

# THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

*"How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days."*

~ John Burrows



## Animal of the Month – Iguana

Iguanas are large, plant-eating, tree-climbing lizards that are commonly kept as pets. They are native to the Caribbean and Central and South America. The animals can also be found in the wild in parts of the United States.



These reptiles can grow up to six feet long and can live to around 20 years old. Iguanas prefer hot, humid climates and love to bask in the sun. They use sunlight to make vitamin D and keep warm.

They have excellent vision, which they use to find food in their forest habitats. They

primarily eat foliage and vegetation and use their small serrated teeth to grasp and shred their food.

In some traditions, iguanas are considered to be a spirit animal that symbolizes patience and kindness. Iguana meat and eggs are sometimes eaten in parts of the Americas.

## Special Days

**All Saints' (Hallows) Day**  
November 1

**Election Day**  
November 2

**Veterans Day (U.S.) & Remembrance Day (Canada)**  
November 11

**Thanksgiving (U.S.)**  
November 25

**Hanukkah Begins at Sundown**  
November 28

## Flower – Chrysanthemum



Chrysanthemums—also called “tansies,” “mums,” or “chrysanthos”—bloom in the fall, bringing extra cheer to colder climates when most flowers take a break. This hugely popular tropical flower, which comes in a range of sizes, gets its name from the Greek words *chrysos* (gold) and *antheon* (flower). Its membership in the *compositae* or *asteraceae* family puts it in the edible flower category along with daisies and sunflowers. They range in flavor from “peppery” to “cauliflower.”

## Birthstone – Yellow Topaz



Topaz, the birthstone for November, likely gets its name from the Red Sea's Island of Topazios (now called Zabargad). Pure topaz is a colorless or “white” stone.

However, it's often tinged with other minerals to create shades of yellow, pink, orange, and blue. It's most commonly found in shades of yellow—a shade Cleopatra was said to be especially fond of, since it reminded her of honey. The ancient Greeks associated topaz with strength. During the Renaissance, Europeans believed this was the stone to use to break a magic spell.