



Feb-26-2021 | Issue 376

Nature's Way Resources is proud to produce & email you this free weekly newsletter. We have no ads, but sponsors do graciously help support this project as a public service. Please note their names below & show your gratitude for this free service by patronizing their businesses! To become a sponsor, call (936) 273-1200

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.

[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 lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

* * *



MAKE SURE "SALVAGING PLANTS" ADVICE COMES FROM LOCAL SOURCE!

by BRENDA BEUST SMITH

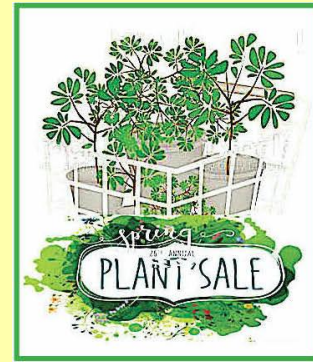
It's probably pretty safe to say -- at this point in time -- our gardens aren't exactly our "happy places." Most of us are wondering, "What do I do now?"

Fortunately, this week we're returning with advice from longtime experienced local gardeners like:

- those whose plants are beloved for the wildlife they attract and
- those happy to put extra effort into helping plants put only their best foot forward.

For the latter, Houston Rosarian extraordinaire Baxter Williams' advice will be of special interest to gardeners "iced-out" of their traditional Valentine's Day pruning of hybrids and other modern roses. First, however . . .

OUR ARCTIC BLAST forced changes in some local group sales, and may continue to do so. Check websites to confirm this current data is still in effect on sale days:



- **FRI., FEB. 26-FRI., MAR. 5: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING PLANT SALE** (online) Pickup: MAR. 20, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Road. Order: hcmga.tamu.edu/shop/
- **SAT. FEB. 27-MAR. 6: 2021 SPRING VEGETABLE AND HERB PLANT SALE** by FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. Online: fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale/. FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu; 281-341-7068.
- **FRI.,-SAT., MAR. 12-13: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MARCH MADNESS SALE.** Online. Browsing only Thurs., Mar. 11. Shopping: noon Friday-noon Saturday. store.galvestonmg.org
- **TUES, MAR. 16: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VIRTUAL HERB & VEGETABLE SALE**, 8am– Wed noon. mcmga.square.site. Pickup: Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. mcmga.com, (936)539-7824
- **SAT, MAR. 20: MARCH MART VIRTUAL PLANT SALE**, 8am-8pm The Mercer Society. Online only at themerchersociety.square.site. Details: 713-274-4166.
- **SUN., MAR. 28-APR. 3: NEAR NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT VIRTUAL SPRING PLANT SALE**, Sale Preview by Heidi Sheesley. Pick up at Treeseach Farms, Inc. nnmd.org

CANCELLED: SAT., MAR. 13: JOHN FAIREY GARDEN CONSERVANCY BUDDING OUT PLANT SALE, Hempstead.

* * *

NICE NEWS FROM HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN HBG Horticulture Manager, Brent Moon posted valuable recovery advice in his blog: [Where do Houston gardens grow from here?](#) Included: an helpful -- and hopeful! -- list of plants Brent fully expects will return from the roots -- if we'll just be patient:



*Above, l to r, Asclepias (milkweed), Carissa (Natal plum), Duranta, Tecoma (Esperanza), Galphimia (golden thryallis), Hamelia (hummingbird/firebush)
Below, Hibiscus, Ixora, Jatropha, Oleander, Plumbago, and perennial Salvias*



If you don't already have these above, keep them in mind should you need replacement plants. HBG also staffers urge us to also think positive about bananas, ferns and gingers. And citrus, if the base was protected.

* * *

A WEALTH OF FREE IMMEDIATE ADVICE will be shared over radio airways this weekend, including:

- [HOME SHOW GARDEN PROS with Dany Millikin](#), SAT 7-9am SportsRadio610 (610 AM). [Submit questions for 7am on-air answers](#)
- [GARDENLINE WITH RANDY LEMMON](#) 6-10am Saturdays & 8-10am Sundays (740 AM, KTRH). Call-line for both days: 713-212-587



DURING RANDY'S SUNDAY SHOW, Grant

Stephenson (one of my longtime PALM gurus) will share recovery tips for these tropical delights, including . . .

1. Wait a few days to determine what's been frozen and what is still viable.
2. Cut desiccated foliage down into viable tissue.

In next week's newsletter, we'll share some of Grant's recommendations for great "cold-hardy" palms for our area, such as -- pictured here -- needle palm, *Rhapidophyllum Hystrix*, cold-hardy to below zero F; needs summer heat

Note: Donald Burger's online ["Gardening on the Radio"](#) lists some additional radio gardening shows outside our immediate area.

* * *

A "FROSTY TREAT & PLEA

- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension - Harris County Horticulture](#)'s Facebook page featured Harris County Master Gardener **William Isabell's** fascinating photo of a frost flower blooming in Hermann Park's McGovern Centennial Gardens. When it freezes, Texas native [Verbesina virginica](#)'s stems release water that instantly creates lovely sculptural shapes.



- Last week's arctic blast triggered an unexpected challenge at the [National Butterfly Center](#) on our Texas/Mexico border. With most insects almost totally wiped out, NBC's heavy bird population is turning to the [banana brew bait logs](#) and other resources for local/migrating butterflies. The Center could really use [donations](#) to help through this crisis.

* * *

WHAT'S UP IN MY OWN SHAMBOLIC GARDEN? I prefer to follow Mother Nature with a "lazy" version of Lauren's approach below. To borrow a great phrase from reader **Robert Hamm**, I'm being a "self-paced gardener," doing nothing yet. However, below, are two different mindsets presented by local experts:

- Master Rosarian **Baxter Williams** addresses rose growers with itchy shears, who missed traditional Valentine's Day pruning sessions. And . .
- **Lauren Simpson** offers pollinator-protection plant advice she's now implementing in her [St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat](#). Read on!

* * *

Brenda's LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
column is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

* * *



BRENDA'S NOTE: *I started to ask Baxter for a shot of his roses post-freeze. But, NO! At this point I want to see THIS shot of his and Patsy's Pasadena garden in full beauty!*

**"The freezing weather 'cooked' my buds
and new growth, and my stems are dying . . ."**

**Can I save my bushes,
or are they going to die?**

By BAXTER WILLIAMS
American Rose Society Master Rosarian

No, they shouldn't die, but you need to re-prune them. Here are the steps:

1. **Pinch, or cut off** little wilted growths. They won't rejuvenate.
2. **Cut damaged stems**, down to healthy tissue. Leave no brown or discolored center in the cane. Keep cutting until white or green color is seen. For the next cut, be judicious. The cut results in most-nearly vertical stem, with little reason to curve; cutting to "an outward pointing eye" always results in a curved stem. Grooming a bush into "an open bowl-shaped center" allows sunlight to reach foliage in the bush's middle.
3. **The final location of the cut** should be 1/8-inch above a "clean" eye, i.e., one having no foliar growth around it, only a smooth rounded bump.
4. **When it is necessary to remove a cane** at the bud union, seal the cut to prevent bacteria from causing rotting at the site. Seal the cut using white (Elmer's) wood-working glue, not tree pruning paint.
5. **A few days after re-pruning** you will see new growth. It should be of the same diameter as the cane that has been cut.
6. **Sometimes three new growths** appear at a cut node. The middle stem will be weaker than the two outside ones. If you remove the two outside ones, the middle one will be a strong one. Your choice: a strong single cane (middle), or two slightly smaller ones.
7. **Sometimes very short new growths** occur, with many small foliages, e.g., five leaflets on a 1-inch stem. This "blind shoot" will not make a flower. The entire growth can be pinched/cut off, allowing stronger growths elsewhere. If allowed to remain, such a weak growth will be an ideal spot for aphids and blackspot to occur.
8. **Collect your clippings, and compost them.** They were not diseased, and are made from actual rose material, including the nutrients that you had put into the soil for the bushes to eat.
9. **When you first pruned your bushes** you probably removed about 1/2-1/3 of their height --- a matter of personal preference and historical practice --- and now you must go farther.

I once asked the late well-known rose expert, Guy Blake Hedrick, Jr., why his bushes were planted so low, their bud unions were essentially in hole at ground level. He said he mounded soil up over the bud unions because, there in NE Oklahoma, the bitter winters to keep them from freeze damage.

The canes sticking up out of the soil would die and turn black, but the parts under the soil would remain green and viable for spring growth. As a result every year his plants essentially had all new basal breaks. And folks, you could almost never beat his roses on the show tables!

So don't worry about pruning your bushes way down, if necessary. I have already cut about 6-feet off my better Hybrid Teas, and if I need to cut another 2-3 feet off, I'll do it.

* * *

NOTE: Did you miss our Jan. 29 issue with the pruning roses how-to sketches Baxter did for the Nature's Way Resources website? [Download the pdf.](#)

* * *

Spotlighting our . . . Local Experts

Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter



[St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat photos courtesy of Lauren Simpson](#)

THINK ABOUT GARDEN'S WILDLIFE BEFORE TACKLING 'DEAD' PLANTS

By **LAUREN SIMPSON**

[St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat](#)

This was the first deep, extended freeze since I created our wildlife-habitat gardens. While I covered less-established plants (about 30% of the garden), I left most uncovered.

Like many, we lost most plants' surface structures. However, many of our established, native plants appear to have survived, which I can tell from snapping twigs and seeing green, or seeing green rosettes at the ground below dead stalks. Time will tell.

Here are some tips on how to handle the garden after a deep freeze.

- This terrific [Jessica Walliser article](#) explains how to prepare gardens for spring planting without harming wildlife, particularly insects—including how to know when the right time for spring pruning is (generally, at least seven consecutive days with temperatures over 50°F).
- Resist the temptation immediately to cut back freeze-damaged plants with pithy or hollow stems. Some of our tiny native bees and other beneficial insects overwinter or create nests inside these. If we cut back/compost those stems, we might be discarding beneficial insect larvae or adults still in diapause (the insect equivalent of hibernation) inside.
- If you do cut the stems back earlier, then simply pile them outside for a few weeks, so that any little creatures inside can still emerge.
- Leave in place more than just the stems. Dead plant matter. . .
 1. shelters all kinds of critters, which is essential until it's warmer.
 2. keeps seeds available for birds.

3. helps protect tender seedling shoots if there is another freeze.

- When it's finally safe to prune, trim back dead parts to promote new growth. Leave about a foot of those stems in place, however. This gives nesting sites for the next generation of beneficial bees and wasps, and those stems will quickly be hidden by new growth anyway.
- Look for insect life in or on plant stems and leaves, to ensure that you're not composting insects in their various life stages. For example, certain moth and butterfly species pupate overwinter either on stems or curled up in leaves. Take the time to examine things to ensure that pupae aren't being discarded. This is worth the additional time.

You should know in a few weeks whether your plant made it through the freeze, in whole or in part. For woody-stemmed plants, snap off twigs to see if they're still green inside (a sign of life) and look for new growth on twigs and stems. For forbs (non-woody flowering plants) and vines, a couple of weeks should reveal which parts are alive or dead; you should also monitor for new growth. When in doubt, don't remove a perennial until you're certain that the root is dead. FYI, if you planted deep-rooted, native prairie plants, chances are that the roots are alive still.

Here is a [short, helpful video](#) on monitoring plants after a freeze.

Editor's Note: Learn more about St. Julian's Crossing Wildlife Habitat:

- stjulianscrossing.com
- [Facebook page](#)

* * *

**NOTE IN CALENDAR BELOW: MANY SALES MAY HAVE SUFFERED SEVERE
FREEZE DAMAGE ON PLANTS, BUT HAVE NOT SO NOTIFIED US.
CHECK WEBSITES UPDATES & COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS!**

**Brenda's LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
column is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com**

* * *



The Pines and Prairies Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas is now forming.

If you are interested in joining, please visit The Native Plant Society of Texas Web Page and go to the top right corner and click on the red box (join/renew) **Or use this link.**

Under chapter affiliation choose Pines and Prairies. This chapter will serve (but not be limited to) the Montgomery County Area.



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 144

Home vegetable gardening exploded last year as it is one of the best ways to obtain healthy, nutrient dense, and delicious food. This included fruits, vegetables and herbs.

We have all heard this famous quote attributed to Hippocrates, "Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food." With the COVID-19 pandemic on all our minds, a lot of new studies are coming out on the nutritional side of treatment and prevention.

Research from Thailand has found the herb *Andrographis paniculate* has been found to be able to kill the covid virus and preventing it from multiplying. Thailand and China own the rights to their traditional medicines; hence we do not hear about them.

China uses a host of botanicals like honeysuckle, licorice, astragalus, orange peel and yams as part of their traditional medicine in conjunction with modern medicine. The most promising treatments are not being studied at all in the USA as they are not patentable and FDA approval is very expensive.

Potassium, zinc, quercetin, oregano oil, monolaurin, silver, and vitamin D have all shown promise as alternative treatments. [Alliance for Natural Health](#) (January 2021).

Most Americans are very deficient in many major, minor and trace elements as well as vitamins D and C. A paper in The Journal of Intensive Care Medicine addresses this issue and can be found [here](#).

Note: The elements magnesium (Mg) and zinc (Zn) are essential for our immune system to fight off viruses. Most commercially produced foods are low in these essential nutrients to begin with. To make matters worse when we eat foods with the herbicide glyphosate on them which is most breads, corn, soy, etc. unless it is organic, it will have this herbicide in them.

Glyphosate was originally patented as a demineralizer to clean pipes (US Patent # 3,160,632). As a result, it ties up the nutrients we need for good health and prevents them from being absorbed by our bodies like zinc and magnesium. As a result, most Americans are very deficient in these essential elements.

Studies are emerging that have found that the microbiome of people with COVID-19 and those without the virus, are very different. The Journal Gut (2020). A similar paper in the Journal of the American Society for Microbiology (2021) has found the same pattern.

The Western diet of most people is extremely poor, lacking in essential minerals, vitamins, fiber, micronutrients, etc. Herbicides like glyphosate on GMO foods, most breads and cereals, kill the good bacteria that live in our guts throwing it out of balance, hence we lose the health benefits they provide. Glyphosate the active ingredient in Round Up was patented as an antibiotic in 2001 (US Patent #7,771,736).

When we garden, work in the soil and use a good compost, we are exposed to billions of microbes that help our guts be healthy and strengthen our microbiome.

The reasons to grow as much of one's own food organically continues to increase, or at least purchase organic whenever possible, and local growers is best.

A study published in the British Journal of Nutrition (2020) found that there was a correlation with increased consumption of cruciferous vegetables (Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, etc.) and a reduction of AAC (Abdominal aortic calcification) in older women. One of the doctors in the study stated that these vegetables have a high level of vitamin K and it may be involved at inhibiting the calcification process. As in most nutrients, home grown and fresh from the garden will have the highest levels of benefits.

Habitat gardening is a growing trend across the country as is bird watching. Many gardeners are combining their love of these issues. For example, Bob White Quail love to build their nest under prickly pear cactus, yucca and tasajillo. These plants also provide beautiful flowers for our pollinators and they are extremely drought, heat, and cold tolerant (Lazy gardener plants to the extreme).

The fruits of prickly pear cactus make a delicious jam or jelly and the leaves or pads are used as a very tasty and nutritional vegetable called "nopales". There are several ways to use nopal cactus, including in jellies and candies and even as an aid to help harden plaster. There are also a number of medicinal uses, thanks to this cactus's varied health benefits. Studies have suggested that it's an antiviral, helps protect nerve cells, it is high in antioxidants and it can help regulate blood sugar levels.

Most gardeners know that pollinators are declining all over the world. However, a study by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign looked at 25 million news items from six major U.S. and Global news sources. The data included The New York Times, The Washington Post, and the Associated Press amongst others. They found very low level of coverage of this important issue. As a result, most people do not know how important this is. As gardeners, we need to make our friends and neighbors aware of the importance of this issue to all the life on Earth. Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (2021).

One item we can do as gardeners is to plant more native plants in our landscapes and when we purchase ornamentals, we need to make sure they are not sterile hybrids.

Dr. Doug Tallamy's had a recent presentation to the Texas Master Naturalists. Dr. Tallamy is the author of "Nature's Best Hope" and "Bringing Nature Home" and the creator of the "Homegrown National Park" project to encourage homeowners to include natives in their landscape. This project is the basis for the Heartwood Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists' project to train advisors/ambassadors to assist homeowners in selecting appropriate native plants for their property with which our chapter is participating. The video can be found at their [website](#).

The Organic Horticultural Benefits Alliance (OHBA) has several videos on their website about gardening that are free. Members have a larger selection of [videos available](#).

* * *

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.
PLEASE ALWAYS put group's FULL name in email subject.*

NOTE: MANY SALES MAY HAVE SUFFERED SEVERE FREEZE DAMAGE ON PLANTS. CHECK WEBSITES THIS INFO & COVID-19-RELATED PRECAUTIONS!

FRI., FEB. 26-FRI., MAR. 5: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
SPRING PLANT SALE (online) Pickup: March 20th at Genoa Friendship Garden,
1210 Genoa Red Bluff Road. Order: hcmga.tamu.edu/shop/

SAT. FEB. 27-MAR. 6: 2021 SPRING VEGETABLE AND HERB PLANT SALE by FORT
BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS. Online: fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/vegetable-herb-sale/. FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu; 281-341-7068.

FRI., MAR. 5: WALK 'N' TALK: TEXAS TOUGH PLANTS FOR A GULF COAST GARDEN,
10-11am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble.

FRI., MAR. 5: HERBS FOR THE GULF COAST GARDEN by BRIANA ETIE & NANCY
LANGSTON-NOH (virtual), 10-11:30am. Register: galveston.agrilife.org/event/herbs-for-

[the-gulf-coast/](#)

MON., MAR. 8: SUCCESSFUL SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by HERMAN AUER (virtual), 10-11:30am. Register: galveston.agrilife.org/event/successful-spring-vegetable-gardening/

MON., MAR. 8, COMPOSTING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, virtual, 10-11:30am, co-host Houston Community College. Register: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

THURS., MAR. 11: ONLINE BROWSING ONLY FOR FRI.,-SAT., MAR. 12-13: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MARCH MADNESS SALE. store.galvestonmg.org

THURS., MAR. 11 PRODUCTS TO BOOST YOUR ROSES IMMUNE SYSTEM by MARK CHAMBLEE (virtual), 7- 8pm, Houston Rose Society/Houston event. Free. global.gotomeeting.com/join/380904309; 872-240-3412 , access code: 380-904-309

FRI.,-SAT., MAR. 12-13: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MARCH MADNESS SALE. Online. Browsing only Thurs., Mar. 11. Shopping: noon Friday-noon Saturday. store.galvestonmg.org

TUES, MAR. 16: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VIRTUAL HERB & VEGETABLE SALE, 8am– Wed noon, Online: mcmga.square.site AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. mcmga.com Details: (936)539-7824

TUES., MAR. 16, COMPOSTING by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, virtual, 10-11:30am, co-host Harris County Public Library System. facebook.com/harriscountypbl/live

THURS., MAR. 18: ALL ABOUT BASIL by BRANDI KELLER, virtual, 10am, Harris County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: homegrown2021Q1.eventbrite.com/

FRI., MAR. 19: YEAR-ROUND CARE OF LANDSCAPE TREES AND SHRUBS (virtual), 10-11:30am. Register: galveston.agrilife.org/event/year-round-care-of-landscape-trees-and-shrubs/

SAT, MAR. 20: MARCH MART VIRTUAL PLANT SALE, 8am-8pm The Mercer Society. Online only at themerchersociety.square.site. Details: 713-274-4166.

FRI., MAR. 26: TOMATO STRESS MANAGEMENT – GROWING GREAT TOMATOES (virtual) by IRA GERVAIS, 10-11:30am. Register: galveston.agrilife.org/event/tomato-stress-management/

SUN., MAR. 28-APR. 3: NEAR NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT VIRTUAL SPRING PLANT SALE, SALE PREVIEW by HEIDI SHEESLEY at nnmd.org. Pick up at Treesearch Farms, Inc.

TUES, APR. 13: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VIRTUAL SPRING SALE, 8am – Wed noon, Online at mcmga.square.site AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. mcmga.com Details: (936)539-7824

WED., APR. 24: INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY (Zoom event), 7pm. Free. [Join meeting](#). (Meeting ID: 952 433 8090. Passcode: 006790)

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 do 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



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

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



Saturdays 7-9am • SportsRadio 610

YearRound

Organic Fertilizers
Core Aeration
Compost Top Dressing
YearRoundHouston.com

MicroLife™



Complete Organic Solutions

www.bartlett.com

NATURE'S WAY
RESOURCES
an organically based service company

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.

