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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Gardening Newsletter

Aug 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 302nd 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!



FLOWER FRUSTRATIONS, SUCCESSES & RESOURCES

" There is nothing I like better at the end of a hot summer's day than taking a short walk around the garden. You can smell the heat coming up from the earth to meet the cooler night air.

-- Peter Mayle

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Feedback and queries from readers are what make this column really fun to do. Two who have introduced new (to me) plants recently are Dale Philips and Leon Macha.

Some time ago Dale wrote of his slow-to-bloom frangipani vine. " Being 83 now," he wrote, "I'm not happy waiting for blooms!"

Dale's was one of the queries that triggered last week's ["Why isn't my plant blooming?" column](#) . I was surprised to hear of a frangipani "vine."

Rather than being a true frangipani (or plumeria, the Hawaiian lei flower), the "frangipani vine" is actually a *Chonemorpha fragrans* , so nicknamed for its plumeria-like flowers. It's in the *Apocynaceae* family, a cousin of oleanders, periwinkles (vinca) and many other plants with a milky, latex sap.

Dale had been feeding his plumeria fertilizer and bone meal, both of which should help blooming. They hadn't.

Right, Dale Philips' frangipani vine



As I have often admitted, my real expertise is knowing where the real experts are. Linda Gay knew exactly what it was and said to "pray for a mild winter." It will need protection here. Among her notes to Dale:

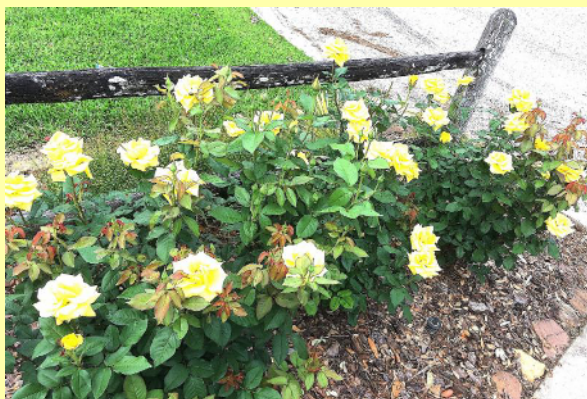
- Flowers spring/summer
- Few insect/disease problems.
- Likes full/partial sun and southern, eastern or western exposure
- Needs solid wood (no frost damage or dormancy in winter) to flower.
- *Greenhouse an option?*
- Staying too wet in winter will also trigger dormancy which will affect blooming
- Bring soil to state of visual dryness between waterings

The frangipani vine's other important need: Space. This native of India, where it grows up trees, can reach 40 ft. in length. Not much is known, however, about how energetically it grows here. Keep us posted, Dale!

* * *

GRANDMA'S YELLOW ROSE in our recent [Superstar issue](#) listings really grabbed Leon Macha's attention. He has five thriving at his El Campo area home.

All Leon's Grandma's Yellow Roses receive all day sun and are now into an awesome fifth round of flowering this year! As soon as a floral flush starts to wane, Leon cuts back at least 1/3 to larger diameter stems. This, he says, is why his bushes have so many bloom explosions.



Leon's longtime association with Greenleaf Nursery (one of North America's largest wholesale growers) says the key to these, and other, roses is sun, sun and more sun. When he cuts a bush back, whenever possible,

"I want to be cutting stems of substantial size, not just a few inches below the spent flower where the stem is toothpick size. A larger stem has fat buds that reward you with more vigorous re-growth and nice fat flower buds.

"If you are paying attention, every 2 weeks there are stems that you can WHACK-OFF (my favorite pruning term) and the progression of new buds and flowers gets to be a constant event. Pruning is not a deep thought process."

However, he cheerfully admits many gardeners " *...would have cardiac arrest if they observed my approach .*" For the past decade, a now retired Leon has shared his gardening advice through around 300 columns in the "El Campo Leader."

The "Grandma" honored by this rose is Tillie Jungman, grandmother of Dr. Larry Stein, AgriLife Extension horticulturist and its developer, along with Jerry Parsons & Greg Grant, all of whom agree this is: [as "dang near" the perfect yellow rose as they've ever seen](#). Who else would tell you these things?

* * *

Sandra Nichols, Dale
Phillip's Friendswood
neighbor, sent in this



picture of Dale's fennel, left, and a swallowtail it pleased. Sandra has released dozens of swallowtails from her own fennel and dill (right above) plants.



Right below, swallowtail chrysalis



* * *

TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS. Just as most counties in Texas now have Master Gardener programs, the Texas Master Naturalist (<https://txmn.org>) program is successfully spreading across the state, encouraging "beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities."



Last year, the Texas Master Naturalists celebrated their 20th anniversary with around 50 chapters now actively educating folks about our native flora and fauna. With the steadily growing interest in Pollinator/Habitat Gardens, Master Naturalists definitely have a lot to teach home gardeners about our many beneficial and ornamental native plants.

Fall Master Naturalist certification training will start this fall across the state (Find program closest to you: <https://txmn.org/chapters/>). In the Greater Houston area alone are numerous chapters, many of which are planning fall events, including:

- 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/
- 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., Nov 2: SEABOURNE NATURE FEST, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Seabourne Creek Nature Park, 3831 TX 36 S., Rosenberg, Tx. Coastal Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalists event. Free. 832-225-6936 coastalprairie.org

Check Calendar below for additional programs scheduled. We can only publish events dealing with plants, but this will help introduce you to these groups.

* * *

SPEAKING OF TREASURING NATIVES:

- **NEW LOCATION** for THURS., AUG. 15: **ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF URBAN WETLANDS** by MARY CAROL EDWARDS, 6:45-8:30pm, American Red Cross, 27000 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston
- **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN** for the SAT., SEP. 21: **ANNUAL WILDSCAPES WORKSHOP NATIVE PLANT EVENT**, 8am-3:30pm; Anderson-Clarke Center, Rice University. \$45 before Aug. 31. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

* * *

ONE OF THE FIRST PLANTS I bought for our new yard was a Mexican flame vine. Decades ago, I photographed -- and fell in love with -- this one at right covering a fence on Nicholson St. in the Heights (south of Joshua's Native Plants on 18th). This seemed ideal to cover a hideous ramada in our new backyard -- a long-flowering vine that could tolerate full sun plus the physical heat of a hot tin roof.



On top of that, it had to have roots strong enough to break through the blacktop paving surrounding this ramada. I cut the bottom off a 5-gal black nursery pot, planted it with good soil with water-holding polymers added, set it right on top the blacktop, piled a heavy pine needle mulch all around the pot over the blacktop and tied the stalks to a lattice leading to the ramada's cover.

A year-plus later, it's alive, climbing nicely on the roof and blooming! Have the roots broken through the blacktop? I have absolutely no idea. But I was so excited when Nature's Way Resources staff suggested this for our weekly "HAVE YOU TRIED . . ." column. Check it out below, right after John's column!

LOOKING FOR CLUB SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS?

"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" — free — lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

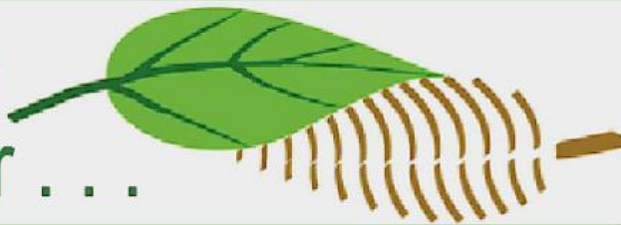
Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener

[CLICK HERE](#) for PDFs OF PAST LG&F NEWSLETTERS

We hope you will repost & share with anyone and everyone!

John's Corner . . .



BOOK REVIEW

For years we have talked about the importance of microbes (bacteria, fungi, protozoa, etc.) and how they are related to producing healthy soils, healthy plants and healthy people. Historically, there is one group of microbes that has not had a lot of discussion or research, in regards to plant and soil science, and that is Algae. That is now changing as we discover the many uses in nature and in society of algae. I just finished reading a new book that is an introduction to the world of algae titled:

SLIME – How Algae Created Us, Plague Us, and Just Might Save Us, by Ruth Kassinger, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishers, 2019, ISBN: 978-544-32932

This book is non-technical and written for the average reader. The author explores the world of algae starting in the first section with our understanding of how algae evolved and its role in creating an environment where plants and animals could live.

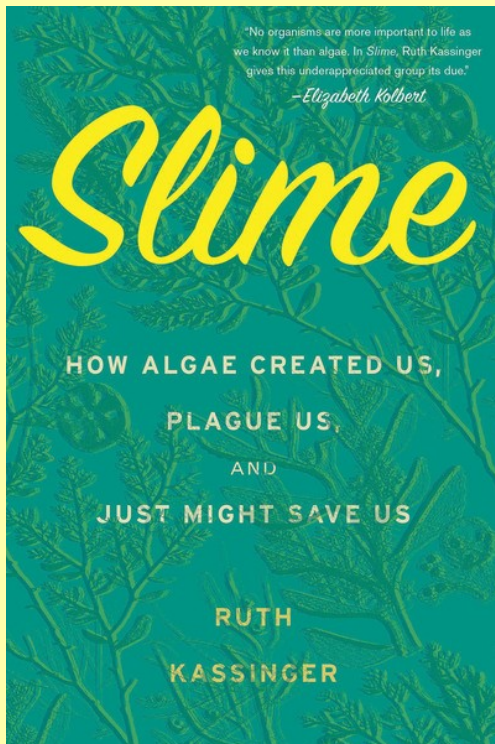
“Going way back to the single-celled organisms of Earth’s early days, she explains first how they evolved into microalgae and then how they eventually formed multicelled macroalgae, which made the jump to land-based fungi and lichen. But where it gets really interesting is her detailed explanation of the large role algae played in the complicated, multistep process of human evolution, supplementing our ancestors’ diets with iodine and the omega-3 oil DHA (docosahexaenoic acid), both essential ingredients for developing larger brains. And it has continued to serve as a nutritious food source for many cultures ever since.”

The second section explores how people have used algae as a food source and the benefits it provides to our brains and health. When fish and other animals eat algae there are many nutritional benefits and in return when we eat the fish or algae directly, we gain these benefits.

The third section explores the commercialization of algae from harvesting algae or growing algae as food or for other uses from pharmacology to fiber, fuel and other products.

The last section deals with algae and our changing climate. She explores the problems and how algae are affecting everything from reefs in the ocean to greenhouse gasses to carbon sequestering.

In all the sections the author approaches the issue by talking with the people involved. What were they doing and why, what are the benefits and what they were trying to achieve, what did they learn and lastly how algae would benefit society.



“No organisms are more important to life as we know it than algae. In *Slime*, Ruth Kassinger gives this underappreciated group its due.” — Elizabeth Kolbert

Say “algae” and most people think of pond scum. What they don’t know is that without algae, none of us would exist.

“There are as many algae on Earth as stars in the universe, and they have been essential to life on our planet for eons. Algae created the Earth we know today, with its oxygen-rich atmosphere, abundant oceans, and coral reefs. Crude oil is made of dead algae, and algae are the ancestors of all plants. Today, seaweed production is a multi-billion

dollar industry, with algae hard at work to make your sushi, chocolate milk, beer, paint, toothpaste, shampoo and so much more.

In *Slime* we’ll meet the algae innovators working toward a sustainable future: from seaweed farmers in South Korea, to scientists using it to clean the dead zones in our waterways, to the entrepreneurs fighting to bring algae fuel and plastics to market.

With a multitude of lively, surprising science and history, Ruth Kassinger takes readers on an around-the-world, behind-the-scenes, and into-the-kitchen tour. Whether you thought algae was just the gunk in your fish tank or you eat seaweed with your oatmeal, *Slime* will delight and amaze with its stories of the good, the bad, and the up-and-coming.”



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 Treesearch 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
 Educational
 Workshop**

**for Landscape Pros,
 Master Gardeners,
 & Homeowners!**

Sponsored By



Have You Tried . . .

Mexican Flame Vine

Pseudogynoxys chenopodioides

(or *Senecio confusus* — t ake your pick!)

Fantastic nectar blooms for many butterflies,
 including monarchs, as well as bumblebees.

Perennial, prefers full sun, but may tolerate part shade, 10-12 ft. Vibrant orange flowers spring through frost. No serious pest/disease problems. Does well in containers, will grow more slowly than in the ground. In colder climates, deadheading recommended. Don't need to do that here!



MEXICAN FLAME VINE is carried by Nature's Way Resources ([Map](#)).
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., 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

THURS., AUG. 15: ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF URBAN WETLANDS by MARY CAROL EDWARDS, 6:45-8:30pm, American Red Cross, 27000 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

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 .

THURS, AUG. 22: ORGANICS WORKSHOP, 9:30am-3:45pm, McGovern Centennial Garden, 1500 Hermann Dr., \$50.Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance event. Register: Ohbaonline.org/events

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: galvcountymgs@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

THURS., SEP. 19: NATIVE TREES IN THE LANDSCAPE: WHY AND HOW? by BRAD PHILLIPS, 6:45-8:30pm; American Red Cross, 27000 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

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

SAT., SEP. 21: ANNUAL WILDSAPES WORKSHOP NATIVE PLANT EVENT, 8am-3:30pm; Anderson-Clarke Center, Rice University. \$45 before Aug. 31. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

SUN., SEP. 22: TIDBITS FROM 50 YEARS WITH DAYLILIES by Hershal 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

THURS., OCT. 17: KATY PRAIRIE UPDATE by WESLEY NEWMAN, 6:45-8:30pm; American Red Cross, 27000 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

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.



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Click the "Like" button.