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**November 02, 2018**

Dear Friends,

Here is the 273rd 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](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!](#)**



## ROOTING FOR, AND WITH, WINTER COLOR!

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Most of the rest of the country is thinking about putting gardens to bed for the winter. It's ok to smile. We still have a good two months (at least) of growing time, even more if January and February don't bring prolonged subfreezing temperatures.

With our extreme weather changes, there's no predicting. But normally many shrubs that are blooming now may well produce color through December and maybe even into January.

We can hope that "normally" runs true this year and to hedge our bets, in today's Spotlight Article, Linda Gay gives us a preview of her big Nov. 8 "Holiday Garden Color" presentation. It's a benefit for Peckerwood Gardens that is being held here in Houston at Canopy Restaurant, 3939 Montrose.

For those of you unfamiliar with Peckerwood Gardens, this Hempstead-area horticultural treasure, a member of the nationwide Garden Conservancy, boasts a 3000+ -plant collection that includes numerous rare and/or threatened species.

Many plants Linda will recommend can be seen in bloom during upcoming events at Peckerwood. (Details on guided tours, lectures and other events at this private garden of John G. Fairey are available on [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org).)

Linda is best known as the former longtime director of Mercer Botanic Gardens, her work with the McGovern Centennial Gardens in Hermann Park, her The Arbor Gate presentations and Houston Community College professorship.

Take pen and pencil when you go hear Linda. If we do have early intense cold spells, the mostly-annuals she'll be recommending will make not only beautiful pockets of color, but also great cold-weather blooming fill-ins for those wimps who decide to conserve energy by dropping their flowers.

It never hurts to have impressive color when visitors arrive for Thanksgiving, Christmas and other upcoming celebrations.

And, always on target, Linda may even throw in suggestions to help folks create garden cheers for their favorite college teams. She did for us below.

**THURS. NOV. 8: HOLIDAY GARDEN COLOR by LINDA GAY, 6:30pm,  
Canopy Restaurant, 3939 Montrose. \$30. Peckerwood Garden event.**

**Registration deadline - Nov. 6: [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org)**

\* \* \*



Before we get to Linda's pearls of wisdom, I've had two "what-are-these?" queries about interesting plants around town:

- **PEACHY-PINK BLOOMERS** -- Those gorgeous pinkish "blooming" trees are golden raintrees. The one at left above belongs to Sam & Mary Jo Kruse. Those aren't flowers, they're seed pods. "Golden" refers to the beautiful yellow flowers that preceded these pods. As with so many of our beautifully blooming trees, they're proving a little too happy - aka: invasive -- as they enjoy our changing climate.
- **INTERESTING GRAY BALLS** -- The soft, feathery-looking medium-sized trees with the interesting gray balls (right above) that can be seen blooming on OST where it ties into South Main are hybrids off our native bald cypress. Dr. David Creech at [Stephen F. Austin Mast Arboretum](#) in Nacogdoches has consulted on some fascinating work in China with our native bald cypress. I expect these might be the result of his efforts.
  - *(Must give credit. Linda Gay identified this tree for me! I've never seen a bald cypress so perfect for a suburban home landscape. How nice I can just now turn the rest of this column over to her!*

**FAVOR?** If you use other great flower color combinations specifically to cheer on your alma mater (or any team) that Linda has not listed below, do share at [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)!

***DON'T FORGET TO CHECK "LG&F CALENDAR" AT END OF NEWSLETTER FOR MORE GREAT UPCOMING EVENTS!***

***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 find past issues and/or download PDF copies, go to [natureswayresources.com](http://natureswayresources.com)***

\* \* \*



# Spotlighting our . . . Local Experts

*Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter*



*L to r, red & white cyclamen, cyclamen with alyssum border, expanded shale, Clivia miniata*

## FALL INTO WINTER (& FOOTBALL) WITH LOTS OF COLOR IN THE YARD!

By LINDA GAY

Nothing says Christmas like red and white cyclamen. In the shade container, I like to use mixed red and white cyclamen - not straight-line bands (this point would be in flower beds not containers) -- with white alyssum and add dark green English ivy in between the alyssum.

Miniature cyclamen get 6-8" tall and have a smaller habit than the larger growing ones. Cyclamen are bulbs. When planting, take care not to bury the bulb (where the leaves and flowers arise from the top, see below). Don't cover the crown when mulching. Plant the "crown" high to keep disease from attacking and killing the plant. Do not keep the soil too wet, let the soil dry out in between waterings.



*Miniature cyclamen bloom and sprouting bulb*

Predictions indicate we're going to have a cold wet winter. Before planting, add expanded shale to those areas that do not drain well. Keep frost cloth handy to cover plants when temperatures drop to freezing so you won't lose flowers on cyclamen or snapdragons.

**Clivia miniata** is a fantastic winter bloomer in the shade garden and the cluster of orange flowers is very long lasting when protected from frost.

I love violas; they bloom so much better than pansies and have twice the number of flowers per plant! Houston is so cloudy in the winter, pansies don't bloom well as they like 6 hours of sun daily. Those cute little Johnny Jump-Ups jump right into your face, bloom in shade, sun and cloudy weather. They are the best performers through the winter and into the spring.



*L to r, Violas - Admire 'Orange and Purple', Flora Power 'Gold Purple Wing', Sorbet 'Citrus Mix' and Sorbet 'Penny Orange'*

**AND FOR THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL FANS** - Many new varieties and bi-colors have been added to the trade. Above, left to right . . .

- Admire series 'Orange and Purple' SCREAM "FALL IS HERE!" or when will it be here?
- Floral Power series 'Gold Purple Wing' is the Viola for LSU, guaranteed to bring out the Bengal in the Tiger.
- Sorbet 'Citrus Mix' or 'Penny Orange' certainly "Hook Those UT Horns!"

And below, l to r . . .



- A combo planting that literally bleeds red for the UH Coogs would be Dianthus chinensis 'Telstar Crimson' interspersed with 'Telstar White'.
- Penny series (closer to maroon) 'Red Blotch' with Penny 'White' "GIGS THOSE AGGIES"!

**NO LUCK WITH SNAPS?** I also want to offer a little advice to those gardeners who think they cannot grow snapdragons. You are keeping them TOO WET.

Snapdragons like to dry out completely in between watering. If soil is too heavy add some expanded shale (see top of article) to improve drainage and aerate the soil permanently. Shale is porous and will absorb excess water until the soil dries out, then the water is released from the shale.



- Snapdragons have been hybridized to flower all winter instead of growing all winter and flowering in the spring. Some of my favorite series are:
- **DWARF:** Montego 'Orange Bicolor', 6-8". Snapshot and Snaptastic are two new series of dwarf snapdragons
- **MEDIUM:** Solstice or Liberty, 16-20"
- **TALL:** Rocket snaps get 4' tall and do not bloom until spring!



L to r, Great snapdragons: 'Liberty' Linda photographed during a past dry spring, Montego 'Orange Bicolor.' 'Snapshot' dwarf, 'Snaptastic' dwarf and 'Solstice' medium.

\* \* \*

**Editor's note: Three ways to learn more from Linda:**

- Email her at [lgay4756@gmail.com](mailto:lgay4756@gmail.com)
- Tune in to the [Houston Matters](#) radio show 88.7 FM, Thurs., Nov. 15, 12:30pm. Linda will be the featured guest
- Meet Linda in person Thurs., Nov. 8, at her "Holiday Garden Color" presentation, 6:30pm, Canopy Restaurant, 3939 Montrose. Peckerwood Garden event. \$30. Registration deadline - Nov. 6. Details: [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org)

\* \* \*



**NOVEMBER 14**  
UNITED WAY 50 WAUGH DRIVE.  
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# MICHAEL PHILLIPS

## THE KING OF MYCORRHIZAL

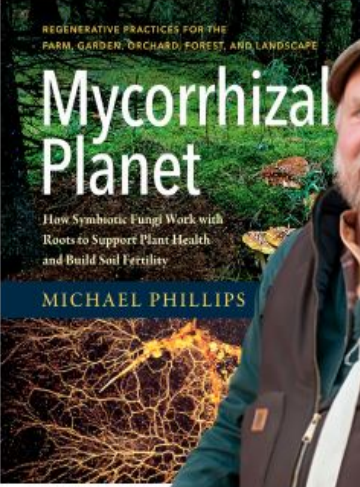
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**Schedule**  
**5:00-6:00 PM** Registration, Networking, Light Bites  
**6:00-7:30 PM** Michael Phillips on Mycorrhizal Fungi

Michael Phillips, author of *Mycorrhizal Planet*, will dive deep into how fungi and plants work together to create dynamic ecosystems.

This seminar is going to be packed with mycorrhizal insight and much more. Come learn how plants and microbes communicate and how you can take your lawns, gardens, & landscapes to the next level.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*




*Joyce Serant Foundation*  Sustainable Growth Texas  MicroLife

\* \* \*

# John's Corner . . .




# NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 66

A question I often hear this time of year is, "I have brown patch and how can I treat it?"

Brown Patch in St. Augustine and other grasses is a fungal disease that occurs most frequently at daytime temperatures of 75-85° F and with cooler nighttime temperatures (sometimes in the spring but most commonly in the fall). It grows best in the moist soils that we have in the fall. Symptoms include yellowish grass with grayish ring of wilted grass at edges of the patch, several inches to many feet across. Grass blades will easily pull off of stolons in grayish area. The disease damages roots, stolons, and nodes. The disease can start in the spring but does not become bad till the fall as it survives (semi-dormant) best in turf grass with excessive thatch (healthy soils do not have thatch). Beneficial fungi in the soil break down thatch, however if one applies a broad spectrum fungicide to one's lawn, you will kill these good fungi and actually increase your chance of developing brown patch in the fall. This is one of the reasons brown patch returns to one's yard year after year.



*The picture above is a typical example of brown patch.*

## Causes of Brown Patch:

Have you ever wondered why some yards get brown patch and others do not? Have you noticed that your neighbor whom never fertilizes or waters their yard does not seem to get brown patch? There is a reason why!

Healthy soils have a species of bacteria in them called actinomycetes. This good bacteria eats the bad fungus that causes brown patch and other bad fungus like "Take All", "St. Augustine decline", etc.). This good bacteria is very salt sensitive like many species of bacteria. The reason we use salt in canned goods, ham, bacon, jerky and other foods to preserve them, is that the salt kills bacteria. Hence when we apply an artificial fertilizer (chemically a salt) we kill this good bacteria that prevents this disease.

Brown Patch is a soil borne fungus ( *Rhizoctonia solani* ) that thrives in unhealthy soils. It is commonly found in soils that have been treated with synthetic artificial fertilizers, fungicides,



pesticides, herbicides, and other toxic and dangerous chemicals.

Watering with municipal water also kills this good bacteria. The reason we add chlorine and chloramines to our public water supplies is to kill bacteria. Hence the more one waters their yard, the greater their chance of getting this disease. Watering coupled with the use of artificial fertilizers it is a sure fire recipe to get brown patch. Additionally, when we use these artificial synthetic nitrogen fertilizers it cause fast but weak growth which is more susceptible to brown patch and many other diseases and insect problems. Then the problems are always made worse by poor drainage and poor aeration.

**Note:** Lawn maintenance companies when they mow someone's yard with this disease (unless they clean and sterilize the mower between yards) they will then transfer the pathogen spores to your yard and infect it. The large majority of lawn services DO NOT clean their equipment.

**Treatment:** We have several options to control this disease.

1) First, we have to quit doing the things that led to this disease in the first place.

2) For severe cases there is a product called "Actinovate" that contains this good bacteria "actinomycetes". When applied according to directions it will quickly control this disease. This bacteria also kills (eats) some of the good fungus also. For mild to severe cases Leaf Mold Compost by itself works very well.

3) Hence after 7-10 days and the good bacteria has done its work we have to inoculate the soil with these other good microbes. The easiest, cheapest and best method is to apply a good compost. **Note:** Cheap low quality compost made without manures does not work very well. A good compost, like a fine screened "Leaf Mold Compost" is very effective at controlling brown patch and many other diseases. Compost should be applied at the rate of at least 1/4 inch but not more than a 1/2 inch layer at one time as we do not want to smother the grass.

**Prevention:**

1) Use only a low salt, good quality organic fertilizers like Microlife 6-2-4.

2) Apply Leaf Mold Compost 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch deep every year on your grass

3) Apply some type of trace minerals (e.g. green sand) every 3-5 years to your grass. Typically 40 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

4) Quit watering, you do not need it.

**NOTE:** Many people whom have been on an organic program with healthy soils have not had to water their lawns since the drought of 2011. Think how much money and time you could have saved by using the modern biological methods (organic).



# 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**

**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](http://maasnursery.com)**

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

**SAT., NOV 3: 46th ANNUAL HERB FAIR, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004. The Herb Society of America, South Texas Unit. Free admission. [herbsociety-stu.org](http://herbsociety-stu.org)**

**SAT. NOV 3: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 1-3:45pm, Rosenberg Library Wortham Auditorium, 2310 Sealy St, Galveston. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065. [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)**

**SAT., NOV. 3: NASCAR TREE GIVEAWAY, 10am-noon, Hermann Park, McGovern Centennial Gardens. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners co-op. 713-274-0950; [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)**

**SAT., NOV 3: WINTERIZE YOUR GARDEN by CINDY CHAMPION, 11am-noon., Wabash Feed and Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd, Free. Wabashfeed.com & 713-863-8322**

**MON, NOV. 5: SOUTHERN BULBS BY CHRIS WIESINGER OF THE SOUTHERN BULB COMPANY, 9:30 am, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 State Hwy 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event. [tomballgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:tomballgardenclub@gmail.com)**

**WED., Nov. 7: COLOR PLANTS AND BONSAI by PHILLIP DRILLING, 9-11 am, Clear Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 16335 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners by the Bay event. [gbtb.org](http://gbtb.org)**

**THURS., NOV. 8: FERTILIZERS by BOB PATTERSON, 10am, MUD Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr. Free. Nottingham County Garden Club event. [ncgctx.org](http://ncgctx.org)**

**THURS, NOV. 8 ROOT-A-ROSE CLINIC by GAYE HAMMOND, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)**

**THURS. NOV. 8: HOLIDAY GARDEN COLOR by LINDA GAY, 6:30pm, Canopy, 3939 Montrose. \$30. Peckerwood Garden event. Register: [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org).**

**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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)**

**SAT. NOV 10: WHAT IS A GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER? by DIANE SCHENKE, 9-11am; EVALUATING YOUR SOIL'S HEALTH by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm., AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Master Gardener events. Free but register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com), 281-309-5065, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)**

**SAT., NOV. 10: HOW TO GROW FRUIT TREES AND CITRUS by DIANNE NORMAN, 1-2pm, Wabash Feed and Garden 4537 N. Shepherd. Free. [Wabashfeed.com](http://Wabashfeed.com) & 713-863-8322**

**TUES., NOV. 13: CREATIVE HOLIDAY IDEAS FROM YOUR GARDEN by Betty Lahiri, 9 am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 North, Shenandoah. Free. The Woodlands Garden Club event.**

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

**FRI., NOV. 16: HOUSTON URBAN TREE CONFERENCE, 8:15am-3pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd.. \$45. Register: [houston-urban-tree-conference.eventbrite.com](http://houston-urban-tree-conference.eventbrite.com)**

**SAT., NOV. 17: EDIBLE LANDSCAPES, 9:30am-11:30am., Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Conference Room, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540, [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

**SUN., NOV 18: GROWING FROM SPORE PART TWO - BABY FERNS by DARLA HARRIS & PATRICK HUDNALL, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. [tgcfernsociety.org](http://tgcfernsociety.org).**

**TUES., NOV. 20: GOT TREES & GRASS & WEEDS? by DEBORAH BIRGE, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. [sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://sugarlandgardenclub.org)**

**TUES., NOV. 20: BLUE RIBBON WINNER-UNDERSTANDING CRITERIA FOR TOP HONORS IN CONTAINERS by SUZANNE MILSTEAD, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)**

**SAT., DEC. 1: Starting a Community or School Garden Workshop. 8:30am-2:30pm. University of Houston Downtown, Room A625, 201 Girard St. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540, [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

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

**SAT., DEC.8: INSECTARY GARDENS - NATURE'S PEST CONTROL, 9:30am-11:30am. The Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Conference Room, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540, [urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar](http://urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar)**

**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](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)**

**FRI., DEC. 14: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TRAINING PROGRAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE. Begins Thurs. Jan. 17. \$160. [txmg.org/wallermg/training](http://txmg.org/wallermg/training)**

**FRI., JAN.11: THE HISTORY OF THE PEGGY MARTIN ROSE by PEGGY MARTIN, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)**

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

**SUN., JAN. 27: THE SECRET LIFE OF SOIL- FEED YOUR SOIL & IT WILL FEED YOUR PLANTS! by SHERRI HARRAH, 2pm, Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)**

**FRI: FEB. 8: PLANT SALE and speaker CORRIE TEN-HAVE, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)**

**FRI: MAR. 8: NATIVE PLANTS ARE BEAUTIFUL TOO! by Linda Gay, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)**

**SAT, Mar 2: VEGETABLE & HERB SALE with THE GUNTER SISTERS, JUDY BARNETT & WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9am-Noon, Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. Free. [txmg.org/wallermg/events](http://txmg.org/wallermg/events)**



**SAT., 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](http://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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**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](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

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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 Pablo Hernandez 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 and quality control.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



**Confirm that you like this.**

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