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## Hello Spring Bulbs!

If you ever shied away from planting bulbs, here is a good reason to give them a go. On cold days (these were spotted in San Francisco near Pier 39) what else could look so cheery? Planted in a half wine barrel or raised bed, these tulips and daffodils are eye catching and the daffodils will bloom next year. •

## Early Spring Rose Care

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



By now, your roses should have been pruned back. Even if you forgot, there is still time to prune them. They should have been sprayed with Liqui Cop as a dormant spray, at least two times. If they have new shoots, don't spray now.

Ada Perry's Magic Formula should be in the ground, and there's still time to do that. Adding this wonderful product will encourage more vigorous growth

and larger blooms. Our customers rave about this product.

You should be fertilizing monthly now with our favorite fertilizer, Gro-Power. Apply monthly for optimum growth and bloom. We recommend using Gro-Power once a month until the last feeding in October. If you cut roses for indoor enjoyment, here's an old trick I learned from my aunt who was a

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## Charming Wind Chimes

By Whimsical Winds & Melanie Potter

Have you ever noticed our selection of wind chimes? You'll find some whimsical and decorative ones as well as large sizes and small, delicate chimes. You may even find some commemorative ones (weddings, anniversaries, etc.) and those that chime a familiar tune. There are also chimes for a cause like the one with the symbol for Autism.

The number of tubes that a wind chime has determines the number of notes that it can play. Wind chimes with many tubes have the ability to



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## Wind Chimes continued from p1



combine more sounds and create different harmonies. Wind chimes with fewer tubes ensure a smaller range of well-tuned sound.

The tube finish on wind chimes primarily affects overall visual appeal. Since wind chimes are usually on display for all to see, this can be just as important as getting the right wind chime sound.

Overall wind chime length determines the tone and depth of the sound. Longer wind chimes produce lower, fuller tones, while shorter wind chimes produce higher pitched tones. The clapper is the piece that comes into contact with the tubes. The point of contact is carefully calculated to provide the best possible sound.

The size of the wind chime sail determines how much wind is needed to cause the wind chime to sound. Many wind chimes are designed to begin chiming in eight to 10 mph breezes. This is a desirable size because a less substantial sail would compromise durability, while a larger, heavier sail would result in less sound.

Metal wind chimes are the most popular because of their durability and high tuning accuracy. Only metal wind chimes can be tuned to specific tones and notes. Did you know that Woodstock chimes are hand tuned by musician and instrument designer Garry Kvistad? He's a Grammy winning artist who founded Woodstock in 1979 and is behind the design, development

and tuning of all Woodstock chimes. We thank him for chimes tuned to play well recognized parts of 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame', 'Clair de Lune', 'Concierto de Aranjés', and 'Pachelbel's Canon'. The Woodstock 'Chime for Autism' was inspired by several uplifting stories shared by loyal Woodstock Chimes customers. One hundred percent of the after tax profit from the sales of these chimes is donated to autism programs and research.

Tubular wind chimes are the most popular wind chime design. These wind chimes are available in a vast array of styles and sizes to suit any location. Tubular wind chimes are made of several vertically hanging tubes, with each tube lending its own tone.

A tubular wind chime with tubes of varying length sounds great and offers exceptional visual appeal. Tubular wind chimes are typically aluminum or pewter.

Bell wind chimes are made out of one or more bells. These wind chimes are available in traditional styles or in contemporary styles with modern, geometrically designed bells. More often, these are crafted from brass.

For the best sound, hang your chime directly from the O ring or loop at the top of the chime. Don't extend the top string of the chime by adding chain or string. This may cause the entire chime to swing, when in fact only the center string and clapper should move.

## Rose Care continued from p1



florist. Put an aspirin tablet in the vase when you fill it with water. The blooms will stay fresher longer.

As the blooms run their course and start to fade, cut them off with long stems; don't just cut off the top with the bloom. By cutting them longer, you get into heavier branches that will support stronger new growth. If you don't cut them back like this, you will get a bunch of spindly growth that will droop with the weight of the new buds. Don't be afraid to cut them back, as you will be rewarded in the next month or two with more blooms. Watch for aphids, which are small, pin head sized insects that suck the juices out of the plant. They are mostly found on the newest growth and buds that are forming. You can try to wash them off with a strong stream of water, or you can also spray them with a good insecticide. There are many to choose from including Bayer, which has a systemic that is absorbed into the plant and lasts maybe three or four weeks. There are also organic controls that you need to apply more often, such as Neem Oil spray. ●

Hang the chime where the wind can reach it from as many directions as possible. An open corner is ideal when hanging the chime from a structure. Experiment with hanging your chime at different heights. Wind velocity tends to increase with higher elevation.

Avoid hanging a chime within two feet of a wall or too close to plants, furniture or anything that might obstruct or divert the breeze. Try hanging chimes in different locations throughout the year as prevailing winds change seasonally. ●



## Overlooked Bromeliad Deserves Another Look

By Melanie Potter



'Queen's Tears' or 'Friendship Plant'

The photo of this bromeliad really does it justice because it captures the unusual color combination realistically. The photo was taken by Santa Barbara landscape architect Billy Goodnick and showcases why the plant received its common names, Queen's Tears or 'Friendship Plant'. Billbergia nutans is commonly called 'Queen's Tears' for the ornate hanging flowers with royal blue highlighting that often exude tear-like droplets of nectar, while the name 'Friendship Plant' is attributed to this plant multiplying readily and propagating so easily that it is often passed between friends.

This is a vigorous bromeliad that is easy to grow and will readily form clumps of narrow upright bronzey-green rosettes. The nearly tubular two feet tall rosettes hold one foot long slender leaves that have small teeth along the margins. In spring, the arching flower stalks carry pink bracts and pendant flowers that have chartreuse green petals edged with royal-blue.

Plant in shade in a well-drained organic rich soil and water occasionally. For an epiphytic bromeliad, this plant is surprisingly drought-tolerant and can often be found surviving in shaded coastal California gardens that have received little or no irrigation. However, the plants look better with a bit more water. It is reliably hardy to 30-32 degrees F but able to tolerate short duration temperatures much lower. This plant is native to Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina where it grows both as an epiphyte in low trees and as a terrestrial on the forest floor from 2,300 to 3,000 feet elevation. The name of the genus honors Gustaf Johan Billberg, a Swede, who was a lawyer by profession and a self-trained botanist, zoologist, and anatomist who authored the 'Flora of Sweden'. •

### Poway Store Hours

Poway store hours  
change effective  
March 12. Mon-Fri 9-6,  
Sat/Sun 9-5.



### Date To Remember!

Both stores will be closed  
April 1 for Easter.

## TO DO LIST: March

### PRUNING

**Prune** Camellias and Azaleas after blooming to shape.

**Cut back frost damaged plants** and feed with Gro-Power to encourage new growth and regeneration.

### FERTILIZE

**Roses and Shrubs** with Gro-Power or Gro-Power for Roses.

**Feed Citrus, Avocado, and Fruits** with Gro-Power or Gro-Power Citrus & Avocado Food.

### PLANT

Citrus, Avocados, and tropical and sub-tropical fruit.

Start to replace cool season bedding plants with **warm season plants**. Plant **warm season vegetables** like tomatoes, peppers, and squash.

Be sure to **amend the soil** with good organic compost. Big Harvest Bale is great for edibles and ornamentals.

### LOOK FOR

Azaleas, Spirea, Tuberous Begonias, Caladiums, Calla Lilies and Roses. •

## We Love This Story!

**Did You Have A Happy Valentine's Day?** We think Phil and his wife of 34 years did. Phil shared the sweet story of how they met and we all ooh'd and ahhh'd over this love match. You may remember that last month we held a contest that asked readers how they met their sweetie. We had loads of responses but this tale hit all the marks! Our winning couple met while working in Colombia as botanists in the herbarium at the University of Antioquia. She shared her interest in orchids and botany with Phil and they married a couple of years later...on VALENTINE'S DAY!! •





## History Of WAN: 90 Years Is A Long Time

By Ken Andersen



*The Andersens (Walter Jr., Jody and Walter Sr.) visiting Monrovia Nursery in 1965*

**Fourth in the series. Read all the articles starting with the December, 2017 newsletter at [www.walterandersen.com/news/newsletters](http://www.walterandersen.com/news/newsletters).**

Ninety years is a very long time and the nursery industry has experienced drastic changes. At one time, San Diego had an extremely diverse nursery and horticultural industry. There were no big box stores and the area was populated by independent retail nurseries and growers. San Diego also had a very active chapter of the **California**

### **Association of Nurserymen (CAN).**

This trade organization was made up of many professionals in the horticultural industry from both the retail and wholesale sides. As the

number of horticultural businesses began to dwindle so did the membership in the CAN. As the city and county grew in population, the availability of large parcels of open land became harder to find which limited growing operations on a large scale. In more populated urban areas, the land values began to climb and made it more difficult for independent nurseries and garden centers to remain open. Those that owned their land faced

the choice of keeping their businesses open or putting the land to another use to get more value for their investment. A few years ago Walter Andersen Jr., began a project to help document the nursery and horticultural business in San Diego. In this article, I will list a few of those businesses and what became of them.

### **Anderson's La Costa Nursery**

Anderson's La Costa is located at 400 La Costa Blvd. in Encinitas just one block west of I-5. It was started by Horace Anderson about 1950 and he was a true plants man. His specialty was propagation from seed and cuttings. Horace grew mostly small plants and shipped them to all parts of the world. He was very well known as a propagator and hybridizer, and even has some plants named after him. His wife ran the retail part of the operation. It was a medium size nursery with many unusual plants that Horace had grown. The store was in a tiny Quonset hut type building which was still there the last time I visited. After Horace died (around 1980), the nursery was leased to Paul Backus (Green Gardens). Later Mike and Trish Hursh ran this nursery. The Hursh's turned this into a real retail

nursery bringing in lots of fountains and creating an interesting shopping experience. When they separated about 1990, the nursery was sold to the present owners. The land still belongs to the Anderson family. This nursery is NOT related to Walter Andersen Nursery.

**Editors Note:** Though there is no relationship, for years Anderson's La Costa has been thought to be part of our company. Many a time I have fielded a call from a customer stating that they bought something from our La Costa location only to have to inform them that it is not the same company.

### **AraChem**

AraChem was a company in El Cajon located at 808 Gable Way, in the industrial part of the city. It was started



*AraChem in 1950s newspaper ad*

in the 1950s by Dr. William McNeeley who was a chemist. He formulated liquid fertilizers and bottled them for retail nurseries in the area. They also sold tools, soil conditioners, redwood planters and trellises wholesale, to local retail nurseries. About 1970 there was a large fire that burned it to the ground. They did rebuild but the fire was a huge burden on the company. AraChem closed about 1975.

### **Bennett's Garden Center**

Norm and Tillie Bennett started this upscale nursery in downtown La Jolla on Eads Ave. I do not know when it was started but it was in operation in the late 1950s. The Bennett's divorced and Tillie took over running the nursery. This nursery moved a few blocks from the first site in the 1960s and closed the following decade.

### **Blue Pacific Nursery**

Blue Pacific Nursery was about two blocks north of Newport Ave., the main street in Ocean Beach. The

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## History Of WAN continued from p4

nursery was mostly surrounded with residential housing and not located in the main business district. It was a general retail nursery that served mostly the OB, and Point Loma area. Fred Acres was the owner. It is my understanding Ski Mazalewski (see Moenig's Nursery) worked for Fred and got his start in the nursery industry there when he was quite young. This nursery closed in the 1960s.

### Cedros Gardens

Cedros Gardens was a small nursery on 1.3 acres, on the south side of Solana Beach, at 330 South Cedros Ave. It was owned by Mia McCarville, who is of Japanese heritage. She says this influences her use of plants and how she developed the nursery. It opened in 1993 and claimed to be a totally organic nursery with no chemicals used. They had unusual, and difficult to find plants. They also had a collection of ceramic pottery, bonsai and gifts. Their store building was a very old residence built in 1926. It had unique construction of concrete walls 6" thick to withstand California earthquakes. Mia closed the nursery in 2014 when she lost her lease. My understanding is that the property will become apartments.

### Dunning's Seed

Dunning's Seed was located just south-east of the Gaslamp area. Hugh Dunning was the owner. This was a true seed store, carrying almost any type of seed you might want. They also brought in large quantities of wheat, oats and other crop seed for farmers in our area. This store was closed in the early 1940s. Dunning continued selling seed and was the area representative of Burpee Seeds for many years. He also represented other manufactures catering to retail nurseries. In the 1930s, Ada Perry worked at Dunning's. Eventually, Dunning went to work for McBride Distributing Company until he retired in 1975.

### Presidio Nursery

Presidio Nursery was a large nursery/garden center located at the bottom of Linda Vista Road near Morena Blvd. The Asakawa family owned and operated this nursery for a very long time. As far as nurseries go, this was considered a large operation. They did landscape design, and installation, as well as retail sales. They also had a small growing area on the other side of Napa Street. This part of the nursery was closed and turned into retail stores. Bruce and Glenn Asakawa eventually took over the operation of this nursery. Unfortunately, the nursery burned badly in the early 1970s. The buildings were rebuilt on site, and were larger and more modern. This new building included an aquarium shop. This was one of the larger places to buy fish when it was finished. Shortly after the rebuild, they opened another Presidio Nursery location in Bonita. It was just east of I-805 on Plaza Blvd., though not nearly as large. The Chula Vista location was only open about 10 years before the property was sold. Bruce seemed to be the main manger of Presidio Nursery with Glenn and the parents taking a back seat in the operation in later years. The nursery closed about 1980 and the land sold to the City of San Diego. This location is now apartments and a trolley stop for the City of San Diego. •

## A Bonide Guarantee

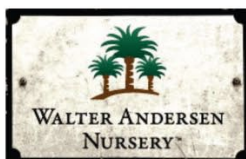


**Beginning now, Walter Andersen Nursery has an exciting new warranty program available which will extend the warranty of many of your ornamental plant purchases to two full years! Purchase your plant, planting mix, and Bonide Root & Grow, save your receipt, and if your plant fails within two years, Bonide will send you a certificate for a replacement! As always, if you notice your plant not looking quite right, ask our professionals for advice on how to get your plant back to looking good before it's too late. Take the worry out of buying. Of course, there are some limitations, but all of the details can be found on the [flyer on page 6](#). •**



*Present Walter Andersen Nursery location in Point Loma, 1960s*





## Two Year Plant Guarantee

Bonide® will guarantee the life of your ornamental tree or shrub for up to **2 years\*** from the date of purchase

Follow your retailer's planting instructions, as well as these helpful tips:

- Pick an appropriate place to plant by following the instructions on the plant tag.
- Dig a hole 2 times the size of the root ball, mix with existing soil and retailer's recommended soil.
- Apply Bonide's® Root & Grow® over the soil as the roots are being covered with new soil.
- For trees & large shrubs - Use 1 gallon of diluted Root & Grow® (3 1/2 Tbsp. per gal. of water)
- For small shrubs and ornamentals - Use 1-3 pints of diluted Root & Grow® (1 1/3 tsp. per pint of water)
- After planting, wet soil around plant with water.
- Keep the soil evenly moist throughout the entire growing season by watering when necessary. You can test to see if you need to water by sticking your finger about an inch into the soil near the base of the plant. It should be detectably moist, if not, then it is time to water.
- Use Root & Grow® every 4 weeks after planting.

To receive the 2-year plant guarantee from your favorite Bonide® retailer:



- ✓ Buy any ornamental tree, shrub or fruit tree
- ✓ Buy and use Bonide® Root & Grow®
- ✓ Buy the appropriate amount of your retailer's recommended soil amendment
- ✓ Follow this rooting/planting care guide

Staple original receipt and photo of dead plant(s) here

The correct amount of Root & Grow®, soil amendment and plants purchased must all be on the same, original itemized receipt. Picture of the dead plant(s) along with the identification of the plants must be included. This guarantee covers up to \$200.00 per plant, not to exceed \$1,000.00 in total claim amount per residential site. Plants installed by garden center/nursery where plants were purchased are covered. This guarantee is for residential homes only and does not apply to commercial sites, residential landscapers or contractors. Plants have to be planted for at least 60 days before sending in a plant guarantee claim and cannot be in a dormant state. Roses, potted plants, perennials and annuals are not guaranteed under this program. All plants must be zone appropriate to be covered by this guarantee. Once approved, Bonide® will send you a gift coupon that can be used to purchase any item(s) available for sale in the store where originally purchased!

Please provide the information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Retailer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature agrees to receive emails from Bonide: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of plant(s) that are dead: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or Email to:

Bonide Customer Service - Guarantee  
6301 Sutliff Road  
Oriskany, NY 13424  
sales@bonide.com



## Old Ben:

### Wild Bird Basics For First Time Birders

By Old Ben



All birds belong to the group of animals called vertebrates, meaning animals having a backbone. Birds make up a special group of vertebrates called aves.

Birds have a lot in common with reptiles, such as turtles, crocodiles, and lizards. Scientists think that birds and reptiles are old relatives and have many shared traits, such as laying eggs. Scientists also know that birds have some very different traits from their relatives, such as feathers instead of scales. Fossil records show us that birds evolved around the same time as the dinosaurs and are said to be descended from small, meat-eating dinosaurs called theropods.

There are around 10,000 known species of birds today. Birds live on all seven continents and have adapted to live in every climate, from Antarctica to steamy rainforests, to dry desert plains.

Bird skeletons are usually very strong but very light, which enables them to fly. Birds' diets are varied and often include nectar, fruit, plants, seeds, the remains of other animals, and various small animals including other birds. Because birds have no teeth, their digestive system is adapted to process food that is swallowed whole.

People who study birds are called ornithologists.

#### Top 10 Facts

1. The woodpecker can peck 20 times per second, that's 1200 pecks per minute.
2. The largest and heaviest bird on the planet is the ostrich. Native to parts of Africa with its long legs, the ostrich can run up to 45 miles per hour.
3. The chicken is the most common species of bird in the world.

4. Hummingbirds are the only birds which can fly backwards and are the smallest species of bird. Some only weigh .035 oz.

5. Homing pigeons are bred to find their way home from long distances and have been used for thousands of years to carry messages.

6. Seventy-five percent of wild birds die before they are 6 months old.

7. Birds which make popular pets include parakeets, canaries, cockatiels, doves, finches, lovebirds, parrots, and macaws.

8. There are over 2,000 birds listed on the endangered bird list. Disease, environmental waste, marine pollution, and deforestation have all contributed to the decline in numbers of many bird species.

9. Penguins cannot fly but are fantastic at swimming; they have webbed feet and wings adapted to work similarly to flippers.

10. Some bird species, such as crows, are intelligent enough to create and use tools.

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### Ask Old Ben!

Old Ben doesn't always think about birds. Sometimes he thinks about his business and that's when he had a grand idea. How cool would it be if you could reach out and ask him all kinds of questions about birds, or show him your (feathered) bird photos, or share your birding experiences? Well, now you can by using this email. [askoldben@aol.com](mailto:askoldben@aol.com)

## Old Ben's Specials

Valid March 1-31, 2018

**Hummingbirds are now  
nesting in San Diego County!**

### Old Ben's Hummingbird Nest Building Kit

Invite Hummingbirds to nest in your yard. The Hummingbird Nest Building Kit includes green moss, forest bark, lichen and 100% natural kapok tree golden silk fibers. The hummers will supply the spider web.

**Sale \$11.99** Reg. \$14.99

### Old Ben's Economy Wild Bird Seed

This mix will attract a wide variety of wild birds including doves, sparrows, and house finches. **20lb. bag**

**\$14.99** A Great Value!

### Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The staple food for gold finches and many other small birds.

**25lb. bag**

**Sale \$49.99** Reg. \$59.99

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

The no mess advantage. Seed is hulled, wild not sprout, birds can eat all the seed which attracts fewer pests. **20lb. bag**

**Sale \$34.99** Reg. \$39.99

### Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Classic mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. NO fillers in this mix. **20lb. bag**

**Sale \$24.99** Reg. \$29.99

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



## Garden Classes

## MARCH

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****3/3**

Yum! Spring Vegetables

**3/10**

Learn Everything About Composting

**3/17**

Citrus &amp; Avocado's for Backyard Orchards

**3/24**

Battling Garden Pests with John Ford

**3/31**

Improving Our Environment with Houseplants

**POWAY | 9:30AM****3/3**

Beginning Bonsai

**3/10**

Tomatoes! with Roy Wilburn from Sunshine Care Facility

**3/17**

Vegetables with Richard Wright

**3/24**

Organic Insect Control

**3/31**

Spring Rose Care

**Old Ben** continued from p7**Things You May Not Know**

Many species of birds annually migrate great distances.

Birds seek out places that have warmth, food and are safe for breeding.

Seasonal migration mainly happens in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, especially in the tropics, it is always warm enough for a year round food supply and there is little variation in the length of the day.

Birds are very social animals, communicating with visual signals, calls, and songs. They participate in such social behaviors as breeding, hunting, and flocking.

Man makes use of different birds in many different ways. For example, birds such as chickens supply us with food. Some species like songbirds and parrots are popular pets. Another use of birds is harvesting guano or their droppings as fertilizer. •

**March Specials** *Valid March 1-31, 2018***90th Anniversary Savings Continue!**

**Bond 3-Piece Watering Set**  
**\$19.28** Regular \$24.99



**5-Gallon Rhaphiolepis**  
**\$9.00** (That's only 90 dimes!)  
 Regular \$19.99

Choose from a Special Group of Dwarf Pink, Clara (White), or Pink Lady

Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. While supplies last. Hedge Fund\$ may be redeemed.

**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**



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