



October 11, 2013

Dear Friends,

Here is the 31st issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. This a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith, John Ferguson and Mark Bowen (both 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.

Please or sign yourself up to receive this newsletter by clicking the "Join Our Mailing List" link just below. We will never sell or share our mailing list to protect the privacy of our subscribers.

Last week, we reached the 1500 subscriber mark with our 30th issue. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our readers for helping spread the word, resulting in an average of 50 new readers each week so far.

Enjoy!

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Herbs to help celebrate Halloween! L to r, rosemary, mints, lavender and Edith Smith's favorite Halloween witch to get you in the spirit!

SAY "BOO!" WITH AN HERBAL SPELL . . . RED CLOAKS IN THE

JUNGLE

by BRENDA BEUST SMITH

"...the air was heavy with the scent of foreign herbs, basil, oregano, and some familiar ones like mint, summer savory, lemon balm, boarge and thyme . . .

"This smells like Italy," Phryne said.

"Only way to get real taste is to grow our own herbs . . . Could even be in Rome on a hot night . . ."

-from "Away With The Fairies" - a Phryne Fisher mystery by Kerry Greenwood

Few plants can give so much as herbs . . . scents, beauty, flavor.

And, if you listen to folks from the Herb Society . . . serenity, sleep, peace of mind, a new approach to Halloween . . .

A new approach to Halloween?

Get back to the celebration's real roots, urges Lucia Bettler, one of Houston's most knowledgeable herbalists. Lucia and husband Michael, a frequent gardening lecturer, run one of our area's most delightful, longtime herbal shops, [Lucia's Garden](#).

Lucia is in the process of making dream pillows and protection pouches for the big upcoming 41st Annual Herb Fair Oct. 18-19.

Lucia would like to see us get away from the really macabre aspects of today's celebrations, but rather to emulate the mindsets of many ancient Celts. They believed that - among other things - this time of the year, as fall turns into winter, the "veil" is the thinnest between our world and that of those who have "passed on." It is the time when those who have recently died will be making that final journey "through the veil."

They wore costumes and cored-out turnips (not pumpkins!) to create mildly-scary-faced candle holders so this "parade of spirits" would pass them by. Remember, at this time of year, without electric lights everywhere, it was pretty dark at night!

At this time of year, they believed, dreams could be especially prophetic or helpful. Want to give this a try? Lucia recommends writing down, for example, things you'd like to accomplish, problems that need to be solved, etc. Then use a dream pillow to help you relax more completely, and see if in the morning solutions suddenly have come to you.

Think "potpourri in a pillow." Take two squares of fabric, sew up three sides, stuff your herbs in, sew up the fourth side. That's it!

Choose herbs that promote relaxation, sweetness, love. Mugwort, she says, is said to help people dream. Lavender promotes sweetness. Rose petals, love. Hops, peaceful sleep. Many such dried herbs will be available at the big upcoming Herb Fair.

Protection pouches work pretty much the same way to protect you from bad dreams or negativity. Lucia - who will have a booth at the Herb Fair, recommends basil, patchouli, sage and rosemary.

The [Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit](#) 41st annual Herb Fair will, as always, include everything to do with herbs, plus experts to answer questions: plants, foods (including some of the best soups - served on the spot - that you'll ever taste), gift items, decorative items, books, special classes and more. Oct. 18, 4-7 p.m.; Oct. 19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at its new location, Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer (See calendar below for more details including times of special demonstrations).



P.S. Herb growers everywhere lost a wonderful friend and teacher with the passing of Mary Versfelt earlier this fall. Mary was a national herbal presence, stalwart member of the Herb Society of America, Lone Star Unit, a special friend to so many of us and probably nowhere will her absence be felt more than at this year's Herb Fair.

RED CLOAKS AND MORE IN THE JUNGLE!



Bryan Treadway sent in this great picture of his Brazilian red cloak. left above, on the same day Sandra S. emailed wanting to know where to buy one and can she plant it now? Ironically, the private garden where I got mine is having a big sale Fri.-Sat., Oct. 18-19, 9am-5pm both days and, yes, this plant, *Megaskepasma erythrochlamys*, will be available for sale.

If you've never been to the Jungle Garden created by Jerry Seymore (center above), it's a treat - five acres of rare and unusual plants collected over his lifetime world travels. Couple of suggestions, bring your own wagon and any extra plant pots you want to recycle. He sure can use them.

Among his fun offerings are sure to be unusual crinum, Louisiana iris and other really neat things like this Siam Moon caladium above right. Jerry says he started these last fall and kept them in pots with good drainage. They will go down when temps get to 40s. Just keep them dry till Spring. When temps reach 80s, put in sun and water. They will take full sun or partial sun. Jerry's Jungle Garden is located in the Aldine area

at 712 Hill Rd. (832-978-5358 or jerrysjungle.com).



JANE LONG SOCIETY AND OLEANDER SOCIETY TO INTRODUCE A NEW "JANE LONG" OLEANDER!

International Oleander Society President Roxann Kriticos has announced the naming of a new oleander "Jane Long" in honor of the "Mother of Texas" who is celebrated annually on Bolivar Peninsula.

In the early 1800s, Jane Long spent an historic two-year period on Bolivar, giving birth alone amid incredible cold, a confrontation with Karankawa Indians and other unimaginable challenges, while waiting for her "fillabuster" husband James Long to return from his campaign to trigger Texas Independence. For this valor, she is today revered as the "Mother of Texas."

Thanks to the stalwart folks on Bolivar Peninsula, Jane now (for the first time ever) has her portrait hanging in the State Capital in Austin, an annual festival held in her honor (Oct. 12, 2013), a new Jane Long Pavilion at the entrance to Fort Travis Seaside Park and a highway (87) officially renamed The Jane Long Highway.

And now . . . she has her own oleander!

The beautiful pink bloom selected was hybridized by the Oleander Society's Robert Newding. The oleander is unique in that - in addition to a white stripe down the center - many of the flowers have six petals. The vast majority of oleander flowers have five petals.

The joint project of the Galveston-based International Oleander Society and the Jane Long Society, a committee of the Bolivar Peninsula Cultural Foundation, will introduce the new oleander through pictures at the big Fourth Annual Jane Long Festival Oct. 12 at historic Fort Travis Seashore Park on the newly-designated Jane Long Highway (SH 87) on the peninsula near the ferry landing.

Plants will not be available until 2014, but names and emails will be collected so that notifications can be sent

to notify interested buyers. It is projected that the oleander starter plants should be available in time for the Oleander Festival in April, 2014.

But plenty of plants will be available for sale at the Festival at the Bay View Methodist Church Plant Sale booth.

Additional information on the 2013 Jane Long Festival and Lecture Series is available at janelongfestival.org.

* * *

Need a gardening/environmental speaker for your group or school program? Brenda has list of dozens of great horticulture/ecology Upper Texas Gulf Coast area speakers, many of whom are free. Email her for a free copy or for criteria to have your name added as a speaker: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net.

Questions aimed at me can be emailed to lazygardener@sbcglobal.net (altho I'll get any you send to this newsletter as well).

ARCHIVES OF BRENDA'S COLUMNS:

Link to archives: <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs172/1112503958110/archive/1112822112421.html>

"THE LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE ON CD" - Specifically for Houston Area gardens - WHAT TO DO EACH MONTH - when to fertilize, prune, plant what where, best plants for sun, shade, butterflies, hummingbirds, etc. Based on Brenda's quirky 40+ year Houston Chronicle Lazy Gardener column. PDF format, print out only the month you need. \$20 total, checks payable to Brenda B. Smith. Mail to: Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD, 14011 Greenranch Dr., Houston, TX 77039-2103.

For correspondence that is specific to Brenda, feel free to email her directly at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net.

MULCH CORNER

UTILITY MULCH

BY JOHN FERGUSON



This is the 31st article on mulches and the last in the series for a while. Today I want to talk about a new type of mulch called "Utility Mulch". This mulch is NOT for use in horticulture or growing plants.

This spring we were approached by a waste company that was working with Home Depot and some sawmills whom wanted to recycle their wood waste. For example when Home Depot cuts boards for customers there is a lot of scraps pieces, there is shipping crates for appliances and other wood that were going to the landfill where it creates greenhouse gasses. Sawmills often have irregular pieces of wood, pieces with small pieces of bark on them, etc. that they cannot sell. This collection of wood scraps is mainly pine with some oak mixed in.

We take this wood waste and grind it up to a small, useful size that is easy to handle. Since it is made up of small dry pieces of wood that are soft and brittle, it is very easy to grind (inexpensive as compared to logs and other larger material). This material has a very high carbon to nitrogen ratio, hence it is not good for use on plants. We call it utility mulch.

We have been testing this mulch at our facility for many months and have found several good uses for it.

One of the uses is on our roads. During the hot dry summer a compost/mulch facility can be a very dusty place. In areas where we have covered our roads with it we have reduced our dust problem by at least 80%! We no longer have the expense of watering these roads for dust control. It also keeps mud from getting on equipment and other vehicles in rainy weather when one drives on it.

It also makes a great base for a temporary parking area keeping cars from getting stuck in the mud.

Another great use is in filtering storm water. We have created berms with this mulch to filter storm water. As the run-off passes through the mulch it filters the water removing any sediment. Due to the high carbon content, it allows microbes to absorb any dissolved nutrients removing them from the water. The result is a

very clean water that is finally discharged from the property. It works better than silt fence, is easier to use and install and lower costs to remove after a project is finished (just use a tractor with a box blade and spread over the ground).

If this material is used around parking lots, storm water drains etc. it will remove oils, antifreeze and other chemicals from the storm water (the microbes bio-degrade the chemicals into harmless components) and prevent them from entering our streams. These types of berms only need to be 12-15 inches tall to be effective.

We used to have a problem with people driving ATV's onto our property. By making the berms very tall the ATV's cannot climb and cross them creating a natural barrier. We have also noticed that the soil under these large berms has stayed moist even in the drought we have experienced the last couple of years and plants planted near them did not suffer from drought damage as compared to plants further away. Also after a few years the mulch is broken down into humus and the soil has become very rich.

We have found this Utility Mulch works well for temporary work areas as it keeps us out of the mud when there is wet conditions and allows work to continue without having to wait until an area dries out.

Another use we have found is on paths and walk ways between planting beds. The high carbon content reduces weed growth and makes a nice area to walk on and again keeping one from getting muddy during wet conditions.

Below are a few pictures illustrating the use of this mulch.

Now that we have discovered several uses for it we are giving free for non-profits till the end of the year and one only pays for delivery costs.

The first is a close up of the mulch. The second picture is using it on our roads and the third picture is on the side of a large berm.





FREE TREES!

CenterPoint Energy and Trees for Houston are in the process of giving away 2,500 3-5 gallon trees as part of the Energy Saving Trees program. Studies have shown that the right trees planted in the right place can save up to 30 percent through summer shade and slowing cold winter winds, and these trees will be available to Houston-area electric customers who agree to plant them in energy-saving locations. The program will run through October 18, 2013, while supplies last.

Available trees: Live oak, Baldcypress, Burr Oak, Cedar Elm, Chinkapin Oak, Drummond's Maple, Loblolly Pine, Mexican White Oak, Nuttall Oak, Overcup Oak, Pecan Tree, Shumard oak, Water Oak

If you are a CenterPoint Energy customer [click here](#) to register for a tree. Be sure to register before Friday, Oct. 18.

WEEKLY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

October 12: Plant Sale at the Fourth Annual Jane Long Festival, 11am-4pm, Fort Travis Seashore Park, Bolivar Peninsula, near the Ferry Landing. www.janelongfestival.org.

October 12: 2:00 p.m., Class/Workshop at Clown Alley Orchids, "Dividing and Mounting Plants", Lecture, Demonstration & Workshop. Each student will mount a free plant to take home. Tuition \$25 includes the blooming size plant and mounting materials. Where: Clown Alley Orchids, 3119 Lily Street, Pasadena, 281-991-6841, www.clownalleyorchids.com

October 12: 10 a.m., The Calendar Garden Program: Natives for Fall with Mark Bowen. Mark is the General Manager of Nature's Way Resources and a native plant and organic specialist. He will be showing us some great natives to use for fall gardening. Location: 30730 Old Hockley Rd. Magnolia. *Counts as CE Hours for Master Gardeners. [CLICK HERE to register now!](#)

October 12: Fall Garden Day, A morning of demonstrations, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Office and Gardens, 3033 Bear Creek Drive, Houston, TX 77084, Registration and Refreshments 8:30 a.m. - Demonstrations 9:00 a.m. - noon include:
Grow Your Own Groceries, Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers, The Scoop on Composting, Fall Lawn Secrets * Invest in Trees, Coats and Sweaters for Plants, Reproduce with Style. Preregistration \$15.00 - Morning of the event \$20.00 (Includes info booklet and self-propagating Crawford lettuce seedlings for the first 200 registrants). Call David Parish at 281-855-5600 or dwp@ag.tamu.edu

October 12: 2:00 p.m., Clown Alley Orchids will be offering a class titled: "Dividing & Mounting Orchids," \$25 tuition includes plant and mounting supplies, 3119 Lily Street, Pasadena, TX 77505, 281-991-6841, clownalley@sbcglobal.net, www.clownalleyorchids.com

October 12: 12:00 noon, Surfside Beach residents will start a garden club to discover and experiment with plants that will grow in our difficult soils. Our initial meeting will be Saturday October 12 at Sharkey's (deck area), Highway 332 and Surf Drive, 979-233-1122. Georgia Pavey, a Master Gardener internee, will discuss a list she has compiled of possible plants and trees that might be grown in this area.

October 13: Urban Harvest's Designing Bountiful Gardens Using Permaculture. 12:30 - 5:00 pm. A series of 6 individual classes. \$286 members. \$404 non-members. Various locations. For more info: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org

October 13: Urban Harvest Children's Series: Amazing Cucurbits & Pumpkin Painting. [2 classes] 12:30 - 1:00 pm & 1:30 - 2:00 pm. Free. Urban Harvest Farmers Market, 3000 Richmond Ave @ Eastside. For more info: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org

October 15th, 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Harris County - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension presents: Making Living Arrangements with Indoor Plants, Location: Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 East 11th Street Houston, TX 77008, for more information: phone: 281-855-5624 or email Dinora.Galaviz@ag.tamu.edu.

October 16: 10:00 a.m., Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 - 3rd Wednesday Lecture Series will present Gaye Hammond, Houston Rose Society as the speaker. She will be giving a "hands-on" rose propagation class. Free and open to the public. Clear Lake Park meeting room, (on the lakeside), 5001 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook Texas 77586. For more info: 281 855 5600 or <http://hcmga.tami.edu>.

October 17: Urban Harvest's Winter Vegetable Gardening. 6:00 - 8:30 pm. \$24 members. \$36 non-members. United Way Community Resource Center, 50 Waugh Dr. 77007. For more info: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org

October 18th, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Harris County - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension presents: Juicing, Drying & Freezing, location: Culinary Institute LeNotre, 7070 Allensby Houston, for more information: phone: 281-855-5624 or email Dinora.Galaviz@ag.tamu.edu

October 18-19 - 41st Annual Herb Fair, South Texas Unit, Herb Society of America, (new location) Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer, Houston. Oct. 18, 4-7pm; Oct. 19, 8am-1pm. Herb plants, herbal products, crafts, jellies, blends, books, garden supplies, etc. Free growing advice. Special classes: 9 a.m.: Lois Sutton & Pam Harris, "Sitting Pretty - Assembling Herbal Chairs" and 10:30 a.m.: Beth & Jim Murphy, "Small Space Herb Gardens featuring Containers, Sprouts and Propagation Tips." Proceeds benefit local and national herb gardens and education. Details: www.herbsociety-stu.org

Oct. 18-19 - Jerry's Jungle Garden Open House and Plant Sale, 9am-5pm both days. Rare and unusual tropical plants. 712 Hill Rd., Houston (832-978-5358 or jerrysjungle.com).

October 19: Urban Harvest's Backyard Chickens. 9:00 - 11:00 am. \$24 members. \$36 non-members. Private Residence East of downtown near Clinton/Waco. For more info: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org

October 19: Free Clinic - Fall Grasses for Texas Gardens, 10:15 a.m. at both Cornelius Nursery locations, 1200 N. Dairy Ashford and 2233 S. Voss, <http://www.calloways.com/clinics>

October 19: 1:30 p.m., Companion Planting Lecture by Dianne Norman at Wabash Antiques & Feed Store. Companion planting is based on the idea that certain plants can benefit others when planted next to, or close to one another. Dianne will discuss which vegetables that, when planted together are mutually beneficial. Instructor: Dianne Norman owns her own Wholesale Nursery, is a Texas Master Gardener and had one of the first Organic Subscription Farms in the Coastal area.

October 19-20: Peckerwood Garden in Hempstead, TX, would like to let everyone know of their upcoming Fall Open Days. We will be open two weekends, October 19 & 20 and November 9 & 10. Plant sales are from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Guided garden tours are at 1:00 & 3:00 pm. Tours are \$10.00. The garden is not wheelchair accessible and please, no young children. The Garden is not a "wander at will" type location and is only available through the guided tours. Peckerwood Garden is located at 20571 Hwy. 359 in Hempstead, TX. The phone number is 979-826-3232 and e-mail is isinfo@peckerwoodgarden.org. We can also be found on Facebook.

October 21: 8:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 will host Open Garden Day at their Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston, TX 77034. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Hours are 8:30 am - 11:00 am with a program on dividing Dayillies, Canna Lillies and Iris at 9:30 am. Free and open to the public. Children invited! For more info: 281 855 5600 or <http://hcmga.tami.edu>

October 22: Urban Harvest's Compost & Compost Teas. 7:00 - 9:00 pm. \$24 members. \$36 non-members. United Way Community Resource Center, 50 Waugh Dr. 77007. For more info: 713-880-5540 or www.urbanharvest.org

October 23 at 7:30 pm - Lecture on "Endangered Cactus & Succulent Species in México and the United States." Presented by Houston Cactus & Succulents Society member Liliana Cracraft at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, Houston, TX 77019. Free.

Oct. 25: 2nd Annual Sustainable Landscape Conference - A Catalyst Landscapae: Taking the LEED with SITES, 8am-2:15pm, Big Stone Lodge, Dennis Johnson Park. Co-hosted by Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, this daylong conference will address Houston's explosive growth and the need for the longterm energy and resource-efficient building techniques promoted by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) developed to encourage low-impact landscape development schemes. For fees and other details, contact The Mercer Society at 281-443-8731, or msociety@hpc4.net.

Oct 26th OHBA's 'OktOHBAfest!' OHBA's annual party that raises money for college scholarships. This year it is at Buffalo Brewery 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Coming in costume gets you a discount. Please go to www.ohbaonline.org to register and see details.

October 26: 10:15 a.m., Free Clinic - Spring Bulbs - Fall Planting at both Cornelius Nursery locations, 1200 N. Dairy Ashford and 2233 S. Voss <http://www.calloways.com/clinics>

November 1-3: Antique Rose Emporium's 25th Annual Fall Festival of Roses. Free. Programs: Nov. 1 - 11am, Propagation by Glenn Schroeter; 1pm, Grow Roses by Judy Barrett; 2:30pm, Psycho Lighting by Linda Lehmusvirta; 3:30pm, Afternoon Tea. Nov. 2 - 11am, Grandma's Garden by Greg Grant; 1pm, Lawn Gone by Pam Penick; 2:30pm, Bulbs by Chris Wiesinger; 4pm, Fearless Gardening 101 by Felder Rushing. Nov. 3 - Behind Scenes Tour by Mike Shoup. Details: www.antiqueroseemporium.com

November 9th, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Harris County - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension presents: Jams & Jellies for the Holidays Location: Culinary Institute LeNotre, 7070 Allensby, Houston, for more information: phone: 281-855-5624 or email Dinora.Galaviz@ag.tamu.edu.

November 9-10: Peckerwood Garden in Hempstead, TX, Fall Open Days. Plant sales are from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Guided garden tours are at 1:00 & 3:00 pm. Tours are \$10.00. The garden is not wheelchair accessible and please, no young children. The Garden is only available through the guided tours. Peckerwood Garden is located at 20571 Hwy. 359 in Hempstead, TX. The phone number is 979-826-3232 and e-mail is isinfo@peckerwoodgarden.org.

November 18: Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 will host Open Garden Day on Monday, Nov. 18 at their Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston, TX 77034. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Hours are 8:30 am - 11:00 am with a program on dividing Overwintering

Tropicals at 9:30 am. Free and open to the public. Children invited!
<http://hcmga.tami.edu>, 281 855 5600

Submit calendar items to lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com. Events must be submitted by the sponsoring organization. Please note: "garden calendar request" in the subject line. We list calendar items up to two months ahead of time.

Need speakers for your group? Brenda's "Lazy Gardener's Speakers List" of area horticultural/environmental experts is available free for the asking. Email your request to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net.

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.

In addition to her position as Production Editor on the Garden Club of America's magazine and her freelance writing career, Brenda's latest venture is "THE LAZY GARDENER'S & 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 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 the editor.

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.



<http://www.arborgate.com/>



<http://wabashfeed.com/>



<http://microlifefertilizer.com/>



<http://natureswayresources.com/>



Save 20%: Redeem this coupon for a big discount on Nature's Way Resources "Tropical Mix" (<http://natureswayresources.com/products.htm>). Please note: this offer is for bagged or bulk material purchases by retail customers only at Nature's Way Resources, located at 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe TX.

Offer Expires: 10/27/13

