

# RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB A PLACE TO GROW

HERE'S THE DIRT - MARCH 2019

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 6

## Rooting For You - Poaching Succulents

Nancy Compton, Vice-President, Programs

The New Yorker magazine is not typically a publication from which to obtain botanical or horticultural information; however, a recent issue featured a succulent called a *Dudleya farinosa*, more commonly known as "bluff lettuce" or "powdery liveforever."

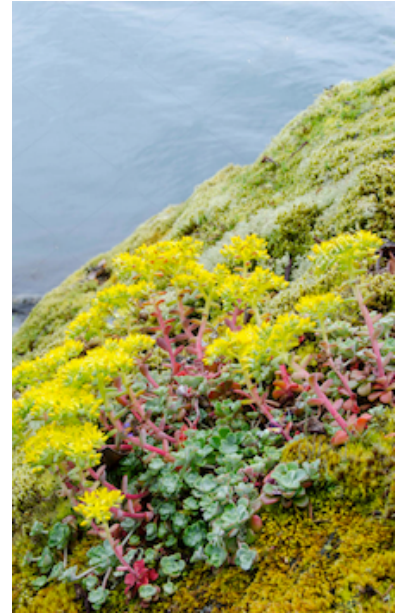
These succulents, which resemble the echeveria, form a basal rosette of wide, pointed spade-shaped leaves which are generally very pale green, and often have edges or tips of bright colors, usually red. However, they are not related to the echeveria, but rather are members of the crassula family, and typically grow on cliff faces or steep slopes of California's rugged coast.

At issue here is not what they look like or where they grow, but the fact that they are in the center of a growing number of felony grand theft and felony vandalism cases related to their removal from their natural growing environment by poachers.

It seems that the theft of *Dudleya* is related to a current trend that is all the rage among housewives in China and Korea. Many describe it as an "addiction." Articles in Korean publications are calling this trend "succulent fever" and quote wives with large collections who, when their husbands object to the succulent collection, tell their spouse not to worry because "I will take all of my succulents with me when I leave you."

Recently a married couple in Monterey County pleaded no contest to felony grand theft related to their removal of more than eighteen hundred plants from Garrapata State Park in Big Sur. This was the fourth successful *Dudleya* prosecution in California in a little more than a year.

Captain Patrick Foy of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has said that these thefts are driven by this emerging demand for *Dudleya* in Asia where a mature plant can command a price of as much as one hundred dollars. He is further quoted as stating that poachers will typically book a flight from Korea or China, fly in, rent a car, go to a moving and storage center and buy a large number of boxes, and then begin their drive up the coast. They harvest the plants, process everything in a hotel room, and ship them back to Korea and China.



**Dudleya Farinosa on a  
Big Sur cliff**

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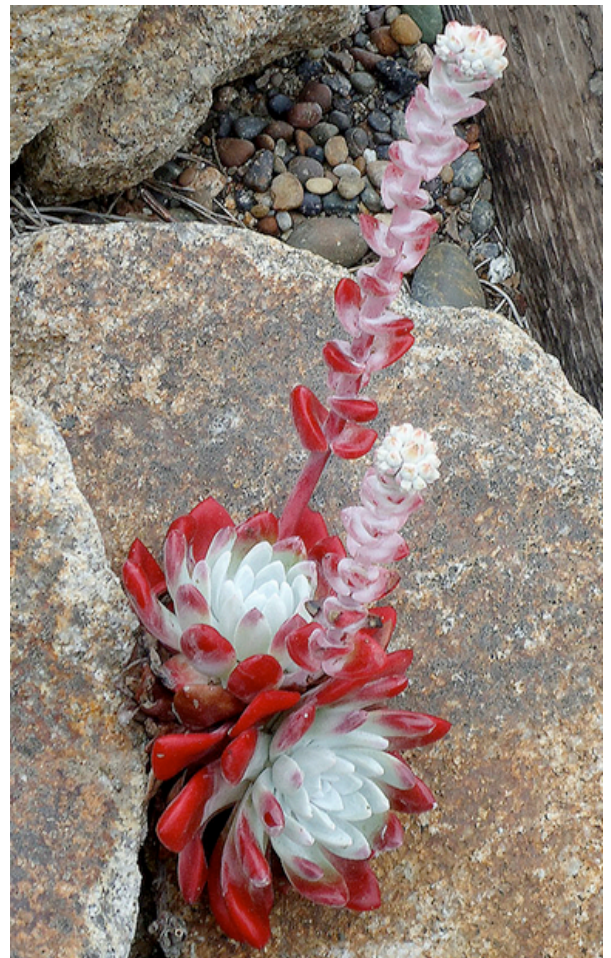
## Poaching Succulents, Cont.

What brought this smuggling to the surface was a woman waiting in the Mendocino Post Office behind a man who was sending sixty boxes overseas. This, naturally, took a long time, and she soon became annoyed, finally asking him what was in all these boxes. “Shhhhhh,” he replied. Something very valuable.” When she asked him where he got something so valuable, he pointed to the coast. Her suspicions now rising above her annoyance prompted her to call the local Fish & Wildlife office where she relayed this episode to a game warden who suspected that the items were abalone. When the game warden visited the post office and opened one of the boxes, he was incredulous. Poached succulents? Really?

No one knows for sure how many succulents have been poached to date, but current seized documents reveal that it could easily be in the tens of thousands.

Enforcement is the best way to combat these poachers. Thus far the punishments have been harsh and include tens of thousands of dollars in fines, visa revocation, and jail time. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is asking for citizen participation to report suspicious activity. If you see a person emerge from rappelling down a steep cliff with dirt on their clothing and a heavy bag or backpack, you may be looking at a Dudleya poacher. Call your local California Department of Fish and Wildlife office right away; officers are now on to the poachers and know how to catch them.

Although their common name here in the U.S. includes the word “liveforever,” this only applies to living in their natural habitat. Dudleya that are plundered and sent to hot, humid environments are unlikely to thrive. Pillaging these Dudleyas does a great disservice to the plant itself, as well as to the environment from which it is stolen. Let’s keep our eyes and ears open during our next trip to the coast. Perhaps by being vigilant we can help discourage this practice, report offenders, and ensure that our natural environment is protected.

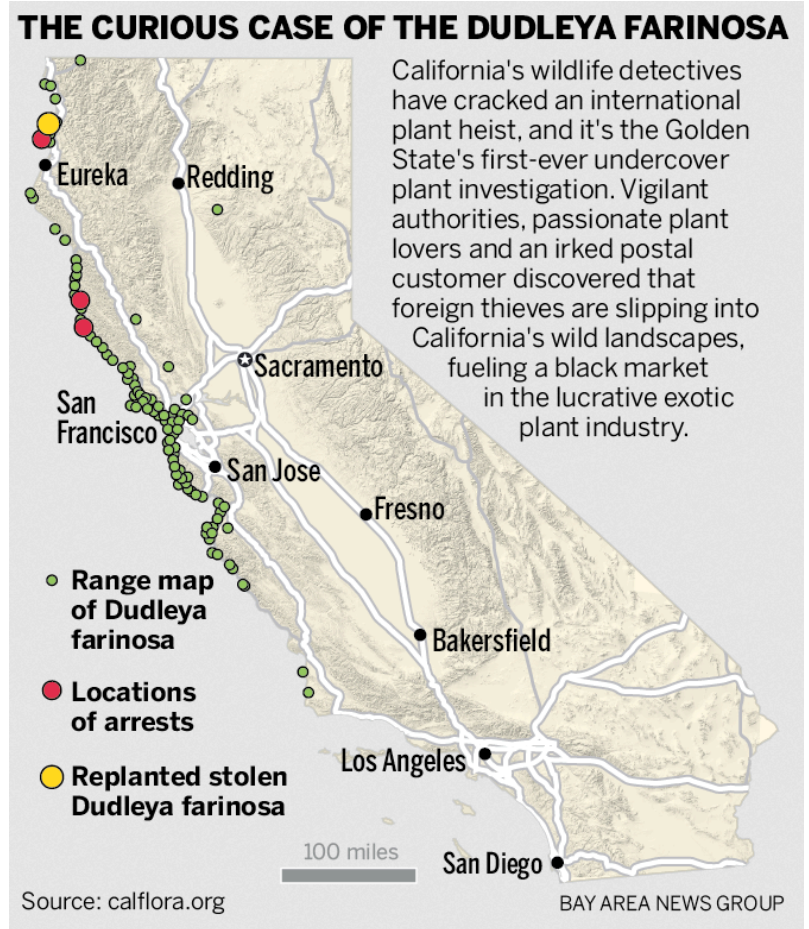




## Poaching Succulents, Cont.



Foreign thieves busted with thousands of Dudleya Farinosa from the Humboldt County



Anyone who believes they are witness to unlawful poaching or pollution activity is encouraged to call CalTIP, CDFW's confidential secret witness program, at (888) 334-2258, or send a text to tip411. Both methods allow the public to provide wildlife officers with information to assist with investigations. Callers may remain anonymous, if desired, and a reward can result from the successful capture and prosecution of poachers.

## 2019 Programs and Workshops

Activity	Date	Time	Speaker/Provider	Topic
Field Trip	March 9, 2019	10:00 AM	Sharon Barton	Ironstone Winery, Daffodil Show
General meeting Program	March 26, 2019	7:00 PM	Eltha Hannum, Butterfly Chair California Garden Clubs	The Importance of Monarch Butterflies in our World
Workshop	March 22, 2019	6:00 PM	Nancy Compton	Sip & Create Botanical Print workshop RMA Bldg. \$40.00
General meeting Program	April 23, 2019	7:00 PM	Marlene Simon, The Plant Lady	Garden Myths
Workshop	April 27, 2019	10:00 AM	Rosann Stevenson	Floral Arranging - RMA Bldg. \$20.00
General meeting Program	May 28, 2019	7:00 PM	Greg Gayton, Green Acres Nursery	Japanese Maples

## Flower Arranging Workshop, Sat. April 27, 2019

### Rosann Stevenson

Having owned a florist/decorating shop in the Bay Area, Rosann brings forty years of expertise to this workshop. After the initial sign up at the general meeting, there are only 6 spaces left. To reserve one of the few spots remaining, call Rosann (916-312-5050) to sign up.



Who: Rosann Stevenson  
What: Flower Arranging  
Where: RMA Building  
When: April 27th, 2019  
Time: 10:00 am  
Cost: \$20.00



The deadline to reserve a spot is April 17. **Bring clippers!**



## The Importance of Monarch Butterflies

Eltha Hannum - March Speaker

Nancy Compton, Programs Chair

Like so many other insects, monarch butterflies can serve as indicators of the state of our environment. Fortunately, people tend to like monarchs, and thus are more prone to be aware of their tenuous state of existence in today's world.

In the Americas, monarchs migrate to and from certain sites in Mexico. As they migrate north in the spring, they look for plants on which to lay their eggs. Their only host plants are milkweeds, and therein lies the problem: one of the most common milkweeds, the *Asclepias syriaca*, is considered an agricultural pest, which means that large agribusinesses try to eliminate milkweed with herbicides sprayed from planes so that crops can be grown more cheaply.

This practice greatly reduces the biodiversity of plants in large areas of the Midwest, with the unintended consequence being that monarchs have very few places on which to lay their eggs during their journey.

Perhaps the best way to start a conversation about the fragile state of our environment begins with the monarch butterfly. A wonderful quote from Baba Dioum is this: "In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."

Eltha Hannum, Butterfly Chair for the California Garden Clubs, Inc., will be our speaker on Tuesday, March 26, and she will address the importance of monarch butterflies in our world. Please join us for this evening as we learn more about the monarch butterfly and how we can become part of the solution to saving this precious species that contributes so much to our environmental balance. As always, guests are more than welcome to attend.





## River Valley Garden Club's 1st Ever "Sip and Snip - Girls Night Out" Nancy Compton, Workshops

Enjoy an evening of wine, snacks, and creativity. The River Valley Garden Club is holding its first-ever "Sip and Create - Girls Night Out."

- Who? Our instructor will be Dori Barrett of [High-Hand Mercantile](#) who will guide us through our creative journey. Sign up now!
- What? While sipping tasty wine and enjoying yummy snacks, you will be creating a lovely botanical collage to hang in your home or give as a gift.
- Where? RMA Building
- When? **Friday, March 22, 2019, 6:00 PM**
- Cost: \$40.00

This evening will focus on making a lovely botanical collage to hang in your home or give as a gift. The cost is \$40, and that includes a canvas and all art supplies. For the "sip" part of the evening, we do have some donated wine, but if you have something you prefer, please feel free to bring it!

Payment needs to be made in advance. Please make checks out to Dori Barrett who is our workshop leader. You can either mail the checks to Nancy Compton, 15256 Nueva Drive, RM or leave a check in an envelope under the mat by my front door. Should you choose to leave a check under the mat, please let me know.



Imagine yourself here.



## Trash & Treasures Returns!

### Nancy Compton, Co-Chair

Remember the fun we had getting ready for Trash & Treasures? Saving cuttings and making bird baths? Working together to showcase our garden club while earning money for our scholarship fund?

Well – it's back! Trash & Treasures returns to Rancho Murieta! Only this time the River Valley Garden Club will host the event which will be held this year – not at the plaza – but in the church parking lot in the back where the Farmers' Market has been held. The reason for this is that the parking area we used in the past is now a hotel, and the field further to the east has been raised and is not accessible from the main road, except for hotel guests.

The date is Saturday, June 1, from 8 a.m. to noon.

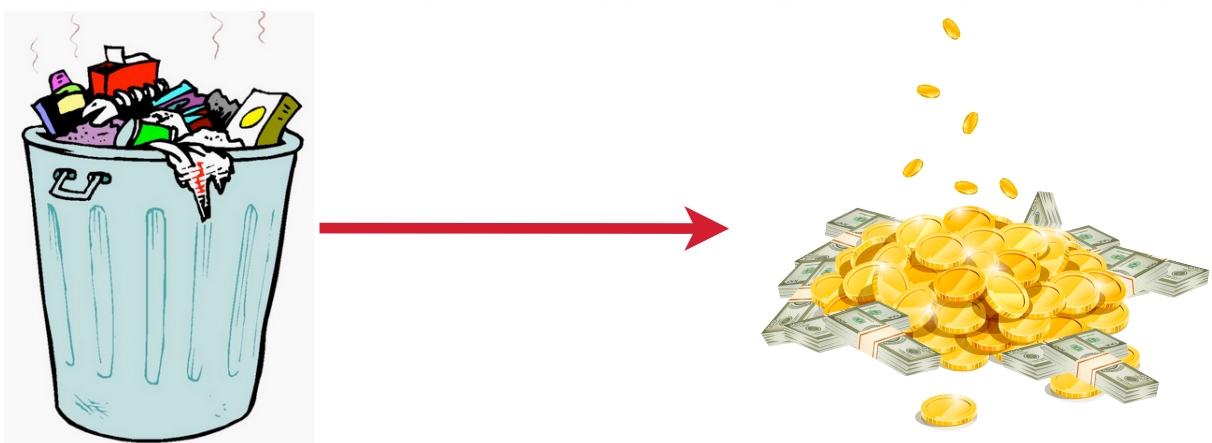
We need all hands on deck to make this a successful event – but that has never been a problem. We've always enjoyed working together to make this an unforgettable event.

The first committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 4 at 9 a.m. at the home of Pam McCabe, 15083 Fuente de Paz in Rancho Murieta North. Event co-chairs are Pam McCabe and Nancy Compton. But that's only a start. We need people for the following tasks:

- Horticulture – purchasing plants and flowers at nearly wholesale prices that we can resell
- Setup and tear-down
- Boutique – creating or finding decorator items using floral and/or plant material
- Volunteer coordinator – finding club members to work specific slots of time
- Publicity – ads in River Valley Times, Sacramento Bee, area businesses, etc.

So please circle March 4 and June 1 on your calendar and prepare to jump into this event with both feet. It's always a blast – and this year will be no different.

Thank you in advance – and see you at the first planning meeting on March 4!





## Local Events

### Shepard Garden & Arts Center Spring Sale

March 16 - 17, 2019, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

This is every gardener's "not to be missed" event. It is attended not only by the Center's club members, their friends and neighbors, but also by people from throughout the region. During this two day sale, Shepard Garden and Arts Center clubs are offering plants, garden items, pottery, jewelry, books and collectibles for sale. Food will also be available.

In past years over 2,000 people attended this event, so you might want to get there early for the best pickings.

### Madman Bamboo

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 9 am - 3 pm, Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

Madman Bamboo will be at the Spring 2019 Perennial Plant Club Sale at the Shepard Arts and Garden Center. Sean, of Madman Bamboo, is bringing mostly clumping bamboo plants with some unique running bamboo plants to Shepard Garden and Arts Center. Plants are sold on a first come, first served basis. Arrive early for best selection. You can text Sean at (916) 300-6335 to verify varieties before making the drive.

### Big News! The ~~San Francisco~~ Sacramento Flower & Garden Show

March 20-24, 2019, Wed. - Sat. 10 am - 7 pm, Sunday 10 am - 6 pm, Cal Expo

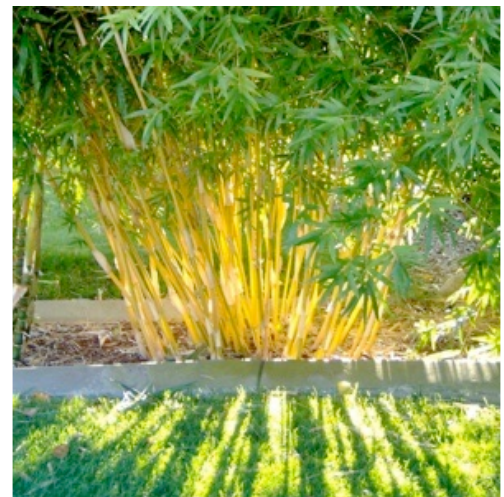
The San Francisco Flower and Garden Show will be celebrating its 34th year RIGHT HERE in Sacramento.

Discover how to create your own remarkable garden with hands-on demonstrations and inspiring seminars.

Meet professional gardeners and nursery owners who can answer all your questions and help solve those nagging problems.

Browse a wide selection of specialty shops featuring unique flowers, plants, gifts, tools, and more. Learn how to grow and prepare fresh, homegrown food.

You can attend the show or be part of it. Either way, be sure to be there! [Click here for more information.](#)



### Sacramento



## Made in Amador - a New Shop Gardeners Will Love

Grand Opening - March 20, 4 pm - 7 pm

Nancy Compton, Programs Chair

If you attended the workshop in Amador City last spring during which we walked around town picking pretty flowers and learning how to press them, you may be interested to know that Molly, the workshop presenter, is opening a shop right there in Amador City!

The public is invited to the grand opening of *Made in Amador* on March 20 for a spring celebration and introduction to the new flower shop and artisans' market in Amador City. Themed around the California poppy, *Made in Amador* was established for artisans, crafters, and shoppers alike looking for an authentic experience in the Gold Country.

The event will take place at 14183 Main Street, Amador City, between 4 and 7 p.m. Guests will be treated to complimentary snacks and drinks, as well as the opportunity to make flower crowns and learn about upcoming events and classes.

Molly says she is thrilled to have a central location where she can share her passion of making beautiful things, surrounded by locally grown flowers, and work amidst a collection of Gold Country inspired gifts and local artisans' goods. Her plan for the new shop is to have a space in which people can come in and choose their experience, whether it's joining a workshop or shopping for the perfect gift.

Sounds like fun! Short road trip anyone?

## Field Trips and Tours Sharon Barton, Tours Co-Chair

There are some fun events coming up for RVGC members:

### 1. Saturday, March 9th, 2019 - The Daffodil Show at Ironstone Winery in Murphys, CA

The 2019 Daffodil Show is brought to you by the Northern California Daffodil Society and the Calaveras County Garden Club. On the country road to Ironstone Vineyards you will marvel at the daffodils along the roadside. At the winery, you'll be greeted by spectacular barrels of brightly blooming daffodils and tulips. The show will display captivating daffodil exhibits in horticulture, artistic design and photography. There is also a deli open from 11:30 to 3:30 pm for a delicious lunch. We will carpool at 10 am. If you haven't signed up by now and want to join the trip, email or call me. (916) 367-0552

2. Bird Tour pending. I have contacted Gary Fregien of the Audubon Society and will let you know if we can arrange a tour in Rancho Murieta.

## Raffle Donations STILL Needed Vivian Baier, Raffles

A steady supply of raffle items is needed to ensure the success we had at the January meeting, so please check your cupboards (or extra Christmas gifts) as we need support from all our members. This year our raffle will consist of items donated by garden club members. You are invited to bring a raffle item (which doesn't have to be garden related) to our meetings. Let's make it interesting! We all have items that we are tired of but could be a treasure to someone else. Please bring your donation by 6:30 pm so there is time to include it in the raffle that evening. If you have any questions, call Vivian Baier at (586) 930-2105.



# The Importance of Steering the Ship

## Jamie Fox, Newsletterer

Will 2019-2020 be the year you make a difference in the garden club? We all have special gifts and talents to bring to the table, and change is **GOOD**. It is so easy to let the same old people run the club. However, we have reached a tipping point where the same old people should not *have to* keep running the club simply to keep the ship from sinking.

Take a look at the chart below and see how many incumbent members chair multiple committees. These members do so because they love the club and want to keep it operating because they enjoy the same benefits you do - camaraderie, education, day trips, and GREAT holiday parties, to name just a few.

Now, take a look at the bright yellow lines. How many are there? That's the number of committees that need leadership for the 2019-2020 garden club year.

Are you creative? Then why not chair the photo contest? Or create the newsletter, even. I would be delighted to give someone else the chance to connect with her muse. Do you like to cook? Then why not chair the refreshment committee? Like to shop for bargains? Haggle people down? Then it sounds like you are made for Discounts. Talk to any of the people now filling a position and ask what the job is like. Many are simpler than you think.

But back to the yellow lines. There are NINE of them. That means nine chairs need to be filled.

You can do it. I know you can.

	Incumbent	Volunteers
<b>Board:</b>		
President	Nancy Clark	
Treasurer	Carrie	Berniece
Vice President (Membership)	Irene	Pam
Vice President (Programs)	Nancy Compton	
<b>Chair:</b>		
Awards	Nancy Compton	Nancy Compton
Communication	Nancy Clark	Nancy Clark
Community Projects	Debbie	Debbie
Discounts	Debbie	
District Liaison	Berniece	
Field Trips	Sharon	Sharon
Grants	Pam	
Greeters	Marianna, Joyce	Marianna, Joyce
Newsletter	Jamie	Jamie
Parties	Carol	Carol
Penny Pines	Kathy	Donna Hanson
Photo Contest	Fran	
Publicity	Berniece	Irene?
Raffle (Vivian)	Vivian	Vivian
Refreshments	Debbie	
Scholarships	Nancy Clark, Berniece, Jamie, Marianna	
Webmaster	Nancy	Nancy Clark
Workshops	Nancy Clark, Debbie, Rosann, Nancy Compton	Debbie



## DID YOU KNOW?

Q: Why are so many leprechauns florists?

A: They have green thumbs!

Q: Why do leprechauns wear shamrocks?

A: Real rocks are too heavy!

Q: What do you call a leprechaun who goes to prison?

A: A lepre-con

Q: What do leprechauns call fake diamonds?

A: Sham-rocks

Q: What do leprechauns leave out on their lawn all summer?

A: Paddy O'Furniture

Q: What did the leprechaun say on March 17?

A: Irish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

## In Like a Lion and Out Like a Lamb

Jamie Fox, Newsletterer



It is said that March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb. At the beginning of March winter is still rearing it's soggy, cold, head. But by the end of the month spring is definitely making a comeback. Even now, the narcissus and daffodils have popped up and are reminding us of warmer days and fragrant air.

March is also the month we get to have the dinner of champions. Green beer and corned beef and cabbage. Being one-quarter Irish, green is one of my favorite colors, especially in beer. On March 17, I cross my fingers and hope that the leprechaun traps I set will catch me a little man in a top hat who will grant me three wishes. Boy, do I have plans.

Should you not know, St. Patrick was the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland who is credited with successfully bringing Christianity to the country. March 17 is widely accepted as the date of St. Patrick's death in A.D. 461. Was there really a St. Patrick? Definitely. Did he really drive the snakes out of Ireland? Probably not, since snakes weren't native to Ireland.

Now that March is here, most of us are eager to start poking things into the ground. Curiously, St. Patrick's Day is the traditional day for planting peas, even in freezing temperatures. Here's a fun video on how to [plant peas in the snow](#) using high heels and a cardboard tube. Yes, that's right. High heels and a cardboard tube.

After you've finished planting peas in your heels, cabbage seeds are also often planted on St. Pat's day and old-time farmers believed that to make cabbages grow well, you needed to plant them while wearing your nightclothes. Uh-huh. Pajamas.

March is a transition month. We start wearing fewer layers of clothing, adopt a lighter jacket, shrink the wool sweaters into space saver bags, and move the espadrilles to the front of the closet. Due to the Spring Equinox, March is also viewed as a second chance for New Year's resolutions as we "spring" into another season. What does spring mean to you? Time to set new goals and aspirations? Celebrate the vernal equinox? Perhaps it is the time to take up Irish Dancing.

One of the greatest events to ever come out of Ireland is the show Riverdance, which opened in Dublin on February 9, 1995. Since then, the show has been produced in over 450 theaters world wide and has been seen by more than 25 million people making it one of the most successful dance productions in the world.

So, as we float toward spring, take a break from all that planting in your PJs and high heels. Put up those hardworking feet and take a look at this opening number from Riverdance called [Reel Around the Sun](#). But should you happen to have extra time, treat yourself to [the entire show](#) (1:10). It's incredible. **Erin go Bragh!**

