



**HRN
NEWS**

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P.O. Box 1410 • 3800 Del Mar Ave. • Loomis, CA 95650
(916) 652-9261 • (800) 350-6640 • FAX (916)652-6771
WEBSITE: www.hrnursery.com • E-MAIL: sales@hrnursery.com

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Bad Neighbor

By Roger Snell

We've all had them and some of us might be them, but I doubt that any of us have dealt with this scourge of the village. This 'gentlemen' topped his neighbor's trees to improve the view from the 5000 sq. ft. house he is trying to sell. His neighbors 2-acre lot was undeveloped wooded land that he used for family picnics and brings the elderly county residents he works with to visit a little nature.



The list of victims reads like a California native tree I.D. course outline.

Redwoods, Douglas firs, oaks, 45 in all, that stood hundreds of feet tall, were topped, limbed up, cut in half.

Charles Storey pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of vandalism and was sentenced this September to spend 10 days in jail and 40 on work release. Pay back \$5,000 for using a public attorney when he could afford his own representation; pay \$11,200 in fines and court fees; pay \$9,450 to compensate for the redwood he topped; pay \$630 to reimburse victim for cleanup costs; pay \$4,281.25 to reimburse victim for the cost of an arborist's report; Judge Ariadne Symons also added and "certainly, of course, do not go on his property again.

Judge Symons admonished Storey for taking a public defender when he was racking up \$40,000 credit card bill at Saks Fifth Avenue, paying for a gym membership, and visiting the psychologist regularly. His wife was also dumping thousands into a retirement savings account, as the trial

was ongoing. Judge Symons also questioned his attorney's statement that Storey could barely afford to buy food.

Storey has been very upset about the way he has been portrayed in the press, attacked online and hate mail that he has received. He has tried to defend himself by correcting the fact that he did not "cut down a redwood", he "topped a redwood". Judge Symons responded appropriately, "we all know the tops are the parts that matter". Storey's next stop is civil court where hopefully the proper amount of restitution will be levied.



The Anne Frank Tree is gone, but will live on.

By Roger Snell

The owner of the Anne Frank tree wants to donate what remains of the tree after it blew down in a storm to Jewish museums in Berlin, New York, Tel Aviv and Amsterdam. Disks of the trunk will be cut and given to places such as the Anne Frank House, Jewish Museum in Berlin and others. Italian sculptor Giuseppe Penone has submitted a request to create a work of art from the tree trunk.

From an uncovered window in the annex where the Frank family was hiding, Anne had a view of the chestnut tree. She mentioned it several times in her diary.

"Nearly every morning I go to the attic to blow the stuffy air out of my lungs, from my favorite spot on the floor I look up at the blue sky and the bare chestnut tree, on whose branches little raindrops shine, appearing like silver, and at the seagulls and other birds as they glide on the wind. As long as this exists, I thought, and I may live to see it, this sunshine, the cloudless skies, while this lasts I cannot be unhappy."

Foresight has also given us saplings of Anne's chestnut tree. They are going to be donated to important places around the world. The United States will be home to eleven of the trees. At Little Rock Central High School, remembered for the Little Rock



Nine, a sapling will be placed between two trees that were there in 1957. John Allen Riggins, the Little Rock senior who initiated his school's application, said he was spurred to try to bring the sapling over because "we don't often see the immediate impact that young people have on social issues." The saplings were grown at a nursery outside Amsterdam and shipped to the United States. They will be quarantined for two years to make sure they do not carry any plant diseases.

Other sites include Sonoma State University in California, whose exhibit was created by an Auschwitz survivor who attended school with Anne; the National September 11 Memorial in New York and Boise, Idaho, whose statue of Anne was vandalized by a white supremacist group.



Did You Know

By Pattie Roberts

- Landscaping is the only home improvement that can return up to 200% of your investment
- A 5% increase in organic material quadruples the soils ability to hold water
- 85% of a plants roots are located in the top 6" of soil
- Natural fertilizers encourage earthworms and after all, earthworms are natures' tillers & soil conditioners!
- To encourage multiple varieties of beneficial insects, use different kinds of plants and show your biodiversity!
- See aphids? Spray them down with very diluted mild soapy water, then repeat with clear water
- Recycle used coffee grounds by spreading them around the garden and water them in. Snails don't seem to like them.

Basic Water Wise Gardening

By Pattie Roberts

Rethink Turf Areas Grass is the greatest water guzzler, typically using 70% of landscape water. However, lawn can be useful as erosion control, reducing runoff.

Provide Shade Shade trees are useful to cool off the landscape and the home, reducing utility costs.

Choose Appropriate Plants Select drought tolerant, compatible plants.

Water Less Plants die from over watering and it's side effects more than any other reason. Water for longer periods of time, less often.

Don't Waste Water Approximately 50% of water used is wasted in runoff, irrigations leaks, and over watering.

Mulch Three inches of mulch goes a long way to provide water retention, keeping plants cool, and also controls weeds.

Deer Resistant Plant O' the Month

Pattie Roberts



Deer Resistant Plant O' the Month: *Sollya heterophylla*

aka Australian Blue Bell Creeper

Evergreen, native of Australia.

Zones: 8-9; 14-24; H1, H2

Size: 3' x 5'; low, if given support will climb 6-8'

Flowers: Small brilliant blue bell shaped, blooms almost all summer

Leaves: Small, narrow, 1-2" long; has a light and delicate look, although it's very tough!

Sun: Light shade is best in the hottest climates; full sun on the coast

Water: Moderate to regular

Soil: Poor soil is ok but good drainage is imperative.

Prune often to increase density. Useful as a ground or bank cover, along borders, draped over low walls, excellent in containers.



UC DAVIS
ARBORETUM



All Stars



ROOT PRODUCTION METHOD

September Chores in the Garden

- ◆ Harvest any vegetables left on the plants. Green tomatoes can be put into brown paper bags and stored in a cool, dry place and will ripen slowly. Pull out all of your crops and clean up any fruit and vegetables that have fallen and also any leaves and stems. Debris that is left in the garden over the winter can cause diseases to enter the soil and re-appear the following spring.
- ◆ The next few weeks also offer an ideal time to dig and divide crowded daylilies, Hosta and garden phlox.
- ◆ Just enjoy asters as they come into their full fall glory. Although these perennials look and perform best when dug and divided every two years, that job is best done in spring.
- ◆ Spring flowering bulbs are in your favorite nursery right now or you can order them online.
- ◆ If a house plant is in need of repotting before going indoors, do it now and experience less mess than doing it in the kitchen sink. Never go up more than an inch in pot size.

Get your garden on,
Roger

For August:

I am native to the Mediterranean and my botanical name is from the original Greek. I was prized for the fragrant, redolent essential oil, sometimes called vegetable ambergris, which contains antioxidants and exudes from my leaf and stem pubescence on warm summer days and nights. It was Linnaeus' opinion that I am the true Rose of Sharon from the bible and many think I could be the 'Balm of Gilead' mentioned in the 'Song of Songs' or 'Song of Solomon'. You can still find me growing on Mount Carmel the next time you visit the Holy Land.

??? *Mystery Plant* ???

Roger Snell

Guess Me And Win Me!

For September

I am a long-lived grass, native from western Canada to Mexico. My seeds establish nicely, but prefer to propagate myself vegetative through tillers. My resume includes being the state grass of two adjacent states west of Texas. My common name refers to my color and the Latin word for grass, with my botanical name honoring two 19th century Spanish botanist brothers. Animal enjoy grazing me, am cold and drought tolerant. You might also see my seed heads displayed in a floral arrangement.

Who am I?



For July:

Charlene Burgi, Pauline Sakai, Juliette Robinson—all guessed the Mystery Plant correctly!



It was: **We a have winner!**

Cistus ladanifer (maculatus)

If you think you know this month's plant, **Call us!** If you have some suggestions, let us know them too. (916) 652-9261 x 1