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August 17th, 2018

Dear Friends,

Here is the 262nd 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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INVASIVE SERIOUS THREAT IN SOME CASES . . . IFFY NUISANCES IN OTHER

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

ONE MAN'S LANDSCAPE DELIGHT MAY BE ANOTHER'S NIGHTMARE. And that seems to be the case with cashmere bouquet/Mexican hydrangea, *Clerodendrum bungei*, mentioned in [last week's column](#). I always viewed this as a delightful shade bloomer and was happy to learn deer don't eat it.

At least two readers disagree, rather strongly!

- Chris in the Heights says yes, cashmere bouquet looks pretty, but this "*stuff is invasive.*" She put in one plant and within "*two months it was everywhere.*"
 - She didn't realize the tubers would spread even under her porch, coming up through floorboard cracks. Concludes Chris, "*There is a very good reason you don't find it in nurseries.*"
- Susan strongly agrees with Chris. She's "been trying for 2 decades to get rid of mine...to no avail . . . I only wish the deer WOULD eat it!"



L to r: Cashmere Bouquet/Mexican hydrangea, mimosa and obedient plant

It's interesting how many of once-popular delightful landscape plants (like this one) are now proving truly invasive in this area. Japanese wisteria comes to mind (evergreen wisteria is still fine), as well as mimosa and elephant ears, to name just a few. Obedient plant (*Physostegia*) is actually a native, but some find it to be overly enthusiastic.

I had a friend who griped every time I mentioned the native plant passionvine, a favorite in so many habitat gardens, since one quite literally took over her entire backyard.

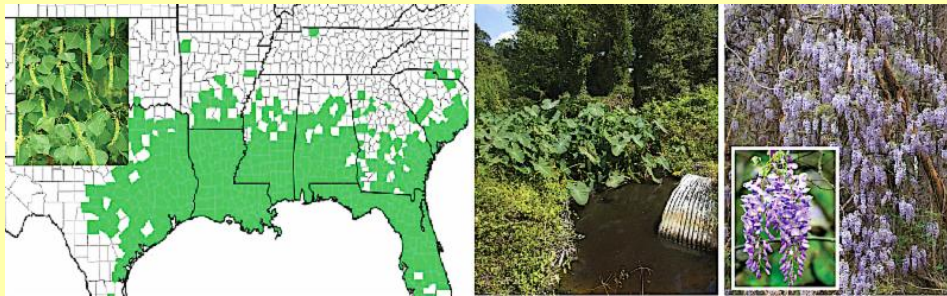
Many also put tall blue ruellia (Mexican petunia) in that category. It certainly drove me insane at our old house. So did wedelia. I swear, if we'd left for any extended period of time, we'd come home to find the whole house blanketed with wedelia.



L to r: passionvine, tall blue ruellia and wedelia

Now I'm longing for some wedelia to fill in a concrete-bordered area, in the same way so many Galvestonians have done in the enclosed areas between sidewalks & streets.

At one extreme, some once popular landscape plants, like Chinese tallow and Chinese wisteria, are now proving true threats to the environment, crowding out habitat so vital to local wildlife. "Escaped" elephant ears are contributing to flooding by clogging natural drainage ditches. Please don't plant these.



*Left, Chinese tallow invasion is now acute throughout the South.
Center, elephant ears are contributing to our flooding problems.
Right, Chinese wisteria is killing forests.*

Other plants are still in the maybe-yes, maybe-no nuisance crowding stage. One year they may be beaten back by prolonged freezes. The next they're conquering new territories.

Not trying to tell you what to, or not to, plant. The exact same plant can be "drive-you-insane" in one yard and not far away be very well behaved. Just want you know the possibility exists that some plants might end up "happier" than you expected them to be. And that what you plant may, or may not, stay in your yard.

I'd love to know which traditionally popular landscape plants you now consider invasive. These environmental changes are making "novices" of us all. Email me at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net. Please identify your general area, and whether or not I may use your name.

* * *

One more comment on last week's column from Melanie Wiggins, who "got a kick" out of the "Messy Garden" segment. She agrees "it's best to have a few messy spots, if possible."

But, as with many of you, Melanie's homeowners association is vigilant about things like that, so she keeps "my unruly milk weed stalks behind a small garden wall. There are ways to beat the system, as you said."

Golden Rain Tree - *Koelreuteria bipinnatifida*



Left, it always fascinated me how folks are fine when caterpillars make a mess of butterflyweed. But they go berserk when caterpillars attack other plants! Right, Linda Gay's my go-to plant ID guru!

TIP O' THE TROWEL TO LINDA GAY who identified neat plant I spotted on the [Nature's Way Resources website](#) as Purslane '

Cinderella Fairy Tales." So, while I was at it, I asked Linda about other formerly delightful landscape plants that are now in the Invasive category. Linda, former director of Mercer Botanic Gardens, added these:

- - China Berry Tree - *Melia azedarach*
 - Coral vine *Antigonon leptopus*, it is re-seeding
 - Castor Bean - *Ricinus*
 - Catclaw Vine - *Macfadyeana*
 - Privet - *Ligustrum sinense*
 - Giant Reed *Arundo donax*
 - Japanese Honeysuckle - *Lonicera japonica*
 - Japanese climbing Fern - *Lygodium*

I agree coral vine is a bit pushy. But I do love it so!

Linda questioned why I think wedelia is invasive. It's not on any invasive list. I was away from the gardens almost a month one time. Came home to find it had literally "blanket-ed" a 20'-long bed, covering hibiscus, and numerous other plantings. Sure wish I'd taken a picture. It had also spread into the St. Augustine lawn, competing with this grass. In fact, that wedelia still exists at our Harvey-destroyed home. I'd go get some, but it's too depressing. But, then, maybe it just really liked me?

* * *

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



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #56

Seeds are an amazing thing. Some of the oldest living seeds germinated after resting for 30,000 years! So how do seeds survive in the soil? We know that birds, bats, and the wind can spread seeds, and many seeds emerge from the buried seed bank even decades after falling to the ground. I have seen this at the little farm I purchased for retirement a few years ago. There had been no native grasses or wildflowers in the fields for decades. It had been farmed for decades and later planted in Bermuda and King Ranch Bluestem for hay and cattle grazing.

After applying 400 pounds/acre of trace minerals (a mix of greensand, basalt sand, and granite sand) and having a fungal based compost tea applied to the fields by Sustainable Growth Texas, long dormant seeds began to awaken. The first year Little Bluestem showed up along with a few wildflowers. The second year bushy bluestem showed up and little bluestem was spreading (thousands of plants), and there were 10X more wildflowers than the year before. This third year Indian grass has shown up, and it has been non-stop wildflowers from early spring till now and many are still blooming. Bluebells, Antelope tears for the monarchs, native rain flowers, dozens of more species and butterflies everywhere. So back to the original question "how does seeds survive?" Some seeds use chemical methods that deter predators and pathogens. Other seeds use physical properties like a very hard seed coat which is difficult for animals and microbes to penetrate to get to the tender nutritious material inside. We are now finding that some seeds are protected by microbes in the soil. Nature (God) has created these magnificent survival strategies. For example, the hard seed coat will take years to biodegrade enough in the soil so moisture can soak into the seed and trigger the germination. This ensures survival of the species since out of a batch of seeds produced in one year, they may germinate over many different years ensuring that many of them will find the correct growing conditions.

A study from the University of California at Berkeley has found the chemicals lupeol and pristimeren found in dandelions and mangos were able to prevent sperm from fertilizing an egg. They hope this will lead to a new class of "natural Plan B" birth control products.

I was asked the other day about using fish waste from fish farms to make compost. Fish waste from wild caught fish is an excellent ingredient for making compost. However, waste from fish farms is full of toxic chemicals (and in the fish they sell to us). Farmed salmon contains 5X more toxins than any other food tested, with higher levels of PCB's and dioxin. Other tests on farmed salmon have found PBDE's, and flame retardant chemicals. Composting this type of fish waste would concentrate these chemicals even more. Hence, farmed fish waste is not a good feedstock for composting.

I was reading another article in the Journal of Environmental Quality (May 2018) on dairy manure compost and growing vegetables. In 2011 in the USA there were 297,624,078 pounds of antibiotics

fed to livestock. As a result soils where the manure was applied or in compost made from the manure, there were very high levels of antibiotic resistant bacteria as well as the antibiotics themselves. The researchers found that most of these could be destroyed by static pile composting methods. The problem is that almost all of the feedlots (all that I am aware of) in Texas and New Mexico use what is known as windrow methods that are quick, cheap and fast. These methods DO NOT destroy the dangerous antibiotics or the resistant bacteria. I would not want to eat vegetables from beds with this type compost applied. Note: Cattle manure also tends to be high in salts which are not good for many of our Gulf Coast soils.

Speaking of manures, the flooding caused by hurricane Harvey last year caused over 800 sewage treatment plants to dump raw sewage into our bayous and streams, over 2 million pounds of contaminates.

I finished reading a interesting new book last week called, The PLANT PARADOX -The Hidden Dangers in "Healthy" Foods that cause Disease and Weight Gain, by Steven R. Gundry, MD, 2017, ISBN: 978-0062427137.

This book explains how plants defend themselves from being consumed by animals or humans and how eating the wrong ones at the wrong time immeasurably hurts our health. One of the tidbits of knowledge that I picked up and had never thought about before was when I eat fruits out of season. Plants produce toxic and bitter chemicals in their fruits to prevent them from being eaten until the seeds are mature. Have you ever taking a bite out of a very green banana or a persimmon that has not turned orange and soft? These chemicals that are designed to protect the fruit from being eaten and are toxic to humans. What food suppliers and grocery stores have learned to do, is to artificially get the fruits to turn color and look ripe when they are not and then we eat these toxic chemicals. There are many more examples of how our food causes us to gain weight or have diabetes, Alzheimer's or other diseases. Dr, Gundry provides valuable insight on how he helped his patients reverse autoimmune and neurodegenerative diseases and lose weight through the foods they eat.

Another 10 year study on forests, published in the journal Nature Communications (2018), has confirmed that the larger the diversity of animals and fungal species, the healthier the forest. These same ideas apply to our flowerbeds and gardens, the larger diversity of plants, the less insect and disease problems we have. Even little things like the type of mulch we use makes a huge difference. Pine or hardwood bark, dyed mulches, etc. do not contain or feed microbes. A good composted native mulch which is made from hundreds of species of plants will contain thousands of species of good microbes. Little things add up to make our gardens healthier.

In addition to Boron (B) being required to grow healthy plants, a little trivia I found interesting. The Carnegie Institute for Science has found that trace amounts of the element Boron, is what makes diamonds blue (think of the world famous Hope Diamond). They also found that these Blue diamonds are formed many times deeper in the earth (much hotter and higher pressures) than regular diamonds.

* * *

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

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 OSTEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Road, Seabrook. \$25. 281-474-2488, maasnursery.com

SAT. AUG 18: BONSAI by CLYDE HOLT, 9-11 am, \$25; URBAN SMALL BACKYARD GARDENING by HERMAN AUER, 1-2:30pm, free; and PROPAGATING TOMATO PLANTS USING CUTTINGS, 2:30-3pm, free, AgriLife Extension Bldg., Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy. 519), LaMarque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., AUG. 18: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING - 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

MON., AUG. 20: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY w/PLANT SALE, 9-11am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUES. AUG 21: GARDENING BY THE SQUARE FOOT by JOHN JONS, 6:30-8pm; Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com, 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

TUES., AUG. 21: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING, 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; hcmga.tamu.edu

TUE., AUG. 21: MY BROMELIAD RETROSPECTIVE by CHARLIE BIRDSONG, 7pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

WED., AUG. 22: "HYLOCEREUS: DRAGON FRUIT - HARVEST/'WET' SEEDS FOR SOWING/STORAGE," by WALLACE WARD, 7:30pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center. Free. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. hcsstex.org

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

TUES., AUG. 28: DIVERSITY OF FERNS by DARLA HARRIS, 1:30pm; Sugar Land Branch Library, 550 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

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: BACKYARD CITRUS by ROBERT MARSHALL, 1-3 pm. Friendswood Public Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr, Friendswood. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Must register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com , 281-309-5065. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

THURS., SEPT. 13: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 6:30-8:30pm, Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmg a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.tamu.edu)

THURS., SEPT. 6: INSECTS; THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE NOT SO UGLY BY MARY KARISH, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. ncgctx.org

FRI., SEPT. 14: PLANT SALE and NEUTRALIZING OUR INDIVIDUAL CARBON FOOTPRINTS by JIM BLACKBURN, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

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

THURS., SEPT. 13: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING by CHRISTINE HAMMON, 10-11:30am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmg a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.tamu.edu)

THURS, Sept 13: BAYOU BEND: PLANTS THAT SHAPED MISS IMA'S GARDEN by Bart Brechter 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. houstonrose.org

SAT., SEPT. 15: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 10:30am-12:30pm, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmg a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.tamu.edu)

MON., SEPT. 17: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY, 9-11:00am, Genoa Friendship Gardens Educational Center Building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Free. Plants for sale in greenhouse. 713-274-0950; [hcmg a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.tamu.edu)

TUES., SEPT. 18: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 6:30-8:30pm, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmg a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.tamu.edu)

TUES., SEPT. 18: LOVE YOUR HIPPEASTRUM AKA AMARYLLIS by CHARLES PRASEK, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

THURS., SEPT. 20: ROSES: PLANTING, GROWING & UPKEEP - 6:30-8:30pm, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. 713-274-0950; [hcmg a.tamu.edu](http://hcmg.a.tamu.edu)

SAT.-SUN., OCT. 6-7: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ANNUAL FALL SALE, Sat., 10am-4pm; Sun., 10am-3pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, kjwross@yahoo.com

FRI., OCT.12: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE & A WITCH'S BREW FLOWER SHOW, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

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

SAT. OCT. 20: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE. Plant sale seminar: 8-8:50am. Sale, 9 am-1 pm. Galveston County Fair Grounds ,Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd., Hitchcock. aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

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

SAT., NOV.3: SEABORNE NATURE FEST, 10am-4pm, Seaborne Creek Nature Park, 3831 TX 36, Rosenberg. Free. SEABOURNE NATURE FEST

FRI., NOV.9: THE PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS - TEXAS' STATE PLANT by LILIANA CRACRAFT, ", Speaker Liliana Cracraft. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., DEC 14: WINTER WONDERLAND LUNCHEON GALA, speaker: **BILL McKINLEY**. 10am, Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. \$30. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI., JAN.11: THE HISTORY OF THE PEGGY MARTIN ROSE by **PEGGY MARTIN**, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI: FEB. 8: PLANT SALE and speaker **CORRIE TEN-HAVE**, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI: MAR. 8: NATIVE PLANTS ARE BEAUTIFUL TOO! by Linda Gay, 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

FRI: APR. 11: PLANT SALE and **REFUGEES FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM** by **MARGARET PICKELL**. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Free. 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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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
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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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