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<u>Nature's Way Resources</u> 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.









L to r: Hippeastrum advenum, crocus, hyacinths & Sciurus vulgaris feeding on emerging tulips!

## **BULBS: GREAT HOUSTON TRADITION!**

(but even experts can make mistakes!)

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Squirrel, squirrel, burning bright, / Do not eat my bulbs tonight!
Squirrel, Sciurus vulgaris, / Leave to me my small muscaris,
Must you chew till Kingdom Come / Hippeastrum advenum?
If in your tummy bloomed a lily, / Wouldn't you feel sort of silly?
Must you hang up in your pantries / All my Pink Queen zephyranthes?
Tell me, has it ever been thus, / Squirrels must eat the hyacinthus?
O little rodent, / I wish you wo'dn't!

-- "Tell about Night Flowers: <u>Eudora Welty</u>'s Gardening Letters, 1940-1949"

Eudora Welty may have lived in Jackson, Mississippi, but be forewarned! Texas squirrels do like bulbs too! Hippeastrum are amaryllis; Zephyranthes are rain lilies. Who else would tell you these things?

Garden Club of Houston's annual Bulb & Plant Mart (2022 Mart: FRI.-SAT., OCT 14-15) has a long and fascinating history. When I first started writing about gardening (so far back in the 1970s, even I can't remember!), the then-named "Bulb Mart" was already well established as Houston's premier plant sale.

A small group of enthusiastic (and, I thought, somewhat obsessed) GCH members got in their station wagons and headed out -- north, south, east and west -- searching for plants they thought would do well in our unique subtropical climate -- then oh, so, dependent on East & West Coast growers. These ladies sought out and bought unknown-to-Houstonians plants from growers and gardeners, carried them home carefully packed, tenderly cared for them throughout the year and, in the fall, offered them for sale to gardeners who formed long lines outside the gates waiting to get in.

I'll never forget one of the most entertaining interviews I ever did as a Chronicle reporter, around the time my *Lazy Gardener* column began in the mid-'70s. Close friends & GCH members Nancy Stallworth Thomas, Odette McMurray, Sally McQueen Squire and Alice Staub Liddell gathered in Nancy's living room and kept me in hysterics recalling their many "on the road" adventures.

I could have, should have, written a book about then. My space would never cover all the plants the four ladies mentioned above, and subsequent GCH members, have introduced into our gardens.

The Mart's big emphasis back then was mainly on bulbs, although they brought in other plants as well. Technically speaking, a bulb is usually a fleshyleafed plant with a base that functions as a food storage organ during dormancy. In gardening, this definition has been expanded to include other plants with storage, like tubers and rhizomes.

The key to success: don't cut leaves off multiplying bulbs. They need that "dying" foliage to replenish the bulb for future blooms. This "storage" aspect is what makes them such easy choices for lazy gardener, providing, of course, that you pick those best suited for our area.

That's the great thing about the two Spotlight articles from the Garden Club of Houston. (Both were published with this column's original 2017 publication.) The first one, below, starts with common bulb-growing mistakes even experienced gardeners might make. This is followed by a look at the difference between annual and naturalizing bulbs by GCH's Dodie Jackson.

If you've never been to the (free admission) Bulb & Plant Mart, it has expanded and now includes expanded collection of hard-to-find and unusual crinums, daylilies, gingers, perennials, trees, shrubs, vines, herbs and citrus plants, not to mention rare plants and exclusive offerings grown specifically for the Mart from the gardens of GCH members.

**2022 UPDATE:** FRI.-SAT., OCT 14-15: 80th ANNUAL GARDEN CLUB OF HOUSTON 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: <u>GCHOUSTON.ORG</u>.

Although Odette, Sally and Alice are no longer with us, Nancy Thomas (cofounder of Houston Botanic Garden, among other accomplishments) is still a Mart stalwart. If you make it to the 80th annual Bulb & Plant Mart on Saturday, drop by the **PLANTS THAT MERIT ATTENTION** booth she and Odette started to honor Alice and Sally. IF you're really lucky, maybe you can meet and talk with Nancy, an internationally recognized, award-winning horticulturist, as well as Past President of The Garden Club of America. She'll be there off and on. Tell her Brenda says hello and I so miss seeing her!







Many daffodils do naturalize in our area, I to r, Italicus, Carlton and Fortune to name a few

Before we get to the Spotlights, lest you get confused about the difference between "daffodil" and "narcissus" -- The two words are synonyms. "Narcissus" is the Latin, or botanical, name for daffodils. "Daffodil" is the common name for all members of the genus Narcissus. Like daylily is the common name for Hemerocallis. Or, giant white spider lily is the common name for Hymenocallis. Simple, eh?

\* \* \*









L to r, tulips, allium, anenones and watsonia

# TOP TEN MISTAKES GARDENERS MAKE WHEN PLANTING BULBS!

from the Garden Club of Houston's Bulb & Plant Mart

gchouston.org

- 1. **Too much water/overwatering** don't submerge in water when forcing or water the bulb itself too much or it will rot.
- 2. Not digging deep enough for bulbs
- 3. Allowing bulbs that need to be refrigerated to freeze Refrigerate in mesh bags
- 4. **Not allowing naturalizing bulb and leaves** to die down into the bulb that will give them the energy to bloom again
- 5. Planting single bulbs. Plant in clumps for a better showing
- 6. Planting too close together. Plant two bulb widths apart
- 7. **Planting in straight line**. Plant bulbs in "haphazard" patterns for a more natural flow
- 8. Planting upside down Pointy end/flat end goes up
- 9. **Too much sun exposure**. Bulbs don't like heat. They will bloom in partial shade.
- 10. Planting too late. Plant by end of January.

\* \* \*









L to r, oxblood lily, lycoris (naked ladies), rain lilies and muscari

# Bulbs Annual vs. Naturalize Advice from "green thumb" Dodie Jackson

One should plant annual bulbs, like tulips, some varieties of daffodils, allium, anemones, etc., the attitude should be the same as planting ANY annual plants. Muscari is an annual but attracts so many honey bees!!!

Many daffodils do naturalize in our area, Italicus, Carlton and Fortune to name a few. Do not forget to buy Fall blooming bulbs like Oxblood Lillies and Lycoris.

Rain Lillies naturalize too. They are a wonderful bloomer for most of the year, given enough rain.

Watsonia naturalized here and comes in white, pink, orange and yellow. It is quite lovely as a border.

For more of Dodie's great bulb-growing tips, click here.

A 2022 UPDATE: TIP O' TROWEL TO BEAUTY'S FOLLOWERS! One of the many rewards of having the privilege of being Lazy Gardener for 50+ years is the joy of seeing new gardens being organized and watching them thriving into real community delights.





<u>Beauty's Community Garden</u> started in Houston's Independence Heights, the first African American municipality in Texas as a legacy to Beauty Leno, whose gardens were a delight to that whole area and beyond. More about her: <u>Beauty Leno's story</u> (pdf download). Beauty's Community Garden's "In the Garden Workshops" are free, but space limited.

Sign up: https://bit.ly/3RSTppZ:

- 10/15/2022: Raised Beds and Container Gardens
- 10/22/2022 Maintaining Your Garden
- 11/05/2022 Diseases and Insect
- 11/12/2022 Harvest, Handling & Storage

  Beauty's Community Garden, 3201 Airline Dr., Houston, Tx 77022.

Brenda Beust Smith's column in the
LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gar,dener
Email: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com



# John's Corner



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 214

I attended the Urban Gardening and Farming Conference last week hosted by the University of Houston Downtown. A few take aways from the presenters:

- The USA is losing 174 acres of good agricultural land per hour due to chemical abuse
- just a 2% increase in our soil organic matter in our agricultural soils would offset all the greenhouse gasses produced in the world
- health care costs in the USA are costing \$1 trillion per year in direct
  costs and an additional \$3 trillion in indirect costs for an aggregate of \$4
  trillion per year. All due to the poor quality of our food supply. This is
  covered up by the media and hidden since these costs are socialized.
- there are a minimum of over 690 million malnourished people in the world

Life spans are no longer increasing. A study by researchers at the University of Bergen in Norway (2022) has found that our obesogenic, disease promoting

and pro-ageing diets are shortening our lives. More reasons to eat organic foods whenever possible and grow as much of our own fruits and vegetables as possible.

There was a very interesting article in the August (2022) issue of Physics Today titled "Does New Physics Lurk Inside Living Matter". In nature we observe many things that are not fully explained.

In physics it does not matter if something is left or right-handed, but why does life use left-handed amino acids but right-handed sugars? Why do single cell organisms come together and cooperate like a single organism (ex. Slime molds)?

There is a new theory that evidence is growing, that Information if a physical reality as is mass or temperature. This has led some scientists to propose a new dictum that "Life = Matter + Information."

New ideas are being presented that Information may be negative entropy. "We are beginning to understand that biological information goes far beyond optimizing the energy budget; it often acts as a type of manager." Another way of stating the idea is that information is actually a physical quantity that can profoundly affect the way matter behaves.

The study of life from flatworms, bacteria, to tree and fungal networks are providing more evidence of this every day. Biological molecules like sucrose or vitamin-D3 have unique electron conductance properties associated with them. Why? This has led to a new field of study called Quantum Biology.

There is so much about God's creation that we do not know or even come close to understanding. When I read an article like this, I remember the verse "Study Nature and Let It Teach You."

Plants are smart as the excellent new book for gardeners "Teaming With Bacteria" by Jeff Lowenfels explains. Another example from the journal Plants, People Planet (2022) was on how some plants analyze the chemicals produced by some insects and then reproduce them to attract the insects in their traps.

We see this in species from orchids to gorteria daises to carnivorous plants like jack in the pulpit. When studying *Arisaema angustatum* and *A. penninsulae* they found only male fungus gnats. The plant copies the scent of female gnats luring the males into the trap.

Researchers at the university of Queensland in Australia have identified a species of insects that will eat polystyrene or what we know as Styrofoam. These super worms are actually the larva of the darkling beetle. Journal of Microbial Genomics (2022).

One of my favorite plants is the *Cacao* plant even though I have never grown it, as I love chocolate. Pure cocoa is highly nutritious, an excellent source of anti-

oxidants, amongst other benefits.

A study in the journal Nutritional Neuroscience (2022) has found many benefits from eating dark chocolate. The study found that substances in dark chocolate counteract several factors that contribute to mental decline. Regular eating of dark chocolate can reverse the effects of stress and have beneficial effects on memory and learning.

Note: Other research has shown that chocolate with lots of sugar or corn syrup destroys the benefits.

\* \* \*

# 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 Marigold-Crackerjack Mixed-Tagetes erecta Morning Glory Mixed Colors-Ipomoea Sunflower-Mammoth-Helianthus annuus Sunflower, All Sorts Mix Zinnia-Lilliput Mixed Colors-Zinnia elegans Basil, Genovese Seed Packets - 3 Catnip Seed Packets - 63 Garlic Chives Seed Packets - 556 Cilantro, Coriander Seed Packets - 66 Dill, Long Island Mammoth Seed Packets - 68 Parsley, Plain Italian Seed Packets - 73 Arugula, Rouquette Seed Packets - 567 Beans, Provider Seed Packets - 5 Beets, Detroit Seed Packets - 8 Brussel Sprouts-Long Island Improved Cabbage, Pak Choi \*NEW\* Cabbage, Copenhagen Market Seed Packets - 10 Cantaloupe, Hale's Best Seed Packets - 12 Carrot, Nantes Seed Packets - 14 Celery, Tall Utah \*NEW\* Corn-Golden Bantam 8 Row Corn, Pearls & Gold Seed Packets - 18 Cucumber, Boston Pickling Seed Packets - 19 Cucumber, Marketmore 76 Seed Packets - 20

Eggplant, Black Beauty Seed Packets - 22 Kale, Dwarf Siberian Seed Packets - 594 Lettuce, Simpson's Curled Seed Packets - 29 Lettuce, Parris Island Romaine Seed Packets - 452 Lettuce, Buttercrunch Seed Packets - 24 Mustard, Southern Giant Curled Seed Packets - 30 Onion, Evergreen Bunching Seed Packets - 32 Onion, Sweet Yellow Seed Packets - 589 Pepper, Long Red Cayenne Seed Packets - 38 Pepper, California Wonder Seed Packets - 37 Peas, Sugar Ann Snap Seed Packets - 36 Pumpkin, Jack O'Lantern Seed Packets - 40 Pumpkin, Small Sugar \*NEW\* Radish, Cherry Belle Seed Packets - 41 Radish, Sparkler Seed Packets - 43 Spinach, Bloomsdale Savoy Seed Packets - 44 Squash, Acorn Seed Packets - 45 Squash, Yellow Crookneck Seed Packets - 48 Squash, Zucchini Seed Packets - 49 Tomato, Ace Tomato, Cherry Turnip, Purple White Globe Seed Packets - 57 Watermelon, Sugar Baby Seed Packets - 60

# LOCATED INSIDE THE SALES OFFICE







### **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







## **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: <u>lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com</u>. 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.-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: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/journal.com/hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops">https://doi.org/10.1016/journal.com/hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops</a>
- 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. <u>meet.goto.com/957814789</u>
- **THUR., OCT. 13, BUTTERFLIES AS POLLINATORS** by **LAUREN SIMPSON**, 10amnoon, 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: <u>GCHOUSTON.ORG</u>
- SAT., OCT. 15: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL VEGGIES, HERBS & SUCCCULENTS 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. wabashfeed.com
- **SAT., OCT. 15: RAISED BEDS AND CONTAINER GARDENS,** 10-11am, Beauty's Community Garden, 3201 Airline Dr. Free but register: <a href="https://bit.ly/3RSTppZ">https://bit.ly/3RSTppZ</a>
- 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/harriscountypl/events/
- **TUES., OCT. 18: ALL ABOUT PLUMERIAS** by **PAULA FURTWANGLER,** 10am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. <u>sugarlandgardenclub.org.</u>
- **SAT., OCT. 22: MAINTAINING YOUR GARDEN,** 10-11am, Beauty's Community Garden, 3201 Airline Dr. Free but register: <a href="https://bit.ly/3RSTppZ">https://bit.ly/3RSTppZ</a>
- 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. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/nc/475">https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/nc/475</a> West Gray St. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society event. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/nc/475">https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/nc/475</a> West Gray St. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society event. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/nc/475">https://doi.org/10.1007/j.com/nc/475</a> West Gray St. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society event.

FRI.-SAT., OCT., 28-29: TEXAS COASTAL PRAIRIE CONFFERENCE: 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: 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

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

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

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

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



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 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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