



# Beyond the Garden Gate

## Elk Grove Garden Club

Volume 18, Issue 7, February 2026

### A Message from our Co-Presidents

Ana Weekley

As the hustle and bustle of December fades, January welcomes a fresh new year. Though the garden may seem quiet—wrapped in cold, foggy Valley days—there is comfort to be found. While mulching and pruning, a small bud appears, a gentle reminder of spring's promise and all that lies ahead. There is not a better pick me up than your garden.

Last month we enjoyed an informative and engaging presentation on rose pruning and care by Baldo Villegas, followed by a lively Q&A. He is very articulate extremely, well informed and very kind and patient to all of us, replying to all our questions.

We also shared an enjoyable cooking class, a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another better while learning to make Cottage Pie. The cooking class (and I know you all can cook) was lots of fun and we all learned something different. It was lovely that we got to know each other better.

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### Thursday, February 12

10am – social

10:30am – meeting begins

Gil Albiani Recreation Center  
8830 Sharkey Ave.

### February Speaker

UCCE Master Gardener Lori Anne Asmus – Shabby Chic Tillandsia

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### Refreshment Committee

**February** – Pat Baeta & Annajean Neill, Team Leaders; Silvia Boggs, Olinda Cortez, Brenda Hambree, Jennie Hertzler, Tami Leise, Karmen Loftis, Carol Roper & Sharon Saint

**March** – Marianne Folkers, team leader; Coleen Barnett, Linda Brett, Chris Duane, Kathy Krikorian, Gayle Martin, Mary Lee Trimmer, Ines Wright, Teena Yee & Juana Zamora

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## February Speaker

Lori Ann Asmus is a UCCE Master Gardener – ‘Shabby Chic Tillandsia’ is her talk.

What is a Tillandsia you ask? Tillandsias, commonly known as air plants, are low-maintenance, epiphytic perennials that absorb moisture and nutrients through leaf trichomes rather than roots.

Take good notes, we will have a selection of Tillandsias at our April Plant Sale. Bet you can't buy just one.



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## Cookie Sharing at the February Valentine's-Themed Meeting

From Silvia Boggs and Mary Adams-Wiley, co-chairs

**There is still time to join the Cookie Baking Crew** if you care to do so. Contact Mary Adams-Wiley, cell/text 925 200-3250 or email [adamswiley@me.com](mailto:adamswiley@me.com), indicate whether you are bringing about 2 dozen or 3 dozen cookies, and preferably do so before **February 9**. You will receive a confirmation note with more details.

There will be large rectangular tables for plates of cookies identified by name of the cookie and the baker. **Cookies are to be homemade only**; they can be any kind and any size. Please bring your recipe if you can so that others can photograph it. Cookies should be delivered by **9:45 am if possible**. All bakers will have a **"Cookie Baking Crew" tag added to their name tag and will be eligible to enter the first round of cookie selection ahead of others**. There will likely be 3 or more rounds. Treat bags will be provided.



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## February Birthday



Olinda Cortez	2/2
Ana Weekley	2/4
Karmen Loftis	2/15
Sandra Aldana-Evenskaas	2/10
Karen Lewis	2/26



Having two birth flowers enables people to choose the one they feel a stronger connection with based on appearance, fragrance, meaning or symbolism.

Violets represent the purity and loyalty that people born in February possess.

Primroses represent the rejuvenation and optimism that people born in this month embody.

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## April Plant Sale



**Looking for Decorative Pots** – If you have any old pots we can use to “up-sale” plants for the April Sale, please bring them to the February Meeting.

### Guidance for Growers – How to Get Started?



**Because it is now February and we don't have much growing time before our April 11 sale**, here are three suggestions for what you can do for this year's sale. You will be most successful if you wait until late January when plants start growing again.

1. **Divisions.** You can dig up and divide perennials such as iris, day lily, daisy, etc. Please do this soon, as the plants need time to establish in their one-gallon pots before we sell them.
2. **Cuttings.** Take cuttings of soft-wood or stemmy plants such as lavender, geraniums, etc. and root them in 6 packs or other small containers. The goal here is to have them grown enough to move to 4-inch pots at least 3 weeks before the sale so that they have time to establish good roots.
3. **Spreading annuals.** I happen to have LOTS of bachelor's buttons that reseed. Dig them up, put them in 4-inch pots and let them grow.

If you have plants that you can pot up but no space to grow them, contact Marianne Folkers who can help find a member who does have space for the growing plants.

If you have plants that might work but aren't quite sure how to go about the dividing/cutting/potting process, contact Marianne, Maria Schiffler or Vivian Sellers for assistance.

That's it! We look forward to seeing the wide variety of plants that are lurking in our gardens.

P.S. Labels, labels, labels! All plants need to be identified for the sale, so label EVERYTHING as soon as you start potting up plants. Labels are available at the meetings from Vivian.

Nancy Baldwin

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## More Alfalfa for Roses

We had some alfalfa pellets left over from the Rose Garden and will have them **for sale at the February meeting**. Each rose bush will need a 2 cup scoop which we will sell for \$1.00. Vivian will have pellets available before and at break. Last year we ran out, so get yours early. How many rose bushes do you have?

(Alfalfa pellets contain 'triaconitol' a fatty acid that stimulates new cane growth when worked into the soil after you prune.)

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## April Field Trip

Karen Lewis has arranged our field trip to Morning Sun Herb Farm @ 6137 Pleasant Valley Road, Vacaville, CA. <https://morningsunherbfarm.com/> the trip is scheduled for April 1, 2026. We will picnic in the Herb Farm picnic area afterwards. Rose (the owner) will provide her non caffeinated herbal tea. You will need to provide your own picnic lunch and if a passenger, \$10.00 dollars is suggested for your driver. Rose, anticipates this will be a good time since new spring vegetable, herbs, and flowers will be available for spring planting. Morning Sun Herb Farm will give us a 10% discount on our purchases. We will ride share from our traditional meet up at the Burlington Parking lot (on East Stockton Blvd and Bond Rd near Hwy 99) around 9:00 am to allow for traffic.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the February Meeting. Please indicate if you are willing to drive or will need a ride.



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## The Recipe Corner

I thought it would be fun to share our recipes. Especially those brought to the meeting that has been a "hit". So email your recipe to [vrsellers@frontiernet.net](mailto:vrsellers@frontiernet.net).

Mary only had a PDF for her 'State Fair Fruit Bars' recipe, so it is **attached as separate document**. But she did comment "And here is the bar recipe for the December meeting that Heather made for us. Instead of dried apricots, cherries and dates she did dried cranberries, candied orange peel, lemon peel and left in the pecans."

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## Sharing With Members

Have pictures or ideas to share with members? Just send me an email [vrsealers@frontiernet.net](mailto:vrsealers@frontiernet.net) . Deadline for Newsletter is 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

**From Nancy Baldwin:**

I found this today when I was on the computer and got sucked into scrolling.... the article was about idioms that are uniquely American.

**Green Thumb:** Meaning: Great at gardening

No need to rush your green-thumbed friend to the doctor — the expression simply means that they are excellent at growing plants. The term was first recorded in the *Ironwood Daily Globe* as “horticultural slang” in 1937. The British version of this is “green fingers,” which dates to the 1906 novel *The Misses Make-Believe* by Mary Stuart Boyd. There are several entertaining theories about where these phrases came from, but the most amusing involves King Edward I’s love of peas. Whichever of his workers had the greenest thumb did the most work (shelling the most peas) and would be honored. A more likely explanation is the color green’s association with plants, or the algae that grows on potted plants that gets all over gardeners’ hands.



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Snowdrops (*Galanthus*) are a romantic garden favorite. They are early season bloomers, along with being petite, dainty, and delightfully sweet.

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## February Garden Checklist

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By Jan Fetler



- Convert sprinklers to low water or drip systems.
- Check moisture of plants under eaves.
- Plant vegetable seeds outdoors: carrots, kale, lettuce, radishes, beets, chard, etc.
- Cut down and turn under vegetable garden cover crops.
- Continue pruning: dormant deciduous fruit trees, cane berries, blueberries, roses, and trees and shrubs that will flower on this year’s growth, such as salvia and butterfly bush. Finish by mid-February.
- Cut back ornamental grasses.
- Wait to prune woody plants that flower on last year’s growth, such as azalea and camellia.
- Plant summer bulbs like canna and gladiolus.
- Mulch 2 to 4 inches deep around plants to conserve soil moisture. Keep it away from stems or trunks.
- Snip winter prunings into 2-inch lengths for faster composting.
- Pull weeds before they flower and set seed.
- Continue fruit tree winter pest management, including dormant oil spray.
- Limit pests and diseases: aphids, slugs and snails, scales, and codling moth.

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## Calendar Upcoming Events

**February 14 (Sat.) 9am till Noon**  
**Master Gardeners Open Garden**  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks  
<https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=604924>

**March 7 (Sat.) 10 am till ?**  
**Perennial Plant Club Gardener’s Market**  
Shepard Garden & Art Center  
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sac.

**March 14** (Sat.) 9am till Noon  
**Master Gardeners Open Garden**  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks  
<https://sacmq.ucanr.edu/?calitem=604924>

**March 14/15** (Sat.&Sun.) 10am till 3pm  
**Sheppard Garden Spring Sale**  
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

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## **Sacramento River Valley District Meetings**

Meetings held at the Shepard Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento Open to all members. Cost is \$15.00 for meeting which includes lunch. A clipboard will be passed around at meeting for those who are interested in attending SRVD meeting.

**February 17, 2026** – IMPORTANT UPDATE: the California State Garden Club President (Adele Kelly) will be attending the SRVD (Sacramento River Valley District).

**May 19, 2026** – Laura Halpenny, Landscape Designer – “From Blah to Fabulous”.

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## **Elk Grove Garden Club Leaders**

Co-Presidents – Ana Weekley and Juana Zamora

Vice-President – Marilyn Peterson

Secretary – Mary Lou Lange

Treasurer – Susan Muckey

<https://www.elkgrovegardenclub.org/>

**Elk Grove Garden Club is a member of:**

Sacramento River Valley District  
California Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
National Garden Clubs Inc.

## **The Newsletter Team**

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## **This Month's Contributors**

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