



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

OCTOBER 2015

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Busy Bunnies

By Jolene Andersen



Dot and Dash get some love from Denise and Juanita.

The San Diego store is home to a bonded pair of rabbits, Dot and Dash. They were a gift for educational purposes from a friend who raises rabbits in Lakeside.

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Are You Ready For Rain?

By Melanie Potter



Wedelia trilobata

Of course we are ready for rain, we want it and we need it, but are you prepared for the frequent rain that is forecast?

If you stopped watering your yard and made an attempt to stay green by going brown, you may not be ready for rain. Dead lawns and dirt patches don't hold water well and will result

in runoff and mud everywhere. If you have some ground to cover, here are a few ideas to get some fast growing and drought-tolerant coverage in place.

Wedelia

Sphagneticola trilobata from the Sunflower family, but we sell it under the old name **Wedelia trilobata**, is fast

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A Couple Walks Into A Bar...

By Ken Andersen

Sometimes strange work related things happen in strange non-work related places. Such was a recent experience of mine in a dark tiki bar on the second floor of a taco shop on North Peters Street in the French Quarter of New Orleans. On a vacation to The Big Easy, my wife and I checked out a tiki bar she heard about called Tiki Tolteca. While we were sitting at the bar sampling drinks surrounded by a plethora of tiki décor, one of the drinks on their menu caught my eye.

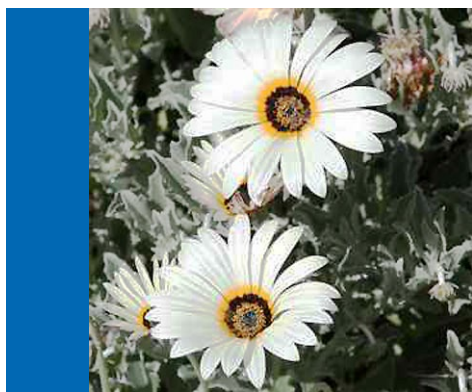
Served in a tall ceramic tiki mug the Ah Huevo was a chilled concoction of

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Spilanthes

Ready For Rain? continued from p1



Arctosis stoechadifolia

growing in soil that is not optimum and in areas of partial shade to full sun. It flowers year round with bright yellow flowers that are showcased by deep green foliage. Wedelia grows faster in the sun than the shade. If you are looking for a good hardy ground cover, take a look at Wedelia trilobata. Do note that this is not a good groundcover for areas with heavy foot traffic, and because it spreads by putting roots out at the nodes and latching onto the soil; it can become invasive. I have this at home, in many areas, and love it!

Arctotis stoechadifolia (Cream African Daisy)

This is an aggressive, low-growing groundcover that hugs the ground with leafy, ribbed stems & toothed, large leaves; daisy-like flowers. It grows fast as stems root where they touch the ground. It's hardy to 25-30

degrees F and blooms from mid-summer to early fall. It's drought tolerant, and bees, butterflies and birds like it. Will be available late October.

Dymondia margaretae (Silver Carpet)

This is a slow spreading, very flat (just a few inches tall at best) ground-cover with 1-2 inch long narrow leaves that are a gray-green on top with white tomentosa beneath. Though flat to the ground, the white undersides are exposed to view as the leaf margins edges roll up and inward, thus giving the plant an appearance of being variegated. Small yellow daisy flowers bloom amongst the foliage in summer. Plant in full sun to light shade in a well-drained soil. This plant grows rapidly with irrigation, but it has deep succulent roots and can be very drought tolerant; though notably slower growing. It is hardy to about 25-30 degrees F. About the only things that this plant does not tolerate well is a heavy or otherwise non-draining soil and gophers.

English or Uniform Ivy

This is a carefree groundcover and can be invasive. It flourishes under shady to full sun conditions in soils that are moderately fertile and moist but it is forgiving of drought situations. It will hold the soil and cover quickly. ●



Dymondia margaretae



TO DO LIST: October



PLANT

California Natives and drought-tolerant plants are best planted this time of year to get root systems established. Bulbs like Daffodils, Ranunculus, Freesias, Anemones and more. Winter annuals like Stocks, Snapdragons, Pansies, and Primrose in the shade. Don't miss winter bedding, cool season vegetables, early Camellias and Azaleas, Cotoneaster, Liquidambar, and Ginko. Overseed Bermuda lawns with Annual Rye. It's a great time to plant Fescue from seed or sod.

WATER

When Santa Anas arrive, make sure to get extra water on plants and lawns as needed, especially container plants.

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. Feed Vegetables with GroPower 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. Do not feed Camellias and Azaleas until after they are finished flowering in spring. ●

A Couple Walks Into A Bar continued from p1

passion fruit, ginger beer, Pisco, and aged and blended egg (what ever that is!) topped with a **Jambu flower**. It was the Jambu flower that I found most intriguing. Looking like a small yellow eye with a dark red pupil, we were told that if you eat one it will have a numbing effect on your mouth and gums. Intrigued by this prospect I popped it into my mouth and began to chew. At first you are hit with a kind of herby grass-like flavor and as you chew the sensation begins to build. Rather than numbing like Novocain, the sensation was effervescent, like a mouth full of soda water. Once swallowed, the sensation lingered for some time and with every sip of delicious cocktail it would reinvigorate the sensation.

Here is where the work part comes in. Completely intrigued and hooked by the experience I decided that I must find this Jambu flower when I returned home. Jumping on the computer and doing some research it did not take long for me to find the source of the flower, **Spilanthes acmella**, also known

as toothache plant. A little more snooping brought me to a source for seeds and the information that the plant will easily grow in San Diego. I ordered some seed to hand off to our bedding plant grower, Southland Growers, to enable us to bring this great plant to our customers. Much to my surprise, I found that we had regularly stocked Spilanthes in our culinary herb section! The foliage can be eaten raw or cooked and when added to food, it can provide a bit of spiciness. It has antibacterial properties and is said to relieve stress. It also makes a very cute, low growing shrub 12-15 inches tall with dark glossy green foliage.

So, if you want a cute and unusual herb for the garden, you need not have to trek all the way to New Orleans to find it. Both of our stores stock it when available, in our herb section. Pick one up the next time you are in the store.

I highly recommend you make a virtual visit to Tiki Tolteca and here is a link to their website at www.tikitolteca.com. •

Time To Plan Your Orchard

By David Ross



Even though the days are still quite warm, there is no better time to start thinking about which fruit trees, nuts, grapes or berries to add to your orchard this January.

While it may seem early, our fruit tree orders for next year have been placed. Walter Andersen Nurseries will have a tremendous selection of deciduous fruit trees chosen for their productivity in our mild Southern California climate.

We will have almost two hundred different varieties of fruit trees, grapes, blueberries, cane berries, and more. There will be standard trees, semi dwarf trees, and true dwarf trees from which to choose. We will have the right size and variety tree for any situation your landscape may require. With proper planning and planting, you can harvest fresh fruit from your own tree from March until October or November!

Even though we probably have the best selection you will find, we have an even more extensive list from which you can choose. Walter Andersen Nursery participates in the Dave Wilson Nursery Special Order Fruit Tree program or SOFT for short. Heavy clay wet soil, deep, well-draining soil, big tree, medium tree, small tree, this SOFT program makes available to you hundreds of additional combinations of fruit trees

Busy Bunnies

continued from p1

Our bunnies are well cared for. They passed our friend's inspection and also inspections from the San Diego Humane Society. They are offered healthy servings of food appropriate for their size and dietary requirements. They go to a specialty veterinarian when needed and have clean water and bedding. When it is hot, they are treated to popsicles made from ice blocks and fans are provided 24 hours-a-day. They are held often and lovingly by employees who enjoy them before and after work hours.

Dot and Dash help us educate the public about flora and fauna, which is important to us. The first and only experience many children have with rabbits, is in our store. Children learn to appreciate animals when they are exposed to them in a controlled situation. Many of our employees answer questions about the rabbits and teach children the basics of caring for an animal. Many customers come in and spend more time with the rabbits than the plants; that is okay too.

Please ask us your questions about the Busy Bunnies in our store. We would be happy to bend your ear telling you about them. •

with assorted rootstocks that will accommodate almost every possible growing situation. You may view the list at www.walterandersen.com/pdf/Softfruittree2016.pdf.

If there is a tree you want but it is not on our list, you will probably find it on the SOFT list. The trees won't arrive until January, but the SOFT orders must be placed by Nov. 10. SOFT trees must be prepaid to complete your order, and the list is available in both stores and online. If you have any questions or want more information, call or come in to either Walter Andersen Nursery location. •

Cool Stuff Coming Our Way

By Melanie Potter



Candle On A Rope



Colorful Containers



Build Your Own Scarecrow

At the height of the hot summer we endured in San Diego, I fled to Las Vegas, where it was even hotter. I wasn't there for pleasure, but to attend a lawn and garden trade show. Our team was essentially shopping for you; looking for new products we think you would like. Here's what we found:

Candle on a Rope

Well, this is just genius and from the line of interested buyers at this vendor's booth, these will be popular. Candles are strung together and you cut a candle when you need to replace one. You can burn these on an individual plate, or hang on a decorative tower.

Containers

We saw these containers and the bold, rich colors knocked our socks off. Wanting to know more, I approached and carefully lifted one only to be surprised by how lightweight these are. They are not heavy ceramic, but made of a durable metal that is rust resistant, lightweight, and portable. A powder coated steel base, topped with an over coat of paint allows for multiple years of beauty and charm. Pots have a drain plug that makes this planter a great choice for any location. Foam pads on the bottom of the planter allow for safe use on any surface. I promise the rich colors and textures will delight you.

Build Your Own Scarecrow

We saw these kits and thought they were super cute and fun for the whole family. Build an adult or child size scarecrow. The kit contains a poseable frame and face. Just dress in old

clothes; maybe add a few tufts of straw and voila! You can buy additional faces and keep your scarecrow attired appropriately through all seasons. On October 10th in Poway, join us for a Build Your Own Scarecrow Workshop with Richard Wright at 9:30am.

Plant Tie & Fasteners

We found a vendor who presents plant ties and fasteners on a nifty spinning rack. Look for this handy shopping solution rather than hunting for things hung on the wall.

Clocks

Outdoor clocks that look a bit more upscale than the plastic ones we've normally seen.

Wattle

If the promised rains come this fall and winter, expect some flooding. We anticipated the need for filtering excess water so we have stocked up on wattle.

Azomite Minerals

Azomite® is an acronym for the "A to Z" minerals including trace elements. An estimated 30 million years ago, a volcanic eruption filled a seabed. The unique combination of seawater, fed by rivers rich in minerals and rare earth elements present in the volcanic ash, created the composition known as the Azomite® mineral deposit. Mined in Utah, Azomite® is a feed additive and a soil re-mineralizer for plants.

Balcony Pots, Flower Tower, and Rolling Garden Seat

Have you ever stayed up watching



Flower Tower



Azomite® Soil Re-mineralizer



Adjustable Railing Planters

late night television and a commercial comes on for some random, yet brilliant product that you wished you had invented? Well, there was a vendor who had a booth full of stuff like this, and we went crazy placing orders. We couldn't pass up the **adjustable railing planters** that can rest on a balcony railing anywhere from 1" to 4" wide. In each planter, there is a nifty drainage system for urban gardeners who don't have easy access to places to plant or ways to let container plants drain. This is a solution that will bring out the green thumb in you. We also liked the **Flower Tower**, which is a 3' tall planter

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Old Ben: Black Phoebes Make You Wonder

By Old Ben



One of my favorite birds is the Black Phoebe. The first thing I noticed about the Black Phoebe was his energy. One minute he is darting back and forth catching insects, and the next minute he is circling back to his perch on a post or tree limb to watch for more. This behavior is called hawking. Why not just sit there and wait for the insects to fly by? I have also seen the Black Phoebe sitting with his chest held out in an important and proud posture. I wonder what he is trying to tell us. When the Black Phoebe perches, what do you suppose all of that tail flicking up and down means? There're a lot of things to wonder about.

Size and Shape

Black Phoebes are small, plump song-birds with large heads and medium-long, squared tails. They often show a slight peak at the rear of the crown. The bill is straight and thin. The Black Phoebe is about 5 1/2 inches long.

Behavior

Black Phoebes sit upright on low perches near water and make short

flights to catch insects. They pump their tails up and down when perched. They nest in mud cups anchored in protected nooks, often under a bridge or the eaves of a building. They often keep up a string of sharp chirp calls.

Habitat

You'll almost always find these fly-catchers near water. They live along streams, rivers, lakes, and the Pacific Ocean. As long as there is water present and some kind of ledge or overhang on which to anchor a mud nest, Black Phoebes could be around.

Breeding and Nesting

During breeding, the male leads the female to a potential site for a nest but she is the one that constructs the nest out of mud and grass. Phoebes are very territorial and will often fly towards you and then lead you away from the nest. The female lays 3-5 eggs which she incubates for about two weeks. The young fledge in another two weeks.

Kool Facts

Although it mostly eats insects, the Black Phoebes sometime snatches minnows from the surface of ponds. It may even feed fish to nestlings. The oldest Black Phoebe on record was at least eight years old when it was captured and released by a bird bander in California in 1981. •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid October 1-31, 2015

No Mess Wild Bird Seed

The No Mess advantage: Seed is hulled, will not sprout, birds can eat all the seed which attracts fewer feeder pests.

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

Hulled Chopped Sunflower Seeds

Seed is hulled and chopped. Will not germinate. Attracts a wide variety of wild birds.

25lb. \$29.97 Reg. \$46.99

Nyger Seed

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

25lb. \$39.97 Reg. \$59.99

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

A classic mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. No fillers in Old Ben's.

20lb. \$15.97 Reg. \$31.99

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

Cool Stuff continued from p4

that holds 30 plants (flowers, vegetables, or herbs, even succulents). Inside the planter is an internal watering tube; you can also access the tube to add fertilizer. Finally, after asking a shopper to demonstrate how easy to use the **rolling task seat** was, we snapped up a few. If you have painting or gardening chores that have you working close to the ground, save your knees and back with this solution. It's a seat, mounted on four wheels, with a handy storage tray that allows you to sit and scoot along to get your work done. •



20% OFF
Citrus & Avocado Trees

Details on page 6

Garden Classes

OCTOBER

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

10/3

Planning Your Fruit Tree
Orchard

10/10

Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying

10/17

Fall Bulbs

10/24

Adding Veggies & Herbs to
Established Landscapes

10/31

How & When to Remount
Your Staghorn

POWAY | 9:30AM

10/3

Designing with Tillandsias

10/10

Build Your Own Scarecrow
Workshop with Richard Wright

10/17

Fruit Tree Care: Pruning &
Spraying with Richard Wright

10/24

Strawberry Pots, Posts, and
Gardens by Richard Wright

10/31

Staghorn Ferns

Pet Spotlight



Can you help **Charger** and **Toro** find a forever home? This bonded pair of American Staffordshire Terrier Mix dogs arrived at the San Diego Humane Society nearly one year ago. Meet Charger, a nearly five year old male, and his sister, Tora, seven years old. Tora is shy and introverted and Charger is frisky and high spirited. There is no adoption fee. The dogs would need to be the only dogs in the home as they don't get along with other dogs. Watch them play at www.sdhumane.org/site/PageNavigator/Adoptions/availableanimals.html.

How is this for good news? **Simba**, the Boxer mix dog we were helping to find his forever home, has been adopted by his foster mother!! •

In-Store Coupon

Valid October 1-31, 2015

\$3 OFF

**E.B. Stone Citrus &
Palm Planting Mix**

1.5 CuFt

and

#128663

**Big Harvest Bale
Soil Conditioner**

3 CuFt / Mix & Match

Print or Show on your Phone

Limited to stock on hand while supplies last, no
special orders. Cannot be combined with any other
discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ do apply.

In-Store Special

Valid October 1-31, 2015

**20% OFF
Citrus &
Avocado
Trees**

Applies to All Trees in Stock
No Limit

Limited to stock on hand while supplies
last, no special orders. Cannot be combined
with any other discount or offer. Hedge
Fund\$ do apply.



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