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OCTOBER 13, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 225th 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](mailto: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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## GOLDEN RAINTREES and READERS RESPOND TO READERS

***"To see the Raintree is not nearly as important as what you find looking for it."***

*John Wickliff Shawnessy (Montgomery Cliff) in "Raintree County"*

**By BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

**THANK YOU, READERS!** You've filled my column today.

**GOLDEN RAINTREES** (above) seem to have either ignored Harvey's onslaught or are actually thumbing their noses at him. I don't think I've ever seen them so beautiful and they've triggered some "What are those gorgeous flowering trees?" queries from readers.

These are golden raintrees ( *Koelreuteria paniculata*), a native of China, Japan and nearby regions. The flowers are yellow. The seed pods are a vivid peachy-pink. And they can become very large trees.

Raintrees have certainly inspired lovely writing too (in addition to the quote above), such as the way Charles Rolo characterized the raintree in [his Atlanta Monthly review](#) of Ross Lockridge's book "Raintree County":

*"The raintree is the Tree of Knowledge whose golden boughs shed fertilizing blossoms on the land."*

And for those of us "of a certain age," just the mention of a raintree brings to mind images of a very young Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Cliff) in the movie of the same name.

Even more fun is the tie-in with Johnny Appleseed. The legend says Johnny Appleseed wandered the Midwest, carrying among his apple seeds a single, exotic seed . . . from the golden raintree. "Johnny Appleseed" was actually a nurseryman, Jonathan Chapman (1774 - Mar1845), He introduced apple trees to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and points nearby.

Legend says Johnny Appleseed planted his single exotic seed somewhere in Henry County, IN. Supposedly those who find this golden raintree will discover the realization of all his/her dreams. That's what Elizabeth Taylor was looking for in the Raintree County movie.

All that is the good news. The bad news is that raintrees are often now listed as invasive in the South. Even if you keep the numerous sprouting seedlings pulled up, naturalists warn wind, birds, etc., may send seeds far afield, where they might sprout easily, crowding out native flora needed by native fauna.

Sorry, know you didn't want to hear that. It's just something to keep in mind.

\* \* \*



L to r: Lynne's "Parking Strip"

**WHATEVER THE NAME, IT'S A PLANTING CHALLENGE!** The "[hell strip](#)" column triggered some great responses from readers. Special thanks to Lynne, who prefers to call hers "my parking strip" on her corner Heights lots, and sent in great pictures.

Lynne has planted the front and side strips leaving a stone walkway to cross between the street and sidewalk. The front is primarily low growing frog fruit, underplanted with hurricane lilies (lycoris). But near the ends of the front parking strip, she writes, "I let things get crazy with gallardia, Mexican hat, blue salvia, gaura, pink love grass and crinum."

The best news, all Lynne's plants survived Harvey's 12 inches of flood waters in addition to thriving in Houston's heat and drought. And she's delighted with how many Pride of Barbados plants are now appearing in Heights "parking strips."

Would love to see (and publish) more pictures of your "hell strip," "parking strip" or whatever successes. Be sure to include the plant names!

\* \* \*

### **SQUIRRELS, con't.**

\* \*

Another interesting attitude view on squirrels came in from the Hill Country. Those of you with no squirrel problems will think we're overdoing this. The frustrated zetetic types among us are yelling "YEA!!!"

Glen Harper noted this time of year squirrels are often cutting twigs with leaves attached to make winter nests. They especially seem to like the thick tough cedar elm branches for warmth and protection from rain and predators. Glen's East Texas grandmother told him when squirrels start building nests by the end of September, winter will be harsher than usual.

Don't like that prediction, but I've learned not to mess with wisdom from East Texas grandmothers.

\* \* \*

### **CALADIUM REPLACEMENTS? NOW, HERE'S ONE FOR YOU, READERS:**

Deany Meinke, would like *recommendations for some fall & winter color - some border plants ... and she needs something low in front of some full length windows - (right now Caladiums are there) Most of the beds get quite a bit of shade ... however they do get some sun.*

What do you use in place of your caladiums for our so-called winter months? Next week I'll list my suggestions along with (I hope!) a lot from you. Email them to:

[lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

\* \* \*

*Brenda's column in the [LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER](#) is based on her 40+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener. To sign up for this free, weekly Greater Houston area gardening report or to read past issues, go to [www.natureswayresources.com](http://www.natureswayresources.com).*

## JOHN'S CORNER

### DID CHEMICAL LAWN COMPANY USED RUIN HER SOIL FOREVER?

This past week I received an email that I found both encouraging and that echoed questions I often receive when I speak to gardeners:

*"It has been a while since my wonderful tour of the (Nature's Way Resources ) facility. I am so impressed by your knowledge and request your help.*

*"I found my yard maintenance man spraying weed killer on my raised beds in my yard. I have edible plants and herbs growing there. I am very concerned about what it has done to my plants and soil. I filled my plant beds with soil I purchased from Nature's Way (Resources ).*

*"I was told it was Roundup (that he used). I would like your advice on what to do with my plants that are still in the ground and the soil for future planting.*

*"My landscape company seems to think this is no big deal and that we all eat food sprayed by Roundup. I make medicine from these herbs for my family and others. I am very concerned about the effects.*

*"Thank you for any advice you can give on this matter". -- Janette*

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: the active ingredient in Roundup is glyphosate)**

Dear Janette,

I am so sorry to hear that glyphosate was used on your property as it often takes years to fully recover and correct the damage done to the soil. We now know the safety studies on glyphosate submitted to the EPA were falsified by Monsanto in collusion with EPA administrators.

Over 20 countries will not even allow it to be sold, and other countries have even banned the import of any food grown with this herbicide. I did a series of articles on this subject in our gardening e-newsletter a couple years ago that I have attached for your reference.

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a link to a variety of articles on this and related topics:**  
**<http://natureswayresources.com/infosheets.html> )**

The product kills weeds by preventing them from absorbing nutrients (which weakens them) and at the same time stimulating plant pathogens in the soil which then kill the weakened plants. This toxic chemical has been shown to cancer and also causes or aggravate hundreds of other human health problems.

It is slowly broken down by bacteria that stimulate the growth and germination of many weed species, hence weed problems tend to get worse after it is use. To speed the breakdown of glyphosate in the soil one can repeatedly apply agricultural molasses and seaweed based products that stimulate the growth of microbes to breakdown this toxic chemical.

This will need to be done over many months. If your plants are alive, they most likely did not come into direct contact with the glyphosate. If any plants are looking sickly do not use or eat them.

Extra compost and composted native mulch will also help speed the breakdown this chemical over time. Currently, there are hundreds of lawsuits against Monsanto, this product's maker, and hundreds of others against the companies that apply them, IF you did not give them permission to apply this toxic chemical.

Read the attached article and if you have additional questions you can contact me or go to the NaturalNews.com or Dr. Mercola's website and search on glyphosate for additional information. You will find hundreds of article on the dangers of its use.

Regards, John

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## **LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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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](mailto: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!**

FRI.-SAT., OCT. 13-14: 2017 BULB & PLANT MART, 9am-5pm Fri., 9am-2pm Sat., Guest speakers Saturday include Heidi Sheesley and Lanson Jones. St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. Free admission/ tax free shopping. Garden Club of Houston event. [gchouston.org](http://gchouston.org)

SAT., OCT. 14: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL PLANT SALE. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 8am free presentation; 9am-noon sale. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

SAT., OCT. 14: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE, 9 am-1pm. Galveston County Fair Grounds, Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, Hwy. 6 @ Jack Brooks Rd., Hitchcock.

SAT., OCT. 14: WILD BOUNTY by DR. MARK VORDERBRUGGEN, 6:30-8:30pm, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center 4501 Woodway. \$65. Register: 713-681-8433, [houstonarboretum.org](http://houstonarboretum.org).

SAT., OCT. 14: BASIC FRUIT TREE CARE & PLANTING, 9:30-11:30am, Houston Museum of Natural Science, classroom, 5555 Hermann Park Dr. \$30. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540, [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org)

SAT., OCT. 14: ANCIENT ART OF FERMENTATION, 8:30-10:30am (3 20-min demos). Free. Urban Harvest Farmer's Market, 3000 Richmond Ave. Free. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540, [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org).

SAT., OCT. 14: DIG INTO FALL GARDENING AT THE CULTIVATED CLASSROOM, 9am-noon, Gregory Lincoln Education Center, 1101 Taft St. \$20. Urban Harvest event. 713-880-5540, [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org).

SUN., OCT 15: NATURAL HISTORY OF FERN GAMETOPHYTES by JERALD PINSON, 2pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. Free. Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society event. [tgcfersoc.org](http://tgcfersoc.org)

MON., OCT. 16: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PREC. 2 OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUE., OCT. 17: BROMELIADS FROM WILDERNESS TO GREENHOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE by DENNIS CATHCART, 7:30pm, West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society / Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

WED., OCT. 18: 10 EASY TO GROW HERBS FOR FALL by SUSAN WOOD, 7pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion, Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit event. Free. [herbsociety-stu.org](http://herbsociety-stu.org)

THURS., OCT. 19: BAYOU STEWARDSHIP: FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION, United Way of Greater Houston, 50 Waugh Dr. Bayou Preservation Association 2017 Annual Symposium. [bpa@bayoupreservation.org](mailto:bpa@bayoupreservation.org)

THURS., OCT. 19: "POWDERHORN RANCH: HISTORY, ACQUISTION AND HABITATS" by DANIEL , 6:45PM, Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4502 Woodway Dr. Free. Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter event. [npsot.org/houston](http://npsot.org/houston)

SAT., OCT 21: IN SEARCH OF THE RARER OAKS OF TEXAS by ADAM BLACK, 7pm (tour 5pm), Peckerwood Garden, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$10 lecture, \$10 Tour. Must register: [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org). [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232

SAT., OCT. 21: BEACH BLOOMERS GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE, 10am-2pm, at Noble Carl Park Pavilion, 1750 Jane Long Highway (Hwy. 87), Crystal Beach. [angelbus80@hotmail.com](mailto:angelbus80@hotmail.com); 409-363-2107

SAT. OCT 21: A PASSION FOR PLUMERIA by LORETTA OSTEEN, 1-3 pm; AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free. Register: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com) , 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

WED., OCT. 25: "PAC HYPODIUMS I HAVE KNOWN" by RICHARD STAMPER, 7:30 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray. Houston Cactus & Succulent Society event. Free. [hcsstx.org](http://hcsstx.org) .

SAT., OCT. 28: REBUILD THE HEALTH OF YOUR LAWN & GARDEN AFTER HARVEY by JOHN FERGUSON, 11:30am,

Woodlands Fall Home & Garden Show, The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, 1601 Lake Robbins Drive.

SAT., OCT. 28: PECKERWOOD OPEN GARDEN DAY & TOURS, 10am-5:30pm, FOODSCAPING GARDEN TO TABLE by BRIE ARTHUR, 6:30pm, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. Register: [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org)

SUN., OCT. 29: REBUILDING THE HEALTH OF YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN AFTER HARVEY by JOHN FERGUSON, 11:30am, Woodlands Fall Home and Garden Show, The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, 1601 Lake Robbins Drive.

SAT., NOV 4: HEAT TOLERANT CONIFERS OF PECKERWOOD GARDEN, 10am, 20559 FM 359 Road, Hempstead. \$15. Must register: [eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org](mailto:eventregistration@peckerwoodgarden.org). [peckerwoodgarden.org](http://peckerwoodgarden.org), 979-826-3232

SAT., NOV. 4: OPEN GARDENS DAY. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 9-1 a.m. Free. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

SAT., NOV. 4: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB PLANT AND CRAFT SALE, 10am-2pm, 2017 Woodlands Wildflower Festival, Hughes Landing, The Woodlands. [thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

SAT., NOV. 4: 45th ANNUAL HERB FAIR, 9am-2pm, Judson Robinson Community Center, 2020 Hermann Dr. South Texas Unit/The Herb Society of America event. [herbsociety-stu.org/](http://herbsociety-stu.org/)

THURS, NOV. 9: DESIGNING YOUR LANDSCAPE WITH ROSES by GAYE HAMMOND, 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillon, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

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](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

THURS., NOV. 9: CITRUS TREES by MARY KHAZEN KARISH, 10 am, MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [ncgctx.org](http://ncgctx.org)

FRI., NOV.10: "I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP MY GARDEN! - GARDENING FOR THE CHALLENGED LIFESTYLE: DR. JOE NOVAK. 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org).

SAT. NOV 18: SOIL HEALTH & EVALUATION by JIM GILLIAM, 1-2:30 pm; Galveston County AgriLife Extension Bldg, Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but reservations requested: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, for additional details visit [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., NOV. 18: PECAN CELEBRATION, 10am-noon Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway. \$35. Register: 713-681-8433, [houstonarboretum.org](http://houstonarboretum.org)

WED., NOV. 29: SOIL FOOD WEB - HOW AND WHY ORGANIC METHODS WORK TO SAVE TIME & MONEY by DANIEL MILLIKIN, 6pm, McGovern Centennial Gardens, Hermann Park Conservancy, 1700 Hermann Drive. 713-360-1469

FRI., DEC. 8: 'HOLLY JOLLY' LUNCHEON GALA. SPEAKER: BILL MCKINLEY. 9 am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Tickets \$30. Houston Federation of Garden clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org).

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](mailto:sullivanfa@sfasu.edu)

FRI., JAN. 12: A CAMELIA COLLECTION - RESTORING IMA HOGG'S CAMELIA COLLECTION AT BAYOU BEND by BART BRECHTER. 10 am. White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org).

SUN., JAN. 28: AVOID STARVATION: DEVELOPING THE RIGHT FEEDING PROGRAM FOR PLANTS AND FACTORS THAT MAKE FERTILIZERS INEFFECTIVE by GAYE HAMMOND, 2-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, Christian Life Center, 5920 FM 2920, Spring. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. [cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

SUN., FEB. 25: DAYLILY BLOOM DESCRIPTION by JEANNIE MALLICK, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, Christian Life Center, Room #C112, 5920 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77388. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. [www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

MON., FEB. 26: SOIL FOOD WEB & COMPOST AND MULCHES, 9am-noon, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble. Texas Gulf Coast Gardener program. Register: Jennifer L. Garrison, 713-274-4160

FRI., MAR.9: THOSE ADDORABLE HUMMERS by SUE HEATH. 10 am. White Oak Convention Center., 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SUN., MAR. 25: STEWARDSHIP OF THE SOIL by JOHN FERGUSON, 6pm, Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Webinar, Lisa Brenskelle, [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com)

SUN., MAR. 25: HIBISCUS CARE by MARTI GRAVES, 2pm-3pm. Klein United Methodist Church, Christian Life Center, Room #C112, 5920 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77388. Free. Cypress Creek Daylily Club event. [www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com](http://www.cypresscreekdaylilyclub.simplesite.com)

FRI., APRIL 13: THE WORLD OF SEED by ANGELA CHANDLER. 10am., White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine, Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org).

MON., MAY 14: INTRODUCTION TO THE SOIL FOOD WEB by JOHN FERGUSON, 6:30pm, University of Houston at Clear Lake, Forest Room on East of Bayou Building. Native Plant Society of Texas at Clear Lake Martha Richeson, 713-962-7747

FRI. MAY 11: HONEY BEES - JAMES AND CHARI OF BLUEBONNET BEEKEEPERS. 10am. White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.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 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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