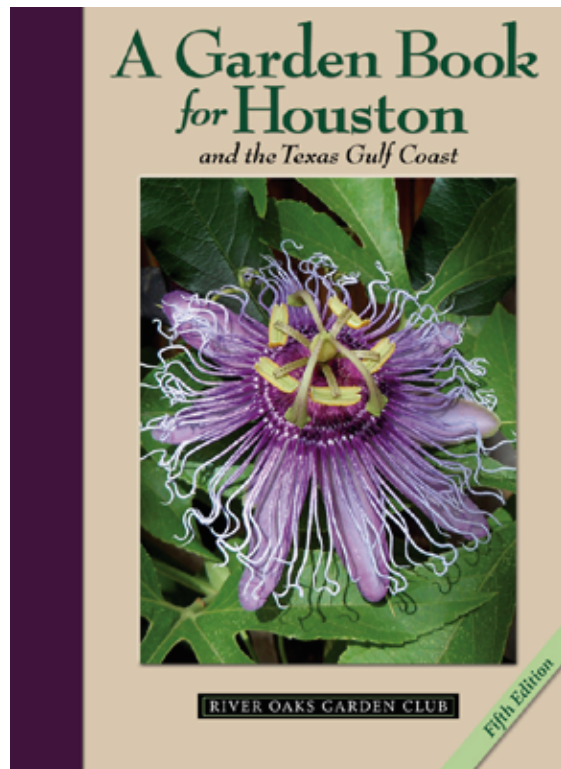


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River Oaks Garden Club announces publication of the new 5th revised edition of

A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 15, 2013: Since it was first published in 1929, more than eight decades ago, *A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast* has been the authoritative go-to book on gardening for Houstonians and Texas Gulf Coast residents. This fifth revised edition, written and edited by Lynn M. Herbert, has been entirely updated, expanded, and colorfully redesigned with a new emphasis on organic gardening, native plants, and conservation. A community-wide effort, over 100 professionals and amateur gardeners contributed their

knowledge to this edition. As Ms. Herbert notes: “Gardening in our area is full of challenges and rewards, and this book has come to be a repository for shared experience, creating an unspoken bond and sense of camaraderie among people throughout Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast.” This 5th revised edition for the 21st century was made possible by a generous grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., and reaffirms River Oaks Garden Club’s commitment to preserving the environment, promoting sustainability, and planting with a purpose.

The book will be featured **March 8–10, 2013**, during the **78th Annual River Oaks Garden Club Azalea Trail** and will be available from 11 a.m to 5 p.m. at the Forum of Civics Building (2503 Westheimer at Kirby), The Shop at Bayou Bend, and at 1620 River Oaks Boulevard (\$40; cash, check or charge).

A 672-page hardcover volume with 430 color illustrations, the book is being distributed by National Book Network (www.nbnbooks.com; 1 800 462-6420). In addition to the early sales at Azalea Trail locations, the book will also be available at area retailers and online in both hardcover and e-book formats.

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Advance praise for *A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast*:

Kathy Huber, garden editor, *Houston Chronicle*: “After years of use, I’d worn the cover off the fourth edition of *A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast* (1989). So I was truly happy to receive the fifth and completely revised version of this must-have book. And what a version it is! Lynn M. Herbert has written and edited 672 pages of the most comprehensive information available in book form on gardening in our special conditions. Color photos fill this encyclopedic volume that takes an environmentally friendly approach to creating healthy, beautiful, and enjoyable gardens. Readers will learn the importance of good soil and the benefits of organics before delving into descriptive tables that reflect the amazing range of plants we can grow here. The chapters on hardy roses and edible landscapes are most appropriate for today’s gardeners. Those on envisioning and designing a garden — and maintaining it through our weather extremes — are most welcome. Thank you, River Oaks Garden Club.”

Houston Mayor Annise Parker: “I have been a member of the Houston Cactus and Succulent Society for more than 20 years and I am the owner of a well-worn copy of the 4th edition of *A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast*. As an avid gardener, I am eager for the new edition’s wealth of information about all the new plant varieties that have adapted to our growing conditions. I will definitely be trying some of them in my garden.”

Bob Randall, Ph.D., co-founder and former executive director of Urban Harvest: “The River Oaks Garden Club’s fifth version of *A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast* is a wonderful addition to our region’s horticultural resources and will quickly be on every good gardener’s desk. This 672-page book is nothing less than an eye-popping encyclopedia of the best organic practices for growing our region’s many plants. Lynn Herbert’s focus on organic soil, wisely selected adapted plants, and nature friendly designs and techniques marks this as a fitting 2012 improvement of a distinguished effort begun by William Hogg in 1929 and last revised in 1989.”

RIVER OAKS GARDEN CLUB

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