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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 mainly a repeat (with updates) while I take a break to help my husband recover from West Nile Virus.



MONARCH MIGRATION IS HERE! IS YOUR GARDEN WELCOMING?

The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.
- - Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

The annual Monarch Migration is passing through our section of the Gulf Coast. Our peak time is normally the last two weeks of October, although this is just an average. This year these jewels seem to be right on time, according to Marianna T. Wright, Executive Director of the [National Butterfly Center](#), a treasure of a site near the South Texas town of Mission.

The migration is closely watched by Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas (BEST), who sponsor numerous "Butterfly Counts." Volunteers are always needed. I can tell you from personal experience, it's a great family outing.

We've had pretty heavy duty weather recently. Will this affect numbers or routes? Several experts say these fears have proven unfounded.

Do habitat gardens make a difference to migration routes? Although most monarchs, like hummingbirds, are primarily interested now in getting to Mexico as quickly as possible, experts agree habitat plantings can only improve their "fuel" supply to complete the long journey.

And some monarchs and hummers stay year-round here. Monarchs are always plentiful on Bolivar Peninsula, but in the 50+ years we've been down there, I've only seen one spectacular monarch migration. At first I thought I was seeing smoke clouds, that the passion vine-covered field on Hwy.87 was on fire. It turned out to be billions of monarch! Quite a sight to behold!

Just to let folks in the rest of the nation know we have this advantage, report Monarch sightings to the (international) Journey North website: journeynorth.org/monarchs. (More on BEST's Butterfly Counts: naba.org/chapters/nababest)

2022 NATIONAL BUTTERFLY CENTER UPDATES:

- **IMPORTED BUTTERFLYWEED NOTES — NBC** Executive Director Marianna T. Wright reports a University of Georgia PH.D. candidate spent some time over the summer at this Mission, TX, site to study monarchs and OE loads, transmission, tropical milkweed. Findings continue to disprove, Marianna reports, "the ridiculous idea that tropical (butterflyweed) "traps" monarchs and stops them from migrating." They have tropical milkweed blooming year 'round, Marianna says, and still no year 'round monarchs.
- **MONARCHS TRAVERSE TEXAS ALONG TWO PATHWAYS:** The western flyway stretches from Wichita Falls to Eagle Pass. Monarchs enter the Texas portion of this flyway during the last days of September. By early November, most have passed through into Mexico. The second flyway is ours -- situated along the Texas coast and lasts roughly from the third week of October to the middle of November. That's where we are now!
- **THE [2022 26th ANNUAL TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL](#) (Oct 29-Nov. 1, 2022).** will as always draw an international crowd to South Texas, many arriving early and staying afterwards to truly appreciate why the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) chose Mission, TX, for its pilot National Butterfly Center project.

The Rio Grande Valley is home to now-300+ identified butterfly species that draw enthusiasts to NBC's expert-guided tours. Annual dates are chosen to hit as many peak migration arrival times as humanly possible. Links for more info:

- BEST's Butterfly Counts: naba.org/chapters/nababest
- National Butterfly Center / Texas Butterfly Festival: texasbutterflyfestival.com

- facebook.com/TexasButterflyFestival/

NOTE: I asked Marianna which flowers were attracting the most butterflies this fall. Just a few and their visitors (below) include, l to r: Large Orange Sulphurs on Turk's' Cap; Buckeye on Lantana; White Angled-Sulphur on Texas Wild Olive and Clytie Ministreak on Croton. (*Luciano Guerra, National Butterfly Center photos*)



IN OUR (REPEAT) SPOTLIGHT BELOW, Marianna offers sage advice on great native plants for Monarchs. Generally speaking, butterflyweed is the common name for the tropical or imported Monarch-attracting plants. Milkweed is the common name for the native varieties. Most (but not all!) belong to the genus *Asclepias*. (*Note: Asclepias is the Greek god of healing -- who else would tell you these things!*)

Even if you choose not to plant the natives listed in your home gardens, it's important to recognize and help protect these treasures in our environment, especially on vacant properties near your home. They're valuable wildflowers, not just nasty "weeds."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Don't forget to check out the upcoming [2022 26th ANNUAL TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL](#) (Oct 29-Nov. 1, 2022). Well worth the trip!!

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If you don't see your submitted event in the Calendar below, email me!

*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*



Photos from the National Butterfly Center website & [Facebook page](#)

MILKWEEDS IN OCTOBER LANDSCAPES HELP PRODUCE 5th GENERATION OF MONARCHS

by **MARIANNA T. WRIGHT**

Executive Director, [National Butterfly Center](#)
Mission, TX

Look to the skies! The Monarch migration is headed for the Gulf Coast, right on time.

Historically, the first migrants to reach Texas arrive on Columbus Day - you can practically set your clocks by them. Of course, weather plays a big factor in this. Monarchs are large butterflies with an incredibly efficient, sailing flight that allows them to ride currents up to 12,000 feet high. This prevents them from hitting windshields and from having to navigate around trees and buildings.

An expected cold front will provide precisely the tail wind Monarchs need to get here. Most will pass through, but the Houston-Galveston Gulf Coast area is known to have at least one over-wintering, non-migratory colony. Scientists have yet to study this group of Monarchs, but suspect climate change is making it possible for some to stay instead of traveling



***L to r, Sand (Asclepias arenaria) to Shore (Asclepias perennis),
and Slim (Asclepias linearis) to Longleaf (Asclepias longifolia).***

To support species health and increase (for all butterflies, not just the Monarch), the best thing people can do is plant native host and nectar sources. There are several milkweeds native to Texas and good for this region, from Sand (*Asclepias arenaria*) to Shore (*Asclepias perennis*), and Slim (*Asclepias linearis*) to Longleaf (*Asclepias longifolia*).

Get to know your local [Native Plant Society](#) (national list) or join the [Butterfly Enthusiasts of Southeast Texas \(BEST\)](#) Chapter of the [North American Butterfly Association](#), to learn more about what will work best in your yard. [Texas Native Plant Society chapters](#).

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has also published an excellent photographic guide to Identification of [Milkweed in Texas](#). Having milkweed in the landscape in October helps produce the 5th Generation of Monarchs. This special crop does not mate or lay eggs after eclosing*; they are simply born to fly to Mexico, where they may survive the winter and return in the spring to

bear the 1st Generation in a new year. (NOTE: *eclosing: to come out of the egg or the pupa case)



Top two favorites of Monarchs, left, are Blue Mistflowers and Seaside Goldenrod

If you only have room for two nectar sources, I strongly recommend the two most preferred nectars for Monarchs: Blue Mistflower (*Chromolaena odorata*) and Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens* L.). Both bloom predictably in fall and require little maintenance.

Frostweed, scarlet sage, cowpen daisy and tickweed (*Bidens pilosa*) are also good -- but may all be considered "invasive" -- as may goldenrod and mistflowers.



Other great Monarch flowers, l to r, tickseed, scarlet sage, cowpen daisy, thistle and spiny aster

Thistle and spiny aster (*Chlorocantha spirosa*) are also good, but may not be favored for home gardens/landscapes. Spiny aster is pretty, but not at all showy or dense. Not something that people see here and say, "Do you have that for sale? I want to grow that!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Don't forget to check out the upcoming [2022 26th ANNUAL TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL](#) (Oct 29-Nov. 1, 2022). Well worth the trip!!

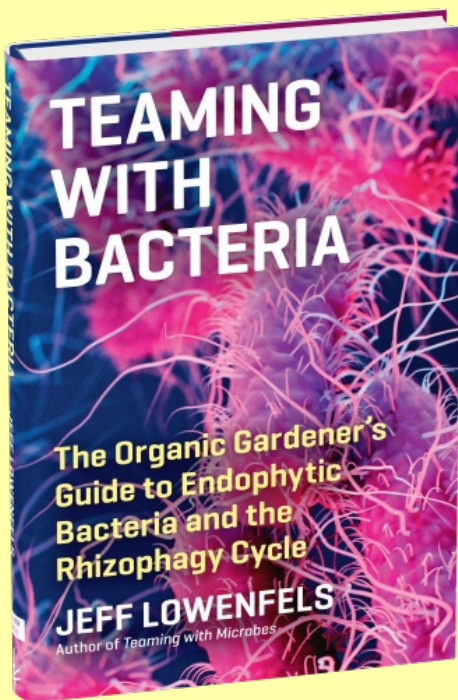
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John's Corner



BOOK REVIEW



I just finished a book that I have been waiting for several years, since Jeff's book "Teaming With Fungi" was released in 2017.

Every serious gardener knows Jeff from his three previous books "Teaming With Microbes", "Teaming With Nutrients", and "Teaming with Fungi", which every serious gardener would have read and have in their library of gardening books.

The new book is titled:

Teaming With Bacteria: The Organic Growers Guide to Endophytic Bacteria and the Rhizophagy Cycle, by Jeff Lowenfels, Timber Press, 2022, ISBN: 978-1-64326-139-3

Readers of this newsletter should be aware of how plants eat bacteria causing them to release their nutrients and then spit them back out into the soil as I have reported on the new discovers many times as they have occurred.

As in his previous books Jeff has done a great job of taking scientific discovers and presenting the ideas in an easy-to-understand format for all gardeners.

In his new book *Teaming with Bacteria*, Lowenfels digs into the new science behind how endophytic bacteria supply nutrients to a large array of plants and explains, in a easy to understand language, how this information applies to home gardeners, small-scale farmers, and cannabis growers. This book is based on cutting-edge science that will help gardeners increase plant health and productivity, *Teaming with Bacteria* is a must-have addition to every organic gardener's library.

Thanks to research conducted over the last few decades, we know that many (and probably all) plants get a significant portion of their nutrients by attracting endophytic bacteria – bacteria that live inside a plant's cells.

"Gardeners and small-scale growers need to know about endophytic bacteria and the rhizophagy cycle because they have profound implications for how they raise plants. Knowing about them will help readers increase their plant's health and productivity" -

Jeff starts off by explaining what bacteria are and how they are made for us non-microbiologists. From this introduction he reveals how plants and bacteria communicate with each other.

He then explores why they do this and how each benefit from this relationship. For example, as gardeners we know that root hairs are essential for healthy plants. However, as he explains, it is the bacteria that have entered the plant that causes root hairs to form.

He explains in simple terms how plant cells harvest the nitrogen and other

nutrients in the bacterium's cell wall and expel the bacterium's protoplasts back into the soil where they rebuild their cell walls, start feeding again and repeat the cycle.

This book not only explains the rhizophagy cycle, it shows one how to use it to increase productivity and plant health.

Note: At the bottom of this article [in this link](#), there are videos showing this process of plants eating bacteria.

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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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EACH

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RESOURCES
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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. 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., 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: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL FALL PLANT

SALE, 9 am,The Woodlands Farmer's Market, 7 Switchbud Pl., The Woodlands.
thewoodlandsgardenclub.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

SAT., OCT. 15: WHAT CAN WE DO FOR DROUGHT-STRESSED TREES? by **CURT SMITH**, 10:30-11:30am, Wabash Feed and Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd. \$10. Register: <https://bit.ly/3Emv0VO>; wabashfeed.com

SAT., OCT. 15: RAISED BEDS AND CONTAINER GARDENS, 10-11am, Beauty's Community Garden, 3201 Airline Dr. Free but register: <https://bit.ly/3RSTppZ>

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.

SAT., OCT. 22: MAINTAINING YOUR GARDEN, 10-11am, Beauty's Community Garden, 3201 Airline Dr. Free but register: <https://bit.ly/3RSTppZ>

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 VARESCIC**, 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. 05: DISEASES AND INSECTS, 10-11am, Beauty's Community Garden, 3201 Airline Dr. Free but register: <https://bit.ly/3RSTppZ>

SAT., NOV. 5: NATIVE TEXAS PLANTS by **MARK BOWEN**, 10:30, Wabash Feed and Garden, 4537 N. Shepherd, \$10. Register here <https://bit.ly/3VbBD3m>, wabashfeed.com

SAT., NOV. 12: FRIENDS OF MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS CAMELLIA & WINTER COLOR SALE (virtual),friendsofmercer.com

SAT., NOV. 11: HARVEST, HANDLING & STORAGE, 10-11am, Beauty's Community Garden, 3201 Airline Dr. Free but register: <https://bit.ly/3RSTppZ>

SAT., NOV. 12: HOLIDAYS AT MERCER BOTANIC GARDENSfriendsofmercer.com

WED., DEC. 7: HOW TO GROW AMARYLLIS by **PATTY CORDRAY**, 9:30-11am Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 NASA Parkway, Webster. Gardeners By The Bay event.gbtb.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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If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us
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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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