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SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 221st 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 and Mark Bowen (John and Mark are 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. . . E mail your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

Please 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!

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!](#)



If you lost any plants because of long-standing flood waters, consider these super-hardy 'swamp' lovers -- they easily survive our Gulf Coast hot, dry summers and easily tolerate our floods and hurricanes! L to r, Louisiana iris, crinum lilies and giant white spider lilies (hymenocallis)

*Out of the night that covers me, / Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be / For my unconquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of circumstance / I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance/ My head is bloody, but unbowed.
Beyond this place of wrath and tears/ Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years/ Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,/ How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate /I am the captain of my soul
"INVICTUS" by William Ernest Henley*

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Forgive this somewhat gloomy (to some) opening poem, but this absolutely one of my favorite writings and it comforts me. I hope all of you reading this have been spared by Harvey. I know that's not reasonable, and if you've been even slightly impacted, or a lot (as we were), my prayers are with you.

Might as well look on the bright side: watering won't be a challenge for a while. If gardens get soaked and stay soaked for several days (or weeks), there isn't a whole lot you can do.

In the meantime, here's some great advice from our local county AgriLife Extension Agents. If you don't know who yours is, you're missing a tremendous horticulture resource already paid for by your taxes. (counties.agrilife.org/) Just fyi, the Master Gardeners are an independent group, but normally house with AgriLife agents. And they too are a wealth of free information in addition to manning demonstration gardens on site. If you've lost a lot of plants, these are the place to go for great replacement ideas for your specific area.

CAN I EAT VEGETABLES & FRUITS JUST COVERED BY FLOOD WATERS?

Received these answers back from a general AgriLife agent query:

- **ROBERT RICHTER**, Montgomery County agent: *Soak veggie fruits like squash and roots like potatoes in 1 teaspoon to 1 tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water for 10 minutes and then rinse thoroughly. Discard leafy greens . They could be washed but it is tedious and difficult to get all the nooks and crannies.*
- **WILLIAM JOHNSON**, Galveston County agent: *I strongly recommend washing any such (impacted) vegetables really, really well before consumption. This is also assuming involved water is only fresh*

rainwater. Gardeners should be aware that flood waters may contain contaminants (fecal) from overflowing sewage systems from nearby streets and even from a distance (even the soil). Wash, wash, wash. Do not consume vegetables that show signs of decay/deterioration/breakdown.

This week's column focuses on . . .

- A plea and warming from the Houston Rose Society
- Encouraging children to join you and experience the enjoyment of growing things.

Harris County Master Gardeners are presenting free "GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN" workshops across the Greater Houston area. Below, William Isbell gives us a preview of these presentations at:

- THURS., SEPT. 14: 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring
- SAT., SEPT. 16: 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy
- TUES., SEPT. 19: 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale
- THURS., SEPT. 21: 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane

More details on these: hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf or 713-274-0950.

Two free Gardening with Children & Grandchildren workshops will be held in conjunction with Harris County Master Gardener Open Garden Days:

- TUES., SEPT. 26, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive
- TUES., OCT. 24, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive

Register for these two free workshops at ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

*** WILDSCAPES POSTPONED** The big Sept. 9 Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter Wildscapes Workshop has been postponed. Look for the new date in this newsletter as soon as it is announced. NPSOT/HC refunds can be requested at 832-859-9252 or nphouston3@gmail.com. Your registration will be valid for the rescheduled date. Refunds mean you go on a Wait List, which is already quite long.

Before we get to William Isbell's Gardening with Children preview . . .

*** Houston Rose Society could use your help!**

Houston is showing suspicious signs of an outbreak of Rose Rosette Disease virus. So far, all identified infections are within the 77056 zip code (Chimney Rock on west, South Rice on east, Richmond Ave. on north and US Hwy 59 on the south). Most are in the Galleria area.

This RRD-affected rose bush below shows typical damage. This is one bush, healthy on bottom, virus-damaged on top, in the Galleria area. Unfortunately virus also mimics other symptoms. This virus must NOT be allowed to spread. If you know of a rose with suspicious problems, report it to houstonrose.org or Houston Rose Society Past President Gaye Hammond, gayeh@lpm-triallaw.com or 713/292-2760. HRS website includes a Rose Rosette Disease Pictorial Guide HRS encourages all gardeners to share with friends & neighbors.



And now, tips on getting children to love gardening as much as you do!

* * *

Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
 Is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
 Email questions, comments to her at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

* * *



MacGregor Elementary youngsters practice photo-documenting their garden (left), growing herbs and produce for their plant sales (center), and celebrating their annual "Pulling of the Carrots" (right).
 (William Isbell is at center in both the center & right photos)

GARDENING WITH CHILDREN

by WILLIAM ISBELL

Adapted from William's full "GARDENING WITH CHILDREN"

[article on the Harris County Master Gardener website](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/childGarden.aspx)
<http://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/childGarden.aspx>

Many of my fondest childhood memories center on gardening with my grandmothers. My current affinity for gardening and the natural world is, undoubtedly, deeply rooted in those interactions. They not only served as an important bridge between our generations and

afforded me access to their wisdom, but also fostered a connection to the legacy of past generations.

One of my grandmothers routinely planted a row of flowers in her vegetable garden-a tradition passed down from her mother. While modern research explains how flowers attract beneficial insects, my grandmother's reasoning was far less scientific. "We plant the entire garden to feed our bodies," she would say, "but plant a row of flowers to feed our soul." Her garden was a spiritual endeavor.

Research supports the interconnection of gardening and the emotional, physical, and mental development of people-in particular, children. Thus, the sage wisdom they passed to me rings true, for what is "spiritual", if not the harmonious overlap of the emotional, physical, and mental realms?



Through Recipe for Success, MacGregor Elementary students learn new skills and reinforce their standard curriculum through garden-based activities in their classrooms and school garden. Photos courtesy of Recipe for Success Foundation.

As you encourage our next generation of gardeners and lovers-of-nature, here are a few tips to consider.

Don't:

- Expect young children to focus for long periods;
- Expect your time to be efficiently used;
- Tell children how to do everything;
- Make up answers to questions;
- Adhere to vigorous agendas and schedules;
- Expect to have the perfect garden.

Do:

- Encourage active, hands-on learning;
- Rely more on visual demonstrations and activities rather than verbal explanations;
- Allow mistakes to happen;
- Encourage exploration and experimentation;
- Allow risk assessment. (If you've warned children about an ant bed, instead of forcing that lesson, allow them to determine if they will learn it verbally or physically);
- Choose vegetables with varying harvest times;
- Allow kids to assist with plant selection and placement;
- Include alternative solutions/projects;
- Allow kids to share new methods that might be unfamiliar to you but are central to how their generation processes and expresses information (i.e. social media, photo editing apps, etc); and . . .
- For my grandmother's sake, plant a row of flowers in your vegetable garden!

For more great tips, drop by one of these free Harris County Master Gardener lectures on "Gardening with Children & Grandchildren":

- **THURS., SEPT. 14: 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring.**
- **SAT., SEPT. 16: 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy.**
- **TUES., SEPT. 19: 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale.**
- **THURS., SEPT. 21: 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane.**

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- **TUES., OCT. 24, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive.**

Register for these two free workshops at ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

JOHN'S COLUMN WILL BE BACK NEXT WEEK.

HE GOT TIED UP WITH STORM CLEANUP THIS WEEK.

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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT TO 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**

SAT., SEPT 9: SIMPLY SUCCULENTS by PAULA SPLETTER, 9-11am & HERBS by TRICIA BRADBURY, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT 9: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY & PESTS AND DISEASES AFFECTING VEGETABLES. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Two sessions: 9am & 1pm. \$5 each/&both. 936-539-7824 or mcmga.com

MON., SEPT. 11: URBAN BEEKEEPING & FALL SEED SWAP, 7pm, West Gray MultiService Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Houston Urban Gardeners event. houstonurbangardeners.org

WED., SEPT. 13: THE MERCER SOCIETY'S OPEN GREENHOUSE, 10am-noon, and YOUR GARDEN & CLIMATE CHANGE, noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free.

THURS., SEPT. 14: FROM OVER THE TOP TO DOWN UNDER, ADVENTURES IN HORTICULTURE by GEORGE HULL, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 14: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., SEPT. 14: ROSES LOVE COMPANIONS by LINDA B GAY, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

THURS., SEPT. 14: FALL GARDENING by Herman Auer, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Garden Education Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., SEPT. 16: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., SEPT 16: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEP 16: FRANCE'S NATIONAL COLLECTION OF OAKS by BEATRICE CHASSÉ, 7pm, Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

MON., SEPT. 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PREC. 2 OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden Education Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., SEPT. 19: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

TUE., SEPT. 19: UPDATE ON BROMELIAD ACTIVITIES AT SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS: FLORIDA AND BELIZE by BRUCE HOLST, 7:30pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

THURS., SEPT. 21: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., SEPT. 21-24: MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. \$40. Green Building Resource Center. Register: 832-394-9050; steve.stelzer@houston.tx.gov; codegreenhouston.org

SAT., SEPT. 23: UNDER THE MAJESTIC OAKS - 7th ANNUAL LEAGUE CITY GARDEN CLUB GARDEN WALK, 10am-4pm; \$15 advance ticket, Nana's Attic, 501 E. Main, League City. leaguecitygardenclub.org; 281-535-0777.

SAT. SEPT 23: BULB MANIA by DODIE JACKSON, 9-11am & COMPOSTING, TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL & SOIL HEALTH ASSESSMENT by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SUN., SEPT. 24: DAYLILY ANCESTRY by MARY GAGE, 2pm-3pm. Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

TUES., SEPT. 26, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY AND SEMINAR: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

SAT., SEPT 30: FAVORITE FALL VEGETABLES (CRUCIFEROUS & OTHER VEGETABLES) by GENE SPELLER, 1-3pm, AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free.

Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SAT., SEPT 30: WOODLANDS LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS, 9 am-Noon; The Woodlands Township Parks, Recreation and Environmental Services, 8203 Millennium Forest Drive, The Woodlands. Free.

SAT., SEPTEMBER 30: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-Noon (or sell-out) Main entrance, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. hmns.org, 713-639-4753.

SAT.,-SUN, SEPT. 30-OCT. 1: HOUSTON BONSAI SOCIETY FAL1 SHOW - JONAS DUPUICH. houstonbonsaisociety.com

SAT., OCT. 7: GROWING NATIVE! WORKSHOP, 8:30AM-1:30pm, (\$35) & PLANT SALE, 10:30am-4pm (free), Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. WORKSHOP (only) Register: themercersociety.org; 713-274-4166.

SAT., OCT 7: PECKERWOOD GARDEN'S OAK COLLECTION / ACORN SHARING, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Must register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 7-8: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, 10-4 Sat., 10-3 Sun. Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.com

TUES., OCT. 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-438-3653

THURS., OCT. 12: MOORE FARMS BOTANICAL GARDEN: A GERMINATING SUCCESS by REBECCA TURK, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., OCT. 12: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 6:30 pm, Barbara Bush Memorial Library, 6817 Cypresswood Drive Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS.-SAT., OCT. 12-14: 2017 BULB & PLANT MART. Garden Club of Houston event.

FRI., OCT. 13: ALL ABOUT SUCCULENTS: by VERONICA LEWANDOWSKI, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event: houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., OCT. 14: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE, 9 am-1pm. Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy. 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd., Hitchcock.

TUES., OCT. 17: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 6:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

THURS., OCT. 19: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 6:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT. 21: TREES: PLANTING AND CARE (INCLUDES FRUIT TREES), 10am, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Katy. Free. hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/docs/2017-green-thumb.pdf; 281-855-5600

SAT., OCT 21: IN SEARCH OF THE RARER OAKS OF TEXAS by ADAM BLACK, 7pm (tour 5pm), Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10 lecture, \$10 Tour. Must register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

TUES., OCT. 24, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SEMINAR: GARDENING WITH CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN, 9:00-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Drive. Free. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

SAT., NOV 4: HEAT TOLERANT CONIFERS OF PECKERWOOD GARDEN, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Must register: eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232

THURS., NOV. 9: MAGNOLIAS: QUEEN OF THE GARDEN by ANDREW BUNTING, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

FRI., NOV.10: "I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP MY GARDEN! - GARDENING FOR THE CHALLENGED LIFESTYLE: DR. JOE NOVAK. 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

FRI., DEC. 8: 'HOLLY JOLLY' LUNCHEON GALA. SPEAKER: BILL MCKINLEY. 9 am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Tickets \$30. Houston Federation of Garden clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

THURS., DEC. 14: THE YEAR IN REVIEW by DAVID CREECH, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building,

Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

FRI., JAN. 12: A CAMELIA COLLECTION - RESTORING IMA HOGG'S CAMELIA COLLECTION AT BAYOU BEND by BART BRECHTER. 10 am. White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

FRI., MAR.9: THOSE ADDORABLE HUMMERS by SUE HEATH. 10 am. White Oak Convention Center., 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., APRIL 13: THE WORLD OF SEED by ANGELA CHANDLER. 10am., White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

FRI. MAY 11: HONEY BEES - JAMES AND CHARI OF BLUEBONNET BEEKEEPERS. 10am. White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. 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!
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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.

MARK BOWEN

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist, certified permaculturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a co-editor and periodic article contributor.

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, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



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