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Are Magnolias Endangered?

By Ken Andersen



Well maybe not, but right now Magnolias can be about as hard to find as an endangered species! At press time, we only had four in stock in Poway; three deciduous and one evergreen.

The problem stems from availability from the growers. Every year they try to estimate how many plants they will need for production and how many they will sell. For example Monrovia Nursery grows more than 13,000 Magnolia grandifloras each year. That

doesn't mean that is how many will be available as it takes a few years to get them up to size or to graft them. This year they sold out. Consequently, the next crop won't be sufficiently large enough to ship until at least this fall.

Other growers are in the same boat. The plants they may sell are small and below standard size, but if a customer is desperate, sometimes they will sell a few. Because of the long lead time on crops like this, once growers fall behind or sell out it can take a very long time to make up for it. We have seen this recently with citrus trees, which are starting to make a comeback, and avocados where availability is still extremely short.

So, when you are shopping for something you think should be readily available and if it's not, this may be the reason. Be patient, because as soon as crops are released we bring them into the stores. We are always happy to search for plants for you. •



What's In A Name?

By Ken Andersen

Every once in a while botanists will change the botanical names of plants to better identify which family they belong in. This is usually based on analysis of the flower form.

While this usually doesn't mean much to the average gardener or plant

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How To Prune Fruit Trees & Roses Is Back!

By Ken Andersen

How to Prune Fruit Trees and Roses is back in an updated edition! We took time after the last printing to re-edit the book. There are updated chapters, captions and illustrations and four new chapters on backyard orchard and fruit tree care. New content was provided by Tom Spellmen of Dave Wilson Nursery (our premier bare root fruit tree provider) and Stark Brothers Nursery of Louisiana. With the changes, this book is your ultimate resource for planting, growing, and maintaining fruit trees and roses. The books are available now in both stores for \$10.99. •



History Of WAN: Looking At The History Books

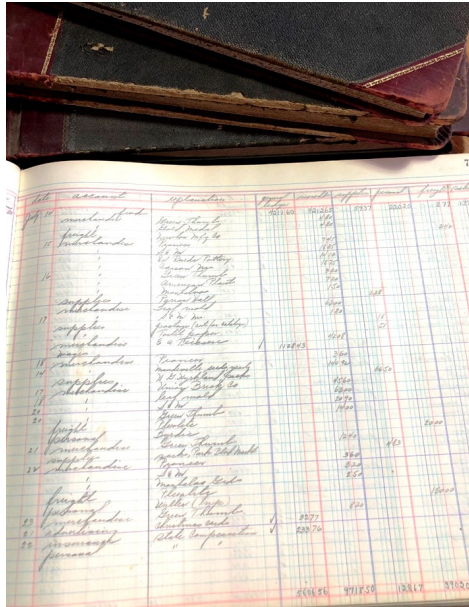
By Ken Andersen

Seventh in the series. Read all the articles starting with the December, 2017 newsletter at www.walterandersen.com/news/newsletters.

A few ledger books are the oldest business records we still have at the nursery and boy, do they tell a story. These large books hold meticulous detail of the daily operation of the store. The oldest dates back to 1946, the same year that the first bikini bathing suit was displayed, the U.S. dropped an atom bomb on Bikini atoll, and Tide detergent was introduced.

By that year, the nursery was well established at the Rosecrans location and the company was quickly approaching its twentieth anniversary. This was also the year that the new store building (still standing) was completed. There are notes in the ledger that indicate the new building cost \$4,620 to construct along with \$372 in new paving near the street. The architect's (Hans Andersen, Walter Sr.'s older brother) fee for the building was \$141. There is a notation of the value of the inventory on hand as of January 1, 1946 listed as \$19,193. When adjusted for inflation that would give it a present value over \$245,000. Today, the company's inventory is valued at more than three times that amount!

Reviewing the suppliers from those days reveals some interesting names. Sadly, many of these companies are no longer in business. Surprisingly, though there are some still open! Some of the names of those now shuttered businesses are LE Cooke which ceased operation this year; David's and Royston, our long time bulb supplier; Germain's, a dry goods distributor; S & M Nursery, a local bedding plant grower formerly based in Chula Vista; McBride Distributing, a local dry goods and chemical supplier; Butler's Mill, a local soil and dry goods supplier; Western Metal, hardware supplier (their building is now part of Petco Park); and Orange County Nursery. Some of the names of companies still around include Dixie



One of WAN's old ledger journals

Lumber, now Dixieline Lumber; Kniffing's Nursery in El Cajon; Mission Hills Nursery; Benton Roofing; Mission Chemical; and Monrovia Nursery. One I wish I had more information about was Jenderesen's Petunia Gardens.

Other intriguing tidbits in the journals were charges for telephone service at \$36.62, electrical service for \$4.50, and water at \$30.83, all costs for the month of January. Memberships in the Better Business Bureau and San Diego Chamber of Commerce were noted as well. The nursery is one of the longest running members of both organizations. A couple other interesting notations are OB Garage and Egyptian Service and ferry fees!

There are also pages with sales history and information about customer's accounts. Some of the more notable customers of the time were Ruben H. Fleet, C. Arnholdt Smith, Albert Frost (of Frost Hardwood), and the Golden, Marston, Jessop, and Burnham families. Some of these families are still our customers today.

Though the era of hand entry of accounting has been replaced by modern computers and software, these old ledgers sure have stories to tell. •

What's In A Name?

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enthusiast, it aids botanists in the scientific community. We recently encountered an interesting name change when what we had been selling as **Stachys Bello Grigio** (cousin of **Lamb's Ear**) was determined to not be a **Stachys** at all!

A recent delivery noted the change and a call to the grower and a bit of research confirmed it. **Stachys Bello Grigio** was in fact **Senecio Bello Grigio**, a plant in no way related to **Stachys**! **Senecio Bello Grigio** (**Senecio niveoaurus**) is actually a close relative to another garden favorite **Dusty Miller** (**Senecio cineraria**).

Dusty Miller has also gone through a name change and is now **Jacobaea maritima**. Both plants fall into the **Asteraceae** family (**Sun Flowers**) and are found all over the world. There are more than 1,200 species which makes it one of the largest flowering plant genera in the world.

The change is not completely surprising as **Senecio** is the Latin term for old man, referring to the gray hairs commonly found on plants in that family. The mistake was discovered when some of the plants bloomed in green houses and the growers discovered the flowers were more like **Sun Flowers** and not the two lipped flowers typical of **Stachys**.

Senecio Bello Grigio (**niveoaurus**) grows in high altitudes, 10-15,000 ft., in Ecuador and Colombia. Therefore it can take cold weather. This should be one tough addition to your garden. •



Rose Show Winners

By Melanie Potter



This year's entries



Kathleen Strong's 'Alakazam'

More than 100 entries were submitted for the 19th annual Poway Rose Show that was held in May. The winners were:

Section A - Best Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora

William Wallace 'Randy Scott'

Section B - Best Single Stem Floribunda

Susan Streeper 'Sparkle n Shine'

Section C - Best Old Fashioned Type

John & Barbara Lester
'The Impressionist'

Section D - Best Old Garden Rose

Kathleen Strong 'Tangerine Jewell'

Section E - Best Miniature/Mini Flora

Kathleen Strong 'Alakazam'

Section F - Best Mini Flora/Mini Spray

John & Barbara Lester
'Tattooed Daughter'

Section G - Best Bouquet

Bob & Marty Kolb "Wild Blue Yonder", 'French Lace', 'Tuscan Sun', 'Sunstruck'

Section H - Best Mini Flora/Mini Bouquet

William Wallace 'Heather Sproul'

Section I - Best Floating Bowl

Kathleen Strong 'McFarlane's Own'

Section J - Best Mini Flora/Mini Floating Bowl

John & Barbara Lester 'Power Point'

Section K - Most Fragrant Rose

Kathleen Strong 'Evelyn'

Section L - Best Fully Open Variety

Kathleen Strong
'Eyeconic Lemonade'

Section M - Best Non-Classified Rose

John & Barbara Lester
'Golden Wings'

Andersen's Choice Award for Best Non-Awarded Rose

Bob & Marty Kolb 'George Burns'

Queen of Show - Best Horticulture Entry

John & Barbara Lester 'The Imposter'

TO DO LIST: June



FERTILIZE

For **lawns**, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Bonide DuraTurf Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broadleaf weeds. Feed **ornamentals** with Gro-Power. Feed **vegetables** with Gro-Power Tomato and Vegetable Food or E.B. Stone Organic Tomato & 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.

PRUNE

Ornamentals for shape. Dead head **roses, Dahlias** and other flowering plants. Prune **stone fruits** after harvest.

PEST CONTROL

Look for **slugs** and **snails**; apply Sluggo and Sluggo Plus. Watch for **mildew, rust** and **rose slug** on roses; spray with Bayer 3 in 1 Insect Disease and Mite Control. Eliminate **sowbugs, earwigs, cutworms, slugs** and **snails** in vegetable gardens with Sluggo Plus. Keep **flies** around trash cans under control by using fly traps that can catch them before they invade your trash.

PLANT

Plant bedding plants, Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, Tropicals, fruit trees and shrubs. **Look for** Jacaranda, Magnolias, Hydrangeas, Star Jasmine, Dipladenias, Plumeria, Fuchsias, Roses, Summer Vegetables and Annuals. •

Don't Forget Dad!



Father's Day is June 17th and we have gifts for him. From gardening essentials, to plants to gift cards, you'll find treats fit for Dad. If you are looking for ideas, how about a Staghorn fern, custom container pot, wind chimes or solar lights?



Old Ben:

Bumblebee Hummingbirds

By Old Ben

Part two of a two-part article. See part one in the May issue here: www.walterandersen.com/news/newsletters



Anatomy

The Bumble Bee Hummingbird is two inches long with a wingspan of up to four inches. The size of the bee hummingbird equals the size of an ostrich's eye. Ostrich's eggs are 3,000 times heavier than the hummingbird's eggs. The male and female are distinguishable by their heads. The male's head has iridescent neck feathers with long throat plumes. The under parts are blue with dominant gray plumage. The female lacks all these iridescent feather colors.

Distribution

The bee hummingbird is found in Cuba including the former Island of Pines, now called Isla de Juventud.

Habitat

The bee hummingbird is mostly observed flying near small flowers for the simple reason that it cannot reach deep into large flowers. The bee hummingbirds make nests in dry tropical forests. The bee hummingbird is most likely to perch on the highest tree tops and telephone wires.

Feeding Ecology and Diet

Like other hummingbirds, bee hummingbirds rely on nectar which brings so much energy. It hovers in front of a flower while beating its wings 50 to 80 times a second to keep maneuvering in midair. It

reaches out for the nectar by extending its brushed tipped tongue into the bloom. Bee hummingbirds love to sip nectar from scarlet bush and coral plants; they also consume spiders and small insects.

Behavior

The male hummingbird is highly territorial and defends its flowers from other species. It lives a solitary life. The bee hummingbird is known to spend the day sipping nectar and buzzing from flower to flower. The bee hummingbird has a high body temperature; its size is so small that it cannot keep warm while inactive at night. To keep warm, the bird goes into a torpor state during which the heart rate and body temperature decreases, thus reducing its energy needs.

Reproductive Biology

During the breeding season which happens in May, the male hummingbird makes high pitched squeaks to get the attention of a mate. It's a song he must learn as he grows older. Several males go after one female. The female picks her mate. After mating, the male hummingbird goes away and takes no part in raising the young. The female hummingbird weaves a cup shaped nest which measures less than one inch across its top. The size of the nest equals half of a walnut shell and is made of lichens and plant fiber and tied to a branch using spider webs. The female lays two eggs which

Old Ben's Promise

- I believe ingredients should come from nature, not a lab.
- I believe wild bird food should be made only with ingredients I am proud to share.
- I believe wild bird food should be simply prepared with as little processing as possible.
- I believe wild bird food should be made with a commitment to quality.
- Nature has nothing to hide; neither should your wild bird food.
- I use ingredients from natural sources across my entire line - NO artificial anything.

Old Ben's Specials

Valid June 1-30, 2018

Old Ben's No Mess Wild Bird Seed

The no mess advantage. Seed is hulled, will 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**

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

are 0.3 inches long and weigh up to 0.009 oz. The female will feed her young by regurgitating nectar into their throats. Bee hummingbirds attain maturity at one year of age.

Conservation Status

The Isla de Juventud and the Cuban islands are home to 100,000 bumble bee hummingbirds. The limited range of these birds makes them vulnerable to severe weather changes. •

New Item!

Old Ben's Premium Finch Blend

Attracts finches like a magnet with their two favorite seeds. Fine sunflower chips & Nyger Seed. Seed will not sprout.

20lb. bag

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Attract Finches like a magnet with their two favorite seeds!

Birds you may attract with Old Ben's Premium Finch Blend are: Gold Finches, House Finches, Purple Finches, Song Sparrows, Bushittis, and many other small song birds.

Feeding Directions
Feed the desired amount in a mesh sock feeder, tube style feeder or platform feeder.
Keep feeders clean and full.
Keep clean fresh water available.

Wild Birds Just Love Old Ben's and You Will Too!

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Ask Old Ben!

Email Old Ben your questions at:
askoldben@aol.com

Garden Classes

JUNE

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/.

SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

6/2

Fox Farms Soil w/Melody Frank

6/9

Plumeria (Lei Flower) Care & Culture w/Dawn & David Sullivan from the Plumeria Society

6/16

E.B. Stone Products with Dwayne Wheeler

6/23

Malibu Compost w/Randy Ritchie

6/30

San Diego Seed Company with Brijette Romstadt

POWAY | 9:30AM

6/2

Staghorn Fern Remounting & Care with David Ross

6/9

Herbs with Richard Wright

6/16

Summer Veggies with Richard Wright

6/23

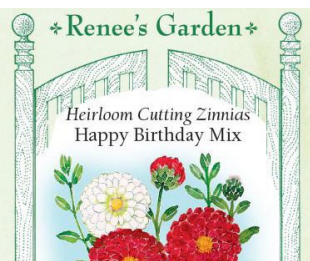
Bonsai for Beginners

6/30

Organic Insect Control

Time For **The Fair**

Every once in a while botanists will
cl names of plants to bett... •

June Specials *Valid June 1-30, 2018***25% OFF****Renee's Seeds**

Flowers, Vegetables, & Herbs

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



5-gallon

Wonderful Pomegranates**\$19.28**

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