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JUNE 23, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 211TH 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. . . E mail 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.

Enjoy!

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Dale Phillips' treasures, l to r, Crinum 'Mrs. James Hendry,' Nong Nooch vine (Petraeovitex), Frangipani vine (Chonemorpha fragrans), yellow trumpet ginger (Siphonochilus decora) and Plumeria Pudica. Dale can be contacted at dalep4586@gmail.com

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Avid gardeners love nothing more than finding exciting new-to-them plants. I get such neat pictures from readers. Time to share!

DALE PHILLIPS, for example, grows an extraordinary number of unusual bulbs and other selections in his almost-50-year-old Friendswood garden. Among the recent bloomer shots Dale has sent in (along with his comments) are:

- [Crinum "Mrs. James Hendry"™](#) - *Got this crinum from the Bulb Hunter Chris Wiesinger last fall, it just finished blooming. I have in full sun and keep it watered. Chris is author of [The Bulb Hunter](#), a great resource for anyone who loves bulbs.*
- [Petraeovitex \(Nong Nooch vine\)](#) - *". . . froze although covered and has not come back." But a friend wintered his in a greenhouse ". . . and it's doing great."*
- [Frangipani vine \(Chonemorpha fragrans\)](#) - *a stunning, powerful climbing plant, flowering profusely from May - July. The flowers deceptively resemble the frangipani but no scent.*
- [Yellow trumpet ginger \(Siphonochilus decora, dwarf ginger, African yellow trumpet ginger\)](#). *Dwarf/miniature with large, yellow, crepe paper-like flowers*
- [Plumeria Pudica](#) - *also froze back although covered. But it came back out."*

* * *



PLUMERIA QUESTIONS

Speaking of plumerias, these tropical treasures are truly struttin' their stuff right now. And triggering lots of notes and questions:

- *Virginia Joiner in Northwest Houston caught me with a question I've never gotten before.*

Only one branch on Virginia's otherwise healthy plumeria produces flowers. She does fertilize, and supplements with Epsom salts. What would cause this?

Time to turn to an expert! Paula Furtwangler, a [Plumeria Society of America](#) past president, responded: *"Sometimes plumerias don't bloom on all branches at the same time. It depends on the maturity of the branch. If your blooming branch is longer than the non-blooming branches, then just be patient and wait for it to set blooms."*

"Just make sure you keep feeding your plumeria according to the package directions, and make sure it gets full sun. If your plant is in a pot, you could rotate it 180 degrees for different sun exposure."

- **Randi Leeds in Sugar Land is upset her neighbor's plumeria is blooming and hers isn't.**

Paula also came to my rescue on this one. Randi paid more for a larger plumeria so she'd get immediate flowers. Doesn't always work that way, Paula says:

"It depends on if it was a clone of a plant, or a seedling. Seedlings can take anywhere from 2-10 years to bloom. Plumeria cuttings taken from a known tree (also called a clone) may take a few years to acclimate to their new surroundings."

"As long as you are giving proper care, I wouldn't worry too much. If ...(you don't) ... know if it is a seedling or a known plant, then you just have to wait and see. The key to growing and enjoying plumeria is patience and persistent care. Some day your patience will be rewarded."

- **Mike S. complained about confusion in plant names! How true! He also wanted to know if he could leave his plumeria in the ground year-round.**

Plant pros drive gardeners (and gardening reporters) crazy with confusing names! Pros will tell you that's why it's so important to know the botanical names. But most gardeners could care less about these. What frustrates them is when the same plant has numerous common names.

Good example: plumerias are also called frangipani or Hawaiian lei flower. But Dale's "frangipani vine" (above) is not a true plumeria. It's a *Chonemorpha fragrans*, a plumeria cousin. Don't fight what you can't change. The important thing is that they both have lovely fragrances and LOVE our heat and humidity.

Truth be told, however, now that our Upper Texas Gulf Coast climate is growing increasingly warmer, many folks do grow plumerias as year-round garden plants. The further south you live, the more likely they will survive an entire winter. The more winters they survive, the more they are likely to survive as the roots grow deeper and stronger.

It's a gamble. These are tropics. A prolonged deep freeze will probably kill plumerias across this area.

One technique serious plumeria growers use is double-potting. A large pot is sunk into the ground down to the rim or just below rim. The plumeria is planted in a slightly smaller pot which is then set into the larger pot. This does help the plants stay cooler and makes it easier to lift pots in winter to move into the garage on exceptionally cold nights. Just be sure both pots have drain holes.

* * *



Among the 2016 Proud Partner Award winners were Farias Early Childhood Center Garden, left, and the Blodgett Urban Garden

KEEP HOUSTON BEAUTIFUL Have you worked on, seen or own a garden or landscape that is a true pleasure for folks driving, walking or biking by?

Keep Houston Beautiful, the City of Houston's Clean City Commission, is now accepting award applications for the 33rd Annual Mayor's Proud Partner Awards.

They're looking for beautification and landscaping installations, neighborhood cleanups, environmental education programs, volunteer park improvements, murals (graffiti abatement), waste minimization efforts, litter prevention programs and similar service projects.

Applications and details are available at [Keep Houston Beautiful](http://KeepHoustonBeautiful.org) or email alaroche@houstonbeautiful.org. Applications must be submitted online and are due no later than 5pm, Mon., July 24.

***Brenda's column in the LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
Is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email questions, comments to her at lazygardener@sbcglobal.net***

JOHN'S CORNER

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do Part 28



36) Krypton (Kr) - Krypton is another of the "Noble" gases as it refuse to bond with other elements. In nature, krypton is a clear odorless gas. Krypton is famous for its role in the Superman comics and movies as the substance kryptonite. In reality, krypton is virtually harmless to humans and may be an essential element. Krypton is found in igneous rocks at 0.0001 ppm and seawater at 0.0025 ppm. Most of our krypton comes from the atmosphere where it is extremely rare and occurs at 0.00011 % (1.1 ppm).

Krypton is produced by the radioactive decay of uranium in nuclear reactors.

It is used in high quality tungsten light bulbs from flashlights to incandescent lights. When energized, krypton glows bluish white making it useful for photoflashes and signage.

The isotope krypton-83 is used in MRI imaging of our lungs. In one of the rare exceptions krypton will combine with fluorine to form (KrF₂) at temperatures below -22° F where it is used to make a krypton-fluoride laser.

In science at one time, the wavelength of an emission line of krypton was used to define the length of a meter.

There has been a couple studies that found that it is associated with the amino acid isoleucine, but the relevance is unknown.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Krypton (Kr)

None known, good or bad

Sources: atmosphere

37) Rubidium (Rb) - The name comes from the Latin word *rubidius* which means the deepest red (ruby). No rubidium minerals are known, however it accumulates in lepidolite (a lithium bearing mineral) where it can be 1.5% of the mineral. It is found in other minerals but again uncombined chemically. Some brines have 6 ppm of rubidium.

Rubidium is found in igneous rocks at 90 ppm, shale at 140 ppm, sandstone at 60 ppm, and limestone at 3 ppm. Very little is found in fresh or seawater. In soils it can reach 100 ppm, marine plants at 7.4 ppm, land plants at 20 ppm, and in marine, or land animals at 17-20 ppm.

Rubidium is a very soft metal with a silvery-white luster, it will ignite if exposed to air, and it reacts violently with water.

In humans, the highest levels occur in the liver and muscles with very little in our bones. Rubidium can replace the electrolyte function of potassium in many species from bacteria and fungi to algae and invertebrates.

Small amounts of rubidium are used in semi-conductors, a few electronic and chemical applications. Rubidium has no direct biologic role. However, it has a small stimulatory effect on metabolism. If you note that rubidium is directly below potassium (K) on the periodic table, hence it has chemical properties that are similar and may substitute for potassium in many processes.

Rubidium is easily absorbed in our digestive system where it is found all over the body except in bones and teeth and any excess is excreted in our urine.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Rubidium (Rb)

Plants absorb rubidium very easily since it is chemically similar to potassium.

Sugar beets if grown in a potassium deficient soil will respond to rubidium as a fertilizer. Soya beans have 220 ppm, grass has 130 ppm, apples have 50 ppm rubidium, while sweet corn only has 3 ppm. Other plants from tea and coffee also contain rubidium.

In high concentrations, it can be toxic to plants where symptoms are dark green leaves, wilting and stunted foliage, and short brown roots.

Sources: sewage sludge (100 ppm)

38) Strontium (Sr) - Strontium is a metal in group 2 on the periodic table. It has a silvery appearance that turns yellowish after oxidation. It is a soft metal that will burn in air and reacts with water. Strontium does not occur in nature as a free element but only in a combined form with other elements.

This element is found in igneous rocks at 375 ppm, shale at 300 ppm, sandstone at 20 ppm, and limestone at 610 ppm. In fresh water at 0.08 ppm and seawater 8.1 ppm, marine plants at 260-1,400 ppm, soils at 300 ppm, land plants at 26 ppm, marine animals at 20-500 ppm and land animals at 14 ppm with the highest levels in mammal bones.

Strontium aluminates are used to make paint that glow in the dark. Strontium is used in many common products from toothpastes to televisions, ceramics, and glass manufacture. Strontium nitrate $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ is used in flares and fireworks to give a strong red color.

A radioactive form or isotope of strontium (strontium-90) that does not occur in nature is formed in nuclear explosions and later is in the fall out. The radioactive isotope is known to cause bone tumors and leukemia. Strontium has a +2 electrical or oxidation state, which is the same as calcium; hence, it is chemically similar to calcium and used in making our bones and mimics calcium in biological systems. It is required by mammals to make strong bones. As we get older, the body cannot utilize strontium as easily, which leads to weaker bones. Deficiencies of strontium are associated with some types of calcium (Ca) and boron (B) resistant osteoporosis and arthritis.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Strontium (Sr)

Since strontium is chemically similar to calcium (Ca) plants readily absorb it, where it tends to accumulate in the roots.

Plants like cereal grains tend to absorb the least strontium while in alfalfa even though rare, levels up to 1,500 ppm have been measured. It is easily absorbed by tobacco plants and some mosses. If the ratio of strontium to calcium (Ca:Sr) is less than 8, then strontium phytotoxicity may occur. Phosphorite deposits where we get phosphorus for artificial fertilizers often have over 2,000 ppm of strontium thus many artificial fertilizers have elevated levels of strontium and repeated use of these fertilizers leads to toxicity problems.

Proper levels of calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) in the soil prevent excess strontium from being absorbed. Heavy loam soils can accumulate up to 3,100 ppm of strontium while sandy soils hold very little. Sources: burning of coal, sulfur mining, artificial fertilizers, some manures

IN THE NEWS:

Mom's Across America has just released a new video on the dangers of GMO's and Round-Up and how it hurts our children.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_61okKFJSQ&feature=youtu.be

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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT TO THIS CALENDAR.

Events **NOT** submitted in the **EXACT** written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us. Sorry, no children's programs.
Submit to: lazygardener@sbcglobal.net

**IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

SAT, JUNE 24, REPOT YOUR 'SPECIALTY PLANT' WORKSHOP by LINDA GAY, 10am. The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Supplies fee. arborgate.com

SAT., JUN 24: SHADE GARDENING , 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. \$15. Fort Bend County Master Gardeners event. fortbend.agrilife.org/gwc/; 281-342-3034; brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu.

SAT., JUNE 24: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, AMAZING SUMMER LANDSCAPE. 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

TUES., JUNE 27, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAY & PROPOGATION & SEED SAVING SEMINAR, 9-11:30 am, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com

WED., JUNE 28: BONSAI WITH SUCCULENTS by RAY GONZALEZ, 7:30 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Free. hcsstx.org.

SAT, JULY 1: BUILD YOUR OWN SUCCULENT GARDEN OR REHAB YOUR CURRENT by LINDA GAY, 10am
Supplies fee. The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball, a rborgate.com

SAT., JULY 1: PECKERWOOD INSIDER TOUR, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Garden Conservancy event. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

THURS., JULY 6: STROLLER STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160

SAT. JULY 8: CREATE YOUR OWN JUNGLELOW, USING BEAUTIFUL TROPICAL PLANTS THAT CLEANSE YOUR INDOOR SPACE by LINDA GAY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. arborgate.com

SAT., JULY 8: ALL ABOUT GINGERS, 10-11am, Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E 11th. Free. 713-861-5702; buchanansplants.com/events

SAT., JULY 8: RAINWATER HARVESTING AND IRRIGATION BY THE HOMEOWNER! 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. \$5. Montgomery County Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824; mcmga.com

SAT., JUL 8: PECKERWOOD GARDEN OPEN DAY, AMAZING SUMMER LANDSCAPE. 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

TUES., JULY 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-438-3653

WED., JULY 12: EASY EDIBLES, noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., JULY 13: A BRIGHT SPOT IN THE HEART OF TYLER by GREG GRANT, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., JULY 13: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY ICE CREAM SOCIAL, 7-9pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. houstonrose.org

SAT., JULY 15: GREAT PEPPER EXTRAVAGANZA - PRESENTATION & TASTING, 9am-Noon, AgriLife Extension Bldg., Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but pre-register: galvcountrymgs@gmail.com, 281-534-3413, www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

SAT., JUL 15: EVENING AT PECKERWOOD, 5pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. Register: peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

SAT., JULY 15: PATIO, PORCH AND POOL CONTAINER GARDENING by LINDA GAY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. arborgate.com

SAT., JULY 15: TEXAS ROSE RUSTLERS ANNUAL MEET, 9am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: texasroserustlers.com

SAT., JUL 15: FRUIT TREES , 9-11am, AgriLife Extension Office, 1402 Band Rd, Rosenberg. \$15. Fort Bend County Master Gardeners event. fortbend.agrilife.org/gwc/; 281-342-3034; brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu.

WED., JULY 19: OHBA: ORGANICS AT MERCER, 5:30pm-8pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$15. Register: ohbaonline.org

SAT., JULY 22: GINGERS IN YOUR GARDEN, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: 713-274-4166.

SAT., JULY 22: PLUMERIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE, 9:30am-3pm, Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 TX-36, theplumeriasociety.org; 281-438-3653, Rosenberg. Free.

SAT., JUL 22: PECKERWOOD GARDEN DAY, 10am-2pm tours, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10. Garden Conservancy event. peckerwoodgarden.org, 979-826-3232; eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org

WED., AUG. 2: MERCER STUDENT RESEARCH & EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM, 5:30 pm-8pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., AUG. 3: STROLLER STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., AUG. 4: PROJECT LEARNING TREE, 9am-4pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: plttexas.org

WED., AUG. 9: MERCER STUDENT RESEARCH & EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM ENCORE noon-2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

THURS., AUG. 10: THE GREATER ATLANTA POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP: A MODEL OF URBAN POLLINATOR CONSERVATION by JENNY CRUSE SANDERS, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pinewoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

SAT., AUG. 26: GARDEN TO VASE, 10am-noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$40. Register: 713-274-4166.

THURS., SEPT. 7: STROLLER STROLLS, 9-10am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., SEPT. 13: THE MERCER SOCIETY'S OPEN GREENHOUSE, 10am-noon, and YOUR GARDEN & CLIMATE CHANGE, noon, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free.

THURS., SEPT. 14: FROM OVER THE TOP TO DOWN UNDER, ADVENTURES IN HORTICULTURE by GEORGE HULL, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pinewoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., SEPT. 21-24: MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING, Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Ave. \$40. Green Building Resource Center. Register: 832-394-9050; steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov; codegreenhouston.org

SAT., OCT. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

TUES., OCT. 10: GROWING PLUMERIAS, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-438-3653

THURS., OCT. 12: MOORE FARMS BOTANICAL GARDEN: A GERMINATING SUCCESS by REBECCA TURK, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS.-SAT., OCT. 12-14: 2017 BULB & PLANT MART. Garden Club of Houston event.

THURS., NOV. 9: MAGNOLIAS: QUEEN OF THE GARDEN by ANDREW BUNTING, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

THURS., DEC. 14: THE YEAR IN REVIEW by DAVID CREECH, 7pm, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St, Nacogdoches. 936-468-4404 or sullivanfa@sfasu.edu

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 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.



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