



# LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS

Houston Garden Newsletter



April-29-2022 | Issue 434

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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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## HANGING ON TO LADYBUGS HONORING LOCAL TREASURE USE YOUR MASTER GARDENERS!

**LADYBUG LEGEND:** *In the Middle Ages, European farmers despaired as crops were plagued by pests. They prayed to the Virgin Mary. Soon beneficial bugs appeared in fields and miraculously saved the crops. Farmers called the red and black beetles "our lady's birds" or lady's bugs.*

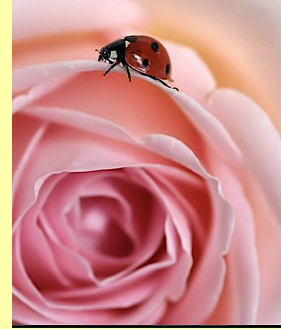
-- [Fascinating Facts About Ladybugs](#)

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By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

**LADYBUG, LADYBUG, PLEASE DON'T FLY AWAY HOME!** But that's exactly what they'll do, as I discovered back in the Dark Ages when I was told to try them to treat for aphids. I bought a bagful to sprinkle on suffering plants. The next day, a neighbor asked if I had as many ladybugs in my yard as he did in his? I said, "Those are MY ladybugs! Give 'em back!" (He just laughed.)

Unfortunately, although ladybugs can and will eat aphids (and other garden devils -- up to 50 a day!), they won't hang around when supplies run out. On the plus side, they also attack scale, mealy bugs, boil worms, leafhoppers and corn earworms.



Thoughts on them abound, including from John Ferguson:

- After storage and shipping, they will be extremely thirsty and hungry
- Late in the evening, water plant leaves enough to create water droplets
- Only then release the ladybugs
- Why late in the evening? They will not fly away in the dark but they are still hungry. Now they will start crawling around looking for food.

*(Who else would tell you these things?)*

\* \* \*



**HAS ANYONE BESIDES ME** noticed the catalpas are blooming? I fell in love with these white blooming trees with heart-shaped leaves when we first moved to Aldine back in the 1970s. Quickly discovered many folks consider them trash trees. They do drop large leaves some say are hard to clean up. And attract large catalpa worms avid fishermen freeze for bait. I dug many out of Aldine ditches but never could get one to grow in our yard

\* \* \*



**WELCOME BACK!** Is anyone else just now seeing treasured plants returning from winter dormancy? Would love to hear about late-reappearing plants in your yard. Dale Phillips and I are celebrating. He's excited about his finally returning frangipani vine (*above left*) and I'm thrilled with brand new teeny-tiny green stalks on my Shirley Temple hibiscus (*center*) and new growth on my giant white milkweed (*Picture right. Flower shots are just for IDs, none of these blooming yet!*)

\* \* \*

## TIP O' THE TROWEL TO . . .

- . . . TO KATHY HUIZINGA of the [Texas Rose Rustlers](#) for her fascinating interview with longtime antique rose enthusiast **CONRAD TIPS** (*pictured*). Not to be missed are his memories of gardeners (and more) from growing up in Garden Oaks to his East Texas relatives' gardens to horticultural legends across Europe. Kathy's interview is



highlighted in the current **Texas Rose Rustler** newsletter at the end of the "Rustler Wisdom" section. ([pdf article download](#)). Conrad's unique turns of phrasing delightfully come through — from his opening "*I was not born to the trowel,*" through start of the Texas Rose Rustlers. Kathy has created a really fun read (which I devoured nonstop) about a truly memorable Houston gardening personality.



- . . . **TO PLANT IT FORWARD**'s first time series of Gardening Fundamentals classes, taught by PIF farmers and staff. First class will be Natural Pest Control, taught by **CONSTANT NGOUALA**, whose 20 years of gardening experience and regular appearances at Urban Harvest Farmers Market have made him a sought-after, recognized horticulturist.  
**SAT., MAY 14: NATURAL PEST CONTROL by CONSTANT NGOUALA**  
**2-3pm, Plant It Forward Farm, 10595 Fondren Rd. \$35. [Register](#).**

- . . . **OUR AREA's COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS.**  
Have gardening questions? First stop should be your specific county Master Gardeners' Q&A phone lines or online "*Ask a Master Gardener*" resource, both manned by trained folks who know YOUR specific area. The "Greater Houston area" now encompasses over 660 square miles, so it's not exaggerating to say we are too diverse with too many soil types & climatic challenges to be confident one recommendation or answer fits all of us!



#### **Two MASTER GARDENERS bonuses:**

1. Most Master Gardener programs in our area have demonstration gardens at your local Texas Extension Service Center, hosting public plant sales and lots more. [Find your MG website, call-in number, etc.](#)
2. Many counties also have Junior Master Gardener programs. *Pictured:* [Texas Junior Master Gardener website](#) photo. *Click link for more info.*



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**SPEAKING OF LADYBUGS (AGAIN), IT'S NOT TOO LATE** to join Houston/Galveston area "City Nature Challenge" -- but hurry! The idea is to "*look for, find, attract and document nature in your house or yard.*" Deadlines to upload & work on identifications: April 28-May 3. Results: May 4! Details: [inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2021-houston-galveston](http://inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2021-houston-galveston)

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**PLEASE NOTE: My old email "lazygardener@sbcglobal.net" is dead. Emails no longer forwarded. Delete from ALL your files. Use [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)**

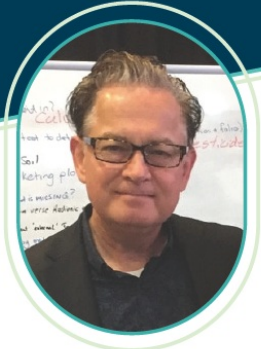
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## HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF HEALTHY IN TODAY'S WORLD



WEDNESDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>



Dr. Arden Andersen, D.O.  
Globally Recognized  
Medical Doctor,  
Nutritionalist & Crop Advisor

Since the pandemic, human health has become paramount. We are faced with many different challenges that effect our overall well-being. How is today's society making our total health a **huge challenge**?

Come join us for an eye-opening seminar '*How to keep yourself healthy in today's world*'. Most of America's foods have low nutrient density, are laden with pesticides, preservatives & sugars that are destroying our most valuable asset, our health.

Dr. Andersen will discuss what needs to change with our food system, financial bias, cultural habits & psychological addiction. Learn what you can do today to be stronger, healthier & happier.

**EPIGENETICS, TAKING CONTROL OF OUR OWN DESTINY.**

THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER HOUSTON  
50 WAUGH DR. HOUSTON, TX 77007

5-6PM SOCIAL/DINNER

6-7:30PM LECTURE

REGISTER TODAY AT

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NON-OHBA MEMBERS \$75

OHBAONLINE.ORG/REGISTER



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## John's Corner



### NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 194

Today I am going to lead off with a question from a reader: "Should one put coffee grounds in one's garden?"



This is a complex question due to the variation of coffee species, growing conditions, etc. Caffeinated versus decaffeinated (more residual chemicals) left in the grounds is another factor. Even the type of brewing will drive off more volatiles and change the left-over chemistry.

Originally, coffee was an understory tree (shade grown) found in Ethiopia growing in mineral rich soils. However, most coffee has been hybridized to grow in the sun to produce higher yields, and most of the health benefits are lost as well as the flavor. The growing fields are generally lower in soil quality with less elements in them, which changes the chemistry of the coffee bean.

The complication is that coffee (Arabica) when grown in the sun, is subject to a parasitic fungal pathogen we know as coffee leaf rust. This requires that more toxic chemicals be sprayed on the coffee plants which ends up in the coffee.

Some of these chemicals are removed during the processing of the beans in preparation for roasting. The heat of the roasting will destroy some more of the toxic chemicals, and finally brewing the grounds will leach most of the remaining chemicals into the coffee. If the coffee was shade grown then this is unlikely to be an issue.

Hence, in general, the left-over coffee grounds are pH neutral as the acids in coffee are water soluble and leach out when brewed. The grounds do contain some nitrogen, and are a source of organic matter. Thus, they provide benefits.

When applied to the soil the primary decomposers are fungi which produce weak short lived organic acids.

I enjoy a good cup of coffee every morning and prefer organic shade grown coffee for many reasons, from more flavonoids to higher levels of phytochemicals that support our health and it just tastes better. Most coffee of this type also has higher nutrient levels (minerals) that are in the coffee and the grounds which provide additional benefits.

At home my spent grounds go into the compost bin, and at our retirement place I just scatter over the ground as the native soil is low in organic matter.

**E**arthworms are sometimes called a gardener's best friend. Studies at University College of Dublin have discovered another amazing fact about our wiggly friends.

As earthworms consume soil and organic matter, they digest the microbes living on this material especially bacteria. Bacteria are the most nitrogen (N) rich life form on earth.

They then release this nitrogen in a form that plants can rapidly use exactly when they need it, as plant growth and earthworm activity are synchronized by environmental factors. Soil Biology and Biochemistry (2022)

**W**e often talk about the importance of re-mineralization. For decades we have focused on N-P-K (nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium) and ignored the minor

and trace elements. As a result, many of our soils have become depleted in microelements.

The Chinese herb *Pseudostellaria heterophylla* has been used for its medical properties for centuries.

In this study the scientist added boron (B), molybdenum (Mo), and copper (Cu) to their regular fertilization. They found the addition of these elements promoted the absorption, capture, and conversion of light energy and efficiency of electron transfer in the plant.

This significantly improved the quality of the single root tuber and the yield per unit area. HortScience (2021)

**A**nother area of research showing good results is in the use of biostimulants. Researchers at Ohio State University found that using biostimulants increased the growth, leaf chlorophyll content, and shoot biomass on several species. The products tested contained both bacterial and fungal species. The species tested were Zinnias and Petunias.

“Many biostimulants are incomplete, the products contain nutrients and other components that are not included on the label. Biostimulants often include various plant extracts, vitamins or amino acids, which may stimulate plant growth by various mechanisms including providing additional macro or micro nutrients for the plant.” HortScience (2021)

This is one of the reasons a good compost works so well as it has hundreds of billions of good bacteria and fungi in it and is loaded with humus, macro and micro nutrients for the plant.

**T**here has been a lot of hype over the last few years on biochar as a miraculous soil amendment. A recent study published in the Soil Science Society of America journal (2021) found that is not always true with woody plants.

The study tested two types of slow pyrolysis biochar made from pine wood. They found the biochar negatively impacted tree growth and survival, but impacts varied between tree species and biochar type.

**O**ne of the many benefits of using a native mulch is that it feeds many beneficial fungi that help to build soil structure (break up compaction), bioremediate salts and to correct pH.

Another study in the Soil Science Society of America journal (2021) explains this process. The researchers looked at *Trichoderma sp.* which are free living fungi commonly used as biofertilizers.

This study was done in saline-alkaline soils in China with the crop maize. They found that long term exposure to these fungi can alleviate saline-alkaline stress by decreasing soil pH and salt ion content.

As these beneficial fungi increased, plant pathogens such as *Fusarium* and

*Neonectria* were also significantly reduced.

An extra benefit they found was a 40% reduction of the amount of fertilizer required without loss of yield.

Evidence on the benefits of nutrient dense food grown on mineral rich soils continues to increase.

The Alliance for Natural Health (ANH-USA) newsletter summarizes a new study published in the journal *Pharmaceuticals* (2022), that found that a mixture of zinc (Zn), copper (Cu), and plant flavonoids inhibited viral replication in lab tests by as much as 50 percent.

The researchers tested the compounds on human lung cells in the lab against RNA viruses, including those that cause the flu and the common cold. The scientists write, "Such an inexpensive combination of dietary supplements would be highly advantageous to have, alongside vaccines, as a safe prevention method affecting various RNA respiratory viruses."

Most of us are familiar with Dr. Doug Tallamy and his great books:

**"Bringing Nature Home - How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants"**

by Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2014, Eighth Printing,  
ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-992-8

**The Nature of Oaks – The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees** by Douglas Tallamy, 2021, Timber Press, ISBN: 978-1-64326-044-0

**"Nature's Best Hope- A New Approach to Conservation That Starts In your Yard"** by Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2019, ISBN-13: 978-1-60469-900-5

Doug's newest project is Homegrown National Park for those who are part of the solution rather than part of the problem in gardening and agriculture. His idea is that all the properties and land owned by gardeners are larger than all our national parks put together. By managing these properties using modern biological methods and using native plants, it would make a large contribution to solving many of the environmental issues facing society today.



# WHAT'S THE RUSH?



## Get on the Map to Regenerate Biodiversity!

Listen to Doug Tallamy's talk on  
What's The Rush?



THANK YOU  
If YOU *are* ON THE MAP  
we THANK YOU for taking the lead  
and ask that you pass this on

[homegrownnationalpark.org](http://homegrownnationalpark.org)

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# NWR NOW CARRIES SEEDS FROM

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**\$3.00 EACH !**

### LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

#### ***SUBMITTING EVENTS? PLEASE READ!***

- *Only events submitted specifically to LG&F calendar are used*
- *Use our exact format, type into email, no pdfs/jpgs/flyers*
- *3 lines max per entry. We will edit down if you don't.*
- *Too long links activated by word "Details."*
- *Submit: [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com). Check your published entry!*

***EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED***

**FRI.-SUN, APR. 29 - MAY 1: KINGWOOD GARDEN**

**CLUB GARDENSCAPES TOUR & PLANT SALE**, Fri: 10am-4pm; Sat: 10am-4pm, Sun: 12pm-4pm. \$25. [kingwoodgardenclub.org](http://kingwoodgardenclub.org)

**SAT., APR. 30: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON SPRING SALE**, 9am-

4pm, Metropolitan Multi-services Center, 1475 W. Gray. Free.

[bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

**TUE., MAY 3: VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY AND THEIR BACKYARD**

**GARDENS** (Zoom) by **ROY VU, PHD**, 7-8pm. Urban Harvest event.

[urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**TUES-TUES, MAY 3-10: "MOWING GOATS RETURN TO HOUSTON**

**ARBORETUM**. [houstonarboretum.org](http://houstonarboretum.org)

**SAT., MAY 6 & 7: HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING**

**SALE**. 9am-5pm Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Cash preferred. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org)

**SAT MAY 7: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY ANNUAL DAYLILY**

**SALE**, 9am-2pm, 5705 Pinemont Dr. Inventory: [ofts.com/hhs/plantsales.html](http://ofts.com/hhs/plantsales.html)

**MON., MAY 9: SUCCULENTS** (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER**

**GARDENERS**, 10-11:30am. Free. HCMG & Houston Community College event. Register: [hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops](http://hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops)

**TUES., MAY 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS**, 7pm, (ZOOM & in-person), Cherie

Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org); 281-796-7185

**TUE., MAY.3: VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY AND THEIR BACKYARD GARDENS** (Zoom) by **ROY VU, PHD**, 7-8pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**WED., MAY.11: NATIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR BACKYARD GARDEN**(Zoom) by **SUZY SHAPIRO**, 6-7pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**THURS., MAY 12: ROSES! ANYONE CAN GROW THEM**by **MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**. 6-7:30pm. \$5. Register: [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com), 936-539-7824

**FRI., MAY 13: NATURE'S BURIAL, NATURAL LANDSCAPE AS YOUR LEGACY** by **KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY**, 10am, Trinity Episcopal Church. 1015 Holman. Free. Federation of Garden Clubs event. ([Details](#))

**SAT., MAY 14: NATURAL PEST CONTROL** by **CONSTANT NGOUALA**, 2-3pm, Plant It Forward Farm, 10595 Fondren Rd. \$35 [Register](#).

**SAT., MAY.14: SQUARE FOOT GARDENING NOT BY THE BOOK**(Zoom) by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30am, Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT. & MON., MAY 14 & 16:PERENNIALS & HERB SALE**,9am-1pm. Harris Cty Master Gardener event. On-site sales & online-pickup: Genoa Friendship Garden, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Inventory: [hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales/](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales/)

**MON., MAY 16: OPEN GARDEN DAY**,8:30-11am. Genoa Friendship Garden, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd, Pasadena. Harris Cty Master Gardener event. [hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales/](http://hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales/)

**TUES., MAY 17: SUCCULENTS** (virtual), 11am-noon, Harris County Master Gardeners/Harris County Public Library event. Free. [facebook.com/harriscountypub/events/](https://facebook.com/harriscountypub/events/)

**SAT.-SUN., MAY 21-22: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON ANNUAL SHOW-SALE**, 9am-5pm Sat.; 11am-4pm Sun.,Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

**THURS., MAY 26: IN THE GARDEN – SUMMER PLANTING**by **CAROL BURTON & MEAGAN TERRY**, 6:30-8pm 3302 Canal St. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**TUES., JUN.7: ALL ABOUT PEPPERS: GROWING & CARE OF FOR A SUCCESSFUL BOUNTY** (Zoom) by **TERESA SEE**, 7-8pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**THURS., JUN.9: OKRA OBSESSION: GROWING, BREEDING, AND UTILIZING THIS INTERNATIONAL SUPERSTAR** by **ROBERT "SKIP" RICHTER**, 10-11am. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)



**SAT., JUN 11: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**, 5002 NASA Parkway, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook, [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org), 281-796-7185

**SAT., JUN.11: COMPANION PLANTING FOR HIGH DENSITY GARDENS** (Zoom) by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30am. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**WED., JUN.15: CULTURAL CONNECTIONS--ROSELLE HIBISCUS: PRODUCTION TO MARKETING** (Zoom) by **STEDMAN DOUGLAS**, 6-7pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**TUES., JUN.21: SUMMER EDIBLE ACADEMY** by **CAROL BURTON, KELLIE KARAVIAS, & GARDEN EDUCATORS**, 9am - 3pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**WED., JUN.29: MARKET GARDENING: THE MONTROSE URBAN FOOD FARM** (Zoom) by **SCOTT HOWARD**, 7-8pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT., JUL.9: LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION (Zoom)**by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30am. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**TUES., JULY 12: GROWING PLUMERIAS**, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org); 281-796-7185

**TUES., JUL.12: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR URBAN GARDENERS** (Zoom) by **NATHAN HERMOND**, 7-8pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT., JUL.16: STARTING FALL TOMATOES, ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW!** by **MEG TAPP**, 10-11:30am, UHI Patio Garden at Headquarters. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**TUES., JUL.19: POLLINATOR GARDENING: HOW TO CREATE A BUTTERFLY GARDEN** (Zoom) by **SHERRY CRUSE**, 7-8:30pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT., JULY 23: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**, 5002 NASA Parkway, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org), 281-796-7185

**SAT., JUL.23: FALL ORGANIC GARDENING** (Zoom) by **BOB RANDALL & CAROL BURTON**, 9:30-12:30pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**TUES., AUG.2: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES FOR FALL** (Zoom) by **SHERRY CRUSE**, 7-8:30pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**TUES., AUG.9: A RETURN TO WELLNESS** (Zoom) by **TAMIKA CASTON-MILLER**, 6-7:30pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT., AUG.13: FALL WORKSHOP: FRUIT TREE CARE** (Zoom) by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30am-11:30am. Urban Harvest event.  
[urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**TUES., AUG 16: GARDENING FOR SOIL, COMPOST AND MULCH** by **SHERRY CRUSE**, 7-8:30pm, Urban Harvest event.  
[urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**TUES., OCT 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS**, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. [theplumeriasociety.org](http://theplumeriasociety.org); 281-796-7185

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If we inspire you to attend any of these,  
please let them know you heard about it in . . .  
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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)



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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-project to reporting, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area. The name, she says, is not just fun, it's true.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from 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.

Brenda became a Harris County Master Gardener and, over the years, served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations. She 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 Assistant 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 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.

