



Jan-29-2021 | Issue 374

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Nature's Way Resources owner John Ferguson, "The Lazy Gardener" Brenda Beust Smith and Pablo Hernandez welcome your feedback and are so grateful to the many horticulturists who contribute their expertise.

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CORONAVIRUS CANCELLATIONS

If your event in our calendar below is cancelled, please let us know as soon as possible at lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

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ROSES BEWARE! VALENTINE'S DAY COMETH!

by BRENDA BEUST SMITH

*"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns,
or rejoice because thorns have roses."*

– Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, 1808-1890, French literatist

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY COMETH and roses will reign supreme . . . although many serious rose gardeners won't be thinking of buying bouquets. They'll be grabbing shears. St. V Day is the traditional, best day, to prune. Giving you this advance notice so you can mark your calendar!

Most roses prefer cooler soil in which to set strong roots. Later our soil quickly starts heating up. Warmer temperatures trigger more top growth and blooms. Roots have to compete for available production energy. Best to give each growth direction the plant's strongest focus at the most optimum time.

Many gardeners feel own-root and hybrid tea roses produce not only more flowers but larger ones and often healthier plants if growth is man-assisted, rather than left totally to nature. Maybe not so many lazy gardeners, but even we are doing things these days we have never done before in the garden!

To prune or not to prune is definitely your call, t's your call, although Baxter says, in his experience, *"everything smaller than a pencil should be cut off all plants except those with only naturally skinny stems."*

If you are going to prune roses for whatever reason, do it right and do it now. Below Baxter Williams of the Houston Rose Society, the nation's largest rose society, gives his annual timely tips.



BEFORE YOU GET CARRIED AWAY WITH SHEARS, now is NOT the best time to prune all plants. If you prune early spring bloomers like (above, l to r) azaleas, camellias, dogwoods, bridal wreath, pink magnolias, etc., you'll cut off buds that should bloom in the coming months. These plants produced buds on last year's growth and don't normally need pruning. But if they do, wait until after they bloom. Summer-blooming shrubs (budding-out in April or later) can be pruned now. They bloom on new growth which they'll still have plenty of time to set.

Just remember, most of our shrubs never need to be pruned unless they're misbehaving (tearing down eaves, smothering other plants, grabbing you as you mow by, infuriating the neighbors, etc.) or, because you want to prune them!

Incorrect pruning, however, can do more harm than good, so to be prepared for not only roses but all plants, first read Baxter's advice, then mark the calendar to tune into:

- THURS., FEB. 11: PRUNING WITH THE MASTERS by KELLY TEXADA and BILLIE FLYNN (virtual) ,7pm, Houston RoseSociety/Houston event. Free. global.gotomeeting.com/join/935062093, or 1 (224) 501-3412, access code 935-062-093

SPEAKING OF ST. VALENTINE'S DAY, roses aren't the only plants to focus on right now. Keep an eye out for budding bluebonnet greenery, especially if planted in your lawn. Don't mow them down or you'll get no flowers when they start blooming, anytime from late



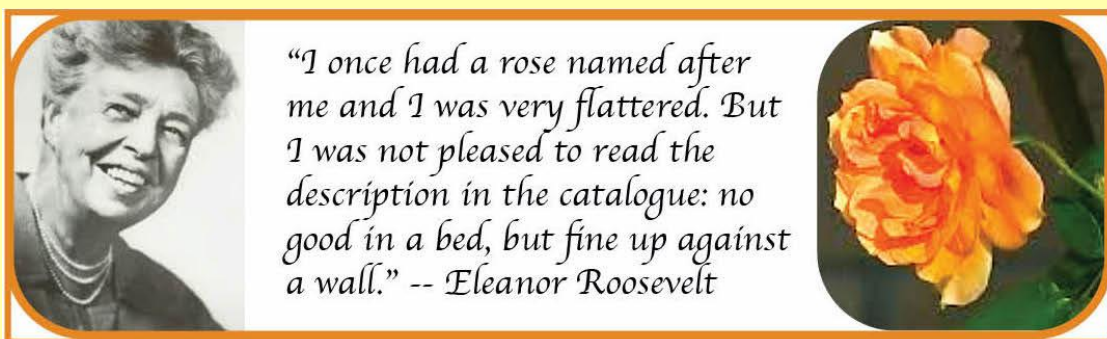
February through mid-April in our area.

Bluebonnets must be EXTREMELY well drained in our monsoon-prone region. Distinctive green clover-like bluebonnet foliage clusters can be seen sprouted along the [Houston Arboretum & Nature Center's](#) Wildflower Trail.

Check below for HANC's Sat., Feb, 13 "Tapas-on-the-Trails" event info -- good time to see these up close & personal. (5-7pm, 4501 Woodway. Register: houstonarboretum.org/event/tapas-on-the-trails) .

Texas' official state [Bluebonnet Festival](#) is on the calendar for April 10-11 in Chappell Hill. facebook.com/BluebonnetFestival/. Mark your calendar!

THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT . . . I have to end this rose-oriented column with my favorite Eleanor Roosevelt quote to bridge you over to Baxter's pruning tips. Eleanor wrote:



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Brenda's LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
column is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

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Baxter & Patsy Williams' rose garden in Pasadena

TIME TO PRUNE (MANY) ROSES!

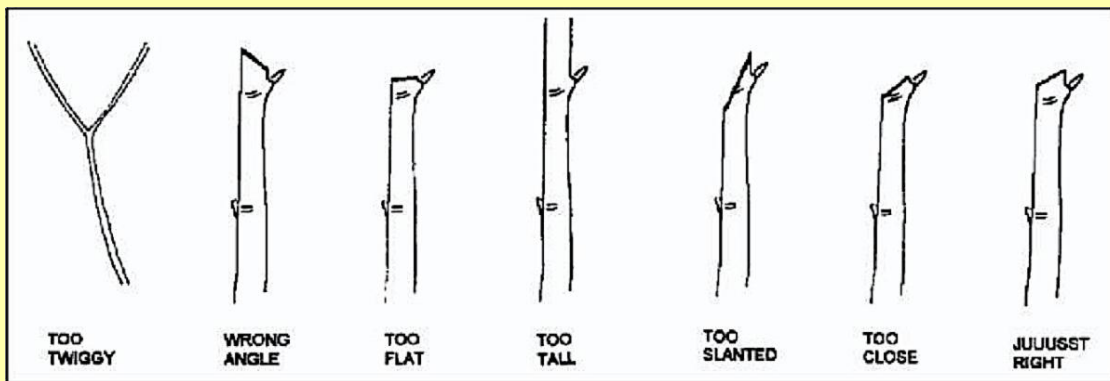
By **BAXTER WILLIAMS**

ARS Master Rosarian

Houston Rose Society

TOOLS WE WILL NEED:

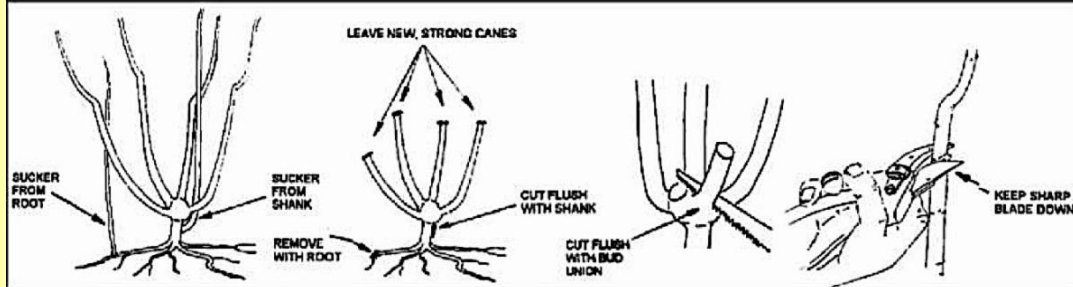
- Good pair of leather gloves
- Sharp bypass pruning shears; Felco No. 2 (men); No. 6 (women).
- Folding saw for larger canes.
- Protective clothing, to prevent being scratched.
- Tetanus booster up to date.



[Courtesy of Baxter Williams & Nature's Way Resources](#)

HOW-TOs:

- Take a good look at the bush from the ground up. Cut off everything that is dead.
- Saw off little short pieces of canes flush (smooth) with the bud union or cane. Be careful not to damage brand new growths on the bud union.
- Look for 3 or more good strong canes at least pencil diameter. Thumb-sized even better. A cane whose only production was small, spindly (twiggy) canes and small blooms will be unproductive.
- Floribundas produce a cluster of blooms. Small canes with some branching are acceptable.
- Prune Hybrid Tea roses bushes to strong canes with white pith in the center.



- The picture perfect rose bush will resemble a tall vase (an open center, with canes on the outer perimeter) when pruned. BUT REMEMBER, rose bushes are like people, not all are picture-perfect.
- Most climbers bloom on last year's growth or older. Remove older canes (3 - 4 years old) if newer canes are available as replacements. Train canes to grow horizontally for maximum bloom production.
- Old Garden Roses are pruned lightly. Remove dead and twiggy canes.

GENERAL "RULES OF THUMB":

1. Always hold shears so the sharp cutting blade is nearest the roots (the "fat" blade contacts the part that is cut away).
2. Make each cut about 1/8-inch above an outward-facing eye.
3. Cut down to clean white pith in the center of the cane. Discolored pith is a sign of freeze or other damage.
4. Seal canes with white Elmer's glue to protect them from insects (cane borers), etc..
5. Remove as many "dog-legs" as possible. There is a tendency to cut a stem, leaving two or three eyes, and then do the same thing the next time we cut a stem, thereby making a "dog-leg" effect. Should you choose to leave a secondary stem, at least two eyes must be left for future production (one eye will not do the job).
6. While there is NO set height to prune a bush, a good rule of thumb is to remove at least the top 1/3 to 1/2 from the bush, leaving the bush at about 30-inches.
7. When pruning is completed, remove all remaining old foliage from the bush.

NOTES:

- **NEED MORE HELP? THURS., FEB. 11: PRUNING WITH THE MASTERS** by **KELLY TEXADA** and **BILLIE FLYNN**, 7pm, Houston Rose Society/Houston event. Free.
- **DOWNLOAD SKETCHES:** Baxter also contributed this a great rose pruning downloadable "[Ten Mistakes in Pruning Roses pdf guide for Nature's Way Resources](#)": www.natureswayresources.com › [144PruningRoses](#)

**Houston Resilience Plan
Tree Strategy Implementation Group
4.6 Million Native Trees by 2030**

Online Video and Q&A Forum

Topic: Houston Parks Board's
**Large-scale Native Reforestation Efforts –
Case studies along Greens Bayou**
Featuring Marissa Llosa, Houston Parks Board

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021
10:00 am**

Zoom Webinar Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mDka44kIRh6SGFv5prR2xg



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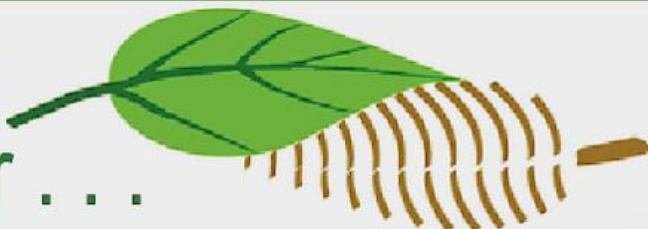


The Pines and Prairies Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas is now forming.

If you are interested in joining, please visit The Native Plant Society of Texas Web Page and go to the top right corner and click on the red box (join/renew) Or use this link.

Under chapter affiliation choose Pines and Prairies. This chapter will serve (but not be limited to) the Montgomery County Area.

**John's
Corner . . .**



BOOK REVIEW:

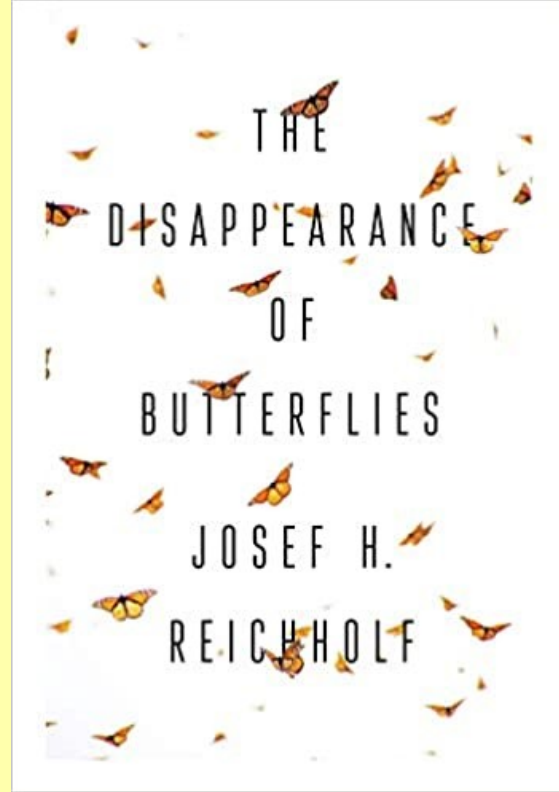
The **DISAPPEARANCE OF**

BUTTERFLIES, Josef H. Reichholf,
Polity Press, 2021, ISBN: 13: 978-1-
5095-3979-6

Dr. Josef Reichholf became concerned about the decline in many species of butterflies and moths during his doctoral and post-doctoral work in Germany in the 1970's.

Dr. Reichholf makes a strong case in over 50 years of study and research in Europe, that this group of pollinators has steadily declined over the recent years. He tells numerous stories documenting these changes that he has observed first hand.

From the review in the magazine "E" -
"In the last fifty years our butterfly populations have declined by more than eighty per cent and butterflies are now facing the very real prospect of extinction. It is hard to remember the time when fields and meadows were full of these beautiful, delicate creatures – today we rarely catch a glimpse of the Wild Cherry Sphinx moths, Duke of Burgundy or the even once common Small Tortoiseshell butterflies. The High Brown Fritillary butterfly and the Stout Dart Moth have virtually disappeared.



The eminent entomologist and award-winning author Josef H. Reichholf began studying butterflies in the late 1950s. He brings a lifetime of scientific experience and expertise to bear on one of the great environmental catastrophes of our time in his new book [The Disappearance of Butterflies](#). He takes us on a journey into the wonderful world of butterflies – from the small nymphs that emerge from lakes in air bubbles to the trusting purple emperors drunk on toad poison – and immerses us in a world that we are in danger of losing forever. Step by step he explains the science behind this impending ecological disaster, and shows how it is linked to pesticides, over-fertilization and the intensive farming practices of the agribusiness.

His book is a passionate plea for biodiversity and the protection of butterflies."

* * *

Have You Tried . . . **CHINQUAPIN OAK** (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

A real conversation piece when it matures, this low-maintenance shade tree easily tolerates our drought-to-monsoons weather. Glistening dark green leaves in summer turn yellow-orange to orangish-brown in fall. Sweet 1" acorns that mature in a single season are at

the top of the food preference list for many wildlife species. The shy light gray bark breaks into narrow, thin flakes. Grows 40'-50' high with a similar spread under landscaping conditions.

CHINQUAPIN OAK is carried by Nature's Way Resources ([Map](#)).

Or contact our other sponsors below or your neighborhood nurseryman for possible sources



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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

All events in Houston unless otherwise specified.

See Farmers Markets at end of calendar

ADULT GARDEN PLANT EVENTS ONLY **ALWAYS CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS IN! HOWEVER . . .** **PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING EVENTS!**

- *Events NOT submitted in the EXACT format below may take 2 weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped and added to calendar.*
- **FARMERS MARKETS** -- Normally we do not run non-gardening/plant events. During this pandemic, when most gardening events have been cancelled, we are happy to publish a running list of local Farmers Markets. See at end of calendar.

*Submit events to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com.
PLEASE ALWAYS put group's FULL name in email subject.*

CHECK WEBSITES FOR ON-SITE COVID-19-RELATED PRECAUTIONS!

SAT., JAN. 30: SEED SWAP SOCIAL. 9am, Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve, 20215 Chasewood Park Dr. Free. Harris County Precinct 4 event. Register hcp4.net/tap/events.

SAT., JAN. 30: SEED SWAP SOCIAL. 1pm, free. Jesse H. Jones Park, 20634 Kenswick Dr. Free. Harris County Precinct 4 event. Register: 281-446-8588.

FRI., FEB. 5: GARDEN CRUISIN': TOUR DE 4, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield. For ages 60+ and ages 12+ with transportation needs. Free. 713-274-4160.

SAT., FEB. 6: KEYS TO SUCCESS IN FORT BEND COUNTY FRUIT PRODUCTION (online event), 10-11:30am. Fort Bend County Library event. Free. Register: fortbend.lib.tx.us/event/live-success-growing-fruit-fort-bend-county/

SAT., FEB. 6: FORT BEND COUNTY 2021 FRUIT TREE SALE FINAL ONLINE STORE DAY, closes 5pm. Master Gardener event. fbmg.org/2021-fruit-tree-sale/

MON., FEB. 8: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING (virtual) by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 10-11:30am, free. Register: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

THURS., FEB. 11: PRUNING WITH THE MASTERS by KELLY TEXADA and BILLIE FLYNN (virtual) ,7pm, Houston RoseSociety/Houston event. Free. global.gotomeeting.com/join/935062093, or 1 (224) 501-3412, access code

THURS., FEB. 11: MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION.
Register: 713-274-4160.

FRI., FEB. 12: WALK 'N' TALK - PLANT FOLKLORE: LOVE & DEVOTION, 10-11am,
Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble, Free. Register. 713-274-4160

SAT., FEB. 13: VIRTUAL TOMATO & FRUIT TREE SALE, 10am-8pm. The Mercer
Society event. Details: hcp4.net/news/tomatoes-or-fruit-trees-try-some-of-each/

TUES., FEB 16: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING (virtual) by HARRIS COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS, 11am-noon, Facebook live: facebook.com/harriscountyp/live

FRI., FEB. 19: GARDEN CRUISIN': TOUR DE 4, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine
Westfield, Humble. For ages 60+ and ages 12+ with transportation needs. Free. Details:
713-274-4160. Register: 713-274-4160

FRI., FEB. 19: GARDEN CRUISIN': TOUR DE 4, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine
Westfield, Humble. For ages 60+ and ages 12+ with transportation needs. Free. Details:
713-274-4160. Register: 713-274-4160

TUES, MAR. 2: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VIRTUAL HERB 7
VEGETABLE SALE, 8am – Wed noon, Online at mcmga.square.site AgriLife Extension
Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. mcmga.com Details: (936)539-7824

FRI., MAR. 5: WALK 'N' TALK: TEXAS TOUGH PLANTS FOR A GULF COAST GARDEN,
10-11am, Mercer Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble.

SAT, MAR. 20: MARCH MART VIRTUAL PLANT SALE, 8am-8pm The Mercer Society.
Online only at themercersociety.square.site. Details: 713-274-4166.

SUN., MAR. 28: NEAR NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT VIRTUAL SPRING
PLANT SALE, Online until April 3, "" by HEIDI SHEESLEY at nnmd.org. Pick up at
Treeseach Farms, Inc.

TUES, APR. 13: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VIRTUAL SPRING
SALE, 8am – Wed noon, Online at mcmga.square.site AgriLife Extension Office, 9020
Airport Road, Conroe. mcmga.com Details: (936)539-7824

LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

- **URBAN HARVEST FARMERS MARKET**, Saturdays, 8am-noon, in St. John's School parking lot, 2752 Buffalo Speedway.
- **FULSHEAR FARMERS MARKET** Saturdays, 9am-1pm, 9035 Bois d'Arc Lane @ FM 1093, Fulshear.
- **THE WOODLANDS FARMERS MARKET AT GROGAN'S MILL**, Saturdays, 8am-noon, Grogan's Mill Shopping Center Parking Lot, 7 Switchbud Pl., The Woodlands
- **BEAUTY'S GARDEN**. Acres Homes Farmers Market Saturday, 10am-2pm, 4333 W Little York Rd.
- **WESTCHASE DISTRICT FARMERS MARKET**, Thursdays, opens 3pm, St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church, 10503 Westheimer Road (at Rogerdale Road, one block west of Beltway 8)
- **MEMORIAL VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET**, Saturdays, 9am-1pm, 10840 Beinhorn Rd.

Although normally we do not run out-of-garden events, during this pandemic period when most gardening events have been cancelled, we are happy to publish a running list of local Farmers Markets.
Send notices to lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com



For event submission rules, see top of calendar

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

THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!
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at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com



Saturdays 7-9am • SportsRadio 610



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About Us

BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- * a national award-winning writer & editor
- * a nationally-published writer & photographer
- * a national horticultural speaker
- * a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda's 45-year-old "Lazy Gardener" print column -- started in the early '70s as a fun side-, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from reporter into gardening writing -- first as a just-a-fun side Chronicle assignment in the early '70s -- led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her Lazy Gardener's Guide book which morphed into her Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD. which she now emails free upon request.

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 specialty shows on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

For over three decades, Brenda served as as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's BULLETIN magazine. Although still an active broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER with John Ferguson and Pablo Hernandez of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Humble, TX, and is married to the retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

JOHN FERGUSON

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is is the co-author of the book Organic Management for the Professional.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

PABLO HERNANDEZ

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management and quality control.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.

