

# Garden Talk™

## San Diego's Garden Resource



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

## Plants For Spring

BY MELANIE POTTER

As March inches closer, it seems that every day we see more deliveries of brightly colored spring-like plants. Spotting the Ranunculus on the bedding tables seemed to herald it for me so I took a look around and found these favorites to share with you.

**Campanula 'Champion'** – The Bellflower or Canterbury Bell is named for the bell-shaped flowers that form on an upright plant. The Champion series is a new variety that requires no cold treatment and will flower in the first season from seed. The flower color varies from white to blue, lavender and pink. Plant in full sun or half sun in average to well draining soil.



**Helleborus**

plants so they may need staking as they get bigger and heavier. Plant in a sunny location in rich soil.

**Helleborus** – Another member of the Ranunculaceae family is the Helleborus. The genus is native to much of Europe, from western Great Britain, Spain and Portugal, eastward across the Mediterranean region and central Europe into Romania and Ukraine, and along the north coast of Turkey into the Caucasus. Foliage is leathery and the flowers are usually cup or bell shaped with many colors to choose from. Though Helleborus will grow in a variety of soil conditions, a well-drained base containing plenty of organic matter suits them. Ideally, the soil should receive regular moisture without being waterlogged. However, the plants are surprisingly drought-tolerant once established and can survive in less than optimum conditions. Plant in partial shade.

*Editor's Note: These plants are considered poisonous or have varieties that can be poisonous, so use carefully if your garden is accessed by children or pets. ■*



**Delphinium**

**Delphinium** – Delphinium is a genus of about 300 species of perennial flowering plants in the family Ranunculaceae, native throughout the Northern Hemisphere and also on the high mountains of tropical Africa. Blooms range in color from purple and blue, or white and grow in spikes. These are tall

## Don't Just Plant A Garden; Wear One Too!

BY MELANIE POTTER

Wearable gardens are now available at our Poway store. Handmade by jewelry artist Annalisa Von Klipstein exclusively for WAN, a wearable garden is a necklace, in varying lengths, from which is hung a glass vial filled with moss. Some necklaces feature charms or additional decorative pieces and each is unique.



**Jewelry by Annalisa Von Klipstein**

*continued p4*

### In This Issue

Plants For Spring	1
Wear A Garden!	1
Wee Corner	1
Fuller's Finds	2
Annie's Annuals & Perennials	3
Old Ben: Wild Parrots	4
Ramp Up The Culinary Garden	5
In-Store Specials	5
March Garden Classes	5

### Discover Us!



[www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com)



[facebook.com/walterandersens](https://facebook.com/walterandersens)



[twitter.com/walterandersens](https://twitter.com/walterandersens)



[Our Online Store](#)



[Watch Videos](#)

## Wee Corner: Thompson & Morgan Seeds



BY MELANIE POTTER

Would you like to enjoy a little edible treat that takes only a short time to grow? We've got sprouting seeds; organic seeds from Thompson & Morgan, one the UK's largest mail order seed and plant companies. Founded in 1855 by William Thompson, the company specialized in growing rare and unusual plants, seeds of which were sent to him from many overseas countries. It earned his business a reputation for exciting introductions and gave him the friendship of such great scientists as Sir Joseph Hooker, Sir Michael Foster and Charles Darwin.

*continued p4*



# March

## Garden Tasks

### 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 other tropical and semi-tropical fruit. Start to replace cool season bedding plants with warm season plants. Start planting warm season vegetables like Tomatoes and Squash. Be sure to amend the soil with good organic compost. Ada Perry's Redwood Compost works great for general ornamentals and Harvest Supreme is perfect for vegetable gardens.

### LOOK FOR

Azaleas, Spirea, Tuberous Begonias, Caladiums, Calla Lilies.



## Easter Is March 31st!

The stores have lots of decor and plants for Easter. Living plants for Easter include potted bulbs, Easter lilies, mini Carnations, Pink Jasmine wreaths, and Primula malacoides (Fairy Primula). Stop in for our full selection. *Note: Both stores will be closed on Easter.*

## Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

*Editor's Note: These plants are due in stock by the second week of March.*

I'm so glad that pesky groundhog didn't see his shadow. Spring could not get here quickly enough for me. I've had some plants in containers for some time and this winter they decided they had had enough so I'm going to replace them. Most of my containers are under mature trees, so I have to be concerned not only about water needs but light. Here are some suggestions for those of you in the same container quandary.

There are hundreds of species of Heuchera. They offer an extensive array of blossom sizes, shapes, and colors, foliage types, and geographic tolerances. They are valued as foliage plants, producing rosettes of leaves in shades of green, pink and bronze, often variegated or textured; with long racemes of white, green, pink or red flowers in spring.

The plants themselves are mounding and the leaves are round with scalloped edges. Dainty blossoms are bell shaped and their bloom time can vary depending upon the species.

All Heuchera grow best in humus-rich soil and require good drainage. They can take full sun in cooler climates but if planted in warmer regions, provide afternoon shade.

Heuchera make wonderful edging plants and really put on a show when planted in groups. The foliage color is great for playing up the colors of nearby flowers.

Coprosma spp. or **Mirror Bush** is one of my favorite plants to use in containers and in the landscapes. In the past, growers have come up with some great color combinations and growth habits and they have done it again.

Black Cloud Mirror Bush is one of the hardiest of the species. Across the South Pacific in Australia, New Zealand, and Borneo are about 60 species of this shiny leaf shrub. In the South Pacific and New Zealand, indigenous people use the wood and inner bark of Coprosma as a yellow dye, the leaves are used for an antibacterial wound poultice, and seeds are ground as a coffee substitute.

This species has small, glossy black-purple foliage that covers the patterned branches. The flowers are inconspicuous so you are really planting this for the foliage color. It has a rounded form, perfect for containers, and will grow 3' tall and 3' wide. A soft shearing



**Mirror Bush**



**Heuchera**



**DebRon's Black Cherry**

will keep it in shape. It prefers a well-draining soil (cactus mix in the container), and regular water during the summer.

Black Cloud is perfect as a small hedge, massed in foundation plantings, or containers. It will also look great in a Zen garden, contemporary, or rustic garden theme.

If there is any plant that reminds me of my grandmother, it is Fuchsia. She had them everywhere and they all had wonderful shapes and colors. The Fuchsia plant is named after Leonhard Fuchs, a German doctor who lived in the early 1500s.

Fuchsia hybrid '**DebRon's Black Cherry**' is a new variety that will last from late spring to frost. This variety has the usual pendulous flowers that hummingbirds find irresistible. Striking maroon sepals and dark purple-black petal contrast with the glossy, green foliage. It is a strong and upright form that will reach 5' tall and 4' wide.

As with most fuchsias, it prefers a rich, cool, evenly moist soil. It is sun tolerant, but will perform best in part-shade in hot summer areas. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer to encourage blooms. Trim to ground in late winter to control size or rejuvenate growth.

'DebRon's Black Cherry' will work well in a Zen or Asian garden, contemporary or rustic theme garden. It will work in a border, mass planting, woodland garden, and, of course, containers.

Well, I'm off to my garden to see what else I can add to make it beautiful. ■

## Annie's Annuals & Perennials Is New To The Stores

BY MELANIE POTTER

At our Poway store, we were excited to receive our first shipment of plants from Annie's Annuals & Perennials which is a grower of rare, heirloom and unusual plants. Plants are due in San Diego the first week of March. Founded more than 20 years ago, Annie's is a 2.5 acre growing nursery in Richmond, CA.



*Coreopsis tinctoria radiata*



*Lathyrus odoratus*

Plants are grown the old fashioned way, from seed, in all elements, and without growth regulating hormones.

You'll recognize the displays of plants from Annie's by their large, colorful signs which shows plants at their maturity along with informative details about the plant and its care.

Just to tempt you, here's a quick look at some of what is coming:

**Coreopsis tinctoria radiata 'Tiger Stripes'** – An heirloom variety of Calliopis has radiating star-like flowers in shades of orange to mahogany striped and spotted with gold. Plant in sun in average soil.



*Nemophila menziesii*



*Geranium pyrenaicum*

**Lathyrus odoratus 'Almost Black'** – Sweet peas of dark maroon blooms and a climbing, twining habit to 6' tall. Does best in sun, some shade ok. Plant in rich well-drained soil; this plant self-sows.

**Nemophila menziesii 'Baby Blue Eyes'** – Use this to fill in areas or to trail over beds. It's a profuse bloomer over several months. Plant in sun, needs average water.

**Geranium pyrenaicum 'Bill Wallis'** – Deep purple-blue blooms present a cloud of color, 15" tall x 20" from spring thru fall. Reliably perennial, it happily self-sows to fill in bare spots with its ever-present color. When the flowers are spent (after months), cut back to 1", side dress with compost and it'll burst right back into bloom. Grows best in rich soil and half day sun, though not required. Is heat tolerant. ■



### Dates To Remember

**MAR 9** – Fairy House Sculpting Class. Must RSVP to 858-513-4900. Class held in Poway, \$50 materials fee.

**MAR 11** – Poway store extends daylight savings hours M-F to 6pm.

**MAR 31** – Stores closed for Easter.

**APR 27** – Wearable Garden Class. Make a wearable garden necklace with artist Annalisa Von Klipstein. Must RSVP to 858-513-4900. Class held in Poway, \$20 materials fee.

**MAY 5** – Irrigation Classes Presented by DIG Irrigation. Class is held in Poway and limited to 50 attendees. Attend either the 9:30am or 1pm class. Must RSVP by calling 858-513-4900. \$30 worth of merchandise is free to every attendee.



poway 14th Annual  
**rose show**

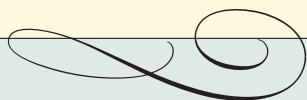
**Save The Date!**  
**May 25-26, 2013**



**Wee Corner** *continued from p1*

Sprouting is the practice of germinating seeds to be eaten raw or cooked. Sprouted foods are a convenient way to have fresh vegetables in any season and can be germinated at home. They are a prominent ingredient of the raw food diet and common in Eastern Asian cuisine.

Varieties we carry include Mung Beans, Lentils, Micro Greens, Broccoli sprouts, Fenugreek, and Arugula. They are ideal for use in salads, snacks, or juicing. Some are ready to eat in as few as five days; others may take up to 15 days. The nursery also carries Thompson & Morgan Seed Sprouters, and micro greens growing kits. ■

**Old Ben's Specials!**

Sale Prices Valid March 1-30, 2013

### Your Choice of 5lbs. Parrot Mix or 3lbs. Raw Peanuts

**\$7.99** Regular \$10.99

### 25lbs. Wild Bird Seed with Nyjer

**\$14.99** Regular \$17.99

Feed a wide variety of Wild Birds with this special mix!

### 8lbs. Black Oil Sunflower Seed

**\$9.99** Regular \$13.99

Attracts the most species of Wild Birds.

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

**Don't Just Plant A Garden** *continued from p1*

"Each piece shows my love of gardening and can be placed around the neck; it's a reminder of how much you love gardening," explained Von Klipstein.

Von Klipstein began crafting jewelry in college and is still at it 25 years later. The notion of a wearable garden began when she was creating a terrarium for her home and incorporated the idea of a contained garden into a jewelry piece. The piece she sells today is different from the prototype she started with. "I tried to put plants in the vial, but it was too small and there was no aeration so it got moldy". Other challenges arose such as the vial not having enough humidity to keep the cork from drying out. Dry corks pop out of the vial and disconnect from the necklace chain; all problems which Von Klipstein has solved.

More styles are in the works and a new line of wearable gardens will not only contain moss but also house rocks, twigs, or dried Mexican daisies.

All wearable garden necklaces are made individually and not replicated. "Each piece has a unique, beautiful look and there are ones that are fun and evoke a memory," said Von Klipstein. "They mark time, people and memories in our lives". Von Klipstein believes that everyone should have their own pieces of jewelry that nobody else will ever have. She finds materials for her jewelry through friends, vintage finds, or on her travels. Some are actually impossible to duplicate.

Von Klipstein will lead a jewelry making workshop and each attendee will make their own wearable garden. Class will be held at the Poway store on April 27. "Many people are intimidated by the construction of jewelry and don't understand how to make it", she said.

The class costs \$20 to make a simple, wearable garden with personalized details. RSVP and pre-pay by calling 858-513-4900. ■

**Wild Parrots Of San Diego; Born To Be Wild**

**BY OLD BEN OF OLD BEN'S WORKSHOP**

In San Diego's older neighborhoods of Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Pacific Beach, Banker's Hill, El Cajon, Clairemont,

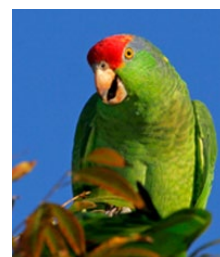
La Mesa, and Lakeside, are flocks of wild green parrots or Red Crowned Amazon Parrots. These parrots know paradise when they fly over it as San Diego has one of the largest populations of these birds.

In the early morning or evening, if you are walking through one of these neighborhoods, you will hear these birds screeching as they fly over. They always travel in flocks and if you are lucky you will see them land in eucalyptus and palm trees.

How did they get to San Diego? Legend has it that decades ago, the birds were released by a pet shop owner. The truth is not completely known, but most bird experts believe some are escaped pets.

There are some people who are not wild about these birds, saying that the parrots are obnoxious and a loud nuisance. They may not be as graceful as the hummingbird, but

who can't find joy in seeing these parrots preening on the power lines, perched high on tree limbs, or soaring above the city streets below?



The parrots are very social. They use their calls to communicate with each other, to head off danger from birds of prey, and announce their coming and going.

The parrots are just over one foot in length. Their brilliant green feathers, green cheeks, and red forehead will catch your attention. If you see one of them up close you would see blue and red feathers under their wings and yellow tail feathers.

Breeding takes place between March and May. The couple lives together in the nest, usually in a palm tree, caring for two to five eggs that incubate for 25 - 31 days.

While these green parrots were born to be wild, domestication has made them into fun loving birds, but there is something wonderful about watching and hearing them fly freely. ■

## Ramping Up The Culinary Garden

Ramps are native to North America and though the bulb resembles a scallion, the beautiful broad, flat leaves set it apart. Ramps are grown in the moist forest floor settings from the deep South to Canada and in many places they are considered a spring delicacy. The flavor and fragrance is compared to a cross between onion and garlic.

Enjoy the pungent ramp flavor in soups, egg dishes, casseroles, rice dishes and potato dishes. The green tops are milder and used along with the bulbs. The leaves may also be air dried and then chopped and frozen in airtight containers for future use as a seasoning.

This is the first year Andersen's will be offering ramps for sale, so don't wait too long to get yours; they should arrive by the second week of March. They will be potted up and ready to be transplanted. Plant them in rich soil where they'll get some spring sun and light shade in summer. Ramps grow naturally under a forest canopy of beech, birch, sugar maple, and poplar trees. Other forest trees under which ramps will grow include buckeye, linden (basswood), hickory, and oak. A forested area with any of these trees present provides an ideal location for planting a ramp crop. If you don't have a forested area, do provide ramps with shade.

No doubt the cook book addicts and Food

Network watchers will snatch them up quickly and begin implementing culinary daydreams. Here is a recipe to try when they are ready. If you can't imagine cooking two pounds of ramps, at least use the technique and your own amount of ramps for a delicious side dish courtesy of Emeril Lagasse. It's as easy as one, two, BAM!



Ramp Wild Onions

### Sauteed Ramps with Apple Smoked Bacon (4 servings)

#### Ingredients:

2 lbs ramps, trimmed and cleaned  
1/4 pound apple smoked bacon  
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions: In a large pot bring 2 quarts of salted water to a boil and add ramps. Cook until tender, about four minutes. Transfer to an ice bath and remove when chilled. Drain on paper towels.

In a skillet cook bacon until crisp. Using a slotted spoon, transfer bacon to a paper towel to drain. Add ramps to bacon fat in skillet and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Sauté until lightly caramelized and serve immediately, garnished with reserved crispy bacon. ■

## March Garden Class Schedule

All 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. Class topics are subject to change with no notification. You may call for confirmation.

9:00AM   SAN DIEGO NURSERY	9:30AM   POWAY NURSERY
3/2 Spring Vegetables	3/2 Container Gardening with Carol Fuller
3/9 9am – Trees for San Diego 11am – Class in Spanish	3/9 Make a Fairy House Workshop; Must RSVP at 858-513-4900; \$50
3/16 Shade Plants	3/16 Vegetables with Richard Wright
3/23 Attracting Birds to Your Garden with Old Ben	3/23 Health Benefits of Tea with Tea Gallerie
3/30 Herbs, Care, & Uses	3/30 No Class Scheduled

## March

### In-Store Specials!

Sale Prices Valid March 1-30, 2013

Burst Into Spring Color!

**All 4" Bedding  
Color Plants  
Sale \$2.49**

Regular \$2.99. No Limits!

Get Your Gardens Ready For  
Spring With These Great Savings!

**\$3.00 OFF  
Gro-Power Tomato  
and Vegetable Food**

20# bag, Limit 2.

**\$3.00 OFF  
Gro-Power Flower  
and Bloom Food**

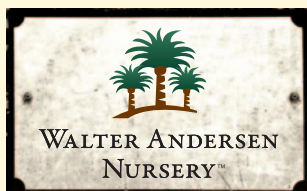
20# bag, Limit 2.

**\$5.00 OFF  
Gro-Power  
All-Natural Soil  
Conditioner**

50# bag, Limit 2.

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

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™



[www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com)

### Visit Our 2 Locations:

#### SAN DIEGO

3642 Enterprise Street, San Diego, CA 92110  
{619} 224-8271

#### POWAY

12755 Danielson Court, Poway, CA 92064  
{858} 513-4900



[www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com)



[facebook.com/walterandersens](https://facebook.com/walterandersens)



[twitter.com/walterandersens](https://twitter.com/walterandersens)



[Our Online Store](#)



[Watch Videos](#)

©2013 Walter Andersen Nursery