



## September 3, 2020 - Issue # 354

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Nature's Way Resources 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.

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### CORONAVIRUS CANCELLATIONS

If your event in our calendar below is cancelled, please let us know as soon as possible at [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)



## WHY KEEP IT? TIME TO CUT BACK? MUTANT COSMOS & BONSAI CRAPES

*"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.  
The second best time is now."*

– Old Chinese proverb

by **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Tommi in Willis responded to my [blooms-close-at-noon tunera](#) complaint: "Why not replace it with a longer-bloomer?" Here's why. All morning this tunera draws beautiful breakfasting bumblebees to my kitchen window. Can't lose that!

But I am glad to know I'm not triggering mid-day closures. **Sheryl Albers** assured me both her white and yellow potted



tuneras also open in morning and close by mid-day. She likes the early "pop of color." When they grow too large, she prunes back, which triggers lush growth with more blooms.

\* \* \*

## KAREN IN THE WOODLANDS

posed a question plaguing many gardeners these days -- including me! -- as we thrill to hummers, butterflies, bees and other pollinators now frequently seen in gardens.

Heat's taking a toll on Karen's

[certified "Monarch Waystation"](#) pollinator beds, including blue plumbagos, yellow esperanza, milkweeds, etc. -- especially in her *"front yard where people walk by all day enjoying them until now when they all look dried up and pitiful."*



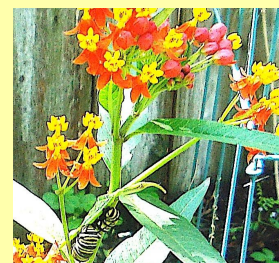
Pruning back now will trigger more blooms (pollinator food) for fall migrants passing through. But destroy "foods" for current visitors in the name of greater fall bounty? Not a dilemma I'll tackle alone. Here are some caballine words from area's "pollinator gurus." Hope this helps, Karen. They did get me outside to start deadheading my punier plants!

- **COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER DIRECTOR [ERIN MILLS](#) & DIRECTOR EMERITAS [NANCY GREIG](#)** agree if you're seeing pollinators on plants now, don't cut everything way back. On the other hand, deadheading (cutting off spent flowers and seeds) will help plants continue to produce more buds.



Almost all who responded recommended planting for year-round blooms since some pollinator populations start yearly cycles earlier here than in areas north. Erin notes in early spring, *"when I get oxalis or other flowering weeds taking over, I hold off on pulling most until my preferred plants start to bloom and then once they all start blooming, I will pull the weeds."* (Pictured: common pink oxalis)

With plants such as the red/orange/yellow tropical butterflyweed, she tackles struggling ones first, leaving any stalks with buds. "It takes a bit of compromise . . . I never cut everything back at once." (Pictured: tropical butterflyweed with monarch caterpillar.)



- Radio host [RANDY LEMMON](#) is a fan of early dead-heading. "I know it'll force new blooms. And I'd rather have full, new blooms for pollinating purposes



down the road.

- Gardening lecturer extraordinaire [LINDA GAY](#) recommends "a light 1/3 haircut followed by 1/2 cup of organic fertilizer around each plant. Topdress with 1-2" of soil or compost around each plant out past the drip line. Hand water in well and top dress with pine needles to keep soil moist and cool!"

Linda added that just removing the top 1/3 of the plant and any interior crossing branches now will promote healthier growth as will "lifting the skirt," e.g., removing lowest branches to allow airflow in plant's interior which will help reduce pest problems.

- Our Southern neighbor, [National Butterfly Center](#) Executive Director **MARIANNA T. WRIGHT** and NBC Director of Operations **MAX MUNOX** say at NBC's Mission, TX, site on the Mexican border all pollinator plants have been cut back by now to be ready for fall influx of migrating species. Rains that start around Labor Day reliably trigger at least one more good bloom cycle before winter. If it's a mild winter, blooms might last through February or even March. If that happens, they cut everything back around the second week of March to set the stage for spring migrations. Max & Marianna remind us: "Don't forget to look UP for Monarchs flying overhead!"
- **Native Plant Society Houston's** [LINDA FOSS](#) says it depends on if you will have fall bloomers coming on. If not, NPSOT's board & Wildscapes committee says no, don't cut back. If you don't have fall one, you need to check out this Wildscapes sale . . .



If you need to fill out your year-round buffet for pollinators, one of our best resources is [Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston's annual WILDSCAPES WORKSHOP](#). Although Wildscapes virtual seminars have started, you can still take advantage of the **ONLINE PLANT SALE** with delights like this gorgeous, super-hardy fire engine-red buckeye, (*Aesculus parvia*). Details: [Native Plant Inventory](#). [Book Inventory](#). [Ordering & Overview](#).

\* \* \*



**CINDY KIZER's** Coldspring farm is another official [Monarch Waystation](#) in our area. She enjoys helping folks recognize wild milkweed (above left), seeds and developmental stages (such as the caterpillar above and crystalis (pictured hanging on her



farm fence). The payoff? Her 8-year-old neighbor (whom she taught about milkweed and monarchs) actually got to see the final emerging process and raised 3 monarchs himself. [Click to see if your yard qualifies as a Monarch Waystation](#)

\* \* \*

## INVASION OF MUTANT COSMOS

Toby J. in Crosby asked for update on my scary-big-cosmos that emerged from a regular [Cosmos sulphureus](#) seed package. ([Lazy Gardener Newsletter July 16, 2020.](#)) They grew into gorgeous-but-frustrating 6' tall, 5' wide blooming "bushes" with thick, weak, brittle stalks that break at slightest touch. My regular 3' cosmos -- ideal for lazy gardeners -- don't pout (die) if ignored all summer! Now spreading seed from these to see if their "mutant" heritage continues!



\* \* \*



## GREAT BUTTERFLY PHOTOS?

Speaking of the [National Butterfly Center](#), have you or the kiddos taken great butterfly shots? Sept. 1 is opening day for the National Butterfly Center's annual "[North American Butterfly Photo Contest](#)." Photos must have been taken between Oct. 1, 2019, and Sept. 30, 2020, and meet [submission](#)

[requirements](#). \$500 'Grande' prize. This is the 2019 winning photo. "Gray Cracker - Master of Camouflage," taken by Craig Lipski.

\* \* \*



## "VEGGIE HUSTLERS" WANTED.

[Beauty's Community Garden](#) in [Independence Heights](#) -- one of [Houston's 40 \(!\) food deserts](#) -- needs help in identifying students grades 5-12 to join its Veggie Hustlers youth focus group. Wanted are students & parents

who love growing, cooking & eating healthy food and have fun ideas about spreading the word through their community. Email [volunteer@beautysgarden.org](mailto:volunteer@beautysgarden.org) with subject line: **Veggie Hustler's Youth Focus Group.**

\* \* \*



## BONSAI A CREPE?

**BLAINE DAVIS** grabbed my attention when he reported his "bonsai crepe myrtle" is blooming. A longtime Houston Bonsai Society member, Blaine admits most people might not think of a crepe myrtle as a typical bonsai, but they're pretty easy to work with. Bonsai trees seemed a perfect



solution for his limited West University townhouse planting area which currently houses about 80 potted plants and trees and lacks an outdoor water source.

When folks tell Blaine their bonsai died, his first question is always: "Did you have it inside?" The answer is always. "Yes." That's why it died, he says. These are trees. They need to be outdoors. There are a few exceptions, of course, and junipers are particularly tricky. They can stay green for up to three months after dying, so watch out for those roadside tree sales.

Crepe myrtles are fairly easy to bonsai, Blaine says. He suggests shopping in fall when plants are on sale. Select a smaller crepe with good trunk structure. His had three trunks and a nice shape. Use wire to achieve a particular shape or let them grow at will with frequent trimming.

Bonsai pots have very little organic matter. Buy bonsai mix or look online for a recipe. They must be fed, but stay in the low numbers, he uses a 3-2-3 right now.

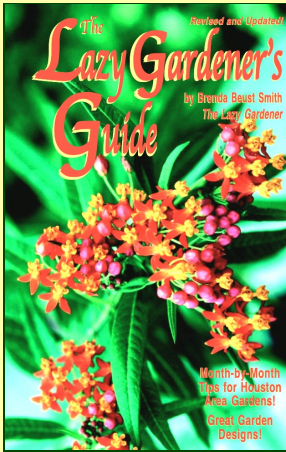
One of the hardest things for a beginner, he warns, is you'll often get a tree you want to work on, but advice you're given is to put it in a large pot and leave it alone for a year. You will eventually get to work on it and put it in a more shallow pot, but it sometimes takes some patience.

Blaine jokes his advice probably has a bonsai master turning over in his grave wanting to tell us the right way to do everything. But that at least will aerate some roots!

Anyone who wants to learn to do bonsai should look for a local organization to join, buying a book or two just doesn't work that well, as the advice will be something like "In early June one should..." Early June in Texas is a lot different from early June in Maine, so it's best to get advice that fits your specific locale.

Next step is take advantage of [Houston Bonsai Society Zoom programs](#), and other upcoming events at [bonsai nurseries](#) or bonsai study group gathering like those at [Timeless Trees](#) or other bonsai [Resources](#).

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Free PDF download of Brenda's now-out-of-print —

**"LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE"**

[Lazy Gardener Guide Front Cover](#)

[Lazy Gardener Rest Of Covers](#)

[Lazy Gardener Guide Book Pages](#)

In exchange for this free book, all I ask is  
that you be safe . . . **PLEASE WEAR A MASK!**

**Protect yourself and the rest of us!**

\* \* \*



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS #128

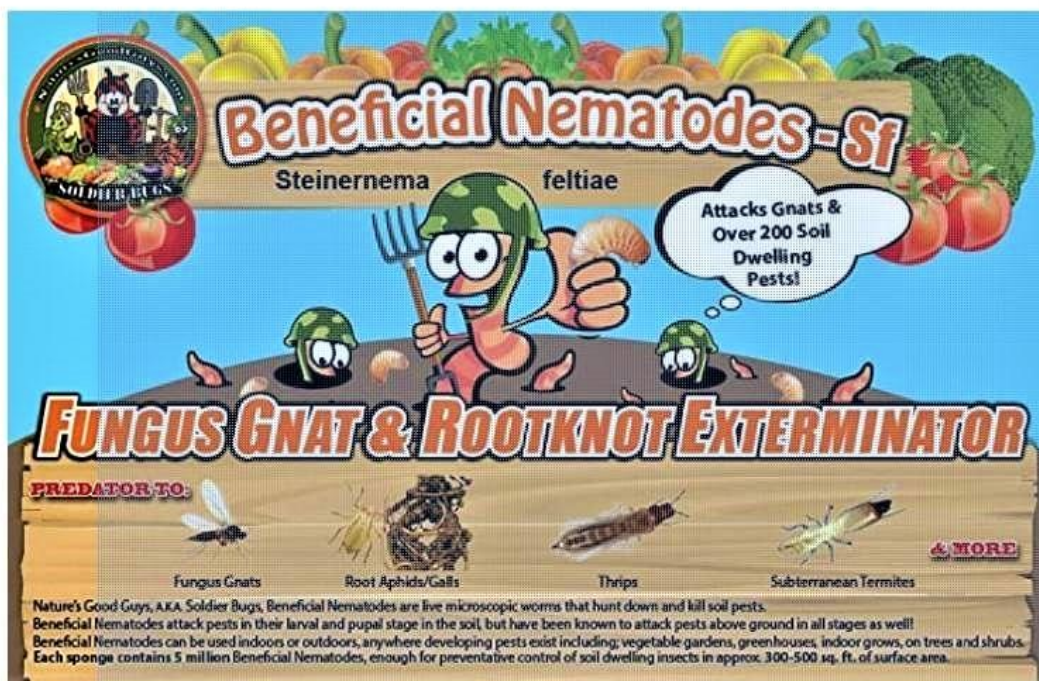
From one of our readers, Deany M. sent in this tip: "A few months ago I purchased the Beneficial Nematodes at Amazon ... I put the pkg in the fridge – finally got around to using it couple of weeks ago and I put a new yellow stickie on a stick in the pot ... and one on the window next to the plant. I **have not had ONE gnat on the yellow stickie ... they are GONE!**"

[Fungus Gnat Yellow Sticky Stuff:](#) for the window ... I use ¼ of the yellow sticky stuff. It's sticky on both sides ... so I just peel about ½" down on one side and stick to the window ... the peel the front side. The attached photo I took was a "NEW" sticky ... been up about 1 day ... w/in a week ... it would be covered ... same for the one I put on a stick in the soil!

### [Beneficial Nematodes-SF – WONDERFUL!!](#)

A few months ago, I purchased the Beneficial Nematodes at Amazon ... I put the pkg in the fridge – finally got around to using it couple of weeks ago and I put a new yellow stickie on a stick in the pot ... and one on the window next to the plant. I **have not had ONE gnat on the yellow stickie ... they are GONE!"**





Note: I have successfully used beneficial nematodes several times in the past to get rid of fleas, biting gnats and other pest insects. I have always applied in the fall and winter when the soils are cooler and have more moisture. Good to hear that they were still effective in our summer heat.

**Another benefit of using minerals (rock dust) is it increases the sequestering of carbon from the air (this is usually in the form of extremely valuable humus). A study published in the journal Nature by researchers at the University of Sheffield, found that using finely crushed basalt and adding it to croplands could draw down up to two Billion tons of carbon dioxide per year! The estimated cost is about the same as other carbon reduction strategies. However, the one huge difference is that it would also increase the nutrient density of our food. Note: Basalt sand is a major ingredient of the Re-mineralizer product.**

**Another study by the University of California at San Diego has found that wetlands reduce damage from flooding and tropical storms. They found that the value of this ecosystem service is \$1.8 million for just one square kilometer per year (\$4.7 million per square mile). Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences (2020).**

I heard a new term the other day called “the greenconsumption effect” which is about how using a green product creates a warm glow feeling in users. When consumers spend money on green purchases it makes them feel better about those purchases. Concordia University, Journal of Consumer Research (2019). Another reason to garden organically and purchase organic foods.

The disease citrus greening that is caused by the bacteria (HLB), is a major problem in many areas. Research at the University of Florida has found that

organic methods and using cover crops between the rows of citrus protects the trees from this disease. When used with low till or better yet no-till methods, the results are even better, especially if roller crimping is used to reduce the cover crop to mulch. Cover crops increase the soils microbiome which helps the citrus trees be healthier. They found that if the trees are healthy, they can still produce good fruit even if they have HLB.

**Bats** are a major pollinator of many flowers especially cactus. Bats use echolocation to locate flowers at night and some flowers have evolved a reflective surface to send the signal back to the bat. However, the cactus *Euphorbia frutescens* does the opposite as it has woody hairs that absorb the signal, reducing the background noise, hence the reflected signal stands out since there is less background noise to interfere with the bat hearing the signal. "Nature (God) is very creative. A cactus has no sense of what it is to be a bat—it can't see, smell, or echolocate—but here it is, sending a signal in a language the bat can understand."

**Successful gardeners** are always looking to increase the nitrogen in our soils. The best and most cost-effective way is by copying nature which is the way that God has done it for millions of years.

There are many species of plants that work with microbes in the soil to take nitrogen from the air and break the very strong chemical bonds that hold two nitrogen atoms together. We call these plants legumes. They could be clovers, members of the bean and pea family to shrubs and trees. There are many of these microbes that are collectively known as rhizobia that establish themselves inside of a plant's root system where together they form a root nodule. We have recently learned that different species of plants only work with certain species of rhizobia, hence we have to match the species that work together for best results.

One thing that all these rhizobia have in common is that they require the element molybdenum (Mo) to work. One can dig up a root section and cut open one of the nodules and check its size and color. The larger the nodule the greater ability to fix and provide nitrogen to the plant. Additionally, the darker the pink, maroon or purple the color, the more molybdenum one has in your soil. The best way to ensure one has enough molybdenum is to use trace mineral packages like our Re-Mineralizer every few years. Ocean products (fish, seaweed, etc.) also contain traces of molybdenum and can help provide molybdenum if used on a regular basis.

The second method that nature uses is a group of microbes known as azobacter (azotobacter) which is a family of bacteria species. These microbes absorb the nitrogen from the air that is in the soil and release nitrogen in the form of ammonias that perennial plants require. They also produce and release other compounds (amino acids, glutamic, methionine, tryptophan, lysine, and arginine). They also produce vitamins (B 1-6, B-12, C and E) along with phytohormones indoleacetic acid, gibberellic acid and cytokines.

You probably recognize many of these compounds as they are sold at your local health food store as supplements. Why are they sold in health food stores... conventional toxic chemical farming kills off these beneficial microbes



hence they are not in our food! These compounds help strengthen our immune system and help protect us from viruses like covid-19.

Recently it was discovered that these azobacter can also exist on a leaf's surface in a cyst form and provide these nutrients directly to the plant. These good microbes also occupy space on the leaf's surface and prevent disease organisms from finding a spot to infect the leaf. This is one of the reasons why a good quality compost tea helps a plant resist disease. We now know that many cysts or galls found on leaves may be very beneficial to the plant. Hence removing the leaves or treating with some chemical actually hurts the plants overall health.

Note: From previous articles many plants from perennials to trees trade nitrogen for other elements they need like phosphorous or magnesium, etc. Legumes trade nitrogen to get the other nutrients they need. This is why diversity of species in our gardens is essential to good health and growth. They work together so folks whom practice organic eco-system gardening have much better success.

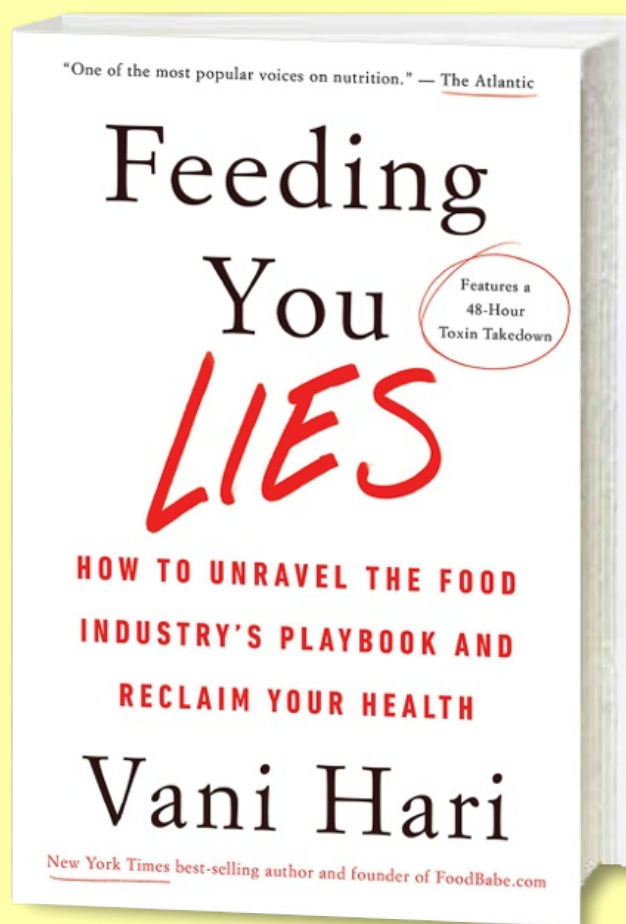
This is from Vani Hari aka the "Food Babe" newsletter this week, whom is the author of best-selling book, [Feeding You Lies](#), that I reviewed a few weeks ago.

"If your pockets are deep enough, you can get basically anything you want in the "News".

An investigative report was recently published in Columbia Journalism Review (CJR), which exposes how [the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has funneled more than \\$250 million into news agencies](#) such as the NY Times, BBC, NBC, NPR, The Guardian, Univision, The Financial Times, The Atlantic, and many more.

You may know that Gates has a long history of investing millions into chemical companies too - like Monsanto (he bought 500,000 shares of the company) and widely promotes the development of GMO crops throughout the world even though the chemicals in Roundup that are sprayed on GMO crops are cancerous.

The CJR report outlines how some Gates-funded news outlets have gone on



to write “glowing editorials” about Gates and his many projects. Fact-check platforms PolitiFact and USA Today also received funding from Gates and defended him from “conspiracy theories” circulating online. And it goes much deeper than this.

***At some point you’ve got to wonder, am I reading “the news” or a paid PR piece?***

This really hit home...

The food and chemical industries have used paid messengers in the media for decades to swindle the public into believing processed foods full of GMOs, artificial colors, and other chemical additives ([like Kellogg's new Unicorn Waffles](#)) are safe, fun, and good for you. When you sell food that makes people sick, it turns out you have to spend a lot of time and money trying to convince people it’s not your fault. “

**Note:** Numerous medical studies have now linked the severity of covid-19 infection to eating junk food loaded with toxic chemicals especially the herbicide glyphosate found in products like Round-Up.

**A** very common tactic today, when a whistle blower exposes the dangers or deception of a product like a drug or agricultural chemical, is to hire a public relations firm and groups of scientists whom sell their soul, to discredit the individual trying to do good and help people. Many have lost their jobs and had their careers ruined because they refused to sell out the American people.

A few years back I did a series of articles on the dangers of glyphosate-based herbicide used in Round-Up. Several of the researchers formally with the USDA, EPA, or major universities could not publish or talk about their findings (research) until they retired or they would have lost their jobs and pensions.

A book on the cover up by government scientists, politicians and media is **"WHITE WASH - The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science"**, by Carey Gillam, Island Press, 2017, ISBN-13: 978-1610918329.

This revelation has led to over 80,000 lawsuits against Monsanto for causing cancer and other health problems.

A few books on the subject are:

**Merchants of DOUBT: How a handful of scientists obscured the truth on issues from Tobacco smoke to global warming**, by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, Bloomsbury Press, 2010, ISBN: 978-1-59691-610-4

**Science For Sale: How the US Government Uses Powerful Corporations and Leading Universities to Support Government Policies, Silence Top Scientists, Jeopardize Our Health, and Protect Corporate Profits**, by David Lewis, PhD., Skyhorse Publishing, 2014, ISBN: 978-1-62636-071-6

**"Plague of Corruption – Restoring Faith In The Promise of Science"**, by Dr. Judy Mikovits and Kent Heckenlively, JD, Sky Horse Publishing, 2020,



**THE TRIUMPH OF DOUBT – Dark Money and The Science of Deception,**  
David Michaels, Oxford University Press, 2020, ISBN: 978-01-90922665

I started reading a new book by a medical doctor this morning, that stated that **11 million Americans die each year** from causes directly related to our food supply!

How often does the media give us information about the extremely poor unhealthy food supply? Or the thousands that die from vaccinations? They don't! They do not want to lose their revenue from the advertising dollars. They may tell us about a disease outbreak on some vegetables but somehow forget to mention those vegetables were fertilized with sewage sludge.

The reasons to garden organically and grow as much of our own food as possible increase daily.

## HAVE YOU TRIED

. . .

### Allegheny Chinquapin

*(Castanea pumila)*

Small attractive, aromatic ornamental tree or large shrub with glossy, dark green, toothed leaves that turn yellowish or purple in fall. Flowers are small but noticeable long, pencil-like, pale yellow spikes. A prickly, bur-like husk encloses a sweet edible nut beloved by indigenous people. Prefers sunny/part shade, well-drained spot. Attracts wildlife (including deer).



**ALLEGHENY CHINQUAPIN** is carried by *Nature's Way Resources* ([Map](#)).  
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

All events in Houston unless otherwise specified.

See Farmers Markets at end of calendar

**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.

- **FARMERS MARKETS** -- Normally we do not run non-gardening/plant events. During this pandemic, when most gardening events have been cancelled, we are happy to publish a running list of local Farmers Markets. See at end of calendar.

**Submit events to:** [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com).

**ALWAYS put group name in email subject.**

### ***CHECK WEBSITES FOR ON-SITE COVID-19-RELATED PRECAUTIONS!***

SEPT. 1, 3, 8, 10: WILDSAPES WORKSHOP \* NATIVE PLANT SALE - ZOOM WEBINAR SPEAKER SERIES over 4 evenings, then online plant sale for pickup near downtown. [Register Now](https://npsot.org/wp/houston/event-overview/wildscapes-workshop/). [npsot.org/wp/houston/event-overview/wildscapes-workshop/](https://npsot.org/wp/houston/event-overview/wildscapes-workshop/)

FRI. SEPT. 11: RESTORATION OF THE RAVINE TRAIL by KELSEY LOW, 10am, First Christian Church, 1501 Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](https://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org).

MON.-THURS., SEPT. 14-18: COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER FALL VIRTUAL PLANT SALE. Pickup: Sat., Sept. 16. [hmns.org/cockrell-butterfly-center/](https://hmns.org/cockrell-butterfly-center/)

TUES., SEPT. 15, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS VIRTUAL PLANT SALE. 8am - 8pm at [mcmga.com](https://mcmga.com). AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. [mcmga.com](https://mcmga.com)

FRI., SEPT. 18-SUN., SEPT. 20: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN OPENING SEASON – CELEBRATING LATIN AMERICA, 9am-5pm daily, One Botanic Lane. [Purchase tickets](#)

SAT., SEPT. 26: 23rd ANNUAL WOODLANDS LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS (drive-through event) by The WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP, 9am-noon. Sterling Ridge Park & Ride, 8001 McBeth Way, The Woodlands. [thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment](https://thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment)

FRI., OCT. 2-SUN., OCT. 4: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN OPENING SEASON – CELEBRATING ASIA, 9am-5pm daily, One Botanic Lane. [Purchase tickets](#)

SAT. OCT.10: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE & FOOD DRIVE, 10am-1pm, 1501 Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs & The First Christian Church event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](https://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT., OCT. 10: NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRD (virtual program) by Native Plant Society of Texas – Houston Chapter, 9am-4:30pm, \$52. Register: [npsot.org/wp/nlcp](https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp)

FRI., OCT. 16-SUN., OCT. 18: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN OPENING SEASON – CELEBRATING AFRICA, 9am-5pm daily, One Botanic Lane, [Purchase tickets](#)

SAT., OCT. 24: NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRD (virtual program) by Native Plant Society of Texas – Houston Chapter, 9am-4:30pm, \$52. Register: [npsot.org/wp/nlcp](https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp)

FRI., OCT. 30-SUN., NOV. 1: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN OPENING SEASON – CELEBRATING THE MEDITERRANEAN, 9am-5pm daily, One Botanic Lane. [Purchase tickets](#)

SAT., NOV. 7: NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRD (virtual program) by Native Plant Society of Texas – Houston Chapter, 9am-4:30pm, \$52. Register: [npsot.org/wp/nlcp](https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp)

TUES., NOV. 17: HEIRLOOM PLANTS by GREG GRANT, 10am; St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event.

[sugarlandgardenclub.org](https://sugarlandgardenclub.org)

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### **LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS**

- [URBAN HARVEST FARMERS MARKET](#), Saturdays, 8am-noon, in St. John's



School parking lot, 2752 Buffalo Speedway.

- **FULSHEAR FARMERS MARKET** Saturdays, 9am-1pm, 9035 Bois d'Arc Lane @ FM 1093, Fulshear.
- **THE WOODLANDS FARMERS MARKET AT GROGAN'S MILL**, Saturdays, 8am-noon, Grogan's Mill Shopping Center Parking Lot, 7 Switchbud Pl., The Woodlands
- **BEAUTY'S GARDEN**. Acres Homes Farmers Market Saturday, 10am-2pm, 4333 W Little York Rd.
- **WESTCHASE DISTRICT FARMERS MARKET**, Thursdays, opens 3pm, St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church, 10503 Westheimer Road (at Rogerdale Road, one block west of Beltway 8)
- **MEMORIAL VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET**, Saturdays, 9am-1pm, 10840 Beinhorn Rd.

Although normally we did not run out-of-garden events, during this pandemic period when most gardening events have been cancelled, we are happy to publish a running list of local Farmers Markets.  
Send notices to [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)



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!

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If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us  
at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: [lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com)



[www.bartlett.com](http://www.bartlett.com)



## 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 -- started in the early '70s as a fun side-, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from reporter into gardening writing -- first as a just-a-fun side Chronicle assignment in the early '70s -- 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 broad-based 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 Humble, TX, and is married to the 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.

