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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Gardening Newsletter

Jul 18, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 300th 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!

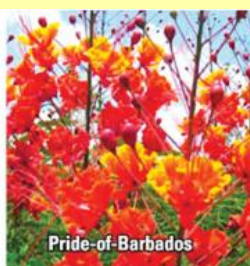
This newsletter is a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith & John Ferguson. (John is with [Nature's Way Resources](#)). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter, comments, suggestions, questions. Email your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

Please sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking this link: ["Join Our Mailing List"](#). We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

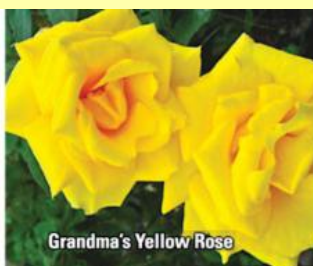
Enjoy!



Texas Dawn



Pride-of-Barbados



Grandma's Yellow Rose



You-Pick-the-Color Bluebonnets

A 'SUPERSTAR' GARDEN

... WITH PROPER FORETHOUGHT

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

-- Doug Larson, American journalist

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Molly G., a new-to-Houston gardener, wants to know "What are Texas Super Stars?" Someone told her that's what she should plant but, she writes, "I don't want to get stuck with a bunch of weeds!"

It's all one word, Molly, [Texas Superstars](#) -- very reliably, highly recommended garden plants, judged exceptional hardy across MOST of the Lone Star State.

That "Most" is important. Know the limitations of your area. Our subtropical Gulf Coast pocket has it's own special demands, even with the super-hardy, drought-and-heat-tolerant winners of the Texas Superstar selections.

During our increasingly-frequent monsoon rains, even Superstars may, at best, quit blooming – and at worst give up the ghost – if not planted in extremely well drained sites where water does NOT stand after heavy rains. Keep this in mind and they will perform delightfully during our increasing 100+ degree summer droughts and our monsoons.

In the 1980s, Dr. Jerry Parsons, San Antonio area, and others awarded the first Texas Superstar award to the bluebonnet in what was, from the beginning, a marketing promotion in conjunction with the nursery industry.

Most important to us, they wanted gardeners to focus on plants beneficial to the environment in light of our growing concern with the environment and ecological resources. They wanted gardeners to use more ecology-friendly plants that did not require such heavy use of pesticides, fertilizers and, most importantly, water. Whether it was by design, or coincidental, the Superstar choices over the years have also proven to be excellent pollinator plants.

Good example is the recent 2019 Superstar winner, New Look celosia. Celosia is an excellent bee attractor in fall, when so many of the more popular pollinator flowers now used are beginning to fade. Ignore those who say celosia, or cockscomb, always an annual. Here it is often perennial -- a good example of how things ARE different here.

To become a Texas Superstar, a plant must:

1. be attractive and useful to the gardening public
2. be unique, desirable, ornamental characteristics
3. perform in Texas summers
4. not be usually available in commonly sold plant
5. consistently perform well for most Texas consumers regardless of their gardening expertise and growing locations
6. be as pest-resistant as possible (deer-proof an added bonus)

AND, OF COURSE, IT MUST BE . . .

1. *mass-marketable (ie., easily propagated and produced in sufficient numbers)*
2. *so attractive in sale containers, it will not only catch our eyes as we wheel down nursery aisles, but will so intrigue us, we'll actually put it in our shopping carts*



Only plants which have earned this commendation are allowed to sport the Texas Superstar logo (above) on nursery containers. For pictures of a lot of these more details, download this [PDF brochure](#) :



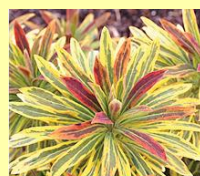
Peppermint Flare Hibiscus



Trailing Lantana



Blue Princess Verbena

Ascot Rainbow
euphorbia

Lobelia White Stream



Fall Zinnias

Perennial Plants

1. [Texas Gold Columbine](#)
2. [Flare Hibiscus](#)
3. [Lord Baltimore Hibiscus](#)
4. [Moy Grande Hibiscus](#)
5. [New Gold™ Lantana](#)
6. [Trailing Lantana](#)
7. [Malvaviscus, Turks Cap](#)
8. [Princess Caroline Napier Grass](#)
9. [Dwarf Mexicana Petunia](#)
10. [John Fanick Phlox](#)
11. [Victoria Phlox](#)
12. [Plumbago](#)
13. [Mexican Bush Sage](#)
14. [‘Henry Duelberg’ Salvia](#)
15. [‘Mystic Spires Blue’ Salvia](#)
(Improved for 2018)
16. [Blue Princess Verbena](#)

Annual Plants

1. [Angelonia Serena™ Series](#)
2. [Whopper Begonias](#)
3. [Baby's Breath Euphorbias](#)
4. [Texas Bluebonnets](#)
5. [Texas Maroon Bluebonnets*](#)
6. [Lady Bird Johnson Royal Blue Bluebonnet](#)
7. [Cool Season Euphorbias](#)
8. [Gomphrena, Globe Amaranth](#)
9. [Dakota Gold Helenium](#)
10. [Larkspur](#)
11. [Lobularia ‘White Stream’](#)
12. [Rio Series Mandevillas](#)
13. [Mari-mum](#)

Per-Annuals

(Tropical perennials used as
annuals in extended-cold areas)



Variegated tapioca



Firecracker Jatropha

Brazilian Red Hots
Alternanthera

1. [Brazilian Red Hots Alternanthera](#)
2. [Little Ruby Alternanthera](#)
3. [Caesalpinia, Pride-Of-Barbados](#)
4. [Duranta, Brazilian Sky Flower](#)
5. [Gold Star Esperanza](#)
6. [Firebush](#)
7. [Firecracker Jatropha](#)
8. [Variegated Tapioca](#)
9. [Thyrallis](#)



Lynn Lowrey Legacy Cenizo



Basham's Party Pink Crapemyrtle

Woody Shrubs x

1. [Lynn's Legacy Cenizo](#)
2. [Belinda's Dream Rose](#)
3. [Grandma's Yellow Rose](#)
4. [KNOCK OUT® Rose](#)
5. ['Marie Daly' Rose](#)
6. [Texas Lilac Vitex](#)

Trees

1. [Basham's Party Pink Crapemyrtle](#)
2. [Deciduous Holly](#)
3. [Shantung Maple](#)
4. [Lacey Oak](#)
5. [Chinkapin Oak](#)
6. [Chinese Pistache](#)



Graptophyllum, Caricature Plant



'Basket of Fire' Pepper

1. ['Orange Frost' Satsuma](#)

Specialty Plants

1. ['Balsamic Blooms' Basil](#)
 2. ['Victoria Red' Grape](#)
 3. ['Natchez' Blackberry](#)
 4. ['Green Magic' Broccoli](#)
 5. [Graptophyllum, 'Caricature Plant'](#)
 6. [Phalaenopsis Orchids](#)
 7. [Satsuma Mandarin](#)
 8. ['Arctic Frost' Satsuma](#)
2. ['Basket of Fire' Pepper](#)
 3. ['NuMex Twilight' Ornamental Pepper](#)
 4. ['Purple Flash' Ornamental Pepper](#)
 5. ['Dwarf Cherry Surprise', 'BHN 968' Tomato](#)
 6. ['Tycoon' Tomato](#)
 7. [Waterlilies](#)

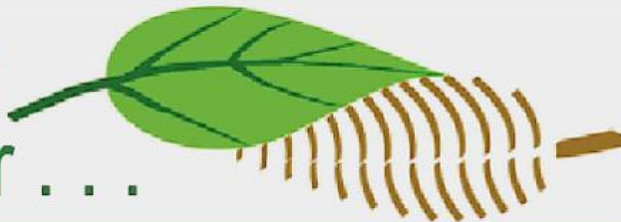
* THE "MAROON" BLUEBONNET

-- listed under "Annuals" above -- has a fun backstory. Jerry Parsons with Texas A&M / Cooperative Extension may insist on calling it's Superstar bluebonnet "Aggie Maroon." But, take it from me, folks. It's really "Cougar Red"! What do you think?

texassuperstar.com/plants/maroon/realmaroon.html



John's
Corner . . .



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 92

Now that we are in the middle of summer one might be thinking about his/her fall garden. There is a natural protein found in food called NAC (N-acetylcysteine) that is a powerful antioxidant and several university studies have shown it is also effective at suppressing the growth of cancer cells. A couple of our cool season vegetables that are high in this nutrient are Broccoli and Brussels sprouts. Another study in the journal Science (2019), by researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center has found that broccoli along with cauliflower, cabbage, collard greens and Kale contain molecules that inhibits a gene required for cancers to grow.

Note: Many beneficial chemicals found in plants quickly degrade after picking, hence to obtain maximum value we need to grow our own or at least buy from local farmers markets.

Another plant in the news is our native Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Historically this plant was used to treat infections. A recent study published in the journal Scientific Reports (2019) by researchers at Emory University Health Sciences, has found that extract from this tree have anti-microbial effects against several multi-drug-resistant bacteria. This tree also has very showy flowers that attractive to pollinators, butterflies, and hummingbirds.



A massive research project by Stanford University and others has collected data from over one million forest plots that represent 28,000 different tree species in 70 countries. Journal Nature (May 2019). The interactions between inter kingdom collaborations such as between microbes and trees were very diverse. They studied how roots, fungi and bacteria exchange nutrients in a vast global marketplace. Each tree species was closely related to certain types of microbes in the soil. They found that ectomycorrhizal (EM) could build vast networks and were more common in temperate forests and could store more carbon in the soil. Arbuscular mycorrhizae (AM) form smaller food webs and networks and were more prevalent in the tropics. All the networks formed by fungi, bacteria and roots are now being called "The Wood Wide Web". This is the first study of its kind to map all the relationships. I expect there will be many new understandings of how nature (God) works as all this data is analyzed.

A plant that I have often considered a weed is now being labeled as super food. This is the common purslane plant (*Portulaca oleracea*). This purslane is rich in vitamins and minerals. In addition, it has large amounts of beneficial omega-3 fatty acids. Purslane has been used for centuries as a food plant and as a medicinal plant. It can be eaten raw or used in soups, stews and salads. The [Dr. Mercola website](#) has more information on this plant.

Following last week's article on the benefits of native plants on caterpillars, the July 2019 issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine (pp. 44-49) has a good article on moths: "Like a Moth to a Flame – Caterpillars can be pesky, but their transformations into moths are worth the trouble", by Sheryl Smith Rodgers.

As gardeners we are becoming more aware of the need to take care of our pollinators and there are many articles and programs around the country on what plants provide for the daytime pollinators. What we forget is that many of the best pollinators work at night and that we need to provide for them also. The July/August issues of the magazine "Horticulture" (pp. 21-25) had a nice article on nighttime pollinators. "Some night-blooming plants, such as Moonflower, morning glory, evening primrose, four-o'clocks, yucca, gardenia, and nicotiana, will also attract bats, true nocturnal creatures that eat harmful beetles, other plant decimating pests and upwards of 600 mosquitos per hour (*per bat*). According to the U.S. Forest Service Rangeland Management Program, bats are vital for pollinating 300+ food plants, including guava, banana, mango, peach date, fig, cashew and pecan. " To learn more how one can take care of our beneficial bats go to Bat Conservation International at <http://www.batcon.org/>

A question I frequently get asked is why organic gardening and organic food?

There was a great answer in a recent Acres USA newsletter by André Leu who is the author of [The Myths of Safe Pesticides](#) and [Poisoning Our Children](#) . He previously served as president of IFOAM — Organics International and is currently the international director of [Regeneration International](#) .

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there is a global epidemic of non-communicable chronic diseases: "Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, are the leading cause of mortality in the world. This invisible epidemic is an under-appreciated cause of poverty and hinders the economic development of many countries. The burden is growing — the number of people, families and communities afflicted is increasing".

You cannot catch these diseases from other people. Their multiple causes are a result of environment and lifestyle. This means that we can prevent them by changing our habits and our food consumption so as to avoid the environmental exposures and lifestyle factors that cause them.

*Pesticides and chemicals are strongly implicated in this global epidemic , but the full extent of their role is being ignored by researchers and health professionals. This is because **the current best practice testing guidelines for pesticides, food additives and chemicals are designed to miss the majority of diseases.** Let's look at these guidelines to understand why."*

[Read the full article:](#)

Along the same lines was an article in Natural News (July, 2019) titled "You think organic living is expensive? Check out the cost of a 'conventional' lifestyle that leads to cancer". Bottom line is that a conventional lifestyle that requires lots of doctor's visits, massive amount of prescriptions, hospitalizations, a degraded or limited life style, pre-mature aging and significant loss of lifespan, etc. the combined costs are hundreds of times more costly than avoiding or preventing the problems in the first place by adopting an organic lifestyle.

Remember the old saying: "A ounce of prevention is less costly than a pound of cure".



Organics Workshop
4+ Hrs of Superb Education on Organic Topics

August 22, 2019
9:30AM–3:45PM

McGovern Centennial Gardens
1500 Hermann Dr. | Houston TX 77004

TICKETS
\$25 Members | \$50 Non-Members
Register Online @ ohbaonline.org/events

Schedule

9:30AM–10:00AM

**Registration,
Networking,
& Light Bites**

10:05AM–10:50AM

Molly Pikarsky Lake Austin Resort
"How to Sell Organics"

11:00AM–11:45AM

Heidi Sheesley Treeseach Farms
"Habitat Gardening-Plant Materials
for Butterflies, Bees, and Birds"

11:45AM–12:45PM

Fantastic Lunch

12:45PM–1:30PM

Bart Brechter Bayou Bend
"Organic Care of Roses, Azaleas
and Other Common Shrubs"

1:40PM–2:25PM

Angela Chandler The Garden Academy
"Beneficial Insects in the Landscape"

2:35PM–3:25PM

**Danny Millikin
Memorial Park Conservatory**
"Using Compost: Recent Research"

3:25PM–3:45PM

Panel Discussion: Ask the Experts

**Join us for this
Excellent
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Master Gardeners,
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SERVICES INC.

Have You Tried . . .
Lord Baltimore

Rose Mallow Hibiscus

(*Hibiscus* sp. 'Lord Baltimore')

This Texas Superstar selection is a cold hardy perennial that blooms summer through frost. An improved pest-resistant sterile hybrid, it likes full sun and can reach 5' tall & wide. Easy care thrives in harsh Texas heat. Will blow your doors off with color.



Distinctive lobed leaves. Does well in containers. Look for the Superstar label!

Lord Baltimore hibiscus is carried by Nature's Way Resources ([Map](#)) along with many other SUPERSTAR selections including New Gold lantana, white & purple trailing lantana, plumbago, Mexican bush sage, Gold Star esperanza, Belinda's Dream Rose, Knock Out rose, Texas Lilac Vitex and Satsumas. Or . . . contact our sponsor, Montgomery Pines Nursery in Willis, our other sponsors below or your neighborhood nurseryman for possible sources.

* * *

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

GARDEN/PLANT EVENTS ONLY

*Events are in Houston unless otherwise noted. **No events** are picked up from newsletter, etc. Individual events must be submitted in exact format below to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net*

SAT., JULY 20: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT, JULY. 20: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS SUMMER MEETING, 10am-3pm, Antique Rose Emporium, 10000 FM 50, Independence. Free. Texasroserustlers.com

SAT., JULY 20: WATER CONSERVATION – 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., JULY 20: CONTAINER AND SMALL SPACE GARDENING, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SUN., JULY 21: MULCH - SECRET WEAPON OF SUCCESSFUL GARDENERS by JOHN FERGUSON, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free., Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. 713-284-1994

SAT., AUG. 3: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., AUG. 3: BONSAI – BUTTONWOOD CARE & STYLING by JOSE RODRIGUEZ, 10:15am, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. Free. Houston Bonsai Society event.

THURS., AUG. 8: BUILD YOUR OWN IRRIGATION SYSTEM by Baxter Williams 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive. Houston Rose Society event. Free. www.houstonrose.org

THURS., AUG. 8: FORM DICTATING FUNCTION: AN INTIMATE LOOK AT PLANT PARTS by BRANDI KELLER, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., AUG. 8: FALL VEGETABLES – 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., AUG. 8: LOCAL EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANT — AN INTRODUCTION by ERIK WOLF, 7pm, Rosenberg Convention Center, 3825 Texas 36 South, Rosenberg. Free. Texas Master Naturalists Coastal Prairie Chapter. 281-633-7033, mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu; txmn.org/coastal/

SAT., AUG. 10, DIY: COMPOSTING AND ENRICHING THE SOIL, 8-10am, & HONING IN ON YOUR FALL VEGETABLE BOUNTY, 10:30am-12:30pm. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. \$5 each/\$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-529-7824 or mcmga.com

WED., AUG. 14: BIRDS OF A FEATHER IN YOUR GARDEN, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., AUG. 15: FALL VEGETABLES, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., AUG. 17: PLUMERIA CLASS by JIM & MAAS & LORETTA OSTEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., AUG. 17: FALL VEGETABLES, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

MON., AUG. 19: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Plants for sale in the greenhouse. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., AUG 20: TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST/COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER CLASS begins, ends Oct. 12. \$50. Register: 281-633-7033, mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu or txmn.org/coastal .

SAT., AUG. 24: FALL & WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

TUES., AUG. 20: ADDING QUESNELIA TO YOUR COLLECTION by CHARLIE BIRDSONG, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. Bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., AUG. 20: FALL VEGETABLES, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT. AUG 24: COMPOSTING by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register first: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT. AUG 31: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 10:30 am-12:30 pm;
TEXAS TUFF PLANTS FOR THE GULF COAST by MARIE LEAL, 1:30-3:30 pm.
Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood Galveston County
Master Gardener event. Register first: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, call 281-309-5065,
aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THURS., SEPT. 5, SHADY GINGERS & THEIR FLIRTY COMPANIONS BY LINDA GAY,
10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free Nottingham Country Garden
Club event. ncgctx.org

SAT., SEPT. 14: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY &
BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488,
maasnursery.com

SAT., SEPT. 21: GARDENING FOR HUMMINGBIRDS & BIRDS CLASS by JIM MAAS,
PAT CORDRAY & KATHRYN COURTNEY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd.,
Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SUN., SEP. 22: TIDBITS FROM 50 YEARS WITH DAYLILIES by Hershail Theilen, 2-3pm.
Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event.
Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

SAT., SEPT. 28: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT, 10am,
Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., SEPT 28: LEAGUE CITY GARDEN CLUB GARDEN WALK: "UNDER THE
MAJESTIC OAKS," 10:00 am-4:00 pm; Tickets \$15. leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com;
leaguecitygardenclub.org.

SAT., OCT. 5: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE,
10am-4pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Dr. Free. 281-
682-1073, cseverson57@comcast.net

TUES., OCT. 8: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500
Hermann Drive. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT. OCT 12: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-
1pm; SALE PREVIEW, 8am, Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park-Rodeo
Arena, Hwy 6 & Jack Brooks Road, Hitchcock. Free. galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-
309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT. DEC. 14, 2019: CHAPPELL HILL GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR,
10am-5pm., Chappell Hill. \$20 advance/\$25 tour day. 713-562-6191; 979-337-1200

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

-

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If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com



www.bartlett.com



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, it then 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 which morphed into her Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD. which she now emails free upon request.

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 specialty shows on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

For over three decades, Brenda served as 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.

Click the "Like" button.