



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

# Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

APRIL 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

What's That Bloom?	1
National Gardening Month	1
Responsible Drinkers	1
What's Eating My Plant?	4
To Do List: April	4
Int'l Bird Migration Day	4
Old Ben: Common Songbirds	5
WAN April Specials	6
Citrus Leaf Miner Products	6
Poway Rose Show In May	7
April Garden Classes	8
GardenTalk Returns!	8

## Responsible Drinkers™

By David Ross



With so many different growers we currently buy from, sometimes it seems as though we don't need any more and we can become complacent. However, after our recent road trip to inland north San Diego County, we were reminded just how wrong that thinking is. In a half day of touring growers, we only scratched the surface! We visited

[continued p2](#)

## What's That Bloom? You Asked About It, We Found It!

By Melanie Potter



'*Tabebuia impetiginosa*'

Whether shown a photograph, given a description, or told what area of town it was seen in, we are often asked to identify it. With the onset of blooms, it usually happens now more than other times of year.

Countless times we are asked what are the flowering trees along Scripps Poway Parkway. Those with red, pink, or white small blooms are summer blooming **Crape Myrtles**. If they have yellow flowers they are **Cassias**, or summer blooming **Tipuanas**, or Koelreuteria paniculata (also a summer bloomer). We're also asked about the pink flowering tree, **Pink Trumpet Tree (Tabebuia impetiginosa)**. It flowers before the leaves come out, and is in full bloom right now. The other tree is the **Bronze Loquat (Eriobotrya deflexa)** that features bronzy red new growth that is often mistaken for flowers.



Crape Myrtle

### Sedum dendroidium

The absolute best way for us to identify a plant is to physically see it so we can feel its texture, recognize [continued p2](#)

## National Gardening Month Keeps WAN Gardeners Busy

By Melanie Potter

As I write this article, it is National Meatball Day. Yesterday was earmarked for celebrating pancakes, peanut clusters, and proofreading. Tomorrow, it is National Blueberry Popover Day, which shares recognition with National Pack Your Lunch Day. So, imagine celebrating gardening for a whole month in April in honor of National Gardening Month.

A whole month of wondering what to do to celebrate gardening, something my husband pays a landscape crew to do. I have some ideas of tasks to accomplish, but I would be remiss not to turn to experts I work with. So, here's a look at how the folks at Walter Andersen Nursery will celebrate National Gardening Month:

[continued p3](#)



## What's That Bloom? continued from p1

a fragrance, or look for any helpful markings. Therefore we applaud the wondering mind of the customer who noticed a carpet of yellow blooms along the north 15 near the Pomerado Road exit and stopped to take a closer look so she could identify it later as *Sedum dendroidium*. It's a small shrub to 1 to 3 feet tall spreading to 3 to 4 feet wide with rooting stems to form a large mass. The large clusters of small vivid yellow star-like flowers form above the foliage in late winter and early spring. It's at home along the freeway, but also makes a fine landscape plant if you are looking for a drought tolerant small shrub with late winter color.

### ***Erodium cicutarium***

(redstem filaree, redstem stork's bill, common stork's-bill or pinweed)

These wicked, little, stickers or burrs were described by a customer as spiral shaped, 1/2 inch or so long with a sharp point on one end and a spiral twist on other end. They actually look like a weapon a character from Game of Thrones might yield. Identifying this took some sleuthing from several folks. Chuck in Poway recalled playing with them as a kid while waiting at the bus stop before school and said it is a broadleaf weed of some sort. Did you know there are hundreds of

broadleaf weeds? A quick Google search using the words, 'broadleaf weed', 'spiral shaped seed' hit upon the culprit *Erodium cicutarium*. It's a pretty weed that grows as a nice, mat-like carpet and has dainty leaves and small purple flowers. The nasty seeds play havoc with your pets by digging into the pads of their feet, their ears, and fur. Eliminating this plant can be done with Roundup, Remuda, or a broadleaf weed killer.

[continued p3](#)



'*Sedum dendroidium*'



'*Erodium cicutarium*'



'*Eriobotrya deflexa*' Bronze Loquat



Lupine



'*Leucospermum*' Gold Finger Protea

## Responsible Drinkers™

continued from p1

a few, but passed up many others which we will visit at a later date.

What we came across was a vast collection of plants from South Africa and Australia. We found different protea, some grevilleas, chamelaucium and other plants as well. These responsible drinkers, plants which use water responsibly, not only are very low water users, but some drink less water than many of our California natives! They have diverse growth habits and spectacular, if not bizarre flowers, many of which make excellent cut flowers.

Some of the plants will be in the same size pots you are used to seeing. However, many more varieties will be very nice, smaller plants available in grower pots. We will sell these individually and bag them for you. They should be planted right away! These smaller plants will be a little smaller than our typical gallon pots and will offer a great opportunity for you to purchase plants we have never carried, or have not had available for a very long time.

Here are SOME of what we are expecting.

[continued p3](#)



## National Gardening Month continued from p1

**Barb** is going to take advantage of the space she acquired when a March storm blew over two trees by planting an avocado tree she has lusted for. She'll also dig holes for a Blue Hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii*), butterfly bush (for her butterflies) and get the planter boxes ready for vegetables. Soon she'll be harvesting tomatoes (Kellogg's Breakfast), peppers, cucumbers and Italian zucchini. Not to be missed she said is the round, white Rosa Bianca eggplant she grew last year that she swears made the best eggplant parmesan ever and that she also was able to freeze it without it turning mushy.



*Andy counting the flowers*

Picture this! A fellow who doesn't mind looking nerdy (his words) as he EVERY DAY counts the flowers on his stone fruit trees that are setting fruit. That's **Andy** and he's counting to make sure

the flowers lead to fruit and that he doesn't lose many along the way. When he's not doing something nerdy in the garden, he said that he will be fertilizing the fruit trees. Editor's note: Don't count your fruit before they ripen!!

**Leslie** looks to April as a way to jump start projects that she has been avoiding like getting the plants she still has in pots planted in the ground. She said that she is satisfied by enjoying the last harvest of her winter crops before planning the summer garden. Leslie is the best friend a rose could have, as this month she'll step up her routine of looking for pests and diseases on them. And, finally, advice we can all use that she recommends, check the irrigation system!

Our store manager, **David**, is a good person to inquire of his April plans. He lives way out near Jamul and has a big property. What isn't habited by chickens, a goat, and alpacas, is planted with vegetables, citrus and fruit trees. "March is soil preparation month," he explained. "I will plant my vegetable garden in April; half a dozen types of tomatoes, half a dozen types of peppers, butternut squash, and zucchini."

April will also be the month to harvest citrus and as his roses will be in full bloom, he'll be cutting them regularly to bring inside. Don't worry, he assures readers, he still has time to pull weeds and deal with vermin.

So go out and celebrate. By the way, not only is April 1 April's Fools Day, it's also National Sourdough Bread Day! ●

## Responsible Drinkers

continued from p2

### Pincushion Protea

We are expecting a dozen different varieties of these very durable plants. Prized for landscape and for long lasting cut flowers

### Protea Pink Ice, Pink Mink and Kings

### Chamelaucium

We are expecting a few different varieties of this VERY responsible drinker which also makes a great cut flower.

### Ozothamnus (dark pink)

After seeing mature plants in the ground, I have changed my opinion of this striking, bulletproof upright landscape and cut flower plant. This plant is outstanding when it matures.

We are expecting a few others as well. Come in early this month for the best selection we have ever had!

All the above plants will need good drainage, need to be watered about twice per week this year, and fed with a mild, low or no phosphorous fertilizer a couple of times per year. In the ground these plants are some of the toughest. In containers, it will be more difficult to keep them alive. For this reason, we strongly encourage you to plant them in the ground where they will proudly wear the bulletproof label! ●

## What's That Bloom? continued from p2

### Wild Cucumber Vine

Chances are you have seen these white-flowering vines engulfing trees or shrubs, particularly in more rural areas. Wild cucumber is a warm season annual that is already taking over fences, shrubs, and trees. It becomes more conspicuous once it develops large oval,

spiky, fruit that resemble kiwi fruit. These have incredibly large underground stems earning them the name 'manroot'. Google that with caution!!

### Lupines

These are not yet blooming, but watch for them now that we've had some

rain. Along freeways, you'll see a carpet of purple-lilac colored flowers. These are Lupines. The pea-like flowers grow on a spike. Lupines come in many colors such as red, yellow, pink, and white, but the ones usually seen growing wild are bluish-purple. ●

## What's Eating My Plant?

By Chuck McClung



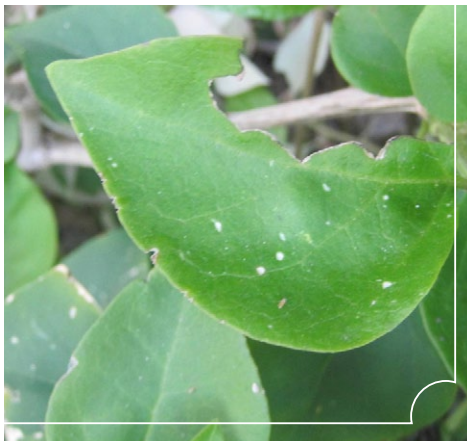
Nature being what it is, we are sometimes faced with the task of tending to sick plants. We see the holes in the leaves of our plants, but we can't see any insects so we are left to wonder, what's eating my plant?

If you have not seen the bugs that are damaging your plant, you may want to consult experts. Bear in mind, that it is almost impossible to positively identify insect damage without actually seeing the damage itself. So many possibilities exist: snails, slugs, caterpillars, birds, beetles, etc.

To best help you figure out your gardening dilemma, we encourage gardeners to bring in samples of afflicted plants. Even take a picture with your cell phone. Anything that helps us see what damage you are seeing at home will assist us in assisting you.

Make sure you use a control that suits your needs. For instance, there are two main types of insects that damage plants that differ by how they eat.

First, there are "sucking" insects like aphids, scale, mealy bugs, and spider mites that suck juices out of the plant. Controls for these bugs include insecticidal soap, Neem Oil and many others. Second, "chewing" insects like beetles, caterpillars, and leaf miners, actually eat parts of the plant. Here, different controls are required. Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew, a natural product for organic gardening, penetrates the leaf for extended control. "Systemic" controls work on both types of insects by remaining in the "system" of the plant thus making it toxic to any bugs that eat it for up to a year depending on which form of systemic you use.



Be sure controls used on edibles specifically mention on the label that they are suitable for edible crops. Read the entire instruction label prior to application so that you know how to use the product and how often to re-apply it. And remember, our experts are here seven days a week to assist you with your gardening dilemmas! •

## TO DO LIST: April



### FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for fall fescue, and Hi-Yield Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broad-leaf weeds. Feed ornamentals with Gro-Power or Gro-Power Plus. Feed vegetables with Gro-Power Tomato and Vegetable Food or Dr. Earth Organic Tomato and Vegetable Food. Feed citrus, avocado, and fruit trees with Gro-Power Citrus and Avocado Food. Feed palms and tropicals with Gro-Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food.

### PEST CONTROL

Keep insects under control by hitting them early. On edibles, use Dr. Earth Final Stop Fruit Tree Spray, Monterey Garden Insect Spray, Safer Yard and Garden Spray. For ornamentals, use a systemic control like Bayer 3-in-1 Insect Disease and Mite Spray.

### PLANT

Warm-season bedding plants, Dahlias, annuals, and perennials. Warm-season vegetables and vegetable seeds. Tomatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes, and the specialty hot peppers are here.

### LOOK FOR

Flowering deciduous trees and shrubs, blooming roses, blooming bulbs, Ceanothus and tropicals. •

## Garden Class Recognizes International Bird Migration Day



Mike Matherly

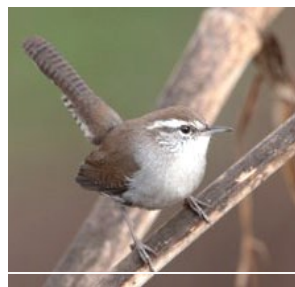
On May 14, the San Diego store will host Mike Matherly, a long time Audubon Society board member who is currently head of the Audubon Society Speakers Bureau. Matherly will speak about backyard birding as part of the "Gardening 101" series. Coincidentally, that date is also International Bird Migration Day. Matherly, a geographer by training, taught for 35 years in the Earth Sciences Department at Grossmont College, has led Audubon Field trips to Central and South America for 10 years, and has been a bird photographer since 1996.

The class starts at 9am and promises to increase your knowledge and appreciation of our fine feathered friends and the folks who advocate for them. •



## Old Ben: Common Songbirds In Your Backyard

By Old Ben



House Wren



House Finch

While watching exotic birds is a fun hobby, there is something to be said for listening to the little songbirds that fill your yard with music. Rain or shine, these outgoing birds brighten the day with their music and antics.

House wrens and finches are two of the unsung heroes of the backyard. Both birds can be found in most parts of the United States. These small, active birds are often two of the most vocal birds in your yard, but they have very different styles.

### House Wrens

With a fabulous voice and a bit of attitude, wrens are a distinctive addition to your backyard. These fast moving birds are comfortable around people. While they generally avoid bird feeders, you can tempt them with a birdbath. Like all birds, they need water for drinking and bathing. House wrens are not big seed eaters. They occasionally eat suet, sunflower chips and nut meat but prefer insects and spiders, which they hunt aggressively. House wrens can also be aggressive nest stealers, and will often move into the nests of other birds. Wrens will nest in almost any small cavity, and can fit into openings as small as one inch. Wrens are very flexible about the nesting locations, and may take up residence in places like barbecue grills, shoes, cans, and rock piles. Because house wrens are so comfortable around people, it's possible they will nest very close to your home. While wrens will sometimes use a nest again, after the first brood, check it to make sure there aren't unhatched eggs or

mites. If you find either, you'll need to clean the bird house before another family moves in. In the Southwest United States, you can enjoy these active birds year round!

### House Finches

House finches are another common backyard bird with a great voice, and a willingness to use it. These birds have a beautiful song that seems to go on forever. Male finches are also graced with red, yellow and orange coloring across the face and upper chest, while females are less colorful with a simple brown streaked appearance. House finches are real seed eaters; they can often overtake a bird feeder. They are perfectly happy eating next to goldfinches or similar looking purple finches. House finches as well as goldfinches prefer black oil sunflower seeds and nyger seed. Since these bird seeds are not your least expensive bird food options, most finch lovers invest in special finch feeders that minimize wasted seed. House finches will sometimes nest nearby. In cases where your house is near their habitat, you can get a first hand view of baby finches as they grow. A finch family likes to have a roof over its head. Unlike wrens or smaller finches that will fit into tiny spaces, house finches need a nesting box or birdhouse with at least a two inch opening. If you want to encourage house finches to nest nearby, you can put up some hanging baskets or left over Christmas wreaths. With their musical talent and active lifestyles, both house wrens and finches are a delight to have in your yard. •

## Old Ben's Specials

Valid April 1-30, 2016

### Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Classic mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. No fillers.

**20lb. \$15.97** Reg. \$31.99

### Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The staple food of Goldfinches and many other small birds.

**10lb. \$19.97** Reg. \$29.99

### Old Ben's No Mess Wild Bird Seed

Seed is hulled & chopped, will not germinate, attracts the widest variety of wild birds.

**20lb. \$24.97** Reg. \$42.99

### Old Ben's Black Oil Sunflower Seed

Popular wild bird seed.

**5lb. 2 for \$11** Reg. \$10.99

*Must buy 2 bags to get sale price.*

### Old Ben's Bird House Platform Feeder

A great way to offer all kinds of bird food in one feeder. Holds seed, mealworms, suet and much more.

**\$24.97** Reg. \$31.99

### Old Ben's Dried Mealworms

Birds, chickens, lizards all enjoy these high protein treats.

**2 for \$7** Reg. \$6.99

*Must buy 2.*

### Old Ben's Crystal Clear Hummingbird Food 16oz Package

**3 for \$9.99** Reg. \$6.99

*Must purchase in multiples of 3.*

*All specials limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.*

# APRIL In-Store Specials *No Coupons Needed!*

Valid April 1-30, 2016 *No other offers or discounts apply. Hedge Fund\$ may be redeemed.*



## E.B. Stone Raised Bed Potting Mix

**\$6.99**

Regular \$8.99



## Organic Veggies in Quart Pots

**\$2.99**

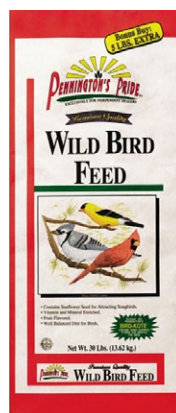
Regular \$3.99



## Marathon All-Season Lawn Food 24-2-4

**\$14.99**

Regular \$19.99



## Pennington Wild Bird Feed 30lb Bag

**\$9.99**

Regular \$16.99

*While Supplies Last!*

# Get a Jump on Citrus Leaf Miner this Season.

*Begin using these products in mid to late-May.*



## Captain Jacks Dead Bug Brew Concentrate

Pint **\$19.99** or Quart **\$29.99**



## Bayer Fruit, Citrus, & Vegetable Insect Control

**\$21.99**



## Pest Wizard Citrus Leaf Miner Pheromone Attractant Trap Kit

2 per Pack **\$13.99**

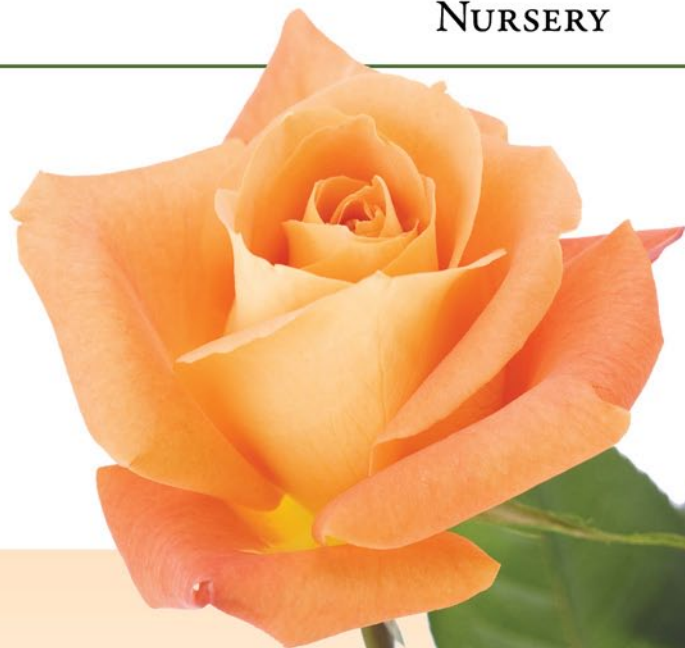


**MAY 14-15, 2016**



**WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY**

**Poway**  
**Rose**  
17th Annual  
**Show**



**ENTRY REGISTRATION:**

**May 14 – 8am-10:30am**

**JUDGING:**

**May 14 – 11am-1pm**

**HOURS:**

**May 14 – 1pm-5pm**

**May 15 – 9am-4pm**

**POWAY LOCATION:**

**12755 Danielson Court**

ACCREDITED JUDGE SUPPORT/SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE E.C.R.S.

## Garden Classes

APRIL

Saturday classes are **FREE** and last about an hour. Complimentary coffee is served. During inclement weather, classes are held indoors in San Diego and on the covered, heated patio in Poway. Topics are subject to change. See the full schedule at [www.walterandersen.com/calendar/](http://www.walterandersen.com/calendar/).

## SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

4/2

Gardening 101 Lecture:  
Natives

4/9

Kitchen Herbs

4/16

Fairy Gardening

4/23

Staghorn Care &amp; Remounting

4/30

Color Your Garden

## POWAY | 9:30AM

4/2

Staghorn Ferns Remounting and  
Care with David Ross

4/9

Native Habitat Gardening  
with Teresa from Moosa Creek

4/16

Spring/Summer Vegetables  
with Richard Wright

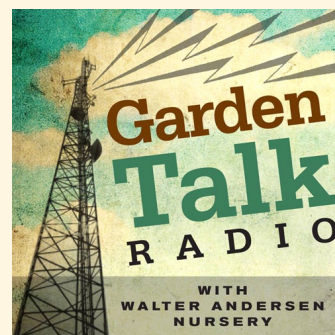
4/23

Tomatoes! with Farmer Roy Wilburn  
from Sunshine Care Facility

4/30

Spring Rose Care with David Ross

## GardenTalk Returns!



We are back! After a 10-year hiatus, **GardenTalk** is returning to the air waves on AM 760 KFMB. Join Ken Andersen, David "The Garden Doctor" Ross and guests Sunday mornings at 6am. The show will be pre-recorded but we will be happy to answer your questions on the air, just post them on our Facebook page! Shows are recorded on Wednesdays at 11am for broadcast on Sundays. •

## APRIL In-Store Specials!

Valid April 1-30, 2016

**\$6.99 E.B. Stone Raised Bed Potting Mix****\$2.99 Organic Veggies in Quart Pots****\$14.99 Marathon All-Season Lawn Food 24-2-4****\$9.99 Pennington Wild Bird Feed 30lb Bag**[See Details on Page 6](#)WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™*San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™* [walterandersen.com](http://walterandersen.com) [facebook.com/walterandersens](https://facebook.com/walterandersens) [twitter.com/walterandersens](https://twitter.com/walterandersens) [online store](#) [videos](#)

## Visit Our 2 Locations

**SAN DIEGO**3642 Enterprise Street  
San Diego, California 92110  
{619} 224-8271**POWAY**12755 Danielson Court  
Poway, California 92064  
{858} 513-4900