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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Gardening Newsletter

Aug 23, 2019

Dear Friends,

Here is the 305th 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!

At last, Dr. Bob is updating our area's gardening 'bible'!

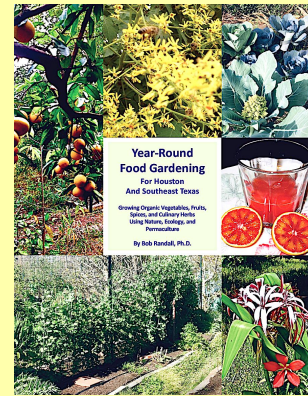
*The more one gardens, the more one learns; And the more
one learns, the more one realizes how little one knows.*

-- Vita Sackville-West

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Good news for those of us who, for decades, have used, loved and learned from Dr. Bob Randall's 12 different editions of ***Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro-Houston***.

An updated version, a much-expanded ***Year Round Food Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*** is at the printer's and will be available in the coming weeks. Although not technically a new edition, it is the 13th of Bob's books, first published in 1986.



All 12 past editions spanned Bob's (and our) experience curves – as helpful to novices and newcomers as to long-timers wanting to learn about the latest research and newest varieties on the market. A lot has changed since the last edition was published in 2005.

Although the book, as always, is aimed at Metro Houston, it works for Southeast Texas in general, where so often our subtropical climate renders gardening advice intended for the rest of the state 'slightly off' for us.



As one of the founders of [Urban Harvest](#), Bob has not only watched, but -- with other area enthusiasts -- oversaw much of the development of this area's now extensive spread of community and school gardens, fruit tree sales, and farmers' market development under Urban Harvest's umbrella. And as one of the founders of [OHBA-Organic Educators](#), Bob has listened to, and interacted with, top organic educators from across the continent.

Interesting changes are reflected in this edition. Because temperatures and rainfall has been changing fairly rapidly, Bob abandoned the idea of fixed Plant Lists for Southeast Texas and fixed Planting Schedules for vegetables.

Instead he has provided a method for identifying which food plants will work in your particular location, information about when to plant them, and how to adjust this as climate conditions change, as they will certainly continue to do.

Did you catch Bob's title change above? No more "Flowers." But Bob assures us he is still a strong advocate of all intelligent, ecology-supporting gardening, recommending many local sources for non-edible advice.

As always, Bob wants his book to *"financially help organizations that are helping local gardeners."* So it will be available in locally-owned green businesses and bookstores, and at many non-profits . . . but not on big data platforms.

After Sept. 1, vendors selling his book will be listed on:

- <http://YearRoundGardening.ME>
- under the heading "Where you can buy the book"

Vendors wishing to carry the book can so note in comments. (It will be available as soon as possible at [Nature's Way Resources](#)).

I can't imagine any local horticultural business or fund-raising group NOT wanting to sell this book!

* * *

Reader Lois K. wanted to know if she should be watering her cactus more than usual during this exceptionally hot weather. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society's Lilliana R. Cracraft said all depends on HOW she usually waters.

HCSS' rule: water generously ONCE a week.

Actually this is great advice for not only cacti & succulents but for ALL our plants. Quick waterings every day only encourage roots to grow upward into the top soil layers. These layers are first to heat up and dry out when we have even normal hot spells.



We want roots to grow downward. Top watering also encourages weed seed to sprout and weed roots (which are usually fairly shallow) to spread more easily, using up valuable moisture. Instead, place a dripping hose at the base of desirable plants. Let it run slowly for, say, 15-30+ minutes, slowly seeping downward so roots will follow it.

Obviously that's not a feasible route most of the time. Ideal is a timed soaker system that only emits water at the base of desirable plants. Most wasteful and inefficient: overhead sprinkling, even when done in the wee hours of the morning. Even in the cool of very early morning, a substantial percentage is going to be lost to evaporation.

If you must hand-hold the hose, at least aim the nozzle downward close to the soil, hopefully tucking it under a thick mulch layer, so as little spreads out vertically as possible. Don't wet the leaves in the heat of the afternoon.

Hopefully you already have everything well mulched? Mulch keeps soil cooler in summer, warmer in winter and slows evaporation. It's never too late to put on mulch. But, remember, with mulch, you generally get what you pay for. "Green" (not fully decomposed) mulch will draw nitrogen out of the soil to help breakdown its still-too-fresh components. That's not good for plant roots.

Back to Lillian and cactus, the 2019 Houston Cactus & Succulent Society's Annual Show/Sale will be 9am-5pm Sat., Sept. 7, and 9am-3pm Sun., Sept. 8. Show exhibits

open to public around 10:30 Sat. after judging is completed. (Free, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. Details: hcsstex.org)

* * *

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!

* * *



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 95

I was listening to Home Show Garden Pros radio show (610 AM) the other day and there was a call about getting rid of slugs and snails. The show's host Danny Milliken correctly suggested using a product called Sluggo. This is a natural product composed of iron phosphate (FePO_4) and is harmless when used only occasionally. I have used it myself on many occasions over the years.

Some problems may occur if it is used too often. The first is it will release phosphorous (P) into the soil like many fertilizers. When there is too much phosphorous in the soil the beneficial mycorrhizal fungi will not colonize a plant's roots and protect them from disease, help collect water and other nutrients etc. Hence, we lose this powerful benefit that fungi provide towards having a healthy garden.

The next issue occurs as too much of any element in the soil can cause other elements to become locked up and unavailable to plants which create nutritional deficiencies that weaken plants and make them more susceptible to insects and disease.

Since iron phosphate is pretty harmless, researchers at Ohio State University started wondering how it killed slugs and snails after receiving numerous reports of it killing dogs when ingested. They found that wheat gluten is added to these baits to attract the pests (or other animals like dogs) but this will not kill the snails or animals, so the question was raised how does this work?

They found a man-made chemical called EDTA (or sometimes EDDS) was added to these type baits to make the iron release in its elemental form (Fe^{+3}), which will be absorbed by anything that eats it, where it causes iron poisoning.

While not a high risk of danger, only use occasionally and keep pets out of the area where it is applied for safety. Also scatter it lightly over the area where it would be difficult for pets to lick up as compared to putting it in clumps.

All this brought to mind my favorite method of snail and slug control that we reported years ago in the newsletter. Hence it is time to re-post it.

The most effective (and lowest cost) slug and snail control I have ever used is baby ducks. For many years every other spring when my children were young, I would go to Wabash Antiques and Feed, now at 4537 N. Shepherd (formerly on Washington Ave.), and buy a couple baby ducks and keep them in my backyard. They love to eat slugs and snails and will almost fight over who gets to eat them. They will stick their beaks into every nook and crevice looking for them. The ducks then leave a nutrient-rich duck poop behind to fertilize the plants.

When they were old enough, they would just fly off over the fence and be gone. However, they knocked back the slug and snail populations so much that they were no longer a problem, often giving me two years of control! As a side benefit, they also eat lots of other pest insects, mulberries that dropped from my tree, some weeds, etc. turning them all into rich poop.

I learned later that the digestive system of ducks breaks down the snail shell back into water soluble calcium and magnesium which is in a form that microbes and plants can quickly absorb.

God knew what he was doing by providing a natural pest control that enriches the soil in the process. A modern gardener studies nature and copies how pest control is done. It works better, costs less, and has no toxic side effects. In other words what has become known as "Organic Methods".

I have another garden friend that I have watched eat slugs and that is the toad frog (they also eat many other garden pests and love roaches). I have seen them eat slugs but never a snail. To ensure one has a good amount of hungry toad frogs around to eat slugs and pests they need two things as do all life forms: water and shelter. Water is easy as I have a pond in my yard, and I place old pottery watering dishes (saucers) under shrubs and other shady places in several locations. I like the pottery dishes as they are porous and will drain/dry out in a few days (glazed pots do not work well). This prevents mosquito larva from hatching as the water does not last long enough for them to hatch. I refill the saucers when I am watering my hanging baskets and plants in containers or by rainfall. Toads do not need a lot of water, but I occasionally see them sitting in the saucer of water "taking a bath"?

To create shelter, I build toad houses. There are many ways to do this. I use a broken pottery watering saucer that are at least 1.5 inches deep, I make sure there is a hole in the side (lip) that the toads can use to get in and out. I turn the saucers upside down and cover with a few inches of soil or mulch and only

leave the entrance hole barely open. A saucer 12-15 inches wide might house 6-10 large toads.

At my business we often get tree limbs and trunks with hollows in them that have been cut into pieces that are easy to handle. I will get a 6-10-inch diameter log piece that has been cut 18-24 inches long. I will partially bury it and will cover it with soil or mulch as before leaving only one end open but partial covered so that there is only a small entrance. Depending on the size of the hollow area it will hold many toad frogs. The log will eventually rot after a few years, but the toads seem to love it. I suspect it hold moisture better and is cooler.

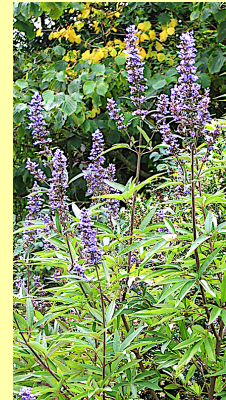
Another benefit of the logs is that they give the garden a more natural feel and look as one might have in the forest. Several studies have found that having logs rotting in one's garden is related to less insect and disease problems.

Have You Tried . . .

VITEX

(*Vitex agnus-castus* -- "Chaste Tree")

This 12' tree/large shrub has it all: low maintenance, heat and drought tolerance, deer-resistance and spectacular fragrant lavender spike blooms July - September (or longer some years). A favorite of butterflies, hummers, bees and other jewels of nature. Totally ignore or prune to ground in winter for bushier growth. Also works well as container plant. Likes full sun.



Vitex agnus-castus 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. 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 BIRDSOING, 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. 24: FALL ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS, 9am-Noon, The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 IH-145 South, The Woodlands. Free. Register: thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment

WED., AUG. 28: BACKYARD TRANSFORMATION by DICK & PHYLLIS MCEUEN, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. www.hcsstex.org

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 Dr., Friendswood. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: 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

THURS., SEPT. 5: ONE-ON-ONE TIME WITH HOUSTON GARDEN GURU RANDY LEMMON, 6:30 pm, Rosenberg Convention Center, 3825 TX 36 South, Rosenberg. Free. Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter. 281-633-7033, mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu, txmn.org/coastal

SAT., SEP 7: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA (FRANGIPANI) by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 7: The MERCER SOCIETY SPECIALTY PLANT SALE, 9am – 2pm, & CACTUS & SUCCULENTS by WALLY WARD, 11am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

Wed., SEPT. 11: dON'T LOSE YOUR PLANTS THIS WINTER, noon – 2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., Sept.12: Blackspot, Bugs and Garden Safety by Dr. Allen Owings 7:00pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston 77004. Houston Rose Society event. Free. www.houstonrose.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. 14: KITCHEN GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT, SUN., SEPT. 14 - 15: GALVESTON BAY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW/SALE, 9am-5pm Sat., 9am-3pm Sun., Hilton Hotel–NASA Clear Lake, 3000 E. NASA Parkway, Nassau Bay. Free. galvestonbayorchidsociety.org

TUES., SEPT. 17: MAKING YOUR BROMELIADS PHOTOGENIC by JOHN EDMONSON, 7pm, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

TUES., SEPT. 17: BIRDS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS by GARY CLARK, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

THURS., SEPT. 19: NATIVE TREES IN THE LANDSCAPE: WHY AND HOW? by BRAD PHILLIPS, 6:45-8:30pm; American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Fwy. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. npsot.org/Houston

FRI., SEPT. 20: HOLISTIC GARDENING WORKSHOP by Joseph Novak, Ph.,D. 10am-noon, 6 Fridays-Oct. 25, Rice University. \$325. Betty & Jacob Friedman Holistic Garden, Biosciences at Rice and Garden Club of Houston event. Register: glasscock.rice.edu/community

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., SEPT. 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

SAT., SEPT 21,: GROW YOUR OWN FALL VEGETABLES by FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9am-11am, in the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/; 281-342-3034; brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu.

SAT. SEPT. 21: T-BUD GRAFTING OF CITRUS & FRUIT TREES by NANCY LANGSTON-NOH, 9-11 am; TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL – CREATING AN IDEAL SOIL 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: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SUN., SEPT. 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. SEPT. 28: HERBS FOR THE GULF COAST by NANCY LANGSTON-NOH and BRIANA ETIE, 9-11 am, AgriLife Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519, La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT. SEPT. 28: RAINWATER HARVESTING by NAT GRUESEN, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT. 28: WOODLANDS LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS, 9am - noon, Recreation Center, Rob Fleming Park, 6464 Creekside Forest Dr., The Woodlands. Free. thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/environment

SAT., SEPT. 28: ORCHID CARE 101, 9am–11am, Mercer Botanic Gardens , 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

TUES. & THURS., OCT. 1-NOV. 12, FALL 2019 FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CLASS, 9am-11am, AgriLife Extension office, 1402 Band Rd., Rosenberg. Register: fbmg.org, 281-633-7033 or mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu .

THURS., OCT. 3: BIBLICAL GARDENS by JEAN FEFER, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.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

SAT., OCT. 5: HEALTHY LANDSCAPES = HEALTHY WATERWAYS CLASS, 8am - Noon, The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 IH-145 South, The Woodlands. Free. Register: thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment

SAT., OCT. 5: POLLINATOR FESTIVAL, 10am–4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

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

WED., OCT. 9: SURPRISINGLY SPOOKY, MARVELOUSLY MYSTERIOUS PLANTS, noon– 2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens , 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., OCT. 11: PLANTS OF THE BIBLE by JEAN FEFER, 11:30am, Jim & JoAnn Fonteno Senior Education Center, 6600 Bissonnet St., Free. pct3.com/Senior-Centers/Jim-JoAnn-Fonteno-Senior-Education-Center

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. OCT 12: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, 8-8:50am-Overview; 9am-1pm-Sale. Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park-Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 & Jack Brooks Rd, 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., OCT 19:: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTINGS EXCHANGE & Q&A by DR. WILLIAM C. WELCH & GREG GRANT , 9am-3pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 414 E. McAlpine St., Navasota. Free. texasroserustlers.com

SAT. NOV 2, TEXAS ARBOR DAY, 1pm – 4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, West Side Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

WED. NOV. 13, GARDENS, noon – 2pm, featuring gardens depicted in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, *Mercer Botanic Gardens* , 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

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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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 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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