



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Dec-9-2021 | Issue 416

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Nature's Way Resources owner John Ferguson, "The Lazy Gardener" Brenda Beust Smith and Pablo Hernandez welcome your feedback and are so grateful to the many horticulturists who contribute their expertise

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*"Flowers whisper 'Beauty!' to the world,
even as they fade, wilt, fall."*

-- DR. SUNWOLF

SILVER LININGS IN LAST WINTER'S FREEZE

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

RESPONSE TO LAST WEEK'S FEEDBACK REQUEST for plants -- that not only returned but bloomed better than ever before following our February triple-threat Winter Storm Uri (actually 3 storms combined) -- has been both fun and an inspiration for new plantings in my own garden.

Just to recap mine,

- weeping yaupon's berries have turned red for the first time since planted 4 years ago
- red passionvine is covered with flowers and buds (only sporadic blooms before) and
- ligularia has flowers for the first time ever (excluding

those when purchased).

Joanie Whipp in Brazoria County was delighted to know ligularia are also called 'tractor seat' plants. Like me, she had only ever heard them called leopard plant (for bright yellow spots on some varieties). You can see from mine (*pictured here, shot from above*) what inspired "tractor seat"!



YULETIDE CAMELLIAS seem to be doing even better-than-usual for folks, altho not for me. These normally-blooming-at-Christmas (hence the name) camellias are very hardy here. Mine usually blooms prolifically and did returned after dying back this past winter. But this fall, she has produced only one single bud, now over a month old with no sign of opening.

On the other hand, **MARIE ENGLEHART's** Yuletide in University Place is cover with blooms, as is Coushatta Camellia Society's **EDWARD ESTRADA's** (his 26-year-old Yuletide has hundreds of buds). He told me not to panic, camellias can take a month-plus for buds to open. Hope springs eternal!



Edward didn't lose a single sasanqua camellia, but did lose a lot of japonicas, including almost every 'Holly Bright' and 'Baby Bear.' Interestingly, he notes, whether plant bloomed or not pre-freeze didn't seem to affect survival.

NOTE: You're invited to enter your exceptionally beautiful camellia blooms for judging at the **SAT.-SUN., JAN. 29-30: COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & SALE.** Drop off: 7-9am; judging 9-noon. First Christian Church 3500 SH-336 Loop, Conroe. (Public viewing and plant sale: 1-4pm both days. coushattacamelliasociety.com. Need encouragement? Edward points out, *"We have had entries win a category from individuals who only have one shrub in their landscape!"*

(Next week: More freeze-inspired bloomers)

* * *



LADY BUG INVASION? No one's complained to us about this, but apparently these tiny-but-oh-so-beneficial garden delights are already moving inside (as in "inside Texas homes"), according to this [LADYBUG OUTBREAK](#) article. Author Cary W. Sims, Angelina County Extension Agent (Lufkin area) adds: *"We notice it quite a bit in the Angelina Co area. They are just a beneficial trying to find a nice place to overwinter. Found one in my truck yesterday morning. As with all insects, populations can vary widely from year to year based upon weather conditions."* Since they're just north of us, our time may be coming!"

* * *

NEXT WEEK: MORE SILVER LININGS! Send notes on plants that, this year, have performed "above and beyond" past years to lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

*Brenda Beust Smith's column in the
LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com*

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John's Corner



BOOK REVIEWS

It was recently brought to my attention that I had not done any book reviews recently. However, over the last several weeks I have read several books that might make good Christmas gifts. Hence this week we are going to take a break from studying the elements and how they effect our live and gardens.

**The Woodchip Handbook – A
complete Guide for Farmers,
Gardeners and Landscapers** by Ben
Raskin, Chelsea Green Publishing,
2021, ISBN 978-1645020486
(paperback)

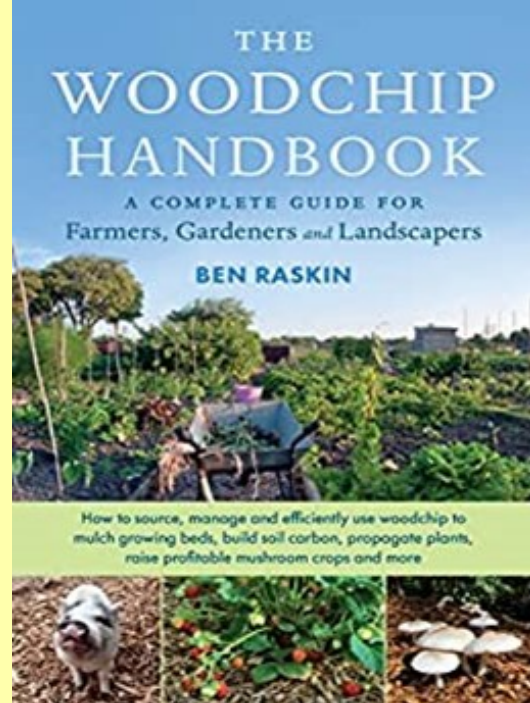
From the cover:- The first and only complete guide to sourcing and using woodchips—an abundant, inexpensive, and ecologically sustainable material—for savvy growers and landscapers at any scale, from farm to garden to greenhouse.

The Woodchip Handbook is the

essential guide to the many uses of woodchip both in regenerative agriculture and horticulture. Author Ben Raskin, Head of Horticulture and Agroforestry at the Soil Association, draws on his extensive practical experience using woodchip, provides the latest research from around the world, and presents inspiring case studies from innovative farmers.

The book explores and unlocks the tremendous potential of woodchip to enhance soil health and plant growth:

- As a natural mulch for weed suppression, temperature buffering, and water conservation
- As a growing medium for propagating plants
- As a decomposing source of warmth for hotbeds in the greenhouse or hoop house
- As a carbon-rich compost ingredient that supports beneficial fungi and microorganisms
- As a powerful soil health booster, when applied as small-sized ramial chipped wood
- As an ideal substrate for growing many kinds of edible or medicinal mushrooms
- As a sustainable, versatile, and durable material for foot paths and ornamental landscaping



Some of these techniques, like mulching—or the renewable harvest potential from coppicing and pollarding trees—have been around forever. Yet there is always new science to be discovered, such as the role that salicylic acid from willow woodchip can play in preventing tree diseases or promoting livestock health when used as a bedding material.

Whether you are a commercial grower or farmer, a permaculture practitioner, or a serious home gardener producing your own fruit and vegetables, *The Woodchip Handbook* will show you how to get the most out of this readily available and renewable material.

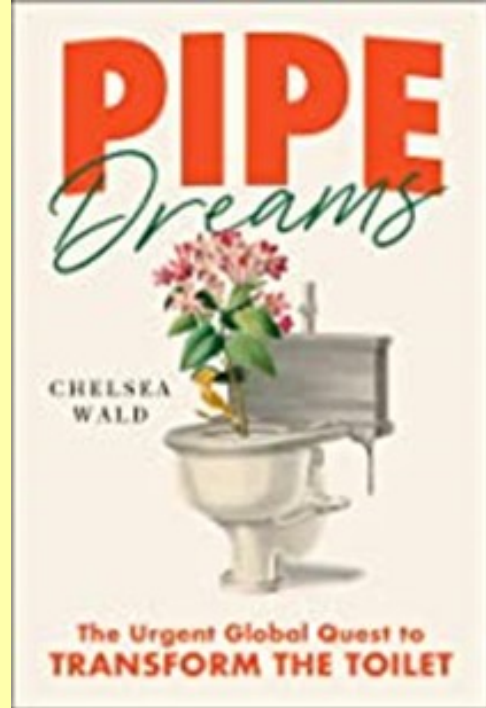
Comment: This book had a lot of useful and practical information on using many types of woodchips from mulching to composting and bioremediation. It was written for the United Kingdom hence some species-specific information is not applicable to our area, but the principles are. Overall, a good introduction to the world of woodchips (mulch) as a tool for gardeners.

PIPE Dreams – The Urgent Global Quest to TRANSFORM THE TOILET, by Chelsea Wald, Avid Reader Press, 2021, ISBN: 978-1-9821-1621-7

From an award-winning science journalist, a

“deeply researched, entertaining, and impassioned exploration of sanitation” (*Nature*) and the future of the toilet—for fans of popular science bestsellers by Mary Roach.

From the Cover: Most of us do not give much thought to the centerpiece of our bathrooms, but the toilet is an unexpected paradox. On the one hand, it is a modern miracle: a ubiquitous fixture in a vast sanitation system that has helped add decades to the human life span by reducing disease. On the other hand, the toilet is also a tragic failure: less than half of the world’s population can access a toilet that safely manages body waste, including many right here in the United States. And it is inefficient, squandering clean water as well as the nutrients, energy, and information contained in the stuff we flush away. While we see radical technological change in almost every other aspect of our lives, we remain stuck in a sanitation status quo—in part because the topic of toilets is taboo.



Fortunately, there’s hope—and *Pipe Dreams* daringly profiles the growing army of sewage-savvy scientists, engineers, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, and activists worldwide who are overcoming their aversions and focusing their formidable skills on making toilets accessible and healthier for all. This potential revolution in sanitation has many benefits, including reducing inequalities, mitigating climate change and water scarcity, improving agriculture, and optimizing health. Author Chelsea Wald takes us on a wild world tour from a compost toilet project in Haiti, to a plant in the Netherlands that salvages used toilet paper from sewage, and shows us a toilet seat that can watch users’ poop for signs of illness, among many other fascinating developments.

“Toilet humor is one thing, but toilet fact, as digested by skilled science writer Wald, is quite another...[*Pipe Dreams* is] a highly informative, well-reasoned call to rethink the throne” (*Kirkus Reviews*).

Comment: I found this to be a very interesting book on how society has handles human waste over the centuries. It explains how and why different civilizations designed various methods of disposing our waste and the benefits to society.

REBUGGING THE PLANET – The Remarkable Things that Insects (and Other Invertebrates) Do – And Why We Need to Love Them More, by Vicki Hird, Chelsea Green Publishing, 2021, ISBN: 978-1-6450-20189 (paperback)

From the cover: "This is a lovely little book that could and should have a big impact...Let’s all

get rebugging right away!"—Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

Meet the intelligent insects, marvelous minibeasts, and inspirational invertebrates that help shape our planet—and discover how you can help them help us by rebugging your attitude today!

Remember when there were bugs on your windshield? Ever wonder where they went? We need to act now if we are to help the insects survive. Robin Wall Kimmerer, David Attenborough, and Elizabeth Kolbert are but a few voices championing the rewilding of our world. *Rebugging the Planet* explains how we are headed toward “insectageddon” with a rate of insect extinction eight times faster than that of mammals or birds, and gives us crucial information to help all those essential creepy-crawlies flourish once more.



Author Vicki Hird passionately demonstrates how insects and invertebrates are the cornerstone of our global ecosystem. They pollinate plants, feed birds, support and defend our food crops, and clean our water systems. They are also beautiful, inventive, and economically invaluable—bees, for example, contribute an estimated \$235 to \$577 billion to the US economy annually, according to *Forbes*.

Rebugging the Planet shows us small changes we can make to have a big impact on our littlest allies:

- Learn how to rewild parks, schools, sidewalks, roadsides, and other green spaces.
- Leave your garden to grow a little wild and plant weedkiller-free, wildlife-friendly plants.
- Take your kids on a minibeast treasure hunt and learn how to build bug palaces.
- Make bug-friendly choices with your food and support good farming practices
- Begin to understand how reducing inequality and poverty will help nature and wildlife too—it's all connected.

So do your part and start rebugging today! The bees, ants, earthworms, butterflies, beetles, grasshoppers, ladybugs, snails, and slugs will thank you—and our planet will thank you too.

Comment: This is just a fun book for gardeners and illustrates that the insects in our gardens, while we may not like it at times, are essential for gardens and all life on earth.

**FINDING THE MOTHER TREE –
Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest,**
by Suzanne Simard, PhD, Borzoi Books,
2021, ISBN: 978-0525-6569-098

From the cover: *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST SELLER - From the world's leading forest ecologist who forever changed how people view trees and their connections to one another and to other living things in the forest—a moving, deeply personal journey of discovery

Suzanne Simard is a pioneer on the frontier of plant communication and intelligence; she's been compared to Rachel Carson, hailed as a scientist who conveys complex, technical ideas in a way that is dazzling and profound. Her work has influenced filmmakers (the Tree of Souls of James Cameron's *Avatar*) and her TED talks have been viewed by more than 10 million people worldwide.



Now, in her first book, Simard brings us into her world, the intimate world of the trees, in which she brilliantly illuminates the fascinating and vital truths--that trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp, but are a complicated, interdependent circle of life; that forests are social, cooperative creatures connected through underground networks by which trees communicate their vitality and vulnerabilities with communal lives not that different from our own.

Simard writes--in inspiring, illuminating, and accessible ways—how trees, living side by side for hundreds of years, have evolved, how they perceive one another, learn and adapt their behaviors, recognize neighbors, and remember the past; how they have agency about the future; elicit warnings and mount defenses, compete and cooperate with one another with sophistication, characteristics ascribed to human intelligence, traits that are the essence of civil societies--and at the center of it all, the Mother Trees: the mysterious, powerful forces that connect and sustain the others that surround them.

Simard writes of her own life, born and raised into a logging world in the rainforests of British Columbia, of her days as a child spent cataloging the trees from the forest and how she came to love and respect them—embarking on a journey of discovery, and struggle. And as she writes of her scientific quest, she writes of her own journey--of love and loss, of observation and change, of risk and reward, making us understand how deeply human scientific inquiry exists beyond data and technology, that it is about understanding who we are and our place in the world, and, in writing of her own life, we come to see the true connectedness of the Mother Tree that nurtures the forest in the profound ways that families and human societies do, and how these inseparable bonds enable all our survival.

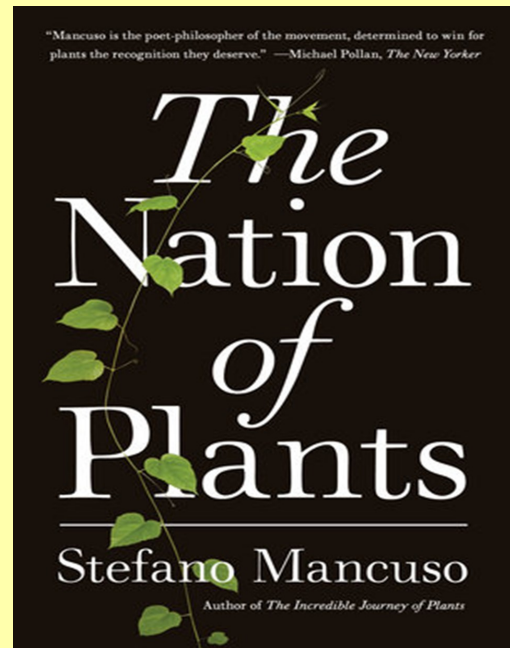
Comment: This is a story of her life and research from an undergraduate through her doctoral work and professional career. It tells of what she discovered and how she persevered when many of her findings conflicted with current beliefs. The information in the book is told as a story of the events and how they unfolded. I would have preferred a more cut to the chase approach and give me the data. However, many people have enjoyed this tale of her life

and her battles to bring this knowledge into the scientific community.

The Nation of Plants, by Stefano Mancuso, PhD, Other Press, 2021 (English translation), ISBN: 978-1-635420999

Stefano Mancuso is one of the world's leading authorities in the field of plant neurobiology, which explores signaling and communication at all levels of biological organization. He is a professor at the University of Florence and has published more than 250 papers. His work is sometimes described as understanding plant intelligence.

From Amazon: In this playful yet informative manifesto, a leading plant neurobiologist presents the eight fundamental pillars on which the life of plants—and by extension, humans—rests.



Even if they behave as though they were, humans are not the masters of the Earth, but only one of its most irksome residents. From the moment of their arrival, about three hundred thousand years ago—nothing when compared to the history of life on our planet—humans have succeeded in changing the conditions of the planet so drastically as to make it a dangerous place for their own survival. The causes of this reckless behavior are in part inherent in their predatory nature, but they also depend on our total incomprehension of the rules that govern a community of living beings. We behave like children who wreak havoc, unaware of the significance of the things they are playing with.

In *The Nation of Plants*, the most important, widespread, and powerful nation on Earth finally gets to speak. Like attentive parents, plants, after making it possible for us to live, have come to our aid once again, giving us their rules: the first Universal Declaration of Rights of Living Beings written by the plants. A short charter based on the general principles that regulate the common life of plants, it establishes norms applicable to all living beings. Compared to our constitutions, which place humans at the center of the entire juridical reality, in conformity with an anthropocentrism that reduces to things all that is not human, plants offer us a revolution.

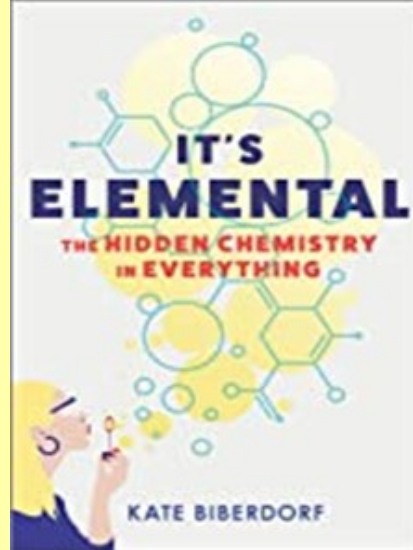
IT'S ELEMENTAL The HIDDEN CHEMISTRY IN EVERYTHING by Kate Biberdorf, PhD, Park Row Books, 2021, ISBN: 978-0-7783-8942-2

I purchased this book with the hope of learning different ways of how to explain chemistry to non-scientists, since Dr. Biberdorf has a reputation of making complex chemical ideas and concepts easy to understand. For me it was a fun read and she does a good job of explaining a few concepts and how they apply to everyday life like baking a pie.

Publisher: Have you ever wondered what makes dough rise? Or how your morning coffee gives you that energy boost? Or why your shampoo is making your hair look greasy? The answer is chemistry. From the moment we wake up until the time we go to sleep (and even while we sleep), chemistry is at work—and it doesn't take a PhD in science to understand it.

Dr. Biberdorf has appeared on TV programs from the Today show to The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, lighting the world on fire and changing the face of chemistry as we know it.

In *It's Elemental*, she demystifies the fundamental principles of the science that may have eluded you in high school and shows how chemistry comes alive in everything we do. With wry wit and infectious enthusiasm, this entertaining guide will ignite your passion for science and change the way you experience the world.

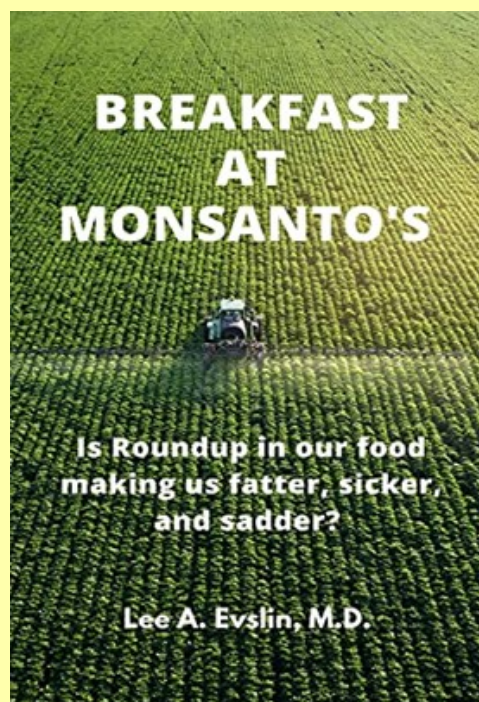


BREAKFAST AT MONSANTO'S -Is Roundup in our food making us fatter, sicker, and sadder? By Lee A. Evslin, M.D., Ohana Publishing, 2020, ISBN: 979-8557-895293

In this newsletter we have talked about glyphosate and how it harms our health numerous times. This book is a good summary for those whom want to learn more.

Amazon: Roundup In Our Food

Over the last 30 years, billions of pounds of herbicides containing glyphosate (such as Roundup) have been sprayed on our food crops. These glyphosate-based herbicides are the most heavily used weed killers in history. They are applied regularly to GMO crops and used on non-GMO crops such as wheat, potatoes, and sugar cane. Because of their heavy use, millions, if not billions, of people worldwide consume glyphosate in their food on a daily basis.



Breakfast at Monsanto's presents a powerful review of the scientific evidence potentially linking glyphosate to adverse effects on humans and other life forms. In addition to its direct toxicity, glyphosate is also patented as an antibiotic. There is emerging evidence that glyphosate may profoundly alter the delicate balance of bacteria which live in and on our bodies and are essential to good health.

Breakfast at Monsanto's concludes with recommendations for protecting our health and the environment from these potentially toxic chemicals.

Lee A. Evslin, M.D. is a board-certified pediatrician and Fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics. He practiced medicine and served as the CEO of a multidisciplinary medical group and its adjoining hospital. In 2014, he was asked to serve on a Hawai'i state-sponsored pesticide task force. The task force researched and reported on the possible health and environmental consequences of spraying pesticides. After the report was published, Dr. Evslin continued his research, meeting and collaborating with some of the nation's foremost experts in pesticide toxicity. He received national recognition from the American Academy of Pediatrics for his work on pesticide legislation.

Worms AT Work – Harnessing the Awesome Power of Worms with Vermiculture and Vermicomposting

by Crystal Stevens, New Society Publishers, 2017, ISBN: 978-0-86571-840-1

This is a light fun book on the importance of earthworms and a good introduction to the subject of worms and having beautiful gardens.

From The Cover - Fertilize your garden naturally--a guide to growing your plants in healthy, happy soil

People want to know where their food comes from, who grows it and how it is grown. Interest in permaculture, backyard composting, and gardening in general, is growing. So how does the budding gardener ensure that his soil is healthy and nutrient-rich enough to support all the produce he intends to grow? Here's a hint--think worms! Vermiculture is the healthiest and most cost-effective way to ensure that your soil receives the nourishment that it needs. A simple vermicompost bin can produce the *completely natural*, nutrient-rich fertilizer that can be used to boost soil health and, in turn, increase your crop yield.

In true Crystal Stevens' fashion, *Worms at Work* is a practical, easy-to-implement guide to fertilizing your garden naturally. It discusses the vital role worms play in boosting soil health, and the reasons why every gardener should use vermicompost in order to decrease reliance on toxic synthetic fertilizers. Coverage includes:

- Simple designs to build your own vermicompost bin
- Caring for your worms
- Garden applications for your worm castings
- Lesson plans to incorporate vermicomposting into the school science curriculum

Whether you're tending to a small backyard garden or managing a large farm, *Worms at Work* can show you how to start vermicomposting today in order to grow healthy plants in healthy, happy soil.

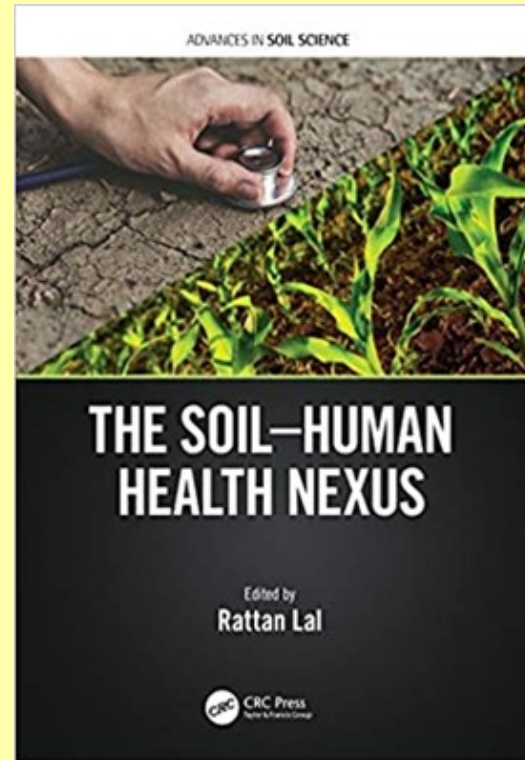


Crystal Stevens is the author of *Grow Create Inspire* and has been co-manager of La Vista CSA Farm for the past 7 years. She teaches regular Vermiculture 101 workshops.

THE SOIL – HUMAN HEALTH NEXUS
edited by Rattan Lal, PhD,
CRC Press, 2021, ISBN: 978-0-367-
42214-1

This book ties together many of the issues facing society today and is part of a series of books titled *Advances in Soil Science*. This book compiles the studies of over 25 scientists and hundreds of papers from around the world.

The focus is on what has become known as “*One Health*” from multiple disciplines from all over the world to obtain optimal health for people, animals, plants, and our environment. The concept of One health has a strong history in the Bible as far back as Moses.



See what the land is like and whether the people that live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some fruit of the land. Numbers 13:18-20

The term "soil health" refers to the functionality of a soil as a living ecosystem capable of sustaining plants, animals, and humans while also improving the environment. In addition to soil health, the environment also comprises the quality of air, water, vegetation, and biota. The health of soil, plants, animals, people, and the environment is an indivisible continuum.

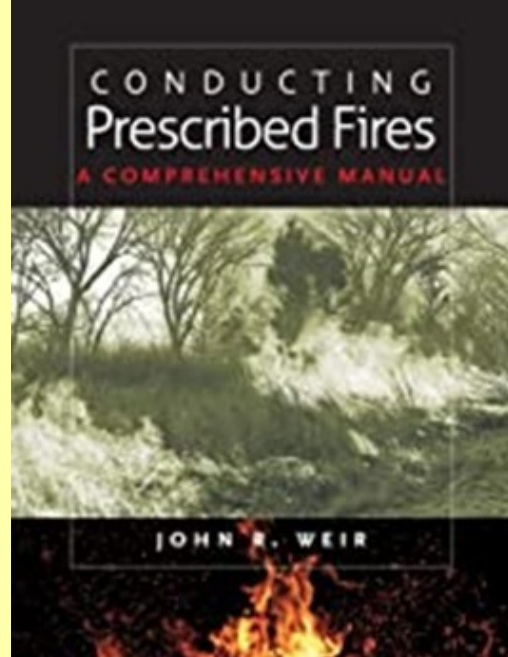
“Soils can beneficially or adversely affect human health, and likewise human activity can improve or destroy soil health. In the new anthropogenic era, it is worth examining the soil health-human health nexus. To do this, the author evaluates soil from the perspective of what infects us, what heals us, what contaminates us, what nourishes us, and what we breathe. Likewise, the author examines the impact of humans on soil using a similar matrix and suggests strategies to improve human health by maintaining or improving soil health.”

**CONDUCTING Prescribed Fires – A
COMPREHENSIVE MANUAL**, by John R.
Weir, Texas A&M University Press, 2009,
ISBN: 978-1-60344-134-6

Gardening for pollinators and wildlife has exploded across the country. One of the best ways to convert old fields and pastures to beautiful life filled prairies is using fire.

A couple weeks ago I attended a prairie restoration conference and got to visit a property where the invasive and opportunistic plant species and been removed by fire and other methods. The Oak Savana was restored and it was beautiful and full of animal life.

This book is a good guide on how to use fire correctly to restore one's property.



ORGANIC LIFESTYLE – HEALTH BENEFITS OF LIVING AN ORGANIC LIFESTYLE, ISBN :0708729139507

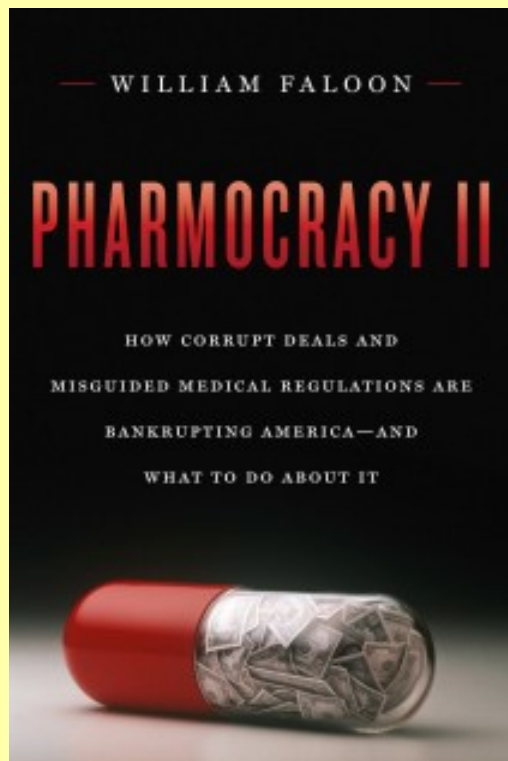
This book is a story of a person with chemical sensitivities causing many health problems. After going to eleven doctors, none of which could help him, doctor number 12 was aware of illnesses caused by the environment and helped him cure himself by changing his lifestyle.

PHARMOCRACY II – HOW CORRUPT DEALS AND MISGUIDED MEDICAL REGULATIONS ARE BANKRUPTING AMERICA – AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT by William Faloon, Axios Press, 2017, ISBN: 978-1604-191219

Our healthcare system is irretrievably broken, and is financially devastating the United States on a federal and local level. *Pharmocracy II*, like its predecessor, *Pharmocracy*, uncovers egregious FDA incompetence, abuse, and corruption. Hard facts document how this agency serves its corporate "clients," like big drug companies, at the expense of the American consumer.

Pharmocracy II also shows how information about natural therapies from food and other sources is censored to support drug company profits. Over-regulation causes lifesaving medications to be delayed or suppressed altogether, and makes consumers pay inflated prices for FDA-approved therapies that are only minimally effective and often dangerous.

A reform of this crony capitalist healthcare system, Faloon argues, would spare Medicare and Medicaid from insolvency, allow small businesses to start giving pay raises again, and significantly improve the health of Americans.



Pharmacocracy II presents hard evidence and irrefutable logic to support a complete overhaul of today's broken healthcare system. It lays out a plan of what to do and how to do it. If the plan is followed, it will not only improve public health, but also restore widespread prosperity to the American economy.

Since 1980, William Faloon and Life Extension® have published articles exposing an incompetent and corrupt federal agency called the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In meticulous detail, William Faloon reveals how the FDA suppresses innovation in American healthcare and how the citizenry can effectively rebel. No one is more qualified to lead us forward out of today's healthcare quagmire.

About the Author

William Faloon lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and is director and cofounder of the Life Extension Foundation, a consumer advocacy organization that funds research and disseminates information to consumers about optimal health. Faloon has made hundreds of media appearances, including guest spots on *The Phil Donohue Show*, *Tony Brown's Journal*, and *ABC News Day One*, and has been interviewed by *Newsweek* and other magazines.

A few other books that would make great Christmas gifts and reviewed previously:

Metabolical – The Lure and Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine by Robert H. Lustig, MD, MSL, Harper Collins Publisher, 2021, ISBN: 978-0063027718

"Nature's Best Hope- A New Approach to Conservation That Starts In your Yard" by Douglass W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2019, ISBN-13: 978-1-60469-900-5

Teaming with Microbes, A Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, 2nd Edition, by Jeff Lowenfels & Wayne Lewis, Timber Press, 2006, ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-777-1

"Bringing Nature Home - How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants"

by Douglass W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2014, Edith Printing, ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-992-8

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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

SUBMITTING EVENTS? PLEASE READ!

- *Only events submitted specifically for LG&F calendar are used*
- *Put your group's FULL name in email subject.*
- *Very long links will be shortened, but full link activated when clicked*
- *Submit events to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com*

SAT, DEC 11; BASIC FRUIT TREE CARE FOR WINTER by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30am (Zoom Live Class). Urban Harvest event. \$20. Register: urbanharvest.org/stec_event/basic-fruit-tree-care-for-winter/

SAT., DEC. 11: FREE TREE SEEDLINGS GIVE AWAY, 1-3pm, Brazos Bend State Park, 21901 FM Rd 762, Needville. Sugar Land Garden Club and Arbor Day Foundation event. Free. sugarlandgardenclub.org

THURS., DEC, 16: MAKING HOLIDAY PLANTS LAST by **BRANDI KELLER** (virtual), 10am, Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: homegrown2021Q4.eventbrite.com/

2022

WED., JAN. 5: SALVIAS FOR EVERY GARDEN 9:30-11am, Bouton Hall @ Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 NASA Pkwy, Webster. Free. Gardeners By The Bay event. [GBTB.org](https://gbtb.org)

SAT.-SUN., JAN. 29-30: COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, First Christian Church 3500SH-336 Loop, Conroe. Free. coushattacamelliasociety.com

WED., FEB. 16: NATURE'S BEST HOPE TO CONSERVATION THAT STARTS IN YOUR YARD by **DR. DOUG TALLAMY**, 2021 Nancy Stallworth Thomas Horticulture Lecture, 10am, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd. Free. gchouston.org

*Check contacts for covid-triggered changes and/or masking policies
NOTE! Only events submitted specifically for this calendar publication
will be used. We do not pick up events from other newsletter or mass emails.
Links will be fully linked if clicked but word-shortened if too long.*

* * *



For event submission rules, see top of calendar
If we inspire you to attend any of these,
please let them know you heard about it in . . .

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at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.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 -- started in the early '70s as a fun side-project to reporting, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from reporter into gardening writing -- first as a just-a-fun side Chronicle assignment in the early '70s, 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 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 Humble, TX, and is married to the 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.

