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June 11th, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 253rd 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 [click here](#) 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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IT JUST SEEMS LIKE A CENTURY BETWEEN BLOOMS! NATURE SHOULD MAKE SCIENTISTS OF US ALL

"The proper use of science is not to conquer nature but to live in it."
-- Barry Commoner

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Sometimes coincidences really get eerie. The very same day that I slammed on the breaks and turned my car around to take this picture at above left at the New Jerusalem Church on Bender Road in Humble, I received:

- the two center photos from longtime friends Ron & Don Megow
- and an email from Joyce O'Neil asking if it's true now her century plant has bloomed, it's going to die?

Sorry, Joyce, but that's true. Not good news for all the Upper Texas Gulf Coast folks now so delighted that their *Agave americana* is strutting its stuff these days. Were so many all ready to bloom anyway? Or -- another coincidence -- do we have Harvey and our exceptionally cold winter to thank in part for such unusual widespread blooming?

Sometimes plants react to major traumas by immediately blooming to produce seed or (in the case of agaves) pups to continue the species? I'd vote for the latter in most cases, but you'll have to ask your own agave to be sure.

Do enjoy! These horticultural treasures ordinarily do bloom more than once a century. Actually, more like once every 15-25 years. (*It just seems like a century.*)

These tall delights are *Agave americanas*, and they're not the only plants we call "century plants." But these are certainly one of the most distinctive agaves. Even when not in bloom, like all agaves, they make beautiful sculptural plantings.

And even though they do die after blooming, the good news is that beneath the dying leaves will be many new plantlets, called pups, just waiting to be transplanted. See photo at right above.

In the July 3 2015, issue of the ***Lazy Gardener & Friends Houston Garden Newsletter***, I chronicled Don's experiences with his century plant, après-blooming and transplanting emerging "babies."
natureswayresources.com/NLpdf/114LGNewsletter.pdf

It's not rocket science. Pups already have roots attached. Pull and plant. It's that easy! Just don't plant

them under your house eaves!

Do let's give these plants the respect they deserve. For centuries they provided food, medicine, building materials, cloth, you name it, for the earliest Native Americans. [Century plants \(Agave americana\)](#) are truly plants to be revered.

* * *



Purple savoy cabbage, Edamame edible soybeans, violet cauliflower, Green Glaze collards

GARDENING IN AN URBAN AREA?

One of your best friends -- especially when it comes to planting edibles -- might just be HUG -- [Houston Urban Gardeners](#). This organic-oriented group focuses on the unique challenges of gardening in subdivisions and other close communities. Log onto www.houstonurbangardeners.org for details.

Even if you aren't able to attend meetings, the free emailed newsletter is filled with tips aimed at urban gardeners. In this issue, for example, Dr. Bob Randall (an Urban Garden founder) gives advice on which fall vegetables to plant starting in July and August. A few excerpts from his suggestions:

- Plant bush snap bean seeds, Edamame edible soy seeds, and summer squash seeds.
- In early August, you can get a new sweet potato crop with a 90-day variety like Beauregard
- Many Cabbage family relatives (Brassicas) are suitable for August seed planting or September transplanting. Bob mainly grows heirloom cabbages like Early Jersey Wakefield or the beautiful blue-purple Savoy varieties.
- We can also grow early and later broccoli, and both gorgeous violet cauliflowers and ordinary white ones.
- Brussels spouts are possible, especially north of FM1960, but July planting from seed is best.
- Collards and kales (both European and Siberian) are easy. Bob especially likes the heirloom Green Glaze.
- All these need very good soil fertility. Use a balanced organic fertilizer (about 1/2 cup per square foot or more) and refertilize especially if you see yellow or reddish leaves.

For the "*...rest of the story*": <https://mailchi.mp/62392ddd8017/eo0lm690hh-1336909?e=31e2c3e101>. Click on "Good Info from Bob Randall" in the last paragraph.

* * *

NOTE TO NURSERIES: I sent out queries to all the local independent nurseries for which I have email addresses, asking:

- ***What is your single best selling plant this year (name varieties please if possible)***
- ***What plant would you most like to see more of your favorite customers try?***

If you did not get this query and would like to be on my list, please email: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net. Be sure to include your nursery name on all communications so we can give you that extra publicity plug!

* * *

THE SUCCESSES IN ST. JULIAN'S CROSSING , a noted home wildlife habitat in Oak Forest, has put owner Lauren Simpson back in the spotlight, not only across the Greater Houston area but beyond as well. Once again Lauren is sharing her expertise and an innovative perspective here in our Spotlight Article below. Although only around 3 years old, Lauren's home wildlife-habitat has earned certifications from the [National Wildlife Federation](#), [Monarch Watch](#), and [North American Butterfly Association](#).

On Thurs., June 21, Lauren will suggest a new way of looking at our gardens in her presentation, **"A LOVE AFFAIR WITH POLLINATORS: CONFESSIONS OF A CITIZEN SCIENTIST."**

This free Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event runs 6:45-8:30pm at the [Houston Arboretum & Nature Center](#). Use the Arboretum's new entrance on the West Look N access road before Woodway Dr. npsot.org/houston/

In our Spotlight Article below, Lauren, a frequent guest speaker, offers a preview of her talk, pointing out that so much of we do naturally in our landscapes actually qualifies us as garden scientists. How? Lauren shares some suggestions on how to take a slightly different perspective. For more on Lauren and her garden, log onto her Facebook page: ["St. Julian's Crossing-wildlife habitat"](#).

* * *

Before we go to Lauren's Spotlight article, though, . . .

Can I share a very exciting moment with you?

Many of my incredibly-long-lived Lazy Gardener Laboratory plants have not survived transplanting from Harvey-doomed old home to new. Floods, freezes & my total neglect were too much to take. BUT! Am so excited to report on the successes, and one in particular. All these Tough Texas Broads came from extremely OLD plantings: white oxalis, daylilies, thyralis, crape myrtle, amaryllis, indigofera and -- I am so surprised! -- my nodding clematis at left!

This now-50+-year-old nodding clematis dies back every winter and reappears from roots in spring. The 2" flower's beautifully delicate vine seldom reaches over a couple of feet long. I first spied this little native clematis vine blooming on the edge of a heavily-wooded corner lot across the street from our house. I transplanted it into my yard, and it just kept right on growing and blooming. A true lazy gardener winner!

In the name of truth in reporting -- with the exception of **MY** nodding clematis, right below, the rest are not actual pictures of my plants. Mine don't look nearly this good or prolific -- yet. I hate it when garden writers mention specific plants and don't include a picture! So including these others for ID purposes only:



L to r, (not mine) white oxalis, daylilies, thyralis, crape myrtle, amaryllis, indigofera and -- I am so happy! -- MY actual nodding clematis at right!

Now, let Lauren help broaden our perspectives next time we step into our gardens . . .

* * *

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

* * *



*Left, Lauren's wildlife-habitat gardens, St. Julian's Crossing, in spring 2018
Right, Milkweed Assassin Bug (Zelus longipes), a beneficial garden predator, feeding on a fly*

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE AS A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

by Lauren J. Simpson

We know that birds, butterflies, and bees are in trouble. We want to help, but we don't always know the best ways. After all, most of us are not entomologists, wildlife biologists, or even botanists.

The good news is that we need not be scientists to help wildlife. All we need is a willingness to adapt gardening practices to support wildlife and a desire to observe and record.

In other words, while we garden, we can be citizen scientists. [Scistarter](#) describes a citizen scientist as "an individual who voluntarily contributes his or her time, effort, and resources toward scientific research in collaboration with professional scientists or alone."

We gardeners are particularly well-suited for this because we encounter wildlife frequently.



*Left: tiny Ligated Furrow Bee ([Halictus ligatus](#)), peeking out of her nesting hole in the ground
Right, Gulf Fritillary butterfly caterpillar ([Agraulis vanillae](#)), feeding on a passionvine species, its host plant -- both in Lauren's wildlife-habitat gardens, St. Julian's Crossing, in spring 2018*

Here's how you can support wildlife as you garden:

- **ADAPT.** Our gardens must welcome wildlife, which happens when we adapt our gardening in ways like these:
 - Avoid pesticides: let predators keep pests in check.
 - Use compost or organic fertilizers.
 - Leave some bare, undisturbed ground for bees' nests (70% of native bees nest in ground).
 - Reduce mowing (which scares wildlife, removes food and cover, and pollutes).
 - Leave dead stems until spring because tiny bees may nest or shelter inside.
 - Allow leaves to stay in beds because wildlife shelters under them in winter.
 - Use native plants because they feed more wildlife and work better here.
 - Select flowers of varying sizes, shapes, colors, and bloom times.
 - Include plants that feed caterpillars.
- **OBSERVE.** As you garden, be mindful of plant and animal relationships.
 - Which plants feed which animals, and when?
 - Which animals eat your garden pests?
 - What attracts pests and predators alike to your garden?
 - Knowing these connections will help you to understand the web of life and also to choose what, where, and when to plant.
- **SHARE.** Share your observations on citizen-science platforms, such as
 - [iNaturalist](#), [Nature's Notebook](#),
 - [Bugguide](#),
 - [Bumble Bee Watch](#),
 - [Journey North](#),
 - and educational communities.
 - Find citizen-science opportunities through sites such as
 - [Scistarter](#),
 - [citizenscience.gov](#), and
 - [National Geographic](#).

When we share, we give scientists the data they need to help the wildlife that we treasure.

* * *

Lauren is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Houston Law Center, where she teaches Lawyering Skills and Strategies. She is a spring 2016 recipient of the UH Teaching Excellence Award (Instructor/Clinical category) and

the spring 2017 and 2018 Professor of the Year for Law Center faculty teaching in the part-time program.

You can reach Lauren:

- *through her facebook page, ["St. Julian's Crossing-wildlife habitat](#)*
- *or speak with her personally at her Thurs., June 21, "A Love Affair with Pollinators: Confessions of a Citizen Scientist," presentation sponsored by the Houston Chapter/Native Plant Society of Texas, 6:45-8:30pm, at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, West Loop N. access road (before Woodway). Free. npsot.org/houston.*

JOHN'S CORNER

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #47

A study in the Journal HortTechnology (April 2018) found that dogs could find and identify trees infected with the laurel wilt disease (*Raffaelea lauricola*) with a 99.4% accuracy even before visible symptoms are apparent. This disease also attacks avocados (*Persea americana*).

A study in the Journal HortTechnology (April 2018) found that a mycorrhizal like fungus (*Piriformospora indica*) when inoculated into sterilized bags of perlite and then mixed into a standard growing mix, and improved root growth on all six species tested.

A study published in the journal Nature (2017), they found that the highest carbon sequestering occurred in areas where the diversity of animals were the highest. Previous studies have found that the highest carbon sequestering in fields occurs when cover crops also have a high diversity of species. Nature (God) is telling us that the natural systems are designed to function best when there is a lot of diversity. The same principle has proven true in our lawns and gardens which have a lot of different species planted. There is less disease, less insect pests, less weeds, less maintenance required, etc. Nature does not like a mono culture.

Most gardeners already know this, working in our gardens makes us smarter. A new study published in the Journal Cell (April 2018), has found that exposure to sunshine can boost brain power and improve mood. Ultra violet light increases the production of the brain chemical called glutamate which heightens the ability to learn and remember. When our skin is exposed to moderate UV exposure it produces a chemical called urocanic acid and causes the neurons to produce more glutamate.

The USDA Forest Service used aerial imagery to study the changes in tree cover in U.S. cities over a 5 year period from 2009-2014. They found that urban areas lost 36 million trees! A single large tree can remove the amount of carbon dioxide produced by driving a car 25,000 miles. Trees remove pollution from the air and they cool the air (in some areas by as much as nine degrees). Trees have a secondary effect as the cooler air means we do not have to run the air conditioners as much which saves energy and carbon dioxide pollution from power plants used to produce the energy. The study did not include health benefits from breathing cleaner air.

Another study found that urban areas will continue to grow and predicts that urban land will increase another 163 million acres by 2060. Currently the 5.5 billion trees in urban areas that contain 127 million acres of leaf area and 44 million tons of dry weight leaf biomass. These trees provide over \$18 billion in air pollution removal, \$5.4 billion in reduced building energy usage, and \$4.8 billion worth of carbon sequestration every year!

Have you ever asked yourself why so many of our pets are getting cancer? I mentioned one article in issue #46. This short video explains the link to gardening:

<https://www.facebook.com/animaltalesbywaggle/videos/236377337110930/>

* * *

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**

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

THURS, JUNE14: ORGANIC ROSE PROTOCOLS & PLANT HEALTH by DANIEL MILLIKIN, 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

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

SUN., JUN 17: GROWING FERNS FROM SPORE by JOAN HUDSON & PATRICK HUDNALL, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfernsoc.org.

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., 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

TUES., JUN. 19: SHADY SECRETS OF BROMELIADS by JOHN SCHMIDT, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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

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.

THURS., July 12: HUGELKULTUR GARDENING by MARY KARISH, 9-10 am; Waller County Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead 77445. Waller County Master Gardener event. Free. RSVP wallerimgardener2013@gmail.com, 979-826-7651 X 3068

THURS., JULY 12: BEGONIAS by Tony Collins & Plant Sale, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., JULY 12: RAISED BEDS, DRIP IRRIGATION & RAIN BARRELS, 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Harris County Master Gardener event Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

SAT., JULY 14: WATER & YOUR YARD-BASICS, 8-10am, & WATER & YOUR YARD-ADVANCED, 10:30am-12:30pm, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd. Conroe. \$5/session; \$8 both. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT. JULY 14: IRISES FOR THE GULF COAST GARDEN by MONICA MARTENS, 1-3pm, 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/index.html

MON., JULY 16: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 9-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., JULY 17: A HOMEOWNER'S GIDE TO WEED CONTROL, 6:30-8pm; 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/index.html

TUES., JULY 17: RAISED BEDS, DRIP IRRIGATION & RAIN BARRELS, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale, Houston. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

THURS., JULY 19: RAISED BEDS, DRIP IRRIGATION & RAIN BARRELS, 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane, Houston. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

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

SAT., JULY 21: RAISED BEDS, DRIP IRRIGATION & RAIN BARRELS - 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES., JULY 24: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY, 10-11:15am, Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress. Free. Register by July 22: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

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

FRI., AUG., 10: GREATER HOUSTON ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT. Citizens' Environmental Coalition event. cehouston.org

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

THURS., SEPT. 6: ROSES by GAYE HAMMOND, 9-10 am; Waller County Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. Free. Waller County Master Gardener event. RSVP: wallerimgardener2013@gmail.com, 979-826-7651

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

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.



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Click the "Like" button.