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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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*This is one of my favorite columns. It is a repeat while  
I take a break to help my husband recover from West Nile Virus.*



## POLLINATORS — WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEM

*"Go to your fields and your gardens, and you shall learn that it is the pleasure of the bee to gather honey of the flower, But it is also the pleasure of the flower to yield its honey to the bee. For to the bee a flower is a fountain of life, and to the flower a bee is a messenger of love. And to both, bee and flower, the giving and the receiving of pleasure is a need and an ecstasy"*

-- Extract from Kahlil Gibran's "The Prophet"

**BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Tithonia, above, is one of my favorite flowers. It's so happy, so visible from across the yard and now -- its most valuable attribute -- it's an incredible triple-pollinator attractor: bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Pretty neat, eh?

Pollinator — Talk about a word that has tsunami'd its way into our vocabulary, - starting with the honeybee's decline from Colony Collapse Disorder. Now every school child probably knows more about pollinators than most adults do. They're part of every curriculum.

Pollinators are insects, animals, etc., that assist plants with reproduction: bats, butterflies, moths, flies, birds, beetles, ants and bees. The Simple Truth is: We Can't Live Without Them. Over 80% of Earth's flowering plants require pollinators to survive.

Think about it. Without pollinators, neither we, nor any of Earth's terrestrial ecosystems, would survive.

Study after study now reflects global declines in so many important pollinators for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is negative human intervention into their habitats. On the other hand, actual marked decreases in decline rates have been noted, as in the case of monarch butterflies.

How much do our habitat gardens help? While there are no definitive stats out yet, they certainly can't hurt.

Below is a random email survey\* of area public gardens, flower laden nurseries and other area resources. I asked for a list of flowering plants that attract the most onsite hummingbirds & butterflies. Of course, nonblooming plants are very important as well. But just focusing on flowering plants today.

Remember, I asked them to list those flowers that immediately come to mind as being the ones on which they usually see the MOST pollinators. I'm listing them all, even duplicates, so you'll know where to see/buy them in your specific area. I listed everyone who responded to my request.

*(Remember, this is a "repeat" column)*



**Pollinator-attracting plants, above l to r: Cardinal flower, buttonbush, batface cuphea and liatris. Below, l to r, joepyee weed (an eupatorium), St. Elmo's Fire rusellia, Gregg's mistflower and Texas olive tree**





### HOUSTON ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER [houstonarboretum.org](http://houstonarboretum.org)

- **Butterflies** Native lantana (*Lantana urticoides*); mistflowers (*Conoclinium* sp.); beebalms (*Monarda* sp.); buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*); gayfeathers (*Liatris* sp.); basketflower (*Centaurea americana*)
- **Hummingbirds** Turks cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*); trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*); scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*); cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*); coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

### COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER [hmns.org/cockerellbutterflycenter](http://hmns.org/cockerellbutterflycenter)

- **Honey bees** African Blue basil; pink cuphea; Mexican heather (little purple one); bulbine; partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)
- **Hummingbirds** 'Red Rocket' red rusellia; *Salvia leucantha* and other red tubulars.
- **Butterflies** Tithonia; purple coneflower; various eupatoriums; *Asclepias curassavica*. Swallowtails really like Mexican orchid tree (*Bauhinia mexicana*) and buttonbush.

### TREESEARCH FARMS [treesearchfarms.biz](http://treesearchfarms.biz)

- **Bees** African blue basil
- **Butterflies** 'Sweet Memory' & white duranta; blue mist flower; buddleias, coneflower; lantanas
- **Hummingbirds** Bottlebrush; hamelia; rusellia; cuphea ('David Verity'; pink & bat face)
- **Butterflies & hummingbirds** Porterweed (purple, blue & coral); Mexican baubinia; old fashioned Penta lanceolata.

NOTE: Treeseach Farms is a wholesale grower. If you can't find any of these, call Treeseach and ask for a retailer near you. (Owner Heidi Sheesley has been a prime mover in both introducing and providing many superhardy pollinatorattracting plants to our local nurseries and group plant sales).

### A COMMUNITY GARDEN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY (from Carolyn Kosclskey), Montgomery County Master Gardener <http://www.mcmga.com>

- **Bees** Basil ('African blue' & 'Purple Ruffles'); cucumbers; zinnias
- **Hummingbirds** zinnias

### THE BLUEBONNET HOUSE [bluebonnethouse@msn.com](mailto:bluebonnethouse@msn.com)

- **Butterflies** Butterfly weed; passionvine; coneflowers
- **Butterflies & hummingbirds** Porterweed; thryallis; firecracker plant (*Russelia* firecracker or coral fountain plant *Russelia* x 'St. Elmo's Fire.' Dale thinks St. Elmo's is the hardier of these two)

## ENCHANTED NURSERIES [myenchanted.com](http://myenchanted.com)

- Butterflies Lantana; pentas; Gregg's mist flower
- Hummingbirds Texas olive; cuphea; Turk's cap; coral honeysuckle
- Butterflies & hummingbirds Duranta

**THE ARBOR GATE** [www.arborgate.com](http://www.arborgate.com) They listed their top overall pollinators for:

- Summer 'African Blue' basil; 'Blue Lady' rosemary and almond verbena
- Winter Camellia sasanqua and openfaced roses like 'Lemon Fizz' and 'Summer Wind'



**Bees are a must for a healthy garden. Our gardeners extraordinaire recommend -- to attract bees -- l to r, bulbine, 'pink cuphea, Mexican heather and African Blue' and 'Purple Ruffles' basil.**

**SO, WHICH PLANTS ATTRACT POLLINATOR** at Mercer Botanic Garden?  
Staffers list these as their Top 5 Blooming Pollinator Attracting Plants:



1. Echinacea purpurea (purple coneflowers) beloved by all bugs & butterflies; can bloom almost all year
2. Solidago canadensis (goldenrod) fabulous in autumn; covered by bees and all sorts of critters.
3. Conoclinium coelestinum (mist flower) fabulous in autumn
4. Salvias (sages) great tubular flowers for nectar and pollen
5. Senna alata (candlestick plant) host plant of cloudless sulfur, orange-barred sulfur, and large orange sulfur butterflies

In addition to flowers listed above, Mercer staffers add these as must-have pollinators for home gardens:

- Verbena "Homestead" for butterflies
- Lion's Tail (Leonotis leonurus) for hummers
- Firebush (or hummingbird bush / Hamelia patens) for hummers, butterflies & bees

And, since I neglected to ask some of the above folks for their bee-attractors (a MUST for flowers in general), Mercer folks graciously also send a list



specifically to attract bees: Mealycup sage (Salvia farinacea 'Henry Duelberg'), Gulf Coast penstemon (Penstemon tenuis); cigar plant, batface cuphea, beebalm, almond verbena, cosmos, buttonbush, false indigo, clasping leaf coneflower and blue mistflower.

And a treat from John Ferguson: look at the bees on this coralvine!



\* \* \*



### **HOUSTON'S LOST A TREASURE WITH THE PASSING OF LINDA GAY**

Perhaps Randy Lemmon said it best, Linda was "known as "Royalty" in the plant world." Longtime Mercer Botanic Garden Director, Linda continued to share her incredible plant expertise long after she retired, speaking to enthusiasts even long after her pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

[LINDA GAY OBITUARY AND ARRANGEMENTS](#) *Rest in peace, my friend.*

*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](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)*

## **Join us this Saturday**

for a Free Garden event, hosted by The Woodlands Township! Come learn from different experts in the field and find activities for the entire family! See you there!



# FREE GARDENING EVENT

**September 24, 2022**  
**9 a.m. to noon**

6464 Creekside Forest Dr.  
The Woodlands, TX

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## LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS

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## ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGE

Live music  
Seed and plant giveaways  
Meet live animals  
Native plant sales  
Kids fun zone



## John's Corner



## BOOK REVIEW

**THE MAGNESIUM MIRACLE –**  
Discover The Missing Link to Total  
Health, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Carolyn  
Dean, M.D., N.D., Ballantine Books,



Back in August I attended the all-day gardening workshop sponsored by OHBA. One of the speakers Mila McManus, M.D., a functional medicine doctor whom focuses on prevention of health issues, rather than treating symptoms like most doctors.

She gave a very good talk on nutrition and health, titled "Top 10 Disease Causes". Note: She also authored a book titled "Highway to Health" which can be found at [woodlandswellnessmd.com](http://woodlandswellnessmd.com)

During her talk she mentioned the element magnesium (Mg) several times as essential to human health and recommended the book above, as 90% of our population are very deficient in this essential element. During our study of the 79 elements in the human body a while back we discussed magnesium quite a bit, from soils to crop flavor, to disease and pest resistance.

This book *really goes into the details of why and how* magnesium promotes our health! It is written in a non-technical format that most folks can understand.

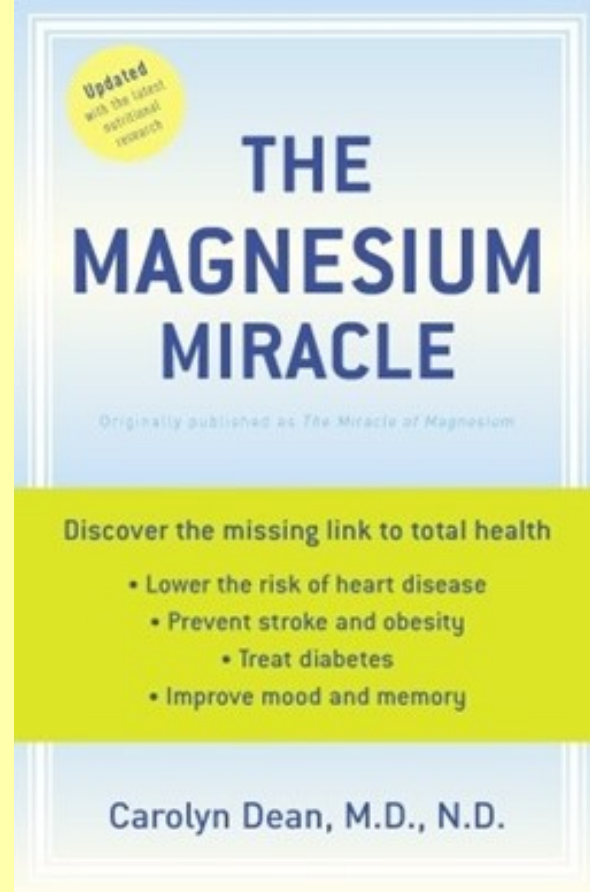
It starts off with causes of magnesium deficiency, a list of 26 major things. Of course, fluoride in water systems and toothpaste are one of the large causes of this deficiency. The author then goes on to explain in detail over 41 health problems caused by magnesium deficiency. Then 100 other factors that are related to the deficiency and may contribute.

She then explains how each of these factors work to harm our health. For example, I will use fluoride, since we have discussed the damage it does several times, from soil to plants to human health. The element fluorine (F) combines with magnesium (Mg) to form the mineral sellaite ( $\text{MgF}_2$ ) which is very brittle. It is absorbed into our tissues like bone and cartilage which then makes the bones brittle and subject to fracture.

A lack of magnesium also prevents vitamin-D from working properly and preventing disease as we have learned from all the covid research the last couple of years.

She also reviews that deficiency in our soils, leads to deficiency in animals and humans. This is aggravated by using glyphosate (herbicides like Round Up) or eating foods like GMO's which are saturated with this toxic chemical, that prevent the absorption of what little magnesium was present!

The doctor covers sleep and depression issues caused by deficiency, to



restless legs and heart issues and many more health issues linked to magnesium deficiency.

From our study of magnesium, it is the 4th most abundant mineral in the human body and more than 300 enzymes require magnesium to function properly.

This book is over 500 pages on the importance of magnesium and how a lack hurts our health.

\* \* \*

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



## VEGETABLE/HERB/FLOWER SEEDS

NON-GMO, HEIRLOOM, OPEN POLLINATED

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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*Pines and Prairies Chapter*

# Fall 2022 Plant Sale

*Featuring pollinator-friendly native species!*

*Plant list available on October 1 - <https://npsot.org/wp/pinesandprairies>*



**Saturday, October 8**  
**9:00a – 12:30p**

**New World Botanical**  
2701 Lone Star Parkway  
Montgomery, TX

**Members only Sale**  
**Friday, October 7,**  
**5:00p -7:00p**

**Not a member? Join**  
**Native Plant Society**  
**of Texas TODAY!**



# Level 1 Native Landscaping Certification Program (NLCP)

October 15, 2022, 8a-4p



Classroom Instruction:  
**Timber Lane Community Center**  
1902 Naplechase Crest Dr, Spring

Plant Walk:  
**Mercer Botanic Gardens**  
22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble

Register online:



## 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!*
  - *Always check to make sure your event is listed. if not let Brenda know*
- EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED***

**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](https://setxurbanagsummit.eventbrite.com)



**SAT., SEPT. 24: SUCCESSFUL HERB COMBINATION CONTAINERS** by **BENNIE MATUSEK**, 10:30 am, Wabash Feed and Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd. Register: <https://bit.ly/3eG73Ow>, [wabashfeed.com](http://wabashfeed.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](http://txmg.org/galveston); 281-309-4065

**SAT., SEPT 24, TRANQUILITY TREASURES, A GARDEN WALK**, 10-4 pm. League City Garden Club. \$15, [leaguecitygardenclub.org](http://leaguecitygardenclub.org).

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

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

**THURS., SEPT. 29: FALL BULBS, JAY WHITE, TEXAS GARDENER MAGAZINE**, 11am-1pm, Shepherd Community Center, 10251 TX-150. Shepherd.San Jacinto Co. Master Gardener Chapter event. [www.txmg.org/sjmg](http://www.txmg.org/sjmg)

**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/](http://themercersociety.org/). [Inventory](#)

**SAT., OCT 1: SJC MASTER GARDENER MEMBER-GROWN PLANT SALE AND GARDENING DEMOS**, 8am-1pm, Shepherd Community Center, 10251 TX-150. Shepherd. <https://txmg.org/sjmg/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/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**WED., OCT. 5: VARIETIES AND CARE OF ORCHIDS** by **BRANDIE HILL**, 9:30-11am, Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 NASA Pkwy, Webster. Gardeners By The Bay event. [gbtb.org](http://gbtb.org)

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

**FRI.-SAT., OCT. 7-8: HOUSTON ARBORETUM FALL PLANT SALE**, 9am-4pm, 120 West Loop North, 120 West Loop North. [houstonarboretum.org](http://houstonarboretum.org)

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

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

**SAT., OCT. 8: FALL GARDENING WORKSHOP** by **CAROL BURTON**, 9am-1pm. Urban

Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://meet.goto.com/957814789)

**THUR., OCT. 13, BUTTERFLIES AS POLLINATORS** by **LAUREN SIMPSON**, 10am-noon, 900 S. Jackson St., Brenham. Herb Society of America Pioneer Unit event. Free. [herbsocietypioneer.org/](http://herbsocietypioneer.org/)

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/harriscountypb/events/](https://facebook.com/harriscountypb/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/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

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

**WED., NOV. 2: BEES AND THE ENVIRONMENT** by **ED BOYER**, 9:30-11am, Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 NASA Pkwy, Webster. Gardeners By The Bay event. [gbtb.org](http://gbtb.org)

**SAT., NOV. 5: 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HERB FAIR** by **THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, SOUTH TEXAS UNIT**, 9am-2pm, Southside Place Clubhouse, 3743 Garnet St. Free. [herbsociety-stu.org](http://herbsociety-stu.org)

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

**SAT., NOV. 12: HOLIDAYS AT MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS** [themerchersociety.org/](http://themerchersociety.org/)





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!

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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.



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