

# RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

A PLACE TO GROW

APRIL 2018

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 8

## HERE'S THE DIRT

### Rooting for You

Jamie Fox, Newsletterer

Along a few idyllic miles of the Pacific Coast at the Oregon and California border lies a unique area where the ideal combination of climate, soil, water, and man has developed a product of deep meaning, beauty, and tradition. We know it as the Easter Lily.

The Easter Lily Capitol is accessible only by a narrow and winding coastal highway banked by magnificent Redwood forests, overlooking the spectacularly scenic Pacific Ocean. It seems only fitting that the symbolic flower of Easter, which adds beauty, grace and fragrance to millions of homes, businesses and churches, has its roots in such a pristine and beautiful corner of the world.

The Harbor-Brookings bench of Southwest Curry County, Oregon and the Smith River area of Northwest Del Norte County, California, is known as the Easter Lily Capitol of the World. Here, lily growers toil year-round in their fields to produce nearly all the bulbs from which the large trumpet-shaped flowers bloom.

Uniquely suited for the production of superior quality Easter Lily bulbs, the area offers a climate of year-round mild temperatures afforded by a protective bay, deep, rich, alluvial soils and abundant rainfall - the exact measure of ingredients needed to produce a consistently high quality bulb crop. The lily-perfect conditions combined with the ingenuity and dedication of the area's growers are why over 95% of the world's potted Easter Lilies originate from this narrow coastal strip.

The Easter Lily was discovered by a missionary priest in the 19th century on Ryukyu Island, off Japan. The missionary who found it eventually tried to take some bulbs to England, but was stranded in Bermuda, where they bloomed for the first time on April 16, 1854. Bulbs from this planting finally reached Philadelphia in 1876.

Just as the poinsettia takes center stage at Christmas time, the Easter Lily does the same at Easter time, adorning our sanctuaries and being used to decorate our altars for the Easter season every year.

Easter has its share of traditions: egg decorations and hunts, gift baskets and chocolate bunnies, sunrise church services, parades, and, of course, the Easter Lily. Thus, for many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life - the spiritual essence of Easter.



Easter Lily

### Inside This Issue

Rooting for You.....	1
Programs & Workshops.....	2
Upcoming Events.....	3 & 4
Alien Earthworms.....	5
Club News.....	6
Easter Trivia.....	7
Did you know?.....	8



## 2017-2018 Programs and Workshops

*What we learn with pleasure, we never forget. (Alfred Mercier)*

Date	Type	Provider	Location	Details
Apr 24, 2018	Program	Del Farnham	RMA Bldg.	GMOs - Feeding the World
May 22, 2018	Program	Chris Huey	RMA Bldg.	Penny Pines and the Eldorado Forest



### Program: GMOs - Feeding the World

#### Mary Zelle, VP Programs

Del Farnham will speak at the April 2018 monthly meeting of the River Valley Garden Club. His presentation will take place at the RMA building at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and everyone is welcome.

Del is a graduate of UC Davis and has a BS in Landscape Design as well as a Masters in Horticulture. Post graduation from Davis, he served six years in the Navy as a Lieutenant, JG in the Supply Corps. After serving in the Navy, he applied for a position with the Cooperative Extension Program to work as a consultant for the Growers of Ornamental Crops, Apples and Grapes. Congress established the Cooperative Extension Program and UC Davis was set up as a Land Grant under Abraham Lincoln.

After three years, consulting in San Bernardino, Del accepted a position in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties to oversee Greenhouse operations in the two counties. Del worked in this position for over eight years.

In Amador County he held the position of County Director in the Co-operative Extension Program. He consulted on a variety of topics such as grape vine problems, pests, fertilizers, etc. All samples were sent to UC Davis for evaluation. While in this position, Del also helped write the training manuals for the Master gardener's program for the county. When he left the position at the County of Amador, Del ran his own company, consulting as an Arborist.

Today Del lives with his wife, Cora, in Fiddletown on the original Farnham Ranch that was built in 1855 by his great grandfather. He and his wife grow walnuts on the ranch and they also operate a seasonal Christmas Tree Farm.



**Del Farnham**

## Upcoming Events

### San Francisco Flower & Garden Show FREE Tickets!

Do you have yours? April 4 - 8, 2018, Cow Palace

Nancy Compton, Field Trip Chair

After ten years in other locations, the SFFGS returns to the Cow Palace. It is the third largest show of its kind in the USA. Join the return celebration of the fabulous display garden to the center arena. RVGC has been given free tickets and a group is headed to the Cow Palace on, Wednesday, April 4.

Contact Nancy Compton to join the fun. [ncompton43@att.net](mailto:ncompton43@att.net)



### RVGC Swap Meet! April 7, 11 am.

This is a chance to contribute to the club and to put a few shekels in your pocket also.

**When:** Saturday, April 7, 11:00 a.m. to noon (members only), noon to 2 p.m. (open to the public)

**Where:** The Plaza Parking lot, in front of Stonehouse Bistro

1. This is a chance for us to get together.
2. We can move along all those garden-related items, such as seeds, plant cuttings, pots, or garden art. The first hour of the sale will be limited to club members (so we can trade/sell among ourselves). After that, we will open to the public. One goal is to collect funds for our operating budget. Thus, we will have a common club table to which participants can contribute items for sale. Go through your books and magazines, ask yourself the hard question... Have I read this in the past year? And if not, move it along. Nature loves a vacuum. Create some empty spaces in your life and see what rushes in to fill them. Who wants to be in charge of the mimosas?

### Annie's Spring Party! April 7th & 8th, 2018

Submitted by Marianna Hashorva

Annie has several annual events which I have attended in the past. Anything she plans is a lot of fun and a wonderful educational experience. Usually we come home with lots of plants and some of us win useful prizes. Annie's Nursery has a colorful and interesting website where you can check out the particulars.

Although getting to Annie's is a bit of a trek, it's a fun day trip especially if one stops for a meal at the [Dead Fish Restaurant](#), Crab House and Prime Rib, on the way back. The Dead Fish Restaurant is in Crockett, near the Carquinez Bridge. Good food and atmosphere! It is open from 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. 365 days of the year. The address is 20050 San Pablo Avenue, Crockett, CA.



## Botanical Collage Class at Tumbleweed in Roseville!

April 21, 2018, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Nancy Compton, Field Trip Chair

Tumbleweed is an artistic shop in Old Roseville with lots of vintage items for home and garden. There are still a few spots available for this class. The cost is \$40 which includes all supplies. Even better, if you would like snacks and/or wine, you are free to bring them.

If you're interested in attending, please contact Nancy Compton via email, ([ncompton43@att.com](mailto:ncompton43@att.com)), or by phone (916-600-1992).



## Sign up now for another great garden club year

Irene Slavens, Vice-President, Membership

It's that time again. For only \$25 you'll be able to enjoy another full year of membership that includes special speakers, fun workshops, and fabulous programs.

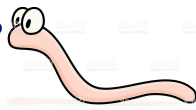
And, if you pay in May your dues are good all the way through to July 1st 2019. That's a bonus of 2 months. Just bring your dues to the May meeting or mail them in to: Irene Slavens RVGC P.O. Box 711 Rancho Murieta CA 95683. Membership forms can be found at <https://www.rivervalleygardenclub.net/about-us-1>.

Here's a thought. Without being a member of the River Valley Garden Club, how will you ever know how to harvest a spaghetti tree, if you don't know how to grow one?



# Earthworms. Friend or Foe?

Jamie Fox, Newsletterer



**FOE!** Yes, you heard me correctly. FOE!

In this instance I am referring to a very real problem with an **invasive species** of earthworm referred to as the Asian Jumping Worm or Crazy Worm, so named due to their particularly erratic behavior.

Jumping worms change the soil by disrupting the natural decomposition of leaf litter on the forest floor. They turn good soil into grainy, dry worm castings (poop) that cannot support the understory plants of our forests. In residential and urban areas they can also harm ornamental plantings and turf. However, they are easily identified because their clitellum, (that collar thingy close to their heads) is smooth instead of ridged.

## Identification:

1. Jumping Worms slither and thrash when handled and behave more like a threatened snake than a worm.
2. Jumping worms can be 1.5 to eight inches long.
3. The narrow band around their body (clitellum) is cloudy-white and smooth, unlike other species which have a raised clitellum.
4. A jumping worm's clitellum will also completely circle the body.

Although mostly found in the midwest at this point, the worms can travel. So should you see some mysterious “coffee grind” looking “dirt” in your gardens, it is not normal.

Click [HERE](#) for a video news report about these nasty wrigglers, and additional printed information can be found at the Iowa State University [website](#).

**Commonly mistaken for jumping worms.**

**European nightcrawler (*Lumbricus terrestris*)**

- Body is pink or flesh-toned with a well-defined raised clitellum further down on the body.
- Generally larger, slower, and produce slime when handled.
- Nightcrawlers live deep below the soil surface.

**European nightcrawler**  
Raised clitellum, further from head

**Jumping worm**  
Smooth clitellum, closer to head

More information at: [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword "jumping worm"  
To report a sighting, email: [Invasive.Species@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Invasive.Species@Wisconsin.gov)  
DNR PUB FR-550a 2015

**JUMPING WORM FIELD GUIDE**

**Jumping worms (*Amyntas* spp.) dwell on the soil surface and eat leaf litter. They can turn up almost anywhere from urban parks, to suburban backyards, to rural forests. Because they reproduce on their own, a single worm can start a new population. You can help prevent jumping worms from spreading to new areas by knowing what to look for.**

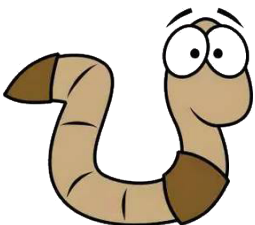
Photos by Colleen Robinson

**The jumping worm's appearance and behavior allow for easy identification.**

- Jumping worms are brown to grayish black.
- The smooth, cloudy white to gray clitellum (lighter colored band) completely circles the body near the head end.
- The body is rigid and does not produce slime like many other earthworms.
- They thrash wildly and may shed their tail in defense.
- They live on the soil surface and in the leaf litter.

**Clitellum**

**Jumping worms remove a protective layer from the soil surface. This changes how the soil looks and feels. Where there are jumping worms, the soil becomes grainy and can look like coffee grounds (right photo).**



## General Meeting, March 27, 2018

### Berniece Jones, Raffle

It pays to enter the raffle folks. Not only can you win something wonderful, you can win TWICE!

Mary Zellem won the bird bath AND a gourd Easter Bunny.  
Eileen Sheppard won the hanging wall Sunflower décor AND a cute pot and saucer with a house plant.

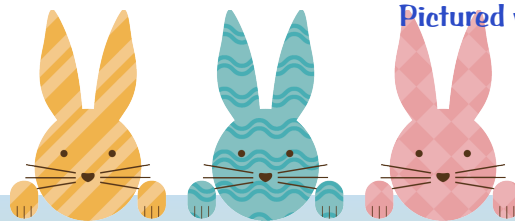
Kathy Nuttall won the gardening tools and Nancy Compton won the Iris Easter basket donated by Vivian Baier. Marianna Hashorva won the necklace that was made by our members last year for the Farm to Fork sale. Many of tonight's items were donated by generous club members.



The raffle table was loaded with goodies.



Pictured with Mary and Eileen is Eileen's sister, Katherine, who was a guest.



### Income from 3/27 RVGC meeting

**Ruth Lecheler-Moore, Treasurer**

Penny Pines collected: \$29

Raffle collected: \$73

# Easter Trivia

## How many questions can you answer correctly?

1. Pysanka is a traditional way of painting Easter Eggs. Which country does Pysanka originate?  
a. Hungary b. Estonia c. Ukraine d. Slovenia
2. In *It's the Easter Beagle, Charlie Brown*, a piece of music called a 'Menuet' is featured. Who was the composer?  
a. Ludwig Van Beethoven b. Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky c. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart d. Johann Sebastian Bach e. Peter the Rabbit
3. Jellybeans are the second most popular candy at Easter. What's the most popular color of bean?  
a. Yellow b. Green c. Red d. Blue f. Brown g. Rainbow h. Sparkly i. Puce
4. The Easter Season begins on Easter Day and lasts for how many days?  
a. 14 b. 21 c. 32 d. 50
5. Pace-egging is a traditional English Easter game. What is it ?  
a. Smashing hard-boiled eggs together to find the toughest  
b. An egg-and-spoon race, only with a spatula not a spoon  
c. Rolling hard-boiled painted eggs down a hill  
d. Blowing hard-boiled eggs along a table top
6. Which one of these egg-shaped candies is illegal in the US?  
a. Cadbury's Creme Egg  
b. Kinder Surprise  
c. Whoppers Robin Egg  
d. Brach's Fiesta Malted Milk Egg
7. What was the purpose the Easter Act of 1928 (in the British Parliament)?  
a. To protect Easter from commercialism  
b. To provide a fixed date for Easter  
c. To shorten the Easter school holidays  
d. To return Easter to its pagan roots
8. 76% of people eat which part of an Easter Bunny first?  
a. Chest b. Tail c. Feet d. Ears e. Fingers
9. Which animal is used in Australia instead of a rabbit?  
a. Kangaroo b. Wombat c. Koala d. Bilby
10. The most popular American Easter candy is:  
a. Chocolate bunnies b. Marshmallow peeps c. Jelly beans d. Chocolate, cream-filled eggs
11. What flower is associated with Easter?  
a. hibiscus b. lily c. pansy d. crocus
12. How many gospels are in the Bible? Why are they important at Easter?  
a. 8 b. 4 c. 3 d. 7
13. What is the name of the Charlie Brown Easter Special?



Answers found [HERE](#).



# DID YOU KNOW?

April's full moon arrives on the 29th and is known as the Pink Moon. The title "pink moon" is credited to Native American tribes, and in fact, almost every name for a full moon has Native American roots. Native Americans didn't have recorded calendars to separate time, days, and seasons. The different full moons were their way of tracking the seasons ahead. When the Native Americans named this moon, the "pink" was from the wild ground phlox that rapidly bloomed in the springtime. So don't get fooled by those pink moon photos you see on social media. The "pink moon" will look like a normal, beautiful, full moon.

Plants really do respond to sound. Talking to plants to help them grow is a well-known old wives' tale, but studies have shown vibration (like music, or perhaps even the sweet sound of your voice) can affect plant growth. Plus, the Myth Busters (in an admittedly not-so-scientific study), compared a silent greenhouse to one where they piped in a voice soundtrack, and found that plants in the latter grew more. So carry on and chatter away to your plants, you'll both be the better for it.

## April 1st In History

Jamie Fox, Newsletterer

**April 1, 1957:** April 1st traditionally clears the way for pranksters of all ages to pull harmless jokes on those hapless folk within range. Pranksters plot and scheme and often the "jokes" are funnier in their imaginations than when the joke plays out in reality, but that doesn't stop them from sending their inner child out on a rampage.

However, historically there have been some extremely clever public "April Fools" jokes. One of the best pranks in history dates from a Richard Dimbleby "news report" which aired April 1, 1957 on BBC's Panorama TV program. The show opened with a line about Spring coming early that year, prompting the spaghetti harvest in Switzerland to be early, also.

At the time, spaghetti was still a novel food in the UK so not a whole lot of people had experience with packaged spaghetti. More than 250 viewers jammed the BBC switchboard after the video aired, most of them calling in with serious inquiries — where could they go to watch the harvesting operation? Could they buy spaghetti plants themselves? For those anxious to try their hand at homegrown pasta, Panorama producer Michael Peacock offered this helpful gardening advice: "Place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best." Watch this wonderful vintage video [HERE](#).

**April 1, 2008:** The BBC announced that camera crews filming near the Antarctic for its natural history series Miracles of Evolution had captured footage of Adélie penguins taking to the air. It even offered a video of these flying penguins, which quickly became one of the most viewed videos on the internet. Presenter Terry Jones explained that, instead of huddling together to endure the Antarctic winter, these penguins took to the air and flew thousands of miles to the rainforests of South America where they "spend the winter basking in the tropical sun." Click [HERE](#) to view this this stunning short video of an amazing colony of flying penguins. Click [HERE](#) to find out how this terrific idea was created.

**April 1, 2012:** It takes four years for a marshmallow tree to bear fruit. In 2012 the North Carolina marshmallow crop was in trouble. The problem? Too much rain and the crop was affected by "early drop". The marshmallows left on the trees were bitter and affected with "mallow mold" due to the rain. It was a forty million dollar loss state-wide. Click [HERE](#) to view the effect of mother nature on a 270 acre marshmallow orchard.

**April 1, 2016:** A four-generation cotton candy farm is devastated by early heavy rain. Click [HERE](#) for coverage of how one farmer is trying to keep his family together after such a loss.

