



WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

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SUMMER

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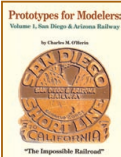
New Book Will Please Garden Railroad Enthusiasts

WAN to Hold Book Signing

Make tracks to Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway on July 16 to meet author Charles M. O'Herin, a garden railroad hobbyist and railroad enthusiast. O'Herin recently published, "Prototypes for Modelers: Volume 1, San Diego & Arizona Railway." O'Herin's book presents photographs and descriptions of the railroad's history, rolling stock-locomotives, structures, and operating terrain.

Called, "The Impossible Railroad" for its seemingly endless natural and man-made interruptions during construction and operation, the San Diego-based Shortline was the last link constructed in the United States' transcontinental railroad routes, even though much of its mainline was in Mexico. The amazing cut-and-fill and bridges to accommodate the route, the innovative Redondo Loop to gain elevation into the Laguna Mountains, and the many tunnels and trestles needed to traverse the 11 mile stretch through the treacherous Carrizo Gorge, make this railroad both interesting and amazing.

Railroad modelers, model railroad hobbyists, and railroad enthusiasts alike will find something that interests them inside this book. O'Herin will autograph copies of his book at this event. ●



7th Annual Rose Show Results



Phil Hoffman prepared one of his entries to the seventh annual Walter Andersen Rose Show held April 22-23 at the Poway store. There were fewer rose entries this year than in 2005, as this year's event was held the same time as the Coronado Flower Show. However, there were 22 individuals entering the show which was more than last year. This year's winners are:

- Best Hybrid Teal/Grandiflora: Rochelle Peterson "Purple Passion"
- Best Single Stem Floribunda: Donna Tylor "Angel Face"
- Best Old Fashioned Type: Barbara Smith "Pillow Fight"
- Best Miniature: Marie & Ira Fletcher "Hot Tamale"
- Best Bouquet: Pete Bompensiero
- Best Mini Bouquet: Jack Shoultz "Mini Pearl"
- Best Floating Bowl: Doreen Long "Evelyn"
- Most Fragrant Rose: Donna Tylor "Shocking Blue"
- Andersen's Choice Award: Marie & Ira Fletcher
- Queen of Show: Sandy Campillo "Marilyn Monroe"

1)

Vines Dress Up Landscapes

by Melanie Potter



Vines may be the new "little black dresses" of the garden world. There is always a style to suit a fence or trellis. Combining deciduous and/or evergreen choices can make vines appealing at any time of the year and they are practical. Favorites include bougainvillea, mandevilla and jasmine but there are so many more to get to know.

Passion Flower It seems like every summer a single passion flower makes its way into our kitchen to float in a glass of water on the windowsill. The flower is a marvel to study and the fragrance is pleasing. On the vine, twining stems display tendrils and spectacular long lasting white and purple-blue or red fragrant blooms with an exotic shape. Vivid petals surround delicate inner structures that make each bloom a visual feast. These are popular climbers, good on fences and walls or along eaves. These are evergreen and like full sun. They are fast growers to 20 to 25 feet long. Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer and provide support such as a trellis or arbor. Just prune annually to control size. Most don't like the cold.



Clematis This is a vine that strikes me as having a whimsical appearance and it offers a lot of color choices. From white to pink to red to purple with some blooms being wide and open, some having only 4 petals, to double blooms to pinwheel shapes to saucer shaped blooms. Some of the petals can look thin and papery. Clematis love deep fertile soils, and protection from strong winds and hot afternoon sun. Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep extensive root system. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer. Provide the support of a trellis or arbor. Roots prefer a cool, shaded area, tops in the sun. Prune hard in early spring.



Wisteria The first plant that ever made an impression on me was likely a wisteria. I remember one growing at the front entrance of our yard in Florida. I thought the purple blooms cascading down were graceful and the fragrance from the blooms was intoxicating. I even liked its twisted and gnarled looking trunk. Fortunately, these vines do well in San Diego and if you don't mind something deciduous, these can soften areas along fences, pergolas or arbors. They require little maintenance. Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer and provide support such as a trellis or arbor. Prune annually to control size. You can also find wisteria bearing white blooms.



Cup of Gold A couple of years ago we were in Balboa Park meandering our way from the miniature railroad when we came across a building covered by what looked like a tree with unusual, almost ugly flowers that had grown across the roof. I was informed that this was a vine and its appearance proved memorable. **Continued P2**



WAN helps Coronado Flower Show

Roses and fuchsias were just a few of the plants Walter Andersen Nursery loaned to the annual Coronado Flower Show held April 22-23. You might be surprised how often you'll see the nursery's plants on display outside of our stores.

Eye Catching Plants Are Often Unusual

by Melanie Potter



Astilbe "Bonn" (False Spiraea)

herbs, but it's worth taking extra time to poke around and discover something eye catching and unusual.

Astilbe "Bonn" (False Spiraea)

The first thing I saw drew my interest because of its deep purple spire of feathery flowers on long stems that rose from beautifully formed foliage. The tag indicated it was an Astilbe "Bonn" (False Spiraea) and liked to be in full to partial shade. Guaranteed to be long-lasting, Astilbe foliage and an abundance of plumes give character and color all summer long. Astilbes are easy to grow in bed plantings, or even as additional color for containers. They will become harder to find as summer progresses.

To plant, dig a hole slightly larger than the root ball in an area protected by temperature extremes. Spread the roots out evenly and work the soil in between them as you firm the planting area. Water the plant to settle the soil and add additional media if necessary. Mulching is recommended to reduce the chances of soil-borne disease and fungus, hold moisture in the soil, and keep the roots cool and control weed growth. Water the new plants daily for a week or so and then slowly reduce the watering as the plant becomes established. Do not let the soil stay too wet. Fertilize in early spring each year with a good natural fertilizer. It is suggested that you allow the plants a chance to establish themselves first and then add fertilizer if needed. Weak, floppy stems can result from over-fertilization.



Pieris japonica "Valley Fire"

Little tufts of bright red caught my eye on this plant and closer inspection revealed it was new foliage topping mature green leaves. The promised broad cluster of pendulous flowers, much like lily of the valley, had not appeared yet. This plant likes dappled shade and should be protected from drying winds and direct sunlight.

Pieris japonica is a member of the same family as rhododendrons and azaleas, and makes a good companion plant for them as it appreciates uniformly moist, acid soil rich with peat and other organic material. Good drainage is important. Give it the recommended application of fertilizer for acid-loving plants, in late January and again in early June, just before and just after flowering.

Prune Pieris after the flowers fade, and use a light touch, removing little more than the spent blossoms. It is a very slow grower to perhaps 10 feet, although there are new, compact cultivars available. Some have a dwarf habit and never reach one foot in height. Unless you specifically choose the "Pygmaea" or "Compacta," remember its eventual size when you place it or your Pieris will be a permanent garden feature. Don't crowd it as it's susceptible to some fungal diseases. Good air circulation will help prevent these. Few pests bother Pieris.

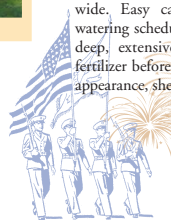


Spiraea dolischia

I didn't get too far away from the shade area before I saw Spiraea dolischia with its graceful, slender branched dwarf mounds topped with showy purplish-pink flower clusters. New growth has intriguing bronze-like coloring and the leaves are soft and curly looking. This plant is excellent in mass plantings or as a single specimen. It takes full sun and is a moderate grower to 3 feet tall, 4 feet wide. Easy care instructions include following a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring, then for a formal appearance, shear annually after flowering. ●

Holiday Closings!

Both Walter Andersen Nursery locations will be closed on Independence Day, July 4th.



Demystifying Mulching Dilemmas

by David Ross



To mulch or not to mulch? That is an age old question that has tormented the minds of pensive gardeners since about 722 A.D. I think it is good for my plants, but why is it good, and what do I use?

It can cost me money, so is it worth it?

The answers to the above questions are yes, yes it is, because, and it will, but yes it is! So, does that help you make any sense of it? Of course not, but perhaps if I explain, it will help.

Mulch is a layer of just about anything that covers the soil. Effective mulches can be organic, such as compost, wood chips, newspaper or grass clippings, or inorganic, such as plastic, gravel, weed cloth, or the newer recycled plastic or rubber materials. These mulches serve as extra gardeners, on duty 24/7, keeping weeds down, reducing erosion and runoff, preventing the soil from baking and drying out, and allowing us to water less often.

Wood chips or bark is the most commonly used mulch and is available in mini, small, medium, and large grade chunks. Each size is equally effective, so it just depends on what you would prefer to look at! Fir bark is better for your soil as it decomposes, and can be used to transplant your orchids as well. Remember, the organisms that break down the bark steal nitrogen from your soil, so fertilize your plants a little more often to compensate and keep them green. Since it does break down, annual refreshing may be needed to maintain its effectiveness.

Composts, such as redwood compost, planting mix, worm castings, or homegrown compost enhances the soil more quickly because they are already partially broken down and feed all the beneficial organisms in the soil. Non-composted materials such as grass clippings or chipped leaves and twigs help keep down weeds and will keep your soil cool and moist, but take longer to break down and enhance your soil.

Plastic, especially when combined with gravel or bark, does an exceptional job of preventing weeds and preventing evaporation, but remember to leave some place for water to get through the plastic if there are plants nearby.

Gravel does a great job of preventing weeds and insulating the soil, but does not break down, so it does not enhance the soil. However, it doesn't require annual refreshing either. Recycled rubber or plastics work well too and don't require regular refreshing.

In addition to all the functional benefits of mulch, an even greater benefit to mulch is aesthetic. Mulches give your garden a beautiful, finished look. They cover exposed dirt, and really change the appearance for the better. Not convinced? Just try a little in a small corner of your garden and see for yourself. Then when you see how nice it looks, you can move on to the rest of the yard.

David Ross is a senior manager at Walter Andersen Nursery. He spends Tuesday–Thursdays at the Pt. Loma store and Fridays and Saturdays in Poway. ●

Herbs – Your Very Own Cash Crop!

by David Ross



It all started with a simple request to pick up a bag of basil on my way home. That certainly should be easy enough, even for me. But somehow, I can think way too much about anything. What I thought was, "Here I am at Walter Andersen Nursery, surrounded by every fresh herb imaginable. I don't need to stop anywhere, it's all right here! My wife doesn't need a bag of herbs, she needs a 6-pack of fresh basil, still with roots attached, that I can pot and harvest as needed."

So I packed up the truck with herbs to plant and made the requested stop at the store. As I perused the produce aisles, I found the basil. It was in a plastic container and looked funny. It was wilted and not at all fresh looking, and to add insult to injury it was expensive. More expensive than my \$2.99 six-pack of basil I had in the truck.

I was bolstered by my knowledge that I was on the right track. Basil to cook with tonight and many more to plant. Most herbs do great in the garden or in pots. If planted now, they will grow very fast during the warm weather, and give continued harvest all summer long. Any container that drains well will do, and find a space that gets at least a few hours of direct sun each day. Just be careful where you plant mint. It can be too aggressive and take over if planted in the ground. Consider planting mint in its own pot. Strawberry pots can make great herb gardens as well by planting a different herb in each pocket!

David Ross is a senior manager at Walter Andersen Nursery. He spends Tuesday–Thursdays at the Pt. Loma store and Fridays and Saturdays in Poway. ●

Products Available To Combat The



by Ken Andersen

About 18 months ago, customers began bringing in a new fruit fly that had not been in the area before. This new fly, *Bactrocera Oleae*, attacks fruiting olive trees. These small flies lay their eggs on the trees and the larva eats the fruit, destroying the crop both for oil production and table olives.

In areas of California where olive production is more prevalent it is a big problem. There are very few chemical controls available and no natural predator has yet been found. Recently I contacted my good friend Kevin Twohey, owner of Whiting's Nursery in St. Helena in Napa Valley and asked him if it was a problem up there yet. He indicated to me that it was a serious problem and that they had found a trap and lure package that works well.

We now have the ball trap and tortula yeast lure packages in both of our stores. If you grow olives for your own use either for oil or table consumption you now have a safe



Olive Fruit Fly



non-insecticidal control for the problem. Simply add the bait to the trap and hang the traps in the trees. You will have to periodically clean the trap and add fresh bait.

If you are considering planting olives in your yard or on your property there are varieties that are more resistant. Sevillano and Mission have the highest infestation rates while Frantoio and Leccino have much lower rates of infestation.

Post harvest control can also help reduce the populations. Make sure that you clean up any fallen fruit and remove any fruit that was not previously harvested. This will reduce the possibility of flies infesting the trees in the off season.

For more information on Olive Fruit Fly go to http://www.oliveoilsource.com/olive_fly.htm ●

Tuba – A Drink To Be Tried

by Melanie Potter



While recently viewing a cooking show that traced a chef's footsteps through Asia sampling exotic food and drinks, I actually found myself wincing. His culinary curiosity was being sated by sampling a freshly killed frog's still beating

heart. He raved over turtle soup that entailed first drinking the reptile's blood mixed with alcohol and containing a treat (an organ from the turtle) that the chef had thoughtfully dropped into the glass. Sure he tried blowfish in Japan that kills more than 100 people annually who ingest an improperly prepared portion and then lived to swoon over birds nest soup (made from well used and dirty birds' nests).

Being no slouch when it comes to adventure, but at a conservative level, I had to remind myself that I have tried and adore conch, the big sea slug found in the shell you can hear the ocean in. I can even pronounce it correctly "konk." When I can cook for just myself, I might whip up chicken livers, and when living in the south I would regularly eat goobers (boiled peanuts) bought at the flea markets. I also threw caution to the wind when in Manzanillo; I did as the locals do and downed a cup of tuba. This local drink is actually a traditional beverage that originated in the Philippines and arrived in Mexico (along with the coconut trees that line the highway to Colima) with the Manila Galleons in the 16th century.

By this time, the Philippines had also been conquered by the Spanish and workers who arrived to cultivate sugar cane and rice in Colima's fertile volcanic region exchanged customs with Mexican locals. The sweet coconut wine is also known as tuba in the Philippines.

This drink is sold along the streets and in markets of Colima state and Manzanillo by men clad in white linen clothes calling out the trademark "uuuuuuu!" and swinging huge wooden jugs tied to poles which are carried slung across their shoulders. For just pesos a glass, they will prepare you a fresh cup of tuba, often served with beet juice, tiny bits of tropical fruit and crushed peanuts. Mine was topped with fresh peanuts.

At dawn, the tuberos are already at work. Brave men nimbly clamber up the narrow trunks to the top of Colima City's famed palm trees where they tap into the sweet nectar of the palm flower. Tuba is collected in the early morning from all palm trees in the state that are not used for coconut production and maintains its color and distinctive taste for two hours after being collected. Just five hours later, it begins to ferment. If left still for eight days, it transforms into excellent vinegar for cooking and for pickling vegetables that appear in a famous bread soup served at weddings and baptisms.

Melanie Potter is the director of marketing for Walter Andersen Nursery, working out of the Poway location. ●

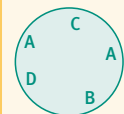
Easy Container Recipe

Looking for a great summer container that takes full sun? We liked this one from our friends at Proven Winners for its height and color. Follow the planting plan by matching the letters in the circle with the plant names we've listed. If either nursery is out of a specific recipe ingredient, just ask a customer service representative for an appropriate substitute.



Crowning Glory

- A: Ipomoea (Sweet Potato Vine) "Margarita"
- B: Petunia "Supertunia Giant Pink"
- C: Rhamnus (Buckthorn) "Fine Line"
- D: Solenostemon (Coleus) "Black Prince"



ZZ Plant – An Old But Great Houseplant

by Melanie Potter



Looking for a houseplant that's hard to pronounce, been around longer than both the cockroach and dinosaurs and is nearly impossible to kill? The *Zamioculcas zamiifolia* fits the bill, and it is widely known by the easier to remember moniker of "ZZ."

ZZ is in the aroid family along with philodendron and spathiphyllum. It is similar in shape to the Cycad "Zamia Furfuracea," also known as the Cardboard Palm.

It has thick fleshy pinnate stalks, with naturally glossy elliptic shaped leaves. ZZ plants will bloom in the mid summer or early fall. The blooms of this houseplant are generally bright yellow to brown or even bronze. The flowers that the ZZ plant produces are known as perigon or an incomplete flower.

Caring for this succulent plant is very simple. Water the ZZ plant every week or two, after allowing the soil to thoroughly dry out. Do not allow the ZZ plant to sit in water. A light or moderate watering is all this plant needs. ZZ is a proven performer for the interior as it can take very low light. It also performs well in high light, but just requires watering more often. The stalks do hold water, so don't keep the soil wet. Another positive aspect to ZZ plants is that they do not attract pests. Very seldom will you find any troublesome insects that will need to be tended too. ZZ plants are virtually disease free also.

Growth is slow, and its suckers from the base will eventually fill up the pot. ZZ can reach 4' overall with a 4'-5' spread and can also be grown from leaf cuttings.

Melanie Potter is the director of marketing for Walter Andersen Nursery, working out of the Poway location. ●

Vines Continued from Pg.

The photo we took of the flower was used in Walter Andersen's 2004 calendar. A year later at a hotel in Malibu a similar effect had been attained by letting this vine grow over a patio cover almost creating a thick roof. It is native from Mexico to Venezuela and Columbia. Cup of Gold is a fast growing, sprawling, rampant vine to 40' which must be tied to its support. Heavy stems bear highly polished, broadly oval, rich green leaves. Inflated looking buds open to big, leathery, bowl shaped, five lobed blossoms that are fragrant at night; flowers are golden yellow with a red-brown strip running down each lobe to flower center. It blooms from winter into early spring and needs well drained soil for best growth. Use on big walls and pergolas, along eaves, or as bank cover. It can be spectacular along a fence near a swimming pool. Cut back long, vigorous shoots to induce branch in and more flower. Can be trimmed back to make rough hedge, will take coastal conditions including wind, fog but needs shade for roots in hottest climates. Needs regular water.



Goldflame Honeysuckle This vine caught my eye as it was sitting in the middle of the customer service area one day just waiting to be delivered to some lucky owner. The color combination couldn't be missed. *Lonicera x heckrottii* provides generous clusters of lightly fragrant tubular flowers that are vibrant red and golden yellow on the inside for a two tone effect. It blooms and blooms from spring till frost followed by red berries in the fall. Foliage is showy blue green with violet tinged new growth. It's the perfect twining climber to spiral up posts and on overhead arbors and is suited to espalier on creative treillage. Train over gateways and onto fences. It's a high quality habitat plant drawing hummingbirds to flowers and songbirds to fruit. May be cut back to force branching into bushier shrub form. Not particular about soils with typical honeysuckle vigor. It's a semi-deciduous vine requiring full sun or part shade and grows fast to 15 feet. It's an excellent vine cover for fences, trellises, and arbors. Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer. Provide support such as a trellis or arbor. Prune annually to control size. ●



How You Can Make Everything Come Up Roses

by David Ross



I don't know anybody who doesn't try to grow at least a rose or two, sometimes 10 or 20. Roses can either be the most rewarding plant you grow or the most evil. They seem to require so much care to enjoy their beautiful, often fragrant blooms. In San Diego, there is a professional rose grower

who annually presents a calendar of "to do's" for the rose garden that can be downright intimidating. I occasionally joke to people that they will need to live in their rose garden in order to be successful!

Rose growing can be a simple venture. They have a few needs which, if met, will make all the difference in the world.

First off, roses need lots of sun — at least a half day of full, unobstructed sun.

Roses also need good, rich, well-drained soil. Many areas of California don't come with that, and trying to grow roses in crummy soil puts you at a disadvantage from the get-go. To amend soil, make sure it drains well, and then add lots of composted organic matter, such as redwood compost, which is often a coarser material that will last longer in your soil. If you can't find redwood compost, look for other composted material such as planter mix. Here, avoid the cheapest thing you can find. It will pay handsome dividends later.

Don't skimp on the roses. Choose number one roses, preferably ones that didn't come in a small plastic bag. Roots are important to plant growth, so I avoid plants that have had roots severely chopped to make them fit into that little bag. And remember, roses are not drought tolerant. For them to thrive and bloom, they need plenty of water: about once per week in spring, increasing to twice a week in summer on average. Water a little more often in well-drained soils, and a little less where the clay soils hold too much water.

Mulching your roses by adding a layer of compost or bark will keep the root zone cool and moist, even during the hottest of days.

Roses are heavy feeders. It takes a lot of fertilizer to make your roses bloom. I've had great success with a humic acid-based product called Gro-Power. It not only feeds your roses, it feeds your soil. When it comes to Gro-Power, your roses would like one cup per plant, per month. It

really makes a difference. Twice a year, supplement Gro-Power with Ada Perry's Magic Formula. It gives your roses a needed boost and should be applied in January and July, and mixed into the soil any time you are transplanting.

To control insects and disease, try Bayer All in One For Roses. When mixed with water in a watering can and poured around your roses every six weeks, this amazing product protects your roses from insects and disease. It also feeds them, although I would still use Gro-Power. Unfortunately, it is not recommended for roses in containers.

A more economical way of taking care of both insects and disease is to use a product called Immunox Plus. When mixed with water and sprayed on your roses twice a month, this product does a great job of keeping your roses healthy and happy. To obtain adequate control of insects and disease, it is important to begin control measures at the first sign of problems. It is much easier to control problems before they get way out of hand.

Give these tips a try before giving up on growing roses, and good luck.

Rose tips

These rose varieties require less care:

- Iceberg, a white florabunda, is vigorous and disease resistant. Also available as a climber.
- Cecile Brunner, a vigorous, fragrant, disease resistant rose, has miniature hybrid tea formed flowers. Also available as a climber.
- Fourth of July, a red and white blended climber, is vigorous, disease resistant, and free flowering.
- Julia Child, a new light yellow florabunda is free flowering and disease resistant.
- Knockout and Bushing Knockout, two disease-resistant shrub roses, look great in your landscape with little care.

David Ross is a senior manager at Walter Andersen Nursery. He spends Tuesday through Thursday at the Pt. Loma store and Fridays and Saturdays in Poway. ♦



Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

In the last issue of Garden Talk there was an article on "Creating a Shady Garden" submitted by Monrovia Nursery. I was also asked for some of my favorite shade plants for the garden. I answered quickly because you know I was off to snoop in the back of a few vendors' trucks looking for something new. Well, I decided that this time I would concentrate on some shade plants I love.



Michelia figo or "Banana Shrub" has the most wonderful scent of any shade plant I know. It has a powerful, fruity (like very ripe bananas) fragrance. The plant blooms most heavily in the spring, but I find it will bloom off and on during the summer. The blossoms are 1 to 1.5 in. wide and are a creamy yellow with a purple border on each



petal. The plant will grow 6-8 ft. tall and as wide with 3 in. thick, glossy green leaves that are fairly dense. This is a perfect plant for an entry or patio and works wonderfully in a container. The scent is best on warm nights in a wind-free spot. I placed mine in my Japanese Garden in a tall container and have pruned it so that it has a weeping form.

If you need a hedge, Corynocarpus laevigata or "New Zealand Laurel" is a great choice. While it will grow large, 20-40 ft. high and 5-15 ft. wide, it is slow growing and will hold its shape for years. It has beautiful oblong, glossy, leathery, dark green leaves that are about 7" long by 2" wide. The flowers are insignificant, tiny white in 3"-8" clusters, which will become small orange fruit. This plant has been on

and off the "popular list" for years and I believe will be making a comeback soon. Use it as a screen, large hedge or as a background for other brighter flowered or foliage plants. It works well in sheltered areas, entryways and underneath overhangs. Although it is a native to New Zealand, which would seem to make it drought tolerant, such is not the case. It will need regular water. One caution about this plant and it is important! The fruit is poisonous if ingested. So, if you have a child, grandchild or fur person (dog or cat) that likes to taste test, this may not be the plant for you.

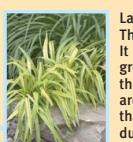
Of course, I have another plant for you to try. I wish there was a common name for this plant but I have always known it as



Cleyera japonica. I suppose you could just shorten that to Cleyera. I also suppose this is why this plant is used so little in the garden. This shrub is a native to Japan and is a close relative to the other lovely shade shrub Camellia (another favorite of mine). This plant would make a great hedge or screen. If left to its own devices it will grow 15 ft. tall and wide with graceful, arching branches. If you wish to prune to keep a little smaller (10 ft) you may but it really requires little pruning. It is a moderate grower. The new leaves are a brownish red but change to a glossy dark green with a maroon (reddish brown) midrib. In early fall, (although I have had mine bloom in late spring) the Cleyera produces clusters of very fragrant, small white flowers followed by red berries that usually last through the winter so our feathered friends will have something to eat.



O.K., one more. Well maybe two. How could I write an article on plant material without including at least one named Sage? *Eranthemum pulchellum* or "Blue Sage" is originally from India. Heat does not seem to bother it. It is quite happy in bright shade and likes rich, loose, humusy soil. It prefers not to dry out so if you have a shady area that stays a little moist that would be perfect. This shrub will grow from 3-4 ft. tall and has small toothed, dark green oval shaped leaves which have a white vein. What impressed me most are the terminal clusters of nearly true blue flowers. They are almost 3-6 in. long racemes above the foliage in early winter, although the one in my yard seems to always have some kind of flower on it year round. It looks great planted with Mother Fern or Sword Fern.



Last one, *Dianella Tasmanica* or "Flax Lily." This plant looks a lot like a New Zealand Flax. It will grow 3-4 ft. high with long sword-like green leaves. There is a variegated form of this plant as well. What I like about this plant are the flowers. They are small blue clusters that rise above the foliage on slender stems during the summer which are followed by blue berries that last about two months.

Provide the *Dianella* with rich, porous soil and routine fertilizing. While it is drought tolerant, it looks much better with some regular water. I have kept this plant in a container for years. If you live on the coast, it can take some sun.

Someone just handed me a *salvia* to test in my garden, so, I'm off. Until next time. Happy Gardening!

by Melanie Potter



Hibiscus



Canna

Enjoy Summer with Hibiscus and Canna

I bought my son a bathing suit for a trip to Hawaii. It has a hibiscus floral print, sort of the same thing you see on car seat covers today, or incorporated into the logo of Hawaiian Airlines airplanes, on decals, and well, everywhere. Hibiscus evokes thoughts of swilling a mai-tai and extolling the virtues of the tropics. It's hard to find another tropical plant as well known (or as commercialized) as the hibiscus. The canna, though, for different reasons is a great tropical choice for its bright colors and spectacular foliage. Together or separately, they are excellent suggestions if you're looking to add color.

Both plants are suited for warm to hot summer climates. As mentioned, each provides spectacular color. Hibiscus colors range from white through pink to red, from yellow and apricot to orange. They can have double or single blooms and their growth habit may be dense and dwarfish or loose and open. Cannas have similar color ranges and provide the additional interest of colorful foliage. Their large, lance like leaves may be pure green, greenish blue, coppery to purplish, ruby, or variegated and resemble those of ginger plants. They are topped with spikes of blooms reminiscent of ginger as well. Both will require a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Watering can be reduced after establishment. Feeding Hibiscus with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring is recommended. Should you find your hibiscus growing what looks like white hair, you have an infestation of whitefly. You can try using a strong jet of water to rid the hibiscus of these pests or mulch them with Worm Grow worm castings about one inch deep under the plant. If you opt for a chemical choice, use Bayer Tree & Shrub insecticide.

Canna is grown for human consumption in the Andes and also in Vietnam and southern China, where the starch is used to make cellophane noodles. However, we don't recommend that. In San Diego landscapes, they are superior accents around water gardens and are a natural since these are technically marginals and will grow in standing water. Cannas are vigorous and may require dividing every three to four years. These are typically pest and disease resistant (do watch for white flies and snails) and will thrive when you recreate their original South American fertile river bottom mud growing grounds. Use well-drained, loamy soil rich in organic matter that contains an abundant supply of nutrients and feed heavily.

Melanie Potter is the director of marketing for Walter Andersen Nursery, working out of the Poway location. ♦

Seasonal Recipe

Cauliflower Salad with Green Beans & Cheese

by Melanie Potter

From the internet, here's a great potluck or holiday salad to serve at barbecues. My husband thought the dressing was bland but could be dressed up with the addition of shallots or fresh garlic.

- 1 small cauliflower, cooked and separated into florets
- 1/2 lb. green beans, steamed
- 5 oz. Boursin or Gruyere cheese, cut into matchsticks
- 2 hard boiled eggs
- 1 tbsp. parsley, chopped

Dressing:
6 tbsp. peanut oil
2 tbsp. white wine or tarragon vinegar. (If using white wine vinegar, can add fresh or dried tarragon)
2 tsp. chopped chives
Salt & pepper to taste

Combine all the dressing ingredients and blend well. Divide the dressing in half. Toss the cauliflower with half of the dressing. Combine the cooled green beans and cheese and toss with the remaining dressing. Finely chop the eggs and parsley. Mound the cauliflower in the center of a serving platter and top with the egg & parsley mixture. Arrange the green beans and cheese mixture around the cauliflower. Serve chilled.

the wee corner

by Richard Wright

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's off to the Fair Wee Corner Goes!



This is a special report from the "San Diego County Fair" aka the "Del Mar Fair" for all of us old timers. Here is a little known fact; Walter Andersen Nursery has been a continuous exhibitor in the Fair since 1936. With the theme this year, "Ride the Tide to Fun," I thought, "What better way than to ride on the wings of our friends from the Fairy Garden World?" Judges must have agreed and awarded Walter Andersen's exhibit with the "Pat Welsh Award."

We have been big supporters of the "fairy garden movement" at Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway by giving Saturday classes and workshops and carrying the largest selection of plants just for your fairy garden imagination. It seems like we have more accessories than candy in a candy store. We proudly carry some one-of-a-kind art work by Suja Pritchard, a classically trained artist who creates fired ceramic artwork for gardens that includes fairy houses, furniture, and topiary toppers.

Each piece is formed by hand from clay, dried and kiln fired to 1900 degrees. After cooling for a day in the kiln, Suja hand paints each piece with beautiful detail. Colors used in Suja's fairy line match the fairy figurines by Cicely Mary Barker, the internationally known author/illustrator of the Flower Fairy books. To match the fairy figurines, Suja layers thin applications of ultraviolet resistant outdoor paint; sometimes taking five layers of color. In the latest pieces glass beads have been used as lanterns for the fairy banquet tables and houses.

We asked Suja to create a fairy village for our fair display complete with a ceremonial entry arch, village plaza with fountain, houses, a bridge and a Maypole. The items will be available for purchase after the Fair at our Poway store.

On occasion, Suja shares her experience at workshops and teaches participants to make their own furniture and accessories. The next workshop will be a two-part session held in Poway on July 15 and July 22. Join her September 16 and you'll learn how to make a coil pot. Workshop space is limited, so to reserve your space, call 858-513-4900. You can also check the class schedules on the right for more information.

Summer Class Schedule

All classes are free unless otherwise noted. Classes begin at 9:00am in Pt. Loma at 3642 Enterprise Street, and at 9:30am in Poway at 12755 Danielson Court. On rare occasions, we may need to make a last minute change.

If you have any questions, call 619-224-8271 (Point Loma) or 858-513-4900 (Poway).

Show up early if you don't like standing, and have coffee on us!

POINT LOMA 9am

July

- 7/1 Repotting Cymbidium Orchids
- 7/8 Summer Lawn Care
- 7/15 Plumeria Care
- 7/22 Water Gardens
- 7/29 Staghorn Ferns: Care, Dividing, & Remounting

August

- 8/5 In The Dirt - Soils & Amendments
- 8/12 Gardenias - Care & Culture
- 8/19 Bonsai - Selection & Care
- 8/26 Garden Problems, Products & Solutions

September

- 9/2 Xeriscaping - Drought Tolerant Plants
- 9/9 General Orchid Care
- 9/16 Fall Bulbs
- 9/23 Shade Gardening
- 9/30 Fall Lawn Care

POWAY 9:30am

July

- 7/1 Water Gardens
- 7/8 Controlling Critters
- 7/15 Suja Pritchard Conducts Fairy Furniture Paid Workshop, Making Furniture. Max of 15 Adults Paired with 15 Children. \$15 Materials Fee Per Person. RSVP & Pre-Pay by Calling 858-513-4900
- 7/22 Part 2 of the Fairy Furniture Paid Workshop
- 7/29 Orchids: Care, Culture, Repotting, Mounting. Special Guest Speakers: Bud Close, Charlie Fouquette

August

- 8/5 Plumerias, Care & Culture
- 8/12 Summer Flowers
- 8/19 Fairy Gardening
- 8/26 Herbs

September

- 9/2 Fall Veggie Gardening
- 9/9 Fall Bulbs
- 9/16 Make a Terra Cotta Coil Pot. Paid Workshop with Artist Suja Pritchard. RSVP & Pre-pay (\$20 Materials Fee per Participant) By Calling 858-513-4900. Make the Pot Today, Pick it Up at a Later Date.
- 9/23 Fall Flowers
- 9/30 Fall Rose Care

TOOL SHED

by Melanie Potter

Products You Won't Want to be Without this Summer



This quarter we reach into the tool shed and pull out several products you won't want to be without this summer.

The first is the answer to what you

can use now that Diazinon is off the market. Billed as the alternative to Diazinon, Bayer Power Force Multi Insect Killer is highly recommended. It is an insecticide that is safe to use on lawns, flowers, shrubs and vegetables. It comes in a ready to use spray, liquid concentrate, or granule that kills on contact the ants, fleas, ticks, spiders and other pests that bug you in the garden.

With the onset of summer, you may be seeing more ants.

We've had a lot of success with Tingo products that include liquid ant baits, spray, dust and granules. Get formulas for indoor and outdoor use. The handy granules can be shaken around the perimeter of your house foundation to stop ants in their tracks before they gain entrance. As with all poisons, do not use in food preparation and consumption areas, and avoid using in areas accessible to pets and children. For really severe infestations in your home, do yourself a favor and call a licensed professional like Lloyds Pest Control. I finally did and we have been ant free in our home for over two years.

Melanie Potter is the director of marketing for Walter Andersen Nursery, working out of the Poway location.

COUPON

Valid August 1 - August 31, 2006

\$10 Off
Any Purchase of
\$50 or More

Valid in Point Loma Only

Cannot be combined with any other discount coupon or offer.
Limit one (1) coupon per customer.

#10030088

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. No exceptions.

COUPON

Valid August 1 - August 31, 2006

\$10 Off
Any Purchase of
\$50 or More

Valid in Poway Only

Cannot be combined with any other discount coupon or offer.
Limit one (1) coupon per customer.

#10030087

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. No exceptions.

Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

3642 Enterprise St.
San Diego, CA 92110
619-224-8271 / Fax 619-224-9067
12755 Danielson Ct.
Poway, CA 92064
858-513-4900 / Fax 858-513-4790

www.walterandersen.com

COUPON

Valid July 1 - September 30, 2006

Save \$1
Every Bag of Decorative
Bark and Mulch

No Limit

#10030083

Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited stock on hand.

COUPON

Valid July 1 - September 30, 2006

REDUCED!
4-Inch Bedding

\$2.49

Regularly Priced \$2.99
Limit 32

#10030084

Limit thirty-two (32) per customer. Not valid with any other offer.
Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited stock on hand.

COUPON

Valid July 1 - July 31, 2006

Green Up Your Yard!

Save 10%

On Your Favorite
Dry Fertilizer

20# or Larger / Limit 3

Does not include water soluble fertilizers. Limit three (3) per customer.
Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited stock on hand.

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