



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



October 14, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 177th 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.

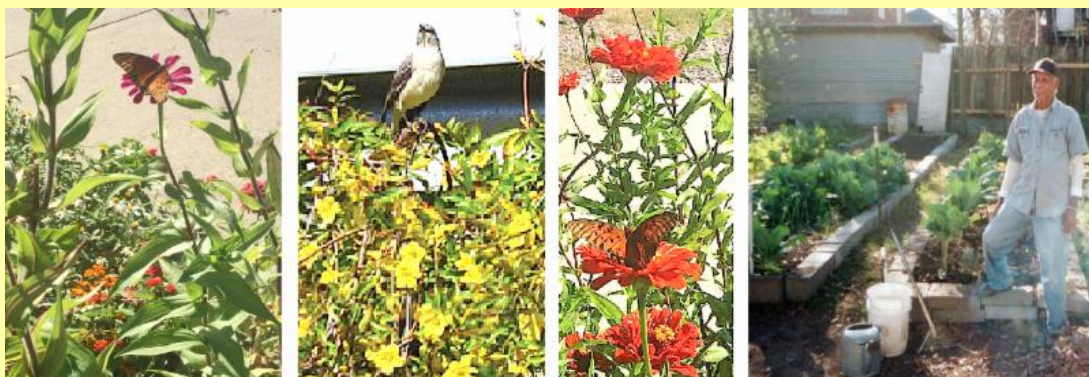
Thanks so much!

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 [forward to a friend](#) 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!

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**POCKET GARDENS . . . PLANT SALES . . . EARTH-KIND®
. . . START A GARDEN . . . 'LAZY' NATIVE GARDNER!**

***I have visited maternity wards on three continents,
and have never yet seen a baby with a green thumb!***

-- Dr. Bob Randall, co-founder and retired Director of Urban Harvest

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Have you ever said, "*I just don't have a green thumb*"? So many of us don't even know how to garden the way our grandparents did. Why? Dr. Randall expounds on this common educational deficit in one of our Spotlight articles below. But first . . .

'TIS THE SEASON OF SALES! If you don't believe this is our best time of year to be outside planting, check out all the nonprofit group sales in our calendar below:

- **Oct. 15: Galveston Master Gardeners' sale. And Montgomery Master Gardener's Sale**
- **Oct. 17: Harris County Master Gardener Pct. 2 sale**
- **Oct. 22: San Jacinto County Master Gardeners' Sale**
- **Oct. 21-23: American Rose Society district rose sale (at convention *)**
- **Nov. 1: Start of Waller County's annual Fruit & Nut Tree Sale (preorders only).**
- **Nov. 5: 44th Annual Herb Fair, South Texas Unit, The Herb Society of America**
- **Nov. 12: Bonsai for sale at the big Houston Bonsai Society event at Mercer Botanic Garden.**

Details on these are listed in the calendar, below. Many of these events include seminars, etc.

* *The Houston Rose Society needs volunteers to help with expected crowds for this major event. You don't need to be a HRS member to participate. Details: Dan Lawlor: dplawlor@pdq.net or 281-343-9422. Seminar/rose show open to public on Saturday only.*

* * *

AGRILIFE GETS PERSONAL - "Earth-Kind[®]" is now an oft-heard term, usually in connection with Texas A&M AgriLife-promoted super hardy roses. In reality, this is a much larger Texas AgriLife program that centers on a total landscape approach. The Earth-Kind[®] logo is a A&M registered trademark. The Earth-Kind[®] Landscaping approach:

- uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment.
- combines the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a horticultural system based on real world effectiveness and environmental responsibility.
- Encourages landscape water/energy conservation, reduced use of pesticides/fertilizers and reduction of landscape wastes in landfills.

Montgomery County AgriLife Extension Service's Nov. 8-12 Earth-Kind[®] Landscape Design Short Course is getting really personal, with a 45-minute individualized landscape design consultation by AgriLife Horticulture Agents and Specialists. Details: 713-274-0956, kimberly.figgs@ag.tamu.edu

In the meantime, in our Spotlights this week, two incredible Greater Houston area organizations are sharing extremely valuable tips on two huge trends these days

- **NEIGHBORHOOD/SCHOOL GARDENS.** Dr. Bob Randall, co-founder and retired Urban Harvest Director, focuses on the phenomenal number of community gardens now found in neighborhoods all over this area. His Spotlight article is a preview of the "Starting a Community or School Garden" Workshop, Sat., Oct. 22, on the University of St. Thomas campus, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. Details: urbanharvest.org or 713-880-5540
- **NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING.** Russ Kane and Margaret Gnewuch of the Native Plant Society of Texas

- Houston Chapter are also giving a preview of an upcoming class that will, I predict, are the start of a string of such. The Sat., Nov. 1, Native Landscaping Certification Program - Level 1 will be held at Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd. Details: 713-657-0372; npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification

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Monarch Garden Perfect Stop Before or After Jane Long Festival!

Excerpted from [Crystal Beach Local News article](#) by Yours Truly

Whether you're coming via ferry or the Jane Long Highway (87) to the big Jane Long Festival Sat., Oct. 15, be sure to make a stop at the Bolivar Monarch Garden created by [Keep Bolivar Beautiful & Beach Bloomers Garden Club](#) at the [Joe Faggard Community Building pavilion](#), 1750 Jane Long Highway (87) in Crystal Beach. I don't think I've ever seen so many butterflies together working in such compact pocket gardens as volunteers have created here.

Pocket Gardens are what we recommended and saw planted on the University of Houston's main campus when I was a member of the Josanna Smith-founded Entrances & Perimeter Committee. UH arranged for us to visit the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where pocket gardens had been used so effectively in their - like U of H - urban setting. Pocket gardens are a great way to sneak more natives into a more traditional home landscape. Maximize color with multiple plantings in clusters surrounded by grass or concrete, rather than strung out in long planted beds. Using more natives, as done here, reduces the need for so much water, fertilizer and maintenance - as our second spotlight below illustrates.

Volunteer Ange Scheibel reports numerous generations of Monarch caterpillars over the summer on their collection of native and tropical butterflyweeds, mixing Bolivar natives like lantana, black-eyed Susans and salvias, porterweed, gaillardia (Indian blanket), black-eyed Susans, hamelia (hummingbird plant) and cupheas. This year, zinnias proved to be real showpieces of the garden. Next year, it might be something else. That's why planting a variety is such a smart way to go.



L to r, small, low-growing Mexican zinnias, lantana, cuphea, gaillardia and coreopsis

Bolivar is an International Flyway and, as such, has long been a favorite destination for serious birdwatchers and butterfly enthusiasts who arrive in spring and fall to observe and count the myriads of migrating species passing over. Right now, monarchs are among the many butterflies passing through.

These delightful plantings can be icing on the cake for Saturday visitors to the 2016 Jane Long Festival at historic Fort Travis Seashore Park (near Bolivar Ferry Landing, across Jane Long Highway/87 from the Lighthouse). Fort Travis is, without a doubt, one of Texas' most picturesque festival sites, with its incredible sweeping views of the lighthouse, Gulf of Mexico, Galveston Bay, Galveston Island, huge freighters and cruise ships passing by along with fishing & sailing boats, shrimpers, myriads of shore birds and, if you're real lucky, dolphins rising and diving amid the waves. October's a beautiful month at the beach!

* * *

And now, our Spotlights!

**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. To sign up: [CLICK HERE](#)*

LG&F GARDEN CALENDAR EVENTS submitted in our EXACT format will be copied & added to calendar right away. Any necessary re-typing/reformatting may take couple of weeks. See calendar for format. Always check the LG&F Newsletter Calendar to make sure your submitted event is listed! If not, let me know!*

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COMMUNITY GARDENS FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Bob Randall, Ph.D.

Readers here know the pleasures of gardening and its many benefits. So you may have been surprised that so many people with land don't use it well. Why is that? Well of course people are busy. But all of us know that isn't the real reason. In my 21 years co-leading our area's community gardening effort, I met many people who said:

"I just don't have a green thumb."

To that I sometimes said,

*"Well, I have visited maternity wards on three continents,
and have never yet seen a baby with a green thumb!"*

Many people unfortunately are **horticulturally illiterate** for the same reason that many people are book illiterates: they didn't have good teachers and good schools, so never got excited about learning how.

Why they didn't get taught to garden? The reason I think is ancestors of many urban people fled low-income hard-work farms. They wanted something "better" for their kids. So we have an illiteracy problem.

Whatever the reason, community and school gardens are one important way to counter this dynamic.

Basically, a community garden is a garden run for the good of a group. They have many purposes, but in all, people who are curious can be mentored and inspired until they possess good skills. A community garden group can be big or small. It need not be a formal or even non-profit. It is simply a group of people who decide to share what they know and the space where they grow according to some rules they agree on.

There are community gardens in parks, at schools (pre-k to university), at businesses, places of worship, at community action agencies, at agencies helping victims of abuse or without resources, at rehab, enabling, and treatment facilities, and at businesses and in vacant lots.

People can be taught to learn math or market farming in whatever language they prefer to speak.

If you want to do well with a plant, you need to know what it needs. The same is true with community gardens. Urban Harvest has experience with hundreds of them both successful and unsuccessful. Why not midwife one in your neighborhood by taking an Urban Harvest class (urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar) where you explore possibilities to make your neighborhood grow?

* * *

If Bob has whetted your appetite for more information, click the above link to sign up for the:

SAT., OCT. 22: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm, University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 113, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. \$20. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org.

* * *



L to r: Carolina jessamine, Indian blanket (top), yaupon and tropical sage

SECRETS OF A 'LAZY' NATIVE PLANT GARDENER

by Russ Kane and Margaret Gnewuch
Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter

Many people think native plant lovers have an all-natives-or-nothing approach to gardening. We'll tell you a little secret... It's simply not true.

Many native plant gardeners have evolved their craft over many years while some are just starting out. We all

have legacy plants like roses, tropical fruit trees or crape myrtles, for whatever reason, we still enjoy in our gardens.

Like most native plant enthusiasts, consider some of these "Lazy Gardener" ways to add natives to your existing plants:

- If a plant dies or is diseased, replace with a native!
- Protect your vegetable garden from pests by adding native flowers that attract pollinators.
- If you have a large shade tree and grass won't grow underneath, add native shrubs or groundcovers that bloom in partial shade.
- Start small - add a small pollinator garden from a seed mix or with a grouping of native plants.
- Planting natives in clumps of the same flower together between non-natives is eye pleasing and increases their attraction to pollinators.

Another myth is that native plants offer eye-appeal for humans, and nectar and seeds for wildlife, only in the Spring and Fall seasons.

An all-too-well-kept secret is: With a relatively small sampling of native plants, a Houston-area gardener can get 365-day, four-season native coverage. One example of the many local native plants that work as a group, "play well" among non-native plants and provide something for all seasons are:

Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) - A fence climbing vine or groundcover with yellow, spicy-fragranced flowers that bloom from January through March offering early Spring nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies.

Tropical Sage (*Salvia coccinea*) - Pale green leaves shoot spikes of red tubular blooms extending 1 to 3 feet tall and offer nectar from February through October.

Indian Blanket/Firewheel (*Gaillardia pulchella*) - 1 to 2 foot tall, eye-catching ray flowers with yellow and red highlights bloom from April to frost attracting a host of bees and butterflies.

Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) - Small tree or shrub, provides rich red berries that are a November to March staple for many of our over-wintering

* * *

Want to know more? Sign up for the SAT., NOV. 1: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 1 CLASS, 8am-5pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd., Pasadena. \$37. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter. 713-657-0372. npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification

JOHN'S CORNER



MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

Over the years, the minerals have fascinated me. How they affect everything from soil and microbes to plants, animal and human health. Every gardener knows that if the soil is missing something, plants do not grow as well and have more insect and disease problems. Similarly, this applies to animal and human health.

My first exposure to the importance of trace minerals occurred about 20 years ago. I was planting some early spring vegetables in the garden behind my house. This extremely rich organic soil had been amended with compost and organic fertilizers for years. There was a new trace mineral package that had just been introduced to the market and I decided to test it. I planted many of the cool season vegetables from transplants (cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, etc.) and for every other plant; I placed a tablespoon of the mineral package in the bottom of the hole. Nothing showed a response except the Brussels sprouts, but did they respond as shown in the picture below! Obviously, there was some trace mineral in the package that the plant needed that was limiting growth.

BOOK REVIEW

"The New American Landscape - Leading Voices on the Future of Sustainable Gardening", edited by Thomas Christopher, Timber Press, 2011, ISBN: 978-1-60469-186-3

This book is broken into 11 chapters each written by 14 different authors on the elements of what makes a sustainable landscape. This book is designed to be a roadmap on gardening techniques to create a garden in harmony with nature and that improves our environment.

These experts have shared hundreds of ideas on how we can make our landscapes more sustainable. Topics include:

John Greenlee and Neil Diboll on meadows and "no-mow" lawns

Rick Darke on using native plants in our gardens

Doug Tallamy on gardening for wildlife

Eric Toensmeier on edible gardens

David Wolfe on gardening for climate change

Elaine Ingham on the importance of the soil food web

David Deardorff and Kathy Wadsworth on pest and disease solutions

Ed Snodgrass and Linda McIntyre on green roofs

Tom Christopher on water conservation

Toby Hemenway of whole system garden design

And the SITES™ (Sustainable Sites Initiative) for sustainable certification

There are a couple photographs of designs by one of our local experts on sustainable landscaping, Kevin Topek of Permaculture Design, LLC, Houston.

Overall, the book is well written and contains a lot of useful information with many great pictures to illustrate the different aspects of sustainable gardening.

It is a good starting point for anyone wanting to build or convert his or her lawn and gardens to a landscape that is sustainable and more in tune with nature.

The only weakness is that a couple authors recommend using dangerous toxic chemicals like glyphosate, where environmentally friendly alternatives are available.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH 6 PM - 9 PM

Oktoberfest

*Unlimited Beer, Brats & Light Bites,
Great Live Music & Awesome Folks*

All proceeds go to support the OHBA Scholarship Fund



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5110 Bingle, Houston, TX 77092

Tickets just \$20.00 for members or \$30.00 for non-members
get tickets at ohbaonline.org



Sponsoring Organizations:

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WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT TO THIS CALENDAR.

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. Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN

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, 10am-noon, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free. Register: arborgate.com

SAT, OCT 15; FRUIT TREES PLANTING & CARE 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., OCT. 15: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, Galveston County Fairgrounds, 10 Jack Brooks Road at Highway 6, Hitchcock

SAT. OCT 15: MONTGOMERY COUNTY OPEN OPEN GARDENS DAY/VEGETABLE & HERB SALE, Sale 9-noon, Open Gardens 9-11 am. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824; mcmga.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

SUN., OCT. 16: CHEILANTHOID FERNS by GEORGE YATSKIEVYCH, P.D., 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfernsoc.org

MON., OCT. 17: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

MON., OCT. 17: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. hcmga.tamu.edu.

TUES., OCT 18: FRUIT TREES PLANTING AND CARE by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., OCT 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: FRUIT TREES-PLANTING & CARE; 10-11 am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd. Free. ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

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

THURS., OCT 20: FRUIT TREES PLANTING & CARE by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

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. STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm. \$20. University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 113, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 22: 2016 FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. \$10. Register: myenchanted.com

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

SAT., OCT. 22: SAN JACINTO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL SYMPOSIUM & PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm, Community Center, 101 East Cedar Ave., Coldspring. \$25. 713-252-5254

SAT., OCT. 22: 2016 FALL "ACROSS THE BEND" GARDEN TOUR, 9am-3pm, \$15. Sugar Land Garden Club event. Homes/tickets: sugarlandgardenclub.org

SAT., OCT. 22: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm, University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 113, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. \$20. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., OCT. 22: 2016 ACROSS THE BEND FALL GARDEN TOUR, 9am-3pm, \$15. Sugar Land Garden Club event. Homes/tickets: sugarlandgardenclub.org

SUN., OCT. 23: DAYLILIES, 2-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Society event. Register: 713-274-4160

TUES., OCT. 25: GARDEN TO VASE by Linda Gay & Pat Hermes, 9am-noon, Houston School of Flowers, 4340-D Directors Row. \$75. 713-681-2400, agardenforcutting.com

WED., OCT 26: FALL & WINTER HABITAT GARDENING by DIANA FOSS, noon-1pm, Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. 281-351-8851. Free. Register: arborgate.com

WED., OCT. 26: "FEDERALLY-ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES OF TEXAS" by ANNA STRONG, 7:30 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray, Free. Website: hcsstx.org

THURS., OCT. 27: GARDEN TO VASE by Linda Gay & Pat Hermes, 9am-noon, Houston School of Flowers, 4340-D Directors Row. \$75. 713-681-2400, agardenforcutting.com

THURS.-SUN., OCT. 27-30: STAR MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING by City of Houston Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. Sites vary. \$40 for series. 832-394-9050; greenhoustontx.gov/gbrceducation-2016oct.pdf

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](https://www.facebook.com/GulfCoastMeadFestival/).

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., OCT. 29: FRIGHTFUL FUN IN THE GARDEN by ASHLEY GRUBB, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., NOV. 1: NATIVE LANDSCAPING CERTIFICATION LEVEL 1 CLASS, 8am-5pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd., Pasadena. \$37. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter. 713-657-0372. npsot.org/wp/houston/native-landscaping-certification

TUE., NOV 1: DAY LILIES, by MICHAEL MAYFIELD, 6:30-7:30 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

TUE., NOV 1 - NOV 30: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FRUIT & NUT TREE SALE PRE-ORDER, 9am-noon, Waller County Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead, TX 77445 Pickup date is Sat, Jan 28, 2017. 979-826-7651. txmg.org/wallermg;wallermgardener2013@gmail.com

SAT., NOV. 5: GARDEN TO VASE by LINDA GAY & PAT HERMES, 9am-noon, Houston School of Flowers, 4340-D Directors Row, \$75. ,713-681-2400; agardenforcutting.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

SAT., NOV. 5: GREETING, GIFTING GUESTS WITH BEAUTIFUL PLANTED CONTAINERS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

SAT., NOV. 5: GROWING FRUIT TREES IN A SMALL SPACE, 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880 5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., NOV. 5: GROWING NATURALLY: LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS by GREG GRANT, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. \$25/website; \$30/door. Montgomery County Master Gardeners event. mcmga.com; 936-539-7824

SAT., NOV. 5: SOUTH TEXAS UNIT of THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA 44th ANNUAL HERB FAIR. 9am-2pm, Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. herbsociety-stu.org/

MON., NOV. 7: NEW GARDEN DOCENT ORIENTATION, 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

THURS., NOV. 10: SOILS, FERTILIZERS, ETC.-ORGANIC SOLUTIONS by Louis Bennett, 10am, Municipal Utility Bldg. #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event; nottinghamgardenclub.org

THURS., NOV. 10: SOILS, FERTILIZERS, ETC.-ORGANIC SOLUTIONS by Louis Bennett, 10am, Municipal Utility Bldg. #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. nottinghamgardenclub.org

THURS., NOV. 10: THE ARS AND YOU by LAURA SEABAUGH 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

SAT., SEPT. 10: RAISING & CARING FOR BEES, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9010 Airport Rd., Conroe. \$5. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824, mcmga.com

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

TUES.-SUN., NOV. 8-12: MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2016 EARTH-KIND LANDSCAPE DESIGN SHORT COURSE, 6-9pm (1st. 4 classes), Weekly Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress. \$195/household. Limited space: 713-274-0956, kimberly.figgs@ag.tamu.edu

WED., NOV. 9: THE MADALENE HILL PHARMACY GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., NOV. 12: HERBS THAT LIKE TO CHILL by HENRY FLOWERS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750 & 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. myenchanted.com

MON., NOV. 14: DOCENT TRAINING-REFRESH YOUR SKILLS, 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., NOV. 19: ANNUAL ENCHANTED OPEN HOUSE & EVENING, 2-8pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

MON., NOV. 21: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30 am- 11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

TUES., NOV 22: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: HOLIDAY PREPARATION; 10-11 am, Weekly Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd. ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

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SAT., NOV. 26: ANNUAL ENCHANTED OPEN HOUSE & EVENING, 2-8pm, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM 2759, Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

TUE., NOV 29: TOOL CARE by TIM JAHNKE and HENRY HARRISON, III, 6:30-8:30 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but pre-register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413,

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

SAT., DEC. 3: CITRUS FEST & Q&A by DR. BOB RANDALL, 8:30am-noon, Urban Harvest Farmer's Market, 3000 Richmond Ave @ Eastside. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540, urbanharvest.org.

SAT., DEC. 3: GROWING CITRUS IN HOUSTON & S.E. TEXAS, 9:30-11:30am, University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 017, 2812 Yoakum Blvd, \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org

SAT., DEC 3: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 10am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., DEC. 3: FRUIT TREES by SCOTT SNODGRASS, 10am, Enchanted Forest, 10611 FM1750; 2pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM359, both Richmond. Free. myenchanted.com

FRI., DEC. 9: HOLLY-JUJAH by JIM JOHNSON, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. \$25 advance sale only. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., DEC. 10: WINTER AT MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN, 9am-noon, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., DEC. 14: CHRISTMAS CRAFTS USING NATURAL MATERIALS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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

SAT., DEC. 17: CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 8am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: albbarr@comcast.net.

MON., DEC. 19: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30 am- 11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., JAN. 11: EXPLORING THE PRIMEVAL FLORA OF NEW CALEDONIA, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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

MON., JAN. 16: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30-11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

MON., JAN 23-FEB. 27: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER TIER III: THE ART OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN, 9am-3pm with an hour lunch break, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$250. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., FEB. 8: MICROGREENS, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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

MON., FEB. 20: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30-11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.

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. Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

**IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE
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ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE MONTH

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.

