



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



OCTOBER 26, 2018

DEAR FRIENDS,

HERE IS THE 272ND 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 [FORWARD TO A FRIEND](#) OR SIGN YOURSELF UP TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY CLICKING THE "JOIN OUR MAILING LIST" LINK JUST BELOW. WE WILL NEVER SELL OR SHARE OUR MAILING LIST TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

ENJOY!

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FUN SUN/RAIN PLANT PROTECTION, AUDUBON "REAL DEAL" PLANTS, MORINGAS

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

We gardeners often get so locked into such a limited array of familiar flowers, edibles, techniques . . . even as the horticultural world around us is expanding unbelievably fast.

Two such opportunities to "catch up" are on the table today:

- In our first Spotlight Article below, Houston Audubon Society Conservation Specialist Anna Vallery points out every urban greenspace is potential usable habitat for wildlife. They are encouraging "Real Deal" native plants . . . and she not only explains what that means, but reviews some of these now available in the (relatively) new Audubon Society nursery, open 8-10am Friday mornings only at HAS' [Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary](#), 440 Wilchester. (Volunteers are welcome, contact Anna at avallery@houstonaudubon.org). Houston Audubon has put together one of our very best online local plant advice resources in its incredible "Bird-Friendly" communities website (birdfriendlyhouston.org). This tells about the nursery, its plants and ways of increasing biodiversity in urban landscape. It has helpful pages about milkweed, native trees, and common backyard birds. Take a look!
- In our second Spotlight Article, Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit's Karen Cottingham gives us a sneak preview of one of many exciting plants that will be available at the big free [23rd Annual Herb Fair](#), Sat., Nov. 3, 9am-2pm at Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Ever heard of the beautiful flowering Moringa tree? Its accolades are many and our herb folks say it will do well here.

As with the Audubon nursery, the monies you spend at these two sittings are recycled back into our community through both groups' many civic projects.

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Before we get to our great Spotlight Articles, however, a sprinkling of potpourri . . .

- Sometimes we gardeners are our own worst enemies, spending a fortune on plants -- trees especially -- and then killing them through ignorance. If you haven't already registered, please take a look at the Nov. 16 [HOUSTON URBAN TREE CONFERENCE](#) - to see if these experts could help you now or down the line. I especially love Tod Watson's title: *"Don't Get Caught with Your Plants Down...Keeping Up with the Latest Tree Planting Research."*
 - This is a Texas A&M Extension event: Nov. 16, 8:15am-3pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. \$45. houston-urban-tree-conference.eventbrite.com
- I've been collecting ideas for a DEFENSIVE GARDENING column -- gardening techniques, plants, etc., that you've tried to provide more home protection and, perhaps more important, those you've tried but took out because of unexpected negative results!
- PRETTY SOLUTION TO WEATHER WOES - Earlier this summer, Debbie in Richmond reported on her solution to blasting hot temperatures and pounding rains that were threatening treasured plants. She purchased delightfully-color-coordinated green

umbrellas to protect her ligularias (leopard plants) from too-intense heat and her agapanthus (lily of the Nile) from being beaten up in downpours.



Debbie also noted while her ligularias weren't overly fond of the extremely high temperatures we had this past summer, now that fall has come, they're really thriving. Ligularias normally like shade, especially in the hot afternoon. But this is a great, and delightful, compromise. (See below)



Left, these lily of the Nile, left, and ligularia aren't Debbie's exact plants, but I hate it when someone writes about a plant I don't know without showing a picture! At right, Westbury Community Garden

- **TIP O' THE TROWEL TO [WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN](http://westburycommunitygarden.org/)**, recipient of a Texan By Nature (TxN) Certification for sustainability and conservation efforts. As WCG Founder and Incoming president Becky Edmondson notes, this former 7-acre weedy unused lot has been turned into an oasis of organic gardening, organic farming, prairie conservation, pollinator gardening and more. The 8-year-old garden is embarking on a fund-raising period to enable expansions and improvements.
westburycommunitygarden.org/

And now, our Spotlight articles . . .

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

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener. To find past issues and/or download PDF copies, go to natureswayresources.com

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L to R: Gulf vervain, Lanceleaf coreopsis, Missouri ironweed and Sideoats grama. All Photos by Don Verser

Houston Audubon's Natives Nursery Provides Unique, "Real-Deal" Native Plants

By ANNA VALLERY
Houston Audubon Conservation Specialist
avallery@houstonaudubon.org

At Houston Audubon we believe every greenspace counts. Urban restoration projects can only transform so much of the city into usable habitat for wildlife. The Bird-Friendly Yard program aims to use other available urban landscape, specifically lawns, as wildlife habitat.

The first step of creating a Bird-Friendly Yard is planting native plants. Houston Audubon's Natives Nursery fills the need for these "real-deal" native plants. "Real-deal" refers to the fact that all the plants in the nursery are native to Harris County and are grown from locally collected seed, mostly from native prairie remnants around Houston. These plants are never treated with pesticides and are ready to take on anything Houston will throw at them. They are drought tolerant, flood-tolerant, heat-resistant, and cold-hardy.

Over 60 species of native plant are grown at the Natives Nursery, many of which are well-loved by native plant gardeners. Katy Prairie Conservancy recently released its "Nine Natives" list, which includes some wonderful plants for yards, including Gulf Muhly, Indianblanket, and Lemon Beebalm.

The Natives Nursery not only grows these species, but some lesser-used species that can serve as wonderful and wildlife-friendly additions to your garden. This list is a great mix of real-deal natives that can bring diversity and color to your yard throughout the year.

- **Lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)** - One of a few native forbs that doesn't die back in the winter, Lanceleaf coreopsis provides lovely green foliage all year. The yellow blooms appear in the spring and are popular for visiting pollinators.
- **Tropical puff (*Neptunia pubescens*)** - A member of the pea family, Tropical puff is an excellent nitrogen-fixer and ground-cover, improving soil quality. The leaves of Tropical Puff are sensitive, closing up when touched or disturbed. The flowers are bright yellow puffs that bloom from spring to fall.

- Gulf vervain (*Verbena xutha*) - Flowers of this species are small, light purple, and display on tall slender spikes from spring to fall.



L to R: Tropical puff, Zizotes milkweed and little bluestem

- Missouri ironweed - Missouri ironweed is pollinator favorite. Its bright purple flowers bloom in fall and attract bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.
- Zizotes milkweed -The flower of this species is different from other milkweeds as they are long, slender as opposed to short, and clumped. Like other milkweeds, Zizotes milkweed is a host plant for Monarch butterflies.
- Little bluestem - Smaller than true Bluestems, this species has slender, blue-green stems that turn a beautiful red color in the fall. During the winter, the seed heads turn white and provide food for many different bird species.
- Sideoats grama - Sideoats grama is the Texas state grass and a small, bird-friendly grass to add to your yard or garden. This species forms 2-3 ft. tall bunches that form seeds on one side of the stem.

* * *

The new HAS nursery is now open only Friday mornings 8-10am at HAS' Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary, 440 Wilchester. (Volunteers are welcome, contact Anna at avallery@houstonaudubon.org)

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MORINGA OLEIFERA - THE MIRACLE TREE

by **KAREN COTTINGHAM**
Herb Society of America / South Texas Unit

A plant called Miracle Tree and Tree of Life being promoted as a solution to worldwide malnutrition must be something really special. And as a bonus, *Moringa oleifera* is an easy-to-grow tree that will thrive in Houston USDA Zone 9 backyards.

You may have seen moringa leaves or pods in local Farmer's Markets or pricy moringa powder or tea in health food stores. As one of the most nutrient-dense plants on the planet, moringa was named a "Top Wellness Trend of 2018." It's tasty leaves are unusually rich in protein, iron, calcium, all nine essential amino acids, vitamins and phytonutrients. Its foot-long seedpods are high in protein and omega-3 fatty acids.

Moringa Overview:

- * Name derived from Tamil word "murungai" meaning twisted pod and Latin for "oil-bearing"
- * Native to Himalayan foothills of India
- * Cultivated year-round in tropical and sub-tropical climates; annually in temperate areas
- * Propagates easily from seeds or cuttings
- * Grows rapidly
- * Drought-resistant
- * Dies back with freezing, but re-grows reliably from roots
- * Beautiful, fragrant flowers are attractive to bees



Moringa may well be the world's most useful tree, but it does take some effort to keep its appearance tidy. If not pruned regularly,apid growth can quickly result in a tall, straggly tree with unreachable leaves and fruit.

When the plant reaches two feet, trim the terminal growing tip to stimulate growth of secondary branch growth on main stem. Trim secondary branches back by half at about eight inches. Repeat on tertiary branches which soon appear.

Maintaining 6-12 foot height makes it easy to harvest leaves and pods. Regular harvesting also help keep growth manageable and encourages branching. And the more you prune (or harvest), the more the plant will produce!

If you appreciate plants that are "tenacious, resilient, versatile, generous and flat-out eccentric" (words of moringa researcher Mark Olson), *Moringa oleifera* is for you. Even the lovely flower buds are edible.

With regular pruning, you can also enjoy a unique "Dr. Seussian" plant in your landscape. I love writer Amanda Little's description of moringa's "smooth, skinny trunk and affably chaotic branches, which protrude like hands waving hello" - a cheerful and welcoming sight as one enters the garden!

If you would like to see two graceful young moringa trees, visit the McGovern Centennial Gardens in Hermann Park.

Moringa plants will be among the many herbs, etc., for sale at the big free SAT., NOV 3: 46th ANNUAL HERB FAIR, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004. The Herb Society of America, South Texas Unit. For a complete list of Herb Fair offerings, including foods, soaps, gifts, etc: herbsociety-stu.org

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NOVEMBER 14
UNITED WAY 50 WAUGH DRIVE.
HOUSTON TX. 77007

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

THE KING OF MYCORRHIZAL

TICKETS:
OHBA MEMBERS \$20
NON-MEMBERS \$40
REGISTER ONLINE AT OHBAONLINE.ORG/EVENTS

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

Michael Phillips, author of *Mycorrhizal Planet*, will dive deep into how fungi and plants work together to create dynamic ecosystems. This seminar is going to be packed with mycorrhizal insight and much more. Come learn how plants and microbes communicate and how you can take your lawns, gardens, & landscapes to the next level. *We look forward to seeing you there!*




Joyce Serant Foundation  

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NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 65

We are learning daily about the importance of microbes in having healthy soils and plants. Many people are using grey water or waste water from sewage treatment plants (purple pipe) to irrigate with. We have known for years that artificial sweeteners actually cause many health problems especially weight gain. A study in the journal *Molecules* by researchers in both Israel and Singapore have found that artificial sweeteners (aspartame, sucralose, saccharine, neotame, advantame and acesulfame potassium-K) when consumed, they caused good bacteria to change and become toxic at very small amount of these chemicals. This adversely affects gut microbial activity which then causes a wide range of human health issues. If food waste that was sweetened with these chemicals and is not composted properly, then these chemicals will survive and negatively affect good microbes in the soil hurting our plants. These chemicals also often survive the sewage treatment process and remain in the waste water from sewage treatment plants. I wonder if repeated usage (waterings) may cause soil microbial problems. Compost made from sewage sludge (biosolids) may also contain this toxic chemicals.

A recent report found that the USDA spent nearly \$2 billion on biotech research (GMO's - genetically modified foods), and only 1 percent went to safety testing. As a result we are suffering the consequences. For example - More than 90 percent of all U.S. corn contains cancer-breeding GMO toxins that work from the inside-out. These toxins disrupt the biome of our digestive system leading to inflammation and leaky gut syndrome. They are also linked to many other health problems including cancer.

A few years ago I was at a organic agricultural conference at a seminar on plants and human health. The speaker did his graduate work in animal nutrition and owned a animal feed manufacturing company. He had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and via nutrition he healed himself and lived another 25 years. The point he was making was that plants have a

immune system just like humans. In humans our immune system does not go into high gear until we are exposed to some form of pathogen or virus. Similarly, a plants immune system does not become active until the plant has experienced some stress like being nibbled on by a insect pest. The chemicals that plants produce to fight off the insects (or disease) are called secondary plant metabolites. These are the anti-cancer compounds. This is another reason to grow ones own vegetables organically or at least purchase them a local farmers market. Vegetables with holes in the leaves or spots on the fruit, etc. are the ones that will have these beneficial health promoting chemicals. Vegetables from the grocery store sprayed with pesticides, fungicides and other toxic chemicals so they look perfect, will not have these beneficial compounds and have cancer causing chemicals on them (or in them). A summary of his talk can be found at:

http://www.waldeneffect.org/blog/Brunetti_on_plant_secondary_metabolites/

Last year I did a book review on a very interesting book by Michael Phillips on fungi: "Mycorrhizal Planet - How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility", Michael Phillips, 2017, Chelsea Publishing, ISBN: 978-1603586580. OHBA (Organic Horticultural Benefits Alliance) is bringing Michael in to do a seminar on beneficial fungi, plant growth and health and how they communicate. It will be on November 14, 2018 at the United Way Center at 50 Waugh Drive. Go to www.ohbaonline.org to register.

The e-magazine eco-farming-daily reported a interesting article on phosphorus. Often in gardening we find phosphorus as the most limiting element for plant growth. The phosphorous used to make articial fertilizers comes from phosphate rock that is mined and processed into phosphoric acid. A byproduct of this process is phosphogypsum, which is highly radioactive. What the toxic artificial fertilizer industry does not tell us is that for every ton of phosphoric acid produced there is 5 tons of radioactive waste produced! Also when phosphorus in this form is applied to soils, beneficial fungi DO NOT colonize the plants roots, hence do not protect them from disease or help provide water during times of drought. This form of phosphorous runs off into our rivers and stream causing an algae bloom that kills the fish and other life eventually running into the ocean and creating dead zones. It is always best for plants to use natural forms of phosphorous from organic fertilizers, bone meal, manures and good compost. Are you part of the problem OR part of the solution?

BOOK REVIEW

I finished another book this morning called: "*Cows Save The Planet - and Other Improbable Ways of Restoring Soil To Heal The Earth*", by Judith D. Schwartz, 2013, Chelsea Green Publishing, ISBN: 978-1-60358-432-6

This book is for the non-technical average reader whom explains how solving the soil care issue also solves many overlapping environmental problems. These range from climate change, desertification, biodiversity loss, droughts, floods, malnutrition, obesity, and others.

She explains how we turn these crisis into opportunities depends on how we treat the soil. It is her story and journey as she studied the world of soil recovery.

As she explains the importance of carbon in the soil in the form of organic matter, she explains how using grazing animals like cows can quickly cause soil to recover and become healthier. The focus of this books is on hope and how many people are restoring their soil by using modern methods from cover crops to grazing animals to heal the soil. She explains how the toxic chemical rescue methods taught by our agricultural universities have destroyed soils worldwide and have contributed to most of our environmental problems. Then she goes through many projects around the world where farmers and ranchers have restored their soil.

This book is a primer on soil ecology and economy and how it provides hope for the despairing environmental news we here each day. It is about solutions for healing our planet.

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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DON'T SEE YOUR ORGANIZATION EVENT LISTED? DID YOU SEND IT IN?
NO EVENTS ARE PICKED UP FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS, MASS RELEASES, OTHER PUBLICATIONS, ETC.

Events NOT submitted in EXACT written calendar format below may take 2+ weeks to be posted.
Adult gardening/plants events only -- If you don't see your submitted event, email us

lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT

SAT., OCT. 27: FRUIT TREE CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT. OCT 27 : "TEXAS TUFF" PLANTS by MARIA LEAL, 9-11 am; TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL-CREATING AN IDEAL GARDEN by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free but register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html.

SAT., OCT 27: A NEW YEAR OF HERBS STARTING NOW! by ANN WHEELER, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free. 281-351-8851. www.arborgate.com

SAT., OCT. 27: TEACHING IN THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM WORKSHOP, 9am-noon. Blackshear Elementary School, 2900 Holman St. Free. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540, urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., NOV. 3: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

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

SAT. NOV 3: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 1-3:45pm, Rosenberg Library Wortham Auditorium, 2310 Sealy St, Galveston. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com,

281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

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

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

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

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

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

THURS, NOV. 8 ROOT-A-ROSE CLINIC by GAYE HAMMOND, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

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

FRI., NOV. 9: THE PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS - TEXAS' STATE PLANT by LILIANA CRACRAFT, ", Speaker Liliana Cracraft. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WED., DEC. 12: WINTER COLOR, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

FRI., DEC 14: WINTER WONDERLAND LUNCHEON GALA, speaker: BILL McKINLEY. 10am, Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. \$30. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

FRI., JAN. 11: THE HISTORY OF THE PEGGY MARTIN ROSE by PEGGY MARTIN, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

FRI: FEB. 8: PLANT SALE and speaker CORRIE TEN-HAVE, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org FRI: MAR. 8: NATIVE PLANTS ARE BEAUTIFUL TOO! by Linda Gay, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

SAT., MAR. 16: MARCH MART PLANT SALE, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI: APR. 11: PLANT SALE and REFUGEES FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM by MARGARET PICKELL. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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About Us

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- * a national award-winning writer & editor
- * a nationally-published writer & photographer
- * a national horticultural speaker
- * a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda's 45-year-old "Lazy Gardener" print column a couple of years ago, it ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* book and now to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy Gardener run on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's **BULLETIN** magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** with John Ferguson and Mark Bowen 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.

