



LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



Jul-9-2021 | Issue 395

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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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A GIFT FROM THE HEIGHTS & A NEW SUPERSTAR NATIVE

"Where flowers bloom so does hope."

-- Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson (1912–2007)

by **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

WANTED: INVASIVE VINE SUGGESTIONS -- blooming, of course, one for sun and one for part shade. Lost both my Mexican flame vines (still hoping, but not looking good) and my snail vine, which thrived in part-shade. Well, thrived until this past winter.

(First, however, mea culpa to the memory of Lilian Jackson Braun of 'Cat Who' fame. I put too many 'Ls' in her first name last week. So embarrassing when you misspell a favorite author's name!)

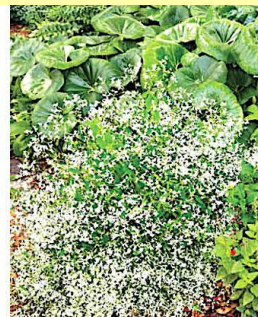
Did I really say "invasive"? Yes. My apparently gone-forever Mexican flame vine (pictured top right) helped beautify a rather ugly but very useful ramada. My long-blooming snail vine (below)

covered a wide fence expanse, a delight every time I pulled into our driveway. Sadly, as non-returnees (so far), they're obviously not good for my Lazy Gardener Laboratory . . . unless they someday return. Then they'll definitely go in the Lazy Gardener's Hall of Fame. I never dig up roots!

Talk about PERFECT timing! Brenda Eskelson very timely emailed results of a Heights Garden Club survey, a list of how their plants did (or did not) weather this past winter's deep freeze. Results are posted for public viewing or downloading on [Heights Garden Club website](#), specifically: [Plants that survived Uri in 2021](#) (pdf).



The Heights' report is remarkably helpful for all of us. Sitting as the Heights does, practically in the north central center of the Greater Houston area, the observations of these energetic folks can save as "good-for-all-of-us-references" as are available anywhere. The Greater Houston area is so vast — 9,444 square miles, an **area larger** than five states, including New Hampshire, New Jersey and Connecticut. Small wonder garden-affecting ecological aspects do start to differ as one moves farther out North, South, East or West!



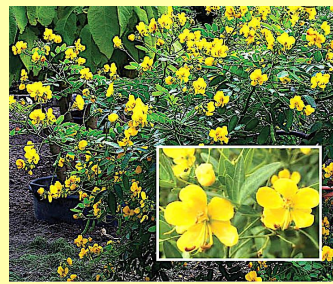
Heights Garden Club report notes now-blooming plants that died back including: l to r, *Java Glory Bower Clerodendron*, *Diamond Frost Euphorbia* and *Oak Leaf Hydrangea*. (Brenda Eskelson photos)



Unlike most of the Heights turk's cap reportings, my red version (*pictured*) has not returned. Most did. Mine had eventually reached 10'-12.' No sight of green. Still hoping!

I was both encouraged and saddened to see cassia included in HGC's list -- happy to note the "returned" listing but sad to see that particular one was 20+ years old. Mine was planted last fall. At our old house, my cassia lived for years, until one hot July day I decided to move it. Roots were so deep, I couldn't dig it out. Still young & dumb, I soaked the soil thoroughly, wrapped a chain around the base, hooked other end to car and jerked that sucker out. Planted in new spot.

All leaves turned died and fell off. Disgusted, I ignored it. Then, suddenly, that fall, it was covered with the most incredible electric yellow blooms. Then it died for good. *(File photo pictured - not mine)*



While you're checking out the [Heights Garden Club website](#), don't miss their [Yards of the Month](#) touts!

* * *

NEW SUPERSTAR — One of the latest additions to the [Texas Superstar® List](#) is [rock rose, also known as Texas mallow \(Rose pavonia, Pavonia lasiopetala\)](#), a tough, long-blooming, sun-loving small shrub that tolerates heat, drought and sun.



In addition to promoting a great landscape-friendly native plant, this Rock Rose accolade also gives us a excellent example of why we here along the Texas Gulf Coast, with our frequent monsoon rains, need to remember anything highly recommended for the rest of Texas we need to plant in extremely well-drained or raised areas.

Most other areas of Texas also have soils that drain very quickly, unlike our water-holding gumbo clay. Rock rose, a Hill Country spring-to-frost native bloomer, will love our summer droughts, but won't be happy at all (bloom as predicted) with prolonged water-soaked roots. HIGH & DRY is the key here.

Another tip from Texas A&M: in early spring prune rock roses back to 6"-8" to trigger lots of new, bud-producing growth. Right now pink's the most available color. But look for others as growers experiment with natural variations. In the meantime, have fun with this Texas Superstar brochure! ([Online brochure](#) or [PDF brochure](#))

PS. PESKY DEER? Pavonia is listed in A&M's ["Coping with Deer"](#) section.

* * *

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

* * *



Nature's Best Hope is You

with Doug Tallamy



Doug Tallamy is a globally famous environmental expert, awesome lecturer and author of *Bringing Nature Home* & *Nature's Best Hope*.



Mother Nature needs your help in reversing the steady decline of insect, animal & plant species. Our current ineffective landscape designs have been contributing to the massive loss of the plants & animals that sustain us. World renowned entomologist & native plant promoter, Doug Tallamy, will discuss the simple steps that each of us can-and-must take to reverse declining biodiversity & will explain why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope.

A Fascinating Zoominar! Thursday July 15TH, 2021

TICKET PRICES:

OHBA Members: Free
Non-OHBA Members: \$10

ITINERARY:

6-7 CT PM Zoom Presentation
7-7:30 CT PM Panel Discussion

REGISTER:

ohbaonline.org/register

Thank You Sponsors:



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For any event questions please contact Erica B. at erica@ohbaonline.org



John's Corner



BOOK REVIEW

TOXIC LEGACY – HOW THE WEEDKILLER GLYPHOSATE IS DESTROYING OUR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT, One

Scientist's Determined Quest To
Reveal The Truth, by Stephanie
Seneff, PhD, Chelsea Green
Publishing, 2021, ISBN: 978-
1603589291

Numerous times over the years I have talked about all the research on the dangers of the herbicide called Round-Up who's active ingredient is the very toxic chemical glyphosate. The more I study and learn about how dangerous this chemical is, and the lies by our government regulators and our agricultural universities, I get angry.

How many millions of people have been harmed by this toxic chemical (and even lost their lives) and how many trillions of dollars of health care costs and environmental damage has been done to our planet, all in the name of profit.

A few years ago, we talked about the book called White Wash and the government coverup of the dangers ("**WHITE WASH** - The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science", by Carey Gillam).

In this book by Dr. Seneff explains how and why this chemical disrupts all life from microbes to the bacteria in our bodies, to our hormones and immune system. It is the most complete treatment of all the health problems associated with this chemical from autism to covid, and dozens of other health issues correlated with the use of glyphosate.

This book is for anyone concerned about their health and that of their families. From the publisher's website:

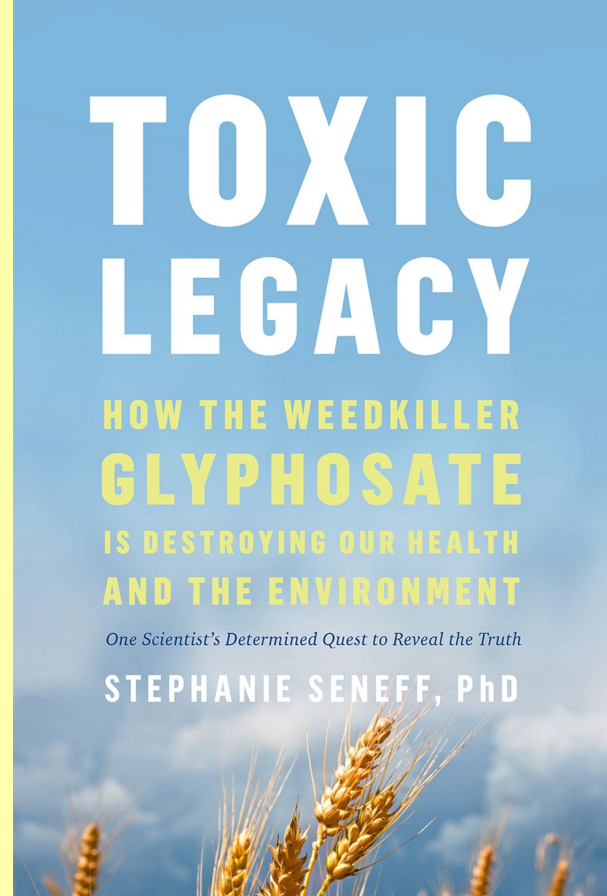
"*Toxic Legacy* will stand shoulder to shoulder with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. [This is] unquestionably, one of the most important books of our time."—David Perlmutter, MD, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Grain Brain* and *Brain Wash*

"Urgent and eye-opening, the book serves as a loud-and-clear alarm."—*The Boston Globe*

"A game-changer that we would be foolish to ignore."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

From an MIT scientist, mounting evidence that the active ingredient in the world's most commonly used weedkiller is contributing to skyrocketing rates of chronic disease

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup, the most commonly used



weedkiller in the world. Nearly 300 million pounds of glyphosate-based herbicide are sprayed on farms—and food—every year.

Agrochemical companies claim that glyphosate is safe for humans, animals, and the environment. But emerging scientific research on glyphosate's deadly disruption of the gut microbiome, its crippling effect on protein synthesis, and its impact on the body's ability to use and transport sulfur—not to mention several landmark legal cases—tells a very different story.

In *Toxic Legacy*, senior research scientist Stephanie Seneff, PhD, delivers compelling evidence based on countless published, peer-reviewed studies—all in frank, illuminating, and always accessible language.

Throughout *Toxic Legacy* readers will discover:

- The uniquely toxic nature of glyphosate
- How glyphosate disrupts the microbiome, leading to gut dysbiosis, autoimmunity, neurodegeneration, and more
- Why we're seeing a rise in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, infertility, depression, and anxiety
- Glyphosate's role in soil degeneration, water contamination, and threats to wildlife and biodiversity
- Important nutritional guidance for conscientious consumers who want to avoid glyphosate-contaminated foods and improve their health

As Rachel Carson did with DDT in the 1960's, Stephanie Seneff sounds the alarm on glyphosate, giving you guidance on simple, powerful changes you can make right now and essential information you need to protect your health, your family's health, and the planet on which we all depend.

* * *



Bugs of Texas

with Abbie Ince-Hendrickson M.S.




@ Nature's Way Resources

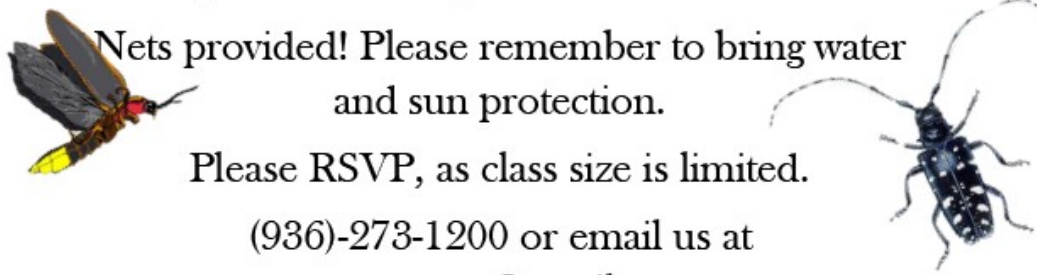
9:00 AM - 10:30AM



on Saturday, July 17th, 2021



Join us for a short talk about Texas Bugs,
Bug classification, and a BUG HUNT!



Nets provided! Please remember to bring water
and sun protection.

Please RSVP, as class size is limited.

(936)-273-1200 or email us at

nwnursery@gmail.com



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.

Submit events to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com.

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

**NOTE: IF YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT MASKING
POLICIES AT EVENTS, CHECK WITH CONTACTS LISTED**

FRI., JUL. 9: GARDEN CRUISIN': TOUR DE 4, 9am & 11am, [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#). Free. Ages 60+ or anyone age 12+ with transportation needs. [Register](#); 713-274-4160.

SAT., JULY 10: AQUAPONICS by **ROBIN COLLINS**, 9-11:00. In-person, AgriLife Extension Office, 4102-B Main Street (FM 519), La Marque. Preregister: galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/

MON., JULY 12: NATIVE PLANTS ON THE CHEAP by **MARTHA RICHESON, WENDY REISTLE & NANCY SAINT** (Zoom), 6:30pm, Native Plant Society of Texas/Clear Lake Chapter program on Plant propagation (Zoom). [Register](#).

MON., JULY 12: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING (virtual), 10-11:30am. Harris County Master Gardeners with Houston Community College event. Free. Register early: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

TUES., JULY 13: ALL ABOUT PLUMERIAS, 6:30pm,, Cherie Flores Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive. Plumeria Society of America event. Free. theplumeriasociety.org

THURS., JULY 15: GARDEN HUMMINGBIRD SAFETY (virtual) by **BRANDI KELLER**, 10am. Must register: homegrown2021Q3.eventbrite.com/

FRI., JUL. 24: GARDEN CRUISIN': TOUR DE 4, 9am & 11am, [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#). Free. Ages 60+ or anyone age 12+ with transportation needs. [Register](#); 713-274-4160.

TUES., JULY 20: FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING (virtual), 11am-noon, Free. Watch via Facebook Live at: facebook.com/harriscountyp/live

SAT., JULY 24: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SALE, 9am-3pm(or sell-out), Bay Area Community Center, 5002 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook. theplumeriasociety.org

THURS., JUL. 29: MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION, 6-7pm, Timber Lane Community Center. [Register](#). 713-274-4160.

THURS., JULY 29: FORT BEND REGIONAL VEGETABLE CONFERENCE SUMMER SESSION (virtual) 8:30am-noon. Counties of Waller, Wharton, Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Colorado, Austin and Fort Bend event. [Register](#). 281-633-7029 or brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

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.



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 . . .

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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 -- 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.

