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June 29th, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 256th 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.

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HUGELKULTUR AND SCHOOL HABITATS -- GARDENING MOTHER NATURE'S WAY

*"Earth knows no desolation. She smells regeneration in the moist breath of decay."
-- George Meredith (1828 - 1909)*

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

I love it when a writer captures in few words the essence of a whole universe of ideas. [Richard Louv](#) did just that with the catch phrase "Nature Deficit Disorder." This, Louv says, is a metaphor to describe what an increasing number of studies are showing the human costs of alienation from nature.

In his book, ["Last Child in the Woods,"](#) Louv focuses on what he says is a steadily widening range of childhood behavioral problems, according to an [article in the May issue of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute newsletter.](#)

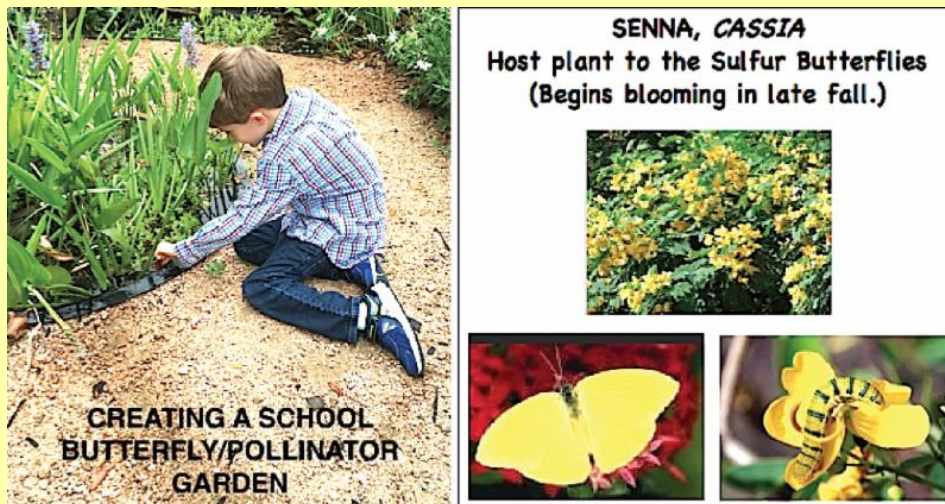
I see it as much broader than that. I see it as gardeners moving further and further away from the way Mother Nature gardens, losing techniques proven effective literally from time immemorial. Why? Probably because Mother Nature's ways seldom generate \$\$\$ profits.

Louv's wonderful metaphor immediately sprang to mind when I saw Mary Khazen Karish's reply to my email asking, *"What is Hugelkultur Gardening?"*

This intriguing concept is the title of Mary's Thursday, July 12, program at the Waller County Extension Office, 846 6th St. in Hempstead. The program is free but Waller County Master Gardeners do ask you to make reservations at wallermgardener2013@gmail.com or 979-826-7651 (ext. 3068).

I won't jump the gun on Mary's Spotlight article below on Hugelklture Gardening. Instead, here's great turn-kids-onto-nature booklet now available free online. It's aimed at establishing a school garden, but is a great, practical guide for any garden aimed at attracting butterflies and other jewels of nature.

"Creating a School/Pollinator Garden" is the brainchild by Doris Heard, Garden Club of Houston, in part as an aid to The Nature Spot, St. John's School's habitat garden. St. John's science teacher and fellow GCH member Renee Wright wants to share this treasure with others hoping to establish a campus habitats garden. The whole booklet can be downloaded for free at www.gchouston.org. (Click on Education > [Creating a School Garden](#)).



The booklet is packed with tips, including pictures of great plants to use and, above right, neat signs to reproduce that note easy-to-grow plants that attract which butterflies and other pollinators. A few excerpted shared tips:

- If you have a limited budget, put most funds into bed preparation and an irrigation system. Purchased or donated plants can be small. In good soil that is regularly watered and have good sunlight, they will grow rapidly.
- Build the beds up 8 inches or more above the ground level to assure good drainage.
- Avoid accepting and/or purchasing just any old blooming plants. Make a list of recommended plants you want to include and then go to sales or nurseries that carry native plants. (Booklet includes list of native plant nurseries.)
- Be aware some hybrid plants do not produce as much nectar as native plants.
- Include evergreen plants. In winter foliage will protect butterflies from high winds and cold weather.

It's not as complicated as it may seem, but plants are like people. One size does not fit all butterflies and other pollinators. Research in advance will save you a lot of time, money & energy.



*Aristolochia fimbriata, host plant to pipevine swallowtail butterfly. Right, swallowtail caterpillar. Pictorial education in **CREATING A SCHOOL BUTTERFLY GARDEN** (gchouston.org > Education)*

* * *

READY FOR HUGELKULTUR?: Now, delighted to share Mary Khazen Karish's thoughts on hugelkultur gardening. Mary, a Waller County Master Gardener and Texas Rare Fruit Growers member, holds Citrus, Home Fruit Orchard & Composting Certification, and is completing "Citrus-First Disease Detector"

certification. A Nottingham Garden Club member, Mary contributes to [Texas Gardening Magazine](#) and teaches gardening for Katy ISD. Maybe soon we can get her to do Spotlight article on Biodynamic Gardening, another of her topics. In the meantime, today's Spotlight is a preview of this upcoming event:

**THURS., July 12: HUGELKULTUR GARDENING by MARY KARISH,
9-10 am; Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead. Waller County Master Gardener event.
Free. RSVP: wallermgardener2013@gmail.com, 979-826-7651 X 3068**

* * *

**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, the Author's Hugelkultur mound planted with peppers topped with compost.
Right, replenishing the mounds with wood logs*

HUGELKULTURE: BUILDING FERTILE SOIL WITH WOOD LOGS

by **MARY KHAZEN KARISH**
Waller County Master Gardener

Forests have existed for thousands of years without landscaping companies installing irrigation systems or chemical companies fertilizing the soil. Trees grow as tall as buildings, trunks expand to almost the size of a trailer and branches extend as far as the eye can see. How do they do it?

Hugelkultur, an ancient form of sheet composting, has been practiced in Eastern Europe for centuries. Its German translation, "Hill Culture," mimics the composting cycle forests go through every year. It starts with the following steps:

- Clear the sod from the desired area or place thick overlapping cardboard.
- Assemble the biggest wood logs you have available. Most types of wood work, whether fresh or rotting.
- However, stay away from cedar or black walnut as they contain naturally occurring herbicides or toxins.
- Cover with wood sticks and tree trimmings, water the pile generously.
- Add 2 to 3 inches of organic matter, such as grass clippings, leaves, vegetable scraps or manure.
- Then add 2 to 3 inches of compost and water the pile
- Finally, cover it with leaves or wood chips to keep the pile moist and weeds from camping on your Hugelkultur mound.



*Left, mound - logs in the bottom, followed by wood chips and twigs.
Right, final look, after the mound is covered with wood chips*

Sit back, and let nature do the work for you. As time goes by, the wood logs and branches decompose much like the natural composting process in the forest. As they rot, they become like a sponge extracting moisture and slowly releasing it into the soil, eliminating the need for irrigation. Simultaneously, the rotting wood becomes the source of organic matter that all living plants need to grow.

The bigger the mound the longer it would take to decompose. A mound that is 5 feet high would take about 5 to 7 years to decompose completely. If you do not have access to wood logs, branches and sticks will do. However, the rate of decomposition will go faster. You can replenish the mound after each planting season by adding a layer of twigs or branches.

Hugelkultur is like aging wine, it gets better with time. You will also discover you do not need to dispose of yard waste because you will be using them!

Additional Resources:

- <http://www.holzeragroecology.com>
- <http://www.richsoil.com>
- <http://www.allthingsplants.com>

* * *

Mary Khazen Karish can be reached at marykarish46@yahoo.com.

- Or you can meet her in person at her free Waller County Master Gardener presentation on HUGELKULTUR GARDENING 9-10 am at the Waller County Extension Office, 846 6th St., Hempstead 77445. They do ask that you RSVP for a head count: wallermgardener2013@gmail.com or 979-826-7651 X 3068
- * Mary's range of lecture titles is available in the updated Lazy Gardener's Speakers List. Free, request at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

* * *

JOHN'S CORNER

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #50

Many times we have talked about the dangers of glyphosate (Round-Up) and GMO's, it is one of many reasons that we need to garden organically and produce our own food that is nutritious, tastes good and is nutrient dense. Monsanto has been voted the most evil corporation in the world many times and the link below is to a video that explains why. Warning .. the video is chilling.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTi0_ZQtPTY&feature=youtu.be

In our study of the elements last year, the element europium was thought to have no known biological role. However, laboratory animals fed diets with Europium increase their lifespan by 100%. Research from Ludwig-Maximilians-University published in the journal ChemBioChem 2018 has found the bacterium *Methyacidiphilum fumariolicum* uses europium to make an enzyme that converts methanol into formaldehyde. Its active site consists of the cofactor PQQ (pyrroloquinoline quinone) which is critical for many biological functions from microbes to humans.

I know many of us love the spice cinnamon. The Chinese cinnamon (*Cinnamomum cassia*) has been found to have anti-cancer effects. Cinnamon is made by cutting the stems of the Cinnamomum tree in which the inner bark is extracted and dried. As it dries it curls up into the rolls we call cinnamon sticks. Cinnamon is rich in antioxidants, fights inflammation, some studies have shown it lowers one's risk of heart attacks, and it improves insulin sensitivity. Animal studies have shown it helps improve Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Natural News 2018

In the June 2018 issue of Greenhouse Management there was a very nice article on Growing Media. Their survey found that more nurseries are using shredded wood as part of their potting mixes or growing media. I have been using composted native mulch for over 20 years as a growing media or as a component of growing media. One thing I have learned is that putting a couple inches of composted native mulch into the bottom of a pot before I add the soil or potting mix has proven very beneficial. First it keeps soil from falling out the drainage holes. Secondly it attracts earthworms, which keep the soil media well aerated and loose with good soil structure. The earthworms also produce plant growth hormones like auxins, hence the plants tend to grow faster and establish roots faster. Third, since I have started doing this I cannot remember ever losing a plant to soil diseases. The composted native mulch is extremely high in beneficial microbes that protect a plant's roots

from soil diseases. Forth, I often use composted native mulch to root cuttings in as it hold moisture and does not dry out as quickly as other media (I have been known to place some cuttings into a pot and forget to water them for a week at a time). Fifth, roots love it! On many occasions I will be growing out some plant in a 5 gallon pot. After sitting in one place for several months I will try and lift it and find it has become anchored to the ground. Tree roots have come out of the ground and grown into the container. Somehow the tree knew there was a rich fertile soil waiting for it.

A chemical called sulforaphane has been found to fight Alzheimer's disease. In addition to helping with memory it has also been found to protect cells from oxidative damage as it is a antioxidant. Cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower are prized for their cancer fighting powers which in part come from this compound. Fresh vegetables are best, as cooking or freezing destroys this beneficial compound. It also degrades over time hence raising one's own vegetables is best or at least buy from a local organic farmers market.

A new study from the University of Illinois published in the journal Microbial Biology has found several groups of microbes that fight the plants we call weeds. They have identified soil microbes that negatively affect ragweed. This finding will allow a new field of weed control by allowing researchers to identify plants that attract the weed inhibiting microbes.

* * *

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., JULY 7: CACTUS & SUCCULENT CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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 wallermgardener2013@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

THURS, JULY 12: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND SUMMER CELEBRATION 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. houstonrose.org

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

SAT., JULY 14: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN w/WATER FEATURE CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$50. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT, JULY 14: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS SUMMER MEETING 11am, Antique Rose Emporium, Independence, TX. Free. texasroserustlers.com/events/

SUN., JUL 15: WICKING OF MAIDENHAIR FERNS FOR INDOOR AND OUTDOOR USE by DARLA HARRIS & LARRY RUCKER, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Lecture: free. Project \$10. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. tgcfernsoc.org.

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 GUIDE TO WEED CONTROL, 6:30-8pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. 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

TUES., JULY 17: WHAT, YOU MISSED THE WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE? DON'T WORRY, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED! by GORDON STOWE AND DAVID WHIPKEY, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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

SAT., JULY 21: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Conference Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

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).

SAT., AUG. 4: HANGING BASKET CLASS CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

SAT., AUG. 11: WASTE NOT, WANT NOT . . . BOKASHI AND VERMICOMPOSTING, 9:30-11:30am. University of Houston Downtown, 201 Girard St. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

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

SAT., AUG. 18: PLUMERIA CLASS CLASS by JIM MAAS & LORETTA OSTEEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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

SAT., AUG. 25: FALL & WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & PAUL NESRSTA, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

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: wallermgardener2013@gmail.com, 979-826-7651

SAT., SEPT. 8: BASIC ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING, 9:30am-noon. Houston Museum of Natural Science, Moran Conference Hall, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. Register: 713-880-5540; urbanharvest.org/classes-calendar

SAT., SEPT. 15: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., SEPT. 22: GARDENING FOR BIRDS & HUMMINGBIRDS CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$40. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., SEPT. 29: HANGING BASKET CLASS by JIM MAAS & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT., OCT. 6: HIBISCUS CLASS WITH GRAFTING by JIM MAAS & JOE MILLER, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT, OCT 20: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS FALL CUTTING EXCHANGE, United Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2038 FM 3171, Schulenburg. Free. texasroserustlers.com/events/

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

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

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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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