



# Folsom Garden Club

Neighborhood Gardeners since 1934

Mailing Address:  
 P.O. Box 1681, Folsom, Ca 95763  
 Website: [www.folsomgarden.org](http://www.folsomgarden.org)

## December 2011 Newsletter

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home." - Edith Sitwell



**December 1, 2011**

**Annual Holiday Potluck & Gift Exchange**

**11:00am – 1:00pm**

**(Note: 1 hour later)**

**The Rotary Clubhouse in Lew Howard Park**

- ❖ Bring a dish to share for the potluck
- ❖ Bring a \$10-\$15 garden related gift

If you didn't get to sign up for the potluck, please **RSVP by Nov. 28th to Nina Sanders** with what you'd like to bring. We have heard that Santa will be making his appearance so be ready for a treat! The gift exchange is voluntary; wrap your gift but no card or name on it; make it garden-related if you can otherwise, something nice for either man or woman.

### Folsom Garden Club – Calendar of Events (continued on page 7)

#### November 2011

<b>28</b>	Deadline to RSVP for Christmas potluck	See Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> info above	Nina Sanders	
<b>*30</b> 10am to noon	Dirt Gardeners	Christmas Tree Decorating 10 am – noon & Christmas card hand delivery <i>Folsom Convalescent Natoma &amp; Mill St</i>	Dan Knott Joye Gephart	

#### December 2011

<b>1</b> 11am	Business Meeting Christmas Party & Potluck	Rotary Club House - 11 am (Note time change!)	Nina Sanders	
<b>3</b> <b>5pm to 8pm</b>	Folsom Zoo – Xmas tree decorated by Folsom Garden Club members	Wild Nights & Holiday Lights at the Zoo Starting Dec 3, 9, 10 and 15 – 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 5pm to 8pm -- \$5 admission	Dan Knott	

***The President's Corner***  
**President, Joye Gephart**



Where did the year go? Still, I am looking forward to special times with family and friends this Thanksgiving and at our club's holiday potluck so soon upon us. In so short a time, we have accomplished much in the way of community service. Next on our list of community projects is decorating the club's Christmas tree at the convalescent hospital in town and handing out cards to the patients there. And shortly after that, a few lucky volunteers will be decorating a tree at the Folsom Zoo in the name of the club. Way to give back to the city, Folsom Garden Club! Happy Thanksgiving and see you in December!

*Joye Gephart*

**November Overview**

There were 56 members and two guests who attended this meeting. Refreshments were prepared by: Sharron Anderson, Rhonda DesVoignes, Diane Sullivan, Gloria Hanson, Alice Wilcox, Dan Knott, Ron Byrd, Nada Boatright and Simin Kiani.

The Raffle collected - \$143  
Hodgepodge table - \$48  
Penny Pines - \$33.21

**December Birthdays**

- 2 Lisa Wu-Murphy
- 4 Dianna Leight
- 16 Gary Stout
- 17 Gigi Gerber
- 23 Koby Warren
- 24 Merry Reaves
- 28 Tinka Davi



**Guest Speaker – Trey Pitsenberger**, owner of the Golden Gecko Nursery in Garden Valley spoke about “Hydroponics Gardening”.

Hydroponics is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions, in water, without soil. This method uses less water than growing in the ground, resulting in water conservancy by re-circulating water. The plant is started in a small root cube. Once a plant grows to a certain point, put the cube into the rock wool. It has the perfect ratio of air and water.

If you are interested in learning more about hydroponics as a hobby or to grow your own plants, contact Trey Pitsenberger at 530.333.2394 or [www.thegoldengecko.com](http://www.thegoldengecko.com). The Golden Gecko Garden Center is located at 4665 Marshall Road, corner of Marshall and Black Oak Mine Road, Garden Valley, CA 95633.



**Plant of the Month Amsonia hubrichtii - Presented by Rhonda DesVoignes**

It was named Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association, Amsonia or Arkansas Blue Star. In the spring it is covered with small blue star-shaped flowers: its foliage is very delicate, like a thread leaf. The Amsonia plant grows to 3-feet tall x 3 feet wide in a soft billowy mound and is a native of Arkansas and Oklahoma. It thrives in full sun to part shade in zones 4 through 9.

And, in fall, this is what you can expect –



## November table decorations – Chrysanthemum Tea

The refreshment table decorations were provided by Joy Greene and Joan McArdle. The lovely silver tea set was provided by Pat Brown. Members were invited to decorate their tables with the ‘Chrysanthemum Tea’ theme in mind. Below are photos of a few of the lovely center pieces.



## Honoring Past Presidents

**Chrysanthemum plants** were presented honoring past presidents in attendance at the meeting: Left to right: Dan Knott accepted for Gladys Trejo (2000-2002), Barbara Peterson (2005-07), Joy Greene (2008-09), Erin Angulo (2009- 11) and Dorothy Populorum (2003 and 2007-08).



## HELP WANTED

**Check at the meeting for sign up sheets or contact the person listed below.**

- **2012 Garden Tour** – Helpers are still needed for many tasks for our April 28 and 29 Garden Tour. Contact Jan-Can Prendergast to help.
- **Chairperson needed** - June Installation luncheon. Contact Joye Gephart.
- **Assistant to the Garden Tour Chair** - Taking notes as secretary, reminding about decisions made and deadlines that need to be met. Contact Joye Gephart.
- **E-mail Blast** - Someone to take over doing the emails that go out to the club. Contact Joye Gephart if you are interested.
- **Newsletter Editor** – Dianna Leight has joined the crew, we’re still looking for an additional person who would like to learn how to create beautiful newsletters! Contact Diane Stout.
- **Community Projects** – Lots of volunteers are appreciated to help with the community projects. Contact Adrienne and David Coolidge to see how you can help out.
- **Hodgepodge Table** - Please bring plants, cuttings, divisions, etc. to add to the hodgepodge table. Contact Carol Hamilton.
- **Raffle Items** - If you have nicer (than Hodgepodge) items that can be donated for raffle, please let Pat Brown know.
- **Members Photo Gallery** – Sally Berry is creating a “Members Only” section in the FGC website. To submit a photo of yourself, send to Sally’s email address. If you don’t have a picture, let Sally or Diane Stout know and have your picture taken at the next meeting.
- **FGC Gardener Corner** – Looking for members with interesting plants, gardens or garden spot to share in the January Newsletter – sign-up sheet in the back. Contact Diane Stout.

## Gardening Tips

- If you haven't already, it's time to **clean up the remains of summer**. Pull faded annuals and vegetables. Prune dead or broken branches from trees.



- **Till empty beds**, then sow wildflower seeds including California poppies; keep the soil moist, watering between light rains.
- **On blueberry bushes, prune** as you would roses. Thin out old, spindly canes, keeping four to six new green canes, and cut those down to 7 inches tall.



- **Fertilize cool-season annual** flowers and vegetables.
- This is the ideal time to **transplant ground covers**, small evergreen trees and shrubs in Sacramento.
- **Divide and replant** overcrowded perennials such as agapanthus and daylilies.
- **Paperwhite narcissus bulbs** can grow and bloom in a bowl without soil. Fill a shallow bowl or dish with 2 inches or rocks or pebbles. Place bulbs in the dish with the root end nestled in the rocks. Add water until it just touches the bottom of the bulbs. Place the dish in a sunny window. Add water as needed.



## Gardening in Folsom – Characteristics of Mediterranean Zone

- Summers are hot and dry
- Winters are cool and wet
- Expect winter [frosts](#) and occasional freezes
- Average first frost: Nov 14
- Average last frost: Mar 23



Sacramento's climate is perfect for growing a wide variety of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and herbs. What's key is understanding that we have two main growing seasons—warm and cool. Warm-season crops include things like tomatoes, beans, basil and peppers. Cool-season crops include things like lettuce, radishes and spinach. Some edibles, like asparagus and many herbs, persist year after year as perennial crops.

Sacramento's long growing season (240+ days) gives us two major vegetable planting periods—spring and fall. As you'll see from the calendar below, however, there's actually something edible to plant every month of the year. In late winter to early spring, you'll generally plant warm-season vegetables like tomatoes, melons, corn and beans. By mid to late summer, you'll be knocking on neighbors' doors with surplus veggies.

By late summer to early fall, our second, cool-season crop goes in the ground. Successive plantings, selecting "bolt-" or heat-resistant and cold-resistant varieties, cold frames and varying degrees of shade all allow you to push the planting calendar. Ambitious gardeners can start vegetables from seed. Convenience-driven gardeners can wait for small, ready-to-plant vegetable seedlings to show up in nurseries. Procrastinators should look for gallon-size veggies and herbs later in the planting season.

When it comes to deciduous fruit and nut trees, shrubs and vines, the winter dormant season is a good time to plant bare-root nursery offerings. Wait until spring to plant citrus and other subtropical fruits.



## Field Trip to Otow's Persimmon Orchard in Granite Bay – October 27



Our tour of Otow Orchard in Granite Bay was held on October 27th. We were shown and given sample tastes of various types of persimmons, including chocolate persimmons.



The art of Hoshigaki, the old fashioned method of drying of persimmons, was demonstrated and we were given tastes. Hoshigaki tastes much like delicious dates.



We wandered out into the orchard, where we learned about the age of the trees and the organic style in which they are now grown. It was a beautiful, sunny, and warm autumn day and, as an added benefit, we saw flocks of Canada geese!

You can visit the fruit stand located at 6232 Eureka Road, Granite Bay, 916-791-1656.

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## Field Trip to Eisley's Nursery featuring Poinsettias – November 9



The November 9<sup>th</sup> field trip to Eisley Nursery in Auburn was both informative and awe inspiring as we saw whole green houses full of beautiful poinsettias. Our tour was lead by Dorothy Lewis, a long time employee of Eisley's.



Some of the uncommon and rare types of poinsettias that are now for sale are:

- Joker and Jingle Bells – both are red with white splashes
- Ice Cream – red with pink in the center
- Monet – peachy-pink blush
- Peppermint – peachy-pink with darker peachy-pink splashes

A group of ten of our members enjoyed lunch at Awful Annie's after the tour.



## Community Project at Theodore Judah Elementary School - November 4



The garden club members who volunteered were Dan Knott, Adrienne Coolidge, Sharron Anderson, Yolande Lusby, and Rhonda DesVoignes.



This is not an official project of our club but 2 years ago, Jan Wilcox of Mercy Health, contacted

Erin Angulo for help with creating a vegetable garden at this elementary school here in town. Erin and Sally Berry helped with the placement, design and ideas for the garden. This past really tough summer, the garden wasn't faring well and the club got another plea for help. Rhonda DesVoignes, Dan Knott & Joye Gephart got together with some help from the school and community to pull weeds, correct the over-watering, provide plant supports and give out advice. This month another request came from Jan to help plant a winter garden.

This school garden is 1 of 4 that Mercy Health through Jan Wilcox helped start up with the idea to teach kids where our food comes from, have them tend the garden, eat fresh veggies and sell any extra in a mini-farmer's market. This is the only school that has needed help and we have been happy to be able to do that. Jan would love it if one of our club members could take this garden on as a Garden "Nana" or "Papa" to be there at the school on a regular basis teaching the kids about vegetables. This was done in El Dorado Hills at another of the school gardens very successfully. At this time, we are not aware of anyone in our club able to take on such a challenge so we may wish to help if and when asked in the future.

## Community Project at Folsom History Museum – November 14

The Folsom Garden Club joined the efforts of the Folsom Rotary Club and a Boy Scout Eagle project to beautify the back area of the Folsom History Museum. To date the Eagle project put in a nice building block and gravel mini amphitheater and the Rotary club is in the process of getting the carriage house ready to paint.



Led by David Coolidge and Joye Gephart, Dan Knott, Sherril Gomes, Nina Sanders, Harriet Schaeffer and Yolande Lusby gathered at the history museum to plant 4 Crape Myrtles. The trees were donated by *Redbud Nursery*. David and Joye acquired 4 wine barrels and the *Wine Barrel Connection* donated an additional two. Sherrill Gomes arranged with *Resource Building Material* for the donation of a

half yard of rich dirt, enough to plant the four barrels and some additional planters.

Hats off to our hardworking members who are demonstrating FGC commitment to community projects! Thanks to all who gave of their time and talents.



## Wreath Making at Joan's – November 16



Twelve Garden Club members participated in the annual Wreath Making hosted by Joan McArdle.



## Calendar of Events - Continued

### January 2012

<b>5</b> 10am to 12:15pm	Monthly Business Meeting	Rotary Clubhouse <i>Guest speaker-Jeanne Neshem from Village Nurseries</i> Topic: Pruning, trees, shrubs & plants	Joye Gephart Gail Fitzpatrick Sharon Barnett	
<b>19</b> 10:30 to 12:30	Dirt Gardeners at the Folsom Senior Center	Folsom Sr. Center Earlene Easley & Cindy Davis of Easley Nursery in Auburn Topic Houseplants & herbs – plants will be for sale	Gail Fitzpatrick Sharon Barnett	
<b>February 2012</b>				
<b>2</b>	Monthly Business Meeting	Rotary Clubhouse Ellen Zagory from UC Davis Arboretum speaking on "Gardening for Beneficial Insects and Pollinators"	Gail Fitzpatrick Sharon Barnett	

# 2011-2012 Board of Officers

## President

Joye Gephart

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents

Gail Fitzpatrick

And

Sharon Barnett

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Jan-Can Prendergast

## Treasurer

Sally Berry

## Recording Secretary

Joyce Roderick

## Recording Secretary Alternates

Daphne Ebbage

And

June Jones

## Preceding President

Erin Angulo

## Garden Club Websites

SRVD - The Sacramento River Valley District [www.srvd.org](http://www.srvd.org)

CGCI - [www.californiagardenclubs.com](http://www.californiagardenclubs.com)

National Garden Club - [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

"Bulb: potential flower buried  
in Autumn, never to be seen  
again."  
- Henry Beard

A huge thank you to Sally and Dennis Berry for the many hours of hard work on our Folsom Garden Club website: [www.folsomgarden.org](http://www.folsomgarden.org)  
Be sure to visit our website and see their outstanding work!



We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season

*Diane Stout and Dianna Leight*