



THE WEEDER

AUGUST 2020

Volume 32 Issue 08

CALENDAR

We meet on the fourth Monday of each month, 7:30 pm at the Brentwood Community Methodist Church, 809 Second Street in Brentwood. Board Meetings are held on the first Tuesday (after the 1st Monday) of each month, 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Delta Informal Gardeners encourages gardening through education and beautification of the community.

2020 General Meetings

January 27 - Auction
February 24
March 23 - Canceled
April 27 - Canceled
May 18 - Canceled
June 22 - Canceled
July 27 - Canceled
August 24 - Canceled
September 28 Potluck Canceled
October 26
November 23
December 7 Holiday Potluck

2020 Board Meetings

January 7	July 7
February 4	August 4
March 3	September 8
April 7	October 6
May 5	November 3
June 2	November 24

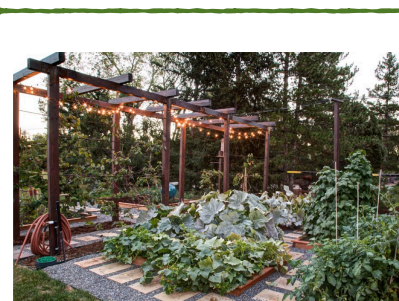
2020 Plant Sale: Canceled

President's Message

Here we are in August already and Fall is less than two months away (September 22 is the First Day of Fall). We still have plenty of heat ahead of us, but it is not too early to begin planning for our Fall gardens. Check the Contra Costa Master Gardeners "Planting Guide for Interior Regions" (<https://ucanr.edu/sites/ccmg/files/131284.pdf>) for recommended planting times and vegetable varieties for our area. There are a few vegetables you can start in August, but most Fall vegetables are started in September and October. Begin planning what you want in your Fall garden and order your seeds before it is too late. Have fun gardening, stay safe and hopefully we can meet as a group again in the not too distant future!

In spite of these difficult times, the Board is maintaining positive thoughts and we are evaluating how we can comply with the COVID 19 Regulations and still begin plant propagation in mid September for our Annual Plant Sale in May 2021. This will definitely be a different program than past years in order to meet State and County regulations. There will be limitations to the number of workers at a Propagation workday, workstation separation, masks, hand washing/sanitation, verification of individuals health each workday, etc. The Board will continue to investigate the situation and will make a decision at our September Board Meeting on how we will proceed in these difficult times. Stay tuned!

Bob Selders, President 



Dream Garden

What's your inspiration?

Send your photos to:

info@deltainformalgardeners.org

Board Minutes

Bob S called the August 4, 2020, conference call meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Included on the call were Bob S., Ginger, Chris, Robin, Kryssie, Pat, Steve, and Connie. 🌸 Minutes of the July Board meeting were approved as printed in the July Weeder. 🌸 Also joining us was Katherine Mustar, who is seeking assistance in her Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Katherine outlined for us her project at Shepard's Gate of building planter boxes and the plants she was interested in planting for the residents there. Katherine took questions from the board and we discussed how DIG could best help. 🌸 Ginger gave the treasurer's report and confirmed that she was to pay the rent at the church for July through December. 🌸 Chris reported that our membership now stands at 99 members. The Board had a brief discussion on cutting dues for next year. It was decided to table the decision until the October board meeting. 🌸 Bob added that publicity and field trips are still on hold. 🌸 Pat added that the Nominating Committee is still looking for a Vice President and a Program Director for next year. 🌸 Bob is working on a scheduling program for propagation so we can start up in September. 🌸 The Board continued the discussion how best to help Katherine in her project and a motion was passed to donate \$200 and suitable plants we have on hand. We will help her select the plants appropriate for our region. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Miller for Sue Castle, Secretary 🌻

MEMBERSHIP



Our new bright green, 2020 Members' Directories were printed in April and ready to be distributed right about when we all started sheltering in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, it would be cost prohibitive to mail these out to our members. We have no idea when our next membership meeting will be (Are you missing our speakers, too?) and propagation probably won't start until late September. If you would like to stop by my house to pick up a copy, I'd be happy to leave one on my front porch for you. Please call or text me at 925-234-0395 to set up a date. My address is 2925 N. Francisco Way in Antioch. Maybe you can stop by on your next trip to Costco. You might even want to pick up an extra directory for another member or two. Just let me know how many copies you will need ahead of time. If I'm home, you can even take a quick stroll through our backyard to take a peek at what has survived our very hot summer. I promise to be wearing a smile underneath my mask!

Chris Artz 🌸

Recipe

COOL YOGURT PIE

- 1 - 9 oz container Whipped Topping
- 2 - 5.3 oz containers Yogurt
- 1 - 9" Graham Cracker Crust

Fruit to garnish - optional

Allow the Whipped Topping to soften. Blend the Whipped Topping with the Yogurt in a large bowl, reserving a small about of Topping for garnish. Pour into the Graham Cracker Crust and smooth. Add the remaining Topping and optional fresh fruit as garnish. Turn the pie crust plastic cover over and place over pie. Refrigerate for several hours until firm. Remove from Refrigerator 5 to 10 minutes before serving.



Use any brand Whipped Topping or substitute whipped cream (from a can or fresh). Use your favorite flavor or style of yogurt. There are innumerable variations you can do with this quick and easy dessert.



Recipe courtesy of Robin Choate



Do you have a garden tip or recipe or photo to share?
Heard of an event or garden to go see?
Email it to info@deltainformalgardeners.org

AUGUST GARDEN TASKS

Courtesy of Green Acres Nursery & Supply
<https://idiggreenacres.com/blogs/articles/august-garden-tasks>

August Garden Tasks

The veggie garden is exploding, the grapes are starting to color up, and, thankfully, weed and insect pests are slowing down. For August, we have some advice for you on odd-looking leaves, fruit tree care, and getting ready for cool-season vegetables.

Sun Protection

It is very common this time of year for some leaves to start looking a bit worse for wear. If the majority of the leaves look good, and especially if the new leaves look good, the plant is probably just fine.

Some trees had too much fruit and that may have stressed or broke branches. If you lost some branches, there is risk of sunburn. Replace some of that missing shade by placing last winter's frost cloth in front of the tree. Also consider tree-safe paint. Tree-safe paint is water-based and can be almost any color, but lighter colors are best.

Pruning

Stone fruit trees do need and will benefit from summer pruning. Summer pruning manages tree size and encourages better, stronger branches for next year's harvest. Prune off suckers that grow where the trunk and soil meet to keep your tree strong and healthy. There are suckers that grow above the graft line, called water sprouts, and those also need to be pruned away.

While most fruit trees get significant winter (dormant) pruning, apricots and cherries are the exception. Now is the time for their biggest pruning of the year. By pruning now, cherries and apricots avoid certain diseases they could get from winter pruning.

For citrus trees, there is a "sweet spot" for pruning in the spring. Spring is when the risk of freeze has passed, but well before summer heat. For now, only prune suckers and water sprouts and thin heavy set of fruit to keep branches from breaking.

SHOW US YOUR GARDEN

Since we are Sheltering-In-Place let's share our "places" online. Post photos of your garden on [www.Facebook.com/BrentwoodDIG](https://www.facebook.com/BrentwoodDIG) so we can enjoy them with you. If you don't have Facebook or have trouble posting you can email them to info@deltainformalgardeners.org Here are a few we've already received:



Marilyn Lanfri's nifty herb garden is thriving on the east side of her house.



Robin Choate's favorite Geranium



Winter Veggies in August?

Is it really time for cool-season veggies? Yes! August is the month when you get to start the majority of your cool-season veggies from seeds. They need to grow a lot before it gets cold, so now's the time.

If winter gardening is just not your thing, we hear you. We recommend cover crops like vetch and clover to keep your soil healthy and alive during winter. Cover crops replace much of the nutrition that demanding summer vegetables took from the soil and they will out compete weeds! Let cover crops do the work of getting your soil ready to roll for next spring.

🍅 TOMATO BASIL SALAD 🍅

No specific amounts, just the ingredients to taste:

- Ripe tomatoes sliced
- Fresh basil coarsely chopped
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a bowl lay the tomatoes in a single layer, salt and pepper to taste, then sprinkle a layer of the coarsely chopped basil over the tomatoes and lightly drizzle olive oil over top. Continue this layering of tomatoes, salt, pepper, basil and olive oil until you have finished your ingredients.

Cover the bowl and place in the refrigerator for several hours. Enjoy!

DIG Membership

P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513

Please complete the membership form and return it with your dues to the address above or bring to the next general meeting.

Individual Membership.....\$20

Family Membership\$25

Make checks payable to DIG

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Email address(es) _____

Phone (_____) _____

_____ **New Member**

_____ **Renewal**

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