our farraginous weather sure does a number on our floral friends.

My philosophy has always been: if a plant can't survive our weather challenges, compounded by my total neglect, then -- by golly -- obviously the plant gods don't want it in my home landscape.

That's one reason I love passing on word of new-to-me options out there. And reporting on the great area sales and learning events where they're available. I don't know about you, but I hate it when media reports on fabulous new-to-us plants and then doesn't tell us where to find them! I'll not do that today.



Great vines and a great source, the 74th annual Bulb & Plant Mart, l to r, purple leatherflower, sweet autumn clematis, scarlet leatherflower and hops

VINES, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE AMONG OUR HARDIEST OF PLANTS.

And these below certainly qualify - but where to find them? One great source: the free [74th Annual Bulb & Plant Mart](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs172/1112503958110/archive/1125573500021.html), Oct. 14-15, St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Among those Garden Club of Houston members will be touting highly at this sale:

1. ***Clematis texensis*, Scarlet leatherflower** - Texas native, twines up on garden supports, arbors, gates, pergolas to 9' blooms in spring and summer, drought tolerant, full sun, pollinators love these.
2. ***Clematis terniflora* Sweet autumn clematis**
3. ***Clematis pitcheri* purple leatherflower** - scrambling 6' tall vine with dainty, pendant purple bell-shaped blossoms, hummingbird and pollinator haven
4. ***Humulus lupulus lupuloides* Common American hops** - common American hops, fast-growing, twining, perennial plant with roughly hairy shoots, maple-like leaves, blossoms hanging like cone-shaped globes in a luminous color of yellow, 10-15' tall in a season, die back in winter. Full sun or part shade. Low maintenance, fall blooming, butterflies and scent of pine
5. ***Humulus lupulus* var. *neomexicanus*, New Mexico hops**, same as above yet have multiple bloom heads and citrusy scent.

* * *



Mercer's gingers - l to r, Curcuma 'laddawan' ginger, peacock gingers and butterfly gingers

**DID YOU KNOW MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS HAS ONE
OF THE LARGEST OUTDOOR GINGER COLLECTIONS IN THE NATION?**

From the striking *Curcuma* 'laddawan' to the 4-inch peacock gingers (groundcovers!) to the lofty, seven-foot, incredibly scented butterfly gingers, these treasures are tropical jewels in Gulf Coast garden. Ideal for tropical summer color, with stunning blooms, heavenly fragrances, and fabulous foliage texture and patterns, they do best in well-drained soil and sun or shade (depending on species), Bloom summer-autumn, dormant in winter. Divide and share in early spring.

Exploring [Mercer Botanic Garden](#)'s extensive collections of gingers and other Gulf Coast hardy treasures is just one of the advantages offered by Mercer's [Texas Gulf Coast Gardener](#) 2-tier classes. Tier I covers basics, such as propagation, pest management, pruning, and irrigation. (Tuesdays, Sept. 13-Nov. 15). Tier II helps gardeners hone skills and explore more sophisticated plant selections. (Thursdays, Sept. 15-Nov. 17) \$225. Register: 713-274-4160 or enroll at Mercer Botanic Gardens. Space is limited.

* * *



WE ALL OWE A VOTE OF THANKS TO OUR LOCAL PLANT SOCIETIES . . .

. . . But perhaps to none so much as the [Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter](#). These folks have been overwhelmingly instrumental in rechanneling our focus toward greater use of our own natives, significantly reducing dependence on wasteful watering, artificial fertilizing and insect/disease treatments.

When I started writing the *Houston Chronicle*'s Lazy Gardener column back in the '70s, the vast majority of our landscape plants came from the East and West Coasts. We had few local growers and grew even fewer native plants. On top of that, we start gardening in February. And, we only buy plants in bloom. These HAD to come from huge growers touting plants that thrive across the country's mid-section -- the biggest market.

Our subtropical weather and year-round-copulating insects created overwhelming challenges we treated with overwhelming use of chemicals. In fact, we led the nation in use of garden "treatments."

It took a brave, very hard-working, gardener to be "organic." Announcing plans for a "natural" gardens, as

they were called then, scared the bejeebers out of neighbors. A Tip o' the Trowel to George Mitchell and his natives-oriented haven in The Woodlands. I searched for years for another such local subdivision to publicize. Never found a single one. Now The Woodlands, while still more "natural" than other enclaves, has succumbed in most parts to demands for "MORE ST. AUGUSTINE!"

Mystified me. I was into transplanting wildflowers into my gardens. No one watered, fertilized or treated them for problems. My kind of plants! Some worked. Some (like goldenrod) haunt me still!

As with most highly successful events, Wildscapes began with a conversation, this one between Texas Parks & Wildlife's Diana Foss and then NPSOT President Glenn Olsen, who had just taken Diana's Wildscape course. Another Tip o' the Trowel to TP&W for its early efforts.

Fast forward to today. Nurseries carry many natives, thanks in large part to early enthusiasts like Diana, Glenn and Margaret Gnewuch, to name just a few. The [18th Annual Wildscapes Workshop](#), co-sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife, will be this year at the [Houston Community College West Loop Center](#). Register now for this celebration of the major changes taking place, future prospects and, best of all, an incredible sale of landscape-friendly natives. And consider [becoming a Wildscapes sponsor](#) -- link your name to our ecology-supporting gardeners!

In our **Spotlight** below, NPSOT/HC members zero in on a few natives they'll have available for sale that are -- are you ready for this? -- thrive in our gumbo soil.

Unfortunately, many natives on the nursery shelves today are really geared for the porous soils and sparse rainfall of Central Texas. For them to really thrive in our gumbo soil, especially given our spring and fall monsoons, we usually have to raise the beds or plant them on slopes.

So when someone touts "good for gumbo soil," lazy gardeners listen!

***Brenda's column in the free, emailed LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 45+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener.
Favors? 1. If I don't respond to your email, send it again! 2. Always check the LG&F Newsletter* Calendar to make sure your submitted event is listed! If not, let me know!***

* * *

Spotlighting . . .
 Native Plant Society of America
 Houston Chapter
Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter



Gumbo-loving natives available at Wildscapes Sale - l to r, blue mistflower, spider lilies and Texas frogfruit

NATIVE PLANTS - SOLUTION FOR "GUMBO GARDENERS"!

By MARGARET GNEWUCH, RUSS KANE & JAMES HOLMES
Native Plant Society of Texas, Houston Chapter

Does your soil have standing water during our monsoon rains, is it sticky when wet and like cracked concrete when dry? Congratulations, you have black gumbo clay, which gives many gardeners in the Greater Houston area nightmares! You are a "Gumbo Gardener".

You could build raised beds, or mix in huge amounts of sand and compost. Maybe you've even considered just hauling your soil off and replace with bags of synthetic soil sold at the big-box stores.

There's really no need to go through this expensive, exhausting route. Just select the right local native plants that thrived in our black gumbo long before Texas was settled. Through the eons, many local native plants have evolved and have successfully adapted to our region's affinity for deluge and can handle the thick soup of our gumbo soils with no help needed.

Once you select the right plants, you can relax and enjoy pretty blooms, fall color, gorgeous butterflies and flitting birds making themselves at home. Here's three of our favorite local natives that love it when their "feet and toes" are contained in thick gumbo soil:

Blue Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*); grows 1 to 3 feet high, with triangular leaves. Light blue clusters of flowers attract bees and butterflies August through October. It likes part shade or full sun, spreads quickly and can be easily propagated by seed or cuttings.

Texas Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) is a semi-evergreen ground cover only 3-6 inches tall. It's a larval host plant for several butterflies who love the white "mini-verbena" blooms. Frogfruit will ramble over boulders or spill over hanging baskets. It can tolerate drought and flooding, takes light shade or full sun exposure.

Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis liriosme*) has fragrant white blooms up to 7 inches across consisting of a cup surrounded by straps. Our native blooms in spring, loves standing water up to 6 inches or just kept moist. The strap-like 3 to 4 foot leaves are glossy, freezing to the ground in winter and greening up again in spring. Spider lily likes part shade or full sun at the edge of bogs and rain gardens.

-- -- -- -- --

SAT., SEPT. 10: 2016 (18th ANNUAL) WILDSCAPES WORKSHOP, 8am-3:30pm, Houston Community College-West Loop Center, 5601 W. Loop S. \$40 (\$50 after Aug. 27). Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston event.
npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop/

* * *

JOHN'S CORNER

Pothos Ivy - A Gardeners Tale



About 11 years ago after my daughter graduated from college she brought home and gave me a little Pothos Ivy that she had in her dormitory room. I did not have any use for the

plant; however, it was in a nice pot that I decided to save. Hence, I dumped the plant on the ground under some shrubs where it could die and be decomposed. It rather looked like the one below with variegation and 3-4 long leaves. It rather looked like the one below with variegation and 3-4 long leaves.





However, this tough little plant had other ideas. It liked my rich organic soil and decided to grow and grow and grow. It grew for 11 years through droughts, freezes, storms, etc. and survived without any care. The ivy has climbed up some trees (Hickory and Mulberry) and spread throughout my yard. It gives my yard a very cooling and tropical look. Today the leaves are over 16 inches long and the one shown in the foreground below is 19.25 inches long from the base of the leaf touching the stem to the tip of the leaf.

These pictures illustrate what a good biologically active, organically maintained soil can do. Plants grow larger, quicker and are much more drought and freeze tolerant.

The only issue is that it grows so well, I am constantly pruning the runners to keep it under control.

A BOOK REVIEW:

Agricultural & Environmental Applications of BIOCHAR - Advances & Barriers by M. Guo, Z. He and S.M. Uchimiya, editors, Soil Science Society of America Special Publication 63, 2016, ISBN: 978-0-89118-964-0

The interest in Bio-Char started with the work of William Sombroek, PhD and his research on soils in South America that have stayed fertile for thousands of years that are named the "*terra preta*" soils or Amazonian Dark Earth. These patches of charcoal rich soils were created by native people living in the Amazon basin. Not only were these soils richer in nitrogen, phosphorous, zinc, magnesium and other nutrients as compared to typical tropical soils, they had up to 70 times the amount of carbon in the form of bio-char.

A lot of the research on biochar is on how to produce fuel from organic material with the residual biochar. Another area of research is using biochar to sequester carbon to reduce global warming.

This book covers all the research using biochar for soils, microbes, and plant growth to date. Each of the 22 chapters summarizes the findings of dozens of research papers into a concise format. This book was released a few weeks ago and is very up to date.

While this book is not intended for the average gardener, it is great way to get familiar with the science of using biochar to promote plant growth and improve the fertility of soils for those that want to learn more. As our understanding of biochar continues we will start to see more products introduced that are or contain biochar.

* * *

WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

TO SUBMIT AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR, PLEASE NOTE.

Events **NOT** submitted in the **EXACT** written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.

Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

If we inspire you to attend any of these events, please let them know you heard about it in
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

SAT, AUG. 20: CONTAINER GARDENING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 10am-Noon. Maude Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT. AUGUST 20: "Biblical Gardening", by John Ferguson, Golden Rule Home and Garden, The Egg and I meeting room, 10,603 W. Sam Houston Parkway North, 8-9:30 AM, Please RSVP to ronlohr@aol.com as seating is limited. There is special interest in this topic, [be sure to RSVP! www.goldenrulehomeandgarden.com](http://www.goldenrulehomeandgarden.com)

SAT., AUG. 20: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES by URBAN HARVEST, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

TUES., AUG. 23: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: CONTAINER GARDENING 10-11 am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road. Free. harrishort@gmail.com

SAT., AUG 27: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org; 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., AUG. 27: ARRANGING GARDEN FLOWERS, by JACKIE AUER, 9-11am, & GROWING STRAWBERRIES by ROBERT MARSHALL, 1-2pm, AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free; register: galv3@wt.net. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/

WED., AUG 31: CHILDREN'S PHOTO & PRESCHOOL PICTURE CONTESTS ENTRY DEADLINE. Matzke Butterfly Garden competition. Contest rules: matzkebutterflygarden.blogspot.com

THUR. SEPT. 01: "The Soil Food Web" by John Ferguson, 2 PM, Bentwater Garden Club, Montgomery County Library at I-45 and FM 2854, Sherrie Wagoner, 936-697-2188

THURS., SEPT. 1: AROMATHERAPY & FRAGRANCE IN THE GARDEN by LUCIA BETTLER, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Drive, Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club event. nottinghamgardenclub.org

SAT., SEP 3 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am & 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

MON., SEPT/ 5: ANYONE CAN GROW ROSES, by JOHN JONS, 2- 3pm, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Rienzi, 1406 Kirby Drive. \$10. 713-639-7800, mfah.org/visit/rienzi/

THURS., SEPT. 8: GROWING PALMS by O. J. MILLER, 10am, Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. Harris County Pct. 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 8: ROSES OF THE DUTCH MASTERS by DR. JIM JOHNSON, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

FRI., SEPT. 10: THE EVIL HOUSE OF ROSES: WHY JOSEPHINE BONAPARTE IS ALIVE IN YOUR GARDEN by DR. MARTIN STONE, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., SEP. 10: KITCHEN GARDENING, by MARY DEMENY, 9-11:30am, & COMPOSTING by JIM GILLIAM, 1-2pm, AgriLife Extensio Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/

SAT., SEPT. 10: 2016 (18th ANNUAL) WILDSAPES WORKSHOP, 8am-3:30pm, Houston Community College-West Loop Center, 5601 W. Loop S. \$40 / \$50 after Aug. 27. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston event. npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop/

SAT. SEPT. 10: KEYHOLE GARDENS MADE EASY by ANGELA CHANDLER, Garden Academy. 10-12pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, TX. 281-351-8851. Free; register@arborgate.com

TUESDAYS, SEPT. 13-NOV. 15: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER TIER II - OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPE PLANTS, 9am-3pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble. \$225. Register: hcp4.net/Community/Parks/Mercer; jgarrison@hcp4.net

WED. SEPT. 14: "Backyard and Small Scale Composting" by John Ferguson, Water Smart Landscaping Workshop, 9-12 AM, Sheldon Lake State Park, Register online today at watersmart.tamu.edu

WED., SEPT. 14: BUILD A HABITAT & THEY WILL COME!, noon-2 pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

WED. SEPT. 14: EASY EDIBLES by JUDY BARRETT, noon-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

THURS. SEPT. 15: BEYOND BUTTERFLIES: PLANTING A POLLINATOR GARDEN by NANCY GREIG, Cockrell Butterfly Center, 10-12pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

THURSDAYS, SEPT. 15-NOV. 17: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER TIER I - INTRO TO GARDENING, 9 am-3 pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble. \$225. Register: hcp4.net/Community/Parks/Mercer; jgarrison@hcp4.net

FRI., SEPT. 16: FRI., SEPT. 16: GREATER HOUSTON PLANT CONFERENCE 2016, 8am-4pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. \$60. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Details/registration

SAT., SEPT. 17: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/

SAT., SEPT. 17: GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES by SKIP RICHTER, 10-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2910, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SUN. SEPT. 18: BEE FORUM by ANGELA CHANDLER, MATT AND KELLY BRANTLEY, 11-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

MON., SEPT. 19: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener Pct. 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., SEP 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org; 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., SEPT. 24: T-BUD GRAFTING HANDS-ON WORKSHOP by SUE JEFFCO, 9-11:30am, & UNUSUAL EDIBLE PLANTS by ED NASPINSKI, 1-2pm, AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com; <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>

SAT., SEPT. 24: LEAGUE CITY GARDEN WALK - "THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE", 10am-4pm. \$15. leaguecitygardenclub.org.

SAT., SEPT. 24: AUTUMN PLANT SALE & MARKET, 9 am - 3 pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble. Free event. 713-274-4160

SAT. SEPT. 24: FALL GARDENING: THE BEST VEGGIE GARDEN OF ALL by BILL ADAMS & TOM LEROY, 10-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

WED. SEPT 28: WINTER BREWS FROM THE GARDEN by CYNTHIA GRAHAM, RN, BSN, 12-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT., OCT 1 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am and 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT. 1: FALL FEST - BNP 30th ANNIVERSARY, 11am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

TUE., OCT 4: EASY BUTTERFLY GARDENING by PHYLLIS KOENIG, 6:30-8 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but pre-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

THURS.OCT.6: GET YOUR GREENS ON - ASIAN STYLE!! by Jeremy Kollaus and Chef Chris Crowder, 10-12pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920 Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

THURS., OCT. 6: FENG SHUI IN THE GARDEN: QUICK & EASY SUCCESS by KATHERINE ASHBEE, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club Program. nottinghamgardenclub.org

SAT., OCT. 8: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., OCT 8: BULBMANIA!, by DODIE JACKSON, 9-10 am, & GARDENING FOR JEWELS...HUMMINGBIRDS by DEBORAH REPASZ, 1-2:30 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free,

but pre-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. OCT.8: BULBS AND BUDDIES by Chris Wiesinger Southern Bulb Company and Heidi Sheesley of Treeseach Farms, 10-12pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SUN. OCT.9: INDOOR COMPOSTING-OUTDOOR SUCCESS by ANGELA CHANDLER of The Garden Academy, 11-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920. arborgate.com

TUES., OCT. 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

TUE., OCT 11: MY FAVORITE PERENNIALS by JAN BRICK, 6:30-8 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

WED. OCT. 12: DIGGING OUT OF DEPRESSION by CYNTHIA GRAHAM, RN, BSN, 12-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

THURS., OCT. 13: 2016 BULB & PLANT MART'S EARLY BIRD SHOPPING PARTY 4:30-7pm, St. John the Divine Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. \$20. Garden Club of Houston. gchouston.org

FRI.-SAT., OCT. 14-15: 2016 BULB & PLANT MART, 9am-5pm Fri., 9am-2pm Sat., St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Free admission/ tax free shopping. Garden Club of Houston event. gchouston.org

THURS. OCT.13: ATTRACTING BLUEBIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN by LINDA CRUM, 10-noon, Arbor Gate 15635 FM 2910, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

FRI., OCT. 14: EMPOWERING MONARCH HEROES COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY by MARYA FOWLER, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., OCT. 15: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FALL SALE. 8am-SALE PREVIEW by JOHN JONS; 9am-1pm-PLANT SALE, Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 at Jack Brooks Road, Hitchcock.

SAT., OCT.15: EDIBLE FLOWERS by HENRY FLOWERS of Festival Hill Gardens, 10am-12pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SUN., OCT.16: FLOWERING HERBS AND FESTIVE TREATS by ANN WHEELER and CHRIS CROWDER 11am-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

THURS., OCT. 20: HAPPY HERBAL NEW YEAR by Ann Wheeler of Log House Herbs, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

FRI.-SUN., OCT. 21-23: AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT 2016 FALL ROSE SHOW & CONVENTION, Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway. houstonrose.org.

SAT., OCT. 22: GUNTERS HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES by PAM AND LEAH GUNTER 9am-1pm, & THE FALL AND WINTER FRUIT GARDENER by ANGELA, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

WED OCT 26: FALL AND WINTER HABITAT GARDENING by DIANA FOSS, Houston Urban Biologist, noon-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT., OCT. 29: GULF COAST MEAD FESTIVAL, LUCY-STYLE GRAPE STOMP COMPETITION & GRAPE GROWING DISCUSSIONS, 10am-5pm, Frascone Winery, 308 Bayside Dr., Anahuac. Free. Frascone Winery, Mystic Oak Meadery, Bentley Bees & Crane Meadows event. [Facebook: Gulf Coast Mead Festival](#).

SAT., OCT. 29: GARDEN TO VASE by PAT HERMES, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

SAT., NOV 5 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am & 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org. 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

FRI., NOV. 11: FLOWER SHOW - JUDGING DEMYSTIFIED by SUZANNE MILSTEAD & NELL SHIMEK, 10am, & TRAFFIC FLOW, 1pm, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., NOV 12: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., NOV 26: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., DEC 3 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am and 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT. DEC. 3: THE ARBOR GATE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, 2-6pm, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free; register: arborgate.com

FRI., DEC. 9: HOLLY-JUJAH by JIM JOHNSON, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. \$10 advance sale only. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., DEC 17: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; info@peckerwoodgarden.org

FRI., JAN. 13: PENNY WISE / POUND FOOLISH: WHEN & WHY TO HIRE A LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL by RITA HODGE, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., FEB. 10: FLORAL DESIGN INSPIRED BY ART by HOUSTON DESIGNING WOMEN, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. 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 AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR, PLEASE NOTE.
Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take two weeks or longer
to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.
Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS





<http://natureswayresources.com/>

ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE WEEK

DIESEL

Diesel was abandoned by his owners when they moved, and he ended up at Montgomery County Animal Shelter.

Diesel is a American Blue Pittbull Mix and is thought to be about 10 years old.

He knows basic commands- is housebroken and crate trained- loves everyone he meets... Loves bones, treats and squeaky toys- even likes a nice jog. He has a good amount of life to live and would love to have somewhere to spend it. If he has siblings- they have to be female.

Diesel loves to play and socialize and is so much fun to have around.

He is fixed and has all of his shots.

If interested in adopting Diesel, please reply to this newsletter and type "Diesel" in the subject line. Diesel is not at the shelter currently. He is in foster care.



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. 50% off pomegranates, apples, asian pears and selected antique roses. (Offer good for retail purchases of this product (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 08/29/16.