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August 31st 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 264th 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. (John is 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.

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"People need to be cautious because anything built by man can be destroyed by Mother Nature"

-- Russel Honore

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Could anyone among us say -- with a clear conscious -- he or she has never brought into this state a plant or even a cutting from another state or country?

Did we check the state requirements for bringing in plants? Probably not.

Chances are, we might have violated Texas law. And with those supposedly innocent travel guests may just have come some now very-hated insects.

Just ask . . .

- Citrus growers in South Texas and beyond now coping with citrus greening . . .
- Hibiscus growers statewide fighting white flies and . . .
- Mary Anne Vincent, whose previously-thriving, beautiful Knockout roses -- like many in her Champions area -- are looking pretty pitiful, probably due to chilli thrips.

Citrus greening, white flies and chilli thrips are just a few of the documented insects/pathogens transported on plants illegally brought into Texas. Had the carrier plants been inspected as required, we home gardeners and growers might not be fighting these frustrating challenges today.

In this column, I choose not to deal with plant treatments other than cultural techniques. That's because I don't ever treat for anything. If something I plant dies, I figure it's a sign from above that it doesn't belong in my garden. I plant something else instead.

But we all need to realize that the cutting Cousin Mary gives you, or plant you dug up while visiting a friend in Florida, might harbor insects that may (or may not!) have been kept under control by climatic and other environmental conditions very different from those here in Texas.

Turned loose here, these definitely unwanted guests, such as *Scirtothrips dorsalis*, better known as chilli thrips, might become far more deadly. It's not a LITTLE thing.



Microscopic chilli thrips cannot be seen by the human eye, but their damage sure can be.

Gaye Hammond, past president of the Houston Rose Society, responded to a query I received from Mary Ann Vincent. Gaye is one of my main go-to rose gurus.

Mary Ann's 7-10 year-old Knockout roses (which have done so well until last year) suddenly began declining and producing buds that don't fully open . . . a condition that she's hearing about from all over her Champions area.

Any number of things can trigger declines like Mary Ann is seeing, including excessive heat. But after seeing Mary Ann's pictures, Gaye immediately diagnosed the most likely cause these days: chilli thrips damage.

August is our peak chilli thrips season. Gaye says t's now believed chilli thrips "... came into the U.S. in 2005 and got established first in Florida; then Georgia, then Texas. It is believed that they first came in on pepper plants from South America to be sold in box stores."

When the plant damage was first seen in the Houston area, most thought it was herbicide damage. When Gaye wrote her first article on chilli thrips, she had gotten a call to check out plants in the Central Houston area.

It was, she recalls, "... a huge commercial property where spraying is prohibited. Thus the chilli thrips population exploded and it took years to get it under control."

The Greater Houston area now has one of the largest identified infestations of chilli thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis*) in the nation. And the damage is appearing almost area-wide.

As I said earlier, I don't deal with treatments in this column. But know that this is one extremely challenging problem and no solution seems to work 100% of the time in 100% of the cases.

My primary goal in this particular column is to make everyone aware that those casual cuttings and plants you bring in from out of state may not be as innocent and harmless as you think they are.

They may harbor almost invisible threats to everyone's plants.

Check out this link (*downloads, doesn't open*): [Information on bringing plants into Texas.](#)

NOTE: *Since chilli thrips cannot be identified by the naked eye, damage is the best indicator. For more information on chilli thrips and roses, Gaye says to log onto the Houston Rose Society website: houstonrose.org. The Arbor Gate also has a particularly good foliage damage identification guide online. <https://arborgate.com/blog/pictorial-guide-to-identifying-treating-chilli-thrips/>*

* * *

REPORT HAPPY SIGHTINGS! [JOURNEY NORTH](https://journeynorth.org/), online migration trackers, is calling for volunteers to report sightings of southbound monarchs, hummingbirds and other species. It can be fun to see what's happening in your area and you can touch base with those reporting.

<https://journeynorth.org/>

* * *

MY APOLOGIES TO JJ MORAN. The quotes I used from her response to my invasives query last week gave a completely erroneous view of her intent. Here she explains her actual views:

"To be specific, I advocate removal of all raintrees. The local golden raintree (Koelreuteria paniculata) is recognized by the USDA and contractors who restore both riparian and prairie habitat as invasive on a major scale rivaling the Chinese Tallow.

"Golden Raintrees and Crape myrtles, both threats to the environment, are on the Bayou Preservation's top 10 invasive trees list for our Southeast Texas riparian areas.

"Since Crapes are also of insignificant ecological value, I had all mine cut down and am still fighting the sprouts from the Crape Myrtle roots that seem to have spread all over the yard."

* * *

JJ Moran makes excellent points, and we should all pay attention. If I may repeat Russel Honore's warning from above . . .

***People need to be cautious because anything
built by man can be destroyed by Mother Nature.***

* * *

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener. To sign up for this free, weekly Greater Houston area gardening report or read past issues, go to natureswayresources.com



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #58

ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF GARDENING IS OUR HEALTH, FROM EXPOSURE TO NATURE, TO VITAMIN D PRODUCTION AND EXERCISE. IN ADDITION IT IS HARD TO BEAT THE FLAVOR OF HOME GROWN VEGETABLES

AND FRUITS. I READ THE QUOTE BELOW THE OTHER DAY ON ONE OF THE ALTERNATE HEALTH CARE WEBSITES:

"We believe that the healthcare crisis that exists in America is not the result of insurance companies, but is instead the result of severe nutritional, physical, social and financial stressors that have created an unprecedented burden of illness and chronic disease. The sheer magnitude of these stress-related epidemics coupled with the runaway cost of "modern" medicine has earned America's healthcare system the dubious distinction as the most expensive, and among the least effective in the developed world."

I finished reading two books this week that help explain why the above quote is so true and why we need to grow as much of our own food as possible or at least purchase organically grown and from local farmers whenever possible.

The first book is: "genetically engineered FOOD - A self defense guide for consumers", 2nd edition, Ronnie Cummins and Ben Lilliston, Marlow and Company, 2004, ISBN- 1-56924-469-3.

This book is a few years old but everything is still relevant and the health problems caused by eating GMO foods have become far worse over the last few years.

The second book is: "Death by Regulation - How We are robbed of a Golden Age of Health and How We Can Reclaim It", Mary J. Ruwart, PhD, 2018, Sun Star Press, ISBN: 978-0-96332336-1-5

This book is about the FDA and the corruption within it, that has led to the pre-mature deaths of tens of millions of Americans and to the tremendous increase in the costs of prescription medicines and health care cost that is bankrupting America. This book explains how the FDA has "muzzled manufacturers of vitamins, foods, and other forms of nutritional support, thereby sentencing the American public to debilitating diseases that might otherwise been prevented." This book is written from the point of view of a researcher whom worked for a drug company for many years.

A book I reviewed a few years ago, tells essentially the same story form a medical practitioner's point of view.

FDA - Failure, Deception, Abuse - The Story of an Out-of-Control Government Agency and What It Means For Your Health , Life Extension Foundation, Praktikoa Books, 2010, ISBN: 978-1-60766-001-9

The point of all this, is that if we want to be healthy we have to grow at least some of our own food and buy local organic whenever we can.

A study published in the Journal Osteoporosis International has found many people around the world no longer consume enough calcium (Ca) which leads to many health problems. When growing plants, calcium is a required nutrient and a shortage will cause problems (e.g. blossom end rot on tomatoes). To ensure one has good levels of calcium available in the soil we often use supplements. A couple good one are bone meal and greensand. For years bone meal has been a

good source of calcium and magnesium for plants. For more information on bone meal see <https://www.natureswayresources.com/nl/87OrganicFertilizer21.pdf>. Greensand is also a good source of calcium and may other minerals.

<https://www.natureswayresources.com/nl/91OrganicFertilizer23.pdf>

Note: Eating food with glyphosate (Round-Up) on it prevents the body from absorbing calcium even if calcium is in the food.

A study by the University of Missouri has found that infertility affects 20% of the American population and it cost billions of dollars in the livestock industry. They found that zinc (Zn) plays a key role in fertility. Good zinc levels lead to a much higher quality of sperm. Note: Eating food with glyphosate (Round-Up) on it prevents the body from absorbing zinc even if zinc is in the food. Livestock (cows and pigs) are fed GMO corn and soy that have even higher levels of glyphosate. When we eat meat from these factory farmed animals we ingest additional glyphosate. Another reason to eat meat from only organic grass fed animals.

I have often talked about avoiding sewage sludge (biosolids) in our vegetable gardens and here is another reason. A study from the University of York (published in the journal Chemosphere 2018) has found that birds whom eat earthworms or maggots living in the sludge absorb the many pharmaceuticals including things like Prozac. As a result the birds become less attractive to the opposite sex even at extremely low levels of these chemicals and it leads to failure to breed.

An article in the Health Science Institute publication volume 19 (October 2016) was on beneficial herbs. Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) helps when treating pain and injury. This plant has been used for centuries for its miraculous healing powers from broken bones, damaged connective tissue and muscles. Polygonum or Smartweed calms runaway inflammation and helps in healing wounds, tendons and cartilage injuries.

A recent report at the annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry showed that when sparrows ingested small amounts of the neonicotinoid pesticide imidacloprid as might be found on eating a few small seeds, they lost weight and flew confused migratory patterns. A study in the journal Science last year found 86% of all honey samples tested were contaminated by these pesticides.

In the Soil Science Society of America Journal (February 2018) there was a study on using chipped branches from pruning's as a mulch. The mulch significantly reduced rainfall induced erosion, soil sealing and crusting, which promoted infiltration of water into the soil. Depending on the mulch thickness it reduced rainfall run-off from 16-90% and sediment yield by 41-99%! The mulch was processed to be less that 3/4 inch in particle size. The researchers only used a single species mulch. Note: Numerous research by others has shown that multi-species mulches work even better. This is what is known as Native Mulches and can be the highest quality mulch available.

In the August/September (2018) issue of Mother Earth News there is a short article titled "Hospital Farms Growing Across the Country". Hospitals are signing contracts with organic growers to produce food for their kitchens. Other hospitals are making it a priority to buy direct from local farms to ensure higher quality food as part of their care to patients. Remember the old saying "Let food be thy medicine".

The National Wildlife Federation has a program to get your landscape certified as a wildlife habitat. Their website has instructions on what and how to do it. With a little creativity all forms of gardens can be certified. One can get the just certification for a \$20 fee or a very nice garden sign and certification for \$50. <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify>

The Fall 2018 issue of Popular Science has several great non-technical articles on microbes, and several other articles on nature.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife now has 9 regional driving maps that can be printed for free or purchased, that show native plants and the wildlife one might expect. It covers parks, hiking trails, nature centers, historic sites, and hot spots ideal for wildlife viewing. Over 950 locations are marked. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails/>

* * *

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DON'T SEE YOUR ORGANIZATION EVENT LISTED? DID YOU SEND IT IN?
NO EVENTS ARE PICKED UP FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS, MASS RELEASES, OTHER PUBLICATIONS, ETC.**

**Events NOT submitted in EXACT written calendar format below may take 2+ weeks to be posted.
Adult gardening/plants events only -- If you don't see your submitted event, email us**

lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

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

WED., SEPT. 5: GROWING AND CARING FOR BROMELIADS by JOANNE WOOLSEY, 9-11 am, Clear Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 16335 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners by the Bay event. gibt.org

WED., SEPT. 5: LAKE LIVINGSTON SHORE RESTORATION PROJECT by SCOTT BALL, 6pm, Houston Advanced Research Center, 8801 Gosling Rd. Free. Texas Master Naturalists/Heartwood Chapter, event. 832-563-7690

THURS., SEPT. 6: ROSES by GAYE HAMMOND, 9-10 am; Waller County Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. Free. Waller County Master Gardener event. RSVP: wallermgardener2013@gmail.com, 979-826-7651

THURS., SEPT. 6: INSECTS; THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE NOT SO UGLY BY MARY KARISH, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

SAT., SEPT 8: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 1-3 pm. Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr, Friendswood. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Must register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

MON, SEPT. 10: SALVIAS BY PHOEBE LAKE, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

MON., SEPT. 10: SUSTAINABLE GARDENING & PLANT EXCHANGE by KAREN GERLACH, MD, 6:30-9pm, 2929 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Lake Houston Gardeners event. lakehoustongardeners.org

MON, SEPT. 10: SALVIAS BY PHOEBE LAKE, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. tomballgardenclub@gmail.com

WED., SEPT. 12: BEHIND SCENES AT A BOTANIC GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., SEPT. 13: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmg.a.tamu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 13: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING by CHRISTINE HAMMON, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmg.a.tamu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 13: BAYOU BEND: PLANTS THAT SHAPED MISS IMA'S GARDEN by Bart Brechter 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

FRI., SEPT. 14: PLANT SALE and NEUTRALIZING OUR INDIVIDUAL CARBON FOOTPRINTS by JIM BLACKBURN, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., SEPT. 15: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., SEPT. 15: TERRARIUM TIME, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: themercersociety.org/event

SAT., SEPT. 15: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmg.a.tamu.edu

SUN., SEPT 16: Ferns of nepal by george yatskievych, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org.

MON., SEPT. 17: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY, 9-11:00am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Plants for sale in greenhouse. 713-274-0950; hcmg.a.tamu.edu

TUES., SEPT. 18: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmg.a.tamu.edu

TUES., SEPT. 18: LOVE YOUR HIPPEASTRUM AKA AMARYLLIS by CHARLES PRASEK, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

TUE., SEPT. 18: A SHORT VISIT TO COLUMBIA AND COLLECTING THE WORLD'S LARGEST TILLANDSIA by DENNIS CATHCART, TROPIFLORA NURSERY, SARASOTA, FL, 7:00pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

THURS., SEPT. 20: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmg.a.tamu.edu

SAT., SEPT. 22: LEAGUE CITY GARDEN WALK: MOVING ON WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, 10am-4pm. \$15. League City Garden Club Event. leaguecitygardenclub.org.

SAT., SEPT. 22: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm. University of St. Thomas, O' Rourke Bldg, 3800 Montrose Blvd. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., SEPT. 22: LEAGUE CITY GARDEN WALK: MOVING ON WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, 10am-4pm. \$15. League City Garden Club Event. leaguacitygardenclub.org.

SUN., SEPT. 23: GULF COAST DAYLILY A DREAM WAITING TO BE LIVED by EVERETT CRAINER, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

WED., SEPT. 26: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Conference Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

THURS., SEPT. 27: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6-7:30pm. McGovern Centennial Family Gardens, 1500 Hermann Dr. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT.-SUN., SEPT. 29-30: BROMELIAD SOCIETY / HOUSTON SHOW & SALE, Show 2pm-5pm Sat. & 11am-3pm Sun., Sale 9am-4:30pm Sat. & 11am-3pm Sun., Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

SUN., SEPT. 30: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE 1: SLTP 1. 2-6pm. Loop 610 & Stella Link area. \$55 Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

THURS., OCT. 4: BULBS NATURALIZED FOR THE GULF COAST by LINDA GAY, time?, Place? Fee? Nottingham Country Garden Club event. website/email for more information?

SAT., OCT. 6: MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN POLLINATOR FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE, 10am-4pm, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

SAT., OCT. 6: BASIC FRUIT TREE CARE & PLANTING,. 9:30am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Classroom, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 6-7: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, Sat., 10am-4pm; Sun., 10am-3pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.co

SUN., OCT. 7: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE 2: SLTP 2. 12:30-5:30pm. University of Houston, Central Campus, 4800 Calhoun Rd. \$65. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

WED., OCT. 10: MYSTERIOUS PLANTS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., OCT.12: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE & A WITCH'S BREW FLOWER SHOW, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., OCT.13: URBAN HARVEST EDIBLE ACADEMY: EAT SHARE, GROW!, 9am-noon. Gregory-Lincoln Educational Center, PVA, 1101 Taft St. \$50. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., OCT 13: GARDENING FOR POLLINATORS, 9:30am - noon, Nature Discovery Center, 7712 Newcastle, Bellaire. \$15/person. Registration: naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/adult-nature-series/ or 713-667-6550

SUN., OCT. 14: DESIGNING BOUNTIFUL GARDENS THROUGH PERMACULTURE (6 Classes), 1-5:30pm, University of Houston, Central Campus, 4800 Calhoun Rd. \$325. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT, OCT 20: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE, United Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2038 FM 3171, Schulenburg. Free. texasroserustlers.com/events/

SAT. OCT. 20: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE. Plant sale seminar: 8-8:50am. Sale, 9 am-1 pm. Galveston County Fair Grounds ,Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd., Hitchcock. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., OCT. 27: FRUIT TREE CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., NOV. 3: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., NOV.3: SEABORNE NATURE FEST, 10am-4pm, Seaborne Creek Nature Park, 3831 TX 36, Rosenberg. Free. SEABOURNE NATURE FEST

FRI., NOV.9: THE PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS - TEXAS' STATE PLANT by LILIANA CRACRAFT, ", Speaker Liliana Cracraft. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

WED., NOV. 14: SUCCULENT DESIGN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

SAT., DEC. 8: HOLIDAY IN THE GARDENS, 11am-5pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160

WED., DEC. 12: WINTER COLOR, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

FRI., DEC 14: WINTER WONDERLAND LUNCHEON GALA, speaker: BILL MCKINLEY. 10am, Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. \$30. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., DEC. 14: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TRAINING PROGRAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE. Begins Thurs. Jan. 17. \$160. txmg/wallerm/training

FRI., JAN.11: THE HISTORY OF THE PEGGY MARTIN ROSE by PEGGY MARTIN, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., JAN. 25: MONARCH TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOP, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI: FEB. 8: PLANT SALE and speaker CORRIE TEN-HAVE, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI: MAR. 8: NATIVE PLANTS ARE BEAUTIFUL TOO! by Linda Gay, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI.,MAR. 16: MARCH MART PLANT SALE, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI: APR. 11: PLANT SALE and REFUGEES FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM by MARGARET PICKELL. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. 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!
& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!**

**PLEASE READ BEFORE
SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.**

**Events NOT submitted in the EXACT written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.
Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net**

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

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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.

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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