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MAY 4, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 249th 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!

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Houston Botanic Garden planners looking for tree-planting volunteers (above: projected rendering, left, & site map)

HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN UPDATE . . . READERS CHIME IN, ONE WITH A BOTTLEBRUSH MYSTERY

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

-- Audrey Hepburn

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Work is progressing on the new [Houston Botanic Garden](#) on the former Glenbrook Park Golf Course site, east of the Gulf Freeway between Sims Bayou and Glenview Drive. Set to open in late 2020, the 120-acre Southeast Houston botanic garden will bring to fruition a dream first conceived 20 years ago by Nancy Stallworth Thomas and Kay Crooker. According to plans, Houston Botanic Garden will:

- showcase international and native plant collections,
- host educational classes for children and adults, and
- provide engaging programming that embraces the garden and natural settings along Sims Bayou, interlaced by the naturalized Sims Meander, framing the area's abundant native flora, fauna and ecosystems

Houston Botanic Gardens has released this preview below of the "Botanic Beginnings" features that will welcome Houstonians in 2020 and set the standard for an iconic Botanic Garden for generations to come.

HBG's primary setting will be a Global Collection Garden featuring diverse collections and spectacular exhibits. Three zones-arid, subtropical and tropical-will display rare and exotic species from the region and around the globe with meandering paths for wandering, respite and events.



EDIBLE GARDEN -- In the Edible Garden, above, visitors will be able to see, smell, touch and taste a variety of edible plants. The Edible Garden will also allow visitors to understand the creative cultivation of plants over millennia, and how plants are both representative of our diverse cultures.



EVENT LAWN & GLADE -- The Event Lawn will provide a vast array of programming and events surrounded by an ample space overlooking the bayou and rich foliage. A smaller glade will host a more intimate setting for specials events, birthdays and weddings.



SUSAN GARVER CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY GARDEN -- Childhood reaches its pinnacle at the Susan Garver Children's Discovery Garden. The 3-acre area will reimagine an existing pond as an oasis for aquatic and carnivorous plants, forests and floating gardens, interspersed with natural play areas for running free and a picnic grove.

Additional features will include:

- **Botanic Boulevard** -- A beautiful tree-lined entrance will be created off of Park Place Boulevard, including a vehicular bridge that will cross the Sims Bayou to welcome visitors to the garden.
- **Picnic Grove** -- A Picnic Grove will be nestled amongst new and existing oaks with ample room for visitors to gather and engage with nature.
- **Stormwater Detention Wetlands** -- Stormwater wetlands ponds will be installed as an exhibit on green infrastructure and plants that can help with flood control and water purification.

If this preview sparks an interest for you, the timing is great. Houston Botanic Garden has put out a call for volunteers. Sat., May 10, 81m-noon, when Trees for Houston and the Houston Botanic Garden will co-sponsor a "potting up" event to develop and grow trees for HBG's Tree Nursery.

Interested? RSVP to Mariah@HBG.org by May 16. More on Houston Botanic Garden: hbg.org

* * *

KEEP THOSE LETTERS COMING . . . GOOD & TSK-TSK ALL!

- **MARK FOX** recommended another great small-scale crape myrtle, the old Near East. He wrote, "We relocated some on Upper Bay in Nassau Bay about 20 years ago and they aren't over 12 feet with minimal pruning. I don't know why no one grows it anymore." Mark also recommends Teddy Bear dwarf magnolia. He prefers it to Little Gem. *(Mark's a well-known landscaper. Always appreciate his input.)*
- **ROCK LABELS** - Several readers wanted more details on how Wendy & Ben Harris made their rock labels permanent. Wendy responded: *"We first sprayed the rocks with Rustoleum Lacquer and then printed out the appropriate label (with clear tape) and then sprayed them with the lacquer again."*
- **CELESTE MEAD** corrected my recent use of "three native trees". She wrote: *"I think Little Gem Southern Magnolia is a cultivar. Catalpa can be native or introduced from a foreign country depending on the type. Chinaberry is not native and considered very invasive, outcompeting our native trees."*

(Note: I wasn't advocating planting chinaberries or catalpas, just appreciating their blooms when in season. Sorry if anyone took it that way.)

- **CEIL DOW**, Mercer Botanic Garden's ginger expert, sent in a corrected identification on the *Kaempferia* pictured with Laurin Lindsey's article. Ceil wrote: *"The Kaempferia photo in the 'Pollinator's Café' is not Kaempferia 'Satin Checks'. K. 'Satin Checks' has a classic checkerboard pattern on its leaves. The photo looks a lot like Kaempferia 'Silver Spot' because of the solid banding of silver against a dark green band."*



- **DOROTHY BOZEMAN** reported in on a bottlebrush mystery on Bolivar Peninsula and beyond. Her plant bloomed beautifully this spring as did so many others. That's a file photo at left, but the right one, unfortunately, is Dorothy's own, after hers finished flowering. And it's not the only dying one.
 - Since bottlebrushes are subtropical plants, my first guess was that it was so stressed by Harvey winds and flooding followed by our unusually prolonged and deep cold winter that it just used all its energy to produce seed to ensure offspring before it gave up the ghost. Good Mama.
 - But since I made that up, I called on one of my major plant gurus, Linda Gay, retired director of Mercer Botanic Gardens. Dorothy was worried about a possible virus, etc., attack.
 - Linda said I wasn't far off, but not to pull the plants out! These are tough plants. Linda recommends watching for sprouts at the very bottom. Cut them back to those sprouts, fertilize and *"water with love. They will be back with a vengeance,"* she wrote confidently.
 - Bolivar has its own plant guru, Ange Busceme, I consulted the same time I wrote Lind. Ange agrees with Linda and then added a great tip. Flowering uses up a lot of a plant's strength. She always recommends removing blooms on new or recovering plants so they can focus their energies on establishing a strong root system.
 - So easy to say. So hard to do. Sigh . . .
- A READER WROTE recently saying she/he was still following advice I gave years ago (*lost the email so can't credit, sorry!!*). Apparently I said not to give up on plants until July 4. Sounds good to me.
 - If there's no Lazarus miracle to celebrate on the 4th, time to dig it up. If you can't stand the dead spot, but would like to give the plant a chance, plant summer annuals like petunias or impatiens around the "dead" stump.

All comments are not only welcome, they are encouraged!

* * *

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 sign up for this free,
 weekly Greater Houston area gardening report or read past issues, go to natureswayresources.com

HOSTED BY



THE POISON IN OUR FOOD SUPPLY


FEATURING: CAREY GILLAM
REGISTER HERE \$20

light bites included

DATE: MAY 15, 2018

Registration	4:45pm - 5:30pm
Intro	5:30pm - 5:45pm
Carey Gillam	5:45pm - 7:15pm

LOCATION: THE HEALTH MUSEUM

 1515 Hermann Dr.
Houston, TX 77004

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's Round Up, is the most widely used weed killer in the world. It is linked to a huge variety of deadly diseases including cancers as well as autism, liver failures, reproductive concerns and more. Sadly, glyphosate contaminates much of our food, air and water.

Is there no escaping?

Government protection has failed us as Monsanto has corrupted many areas of academic science and public policy safety. Come listen to Ms. Carey Gillam, the author of 'Whitewash - The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science', explain how this happened and what you can do to protect yourself and your family.

This is an edge of your seat event!
Ms. Carey Gillam's Bio
Why You Should Come
SPONSORS


JOHN'S CORNER

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #43

Research at Arizona State University published a study in the Journal Earth's Future on the value of Urban Agriculture. The study found that there was the potential for millions of tons of food production, thousands of tons of nitrogen sequestration, billions of kilowatt-hours of energy savings, and billions of cubic meters of avoided storm runoff. In a flood prone area such as Houston this last item could be very significant (just one billion cubic meters is over 264 billion gallons of water)! They estimated that the annual value of ecosystem services provided by existing vegetation to be \$33 billion. With all the combined benefits they estimated the annual value of Urban Agriculture could be as much as \$160 billion per year.

My wife provided me with this organization called "Tree Sisters". TreeSisters is a global network of women who donate monthly to fund the restoration of our tropical forests as a collective expression of planetary care. As a feminine leadership and tropical reforestation organization, we exist to call forth the brilliance and generosity of women everywhere and channel it towards the trees. Our goal is to make it as normal for everyone to give back to nature as it currently is to take nature for granted. They are planting over 176,000 trees every month and have planted over 2 million trees so far. <https://www.treesisters.org/>

Most of us have heard about the Victory Gardens that were planted in world war two to help feed America. A new theme is emerging called "Climate Victory Gardens". Additional information can be found on the Green America website:

<https://www.greenamerica.org/search-page/climate%20victory%20gardens>

CLIMATE VICTORY GARDEN COMMITMENTS

My garden can be a tool to fight against climate change. I will:

-
- ☒ **Grow Edible Plants**
 - ☒ **Keep Soils Covered**
 - ☒ **Encourage Biodiversity**
 - ☒ **Plant Perennials**
 - ☒ **Ditch the Chemicals**
 - ☒ **Compost**
 - ☒ **Integrate Crops & Animals**
 - ☒ **Use People Power**
 - ☒ **Rotate Plants & Crops**
 - ☒ **Get to Know My Garden**
-

STORING CARBON
RE(STORE)IT!
RESTORING SOILS

A study published in the journal Archives of Agronomy and Soil Science compared the effects of organic and conventional toxic chemical farming on onion yield, chemical quality, and soil health. Organic onions had slightly lower yields but much higher levels of anti-oxidants, higher levels of phenols, total flavonoid, ascorbic acid, and quercetin-3-glucoside (all are components that promote human health). The organic plots exhibited improved soil health, higher levels of soil organic carbon (fights climate change), a larger population of soil microbes, more enzymatic activity from beneficial microorganisms, and a higher fungus-to-bacteria ratio. The authors concluded that organic farming is far more sustainable than toxic chemical farming.

The journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science (April 2017) had an article that compared organic versus conventional toxic chemical farming in rice. They found that organic matter increased (organic carbon), there was an increase in the soils aggregate stability, there was a stimulation of soil microorganisms, and the production of enzymes that converted unavailable nutrients into a form that plants could use which overall increased nutrient cycling. The study concluded that organic farming in rice was more sustainable.

The country of Germany recently set goals to ban diesel cars as they produce nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) (that is found in diesel fumes) the study found that there were over 6,000 deaths from this chemical from just diesel fumes). Two other very large sources of this chemical are artificial fertilizers and landfills. Nitrogen dioxide is also a potent greenhouse gas that molecule for molecule is hundreds of time worse than carbon dioxide.

A study from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (March 2018) has found *contrary to current belief* that a shortage of phosphorus (P) did not limit the growth of forest communities. They studied 19,000 individual trees of 541

tree species. They found that trees growing on low phosphorus soils grew faster than those trees on high phosphorus soils.

A three year study funded by the United Nations and the World Bank that was performed by 400 scientists have found that the toxic chemical methods of food production are not working. They convincingly found that agroecology (farming that imitates natural ecosystems) is the most promising way to sustainable food systems on all continents.

A five year study on dry-land corn growing, found that mulching with straw increased yield, above ground biomass, soil organic carbon, particulate organic carbon, and microbial biomass. Journal of The Soil Science Society of America, March 2018.

* * *

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
IN THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

Sat., May 5: LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW 1pm-4pm and DAYLILY AND COMPANION PLANT SALE 10am-4pm, Epiphany Lutheran Church, 5515 Broadway St., Pearland, Free, www.lonestardaylilysociety.org, 713-882-9958
SAT. MAY 5: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDENS DAY, 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. Free. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT. MAY 5: WHAT IS AN ORCHID by JOYCE MC MILLAN & CLYDE HOLT, 9-11 am; BENEFICIALS IN THE GARDEN with DR. WILLIAM M. JOHNSON, 1-3 pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

TUES., MAY 8: PLUMERIAS!, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Plumeria Society of America. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

WED., MAY 9: SUCCULENT, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens West Side Arboretum Pavilion, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., MAY 9: AN EVENING WITH WILDFLOWERS OF TEXAS AUTHOR MICHAEL EASON, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, 709 Riley Fuzzel Rd., Spring. Mercer Botanic Gardens & Piney Woods Wildlife Society event. Free.

THURS., MAY 10: BATS IN OUR AREA & HOW THEY ARE BENEFICIAL by SUZZANNE JUREK, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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. houstonfederationgardencclubs.org

FRI., MAY 11: TEA IN THE GARDENS, 2:30pm - 4:30pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Fee: \$30. Register: themerchersociety.org/events
SAT., MAY 12: DAYLILY SHOW & SALE, 10am-3pm sale; 1-3pm show, Gethsemene Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society & Houston Area Daylily Society event. ofts.com/hhs/

SAT., MAY 12: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING, 9:30am-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science. \$30. Urban Harvest

event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., MAY 12: HEALTHY SOILS: THE ULTIMATE CONSERVATION TOOL by John Ferguson, 8:30am (part of 8am-2pm Smarter About Water Workshop), The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, 16135 I-45. Free. Register: Teri MacAuthur, 281-210-380

SAT., MAY 12: CELEBRATE DAYLILIES - TEXAS STYLE SHOW & SALE, 10am-3pm Sale, 1-3pm show, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga. Free. The Houston Hemerocallis Society and The Houston area Daylily Society event

SAT.-SUN., MAY 12-13, GALVESTON BAY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 9am-4pm, South Shore Harbour Resort Hotel, Marina Plaza, 2500 South Shore Blvd., League City. Free. galvestonbayorchidsociety.org

MON., MAY 14: INTRODUCTION TO THE SOIL FOOD WEB by JOHN FERGUSON, 6:30pm, University of Houston at Clear Lake, Forest Room on East of Bayou Building. Native Plant Society of Texas at Clear Lake Martha Richeson, 713-962-7747

TUES., MAY 15: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., MAY 17: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN - 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., MAY 19: STARTING A COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDEN WORKSHOP, 8:30am-2:30pm, University of St. Thomas. \$20. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT. MAY 19: HOME ORCHARD TOURS, 9 am-noon; sites: aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html . Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free.

SAT. MAY 19: TURNING DIRT INTO SOIL by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3pm. AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., MAY 19: INSECTS IN THE GARDEN, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SUN., MAY 20: HARDY FERNS by DARLA HARRIS, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfersoc.org

MON., MAY 21: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & SALE, 9-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT. JUNE 2: SUCCESSFUL VEGETABLE GARDENING by HERMAN AUER, 9-11 am; Crystal Beach Fire & Rescue, 930 Noble Carl Drive, Crystal Beach. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/

SAT., JUNE 2: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA with LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm, Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/

FRI., JUNE 8: AQUAPONICS WORKSHOP, 9:00am-3:30pm, Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. \$45. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: <https://aquaponicsworkshop.eventbrite.com>

MON., JUNE 9: CHILDREN'S GARDEN GRAND OPENING, 10am-12:30pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free.

SAT., JUNE 9: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Bay Area Community Center, 5002 Nasa Road One, Seabrook. Free. thepлумeriasociety.org

SAT., JUNE 9: LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION (HMNS), 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

WED., JUNE 13: BUTTERFLY GARDENING, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens West Side Arboretum Pavilion, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., JUNE 14: 25 YEARS OF CHANGES & CHALLENGES IN THE RAINFOREST PYRAMID by Donita Brannon, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event & plant sale. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., JUNE 16: ORCHID CARE, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: themerccersociety.org/events

SAT., JUNE 16: PROPAGATION & SEED SAVING, 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT. JUNE 16: SOIL HEALTH by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm. Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/

TUES., JUNE 19: PROPAGATION AND SEED SAVING - 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., JUNE 21: PROPAGATION AND SEED SAVING, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

MON., JUNE 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 9-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., JULY 10: PLUMERIAS!, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1500 Hermann Dr. Plumeria Society of America event. Free.

WED., JULY 11: PUTTING WETLANDS TO WORK IN YOUR HOMETOWN, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens West Side Arboretum Pavilion, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., JULY 21: MONARCHS ON THE MOVE, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: themercersociety.org/events

FRI., JULY 27: HOUSTON FOOD PRODUCTION CONFERENCE, 9am-3:30pm, University of Houston Downtown, 201 Girard. Harris County Master Gardener event. \$50 (\$30/students).

SAT., AUG. 18: THE ART OF KOKEDAMA: JAPANESE GARDENING, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: themercersociety.org/events

SAT., SEPT. 15: TERRARIUM TIME, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: themercersociety.org/events

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.

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.



Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.