

A Little Corner of Eden in Kingwood

Bernice and Dean Warren were in the cooking oil recycling business in the early 2000s when the commodities market for the oil hit a thirty-year low and the couple decided to consider other business opportunities. They purchased a land clearing business, which became a mulch business and led to the opening of Kingwood's Warren's Southern Gardens.

Today, Warren's Southern Gardens is a beautifully created garden center with a unique selection, great plants, knowledgeable people, and a park-like setting. The store offers garden gifts and accessories, herbs and vegetables, assorted pottery, trees and installation, fountains and water features, perennials, lawn and grass, fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, roses and shrubs.

The center is so beautiful, that Warren recalls that a customer once told her, "This must be what Heaven is like." Bernice says the highlight of her day is seeing joy on her customers' faces.

"I love to see the excitement when our customers see our beautiful plants, or when their children see our fish and get to feed them, or when our butterflies are hatching. I also love to see a husband sitting in the shade while his wife is shopping, or an entire family picking out a Christmas tree."

Warren's Southern Gardens prides itself in extraordinary and personal service.

"At Warren's, our goal is to provide our customers with exceptional variety and outstanding quality gardening products. Our staff has years of combined knowledge and can assist customers with figuring out which types of plants go well in shade or sunshine, as well as how to care for sick trees or plants and much more. We realize that people have

choices were they shop, but we believe if you can provide your customers with more than just a quality plant, then you have a customer for life."

Bernice and Dean operate Warren's Southern Gardens using faith-based principles.

"Bernice is honest, and believes in treating people with fairness and respect, and expects the same in return. She believes in supporting our community and does so regularly," said customer and friend Nellene Harvey.



Warren is active with the Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce, East Montgomery County Rotary, and the Texas Nursery Landscape Association. The Warrens also support activities at local schools and churches, Eagle Scout projects and youth service projects, the Best Buddies at Kingwood Park High School, FamilyTime Crisis and Counseling Center, and the Village Learning & Achievement Center.

"To know Bernice is truly a gift. She is one of the strongest, kindest and most genuine women I have ever had the pleasure of knowing," said Dana Fowler. "Her devotion

to God and family are just a few of the many attributes that make this lady so beautiful, inside and out. She has always had such a strong sense of integrity and honesty about her, and demands the same from all around her. A handshake should mean the same as a contract in her eyes. She will and has always stood behind anything she says or agrees to do."

Bernice and Dean keep busy with several businesses, employing 25 people, including Warren's Outdoor Living, a custom-design build company for outdoor features and landscaping; Warren's Rock-N-Mulch, which sells landscaping rocks, mulches, soils, and gravels, many of which the Warrens manufacture themselves; Warren's Tree Care, which is fully insured and consults with a local Arborist who has 22 years experience in the Kingwood area.; and Warren's Buildings and More, a portable building and custom carport/metal building sales yard.

The Warrens have been married for 16 years and have five children, all of whom have worked or still work with the family business: Jessie, 26; Susan, 24, Kyle, 23, Carey 15, a sophomore at Hargrave High School, and Casey, 14, an eighth grader at Huffman Middle School.

Warren's Southern Gardens is located at 1675 Northpark Drive in Kingwood and is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

Each year we try to improve the garden center. This year is one of the biggest improvements so far – a 3,000 sq ft commercial grade greenhouse. In addition to the structure we are adding 3,000 square feet of shade and shade walkways. We are so excited! The greenhouse will allow us to bring Spring color in sooner when we are still cold and allow us to bring our Fall color in sooner when we are still so hot. Having some shade in the heat of the summer will delight our plants as well as our customers that want to shop in July.



Bernice Warren, Owner



OPENED DOORS:

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WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"Be kind, caring, and considerate while doing for others and the rest will take care of itself."