



May-6-2022 | Issue 435

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](#)



TIP O' THE TROWEL & HUGE THANKS FOR ALL THESE RIVERS OF BRILLIANT YELLOW

"... it occurred to me that time as we know it doesn't exist in the lawn, since grass never dies or is allowed to flower and set seed. Lawns are nature purged of sex or death. No wonder Americans like them so much."

-- Michael Pollan, "Second Nature: A Gardener's Education"

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

I hope everyone has been enjoying the gorgeous rivers of yellow wildflowers that seem to be flowing through all parts of the Greater Houston area these days. This display was between two homes in Port Bolivar on Bolivar Peninsula. (*Thanks, folks!!!*) But we saw them all over that region.

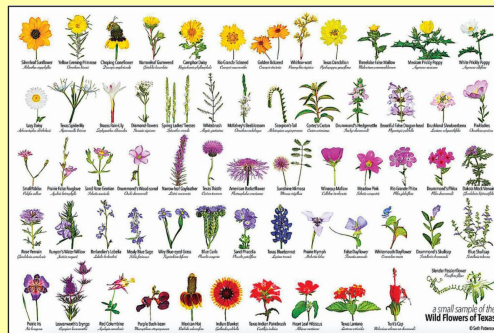
Be aware we are enjoying these many wonderful wildflower spreads now thanks to homeowners as well as local and state public mowing dictates --



mostly demanded first by Lady Bird Johnson and now by hundreds of local wildflower/native plant enthusiasts. Back in the mid-'60s, these would all have been mowed many time by now, stopping not only displays like this, but setting of seed for future blooms as well.

What are these? Not even experts want to answer this one! Many are different types of coreopsis (tickseed). (*pictured above.*)

Others are what hort experts call "DYCs" (*damn yellow composites -- crossbreeds!*). Have you identified other mass yellow bloomers along highways and byways this time of year? Do share! [A great wildflower ID list for us.](#) [Click here for more history.](#)



PS. TWO GREAT RESOURCES:

- ["A Small Sample of the Wild Flowers of Texas,"](#) (*pictured above*) created by **SETH PATTERSON** for [Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine](#). (One of my favorite wildflower identification charts). Also . . .
- [TEXAS LIVING'S ULTIMATE GUIDE TO TEXAS WILDFLOWER IDENTIFICATION](#)

* * *



"ENAMELED DREAM" (ALMOST) COMES TRUE: Ever since reading Martha Grimes' **"The Winds of Change,"** I've dreamed of an enameled mead. Talk about *"what goes around comes around"* -- these medieval native floral "designs" could well be ancestors of today's popular habitat/pollinator/wildflower gardens! Mine was not this spectacular. (*File sort-of photo example only.*) But I loved it!

This landscaping technique may have originated with either ancient Scottish "gardeners" or King Henry II (1154-1189 — who may copied his northern subjects). Colorful wildflower seed was gathered to sow in intricate patterns surrounded by more muted native green lowlands growth. King Henry II ordered similar planting designs at his palace gardens using methodically placed native and imported flowers in grassy areas.

If you're thinking "high maintenance," right! It's said an army of royal gardeners kept the King's grass low using hand shears and scythes, or grazing sheep.

The name came from mimicking enameled jewelry. Mine was definitely not high maintenance since I did nothing but enjoy the view. This spring, between early mowings, my early spring "flowering lawn herbs" (refuse to call them weeds) bloomed in spreading clumps surrounded by green lawn. Between mowings, they still bloom occasionally on 2" stalks.

* * *

SPEAKING OF NOT MOWING -- a growing number of cities are joining a movement called "NO MOW MAY," according to Houston's [Citizens](#)



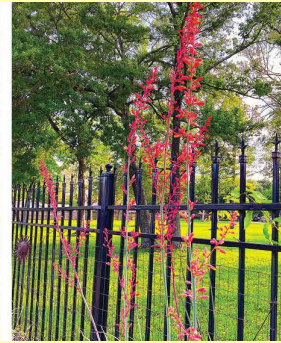
[Environmental Coalition newsletter](#) and [National Public Radio](#). This drive to slow the decline of bees and other pollinators, started in England, has been joined by 30+/- USA cities (mostly in Midwest). An Appleton, WI, study of lawns unmowed in May showed a five-fold increase in their bee population. Existing "Not-cutting-grass" violation & fines have been waved for the month of May.

Recommendations are then to raise lawnmower blades in June. [More info](#).
(Pictured: Verona, WI, poster)

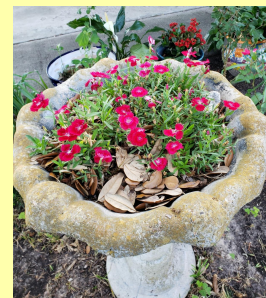
Interesting. But our grass growth starts earlier than points farther north. Perhaps a **NO MOW MARCH?** ([Some Houston pollinator protection groups](#)).

PLANTS MAKING US SMILE . . .

- **DIANE ROTH** in Spring is thrilled about her red yucca which is blooming better than ever before. Same here! Neither my white clematis (right) nor red yucca (far right), — both 5+/- years old — have ever been as pretty as both are now. Extremely drought-hardy red yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*, an agave, not a yucca) flowers late spring through fall. Clematis is a more temperamental spring bloomer!



- **WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH AN UNUSED BIRD BATH?** **MARY JO** in Aldine brags on her dianthus, a perfect solution for her front garden, unused, birdbath. Planted in soil, they politely tell her (by sagging or stop blooming) when they want water. She provides. They pop right back up and are, she notes, amazingly secure, have never been blown away by heavy winds.



* * *

TIP O' THE TROWEL to the **Katy Prairie Conservancy**, now officially **COASTAL PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY**.

Same goal: ally with private landowners to permanently protect 5,000-20,000 prairie acres of working cattle ranches, farmland, and natural areas to sustain our coastal prairie ecosystem, preserve wildlife corridors, and retain wide-open spaces in a 13-county area that includes Austin, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Matagorda, Victoria, Waller and Wharton. Details: prairiepartner.org/.



Why should we gardeners care about prairies? To succeed, our vegetables, flowers & other garden delights need native and migrating

pollinators! Prairies are our last vestiges of not only significant-time stopovers for migrating wildlife, but far greater sources of local pollinator food & shelter than our still-relatively-very-few pollinator-oriented home gardens. Support save prairies efforts!

* * *

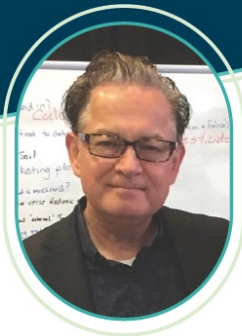
PLEASE NOTE: My old email "lazygardener@sbcglobal.net" is dead. Emails no longer forwarded. Delete from ALL your files. Use lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

* * *

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

* * *

HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF HEALTHY IN TODAY'S WORLD



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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH

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

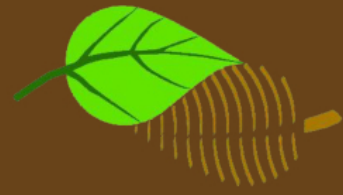
REGISTER TODAY AT
OHBA MEMBERS \$50
NON-OHBA MEMBERS \$75
OHBAONLINE.ORG/REGISTER



* * *



John's Corner



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 195

We often hear “I need to order some pine straw mulch to acidify my soil.” This is one of those gardening myths that will not die.

Most pine trees have evolved to grow on and thrive on acidic soil, similar to azaleas and blueberries. They grow where the climate and soil are suitable. As one drives west from east Texas as the soil changes to more alkaline with higher salts, the pine trees fade away. Or if one drives south from Memorial Park where the soils tend to be acidic and as one crosses Buffalo Bayou and the soils become alkaline clays, the pine trees disappear. Most plants have a soil and environment they prefer or even require.

Pine needles themselves are slightly acidic but do not have the capacity to alter the soil acidity and are quickly neutralized as they decompose. When fungi first start to decompose pine needle they will produce some very weak organic acids, but again these quickly dissipate in the soil.

I did a test years ago where I covered an area four feet deep in pine straw and let it decompose over a couple years. There was no measurable change in the pH of the soil. The soil underneath was better than before, but by comparison, three inches of aged native mulch provided far more soil improvement than the 4 feet of pine straw.

Leaves are great for weed control and often work better than other types of mulch in this regard. However, leaves may blow around and be a little too messy for some. Pine straw does not blow and it is a little more expensive than other types of mulch. However, when used correctly and with the right species of plants it can be very beautiful.

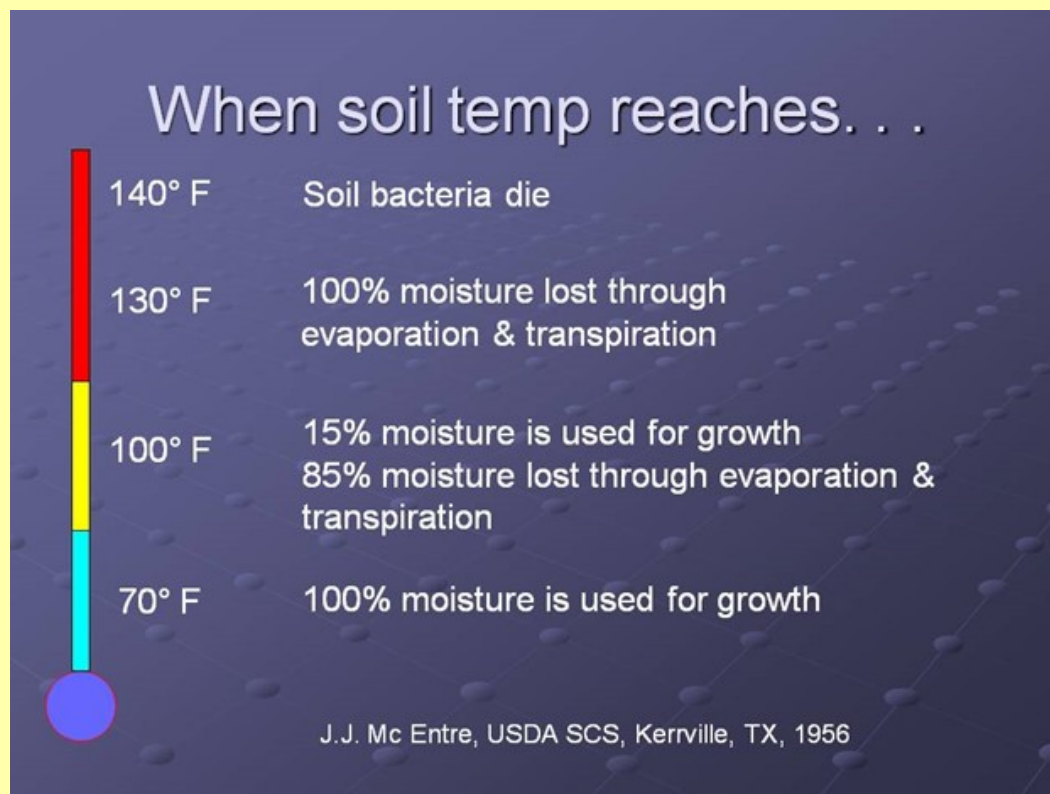
Pine straw also does a good job of reducing weed pressure IF it is thick enough (6 inches or more).

One item most gardeners does not often think about is soil temperature. As one can see from the USDA study below (chart), that when soil temperature gets above 70⁰ soil moisture is no longer used for growth but used to cool the plant.

As the soil temperature rises, soil organisms from microarthropods to earthworms go deep into the soil. Many bacteria and fungi go dormant or at least greatly slow their metabolism. These effects reduce the nutrient cycling they would normally provide, hence can lead to many problems from chlorosis to insect and disease.

Thus, keeping the soil well mulched protects the soil from getting hot, and a

thick layer of pine straw does a good job of this.



Another issue most gardeners do not think about is fire. Over the last few years there have been a lot of wildfires in the USA and thousands of homes destroyed across the country (eg. Bastrop, Texas 2011).

In many cases it was not the roof that caught fire, but the mulch in the landscape. The mulch ignited and then carried the fire up the flowerbed to the house. Often mulch is set on fire by burning embers from forest or grass fires brought in by the wind.

A few other fire ignition sources are:

- Cigarettes
- Sparks (fireplace, bar-b-que pit, fire pit)
- Embers (burning house or wildfire)
- Lightning
- Static Electricity
- Wiring (electrical shorts)
- Reflected heat from low-E windows
- Matches and lighters
- Broken bottles
- Spontaneous combustion
- Sparks from accidents

These other sources should be considered by designers and landscape architects when choosing a mulch if these sources are nearby and specify a fire resistant mulch.

Due to all the wildfires, several universities have begun testing mulches for their flammability. For the ignition tests the following was done:

- Propane Torch
- Fifteen seconds of flame applied to each mulch sample then torch removed
- Test done one year after installation of mulch
- Tabulated the results
- Surprisingly even some of the organic mulches would not ignite

Summary of a few of the results on catching fire:

• OAT STRAW	• VERY HIGH
• PINE STRAW	• VERY HIGH
• GROUND RUBBER TIRES (DYED)	• VERY HIGH
• DYED MULCH/PALLETS	• VERY HIGH
• SHREDDED PINE, CYPRESS, or HARDWOOD	• HIGH
• YARD COMPOST	• MEDIUM
• PINE BARK CHUNKS-TWO SIZES	• LOW
• TURF VERY	• VERY LOW
• COCOA HULLS	• VERY LOW
• NATIVE MULCH (Composted/aged)	• VERY LOW

Note: Rubber mulch was one of the worst of all. Ignition by even a small kitchen match on Rubber Chipped Mulch occurred every time in the demonstrations, along with the Dyed/colored and with shredded Hardwood Mulch.

Fire in Chipped Rubber Mulch gave off toxic fumes, could not be extinguished with water, in fact water spreads the flames and required beating out with a shovel to be extinguished.

I have a nice power point presentation I have used for many gardening events that covers all the many types of mulch, their good and bad points and allows me to go into a lot more detail.

A recent article in Science News brought an environmental issue to my attention, the hidden cost of green technology. As a gardener I use a lot of cordless power tools that are powered by a lithium-based battery. Soil drills, chainsaw, pruners, hedge trimmers, blowers not to mention cell phones and electric vehicles, etc.

A very large part of the world's lithium supply comes from the countries of Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina from an area known as the Atacama Desert. This area is home to several flamingo species.

Being a desert, water is in short supply, and to mine one ton of lithium requires over 400,000 liters of water. The water in the salt flats grow cyanobacteria and algae that is food for the flamingos. As a result, the flamingo populations are declining.

Another article "The Environmental Downside of Electric Vehicles" had more

detail. As gardeners we know that one of the best ways to fight climate change is to grow vegetation like trees.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), an electric vehicle requires six times the mineral inputs of a conventional car. They require nickel, lithium, cobalt, copper, rare earths like neodymium, dysprosium, etc. To acquire these metals requires a lot of strip mining where the rain forest must be cleared first and the topsoil removed. This mining releases a tremendous amount of greenhouse gasses. The mining also requires a lot of diesel-powered equipment that also generates greenhouse gasses.

Additionally, most of this mining occurs in third world countries where over 40,000 children are used for labor, the toxins released during this mining cause a lot of health issues for the miners. The promise of green energy is not as green as some have led us to believe.

I was thinking of purchasing a battery powered lawnmower and edger, after reading the articles I think I will stick to my old gasoline powered equipment as they still work fine.

The Sustainable Pulse newsletter had a link to a new documentary “Into the Weeds”, on the dangers of glyphosate. The trailer can be seen on the link below:



Into The Weeds - Glyphosate Documentary Causes A Stir

Dewayne Johnson, a Bay Area groundskeeper, suffered from rashes in 2014 and wondered if they were caused by the herbicide he'd been using for the past couple years. As his health deteriorated, Johnson became the face of a David-and-Goliath legal...

[Read more](#)

sustainablepulse.com

NWR NOW CARRIES SEEDS FROM

NATIVE AMERICAN SEED COMPANY

\$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. Check your published entry!*
- EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED***

TUES-TUES, MAY 6-10: "MOWING GOATS RETURN TO HOUSTON ARBORETUM. 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

SAT MAY 7: HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY ANNUAL DAYLILY SALE, 9am-2pm, 5705 Pinemont Dr. Inventory: 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

TUES., MAY 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7pm, (ZOOM & in-person), Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-796-7185

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

THURS., MAY 12: ROSES! ANYONE CAN GROW THEMby **MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**. 6-7:30pm. \$5. Register: 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/

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/

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/

TUES., MAY 17: SUCCULENTS (virtual), 11am-noon, Harris County Master Gardeners/Harris County Public Library event. Free. facebook.com/harriscountyp/1/events/

SAT., MAY 21: LONE STAR DAYLILY SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE, Sale: 10am-4pm; Show: 1-4pm, Epiphany Lutheran Church, 5515 Broadway, Pearland. lonestarydaylilyociety.org

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

THURS., MAY 26: IN THE GARDEN – SUMMER PLANTINGby **CAROL BURTON & MEAGAN TERRY**, 6:30-8pm 3302 Canal St. Urban Harvest event. 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/

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/

SAT., JUN 11: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 9am-1pm, 5002 NASA Parkway, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook, 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/

WED., JUN.15: CULTURAL CONNECTIONS--ROSELLE HIBISCUS: PRODUCTION TO MARKETING (Zoom) by **STEDMAN DOUGLAS**, 6-7pm.

Urban Harvest event. 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/

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

TUES., JULY 12: GROWING PLUMERIAS, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. 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/

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/

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/

SAT., JULY 23: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 5002 NASA Parkway, 9am-1pm, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook. 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/

TUES., AUG.2: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES FOR FALL (Zoom) by **SHERRY CRUSE**, 7-8:30pm. Urban Harvest event. 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/

SAT., AUG.13: FALL WORKSHOP: FRUIT TREE CARE (Zoom) by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30am-11:30am. Urban Harvest event. 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/

TUES., OCT 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie

Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-796-7185

* * *



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!

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





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 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.

