



December 4, 2015

Dear Friends,

Here is the 135th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

This newsletter is a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith, John Ferguson and Mark Bowen. (John and Mark are with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . Email your thoughts to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your interest.

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## TWO LOST TREASURES . . . OUR READERS SPEAK . . . MY FAVORITE TO-DO LIST!

BY BRENDA BEUST SMITH

*"Good friends are hard to find and impossible to forget."  
-- The Fault in Our Stars by John Green*

**STILL GIVING THANKS** . . . that two wonderful folks we sadly lost this holiday season came into my life. I feel so lucky to have known them:

\* **GUY LEWIS** was a renowned UH basketball coach and -- of particular import to this column -- an avid azalea grower. If you've driven down Cullen Boulevard on the University of Houston campus during the spring, you've seen the enthusiastic results of Guy's, and his late wife Dena's, love of this iconic Houston flower.

UH's "Dena & Guy V. Lewis Azalea Garden" is planted with donated bloomers from the Lewis' collection of literally hundreds of shrubs at their UH area home. Guy and, in particular, Dena were enthusiastic members of

the former [University of Houston Entrances & Perimeter Committee](#) (Josanna Brattis Smith, Chairman) which was involved with garden's creation, also partially underwritten by the River Oaks Garden Club.

\* **JULYETTE MARSHALL** was a tall gorgeous New York fashion model who, many decades ago, swept into our Houston Chronicle office for a photo shoot. I was assigned to do a "local-gal-hits-international-big-time" interview. We immediately became friends and whenever she'd return to Houston, we'd meet for lunch.

By the time Julyette moved to Houston to start Zamaani, her creative African design enterprise, I was also a garden columnist. Zamaani is Swahili for "ancient times." In addition to being a delightful interview for the *Lazy Gardener* -- as well as for African-inspired food, fashion and home furnishings articles -- Julyette was quoted in national publications, including *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine and Jessica B. Harris' [The Welcome Table - African-American Heritage Cooking](#). Most impressive was Julyette's determination to succeed despite battling multiple sclerosis.

Julyette was a strong proponent of Kwanzaa (this year: Dec. 26 - Jan. 1). Many of our articles and her lectures at local upscale plant, food and decor sites focused on using African native plants such as African violet, airplane plants, aloes, amaryllis, agapanthus (lily of the Nile), asparagus fern, bird of paradise, black-eyed Susan, cacti, calla lilies, castor oil plants, clerodendron, crinum, crossandra, crotons, dracaenas, fiddle leaf fig, geranium, gerbera daisy, gladiolus, hibiscus, impatiens, flax, kalanchoes, lobelia, nemesia, nerine, some orchids, pencil cactus, mother-in-law's tongue, plumbago and string of pearls.

Julyette truly opened my eyes to how many of our favorite garden plants are actually native to Africa. In one article I will always remember, she focused on the bane of many apartment/condo owners: those tiny, walk-out patio areas that are so hard to landscape - narrow strips of grow-nothing soil or solid concrete, both of which trap summer heat, baking plants. One trick: cover concrete slabs and/or with woven mats that tolerate rain and help prevent heat build-up. She recommended Zambian mats.

Julyette's daughter, Nikki Marshall, has arranged a memorial service for her mother will be held Friday, Dec. 11, 11am, at [Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church](#), 3826 Wheeler Ave.



*Julyette Marshall helped us appreciate how many of our favorite plants are native to Africa, including, clockwise from upper left, amaryllis, gerbera daisy, lily of the Nile, geranium, impatiens, bird of paradise, kalanchoe and plumbago*

#### OUR READERS SPEAK:

\* **DR. BOB RANDALL** sent in this in response to [this column's Urban Harvest tribute](#) last week: "Thanks for the thanks. As you know the community garden effort has been a strong one by many people over the years. I was lucky to get a chance to work with others to make it happen and certainly worked hard and long, but so did others. It is worth mentioning that Susan Fischer, Ray Sher, Gary Edmondson have been at this since the late 1980's.

"I moved to Houston in 1979, started teaching organic gardening through LLU in 1986, and started with the Interfaith Hunger Coalition in 1988. It is worth mentioning that County Agent Arnold Brown was my mentor and he had pioneered the community gardens effort here in the late 1970's. There are several histories of this at the University of Houston Library and I have copies of them. It is also worth mentioning that a 'young' Chron reporter Brenda Smith wrote a key article that helped us a lot in 1989 about the Fourth Ward Community Garden."

\* **DRENDA BEUST** must have been reading my mind. I was just marveling at how exceptionally beautiful angel trumpets have been this year and she sends a picture of her own lovely one. (Drenda is my cousin-in-law. We've had fun with our close names.)



Left, angel trumpet closeup with Brenda's angel trumpet shrub in background. Remaining three are included in Rachel Gibbs' Winter Color Bar (see below): 1 to r, 'Riviera Blue Eyes' lobelia, 'Penny Beaconsfield' viola and 'Telstar Scarlet' dianthus

\* **BARBARA G.** in Spring emailed, asking which bedding plants bloom in winter in our area. She wants color in her front gardens for the holidays. In the same email batch came Rachel Gibbs' interesting "Color Bar" of winter color bedding annuals (see above) that do well here. Use these to provide eye interest around winter dormant plants. Link: [Lanson Jones & Co. Color Bar Winter](#).

\* \* \*

#### Last week we listed some December garden chores divided into:

1. "Should Do This Month..."
2. "If the Spirit Moves..."
3. "If You're Feeling Really Energetic..."

Here's my favorite part of these listings, excerpted in part from my **LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE ON CD** (see end of this column):

### "GREAT DON'T-DO CHORES FOR REALLY LAZY GARDENERS"

\* Don't fertilize. We'll still probably have warm weather ahead that might trigger new growth. This tender growth will be far more susceptible to freeze damage and you might lose a plant that otherwise would have easily survived winter. Okay to prune in January when temperatures tend to stay lower.

\* Don't do any heavy pruning. Same reason as above.

\* Don't overwater potted plants; they've hopefully gone dormant.

\* Don't work at all in beds soaked by heavy rains. You'll smush all the oxygen out.

\* Don't stop leaves that are falling into gardens. They make great protective mulch, not only free, but cheerfully supplied by your trees. As they break down, they enrich the soil with organic matter.

\* Stop feeding, watering clivia.

\* Don't plant these seeds in garden until January: garbanzo bean, bok choy, cabbage, collard greens, kale, mibuna, nasturtium, mustard, parsley,

\* Don't put these plants in: collard greens, kale, leeks, turnips. Wait until mid-January.

\* \* \*

*Brenda's "book" -- LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE ON CD (a pdf book based on her 40+-years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener) -- is available wholesale as a fundraising item. Details: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net). Individual books: \$20. Make checks payable to LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE ON CD and mail to LGG on CD, 14011 Greenranch Dr., Houston, TX 77039.*

## JOHN'S CORNER



### "What Is A Healthy Soil"

(Part 6)

Continuing our discussion of what is a healthy soil we are going to discuss item #4 below.

- 1) Organic matter from almost fresh to totally decomposed in the form of humus (humins, humic and fulvic acids)
- 2) Minerals (nutrients, sand, silt, and clay)
- 3) Soil life (microbes and macrobes)
- 4) Air & water
- 5) Plant choices
- 6) Care for and do not destroy the health of the soil one has

Healthy soil is relative to the plant one is growing. For example a soil that is great for Louisiana Irises will kill a cactus. Conversely, a Louisiana Iris will die in a soil that cactus and succulents grow well in.

5) Plant Choices - Planting the right plant in the correct place. This is the easiest objective to accomplish. There is a tremendous amount of information on plant choices. One can start with this newsletter as Brenda does a great job of telling folks about all sorts of plants and showing them examples. Randy Lemon of Garden line fame also does a great job of giving folks information on correct plant choices.

Tip: The best information comes from books written by local authors for our climate and soils. For example a plant that may grow in full sun up North must have afternoon shade in Houston and a national book will not tell you this and your plant will die. There are also regional differences. My wife and I have purchased a few acres of land near LaGrange to build our retirement home and I want to fill the property with plants beneficial to wildlife from butterflies to quail and wild turkeys. A few weeks ago I was researching the "Black Cherry" (*Prunus serotina*) as it is great fruiting native and a host plant for butterflies. I found that there are at least 5 different sub-species of this tree growing in Texas. The one from East Texas prefers sandy slightly acidic soils moist soils hence it will die in the slightly alkaline clays that are much dryer around La Grange. However there is a variety that grows in the Hill country around Austin that will work fine. The message is to use local resources so one gets information for the area in which they live.

A couple great books for our area are (they make excellent Christmas gifts for gardeners or even new home owners):

For shrubs, flowers, groundcovers, and general home use the River Oaks Garden Club book is tremendous resource.

[A Garden Book for Houston and The Texas Gulf Coast](#), River Oaks Garden Club, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2013, edited by Lynn Herbert, ISBN 978-0-578-09149-6

For those that wish to grow vegetables, fruits, and herbs this book is an excellent reference.

["Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro Houston,"](#) by Bob Randall, PhD., Retired Executive Director Urban Harvest. A resource guide on how to grow plants in the Houston area organically and where to get the supplies you may need. It is sold at many area gardening centers. This is one of the very best resources for Houston and Gulf Coast.

The Texas A&M University through the agricultural extension services has recommended plant lists for every county in Texas, from fruit trees to flowers. Additionally, all the plant societies have plant information available. Local gardening clubs are another resource to learn more.

*There just is no excuse for putting a plant into the wrong soil at the wrong location as there is too much information easily available.*

**TIP:** Beware of shopping at big box stores and large discount gardening chains for plants and supplies. Much of what they sell does not do well in our area. I have gone into these stores and found that half of the plant varieties they sell will not do well in our area and are almost guaranteed to die. For the best gardening success shop only at local privately owned nurseries.

\* \* \*

## WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

### TO SUBMIT EVENTS - PLEASE - USE OUR FORMAT!

Find a similar event in our calendar below and copy the format EXACTLY.

Then you can add additional information. Email to [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net).

Not using our format will result in a delay in publication! Events will not be picked up from other newsletters.

If we inspire you to attend any of these events, please let them know you heard about it in

SAT., DEC. 5: GROWING CITRUS IN HOUSTON, 9-11am. University of St. Thomas, 3918 Yoakum Blvd. \$45. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540; [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT., DEC. 5: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 10am-4pm, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th Street, free, [buchanansplants.com/calendar/events](http://buchanansplants.com/calendar/events)

SAT., DEC. 5: BACKYARD BASICS: FRUIT AND NUTS, 9-11am, Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd., Rosenberg. \$15. Fort Bend AgriLife Extension Service/Master Gardener event. Register: 281-342-3034, [fortbend.agrilife.org/backyard-basics](http://fortbend.agrilife.org/backyard-basics)

MON., DEC. 7: PAM DUBE, SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FLORAL DESIGN, 10am-noon, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 SH 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event, [tomballgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:tomballgardenclub@gmail.com)

WED., DEC. 9: CHRISTMAS CRAFTS USING NATURAL PLANT MATERIALS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., DEC. 11: A WARM GARDENING WELCOME BY BARBARA BAKER, 10:15 am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Tickets required. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT., DEC. 12: GROWING TOMATOES FROM SEED (PART 1 OF 3) BY GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9-11:30am, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Free. Reservation: [galv@wt.net](mailto:galv@wt.net). 281-534-3413; [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

WED., DEC. 16: READING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY V AND BOOK SWAP, 6-8pm, City of Houston Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. Free but registration required: 832-394-9050 or [steve.stelzer@houston.tx.gov](mailto:steve.stelzer@houston.tx.gov). [greenhouston.tx.gov/gbrceeducation.pdf](http://greenhouston.tx.gov/gbrceeducation.pdf)

SAT., DEC. 19: CHRISTMAS GARDENS BIRD COUNT, 8am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

MON., DEC. 21: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners Precinct 2 event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

MON., JAN. 4: GROWING CITRUS BY BETH HOUSE, 10am-noon, Amegy Bank Community Room, 28201 SH 249, Tomball. Free. Tomball Garden Club event, [tomballgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:tomballgardenclub@gmail.com)

THURS., JAN. 7: IS YOUR STYLE IN YOUR GARDEN? BY MARGARET SINCLAIR, 9:30am, Municipal Utility Building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy. Free. Nottingham Country Garden Club Program. [nottinghamgardenclub.org](http://nottinghamgardenclub.org)

FRI., JAN. 8: PERSONALIZING YOUR GARDEN FOCAL POINTS BY DARNELL SCHREIBER, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

TUE., JAN. 12: FOREST ECOLOGY / TREE CARE BY JOHN ROSS. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. [www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

WED., JAN. 13: TOP BAR BEEHIVES BY DEAN COOK. Noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

THUR., JAN. 14: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PREVIEW OF THE FRUIT & CITRUS TREE SALE, 6:30-8:30pm, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. Free. 281-341-7068; [www.fbmg.org](http://www.fbmg.org)

THURS., JAN. 14: BED BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP, 7:30PM, CHERRIE FLORES GARDEN PAVILION, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston 77004. Free. Houston Rose Society event. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

SAT., JAN. 16: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL FRUIT & CITRUS TREE SALE, 9am-1pm or sold out, Fort Bend County Fairground Barn-H, 4310 Highway 36S, Rosenberg. 281-341-7068; [www.fbmg.org](http://www.fbmg.org)

SAT., JAN. 16: COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW, 1-4pm, First Christian Church Fellowship Building, 3500 N. Loop 336 W, Conroe. Don Marcotte, 936-661-1101. [funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net)

SAT., JAN. 16: FRUIT TREES - SELECTION, PLANTING, PRUNING, SPRAYING & CARE, 9-11am, Montgomery County Extension Office, Tom LeRoy Education Center, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Master Gardener event. \$5. 936-539-7824, [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

THURS., JAN. 21: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2016 INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM BEGINS. Registration (\$160; Jan. 11 deadline). [www.txmg.org/walleimg](http://www.txmg.org/walleimg).

SAT., JAN. 23: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT AND NUT TREE SALE, 8am program, 9am-noon sale, Montgomery Co. Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824, [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

MONDAYS., JAN. 25-FEB. 29: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER, TIER III: THE ART OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN. 9am-3pm., Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. 713-274-4160

SAT., JAN. 30: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FRUIT & NUTTREE SALE (and presale pickup), 10am-2pm, 850 Bus 290 N. Hempstead. [txmg.org/walleimg](http://txmg.org/walleimg)

SAT., FEB. 6: COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW, 1-4pm, Katy and E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center, 1400 19th St., Huntsville. Don Marcotte, 936-661-1101. [funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:funny-farm2@sbcglobal.net)

TUE., FEB 9: SHADE BARDENING BY GUDRUM OPPERMAN. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. [www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

WED., FEB. 10: SPRING INTO YOUR LAWN - ORGANIC LAWN CARE & SPRINGTIME PREP BY BOB DAILEY. noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., FEB. 12: THE HOLISTIC GARDEN, BY DR. JOE NOVAK, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT., FEB. 20: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PREVIEW FOR THE VEGETABLE- HERB PLANT SALE, 9-11am, Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg. Free. 281 341-7068, [www.fbmng.org](http://www.fbmng.org)

SAT. FEB. 27: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL VEGETABLE-HERB PLANT SALE, 9am-noon, Fort Bend County Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd., Rosenberg. 281 341-7068, [www.fbmng.org](http://www.fbmng.org)

TUES., MAR. 8: EASTER FLORAL DESIGN CONCEPTS BY TONY HUFFMAN. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. [www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

WED. MAR. 9: MARCH MART VOLUNTEER TRAINING, 10:30-11:30am, MARCH MART PREVIEW OF SALE PLANTS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI., MAR. 11: BULLET PROOF VIBURNUMS FOR THE GULF SOUTH BY DR. DAVID CREECH, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

WED. MAR. 12: MARCH MART VOLUNTEER TRAINING, 9:30-10:30am, and MARCH MART PREVIEW OF SALE PLANTS, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

FRI.-SAT., MAR. 18-19: MARCH MART, 8am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 2206 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. 713-274-4160.

TUE., APR. 12: PLANT PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES. 9 am. South County Community Center, 2235 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Free. Woodlands Garden Club event. [www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://www.thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

FRI., APR. 9: XPLORING CREATIVITY BY LILLIAN RICO, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Drive. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

FRI., MAY 13: NIGHT SOUNDS - TWILIGHT WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN BY DEBBIE BANFIELD, 10:15am, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs; [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

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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 a couple of years ago, it ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from Chronicle 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 and now to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy Gardener run on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's **BULLETIN** magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** with John Ferguson and Mark Bowen of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Aldine and is married to the now 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.

## MARK BOWEN

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist, certified permaculturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a co-editor and periodic article contributor.

## 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, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



**COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 20% off our: Garden Mix Light Plus. <http://natureswayresources.com/products.html>**

(Offer good for retail purchases of this product by the cubic yard at Nature's Way Resources (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 12/19/15.

**COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 30% off all trees & shrubs including fruit trees, shade trees, antique roses and much**

**more.** (Offer good for retail purchases of this product by the cubic yard at Nature's Way Resources (101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX). Expires 12/31/15.