

THE TEXAS ROSE RUSTLER 2015 SPRING SYMPOSIUM

MAY 16, 9:30 AM

NATURE'S WAY RESOURCES

101 SHERBROOK CIRCLE

CONROE, TX 77385

This year the Texas Rose Rustler Spring Symposium will take place on May 16th at Nature's Way Resources, a soil/mulch yard and nursery that carries plants that will survive our challenging Gulf Coast climate. If you have visited Nature's Way Resources in the past, you will certainly be in for a surprise at their selection of fruit trees, berries (over 20 varieties of blueberries alone), heirloom and hard-to-find plants, olive, fig, and avocado trees, greenhouse plants, and of course, a wonderful selection of roses. Visitors who come with children will find Nature's Way Resources a family-friendly place, with a rain garden and a butterfly garden for kids to enjoy.

Our yearly symposium is a free event offered to both members and non-members. This year we would like to extend a special invitation to new homeowners (5 years or less in your home) as well, with special lotto drawings to help you with your new home's landscaping. Whether you are a new or established homeowner, we promise you that you will not go home empty handed. Come learn about the best soils, mulches, antique roses, food plant varieties, etc. for the Houston area and go home with free plants!

(NB: Further itinerary details are being worked out. Please check back before the event to get the latest.)

9:30am Sign in and welcome. All participants will receive a ticket for a free lotto plant. New homeowners will be given tickets for a special lotto.

10:15am Choice of tours:

1. Tour of the compost/ mulch operation by John Ferguson, owner of Nature's Way Resources

John's knowledge of our Texas soil is incredible as is the facility he has built. There is always much to learn from him. If you are new to the area or if you are trying to rehabilitate a yard that just can't seem to thrive, this is where you need to be, though all gardeners should take this tour at least once. Bring your camera to get a shot of the enormous smoking hills of compost. With Q&A, the ½-mile walking tour takes about an hour. NB: the ground can be a bit uneven and if it has rained, bring your galoshes.

2. Tour of the nursery garden center by Mark Bowen, general manager of Nature's Way Resources

If you have already toured the compost/mulch facility, or who are not able to take such a robust walking tour, Mark will take a tour through the nursery garden center explaining what they offer and answering questions about the best plants to use in the garden. He will explain the plans for developing the 10 acres set aside for the expanded nursery grounds that will make it unique among Texas horticultural retailers.

11:15am 1st lotto drawing for all, plus a special drawing for new homeowners.

- 11:30am "Building Healthy Soils - To improve your garden AND protect your family"
John will discuss the different types of mulches, compost, soils and how to use them. Many of us have heard John's lectures and can attest that he is generous with his knowledge and speaks from a sense of duty to treat our earth with respect. Q&A follows.
- Noon 2nd lotto drawing for all, plus a special drawing for new homeowners.
- 12:20pm Lunch – hamburgers and drinks provided by the Texas Rose Rustlers
Potluck sides and desserts appreciated.
- 1:20pm "Novel Companion Plants"
Mark Bowen will discuss interesting and new plants to consider growing with our roses, including herbs and edibles. Q&A follows.
- 2:00pm Final lotto drawing for all, plus a special drawing for new homeowners.
- 2:30pm Break for those who want to shop in NWR nursery and stroll through the grounds. TRR members get a 10% discount. Coffee, soft drinks, and more desserts. Fellowship.
- 4:00pm Leave for Hope Farms Gardens, followed by dinner at a Mexican restaurant.

