



July 29th, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 167th 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.

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!](#)



# GREAT GARDENING HELP . . . PLUS A FEW YEHS & MOANS

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

A new-to-the-area homeowner grumbled to me recently about how little help there is here for newcomers coping with our "HORRIBLE gardening challenges."

I beg your pardon?

I shall remain equanimous. This area is jam-packed with resources for great LOCAL gardening advice. The problem is not a lack of help. The problem is with newcomers who feel that plants they grew successfully in Connecticut, Seattle or (as in the case of this person) Kentucky SHOULD work here.

Sometimes they do. More often, they don't. At least, often not at the same time of year.

I said I'd gladly send her some useful resources. As I was compiling the list, I realized I'd just written a great column. So . . . some valuable resources - NOT in order of importance! Use them all:

**1. Your Local Independent Nurserymen.** Neighbors (or your county Master Gardener office, see below) can recommend these. Local independent nurserymen not only cater to your specific growing environment, they need you to be happy if they want to stay in business. Don't know what to plant in particularly difficult settings? Take a drawing/picture to your nursery owner and ask for recommendations!



*Almost every Master Gardener group in area counties has a Demonstration Garden, including, I to r, Brazoria County (with an especially notable "Enabling Garden"), Montgomery County and Galveston County.*

**2. Your County AgriLife Extension Center and Master Gardener Associations' Demonstration Gardens.** Many of these are truly spectacular -- and geared specifically for YOUR area of town. Here you can not only find Master Gardeners actually working in the gardens, ready to answer questions, but volumes of free materials. Here are listings by county:

- <http://counties.agrilife.org/>
- <http://mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs/>

Speaking of the AgriLife Extension, these Texas A&M folks will bring top horticulturists to Houston Fri., Sept. 16, for the Greater Houston Plant Conference. [Details/registration](#). More info in calendar below.

**3. Local Botanic Gardens, Nature Centers** and other public sites that feature beautiful planting, usually with plant labels. Nature centers are particularly helpful if you want to learn more about landscape friendly native plants.

- [Armand Bayou Nature Center \(Clear Lake area\)](#)
- [Bayou Bend Gardens \(Memorial area\)](#)
- [Baytown Nature Center \(Baytown\)](#) Brazos Bend State Park and Nature Center (Needville)
- [Cockrell Butterfly Center](#), [Houston Japanese Garden](#), [Houston Zoo Gardens](#) and [McGovern Centennial Gardens](#) (all in Hermann Park)

- [Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary \(west Houston\)](#)
- [Houston Arboretum & Nature Center \(Memorial Park\)](#)
- [Jesse H. Jones Nature Center \(north Harris County\)](#)
- [Mercer Botanic Garden \(north Harris County\)](#)
- [Moody Gardens Rainforest Pyramid \(Galveston\)](#)
- [Nature Discovery Center \(Bellaire\)](#)
- [Peckerwood Garden \(Hempstead\)](#)
- [Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center \(Orange\)](#)
- [Sims Bayou Nature Center \(Gulf Freeway area\)](#)



*Highly sophisticated public gardens abound in this area, including, l to r, the [Japanese Garden](#) in Hermann Park, [Bayou Bend](#) and [Peckerwood Garden](#)*

#### **4. Local Gardening Online Resources**

are far too numerous to mention. A couple of groups I feel offer tremendous advice are:

- [WaterSmart](#) websites such as the [WaterSmart Landscapes section of the Dickinson Watershed Partnership](#):
- [City of Houston Community Garden Program](#) - <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Community/garden.html>
- [Houston Urban Gardens \(HUG\)](#)
- [Houston Chronicle Saturday Gardening Sections](#)
- [Urban Harvest](#)

5. Local specialty plant societies. We have roughly two dozen such specialty societies and clubs, including African violet amaryllis, begonias, bonsai, bromeliads, cacti, camellias, chrysanthemums, daylilies, ferns, herbs, hibiscus, native plants, orchids and roses. The Plumeria Society of America is based here; the International Oleander Society in Galveston. Just google "Houston Society (name of plant)."

If that doesn't work, let me know. [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net) I'll email you a contact. Most plant societies have incredible newsletters and sales that make the minimal membership fees more than worth the price.

Of course, we think our *Lazy Gardener and Friends Houston Garden Newsletter* is a must-have. I'm particularly proud of our Gardening Events Calendar below. In the 40+ years I handled the Houston Chronicle garden calendar and numerous other garden calendars since, I've never seen one as extensive as ours below. Boggles my mind.

#### **6. We have two great call-in radio gardening shows:**

- [Your Livable Garden](#) with Michael Shawn Kelly and Blinda Ann Kelly
- [GardenLine](#) with Randy Lemmon

IN OUR SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE below, Randy shares the 10 biggest gardening changes he's seen in 20 years of broadcasting and -- this I love!!! -- his 6 biggest frustrations with area gardeners who should know better after all these years! Randy certainly be holding forth on these during his upcoming appearance at the Aug. 13-14 [Fall Home & Gardening Show](#) in the Woodlands (Details: [WoodlandsShows.com](http://WoodlandsShows.com)).

Also too numerous to mention are all the great books. Check at local independent nurseries and ask the managers for recommendations. If I could only mention two very special ones (great gifts for newcomers!):

- ["Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro-Houston: A Natural Organic Approach Using](#)



Ecology" by Dr. Bob Randall, one of the prime founders of Urban Harvest.

- "A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast" by the River Oaks Garden Club (5th Edition)

I realize all this is just the tip of the garden-berg. Don't just gripe that I left you out. If you want gardeners to know about your favorite local gardening info resource, I'll gladly share. Email me directly: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

Do you have neighbors, friends, relatives who have just moved here from another part of the country (or state)? Do them a huge favor and forward this newsletter to them! All also have facebook pages. Just google "facebook \_\_\_\_\_."

Now, here's Randy!

*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. Two favors? 1. If I don't respond to an email, assume I didn't receive it and send it again! 2. Always check the calendar for submitted event notices. If you don't see them, let me know immediately at [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)*

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*Randy's grateful for more use of mulch, center, and native plants, center. But bemoans all the "crepe murder" that still takes place!*

## Top Ten Biggest Positive Changes -- Horticulturally Speaking for Houston in the past 20 Years by RANDY LEMMON

"GardenLine"

- Compost/Compost/Compost - Better Compost for so many uses, period!!! Compost as Top Dressing; Compost as Mulch... you name it. For me, it's probably the most significant change for the better, in the past 20 years.
- One of the biggest but worst changes ever: Increased use of Dyed Mulches, not only is it unhealthy for the soil and plants, it just doesn't look natural at all.
- Organic Fertilizers have gotten better -- and more advanced in that they are less smelly and cost effective and actually usable in a broadcast spreader
- Internet & Social Media - Gets more people involved in answering questions and quicker at finding answers, plus you can order everything from seeds to tools on line.
- Introduction of Organic/Natural Insect Controls - Hello Neem Oil, Spinosad and Plant Oils.
- Loss of Insecticides - Bye Bye Dursban, Diazinon and the like.
- More and more uses of Texas Native Plants. 30 years ago, it was oh so niche... now it's the basis of many a nursery and garden center in the state these days.
- More and more fruit trees being grown, and maybe even more importantly "sold" year round.

- Deep Root Feeding/Watering of Trees - the more drought-like months we endure, the more obvious the need. It's one of the most referenced tip sheets of GardenLine.
- Less planting of worthless trash trees and short-lived trees (thankfully we don't see Arizona Ash anymore and less and less Silver Leaf Maple as examples.)

As the topic of the "10 Biggest Changes" came up on the radio show, my mind also started working on:

### **Things I'm shocked we haven't gotten better at in 20 years (specific to Greater Houston area)**

- Still too much Crape Myrtle Massacre  
(See Randy's "[\*The Annual Crape Myrtle Massacre\*](#)")
- Still too much usage of Atrazine-based Weed & Feeds
- Can't believe Zoysia has not become THE grass of choice
- Can't believe landscapers are still horrible on new home construction landscapes
- Hard to believe no one has invented a weed killer for all weeds and yet safe for all grasses and bedding plants all at the same time (weed killers, are pretty much what they were from 2 decades ago) and that's just sad!
- Don't understand why people (and especially mowing services) still mow St. Augustine so low

\* \* \*

*Have questions for Randy? Drop by the Fall Home & Garden Show in The Woodlands Sat.-Sun, Aug. 13-14.  
Details: [WoodlandsShows.com](http://WoodlandsShows.com)*

## **JOHN'S CORNER**

### **News from the wonderful world of soil and plants**



Ever since a couple life changing experiences a few decades ago, I have been fascinated by the link between our soil, the plants we eat and our health. In our society today, we have hundreds of health problems directly related to toxic chemicals in our food, everyday products, and in the environment in which we live.

Many of our readers are familiar with the work of Mike Adams an investigative journalist whom is known as the "Health Ranger" and his e-publication Natural News. There is a tremendous amount of information is on his website [www.naturalnews.com](http://www.naturalnews.com). He has a cutting edge internationally certified lab that tests our food and common products for contaminates, heavy metals, and other toxic compounds.

Years of research and study is now combined in his new book, just released a few days ago.

Food Forensics - The Hidden Toxins Lurking in Your Food and How You Can avoid Them for Lifelong Health, Mike Adams, BenBella Books, 2016, ISBN: 978-940363288

In this book, Adams summarizes all the meticulous testing he has done on common grocery store items, fast foods, dietary supplements, spices, protein powders and much more.

He has tested over 800 foods doing the work the EPA, USDA and FDA has refused to do, sharing the

information with the public so consumers can make informed decisions.

Adams reveals stunning, never before reported details of heavy metals found in recycled human waste used on crops and in parks, and he explains how industrial pollution causes mercury, lead and cadmium to end up in our food supply.

The book is broken into three parts. Part 1 is on everything you need to know about toxic elements. It included heavy metals, chemical contaminates, food ingredients as contaminants and animal feed contaminates. Part 2 is on how we can naturally detoxify our bodies to remove the chemicals that are making us sick. Part 3 is data. This book is extremely well researched. In addition to his own testing, he lists over 1,000 scientific papers published in peer-reviewed journals.

"This book will forever change your view of food safety, regulation, and manufacturing. When you know what's really in your food, you can start making changes to protect yourself against serious diseases like cancer, all the while maximizing your natural defenses against infection and disease."

This book is highly recommended and a must read, for anyone concerned about their health and the health of their families and pets.

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## 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](mailto: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

MON., AUG. 1: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT., AUG. 6: PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S Tour, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$10. Register: [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

THURS, AUG. 11: CONTAINER GARDENING BY HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

THURS., AUG. 11: ROSES OF RUSSIA, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

THURS., AUG. 11: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING IN OUR AREA by CHRIS HAMMEN, 10am, Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5001 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

SAT., AUG. 13: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm, University of St. Thomas, Malloy Hall, Rm 017, 2812 Yoakum Blvd. Urban Harvest event. \$20. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT., AUG. 13: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. \$5. Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824, [www.mcmga.com](http://www.mcmga.com).

SAT.-SUN., AUG. 13-14: FALL HOME & GARDEN SHOW, Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, 1601 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands, [WoodlandsShows.com](http://WoodlandsShows.com)

MON., AUG. 15: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., AUG. 16: CONTAINER GARDENING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

TUE.S, AUG. 16: GARDENING BY THE SQUARE FOOT, by JON JOHNS, 6:30-8:30 pm. Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free, but register at [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net); <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>

THURS., AUG. 18: CONTAINER GARDENING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. 6:30-8:30 pm. Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf); 281-855-5600

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](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2016-green-thumb.pdf) 281-855-5600

MON. AUG. 22: ORGANIC METHODS IN GARDENING- THE SOIL FOOD WEB, by JOHN FERGUSON, South Montgomery County Friends of The Library (SMCFOL), 2pm, Mitchell Library, 8125 Ashland Way, The Woodlands. 281-681-0470

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](mailto:harrishort@gmail.com)

SAT., AUG 27: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 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., AUG. 27: ARRANGING GARDEN FLOWERS, by JACKIE AUER, 9-11am, & GROWING STRAWBERRIES by ROBERT MARSHALL, 1-2pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but register at [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net); <http://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](http://matzkebutterflygarden.blogspot.com)

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](http://nottinghamgardenclub.org)

SAT., SEP 3 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am and 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register: [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto: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/](http://mfah.org/visit/rienzi/)

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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT., SEP. 10: KITCHEN GARDENING, by MARY DEMENY, 9-11:30am. Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free Register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com); <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>

SAT., SEP. 10: COMPOSTING, by JIM GILLIAN, 1-2pm; Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free. Register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com); <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>

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](http://Details/registration)

SAT., SEP 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 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., SEPT. 24: T-BUD GRAFTING HANDS-ON WORKSHOP by SUE JEFFCO, 9-11:30am, Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free. Register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com); <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>

SAT., SEPT. 24: UNUSUAL EDIBLE PLANTS by ED NASPINSKI, 1-2pm; Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener event. Free, Register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com); <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>



[horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/](http://horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/)

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

[leaguecitygardenclub.org](http://leaguecitygardenclub.org)

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

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 1-2: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL ALL SALE, 10am-4pm Sat., 10am-3pm Sun., Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. 281-748-8417, [kjwross@yahoo.com](mailto:kjwross@yahoo.com)

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

TUES., OCT. 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org)

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](http://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](http://gchouston.org)

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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

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

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

SAT., OCT 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 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. 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., NOV 5 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am and 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register:[peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto: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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT., NOV 12: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 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 26: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 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., DEC 3 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am and 6pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Garden Conservancy event. \$15. Register:[peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232; [info@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:info@peckerwoodgarden.org)

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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

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

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

FRI., FEB.10: FLORAL DESIGN INSPIRED BY ART by Art by HOUSTON DESIGNING WOMEN, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [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 AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR, PLEASE NOTE.  
Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take two weeks or longer  
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Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

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# 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 08/15/16.