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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.*



COUNTING DOWN TO FALL

*"Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has
never watched them dancing on a windy day."*

– Shira Tamir

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Fall may be nearly here for us. But in many ways, our plants are experiencing their own special "spring."

Our actual Spring never comes as a smooth transition from the nasty cold of winter to a period of blooming delight. It comes in fits and starts, just as days now are starting that gigantic rollercoaster slide from blistering hot temperatures gradually into more "smile" days, when the temperature (and humidity) drops enough to make walking outdoors more bearable.

Dormancy can be triggered just as much by intense heat as it can by cold, as well as by weather traumas (like hurricanes!). When a plant figures "*this too has passed*," it may celebrate by producing flowers out of season. Many normally spring bloomers, such as pink magnolias, may suddenly sprout lovely flower buds. New leaves may emerge, and even flower buds, on many plants that appeared to non-lazy gardeners as having given up the ghost.

If you want to help them along, cut off spent flowers and dead leaves. They not only sap a plant's strength, they might contribute to the plant's innate trigger to produce only X number of blooms to produce X amount of seed to continue the species. Once the plant senses the decreed amount of seed developing, why should it expend it's precious energy to produce more?

Speaking of hurricanes, however, take a good look around your yard for dead overhead limbs or even extremely weak-looking trees. High winds can rip off even healthy-looking limbs.

Many times, trees die from the inside out, continuing to produce healthy looking leaves while the inside is slowly rotting away. Along comes a big wind and plop! Over they go. One suspicious sign: cracks in trunk, ants running up & down the trunk or other insects that look like they may be homesteading inside the trunk.



Summer heat and droughts also often cause tree roots to grow upward into top soil levels (where you may have been watering too shallowly). Drought can cause our gumbo soil to harden and become impenetrable. Even heavy rains may not be able to penetrate more than a few inches into the soil level before running off (especially since we have now actually designed our yards to encourage runoff). Then come the heavy rains of storms or hurricanes and the tree topples over so its roots are suddenly pointing skyward. (Deep watering devices are a good way to avoid this.)



BARK LICE ARE GOOD GUYS!!! Don't mistake as "bad guys" these silky white stocking-like webs (left and center above) encircling trees all over this area. The bark lice under these beautiful "tents" are Nature's wonderful landscape crews, come to give her magnificent tall sons a good fall cleaning. They're eating undesirable fungi, algae, dead bark and other materials that occur on tree trunks and large limbs.

Don't disturb or destroy their webs trying to see them. Instead give them a wave and tell them "thank you"! They do not eat leaves or bark or damage trees in any way. When their bellies are full, they'll move on.

aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/beneficial-21_barklice.htm

As hard as it is for some gardeners to grasp, FALL — not spring — is our best overall planting time. Our summers are to plants what winter cold is to plants in northern regions. It's important that they go into this most traumatic period with as strong a root system as possible. That's why so many need to be planted now through winter in order to have plenty of time to establish that foundation.

WARNING! Don't use a national planting guide for fall. We don't have prolong, extreme cold periods nor soil that actually freezes. Some plants require this cold. Use a guide geared to this area or, at the least, to Texas. Typical of plants that will do best long term here once temperatures start to drop are most bulbs, most shrubs, most trees, winter vegetables, most herbs, get the idea?



L to r: Mexican mint marigold, firespike, sweet autumn clematis vine and schoolhouse lily

Depending on the weather, many flowers bloom spring through fall here. But some do primarily prefer fall, when they tend to be the most beautiful. I've been waiting patiently for my firespikes, Mexican mint marigolds and coral vine to flower. Finally seeing some buds. Look for flowers on Copper Canyon daisies, schoolhouse lilies, some cupheas, and sweet autumn clematis vine. (Firespike was always my best hummer-attractor. Coral vine drew the most bees.)

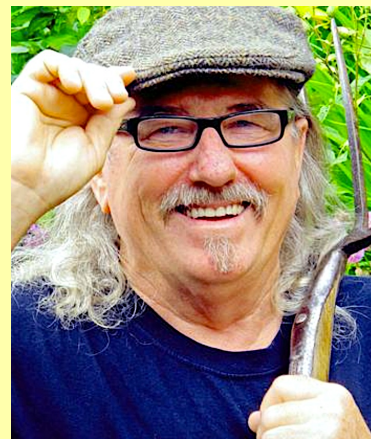
Gulf muhly isn't technically a "bloomer," but those wispy clouds of rose-purple seed pods certainly deserve a mention. Rainlilies and lycoris march to their own drummers, which makes predicting blooms difficult as best. But they do appear more often in fall!



L to r: Gulf muhly grass, rainlilies and lycoris (hurricane lilies/naked ladies)

CURRENT UPDATE! . . . One of my favorite gardeners (speaks my language!) Fender Rushing is coming back to our area. If you missed him earlier this year, here's another chance! Reading Felder's books, sometimes I swear he's been stalking me, taking notes. For example:

- “Doesn't matter what you do, or how you do it, your neighbors are gonna talk about you ANYWAY.”
- “Life already has so many boundaries and pressures - why add more in the garden?”



- And here's one I'm definitely going to try in my birdbath: Lowering or covering a water garden with bird netting will help make removing fallen leaves later, to prevent them from sinking and turning into really stinky muck. Lowering or covering a water garden with bird netting will help make removing fallen leaves later, to prevent them from sinking and turning into really stinky muck.

Two chances to visit with Felder:

- **Sunday Evening Fall Celebration:** Sun., Oct. 2, 4:30-7pm, Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359 Rd, Richmond.
- **Breakfast in the Garden: Mon., Oct. 3 -- 9-11am** (same site) Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359 Rd, Richmond. \$15. Proceeds benefit [Mustard Seed Farm & Market](#) ([Register](#))

*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*



John's Corner



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 213

A recent finding published in the journal *American Naturalist* (2022) by a professor of entomology at Penn State, was triggered by the observations of an eight-year-old boy.

The boy found BB sized objects near an ant nest beneath a log in his backyard. The boy thought they were seeds but they turned out to be oak galls. This led to a investigation of a 3-way interaction between wasps whom create the galls, ants, and the plants.

The wasps cause the plants to produce the galls and grow a substance on the galls that is food for the ants. The ants then take the galls back to their nest where the baby wasps are protected from predators by the ants.

The researchers found that galls with caps were far more attractive to ants than the galls themselves. So, they analyzed the caps and they were full of healthy fatty acids that smelled like dead insects (ant food).

Many other plants produce seeds that have a covering that is food and attractive to ants, hence they use the ants to spread their seeds. It makes me wonder how many other interactions in nature that we have left to discover in God's creation.

A 30-year study from Kansas State University has found that introducing bison (Buffalos) doubles plant diversity in tall grass prairies. The plant communities were more resilient to extreme drought that occurred in the last four decades! Cattle also helped increase diversity but not to the same extend as buffalo. Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (2022).

Several studies have shown that prairies and grasslands that are grazed by migratory animals like buffalo, sequester carbon in the soil creating rich valuable humus much faster than without animals.

A few years ago, I read a book that detailed many case studies from all over the world using regenerative agriculture with grazing animals to sequester carbon, enrich soils, and fight climate change.

Geotherapy- Innovative Methods of Soil Fertility Restoration, Carbon Sequestration, and Reversing CO₂ Increase, Edited by: Thomas Goreau, Ronal Larson, Joanna Campe, CRC Press, 2015, ISBN: 13:978-1-4665-9539-2

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture) has a paper article titled, “**Managing Soils for Water: How Five Principles of Soil Health Support Water Infiltration and Storage**” that can be found at www.attra.ncat.org. A few edited highlights are below.

- 1) Protect the soil surface** – this includes cover crops and mulch
 - they hold the soil in place and prevent erosion and allows for greater infiltration
 - they provide organic matter essential for soil structure and plant health
 - mulch reduces evaporation leaving more water for plant use
 - cover crops and mulch reduce soil temperatures which help microbes to earthworms work better, and leads to a functioning soil food web
 - the soil is protected from raindrops hence there is better soil aggregation that allows air and water to enter the soil
 - weed growth is suppressed
 - habitat is provided for beneficial insects and pollinators
- 2) Minimize soil disturbance of all kinds**
 - both physical (tillage) and chemical (artificial fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) abuse of the soil and disrupt the soil food web.

- tillage over time burns organic matter out of the soil which degrades soil function and reduces air space, which then reduces water infiltration and storage, and reduces nutrient storage.

3) Plant diversity is essential

- healthy fertile soils that were built over time, has a large mix of species of plants
- the soil food web requires a mix of root exudates from a broad range of plants
- a large diversity of above ground plants leads to a large diversity of below ground beneficial microbes
- this increases water infiltration and reduces diseases in the soil, and increases nutrient cycling

4) Continuous Live plant roots in the soil

- live plants from grasses to forbs and wildflowers continuously provide carbon rich root exudates to feed the soil food web throughout the growing season and often into the dormant season
- nature does not like bare soil and if no desired plants are present, then she will quickly cover soil with plants known as weeds. Bare soil does not provide root exudates to feed the good microbes which starves the beneficial microbes
- good compost and composted (aged) native mulch can also protect the soil and help feed the microbial community

5) Integrating Livestock

- returning animals to the soil contributes to soil health from adding different biology back to the soil increasing species diversity of microbes
- grazing animals also convert high carbon residues into low carbon high nitrogen organic material which builds soil health
- the hooves of grazing animals press organic matter into the soil where it becomes valuable humus
- animals increase species diversity
- for every one percent increase in organic matter in the top six inches of soil allows it to hold an additional 10,800 liters (approximately 3,000 gallons) of water regardless of soil type!

Food for thought: The city of Houston and other municipalities send millions of cubic yards of organic material to our landfills each year. In the landfill they create massive amounts of greenhouse gasses, organic acids, and take up a lot of valuable storage space.

If 50% of this material could be composted and used in all the parks, road right aways as well as out yards and gardens then couple this with using modern biological methods of landscaping often referred to as organic. Then how much water would have infiltrated our soil and be stored during storm events like hurricane Harvey?

I would need some data but I suspect it would have reduced the flood waters from Harvey by 20-40% saving billions of dollars in damages, plus reduced greenhouse gasses from landfiling, saved valuable landfill space, reduced chemical pollution of our bayous and streams, and reduced erosion, reduce

sedimentation of our bays and saved water due to reduce irrigation requirements in our landscapes.

Recycling of organic matter offers tremendous potential to solve many of our environmental problems.

The table below gives one an indication of the tremendous amount of water that can be stored in the soil by increasing organic matter.

Soil Organic Matter and Available Water Storage Capacity in Inches of Water per Foot of Soil

Source: Based on Hudson, 1994

Percent Soil OM	Sand Inches Water/ft. of soil	Gallons of Water Per acre		Silt Loam Inches Water/ft. of soil	Gallons of Water Per acre		Silt- Clay Loam Inches Water/ft. of soil	Gallons of Water Per acre
1	1.0	27,154		1.9	51,593		1.4	38,015
2	1.4	38,015		2.4	69,170		1.8	48,877
3	1.7	46,162		2.9	78,747		2.2	59,739
4	2.1	57,023		3.5	95,039		2.6	70,600
5	2.5	67,885		4.0	108,616		3.0	81,462

* * *

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 | |

LOCATED INSIDE THE SALES OFFICE

\$1.99
EACH

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www.natureswayresources.com



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:



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!



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***

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. th MERCERSOCIETY.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/

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

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

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

MON., OCT. 10: GET YOUR SOIL PREPPED & READY TO GROW LIKE NEVER BEFORE by **MARK BOWEN**, 6:30-8:30pm. Lake Houston Garden Club event, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2920 Woodland Hills, Kingwood. Free

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: FROM BUD EYE TO BUD 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

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/

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. 18: ALL ABOUT PLUMERIAS by **PAULA FURTWANGLER**, 10am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. sugarlandgardenclub.org.

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 VARESIC**, 7pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray St. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society event. hcsstex.org

FRI.-SAT., OCT., 28-29: TEXAS COASTAL PRAIRIE CONFERENCE: PRESERVING LANDS & LEGACIES. University of Houston Clear Lake Bayou Building, <https://www.prairiepartner.org/conference>

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

SAT., NOV. 5: 49th ANNUAL HERB FAIR by **THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, SOUTH TEXAS UNIT**, 9am-2pm, Southside Place Clubhouse, 3743 Garnet St. Free. herbsociety-stu.org

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

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

* * *



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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.



Lazy Gardener And Friends | 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe, TX 77385

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