



June-24-2022 | Issue 441

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



FIREFLIES, CRAPE EXPLOSION 'JOYS' OF HEAT GARDENING

*"Far, far away is my village!
Where fireflies of my childhood
Still glow in thick foliage
Of Pipal trees."*

["A Village Far Far Away"](#) by Naseer Ahmed Nasir

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

SHADES OF OUR YOUTH Since most of us are "thinking about" — more than actually "doing" — gardening these days, this might be a good time to broaden our horizons to include fireflies. Or rather, to hope for their return.

National Pollinator Week ends this Sunday (June 26). Are fireflies on your great pollinators list? Most of the 2,000 firefly species are active pollinators of flowering plants. Larvae eat snails, slugs, grubs and many worms.

Fireflies are disappearing mainly due to habitat loss, light pollution and toxic chemicals in environments where they usually start their lives. It's not likely

you'll see many, if any, in heavily populated areas. But maybe someday, if enough of us try hard enough, they will return, even if just for their normal short season (4+/- weeks).

Fireflies are still out there, assures Texas firefly guru, **BEN PFEIFFER**, whose firefly.org website contains these, and more, [great firefly pictures](#). Ben, a Texas Master Naturalist, founded the nonprofit **Firefly Conservation & Research** in 2009. In our **Spotlight Article** below, Ben shares tips for helping them return.



L to r: Adult Lampyridae (firefly), Ben Pfeiffer and a "sparkle," (large firefly group). Photos courtesy of Firefly.org

If you think you might be seeing fireflies in your garden, know they're not the only insects that glow at night. Before you get too excited, check these out: firefly.org/bioluminescent-insects.html

The Smokey Mountains, it's said, have our largest firefly populations. For local sightings, Ben recommends an in-season night visit to [Armand Bayou Nature Center](#) (where Ben serves as a volunteer trainer). Although their firefly-watching events have ended (season has passed) click link above to get on their newsletter mailing list that will alert you to firefly tours. In our **Spotlight Article** below Ben tells us how to welcome fireflies back into our lives and landscapes, and hopefully to earn a Firefly Habitat Certification! (*sign pictured*)



Meanwhile . . .

* * *



TEXAS TOUGH NOW-BLOOMER! Several readers are looking for specific variety names of incredible crape myrtles with exploding colors now in area commercial parking lots, on esplanades and in other heat-intensive public sites, not to mention home landscapes.

LESLIE in Kingwood really wants the name of specific neon purple crape in the parking lot at [Warren's Garden Center](#) on North Park Blvd. Warren's Dante said these are so old, no one knows, but suspects they might be 'Catawba' (6'-10', *pictured*)

Below, Dante's (*albeit unseen*) guesses on other readers' crape queries are (*left and center*) 'Tuscarora' (*coral pink*; 15') and 'Dynamite Cherry' (*fire engine red*; 15-20'). Another reader sent in a picture-to-ID of (*below right*). This one is

Peppermint Lace' (pink/red/white; 5'-6', a shrub!)



But . . . here's the runic catch. Some growers take cuttings of named, specially-hybridized crapes, grow their own inventory, then put a NEW name on them. So who knows? ALSO . . .

- Read labels for heights to expect -- or even be exceeded in our subtropical area! Trees can reach 20-30+ feet. Shrubs: 5'-6'. To be safe, shop a nursery you REALLY trust.
- Think twice before putting in a new crape covered with blooms right now. These flowers have likely been forced with plant-stressing bloom hormones. Ditto for tons of buds. Flowers will come but it will take longer for plants to set good roots, so vital but not an easy task in this heat.



PS. Our native (only to Texas) crape, [Malpighia glabra](#) (wild [crapemyrtle](#)) is *Malpighiaceae* family member, not even closely related to *Lagerstroemia indica*, our familiar Asian crepe. Natives enthusiasts know it as Barbados cherry.

(Note: Is it crape or crepe? Botanically, it's crape. Southern slang: crepe, cause it looks like crepe paper)

BACK TO GARDENING IN THIS HEAT, overwhelming generalizations in advice and sometimes a surprising lack of common sense are very confusing, especially for those new to gardening in this area. For example, "full sun" for a plant usually translates morning + noon + afternoon sun. And, for us, this is generally true for tomatoes, roses and many natives/drought-tolerant plants.

But these days, one must be plant-specific about many other common garden choices, for which 100° +/- afternoon temps can mean a wipe-out of all top growth. That does NOT mean the plants are dead forever. But this is small comfort for someone who's spent months getting a landscape to look just right.

Variables can make a huge difference. Common sense will help a LOT:

- Plants close to walls, or by hardscapes, like concrete or patio paving, absorb more reflected heat than those surrounded by other plants.
- Soil in a container will heat up much faster than ground soil. Mulch keeps soil cooler.
- No matter what a plant label says when you buy it, if you put it in a container on a patio in full day sun and it's wilting badly, get it out of the afternoon sun!
- If it's inground or too heavy to move, rig up some shading device -- like a cheap umbrella from the dollar store! -- angled to protect the leaves from afternoon sun (noon-6pm).

MAKE ROOTS A PRIORITY IF YOU HATE TO RISK LOSING IT: No matter

how tough or highly-recommended a garden-type plant may have been, 100° temps WILL stress it. Hedge your bets. Focus extra attention on the roots.

Pile on the leaves, pine needles or purchased mulch (avoid heat-absorbing black or other dyed mulch!). Water with the hose stuck down by the plant base so water goes downward next to where roots are.

XERISCAPING is a great "low-water, heat-tolerant" technique for us in summer. But, unfortunately, heat and drought aren't our only challenges.

When our monsoon rains come, drought-tolerant "Xeriscape"-type plants are the first at risk. They are not genetically programmed to handle extended periods of very wet soil, especially not in our poorly-draining gumbo soil. If you do want to go the Xeriscape route, make sure the site is VERY well drained! It's dangerous to try and predict our weather. But we can always count on our heat, droughts and our monsoons.

* * *

POTPOURRI:

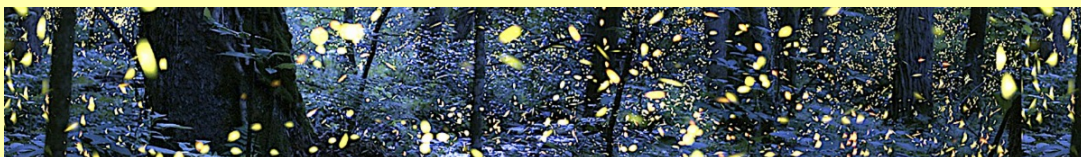
- **NEXT WEEK: GETTING READY FOR FALL TOMATOES AND HOW TO GET A JUMP START!**

NOW, BACK TO FIREFLIES . . . !

* * *

*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*

* * *



)HELP FIREFLIES TO RETURN TO URBAN LANDSCAPES!

**By BEN PFEIFFER
FIREFLY.ORG**

All photos courtesy of FIREFLY.ORG

The recent dry conditions over the last 6 months plus unseasonably higher temperatures have contributed to a rather poor and very short firefly season

this year. Areas that have consistent moisture are still creating some great firefly flashing displays though.

The last two years of more extreme freezes have also contributed to reduced numbers of fireflies in the last 2 years mainly due to the depth at which the ground froze in many areas. While this likely killed some larvae, it also killed many of the insects these larvae feed on.

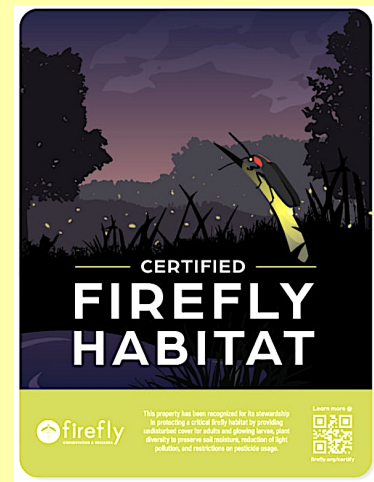
Those of you who live in suburban areas can help urban firefly populations. Things you can do:

- **Locate remnant or existing populations** of fireflies in your area. So a scouting mission to discover new populations.
- **Look at the property surrounding these locations.** Are their public parks, preserves, suburban backyards? Of these which ones would be good candidates to create pollinator/gardens/or native plantings? Focus on trying to rehabilitate these. Most urban fireflies populations are severely fragmented. They need new territory to expand.
- **Suburban neighborhoods.** One of the best things homeowners can do is either create a native plant garden or a vegetable garden. Gardeners tend to be fireflies best friends in these areas. They bring in enriched soil, nutrients, etc.. that create some of the beneficial elements for firefly to repopulate previously expatriated areas.
- **Certify your Firefly Habitat!** The first-of-its-kind Firefly Habitat Certification program launched earlier this year. Commit to providing essential elements needed to create and sustain a healthy habitat for adult and larval fireflies. Learn more at firefly.org/certify and how to purchase a sign with a free guide.

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- Check out these videos:
 - **Fireflies of Texas** by Ben Pfeffier [youtube.com/watch?v=6Zr3cFpmrco/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zr3cFpmrco/)
 - **Central Texas Gardener video:** firefly.org/ben-pfeiffer — an interview with Ben by Linda Lehmusvirta, *Central Texas Gardener* producer, writer & editor.
- Check with [Armand Bayou Nature Center](#) for nighttime events
- **(BEN ANYTHING WANT TO ADD -- UPCOMING EVENTS, APPEARANCES AND/OR TRAINING PROGRAMS?)**



* * *



John's Corner



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 201

Bio-Solids or Sewage Sludge Revealed

Part 1 of 4

Yesterday I was listening in on a City of Houston Solid Waste Department hosting an internet meeting on recycling organics. Several of the companies in our area that are composting sewage sludge are banding together and are pressuring TNLA (Texas Nursery and Landscape Association) to recommend it for use in landscaping and for sale in our nurseries and garden centers! This includes encouraging Landscape Architects to specify it in their projects.

Historically, biosolids (sewage sludge) have been dealt with common disposal practices including ocean dumping, landfilling, and incineration. When sewage sludge is buried in landfill it creates many problems hence landfill operators do not want it. Incineration creates toxic gasses and is very expensive and ocean dumping has been outlawed due to extreme environmental damage it causes. As a result, disposal prices are rising.

To save money many cities are pelletizing it to sell as fertilizer or composting it. There is a limited market for this toxic material, hence several companies are using it in bagged products to sell to gardeners and homeowners. These companies believe that our yards and gardens are the perfect dumping ground for this toxic waste. These companies do not care about you, your family and children or your pets, all they want is your money.

A question I often hear is "Why does the EPA allow this to happen?" The answer is simple, the EPA is run by the companies they are supposed to regulate.

For example, last week the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found the EPA failed to follow established guidelines for determining cancer risk, ignored important studies, ignored advice from scientific advisory panels, ignored their own scientists, and declared that the herbicide glyphosate was not carcinogenic. The court also found that the EPA's ruling was in violation of the Endangered Species Act in its assessment of glyphosate.

Hence the nick name of the **Enhanced Profit Agency**.

The EPA no longer protects people, they just protect corporate interests, and this is what occurs with sewage sludge (aka Biosolids). More on this below.

Let's start our review of this issue with the following excellent article by Dr. Snyder:

Ten Government-Industry Myths about Biosolids

Caroline Snyder Ph.D.*

MYTH NO. 1: For more than 2000 years industrial waste and sewage sludge have been land-applied as soil amendments. (Source: EPA i)

FACT: The myriad hazardous industrial chemical wastes found concentrated in modern treated sewage sludges (biosolids), including pesticides, pharmaceuticals, plasticizers, flame retardants and growth hormones to mention a few, did not even exist until recent decades.

MYTH NO. 2: Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic fertilizers. (Source: EPA ii)

FACT: It's highly deceptive to call mixtures of many thousands of industrial chemical pollutants "nutrient-rich", simply because several of the pollutants are nitrogen and phosphorus compounds found in commercial fertilizers. Biosolids produced from sewage sludges generated in industrial urban centers are undoubtedly the most pollutant-rich materials on Earth. When applied to land, industrial pollutants in biosolids re-enter aquatic systems and are magnified up the food chain. iii

MYTH NO. 3: Over 99% of biosolids is composed of water, organic matter, sand, silt, and common natural elements. (Source: NEBRA iv)

FACT: It's also deceptive to call mixtures of many thousands of industrial chemical pollutants "natural," especially when EPA and the biosolids industry are targeting consumers who use the words "natural" and "organic" to mean free of synthetic chemical contaminants.

MYTH NO. 4: Biosolids are essentially pathogen free. (Source: State of California v)

FACT: Many if not most pathogenic (disease-causing) bacteria and viruses can survive treatment processes used to produce biosolids (Class A and Class B); and many dangerous pathogens, such as *Salmonella* and *Staphylococcus*, can re-grow to high levels in biosolids, which is mostly comprised of human feces. vi New research indicates that sewage sludge treatment facilities are actually breeding grounds for antibiotic-resistant pathogens. vii

MYTH NO. 5: Infectious prions will not survive wastewater treatment and therefore, are not present in land-applied biosolids. (Source: U. Arizona viii)

FACT: The latest research shows that prions survive wastewater treatment processes. ix

MYTH NO. 6: Biosolids are not sources of pathogens or toxicants. Sludge syndrome is a somatic disease triggered by biosolids odors and by fears raised in the community and through the media. (Source: Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association x)

FACT: Odors from biosolids are a warning that the material is emitting disease causing pathogens and biological toxins, e.g., endotoxins. Peer-reviewed scientific studies have demonstrated that resulting health effects are not

MYTH NO. 7: Allegations of health problems linked to biosolids exposure are urban myths. (Source: NEBRA xii)

FACT: Many hundreds of sludge-exposed rural neighbors have reported chronic respiratory, skin and gastrointestinal conditions consistent with exposures to the types of chemical and biological contaminants found in biosolids. The relationship between land application of biosolids and such adverse health effects has been documented in valid scientific studies, including the peer-reviewed scientific literature. xiii

MYTH NO. 8: Treatment breaks down most organic chemical pollutants. (Source: NEBRA xiv)

FACT: EPA's 2009 Targeted National Sewage Sludge Survey of 74 sewage treatment plants in 38 states, which sampled 145 industrial chemical pollutants, found them in every sample. xv Their concentration ranges often topped ppm-levels and higher, exceeding concentrations considered safe in drinking water by orders of magnitude. Moreover, the breakdown products from organic chemical pollutants are often more harmful than the parent compounds. xvi

MYTH NO. 9: Biosolids contaminants are tightly bound to soil and do not become bioavailable. According to Rufus Chaney, "You can put enough heavy metals in the soil to kill the crop but that crop is still safe for human consumption." (Source: USDA xvii)

FACT: EPA and the USDA buried studies demonstrating heavy metals in biosolids exceeding current levels permitted by EPA caused liver and kidney damage in farm animals grazing on fields treated with biosolids. xviii. After EPA promulgated the current sludge rule in 1992, it worked with the Water Environment Federation to establish the "National Biosolids Public Acceptance Campaign." EPA's Office of Inspector General investigated EPA's efforts to silence Dr. David Lewis, one of its top scientists who documented adverse health effects, and concluded that EPA could not assure the public that land application of biosolids is safe. xix

MYTH NO. 10: US sludge regulations that govern the land application of biosolids (40 CFR Part 503) are completely protective, based on science and valid risk assessment models. (Source: NEBRA xx)

FACT: A 1999 Cornell Waste Management Institute paper concluded that the 503s do not protect human health, agriculture, or the environment. xxi The 503s regulate only nine metals plus inorganic nutrients (N, P). Even though industry can legally discharge any amount of hazardous waste into sewage treatment plants, the rules are based on chemical-by-chemical risk assessment which ignores the effects of mixtures and interactions. The 2002 NRC biosolids panel recognized this and concluded that "*is not possible to conduct a risk assessment for biosolids at this time (or perhaps ever) that will lead to risk-management strategies that will provide adequate health protection without some form of ongoing monitoring and surveillance . . . the degree of uncertainty requires some form of active health and environmental tracking.*" xxii

Application 2005; JEQ, 34,1:174.

ii EPA Fact Sheet.

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/wastewater/treatment/biosolids/>

iii Hale, R.C., M.J. LaGuardia, E.P. Harvey, M.O. Gaylor, T.M. Mainor, and W.H. Duff. Persistent pollutants in land applied sludges. *Nature* 412:140-141.

iv NEBRA, Response to Toxic Action Center's Toxic Sludge in Our Communities. March 3, 2003.

v CalRecycle. <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/biosolids/>

vi Gattie, DK and DL Lewis. 2004. A high-level disinfection standard for land-applied sewage sludge (biosolids). *Environ. Health Perspect.* 112:126-31.

vii Gibbs, RA et al. 1997. Re-growth of faecal coliforms and salmonellae in stored biosolids and soil amended with biosolids. *Water Science and Technology* 35 (11-12).

viii Miles S.L; Takizawa, C.P. Gerba, and I.L. Pepper. 2011. Survival of Infectious Prions in Class B Biosolids. *J.Env..Sci. & Hlth.* 46: 364-370.

ix Kaplan N. Prions' Great Escape.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080701/full/news.2008.926.html>

x Toffey, W.E. Biosolids Odorant Emissions as a Cause of Somatic Disease. Presentation to the 2007 North East Biosolids & Residuals Conference & Exhibit. Philadelphia Water Department. December 4, 2007.

xi Shusterman, D. 1992. Critical review; the health significance of environmental odor pollution. *Arch.Environ.Health* 47:76-87.

xii NEBRA March 3, 2003 op.cit p. 10.

xiii Lewis, D. L. et al. 2002. Interactions of pathogens and irritant chemicals in land-applied sewage sludges (biosolids) BMC 2:11.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/2/11>; Lewis, DL, Gattie DK.

2002. Pathogen risks from applying sewage sludge to land *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 36:286A-293A; Ghosh, J. 2005. Bioaerosols Generated from Biosolids Applied Farm Fields in Wood County, Ohio. Master of Science Thesis, Graduate College of Bowling Green State University. Abstract by Robert K Vincent, Advisor.

www.ohiolink.edu/etd/sendpdf.cgi/Ghosh%20Jaydeep.pdf?bgsu1131322484;

Khuder, S. et al. *Arch. Environ. Occup. Health* 2007; 62, 5–11.

xiv NEBRA. March 3, op.cit. p. 22.

xv USEPA. Biosolids: Targeted National Sewage Sludge Survey Report - Overview, January 2009, EPA 822-R-08-014.

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/wastetech/biosolids/tnsss-overview.cfm>; See also Jennifer G. Sepulvado, Andrea C. Blaine, Lakhwinder S. Hundal, and Christopher P. Higgins. Occurrence and Fate of Perfluorochemicals in Soil Following the Land Application of Municipal Biosolids. *Environmental Science and Technology*, Publication Date (Web): March 29, 2011 (Article) DOI: 10.1021/es103903d

xvi DL Lewis, W Garrison, KE Wommack, A Whittemore, P Steudler, J Melillo. Influence of environmental changes on degradation of chiral pollutants in soils. *Nature* 1999; 401:898-901; Paris DF, Lewis DL. Chemical and microbial degradation of ten selected pesticides in aquatic systems. *Residue reviews* 1973; 45:95-124.

xvii MD Abernethy, "To sludge or not to sludge?: At summit, scientists discuss risks," Interview with R. Chaney, USDA. Green Consumer Headlines, Times-News, May 2, 2010.

<http://www.managemylife.com/mmh/articles/curated/278108>

xviii US EPA Report: EPA-600/S1-81-026, 232 p. (Apr. 1981). "Sewage Sludge – Viral and Pathogenic Agents in Soil-Plant-Animal Systems." G.T. Edds and J.M. Davidson, Institute of Food and Agricultural Systems, University of

Florida. An EPA Project Summary is available at <http://nepis.epa.gov/> by searching 600S181026 or key words in the title of the report.

xix U.S. EPA Office of Inspector General Status Report - Land Application of Biosolids, 2002-S-000004, Mar. 28, 2002.
www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2002/BIOSOLIDS_FINAL_REPORT.pdf

xx NEBRA, "Is biosolids recycling safe? How do we know?"
<http://www.nebiosolids.org/index.php?page=faqs>

xxi Harrison, E.Z. McBride M.B. and Bouldin D.R. Land application of sewage sludges: an appraisal of the US regulations. International Journal of Environment and Pollution, Vol.11, No.1. 1-36. Retrieved at <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/PDFS/LandApp.pdf>. See also Case for Caution Revisited 2008 (revised 2009) retrieved at <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/case.pdf>.
<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/PDFS/LandApp.pdf>. The 503 sludge rule can be found at <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/wastetech/biosolids/upload/fr2-19-93.pdf>

xxii National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council. Biosolids Applied to Land: Advancing Standards and Practices, National Academy Press, Jul. 2, 2002. www.nap.edu/books/0309084865/html, *Citizens for Sludge-Free Land www.sludgefacts.org 9-6-13

I will add:

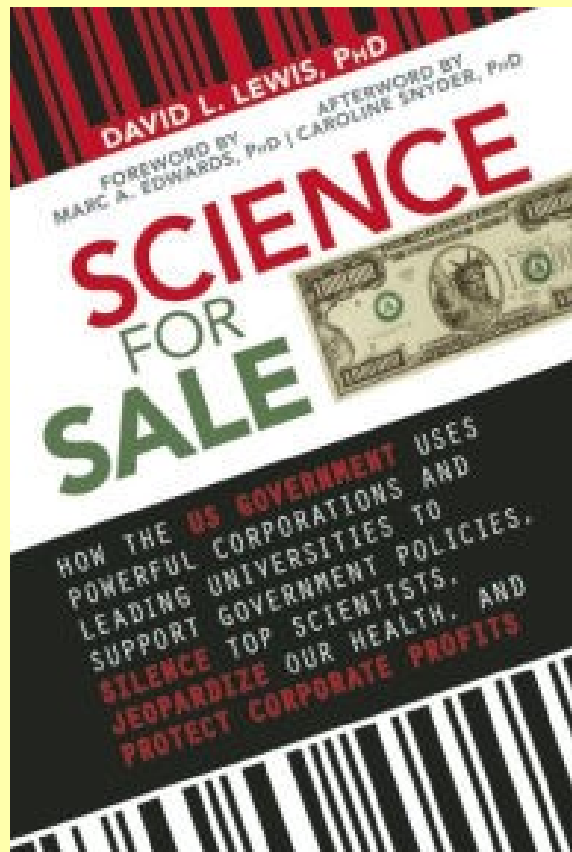
MYTH NO. 11: The EPA often states they did not find any toxins in the sample.

FACT: This statement often means the EPA never tested for the toxic chemical in question. If one does not test of course, they will not find anything.

There is a very good book on how the government (EPA), falsified safety data on sewage sludge and the following cover up, by a whistle blower Dr. David Lewis. Evidence presented in Federal courts confirmed Dr. Lewis's testimony.

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

Note: All proceeds from this book go to the National Whistle Blower's Center (www.whistleblowers.org)



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

SAT., JUNE 25, CAPTIVATING CARNIVOROUS PLANTS. 9am-noon, [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#), 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble. 713-274-4160.

SAT., JUNE 25: POLLINATOR WORKSHOP AND BIOBLITZ. Native Bees by **MICHAEL ECKENFELS**, 8am-noon, Lawther-Deer Park Prairie. Register: Della_Barbato@TexasPrairie.org

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

THURS., JULY 7: IDENTIFYING PEST & DISEASE ISSUES IN THE GARDEN (virtual) by **PAUL WINSKI**, 10am, Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: homegrown2022.eventbrite.com

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

MON., JULY 11, FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 10-11:30am. Free. Houston Community College event. Register: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

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

THURS., JULY 12: CHASING A DREAM by **STEVE ROUSSELL** (virtual & in person), 7-8:30pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd. Houston Rose Society event. Free. (Virtual: meet.goto.com/917509069)

SAT., JULY 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/

MON., JULY 18: GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event.

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

TUES., JULY 19, FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 11am-noon, free. Harris County Public Library event via Facebook Live: facebook.com/harriscountyp/levents/

SAT., JULY 23: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 5002 NASA Parkway, 9am-1pm, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook. theplumeriasociety.org, 281-796-7185

SAT., JULY 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 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.

