



Sept-2-2022 | Issue 451

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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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PRUNE MY ROSES NOW? FIGHT OUR DROUGHTS WITH SUCCULENTS & CACTI

*"We know that in September, we will wander
through the warm winds of summer's
wreckage. We will welcome summer's ghost."*

– Henry Rollins, American poet/entertainer

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Whether your roses thrilled or disappointed you this past spring, know the best is yet to come. Fall has always been our best rose blooming season. With this in mind, how are our rose experts at the Houston Rose Society coping with recent weather challenges?

KAREN GERLACH has quizzed members who share their experiences and advice below. Mark your calendars: Houston Rose Society Fall Show and Sale

dates will soon be announced! Many of these tips work for other plantings too:



SURVIVED ONE GRUELING SUMMER? WHAT'S NEXT IN OUR GARDENING ADVENTURES?

Compiled by
KAREN GERLACH
Houston Rose Society
houstonrose.org

As weather cools, Fall is a great time to get out in the garden and assess where we are and where we want to go for the following year. In the Houston region, fall is a wonderful time to:

- Plant perennials. Plenty of time to let plants get established before our relatively mild winters.
- Regularly water if there is no rain in the forecast. We will still have fluctuating temperatures.
- Don't get frustrated if new plantings don't reach their expected "full size."
- Focus on root establishment during fall planting. When the plants bounce back after winter, they are more apt to go gangbusters! Remember, plants need to start a strong, healthy root system and the top growth will follow naturally!

PRUNING

Some sources state you should be pruning your roses in the fall to encourage blooming. This is true, with the caveat this 'pruning' is nothing like the hard pruning we do in February.

The best way to describe this is you're giving your roses a "haircut" — **'SUSAN KELLY**, Consulting Rosarian. This is the time to trim dead branches or limbs encroaching on walkways. Some rosarians even time their pruning 35 to 45 days in advance of the Rose Shows!

If you have never entered one, [Houston Rose Society](http://houstonrose.org) sponsors spring and fall shows. This is a great way to share the beauty of your garden and brighten someone's day. Who knows, you may even score some special prizes.

MULCHING

August and September are great months to replenish that mulch layer about 3" thick — **GAYE HAMMOND**, Master Rosarian. The summer heat has caused

spring-applied mulch to break down, a good thing as the breakdown products feed your plants and enrich your soil. Replenishing your mulch layer will lessen your watering frequency, help build your soil health, and help protect your plant's root system during freezes.

FERTILIZING

We are approaching our last fertilizing cycle for the year in early September. **MARY FULGHAM**, Master Rosarian, says a granular fertilizer can be spread widely around the plant base. When we fertilize we are stimulating new plant growth. **WARNING:** if we fertilize, say in November, -- *just an example and please do not do this!* -- all the new, tender growth will be more susceptible to freeze damage come December and January.

The big annual Houston Rose Society Fall Show & Sale dates have not yet been announced. Check houstonrose.org for updates. In the meantime . . .

At the Thurs., Sept. 8: Houston Rose Society meeting, 7pm, Mark Windham, Ph.D., retired Distinguished Professor of Ornamental Pathology at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. will discuss safety with treatments in the garden. <https://meet.goto.com/614327597>. Details: See calendar or log on: houstonrose.org/hrsmeet.htm.

KAREN GERLACH, Consulting Rosarian and Master Gardener points out how, after going through loads of "science school," she enjoys learning how to use science to understand and explain her late grandmother's "gardening magic." (**KAREN's full article:** urbanharvest.org/2022/08/31/insectary-gardens/)

* * *

GWEN BARCLAY (1938-Aug.15, 2022) will be missed by so many, especially herb growers. Gwen, recognized worldwide as a leading herbalist, celebrated 50 years with the South Texas Unit/Herb Society of America (Pioneer Unit founding member). Gwen and her mom -- internationally acclaimed herbalist Madalene Hill (1913-2009) -- created their dream herb gardens at Festival Institute at Round Top. For more on Gwen, check [Bao Ong's article](#) in the Houston Chronicle.



* * *



From L to R: *Myrtillocactus geometrizans fukurokuryuzinbok* (Boobie cactus), *Alluaudia humbertii* (Pseudo Ocotillo), *Cereus forbesii spiralis*

This past summer's heat & drought have taken major tolls on many plants. No wonder folks are turning to more desert plants! A good place to start? Houston Cactus & Succulent Society's upcoming Sept. 16-17 Fall Sale.

Go early! Popular plants abound, but serious growers from points afar are always attracted to the rare offerings, including *Myrtillocactus geometrizans fukurokuryuzinboku* (Boobie cactus), *Euphorbia milii* (white and red flowers *pictured at top of column*).

Also, *Euphorbia decaryi*, *Euphorbia pseudocactus* 'zig zag', and other Euphorbias and *Faucaria tigrina* (tiger jaws plant). *Euphorbia horrida* (grey-white hybrid), *Kalanchoe Beharensis* (Elephant ear succulent), *Sedum corynephyllum* (Toliman Stonecrop), *Copiapoa humilis*, *Gymnocalycium*s, *Melocactus*, *Acanthocereus tetragonus* (Fairy castle cactus), *Cereus fernambucensis* 'cristata', *Consolea rubescens* (Road kill cactus). Also Mammillarias, Opuntias, Haworthias, Aloes, Gasterias, Agaves and more.

Have questions about nonperforming cacti or succulents? Bring pictures(**NOT PLANTS!**). Ask advice from our local (many internationally known) experts!

* * *

POTPOURRI . . .

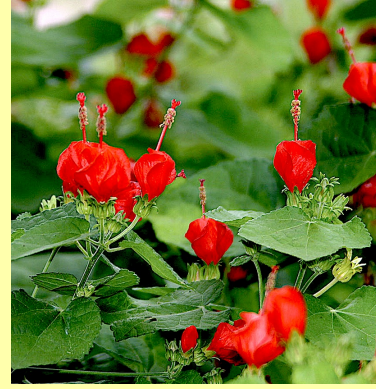
- **YOUR NIGHT LIGHTING** -- Curious about how your landscape's night lighting is impacting both your electric bill and global warming, plus new products that might help reduce both? [*International Dark-Sky Assn*](#)
- **PLANT SWAPS?** I hope to highlight a list of Greater Houston Area (**ONLY!**) Plant Swaps open to public. If you have one coming up in our area, email info to [*lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com*](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)
- **MISSING LG&F NEWSLETTER ISSUES?** Occasionally faithful subscribers are mysteriously, unknowingly, dropped from our Constant Contact email list (even happened to John & me!). When I try to restore dropped emails, CC says readers "unsubscribed" and cannot be re-entered. Readers say never did! Only Nature's Way Resources main office can restore them. If you realize you're missing issues, email me at [*lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com*](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com). I can send you missed issues.

* * *

CAN'T RESIST SHARING . . .

- **BIG MAC FOR BEIJA-FLOR*? DORIS HEARD** notes Turk's Cap is a great plant for hummingbirds, particularly in September, when many migrate through our area. Besides red color and heavy fall blooming, our native Turk's Cap (up-pointing flowers *pictured*) quickly renews its nectar to

be ready for the next visitor! Doris likes "to think of it as McDonald's for hummingbirds!" *Beija-Flor" (Flower Kisser), is Portuguese for hummingbird!



*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*

**A lot of folks have asked for heirloom and non-GMO seeds. We listened,
and now we offer Bentley seeds!**



VEGETABLE/HERB/FLOWER SEEDS

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- | | |
|--|---|
| Forget Me Not-Firmament-Cynoglossum amabile | Eggplant, Black Beauty Seed Packets - 22 |
| Marigold-Crackerjack Mixed-Tagetes erecta | Kale, Dwarf Siberian Seed Packets - 594 |
| Morning Glory Mixed Colors-Ipomoea | Lettuce, Simpson's Curled Seed Packets - 29 |
| Sunflower-Mammoth-Helianthus annuus | Lettuce, Parris Island Romaine Seed Packets - 452 |
| Sunflower, All Sorts Mix | Lettuce, Buttercrunch Seed Packets - 24 |
| Zinnia-Lilliput Mixed Colors-Zinnia elegans | Mustard, Southern Giant Curled Seed Packets - 30 |
| Basil, Genovese Seed Packets - 3 | Onion, Evergreen Bunching Seed Packets - 32 |
| Catnip Seed Packets - 63 | Onion, Sweet Yellow Seed Packets - 589 |
| Garlic Chives Seed Packets - 556 | Pepper, Long Red Cayenne Seed Packets - 38 |
| Cilantro, Coriander Seed Packets - 66 | Pepper, California Wonder Seed Packets - 37 |
| Dill, Long Island Mammoth Seed Packets - 68 | Peas, Sugar Ann Snap Seed Packets - 36 |
| Parsley, Plain Italian Seed Packets - 73 | Pumpkin, Jack O'Lantern Seed Packets - 40 |
| Arugula, Rouquette Seed Packets - 567 | Pumpkin, Small Sugar "NEW" |
| Beans, Provider Seed Packets - 5 | Radish, Cherry Belle Seed Packets - 41 |
| Beets, Detroit Seed Packets - 8 | Radish, Sparkler Seed Packets - 43 |
| Brussel Sprouts-Long Island Improved | Spinach, Bloomsdale Savoy Seed Packets - 44 |
| Cabbage, Pak Choi "NEW" | Squash, Acorn Seed Packets - 45 |
| Cabbage, Copenhagen Market Seed Packets - 10 | Squash, Yellow Crookneck Seed Packets - 48 |
| Cantaloupe, Hale's Best Seed Packets - 12 | Squash, Zucchini Seed Packets - 49 |
| Carrot, Nantes Seed Packets - 14 | Tomato, Ace |
| Celery, Tall Utah "NEW" | Tomato, Cherry |
| Corn-Golden Bantam 8 Row | Turnip, Purple White Globe Seed Packets - 57 |
| Corn, Pearls & Gold Seed Packets - 18 | Watermelon, Sugar Baby Seed Packets - 60 |
| Cucumber, Boston Pickling Seed Packets - 19 | |
| Cucumber, Marketmore 76 Seed Packets - 20 | |

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John's Corner



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 211

From the book "Unlocking the KETO Code" by Steven Gundry, MD there are a few tidbits for gardeners:

Another study has found more damage from eating foods with glyphosate (Roundup) on them. Glyphosate harms our microbiome and causes what's known as "leaky gut". It was also found to disrupt the uncoupling mechanism which impairs our mitochondria's ability to repair itself (in other words it is

linked to causing an increased rate of aging in humans).

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) cause damage to our cells, contribute to cancer, and damage our mitochondria. The body uses healthy fats and melatonin to prevent the damage.

The following foods are high in melatonin with organically raised vegetables having the highest levels: pistachios, mushrooms, black pepper, red and black rice, mustard seeds, olive oil, brewed coffee, red wine, cranberries, almonds, basmati rice, purslane, tart cherries, strawberries, and flaxseed.

An international team of scientists published a study in the journal I-Science (2022) on insect repelling chemicals in plants. They found that when plants like catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) and silver vine (*Actinidia polygama*) have their leaves crushed, they emit chemicals called iridoids which are natural insect pest deterrents.

When the leaves are crushed, silver vine emits 10 times more of these chemicals and catnip 20 times. This is why when cats play with a leaf it starts emitting these chemicals which then sends them into a leaf tearing frenzy. These emissions then encourage cats to roll on the leaves to coat themselves with these chemicals as part of their pest deterrent system.

The researchers also found that both of these plants repel mosquitos.

A study published in the journal Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems (2022) has found that meat and milk from pasture raised animals have much higher levels of health promoting phytonutrients – terpenoids phenols, carotenoids and antioxidants.

These beneficial compounds become concentrated in their meat and milk, and they are known to have anti-inflammatory and anti-carcinogenic effects. I am reading an excellent new book called “What Your Food Ate – How to Heal our Land and Reclaim our Health” that goes into more detail as to how and why this is true. I will review the book in future newsletters. Remember the gardening proverb: “Healthy Soil = Healthy Plants = Healthy Animals and People”.

Every day we learn more and more the importance of soil biology and how it relates to plant and animal health. The June 2022 issue of Acres, USA magazine had a nice article by Steve Diver whom is the horticultural research farms manager for the University of Kentucky.

In modern soil science we often talk about soil biology and fungal to bacterial ratios (F:B) and how they affect plant growth. We now know that invasive weeds require bacterial dominated soil, improved pastures and grasses are slightly bacterial dominated, while native grasses, vines, shrubs and trees are strongly fungal dominated.

This is one of the reasons our famous leaf mold compost is so effective on turf grass as it is almost F:B of 50:50. Our fungal compost for perennials, shrubs, and trees is a F:B of 80:20.

As I explain when I give talks to garden clubs, when we apply a chemical fungicide to our yards to control diseases like brown patch, we kill off all the fungi in the soil both good and bad. This leaves the soil very bacterial dominated, hence this is why the weed problems always get worse after using a fungicide.

A good introductory video on soil biology titled “**Life In The Soil**” can be found on U-Tube here:



Another good video titled “**Living Soil**” is here:



I often talk about the importance of minerals (more correctly called trace elements) and how they benefit our plants and our health. From our study of all

the elements a while back we learned that small amounts of aluminum (Al) are good for soils and plants. However, large amounts create many problems from disease in the soil and in our plants, to several human health problems like Alzheimer's disease.

The newspaper the Epoch Times (June 22-28, 2022) issue had a nice article on aluminum and how we are exposed to it. It also covered how to protect ourselves from excess aluminum (Al) and clear our bodies of it.



Higher Concentrations of Aluminum in the Brains of Those With Alzheimer's, Autism, and MS

The human body is an electrochemical miracle. While we often think of it as a fleshy machine of sorts, it can be more likened to a constantly changing collection of chemicals and electrical signals that's continuously rebuilding itself and responding to your mental state, food, air intake, physical activity, and environment.

[Read More](#)

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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!*
- *Always check to make sure your event is listed. if not let Brenda know*

EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

TUES., SEPT. 6: BASIC ORGANIC GARDENING CLASS 1 (Zoom, 4-part series), by UHI GARDEN EDU, 6-7:30pm, Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

THURS., SEPT. 8: TREATMENT SAFETY by MARK WINDHAM, Ph.D, (virtual) , 7-9pm, Houston Rose Society/Houston event. Free. meet.goto.com/614327597

FRI., SEPT. 9-29: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FRUIT AND NUT TREE SALE online order portal open while supplies last. Pickup Sat. Oct.
1. txmg.org/wallermg. 979-826-7651

FRI-SAT, SEPT. 9-10: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SUNDOWN SALE. Online. Details/Shop: store.galvestonmg.org

FRI-SAT, SEP 9-10: SUMMER SUNDOWN SALE by **GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, Noon-Noon. Online. Details and shop: store.galvestonmg.org or 281-786-6834.

SAT., SEPT. 10: INSECTARY GARDENS, HOW TO ATTRACT THE GOOD GUYS by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30 AM. Urban Harvest event.
urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

SAT, SEP 10: ONIONS & GARLIC by **KEVIN LANCON**, 9-11 am., AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4012-B, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free.
Register: txmg.org/galveston; 281-309-4065

SAT, SEP 10: HERBS FOR GULF COAST by **BRIANA ETIE & NANCY LANGSTON-NOH**, 1-3 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4012-B, La Marque. Galveston Cty Master Gardeners. Free. Register: galveston.agrilife.org/event/; 281-309-4065

SUN., SEPT. 11: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ONLINE FALL PLANT SALE, 9am-8pm. Pickup: Sept. 17-18, Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824 Details & inventory mcmga.square.site/s/shop

MON., SEPT. 12, PLANT PROPAGATION, (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 10-11:30am. Free. Houston Community College event.
Register: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

FRI-SAT, SEPT 16-17: HOUSTON CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE, Sat., 9am-5pm, Metropolitan MultiService Center, 1475 West Gray. hcsstex.org

SAT., SEPT. 17: WILDSAPES WORKSHOP & EXTRAVAGANZA SALE. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter. Register/sale inventory:
npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop-2022

SAT., SEPT. 17 (& 24): XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA!, 8am-noon, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, 299 Hwy 332 W. Lake Jackson. info@gcbo.org

SAT., SEPT. 17, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDNERS FALL FLORAL SALE. 9am-noon, County Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road Conroe. 936-539-7824. Register: MCMGA.com

SAT., SEPT. 17: PLANT SWAP at **WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS SHS**, 10am-2pm, 23400 Park Road 12, Washington (TX). celeste.solomon@thc.texas.gov 936-878-2214 ext. 230

SAT., SEPT. 17: ORCHID REPOTTING WORKSHOP at **SHANGRI LA BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER**. 10am-noon, 2111 W Park Ave, Orange. \$15.
Register: starkculturalvenues.doubleknot.com/event/adult-workshop-series-orchid

MON., SEPT. 19, GENOA FRIENDSHIP OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event.

TUES., SEPT. 20, PLANT PROPAGATION (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 11am-noon, free. Harris County Public Library event via Facebook
Live: facebook.com/harriscountyppl/events/

TUES., SEPT. 20: WATER GARDENING by **ANITA NELSON**, 10am. St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org.

THURS-FRI., SEPT. 22-23: SE URBAN FARM & SAFETY SUMMIT by **AGRILIFE EXTENSION**, 9am-4pm. Gerald D. Young Ag. Science Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd, Katy. \$50 (\$80 couples). Register: setxurbanagsummit.eventbrite.com

SAT, SEPT. 24: T-BUD GRAFTING, HANDS-ON, by **HAZEL LAMPTON**, 9-11:30am. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4012-B, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: txmg.org/galveston; 281-309-4065

SAT., SEPT 24, TRANQUILITY TREASURES, A GARDEN WALK, 10-4 pm. League City Garden Club. \$15, leaguecitygardenclub.org.

SAT., SEPT. 24: XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA!, 8am-noon, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, 299 Hwy 332 W. Lake Jackson. info@gcbo.org

SUN., SEPT. 25: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE 1, Southwest Houston), 1-5pm. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

WED., SEPT 28: BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK by **KARINA BOESE**, 7pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray St. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society event. hcsstex.org

FRI., SEPT. 30, THE FUTURE OF URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT by **AGRILIFE EXTENSION**, 9am-3pm. University of Houston Downtown, 315 N. Main St., Houston, TX 77002. \$50 fee. Register: <https://fufss2022.eventbrite.com/>

SAT., OCT. 1: FRIENDS OF MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN AUTUMN PLANT SALE, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble. themercersociety.org/

SAT., OCT 1: MEMBER-GROWN PLANT SALE AND GARDENING DEMOS, 8am-1pm, Shepherd Community Center, 10251 TX-150. Shepherd. <https://txmg.org/simg/event/plant-sale-10-22/>

TUES., OCT. 4: IN THE GARDEN: FALL VEGETABLE PLANTING DEMONSTRATIONS by **SHARON STINSON**, 5:30-6:30pm, Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

THUR., OCT. 6, PRUNING IN THE LANDSCAPE (virtual) by **PAUL WINSKI**, 10-11am. Free. Register: www.homegrown2022.eventbrite.com

SAT., OCT. 8: FALL GARDENING AND NUTRITION WORKSHOP by **CAROL BURTON**, 9am-1pm. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

SAT, OCT. 8: GALVESTON COUNTY AGRILIFE FALL FESTIVAL, 9am-1pm., Carbide Park, 4012-B, La Marque. Master Gardener event. galveston.agrilife.org/

SAT., OCT. 8: INDOOR & CONTAINER GARDENING, 9-11am, Montgomery County Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road Conroe. 936-539-7824. Register: MCMGA.com

SAT., OCT. 8: COMPOSTING (Zoom) by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

SAT., OCT. 8: FALL GARDENING WORKSHOP by **CAROL BURTON**, 9am-1pm. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

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

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

TUES., OCT. 11: ALL ABOUT STRAWBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES AND

BLUEBERRIES (Zoom) by **JUSTIN DUNCAN**, 6-7pm. Urban Harvest event.
urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

THURS., OCT. 13: ROSE PROPAGATION by **DEANNA KRAUSE**, (virtual & on-site), 7-9pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd. Free. Houston Rose Society/Houston event. meet.goto.com/957814789

FRI.-SAT., OCT 14-15: GARDEN CLUB OF HOUSTON 80th BULB AND PLANT MART, Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat., 10am-2pm, St. John the Divine Church 2450 River Oaks Blvd.. Free. Preview party Thurs., Oct. 12, & inventory: GCHOUSTON.ORG

SAT., OCT. 15: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL VEGGIES, HERBS & SUCCULENTS SALE. 9am-Noon, Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824; MCMGA.com

SAT., OCT. 15: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAYS. 9am-noon, Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824. MCMGA.com

SAT., OCT. 15: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE, 9 am, The Woodlands Farmer's Market, 7 Switchbud Pl., The Woodlands. thewoodlandsgardenclub.org

MON., OCT. 17, GENOA FRIENDSHIP OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event.

TUES., OCT. 18, CITRUS TREES (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 11am-noon, free. Harris County Public Library event via Facebook Live: facebook.com/harriscountyppl/events/

TUES., OCT. 25: GROWING HERBS FOR HEALTH AND THE HOLIDAYS (Zoom) by **SHERRY CRUSE**, 7:00-8:30pm. Urban Harvest event.
urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

WED., OCT 26: PHOENIX'S BOTANICAL GARDEN & ARIZONA'S SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK by **DR. ANDREA VAREVIC**, 7pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray St. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society event. hcsstex.org

SAT., NOV. 12: FRIENDS OF MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS CAMELLIA & WINTER COLOR SALE (virtual), themerchersociety.org/

SAT., NOV. 12: HOLIDAYS AT MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS themerchersociety.org/

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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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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.



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