

RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

A PLACE TO GROW

NOVEMBER 2017

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HERE'S THE DIRT

Thoughts

Jamie Fox, Newsletter

I have been thinking about the October 24 meeting and how touched I was by River Valley Garden Club's ability to do good work. During the meeting, Jeannie Holler presented four scholarships to Valerie Klein, Joanne Choi, Olivia Patterson, and Adam Beams, this year's recipients, who were there with their families *and* the professors who recommended them.

It was magical.

Such glowing faces. There was happiness and genuine gratitude.

Sometimes I feel we become inured here in Rancho Murieta as to just how meaningful five hundred dollars is to someone slogging through college.

Several of the recipients mentioned that their scholarship will pay for their tuition *and* books this semester. That's fabulous.

Thus, in this manner River Valley Garden Club truly *is* a place to grow, not only for the members, but for the recipients of our scholarships.

We really DO, do good work.



Thanksgiving Cactus
Yes, Thanksgiving...

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Scholarship Presentation

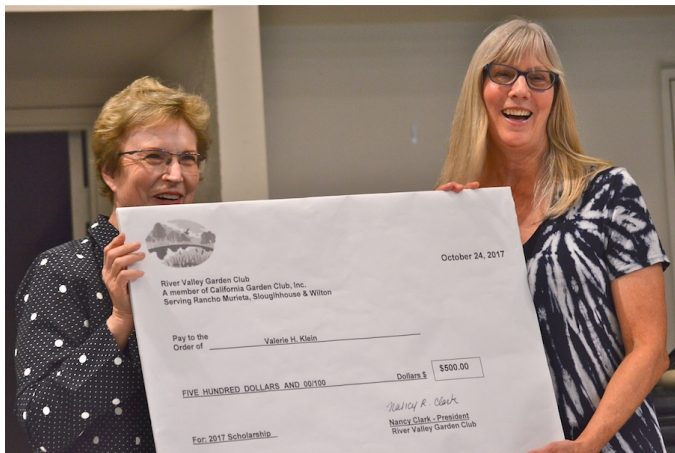
Jeannie Holler, Scholarship Committee Chair

Each year the River Valley Garden Club offers scholarships to community college students planning a career in horticulture, gardening, landscaping and related areas.

Students must be majoring in horticulture and have successfully completed a minimum of six (6) horticulture units prior to the fall of 2017.

This year's scholarship committee consisted of Jeannie Holler, Chair, and committee members Marianna Hashorva, Candace Hearn, Doris Lighty, Carol Prinzo, and Sue Sheridan. Many thanks to you all for your hard work.

This year RVGC had a total of twelve applicants. Four were not qualified, and eight were qualified and evaluated. We awarded four scholarships of \$500 to the following students:



Recipient Valerie Klein

Valerie Klein - Cosumnes River College

Reference: Dave Andrews, CRC Prof. of Horticulture

In May, Valerie will be completing a Certificate of Achievement in sustainable landscape and irrigation systems design. Professor Andrews considers Valerie one of his top students in the CRC horticulture program. She consistently performs at a high level in all the courses she has taken from Professor Andrews. Valerie is a highly motivated student, consistently submitting quality work. Professor Andrews states that Valerie clearly demonstrates her love of learning and her love of horticulture. She has worked with the Sacramento Historic Rose Society in rose propagation. In her spare time she makes garden art from metal and concrete.



Recipient Joanna Choi

Joanna Choi - Cosumnes River College

Reference: Dave Andrews, CRC Prof. of Horticulture

Joanna is studying geographic information systems (GIS) program. She plans on transferring to a four-year university, then on to pursuing her masters degree in urban and environmental planning.

Professor Andrews considers Joanna an outstanding student, consistently performing at a high level in all of her courses. Joanna is a highly motivated student and works in a professional manner. She is exploring several career options in horticulture and is currently the student lead in the Urban Oasis Project; a partnership between Cornerstone Church, CRC Horticulture, and several local high schools desiring to develop landscaping and gardens that provide hands-on experience opportunities to lower-income students in our surrounding community.



Scholarship Presentation, cont.



Recipient Olivia Patterson

Olivia Patterson, American River College (ARC)
Reference: Andrew Codd, Assistant Professor of Horticulture

Olivia has her eye on two Associate Degrees, one in horticulture and another in landscape design technology. She is a soccer enthusiast having played the sport for eleven years, and is also a musician, performing in many concerts with her magic flute.

Assistant Professor of Horticulture, Andrew Codd, of American River College states that Olivia is inquisitive, thoughtful, and highly intelligent. She cares for plants like they are family, with great reverence for the environment and always considers sustainability. Olivia is always fully present and engaged, and is an example for others to follow. Olivia built a greenhouse at home where she proceeded to propagate her own plants for essential oil distillation.



Recipient Adam Beams

Adam J. Beams, Cosumnes River College
Reference: Dave Andrews, CRC Prof of Horticulture

Adam works full time as well as attending school. He has completed the GSE exams and has honors in biology and geometry. Adam plans to attain a certificate in sustainable landscape and irrigation design as well as a certificate in landscape technology. Then it is on to his own landscape company!

Professor Andrews states that AJ is a conscientious student who takes pride in performing at a high level and learning the various aspects of horticulture. AJ is very professional and demonstrates the qualities necessary to be successful in owning and operating a horticulture business.

"For it is in giving that we receive."

Saint Francis of Assisi



Creative and Generous

Ellison Cowles

Creative and generous describes the spirit of the River Valley Garden Club. The efforts of our club raises money to award scholarships to horticultural college students and grants to schools that create gardening projects for their students.

Club members meet in our homes or the community building to paint gourds, fashion bird feeders, pot plants, and share ideas. Nancy Clark, our very own President, salvaged a thrift store desk and with tile, pegboard, white paint and a crackle finish, produced an awesome potting bench, which she donated to our raffle.

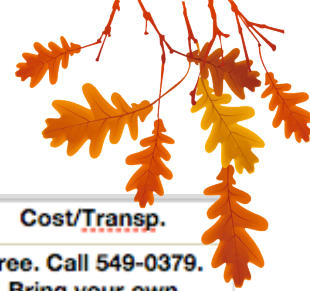
Arlene Wallace, another member, won the raffle, and then selflessly donated the winnings to be raffled off again!

Isn't this the kind of club you want to belong to? We are caring people, friendly co-members, knowledgeable and creative crafters, and of course, gardeners.

And beneath it all, there is the desire to assist horticultural college students via our scholarship program. How much better could it be?

2017-2018 Programs and Workshops (to date)

Oh the places you'll go!
- Dr. Seuss



Date	Type	Provider	Location	Details	Cost/Transp.
Nov. 14, 2017	Program	Ellison Cowles	6507 Via Sereno	Make a Vacation Plant Waterer	Free. Call 549-0379. Bring your own materials
Nov. 15, 2017	Field Trip	Effie Yeaw Nature Center	Carmichael	Hike with a Naturalist begins at 10 a.m., for one hour. Tour includes time to visit nature center. Lunch at local restaurant and visit to Fair Oaks Nursery.	Total of \$85 – so depends upon how many sign up as to individual cost
Dec. 3, 2017	Holiday Party	RVGC	RMA Bldg.	The RVGC annual Holiday Party is Sunday, Dec. 3rd at the RMA Bldg. from 3pm - 6pm More info to come.	
Dec 5, 2017	Field Trip	Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore		To attend a festive Holiday Decorating event that includes a demonstration of holiday decorating with live greens, and how to make Christmas arrangements. Lunch will be provided, along with the instructional holiday décor presentation, tour of the nursery grounds, and shopping – which includes gift wrap.	\$20/person. Presently we have reservations for 10 people. Deadline: November 30 Checks payable to Nancy Compton (who has prepaid for 10 people) Carpool (it's about a 1 ! hour drive)
Dec. 8, 2017	Field Trip	Historic Folsom Holiday Tour	Folsom	Tour beautifully decorated homes, museums, and churches, all decked out for the holidays. Shop in gift boutique! This is a fund raiser for the Murer House and the Folsom Historical Society. Lunch in a local restaurant.	\$18 each, for a group of 8 or more.
January	Workshop	TBA	TBA	TBA	
Jan 23, 2018	Program	Chris Strutz	RMA Bldg.	All About Fertilizers	
Feb. 27, 2018	Program	Chuck Cottam	RMA Bldg.	Building a Koi Pond in Your Garden	
Mar 27, 2018	Program	Chef Johnny	RMA Bldg.	TBA	
Apr 24, 2018	Program	Betty Bloom	RMA Bldg.	All About Orchids	
May 22, 2018	Program	Chris Huey	RMA Bldg.	Penny Pines and the Eldorado Forest	

Make a Vacation Plant Waterer - Tuesday, November 14th, 2:00 p.m Ellison Cowles, Workshops

Potted plants drying out on vacation? Get up to three weeks of self-watering with an empty soda bottle and a strip of cloth!

Come make your own vacation waterers at this workshop. Bring your own empty bottles and cloth or use what Ellison provides.

Demonstration, instruction, materials; take home your finished products and safeguard your precious plants while you're away. Call Ellison at [549-0379](tel:549-0379) to reserve a space.



Tour of Effie Yeaw Nature Center - November 15
Nancy Compton, Field Trip Chair

Our club's next tour is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center right here in Sacramento. This 100-acre nature preserve is a local treasure with riparian and oak woodlands, shrub lands, meadows, and aquatic habitats along the American River. A variety of plant and animal life call this area home.

It is said that entering this lovely area feels like you are stepping back in time. In fact, the Nisenan Maidu native peoples used areas much like this for their villages.

Visitors are advised to wear closed-toe shoes for our one hour docent-led tour of the preserve which begins at 10 a.m. and will last for an hour, after which we will have an opportunity to browse the visitor center.

Following the tour, we will have lunch, after which we will visit Fair Oaks Boulevard Nursery. If you haven't been to this nursery, you will be in for a pleasant surprise. In addition to a large selection of plants, bulbs, shrubs, trees, and houseplants, the nursery has a gift shop offering home accents, seasonal décor, paintings, sculptures, tiles, soaps, cards, table wear, candles, and so much more.

A sign-up sheet was available at the October 24 meeting, or you may contact Nancy Compton at ncompton43@att.net to reserve your space on this tour. The cost will be \$85 divided among the number of attendees (i.e. if ten people participate, the cost will be \$8.50 per person).





Berniece Jones and Vivian Baier

Sacramento District Fall Sale

Berniece Jones, District Liaison



Held at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, the Sacramento District Fall Sale was October 7th and 8th from 10 am to 4 pm. Our club created reindeer and Halloween gourds (ghosts & jack-o-lanterns) as contributions to the sale.

At the end of the weekend we learned that our club had donated a profit of over \$200.00 of the total \$417.00 earned at the two-day sale. Well done us! In addition to the reindeer and gourds, plants were donated by Marleen Merchant, Jamie Fox, Toni Mayer and Berniece.



Debbie Kolmodin worked the sale Saturday afternoon and also helped set up on Friday. Sharon Barton and Debra DeVerter worked the booth Sunday afternoon and disassembled the booth at end of day.

My sincere thanks and gratitude go to all the helping hands - Toni Mayer, Carol Prinzo, Rosann Stevenson, Kathy Nuttall, Joyce Adams, Ruth Lecheler-Moore, Nancy Compton and Marlene Merchant. What a great bunch of garden friends.

* * *

Raffle News

Ellison Cowles is the lucky winner of the coveted potting bench.

Our raffle during the September meeting was limited to the potting bench, due to a mixup in communication with our guest speaker who was to have brought a few plants for the raffle. Thus, we did not take a donation from POW Nursery, one from our favorite contributors.

However, we will be back with many more choices at our next meeting. Don't miss out on a chance for some terrific items. (Single tickets \$1 each, or eight tickets for the bargain price of \$5.)

A big thanks to member, Vivian Baier, who has offered to assist Berniece with the raffles this year.

We will be delighted to receive donation items to be raffled at our meetings also. Please contact one of us several days in advance so we may plan what to raffle. Vivian Baier, (586) 930-2105 or Berniece Jones, 354-2873





THE RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
INVITES YOU AND YOUR GUEST TO

A VERY BERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, December 3rd

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
RMA Building

COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE HOT CIDER, COFFEE AND DESSERT.

MEMBERS TO BRING A HEARTY APPETIZER OR MAIN-DISH SALAD AND
YOUR OWN ADULT BEVERAGE OF YOUR CHOICE.

GIFT EXCHANGE: HOLIDAY WRAPPED, GARDEN-RELATED GIFT NOT
TO EXCEED \$10.00.

RSVP TO: CAROL PRINZO at
rcprinzo1962@gmail.com or 354-9688. **DEADLINE: 11/28**



Program: Ikebana Arranging Followup

Mary Zellem, VP Programs

What a great meeting and terrific presentation! Not only did we have the uplifting experience of awarding our scholarships, we were blessed to have Adrienne Chattot, Julie Fong, and Natasha Liu who assisted Julie and Adrienne, teach us how to take our lovely, but hum-drum Trader Joe's bouquets, and mould them into masterpieces.

We learned that Buddha believed that everything in life is interconnected and the art of Ikebana is about bringing nature and humans into one. Our job is to "see" the beauty in the materials which we desire to arrange, be it curly willow, flowers, or palm fronds. Literally *anything* can be used to create an Ikebana arrangement. When we take the time to thoughtfully arrange the items, we acknowledge that beauty.

Effervescent Julie Fong presented first and spoke about Shogetsu Ikebana, or freestyle Ikebana. She created the first two arrangements to the right. Julie spoke of balanced harmony and contrast in an arrangement. Are all the colors working? Is there depth? It appeared as if she communicated with the plants as she worked with them.

Master teacher Adrienne Chattot spoke about simplicity, and how the most unexpected items from the garden can create an arrangement of exquisite beauty. Find a leaf or frond, split it into sections, loop and intertwine the sections, add a single orange flower in an earthenware vase, and you have heaven.

If you missed this meeting, or want to augment what you learned about Ikebana, a hands-on workshop is being planned.

What do we take away from this stellar presentation? Be genuine, serene, and attentive during the practice of Ikebana (for *practice* it is), and you will bring serenity and attentiveness to your life.



L - R Julie, Natasha, and Adrienne



Membership Information

Irene Slavens, VP Membership

Great news, we are up to 53 members as of the October meeting!

We are delighted to,



new members Catherine Blaisdell and her son Jack Blaisdell who joined the club during the October meeting.

*Income from 10/24 RVGC meeting

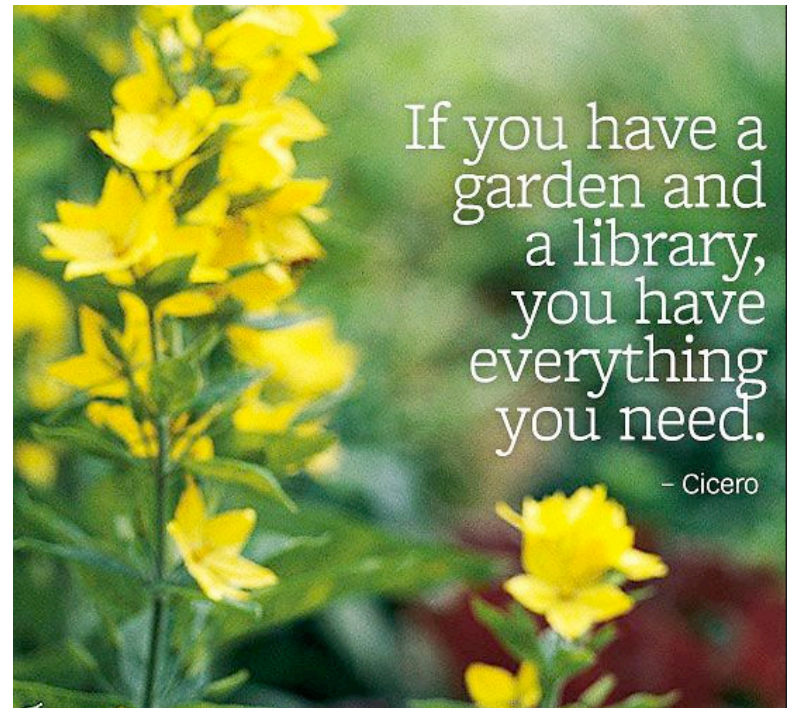
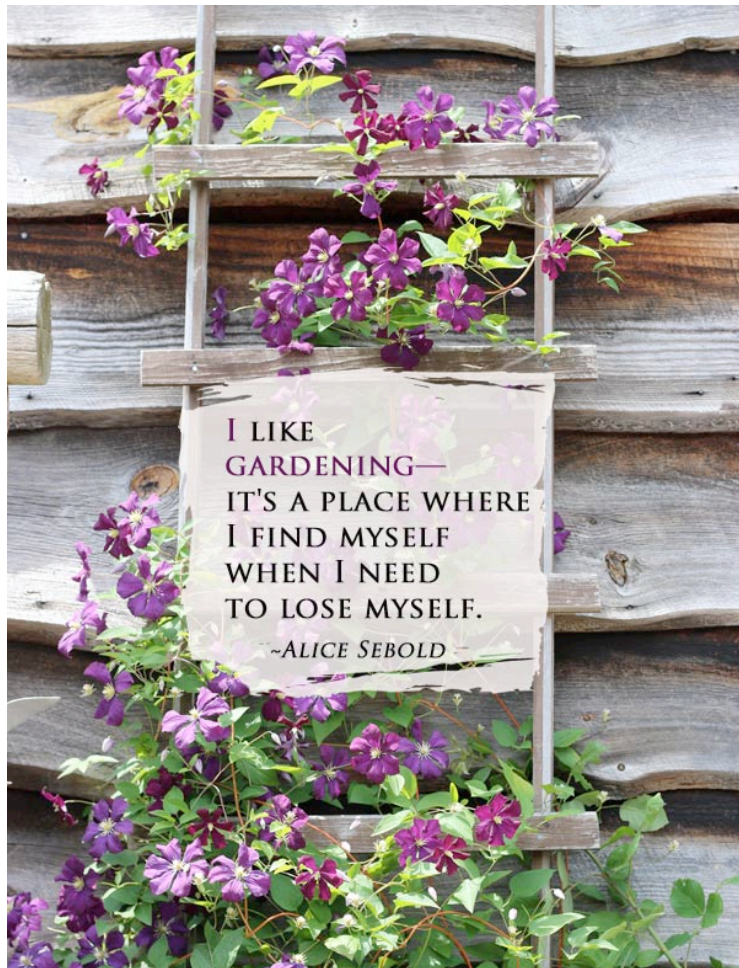
Ruth Lecheler-Moore, Treasurer

Penny Pines collected: \$30

Raffle collected: \$100

River Valley Garden Club 2017-2018 Membership

Description	9/26/17	10/24/17
Total number of Members	41	53
Number of New Members this year	5	7
Number of Mbrs at meeting/party	33	27
Number of Visitors at meeting/party	3	11
Members Renewed at individual meeting	5	1
Member Joined New at individual meetings	1	2



What's up on Apple Hill?

Jamie Fox, Newsletterer

Yes, I know. *Everyone* knows about Apple Hill. Okay. Fine. But put that thought aside for sec, okay?

It's common knowledge that Apple Hill is *the* place to go for fall activities and kid-friendly experiences. You can pick your own apples, purchase incredible Thanksgiving pies, bounce around on a hayride, drink farm-fresh apple cider, pet farm animals, treat yourself to exquisite baked goods, find the perfect porch pumpkin, and at the end of the day, the adults can drag themselves into a winery for *just a little* tasting.

And it's the HOLIDAYS folks. Company is coming and they're going to need a bit of local entertainment, right?

But Apple Hill, with all its delights, can be daunting. So how to choose where to go? You can't visit all 50+ farms in a day. How do you narrow down your visit to just the wineries pumpkin patches and apple farms?

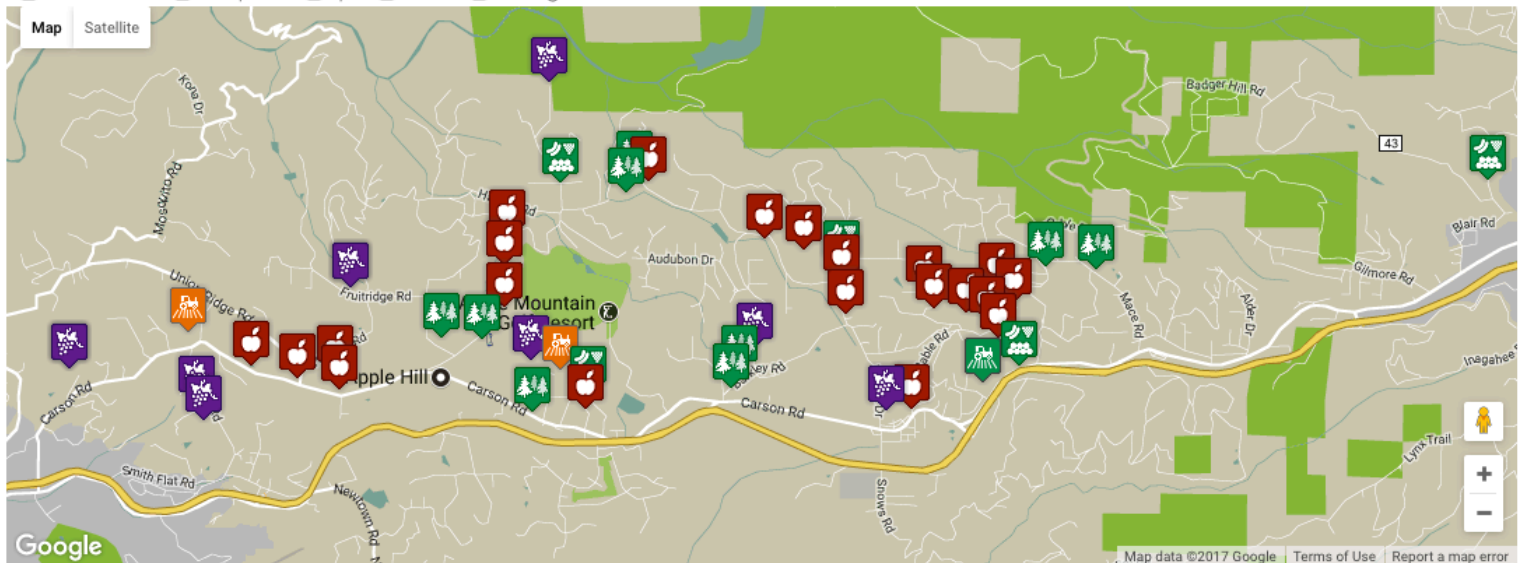
It's your lucky day. The wise farmers on Apple Hill have created a handy [FARM FINDER](#) where one can filter the farms based on the experience you want to have. The [FARM FINDER](#) is an online searchable tool of the network of Apple Hill farms. This is how it works:

1. Click a [FARM FINDER](#) link, and you will be whisked away to a page that looks like this:

Click and/or un-click the boxes below to reveal those farms that offer the item you're after. You can also click on the ranch markers to see who they are ... as well as the link to their AppleHill.com page.

Filter by

- All
- Apples
- Bake Shop
- Christmas Trees
- Flowers
- Food
- Gifts/Crafts
- Kids Activities
- Other Fruits
- Pumpkins
- Spa
- U Pick
- Winery



Once on this page you simply click and/or un-click the options you're looking for. For example, if you want just wineries pumpkins and apples, the page will filter out the other choices and it will look like this:

Note how the farm icons have been whittled down to only farms that have apples and pumpkins. There are two farm icons in orange, and an orchard and tree farm in green. This indicates that these farms have apples and/or pumpkins.

I clicked this apple icon and was provided this pop-up giving me the name and address of the farm. Each time you click a different icon a new pop-up window will appear with the name and address of the farm. Handy!

Filter by

- All
- Apples
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- Kids Activities
- Other Fruits
- Pumpkins
- Spa
- U Pick
- Winery

Map Satellite

3205 North Canyon Road, Camino, CA
Delfino Farms (formerly Kids Inc.)
95709, United States
More details

The farms on Apple Hill make trip-planning even easier by offering you several trip-planning enhancements.

This is a convenient [plan your trip](#) web page.

Should you run out of ideas to entertain your holiday guests, here are [FIFTY things to do](#) on Apple Hill.

For the kiddos, there is a specific [fun for kids](#) page which lists the twenty-two especially kid-friendly farms and the activities to be found there;

And lastly, here is a handy-dandy [printable map](#) to help you find your way. All in all, it is certainly an easier adventure when one can plan ahead thanks to the [FARM FINDER](#). And don't forget the ~~wineries~~ spa!



DID YOU KNOW?

Native Americans used cranberries in a variety of foods, including “pemmican” (a nourishing, high-protein combination of crushed berries, dried deer meat and melted fat).

They also used it as a medicine to treat arrow punctures and other wounds and as a dye for fabric. The pilgrims adopted these uses for the fruit and gave it a name—“cranberry”—because its drooping pink blossoms in the spring reminded them of a crane.

In a letter to his daughter sent in 1784, Benjamin Franklin suggested that the wild turkey would be a more appropriate national symbol for the newly independent United States than the bald eagle (which had earlier been chosen by the Continental Congress). He argued that the turkey was “a much more respectable bird,” “a true original Native of America,” and “though a little vain and silly, a Bird of Courage.”



Thanksgiving Cactus
Schlumbergera truncate



Christmas Cactus
Schlumbergera bridgesii.

Did you know... that most likely the cactus you have been fondly calling a Christmas cactus, isn't.

Florists and nursery staff alike commonly mislabel the Thanksgiving cactus, *Schlumbergera truncate*, as THE Christmas cactus. Nope. Wrong.

The true “Christmas” cactus is *Schlumbergera bridgesii* and it is very simple to tell the difference. Simply look at the leaves.

Truncate has two or three jagged points on every leaf segment, and its bloom time, under natural circumstances, runs from late October through November. Bridgesii has smooth, not jagged, leaf segments, and typically flowers in January or February. And instead of being a desert resident, the holiday cacti are native to the mountains of Brazil where they grow happily as epiphytes among the tree branches. Unlike desert cacti, holiday cacti prefers humus rich, but well-draining soil.

And, if you are lucky enough to possess a true Christmas cactus, take care of that baby because they are getting harder and harder to find.

