



September 2, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 171st 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!](#)



**KNOW YOUR SALVIAS! . . . WORTH READING . . . FAREWELL TO A FRIEND**

## By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

I hope everyone read the recent Houston Chronicle article ["Using Plants to Fight Flooding in Houston"](#). While dissensus might be the key word when it comes to fixing this crises, I for one totally agree with this approach. If you missed it, please click on the link and read it!

One thing on which gardeners should be in total agreement is that we're FINALLY -- albeit slowly -- moving into our best gardening period of all. Days become cooler, insects fewer, blooms more prolific, rainfall . . . well . . . most years we can say more prevalent, but okay maybe that's not so much a plus this year. Now is the best time of the year to plant bulbs, shrubs and, most important, flowers to attract butterflies, hummers and other beneficial wildlife.

The only thing predictable about our weather is its total unpredictability! For garden writers, this season is manna from heaven. This area's so active with gardening activities, the hardest part is getting everything in! So, wasting no more time, think of this as a fabulous potpourri of gardening delights.

\* \* \*

**KNOW YOUR SALVIAS!** It's generally agreed hardy salvias, as a group, are among our most essential attractors of butterflies, hummers and other beneficial wildlife.

We're not talking about those little red salvias (*Salvia splendens*) so popular as bedding plants in spring. These are good plants - but they're not considered "hardy." They're Brazilian natives generally treated as annuals (one year bloomers), even tho they might prove perennial during our milder winters.

Hardy salvias are true perennials, more shrubby plants native to Texas and Mexico. They're members of the mint family. When we visited the Monarch wintering forests in Mexico, the horseback ride up the mountain took us past so many salvias blooming in the woods.

Unfortunately, our best hardy salvias sometimes look so much alike, it sometimes takes an expert to identify them on site. Newer hybrids do make compact lower growing bushes. Others get VERY tall, so it pays to watch what you're buying!

The good news is that most, if not all, the great upcoming plant sales listed in our newsletter calendar, below, will carry hardy salvias for sure. For example, Mercer Botanic Garden's Saturday, Sept. 24, Autumn Plant Sale and Market, you can find:







As of this writing, Mercer's hardy salvia inventory will include (among others):

- 1. ***Salvia farinacea*** (blue sage; mealy cup sage) -- 2-foot with blue blooms. Its name, from Latin for "flour," refers to mealy-looking dusting covering the inflorescence (flower head)
- 2. ***Salvia guarantica*** (anise sage) -- a purple hummingbird magnet in Mercer gardens, full bloom spring through autumn
- 3. ***Salvia vanhouttei*** (burgundy scarlet sage) -- striking burgundy blooms on this unusual robust autumn bloomer. Part shade
- 4. ***Salvia 'Silke's Dream'*** has lots of folks excited. Found by an Austin saliva-lover, 2' tall, found by an Austin resident, all summer 15" spikes of rich dark orange-red
- 5. ***Salvia 'May Night'*** (May Night salvia) -- 12 inch purple/blue bloom stalks starting in early spring continue all summer long
- 6. ***Brillantaisia subulugurica*** (Giant Salvia) -- a 7 foot (!) salvia look-alike with large deep-purple flowers. In the Acanthaceae family, not a true sage

\* \* \*

**CACTUS TO DRAW THE EYE UPWARD!** Not the way we usually think of viewing cacti, eh?

Eye-catching choices for hanging baskets will be among the very special, rare and perfect-for-the-Gulf Coast choices at the Houston Cactus & Succulent Society's big annual Sat.-Sun, Sept. 10-11, Show & Sale.



**Looking for great hanging plants? Among those on show and/or sale at HCSS's annual show & sale will be, above l to r: Epiphyllum hybrid, Stapelia rufa, Stapelia gigantea and Epiphyllum oxypetalum (makes a huge plant). Below, ideal for containers, l to r: Echinopsis**

**eyriesii, Euphorbia grandialata, Echinopsis chamaecereus and Mammillaria guelzowiana.**



The free Sat.-Sun. show/sale is open 9am-5pm both days at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Details: [hcsstex.com](http://hcsstex.com).

\* \* \*

## TWO EMAIL NEWSLETTERS I'D LIKE TO RECOMMEND:

- **[WaterSmart Newsletter](#)**, which focus a great deal on native plants well suited to our landscapes. ([Details](#)) This one is produced by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, WaterSmart, Texas Coastal Watershed Program and Texas A&M's SeaGrant Texas. Note the water-related groups? That's because we homeowners are doing major damage to our natural waterways through our massive landscape chemical run-offs.
- **[Howard Garrett's The Dirt Doctor](#)**. The current focus on "[Truths About Natural Organics](#)" looks at myths and realities of organic gardening. So much misinformation and downright myths out there.



**FOREVER GRATEFUL CARMINE STAHL (1927-2016) CAME INTO MY LIFE** To close, not on a sad, but on a grateful, note. I will always give thanks that Carmine Stahl came into my life. Pictured above center with his wife Mary Lou, Carmine passed away recently, leaving behind an everlasting spotlight on native plants we should see as treasures. Unfortunately, most of us only see them as weeds.

Carmine was internationally recognized as an edible native plants expert (who also, I learned in [his obituary](#), was once a circuit rider preacher!). But, most important for us, Carmine was a delightful bridge between us today and our ancestors who recognized, and were grateful for, all the native plants that helped them survive. Somewhere along the line, we lost faith in (or knowledge of) these natural gifts.

I have so many wonderful memories of working with Carmine on articles for the Houston Chronicle. Not only was he a wealth of information, he was such a delightful interview, infinitely patient, never complaining about a young reporter's inane questions, always ready with a smile or a joke.

One time that I have never forgotten: We were out at Jesse Jones Nature Center wandering through the woods as he identified "weeds" that are actually edible and shouldn't be looked on with such scorn.

I was far more into flowers and kept pointing out pretty little yellow wild blooms and asking, "What is that?"

Oh, he'd say, "That's a DYC." After ID-ing several totally different flowers that way, I finally asked:



## "What's a NYC?"

"Damn Yellow Composite," he said. He explained about wildflower crossbreeding, often making it virtually impossible, or at least, most frustrating to categorize them! So naturalists jokingly would call them NYCs.

I adored Carmine and he was always so ready and willing to answer my questions. I am so glad he came into my life and that he was such a huge part of our native plant heritage in this area.

*\*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.*

*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! Send to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)*

## JOHN'S CORNER

### NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS



Experienced gardeners have claimed that vermi-compost (worm castings) makes all plants grow better. Another study by the USDA published in HortScience 51(7)847-8555, 2016 confirms this observation on tests with spinach. They found that vermi-compost, whether used as soil amendment or tea, left high residual levels of nutrients, organic matter, and carbon in the soil. It increased the cation exchange capacity (CEC) and increased the water holding ability of the soil. As little as 10% vermi-compost used in a soil mix increased the number of leaves and their size. It also increased the chlorophyll content and photochemical efficiency, yield, and electrical properties of the leaves. Additionally, it increased leaf succulence, and carotenoid, protein, and amino acid content. Other studies from Ohio State University found that 10% vermi-compost in a soil mix prevented all soil diseases in hanging baskets and pots.

A study (True Cost of American Food Conference, April 2016) on the long-term found the hidden costs of toxic industrial farming was extremely high. They included items such as environmental damage from artificial fertilizer runoff, health costs, etc. They used an example that the true costs of a quarter- pounder from McDonald's are not borne by the company, which show a profit, but by our society, which pays dearly. On one conventional farm in the study, the operational costs were \$89/acre. The total environmental costs were \$219/acre. This was a net loss to society of \$130/acre, which we the consumers pay in taxes, health care costs, etc. By comparison, an organic farm yielded benefits of \$172/acre to society. Another reason to buy organic whenever possible.

From Horticulture magazine, an article found that the award winning Salvia coccinea "Summer Jewel White" was very good at attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and pollinators to its tubular flowers. It is a dwarf

salvia that only grows 10-24 inches tall. It also thrives in drought, heat, and humidity.

On the GMO front, Scotland, Germany, Greece, and Latvia have banned GMO crops from being grown. Russia has not only banned all GMO's, it is converting its entire agriculture to organic methods to become the number one supplier of high quality foods to the world.

A study from the Technical University of Denmark has found that the chemical bisphenol A (BPA) commonly found in plastic bottles, can linings, cosmetics and other products has been linked to a number of health problems. Even in small doses, BPA causes significant changes in metabolism as well as the reproductive tract. They found that it increases obesity, reduces sperm counts, and changes to breast development (including cancerous growths) in animal studies. Note: Many years ago, I was attending a lecture on environmental issues. Mountain Valley Spring Water was provided in glass bottles from a cooler in a ice water bath. After a few hours, we were given the same Mountain Valley Spring Water in plastic bottles to drink. One could taste the toxic chemicals.

On another health note from the Health Freedom Alliance published an article on farmed raised salmon. They found that farmed raised salmon is one of the most toxic foods in the world. When tested it contained dioxins, PCB's, and a number of other drugs and chemicals. Even the EPA recommends that one we not eat more than one meal of farmed raised salmon per month.

Wake Forest University has found that Tiger Moths use acoustical signals to tell bats that they are not good to eat. The signal also serves as a acoustical jamming defense mechanism. The University of Washington found that the Luna moth's long tail could confuse bats sonar through the twists and turns of it tail.

The pesticide Naled (a neurotoxin) used to control mosquitoes allegedly containing the Zika virus has been found to increase the risk of cancer, autism, and birth defects. University of California found that women living within a few miles of where the pesticide had been sprayed, had a 60% increased risk of their child developing autism spectrum disorders or experiencing developmental delays.

A report in Natural News on August 15, 2016 stated that GMO maize is not economical as it requires much higher costs and lowers yield and quality. If not for subsidies by governments around the world, it would have failed economically.

\* \* \*

## 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**

SAT., SEP 3 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am & 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/)

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

THURS, SEPT 8: DECORATE YOUR CARDEN 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

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, & 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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com). [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/)

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/](http://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](mailto:register@arborgate.com)

SAT., SEPT. 10: RAISING & CARRYING FOR BEES, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. \$5. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com).

SAT., SEPT. 10: LIGHTENING YOUR FOOTPRINT, 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$28. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org).

MON., SEPT 12: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING by LYN SHAH, 9:30am, Lyn Shah, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. [tomballgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:tomballgardenclub@gmail.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](http://hcp4.net/Community/Parks/Mercer); [jgarrison@hcp4.net](mailto:jgarrison@hcp4.net)

WED., SEPT. 14: SMART WATER LANDSCAPING WORKSHOP with BACKYARD & SMALL SCALE COMPOSTING by JOHN FERGUSON, 9am-noon, Sheldon Lake State Park. Register: [watersmart.tamu.edu](http://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](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

THURS., SEPT 15: DECORATE YOUR CARDEN 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

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](http://hcp4.net/Community/Parks/Mercer); [jgarrison@hcp4.net](mailto: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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com). [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

SAT, SEPT 17: DECORATE YOUR CARDEN 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

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](http://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](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUES., SEPT. 20: BROMELIADS IN WILDERNESS: WIDELY SEPARATED HABITATS - SIMILAR PLANTS by DENNIS CATHCART, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

TUES., SEPT 20: DECORATE YOUR CARDEN 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

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, & 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

SUN., SEPT. 25: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE CLASS #1. 2- 6pm. N. Stella Link & 610 area. \$40. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

TUES., SEPT 27: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: DECORATE YOUR GARDEN; 10-11 am, Weekley Community Center at 8440 Greenhouse Rd. Free. [ogd.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:ogd.harrishort@gmail.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](http://arborgate.com)

SAT., OCT. 1: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT., OCT 1: CRUCIFEROUS & OTHER FAVORITE FALL VEGETABLES, by GENE SPELLER, 9-11am, & HERBS IN THE GARDEN by CINDY CROFT, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/)

SAT. OCT. 1: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 8 am presentation, sale 9-noon, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

SUN., OCT. 2: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE CLASS #2. 12:30-5:30 pm. University of Houston, Central Campus, Science & Engineering Classroom Building. \$50. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.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., OCT. 1: FALL FEST - BNP 30th ANNIVERSARY, 11am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; [buchanansplants.com/events](http://buchanansplants.com/events)



SAT., OCT 1: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-1pm, AgriLife Extension Center, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubSales.aspx); 281-855-5600.

TUES., 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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

WED., OCT. 5: HERBS FOR HEALING by LUCIA BETTLER, 9-11:30am, Clear Lake Methodist Church, 16335 El Camino Real. Gardeners by the Bay event. 281-474-5051.

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

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)

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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

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

SAT., OCT 8: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE & MARKET, 9 am-noon (or sell-out), Houston Museum of Natural Science, parking garage 7<sup>th</sup> level, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. Free parking/\$30 purchase. [hmns.org/cockrell-butterfly-center/](http://hmns.org/cockrell-butterfly-center/)

SAT., OCT. 8: MERCER ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY GALA: WILD ABOUT GINGERS! 5pm, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Tickets: 713-274-4166, [msociety@hcp4.net](mailto:msociety@hcp4.net).

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

SUN., OCT. 9: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS THROUGH PERMACULTURE by Permaculture Guild of Houston. Various locations. \$404. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org).

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](http://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](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com). 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

WED., OCT. 12: CACTI IN THE ROUGH - SUCCULENT TOUR OF BIG BEND, noon-2pm, Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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)

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](http://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](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 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://arborgate.com)

SAT., OCT. 29: GULF COAST MEAD FESTIVAL, LUCY-STYLE GRAPE STOMP COMPETITION & GRAPE GROWING DISCUSSIONS, 10am-5pm, Frascione Winery, 308 Bayside Dr., Anahuac. Free. Frascione 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](http://arborgate.com)

SAT., NOV 5 : PECKERWOOD INSIDER'S TOUR, 10am & 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)

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

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)

## THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS



## 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.



**COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. Buy two culinary herbs or lantanas at the current sale price of \$5.00 & get one free.**

(Offer good for retail purchases of this product (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 09/11/16.