

## Mar. 20, 2020 - Issue # 331

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<u>Nature's Way Resources</u> owner John Ferguson, "The Lazy Gardener" Brenda Beust Smith and Pablo Hernandez welcome your feedback and are so grateful to the many horticulturists who contribute their expertise.

> Click here to join our email list CLICK HERE for PDFs OF PAST LG&F NEWSLETTERS

## **CORONAVIRUS CANCELLATIONS**

If your event in our calendar below is cancelled, please let us know as soon as possible at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net Include DATE, FULL TITLE and SPONSOR of cancelled events.



# SURREAL TIMES ... GARDENING TRENDS ... COLOR ME SKY BLUE

Flowers seem intended for the solace of ordinary humanity.

~John Ruskin

## by BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Now that Spring has officially arrived (Thurs., Mar. 19), perhaps being told to "shelter in place" does have somewhat of a silver lining. Our gardens will probably get to see us more often. As the sun is crossing the celestial equator moving northward (*Vernal Equinox*), the virtually-equal days and nights will gradually turn into longer days and shorter nites, encouraging plants to start growing, blooming and signalling us to "Look at me!"



If all this "stay home" talk has you thinking of growing more vegetables, one word of warning. **DO NOT** take actual planting advice off the internet unless it's a local website. Ideal websites: *your county's Master Gardener page*, *Urban Harvest* or other strictly local advice. Too often planting times in our little Upper Gulf Coast subtropical pocket differ from the rest of the nation, even from other parts of Texas.

## WANT TO HAVE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S MOST "IN" GARDEN?

*Garden Design* predicts these will be among 2020's Top Gardening Trends." With staying-at-home now de rigueur, you'll have plenty of time to explore these links! These days more folks are . . .



1. GARDENING VERTICALLY — For many of us, shrinking spaces greatly limit gardening options. One solution: vertical gardens. Great for those with bending or reaching challenges, they make harvesting easier. Vertical gardens are being used to help to reduce buildings' carbon footprints, to filter pollutants and carbon dioxide out of the air. Living wall kits online are a great source of easy-to-copy ideas.

And that brings us to Trend #2:

- 1. **TURNING TO TECH** Most indoor plants die from lack of light and/or overwatering. Fortunately, now there's an app for everything. Just a few highlighted by trend collectors to help with these challenges:
- Plant Light Meter app or grow light gardens.
- No luck growing edibles inside? <u>Miracle-Gro's Twelve Indoor Growing</u> <u>System.</u>
- Tend to ignore outdoor container plantings? <u>Self-watering pots abound</u>

3. GARDENING SUSTAINABLE — Be kind to Mother Nature could be 2020's "Motto du Jour." <u>Sustainable</u> <u>Gardening movement</u> advocates deliberately switching to natural methods of pest control and supporting local pollinators. A "beautiful" garden these days is increasingly one that is also good for our health, wildlife and the Earth, not just for now but for the future as well. Sales of plants and products that help meet these goals are definitely increasing.



4. **DIY-ING & REPURPOSING** — Composting is ultimate repurposing with too many benefits to list. And, as *Ingrid Hamilton reported last week*, if you look at unused items around the house as "planters" or "water features" instead of "junk," who knows what you might create!

\* \* \*

**A PERSONAL VIEW:** Second to the naturalistic gardening movement, one of the biggest in-garden changes I've seen over recent decades is the trend toward dwarf plants. Our shrinking spaces make this a welcome gift — if you take care!



Now we must check height listings or find ourselves with a plant reaching only half the height (or twice as high) as what we wanted for our gardens.

After three years of waiting for my vitex "tree" to put on some height, it's now obvious it's going to be a short fat shrub (such as the one left above) rather than a tall elegant, super-fragrant tree like the one I had at our pre-Harvey home. It was much taller even than the one pictured at left below.

On the plus side, as a rule, dwarf varieties in general are often more prolific bloomers that their taller cousins. Just be aware! While some dwarfs may remain predicted heights in colder climates, in our year-round growing, often much warmer, wetter climate, they may reach double or more listed height and width.

**COLOR ME SKY BLUE** — I don't know how many of us notice or actually use <u>Pantone's "Color of the Year"</u> but it's always fun to read about it. This year's pick, PANTONE 19-4052 Classic Blue, is an amazingly appropriate choice, given our current "self-quarantines." This sky-blue choice not only zeros in on the "most favorite" of all color choice throughout time, but hones in on biophysical reactions to it as well.

Pantone's Color of the Year choices frequently hit our emotional bull's eyes, making them a huge marketing tool -one that pulls us into purchasing products such as flowers, clothes, home furnishings, etc., kinowing our reactions to that color reflect usually successfully target what's going around us. Reading us right translates into \$\$\$.

Just seeing the color blue, especially sky blue, is said to trigger calming hormones in the body that trigger feelings of calmness and spirituality as well as security and trust. Who couldn't use a bit of that now, especially in the garden?

Even Pantone's description seems to appropriately reflect our

current times: "This enduring blue hue highlights our desire for a dependable and stable foundation on which to build as we cross the threshold into a new era."

Look for blue flowers to be popular in nurseries, such as, at right, top to bottom: *Salvia uliginosa*, agapanthus, periwinkles and lobelia.

\* \* \*



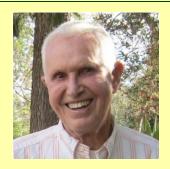






## **JOHN FAIREY (1930-2020)**

From the John Fairey Garden Conservancy Foundation (formerly Peckerwood Garden) "We are sorry to report that our Founder, Friend, Plantsman Extraordinaire, Artist, and Designer, John Fairey, passed away (March 17) morning. We will have a celebration of John's life in the garden as soon as it is safe to do so." <u>Obituary</u>



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"LAZY GARDENER SPEAKER LIST" & "PUBLICITY BOOKLET" are free — email request to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDENNEWSLETTER is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #113

I was reading this morning in a new book called "Grassroots Rising" and there was an interesting statistic given: "there are now more mal-fed, overweight, and obese people in the world (1.9 billion), many who have been supersized by a cheap junk food diet that is low in nutrition but high in carbs, sugar, and bad fats, than there are malnourished people suffering from hunger". "Meanwhile, the enormous hidden costs of cheap industrial food (damage to public health, the environment, and the climate) are routinely ignored or under reported."

"Gardening including organic gardening, is now the number one hobby in America, with a full 15% of households, especially younger households getting involved, often growing at least some of their food."

I observed this the other day in our nursery where a non-stop stream of dozens of folks was buying organically grown heirloom vegetable transplants for their garden. The word is getting out that heirloom varieties not only taste better but also have much higher nutritional levels (nutrient dense) and other compounds that fight diseases like cancer. They were also buying herbs, fruit trees and other plants that provide health benefits in addition to ornamentals.

There was a very good article in the Dr. Mercola's health newsletter titled, "Quercetin and Vitamin D — Allies Against Coronavirus?"

It was all about nutrition and supplements to help protect ourselves from this new virus.

From our study of the herbicide glyphosate found in Round-Up a few years ago, we know it stimulates the growth of many types of pathogens. It also prevents the absorption of essential elements from our food supply that our immune system needs to be healthy like boron, calcium, cobalt, copper, iron, magnesium, potassium, manganese, zinc, selenium, and many more. In last week's article we discussed that several of these elements are very effective in helping our immune system fight viruses.

Without these essential elements our immune system cannot function effectively!

The following slides are courtesy of Dr. Don Huber, Purdue University

## Diseases Increasing in Incidence (Epidemic) (after Fox, 2012; Antoniou et al., 2012, Samsel & Seneff, 2013; Swanson, 2013)

Allergies, Asthma	Diabetes
Alzheimer 's	Difficale diarrhea
Arthritis	Gluten intolerance
Atopic dermatis	Indigestion
Autism	Infertility I
Autoimmune diseases	Inflammatory bowel disease
Bipolar, Attn deficit (ADHD)	Irritable bowel disease
Birth defects	Leaky gut syndrome
Bloat (fatal)	Liver abnormalities
Bowel disease	Miscarriage
Cancer (some)	Morgellan's (NEW)
Celiac disease	Multiple sclerosis
Chronic fatigue syndrome	Obesity
Colitis	Pancreas abnormalities
1 Grohn / 8997 1999 2001 20 Dementia	0 Parkinson (s07 2009 2011 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

Many health problems have increased in direct proportion to the increased usage of Glyphosate on our food.

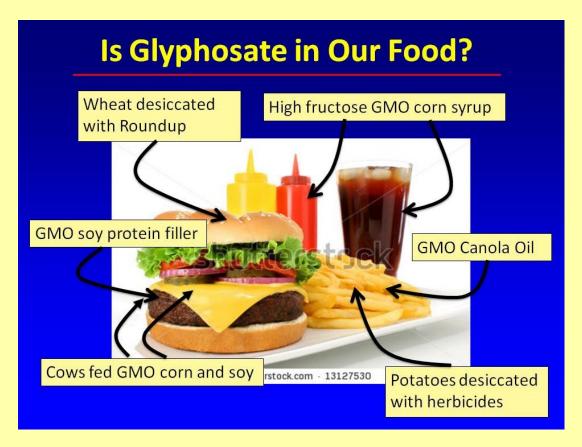
Direct Toxicity of Glyphosate		
Rate (ppm) System affected	Reference	
0.5 Human cell endocrine disruption	Toxicology 262:184-196, 2009	
0.5 Anti-androgenic	Gasner et al, 2009	
1.0 Disrupts aramatase enzymes	Gasnier et al, 2009	
1-10 Inhibits LDH, AST, ALF enzymes	Malatesta et al, 2005	
1-10 Damages liver, mitochondria, nuclei	Malatesta et al, 2005	
2.0 Anti-Oestrogenic	Gasnier et al, 2009	
5.0 DNA damage	Toxicology 262:184-196, 2009	
5.0 Human placental, umbilical, embryo	Chem.Res.Toxicol.J. 22:2009	
10 Cytotoxic	Toxicology 262:184-196, 2009	
10 Multiple cell damage	Seralini et al, 2009	
10 Total cell death	Chem.Res.Toxicol.J. 22:2009	
All Systemic throughout body	Andon et al, 2009	
1-10 Suppress mitochondrial respiration	Peixoto et al, 2005	
Parkinson' s	El Demerdash et al, 2001	
POEA, AMPA even more toxic	Seralini et al, 2009	

After reading this morning about the malnutrition that was mentioned in the first paragraph above, I cannot help but wonder how much of the severity and spread of the Coronavirus is due to junk food AND other foods that have glyphosate in and on them.

Genetically modified plants (GMO's) have much higher levels of glyphosate than regular foods. I often hear people say "I do not eat GMO foods", and they

do not realize our food supply is contaminated with dangerous GMO's from corn chips at our favorite Mexican restaurant to the bread at the grocery store.

The slide below is a good example of how we are being poisoned.



Hence, one of the best ways one can protect themselves and their families is to buy only certified organic or grow one's own vegetables and fruits. Local farmers markets often have organically grown produce.

In Houston we have a great non-profit organization called<u>Urban Harvest</u> that teaches about sustainable and organic growing of fruits and vegetables. They also sponsor many community gardens and farmers markets where one can find quality produce free of GMO's and toxic chemicals.

For those whom want to learn more, I am proud to have been on the board of a non-profit organization called OHBA (Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance) for many years. This group provides quality education on gardening/horticulture, the environment and how they are linked to our health. The seminars are open to the public and the event schedule can be found at <u>www.ohbaonline.org</u>. When you visit the website please sign up for the newsletter and seminar announcements via e-mail.

\* \* \*

# HAVE YOU TRIED . . .

## American Wisteria (Wisteria frutescens)

Most of us have been warned off the horribly-invasive Asian wisteria. But a more civilized native — American wisteria (*Wisteria* frutescens, right,— is as beautiful a vine, with slightly smaller flowers that sometimes even repeat in the fall. Blooms (above right) are the best way to tell them apart. American wisteria's flowers are shorter, rounded and more compact -- somewhat pine cone shaped.



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Asian wisteria blooms (left ) are elongated blossoms with loose, dripping petals. The American wisteria's blooms aren't quite as fragrant as the invasive Asian wisteria vines, but just as eye-catching. American seed pods (inset above) are smooth seed pods, not fuzzy like Chinese and Japanese varieties (left). America wisteria is a vigorous grower, so ideal for covering arbors, or extended fencelines, for example.

Americn wisteria is carried by Nature's Way Resources (<u>Map</u>). Or . . . contact our sponsor, Montgomery Pines Nursery in Willis, our other sponsors below or your neighborhood nurseryman for possible sources.

## LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

### ADULT GARDEN PLANT EVENTS ONLY ALWAYS CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS IN! HOWEVER . . . PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING EVENTS!

- Events NOT submitted in the EXACT format below may take 2 weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped and added to calendar.
- Events written in the email in this EXACT format will be copied & pasted immediately into the next upcoming calendar.
- No pdfs or flyers!!! They only delay publication.
- Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net.
- Put group name in email subject.

PLEASE NOTE: IN VIEW OF "SHELTER IN PLACE" DIRECTIVES, WE HAVE REMOVED ALL <u>MARCH</u> EVENTS

IF YOU HAVE CANCELLED AN <u>APRIL</u> EVENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com or lazygardener@sbcglobal.net WED., APR. 1: GARDENERS BY THE BAY GIANT PLANT SALE, 9:30am-noon, Clear Lake United Methodist Church 16335 El Camino Real.

SAT., APR. 4: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Dr., hmns.org/spring-plant-sale, 713-639-4753.

SAT., APR. 4: HERB GARDENING by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & KATHRYN COURTNEY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., APR. 4: WHITE OAK GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE 10am-2pm; PREVIEW by HEIDI SHEESLEY, 9am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. nnmd.org.

SAT. APR. 4: SUCCESSFUL CONTAINER GARDENING by KAROLYN GEPHART & KAYE CORLEY, 9-11 am; HOW TO MAKE A ZEN/SERENITY GARDEN by TRISH REUSTLE, 1-2:30 pm; Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519), La Marque. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. 281-309-5065; aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston

SUN., APR. 5: POLLINATION CELEBRATION, noon-4pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd. Pasadena. abnc.org. (281) 474-2551

THURS., APR. 9: FABULOUS FRAGRANT ROSES OF DAVID AUSTIN, 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr.. Houston Rose Society event. Free. houstonrose.org

FRI., APR. 10, 2020: EXCITING UNDERUTILIZED PLANTS ADAPTABLE TO HOUSTON REGION by ADAM BLACK. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., APR. 11: WILD THYMES HERB GARDENING by JIM MAAS, & MELDA SIEBE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., APR. 11: SOIL ISSUES, 8-10am, & BEST HERBS FOR YOUR GARDEN, 10:30am-12:30pm, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd., Conroe. Montgomery County Master Gardeners event. \$5/\$8 both. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., APR. 11: LAKE JACKSON GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE/GARDENERS FLEA MARKET, 9am –noon, Lake Jackson Civic Center Outside Plaza. 333 Hwy 332 East, Lake Jackson. lakejacksongardenclubtx@gmail.com

TUES., APR. 14: HOW TO ENRICH GARDEN SOIL WITH WORM CASTINGS by GARY GREEN, 9 am, Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 N, Shenandoah. The Woodlands Garden Club event. Free. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

SAT., APR. 18: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., APR. 18 : MANNERLY CLIMBERS ON PROPER STRUCTURES by CLAUDE GRAVES, 10am, Charles B. Stewart West Branch Library, 202 Bessie Price Owen Dr., Montgomery. Texas Rose Rustlers event. Free. texasroserustlers.com

SAT., APR. 18: BENVENUTI AMERICAN DAYLILY DISPLAY GARDEN DAYLILY SALE, 9am-2pm, 509 Huckleberry Dr., Lake Jackson. Brazosport Daylilyt lorisgarrett@comcast.net; 832-922-5732; 979-529-9258

SAT., APR. 18: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY SALE, 9am-3pm (or sell-out), Lake Jackson Civic Center Plaza, 333 TX-332 East, Lake Jackson. lorisgarrett@comcast.net

SAT. APR 18: TREES AND THEIR CARE 101 by SUSAN ROTH, 9-11am, COMPOSTING by JIM GILLIAM, 1-3 pm,; Extension Office, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St./FM 519), La Marque. Free. Register: galvcountymgs@gmail.com. 281-309-5065; waggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/

TUES., APR. 21: HEIRLOOM GARDENING IN THE SOUTH: YESTERDAY'S PLANTS FOR TODAY'S GARDENS by GREG GRANT, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd., Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

WED., APR. 22: HOUSTON BOTANICAL GARDEN UPDATE by JOYCE COLUMBUS, 7:30 pm, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. FREE. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society. hcsstex.org

THURS., APR. 23: MS. MARIKO GONDA'S GARDEN, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Hemerocallis Society event. ofts.com/hhs/

SAT., APR. 25: PLANTING IN GLASS by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., APR. 25: 2020 HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY SPRING ROSE SHOW, 1pm, Memorial City Mall, Gessner @ I-10 W. Free. houstonrose.org

SAT. & SUN., APR. 25 & 26: SPRING GARDEN TOUR 1-5pm, \$15. SPRING MARKET & PLANT SALE 9am-5pm, Free. Heritage Gardeners Garden Club, 112 W Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. 281-992-4438. heritagegardener.org

SUN., APR. 26: HOW TO GROOM A DAYLILY FOR A FLOWER SHOW by MARY GAGE, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. Free. cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com

SAT., MAY 2: GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES & BEES by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., MAY 2: PARTY FOR THE PLANET, 6-10pm, Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd. Pasadena. abnc.org/pftp; party@abnc.org; 281-474-2551

SAT., MAY 2, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDENS DAY, 9:30-12:30. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport,Road, Conroe. Free. 936-529-7824; mcmga.

FRI. MAY 8, 2020: THINGS I WISH I HAD LEARNED SOONER (ABOUT ROSES) by BAXTER WILLIAMS. 10am, First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., MAY 9: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY DAYLILY SHOW, 1-3pm, & PLANT SALE 10am-3pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga, Houston, 77092. Free. ofts.com/hhs/calendar.html

SAT., MAY 9: BRAZOSPORT DAYLILY SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE, 1-4pm, St., Mark's Lutheran Church, 501 Willow Dr, Lake Jackson, nfreshr@aol.com

TUES. MAY 12: PLUMERIA IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS by NICOLE TIERRMAN, 7-9 pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

SAT., MAY 16: PLUMERIA by JIM MAAS, & LORETTA OSTEEN, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., MAY 16: LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY SHOW & PLANT SALE, sale, 10am-4pm, show 1-4pm, Epiphany Lutheran Church, 5515 West Broadway, Pearland. sandra\_lockhart@ymail.com

SAT.-SUN: MAY 16-17: BROMELIAD SOCIETY HOUSTON SPRING THE DECADE OF BROMELIADS SHOW & SALE, Sat.: Sale 9am-5pm, Show 2-5pm. Sun.: both 11am-4pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org SAT., MAY 23: MINIATURE FAIRY GARDEN by JIM MAAS, PAT CORDRAY & BRENDA HESSE, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$45. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

SAT., JUN. 13: 14" METAL HANGING BASKET by JIM MAAS, & PAT CORDRAY, 10am, Maas Nursery, 5511 Todville Rd., Seabrook. \$35. 281-474-2488; maasnursery.com

TUES., JUL 14: BONSAI by SCOTT BARBOZA, 7-9pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org

TUES., OCT 13: FALL PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SOCIAL/LUAU 7-9:00 pm; Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

For event submission rules, see top of calendar 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!

# THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

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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, it then 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 which morphed into her Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD. which she now emails free upon request.

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 specialty shows on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

For over three decades, Brenda served as as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's BULLETIN magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broadbased freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER with John Ferguson and Pablo Hernandez 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 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.

#### 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 and quality control.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.

