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October 28, 2016

Dear Friends,

Here is the 179th 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. . . E mail your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

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

Enjoy!

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FALL FLORAL SUPPRISE . . . MUMS WILL RETURN . . . RAGWEED CURSE . . . PAMPAS WARNING

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers"

-- "Anne of Green Gables" by L. M. (Lucy Maud) Montgomery

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Anne Shirley was probably thinking about autumn foliage on her Canadian Prince William Island. But color is color, whether from turning leaves or -- as here -- gorgeous fall flowers (*which we can continue to enjoy for probably another couple of months or maybe even beyond*).

Our changing climate definitely has silver linings. I did a double-take at Jim Vratiss' front yard garden. Were those really marigolds (left above) blooming so prolifically in October?

They were. He bought them, he said, at Home Depot as small plants this past spring. No, he doesn't know what variety they are.

I looked back over numerous files of great fall blooming plants for Houston, to make sure I hadn't just missed yet another change wrought by our speeded-up climatic changes. No one mentioned marigolds. Who knows, maybe marigolds will now battle with their cousins, mums, for "Fall Queen."

Both are in the daisy (aster) family. Marigolds -- usually spring-early summer bloomers for us -- were once in contention with the rose as the official American flower. Rose won, but that's still pretty impressive. Mums, on the other hand, have their own [National Chrysanthemum Society, USA](http://NationalChrysanthemumSociety.org) with a Houston chapter (Houston@mums.org) that meets most 4th Fridays, 11am, [Mercer Botanic Garden](http://MercerBotanicGarden.org). Marigolds once had their own American Marigold Society but it's defunct now.

Who else would tell you these things?



L to r, marigolds, esperanza (Tecoma stans , yellow bells), coral vine and thryallis

Will be interesting to see if marigolds become perennials here. Mums already are. Mums bloom spring and fall, especially if pruned after blooming. Plant prunings after stripping off all leaves. Mums often produce more blooms off these sprouting cuttings than off older root stocks. Plant now in sunny spot. If heavily mulched, they'll survive all but really extended cold (mid-low 20s).

Aside from Jim Vratiss' marigolds, not much surprises me anymore now that our prolonged warmer weather is combined with so many new, hardier hybrids. Even so, this October has been one of the most colorful flower-wise I've seen in a long time. Particularly impressive are the **esperanzas** (yellow bells / *Tecoma stans*). Along East Hardy, two incredible side-by-side bloomers are eye-popping: a huge **confederate rose** (*Hibiscus mutabilis*) and **Torch Glow bougainvillea**.

These aren't your grandmother's bougainvillea. These send up 6'-7' freestanding, thornless foliage spikes topped by the familiar red bracts of their vining cousins. Those at the top of this column were photographed at Mercer Botanic Garden.

I remember when bougainvilleas were NOT winter-hardy around Houston. As a child, I always looked forward to seeing the long blooming bougainvillea stretch that blanketed Galveston's multi-storied Cotton Exchange Building on Broadway. Today, huge in-ground bougainvillea shrubs are found all over this area.



*L to r, Bougainvillea "Torch Glow" and Confederate rose (*Hibiscus mutabilis*) blooming along a fence on East Hardy, golden raintrees yellow flowers and pink seed pods and the native Texas turk's cap.*

Confederate rose, left above, is a large, rounded shrub or small ornamental tree covered right now with multi-petaled red, pink and white blooms.

OTHER FABULOUS FALL BLOOMERS: My **coral vine** is covered with iridescent pink flowers, the **thryallis** is beautiful against these blue skies and the **firespikes** are attracting hummers.

Also along one of the East Hardy side streets, I spied a red **turk's cap** that had been trained into a tree close to two stories high. I assume that, as it grew, they cut back all but a few vertical stalks that hardened as they grew until they produced only top growth, no more side branches.

It was gorgeous with red blooms hanging downward. My Pam Puryear pink turk's cap takes up too much horizontal space. That babe's going to become a tree! Never even thought of doing that before.

Golden raintrees' yellow-flowering phase is ending and now are covered with more-eye-catching peach-colored seed pods. Can't say "prettier than usual," since these are always among our fall masterpieces.

So don't let anyone tell you that mums are our only fall bloomers, as a newcomer from up north moaned to me not long ago. Most bloomers listed above could last into January if we don't have a major freeze.

Our average first freeze used to be first week of December. Now it's expected the middle of the month. The older your plants, the deeper the roots, the more likely they'll bloom into January (maybe beyond).



L to r, Good guy - goldenrod. Bad guy - ragweed (in seed, in bloom). Beware guy - pampas grass

THE RAGWEED CURSE. Goldenrod is a victim of vicious slander. Goldenrod does NOT cause allergies! Allergies are triggered by airborne pollen; goldenrod's heavy pollen is spread by wind & wildlife. The culprit is ragweed, a goldenrod groupie. Where golden plumes abound, ugly ragweed lurks nearby. Years ago, Tresearch Farms offered gorgeous low-growing goldenrod plants, ideal for gardens. But the ragweed curse persists. Never see goldenrod in nurseries these days, do we? So sad.

BEWARE OF TOO-GOOD-TO-BE-TRUE PLANT PROMOTIONS Reader JoBeth sent in these pictures above of purple and pink pampas grass. She saw them on Facebook, and then found them listed on eBay & Amazon.com. JoBeth wants to know if they'll grow in the Greater Houston area.

Yes, probably, but as beautiful as pampas grass is, it's not a plant for the faint-hearted:

- Each leaf is a double-edge, super-sharp saw blade that may trigger painful reactions to scratches
- It's too flammable to be planted near any building
- It's now classified as invasive in five states: Texas, California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

Pampas grass works well on freeway shoulders. Clumps may spread freely. Even if they stay in one place, they gradually get larger if not pruned severely back in winter. Paper is made from the fibers.

If you do plant it, expect it to be in that same site for centuries (it is long-lived if it's happy). As one unhappy gardener noted: it takes dynamite to move it.



*Speaking of marigolds,
this lovely witch is
the creation of our
Aunt Edith Smith, who
turned 92 this month.*

*Happy Birthday, Edith,
& Happy Halloween to
gardeners everywhere!*

**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!*

JOHN'S CORNER

BOOK REVIEW



As a scientist, I am constantly reading new research about the connection between the soil, the environment, and our health. ***This book is the best summary I have seen in one place*** of why our children and families are having so many health problems AND how to correct them.

Dr. Maya is an excellent writer and explains all the relations between soil, food, and health in an easy to understand manner.

"Dr. Shetreat- Klein, MD trained as a pediatric neurologist encountered the limits of conventional medicine when her son suffered a severe episode of hives and asthma on his first birthday and began a terrifying backward slide in his development. Conventional treatment failed to reverse his condition, so she embarked on her own scientific investigation. In the process, she discovered that the root of her son's illness was his food, which was grown and processed in ways that harm children's developing gut microbiome, immune systems, and brains and contribute to lifelong chronic illness."

This book is about the solution to her son's illness which was unexpectedly simple: Heal the food, heal the gut, heal the brain, ... heal the child.

"In the tradition of Michael Pollan, Mark Hyman, and Andrew Weil, pioneering integrative pediatric neurologist Maya Shetreat-Klein, MD, reveals the shocking contents of children's food, how it's seriously harming their bodies and brains, and what we can do about it.

Chronic illness has become the new normal for children. Yet much of what is being done to children-medications they receive like Tylenol and antibiotics, the bleach and Purell we use to sanitize, processed foods they eat in school cafeterias and their own homes, even time they spend trapped in a classroom or doing homework instead of playing outdoors-play a very significant role in this epidemic of chronic illness.

Dr. Maya believes that children's bodies naturally have the capacity to be healthy and heal when they have the tools to do so. Her plan starts with the soil, using fresh foods and nature to heal children from the inside out and the outside in. Revealing the profound connections between food, nature, and children's health, Dr. Maya explains how food is constantly changing kids' bodies, brains, and even genes-for better or for worse. She also shares success stories from her practice and tips as a working mother of three on stocking healing foods (from veggies to

chocolate!), reading labels, and getting even picky eaters into the new menu. This paradigm-shifting book empowers you to transform your child's health through food and ensure the long-term well-being of your kids and the entire family."

I highly recommend this book to anyone whom wants to improve the health of his or her children and families.

The DIRT CURE-Growing Healthy Kids with Food Straight from the Soil , Maya Shetreat-Klein, MD, Atria Books, 2016, ISBN: 978-1-4767-9697-0

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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
*T HE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER***

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, Frascione Winery, 308 Bayside Dr., Anahuac. Free. Frascione Winery, Mystic Oak Meadery, Bentley Bees & Crane Meadows event. [Facebook: Gulf Coast Mead Festival](#)

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

SAT., 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., OCT. 29: MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN OVERSTOCK PLANT SALE, 9am-3pm, Northside growing area, 3610 Hirschfield Rd.

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: galvcountrymgs@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; wallerimgardener2013@gmail.com

TUES., NOV.1: #TXPLANTS TWITTER TUESDAY - MILKWEED & MONARCHS PHOTO/EXPERIENCE SWAP, 7-8 pm, Free on Twitter follow hashtag #TXplants. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter, npsot.org/wp/story/2016/9263/; 713-714-6931.

FRI.,-SUN., NOV. 4-6: 26TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL OF ROSES, Antique Rose Emporium, Independence. antiqueroseemporium.com/events

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. R egister: 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, 9 am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden , 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

TUES., NOV. 8: COMMON PESTS ON PLANTS AND THEIR CONTROL, 9:30am,Texas A&M AgriLife, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Free. Register: 832-754-3827. The Woodlands Garden Club event. thewoodlandsgardenclub.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: 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

MON., NOV. 21: 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., NOV 22: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: HOLIDAY PREPARATION; 10-11 am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd. ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

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

SAT., 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: galvcountrymgs@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.

MON., DEC. 19: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TRAINING REGISTRATION DEADLINE. 9am-4pm Saturday classes starting Jan. 14. \$160. Waller County Extension Office. txmg.org/wallermg; wallermgardener2013@gmail.com; 979-826-7651

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.

SAT., APR. 22: EARTH DAY PARTY FOR THE PLANET, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd., Pasadena. abnc.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!**

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.

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THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE
POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS





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<http://natureswayresources.com/>

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 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.



Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.