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AUGUST 18, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 219th 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.

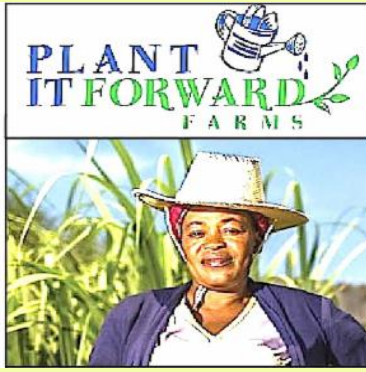
Thanks so much!

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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EDIBLES - NOT JUST FOR BACKYARDS ANYMORE . . . & REPORT THOSE FIREFLIES . . . AND FAREWELL TO MIKE PETERS

*"Sometimes since I've been in the garden
I've looked up through the trees at the sky
and I have had a strange feeling of being happy
as if something was pushing and drawing
in my chest and making me breathe fast.*

"The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

It is such fun to watch environment-friendly ideas take root, grow and spread. A truly exciting trend in the recent decades has been awareness of how environment-UN-friendly large green yards have become for a wide variety of reason.

Even more fun, I think, is the way an increasing number of are thinking outside the "box" of traditional vegetable gardens and experimenting with mixing edibles with ornamentals, even where neighbors can easily see them! A great example, Marci & Mark Arnold's fruits and vegetables in the front yard of their Rice University area home.

First tho, two notes about [last week's Gardening for Fireflies Spotlight article](#) article by Ben Pfeiffer.

- Thanks to JoAnna in New Caney who sent in a link to a [Country Living article](#) on Sara Lewis' [Silent Sparks: the Wondrous World of Fireflies](#). Lewis adds another reason why these jewels are disappearing: overseas theme parks purchase harvested fireflies to release as sparkling attractions. "These populations don't live very long," Lewis notes.
- I neglected to add that firefly expert/enthusiast Ben Pfeiffer encourages everyone to report firefly sightings, either on [firefly.org's reporting page](#) or by emailing him at firefly@firefly.org.
- Speaking of local wildlife (including in gardens), [Houston GREEN Film Series](#) is soliciting & showing films on saving, restoring or teaching about local wildlife & ecosystems. First showing: Wed., Aug. 23, 7pm, at Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Submission details of local project films on are at bit.ly/WAHfilmsubmission.

Now, about those front yard vegetable gardens!

* * *



Above, Marci & Mark Arnold's front yard a year ago, left, and this summer, right. Below left, monarchs and other butterflies love the milkweed that compliments peach trees in background. Center, artichoke with fennel and peppers in background. Right, Marcie with basil to share!



EDIBLES - NOT JUST FOR BACKYARDS ANYMORE!

For Marci & Mark Arnold, the idea of planting edibles in their Rice University-area front yard developed slowly. Their small, deeply shaded backyard wasn't exactly ideal for vegetable and herb production.

A beloved ash tree in the front yard had to be removed due to age and the fact that it was hollow on one side. This presented a challenge at first, because it left a gaping space and they were accustomed to its beautiful shade canopy. Its loss was a blow, but the realization that they suddenly had a bright sunny front yard became a silver lining.

The Arnolds credit [Glenwood Weber](#) with taking their idea of incorporating a front yard edibles garden and turning it into a terrace treasure. It was Glenwood's idea to mix vegetables, herbs, fruit trees and flowers.

Mark and Marci have been active in [Plant It Forward**](#), a [community-supported agriculture \(CSA\)](#) group. Having fresh fruits and vegetables on the table is part of their lifestyle. (*The CSA mission is to help refugees to tend urban farms.*)

As with most gardens, the name of the game was Trial & Error. The Arnolds let Glenwood take the lead on deciding what to plant where. Marci's only proviso: "I wanted to avoid a lot of brown space." Herbs made pretty, useful groundcovers with flowers and vegetables interplanted. As Marci explains it:

"We try to make it visually pleasing as well as having plants that we will enjoy using. I love looking out and seeing the different textures of the plants as well as the colors. So I really don't have separate areas for edibles and non-edibles, they are intertwined throughout the garden."

Don't edibles in the front yard invited a bit of poaching? Marci doesn't think so, at least not that she's noticed. In fact, quite the opposite. She had such a huge crop of basil, she filled some cups with it and set them on a bench with a "Take Some!" sign. Neighbors happily did.

Not only did they receive no flack at all from their neighborhood association, working in the front garden is great fun thanks to all the folks stop by to say how great things look, and compliment the idea of a front yard

edible garden. If anything, an edible garden out front generates socialization and adds to the general well-being of a street.

That's the upside. The downside could be the failures. Marci admits no success with green beans or zucchini -- a beautiful bounty of flowers, but no squash. Strawberries made lovely plants, but very few fruits - most of which the critters grabbed before the Arnolds could. They needed more sun, Marci muses.



Left, A favorite grouping: fennel next to parsley, a butterfly plant, and behind them, lacinto kale. Center two, when mixing plants, Marci recommends paying close attention to textures, shapes and colors. Right, Ready for a salad!

They're still waiting on "real fruit" from their still young trees. Kumquats and mandarin oranges are budding. They see a few Persian limes and grapefruits. And one peach too high to pick. They harvested a watermelon the size of a golf ball. No lemons so far and it's too early to know about the honeydew and calabaza melon. Corn didn't work in the first spot, but it 's growing well in it s new, sunnier spot.

A real treasure even though they haven't harvested anything edible is the artichoke, Marci says. " I do like the look of the leaves, they are large and look pretty in the corners of the beds."

Most successful in their front yard beds are peppers -- jalapeños, habañeros, green bell peppers, banana peppers, red chili peppers. Glenwood is growing a few more varieties of colorful bell peppers for me from seeds and will plant those shortly when the plants have grown a bit.

Success with vegetables inevitably leads to frustration about what to do with everything. Marci opted for a neighborhood giveaway with her bumper crops of basil, including Italian, chocolate, Thai and lemon.

Lessons learned include:

- The earlier tomatoes are planted the better the harvest. Cherry tomatoes this year, larger varieties for fall are planned.
- Tomatoes need watching so they can be picked before critters discover them.
- Okra grows VERY quickly in the summer.
- Other front yard successes include white eggplant, carrots (green tops are beautiful in the garden) and kale (lacto, curly and red varieties)

Paying attention to textures is important to Marci. A favorite grouping: fennel next to parsley, a butterfly plant, and behind them, lacinto kale.

If you're not sure how to get started integrating edibles into your ornamentals landscape, great opportunity coming up to learn from a pro. Angela Chandler will teach an Urban Harvest "Edible Landscapes" class on Sat., Nov. 18, 9:30-11:30am at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Register at 713-880-5540; info@urbanharvest.org

* * *

SERIOUS FALL VEGETABLE GARDENERS are already hard at work. The secret to success at anytime (but especially in fall) is variety, Variety, VARIETY. So many different choices of the same plant are now available often geared to best performance in specific soil, climate, temperature, etc. It's a wise gardener

who seeks and follow the advice of experts for our highly diverse microclimates. Clear Lake is very different from The Woodlands. Crosby is very different from Katy. Seek advice for YOUR area!

Free materials abound and someone is always on hand to answer questions at [Your AgriLife Extension Center](#). In addition, free programs are offered around the area now, including:

- **SAT., AUG. 19: FALL VEGETABLES**, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600
- **TUES., AUG. 22: OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: FALL VEGETABLES**, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com
- **TUES., AUG. 22: GROWING FRUIT TREES IN CONTAINERS**, 1pm. The Sugarland Branch Library, 550 Eldridge, Sugarland. Free. A Sugarland Garden Club event. beatles11@peoplepc.com, 281-778-5844
- **SAT., SEPT. 23: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING** by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30am, University of St. Thomas, 3812 Yoakum Blvd. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; info@urbanharvest.org
- **SAT., SEPT 30: FAVORITE FALL VEGETABLES (CRUCIFEROUS & OTHER VEGETABLES)** by **GENE SPELLER**, 1-3pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston
- **SAT., OCT. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE**, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600
- If you know of other upcoming fall vegetable gardening classes/programs/sales in the Greater Houston area, please let me know. I'll be glad to publish them.

**** Plant It Forward**, a community-supported agriculture (CSA) is now accepting applications for its Urban Farming Business Course. PIF, in partnership with [Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement](#) program and [Urban Harvest](#) offers economically disadvantaged refugees opportunities to become self-sufficient through growing, harvesting and selling produce from a sustainable urban farm in Houston. plant-it-forward.org



Plant It Forward main webpage.



Mike Peters

* * *

MIKE PETERS - A journalist's journalist - Rest In Peace

Need to close on a sad note. Mike Peters, 62, a longtime friend and incredibly talented newspaperman so well respected on our local journalism scene, passed away this week in Beijing, China, from (recently diagnosed) late-stage pancreatic cancer. Mike and I worked together on numerous horticultural articles and on editing & selling Houston gardening books published by Sally McQueen Squire's River Bend Company. But Mike will best be remembered here from his days at his alma maters, St. Pius High School & the University of Houston (**Daily Cougar** Editor), and on **Houston Home & Garden** magazine (Garden Editor/columnist). Mike's journalistic life road led to the **Dallas Daily News** and **Anchorage Daily News**, ending finally in Beijing, where he became senior copy editor and writer on the **China Daily** newspaper.

Among Mike's many China-Texas-Tie-in reports was [one written for this newsletter](#), and numerous ones for **China Daily** with [Stephen F. Austin University gardens](#) internationally-renowned horticulturalist Dr. David Creech, highlighting China's import of our [bald cypress](#) and [blueberries](#) from stocks grown on SFA's Nacogdoches campus. (Click on blue for actual articles). Dr. Creech is just returning from a trip to China where he spent time with Mike. I'm so glad. It was nice to know he had a touch of Texas before he left.

Mike once listed one his life goals as "Suck the juice out of life and spit out the seeds." And that he did.

I'll watch for you in the garden, Mike!

* * *

**Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email questions, comments to her at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net**

JOHN'S CORNER

BOOK REVIEW



I finished reading another great book on the importance of fungi this week.

"Mycorrhizal Planet - How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility", Michael Phillips, 2017, Chelsea Publishing, ISBN: 978-1603586580

Michael has written this book in a down-to-earth format that is practical, warm, and often humorous. All gardeners need to understand the information in this book. It is extremely up to date on the fungi-plant relationship and how critical it is, **IF** we want to grow beautiful flowers, delicious fruits, magnificent shrubs or trees.

Michael is a holistic farmer and writer whom has authored several books on gardening. He has a gift of explaining complex science in layman's terms that anyone can understand. The book is full of pictures, diagrams, charts and tables to help the reader. When we have a functioning fungi-plant system that is working, most of our insect, disease and weed problems go away. He covers not only why and how the fungi-plant system works, but explains practices that destroy it and explains how to restore it in our gardens.

"This book will resonate with anyone who is fascinated with the unseen workings of nature and concerned about restoring the health of our soils, our climate, and the quality of life on Earth for generations to come."

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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

SAT., AUG. 19: FALL VEGETABLES, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

TUES., AUG. 22, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: FALL VEGETABLES, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

TUES., AUG. 22: GROWING FRUIT TREES IN CONTAINERS, 1pm. The Sugarland Branch Library, 550 Eldridge, Sugarland. Free. A Sugarland Garden Club event. beatles11@peoplepc.com, 281-778-5844

SAT., AUG. 26: GARDEN TO VASE - HANDS-ON WORKSHOP, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: 713-274-4166.

THURS., SEP. 6: SMALL ORNAMENTAL TREES FOR THE HOUSTON AREA by LINDA GAY, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. nccgtx.org

THURS., SEPT. 7: STROLLER STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., SEPT. 9: WILDSAPES WORKSHOP & NATIVE PLANT SALE, 8am-3:30pm, Houston Community College, 5601 West Loop South. Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter event. \$40 Aug. 26, \$50 after. Register: npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop/

SAT., SEPT 9: SIMPLY SUCCULENTS by PAULA SPLETTER, 9-11am & HERBS by TRICIA BRADBURY, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT.-SUN., SEPT. 9-10: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW&SALE. 9am-5pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. hcsstex.org

WED., SEPT. 13: THE MERCER SOCIETY'S OPEN GREENHOUSE, 10am-noon, and YOUR GARDEN & CLIMATE CHANGE, noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free.

THURS., SEPT. 14: FROM OVER THE TOP TO DOWN UNDER, ADVENTURES IN HORTICULTURE by GEORGE HULL, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 14: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., SEPT. 14: ROSES LOVE COMPANIONS by LINDA B GAY, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

SAT., SEPT. 16: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., SEPT 16: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

TUES., SEPT. 19: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

THURS., SEPT. 21: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., SEPT. 21-24: MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. \$40. Green Building Resource Center. Register: 832-394-9050; steve.stelzer@houston.tx.gov; codegreenghouston.org

SAT., SEPT. 23: UNDER THE MAJESTIC OAKS - 7th ANNUAL LEAGUE CITY GARDEN CLUB GARDEN WALK, 10am-4pm; \$15 advance ticket, Nana's Attic, 501 E. Main, League City. leaguecitygardenclub.org; 281-535-0777.

SAT. SEPT 23: BULB MANIA by DODIE JACKSON, 9-11am & COMPOSTING, TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL & SOIL HEALTH ASSESSMENT by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SUN., SEPT. 24: DAYLILY ANCESTRY by MARY GAGE, 2pm-3pm. Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

TUES., SEPT. 26, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek DrIve. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

SAT., SEPT 30: FAVORITE FALL VEGETABLES (*CRUCIFEROUS* & OTHER VEGETABLES) by GENE SPELLER, 1-3pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 30-SUN., OCT. 1: HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY FAL SHOW - JONAS DUPUICH, SPEAKER. houstonbonsaisociety.com

THURS., OCT. 5: PUMPKINS, SQUASH AND GOURDS by CORRIE TEN-HAVE, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

SAT., OCT. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 7-8: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, 10-4 Sat., 10-3 Sun. Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.com

TUES., OCT. 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-438-3653

THURS., OCT. 12: MOORE FARMS BOTANICAL GARDEN: A GERMINATING SUCCESS by REBECCA TURK, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., OCT. 12: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS.-SAT., OCT. 12-14: 2017 BULB & PLANT MART. Garden Club of Houston event.

FRI., OCT. 13: ALL ABOUT SUCCULENTS: by VERONICA LEWANDOWSKI, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event: houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., OCT. 14: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE, 9 am-1pm. Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy. 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd., Hitchcock.

TUES., OCT. 17: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., OCT. 19: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

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TUES., OCT. 24, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 9:00-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

THURS., NOV. 9: MAGNOLIAS: QUEEN OF THE GARDEN by ANDREW BUNTING, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

FRI., NOV.10: "I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP MY GARDEN! - GARDENING FOR THE CHALLENGED LIFESTYLE: DR. JOE NOVAK. 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

FRI., DEC. 8: 'HOLLY JOLLY' LUNCHEON GALA. SPEAKER: BILL MCKINLEY. 9 am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Tickets \$30. Houston Federation of Garden clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

THURS., DEC. 14: THE YEAR IN REVIEW by DAVID CREECH, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

FRI., JAN. 12: A CAMELIA COLLECTION - RESTORING IMA HOGG'S CAMELIA COLLECTION AT BAYOU BEND by BART BRECHTER. 10 am. White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

FRI., MAR.9: THOSE ADDORABLE HUMMERS by SUE HEATH. 10 am. White Oak Convention Center., 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., APRIL 13: THE WORLD OF SEED by ANGELA CHANDLER. 10am., White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

FRI. MAY 11: HONEY BEES - JAMES AND CHARI OF BLUEBONNET BEEKEEPERS. 10am. White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

If we inspire you to attend any of these, please let them know you heard about it in . . .

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!
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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.



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