

THE WEEEDER

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 - Canceled
November 23 - Canceled
December 7 Holiday Potluck - Canceled

2020 Board Meetings

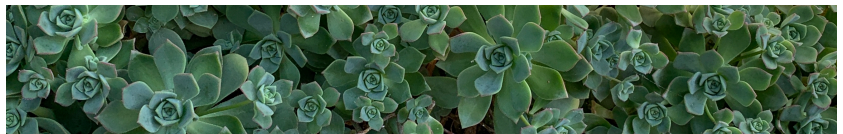
January 7	July 7
February 4	August 4
March 3	September 8
April 7	October 6
May 5	November 3
June 2	November 24

2020 Plant Sale: Canceled

President's Message

Another month has flown by and I hope this news letter finds everyone happy, healthy and safe! If you are like me, you haven't been able to spend much time in your gardens this past month because of the excessive heat combined with the numerous Spare the Air days caused by the excessive smoke from the many forest fires. Let's hope and pray for better weather this next month and fewer fires!

September is upon us already and under normal circumstances it would be the time we would begin propagation for our annual Plant Sale in May. The Board and Committee Members have maintained a positive attitude throughout the year that the COVID Pandemic would be under control by now, allowing us to begin propagation and have our plant sale. As you all well know, the Pandemic is far from being under control in our area. We have reviewed the State Guidelines for different types of entities to congregate and there is no predetermined box that our group fits in and the Guidelines specifically states that ...high risk individuals (65+ years old, compromised immune system, etc.) should stay away from a work place. The Board and Committee Members met for our Monthly Board Meeting, via conference call, on September 8, and decided that there will be no Propagation in 2020. We will discuss the feasibility of a 2021 Plant Sale again at our January 2021 Board Meeting. We all would love to be working together on Saturday mornings, but the slightest possibility of one of our members contracting COVID 19 when at one of our Propagation days would devastate each one of us. We have also canceled the remaining General Membership Meetings, including the December Holiday Potluck, for 2020. We will re-address when we can have General Membership Meetings at our January 2021 Board Meeting.



Stay safe and pray for an end to the fires, this Pandemic, and return to a much more normal life soon!

Bob Selders, President 🌱

Board Minutes

Bob S. called to order the conference call for DIG's Sept, 8, 2020 Board Meeting at 7:04 PM. Included on the call were Bob S., Connie, Ginger, Sue, Robin, Pat, Bob C., Steve. and Chris. 🌸 Bob S. brought up the subject of using ZOOM for our Board Meetings. He pointed out that we could see one another, which would help with not talking over one another. However, some individuals could access ZOOM, but others could not. 🌸 The Minutes of the August 4th Board meeting were approved as printed in the August Weeder. 🌸 Due to the current status of COVID-19, Fall Propagation and General Meetings, including the holiday potluck, were canceled for 2020. All activities are to be revisited at the January 2021 Board meeting. 🌸 It was suggested that the Field Trip Chair could do articles in the Weeder about the places DIG was considering for field trips. Members could visit the places on their own, in lieu of formal Field Trips. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurer's report, which was followed with a discussion of DIG's budget and monthly expenses. 🌸 Chris reported that membership stands at 99. DIG's Dues were discussed and because we are unable to meet and do a lot of the things we normally would do, it was decided to give Members the option to pay half or the full amount of dues for Year of 2021. Since DIG did not have a Plant Sale in 2020, our only source of income this year is our Dues. 🌸 Bob S. said that Martin Tucker is stepping down from his position as Scholarship Coordinator on the Board. Martin has held most positions on the Board and is a long time member. 🌸 Weeder articles are due by midnight on Thursday. 🌸 It was decided that DIG will use the Weeder and Email "Blasts" for the Nomination, Voting, and Installation of the Offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, for the 2021 Board. Nominations must be made by October board meeting by contacting Pat Moore. 🌸 Chairmen positions also open include Speaker Coordinator and Scholarships. 🌸 John Sierra's fence project at Heritage High School is still "On Hold." 🌸 Bob delivered plants to Katherine Mustar's Girl Scout Gold Award project at Shepards' Gate in Brentwood and said it was a very nice job. 🌸 Watering at the Wolfe Ranch will continue as is for the time being. 🌸 Robin suggested "Propagation Kits" as a way to keep members interested in propagation. The Kits would include instructions, perlite, rooting hormone, soil, and a 6-pack or small pots. Members would provide their own container. An email will be sent out to see if there is interest. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 🌻

MEMBERSHIP

The end of the year is rapidly approaching. Membership Dues remain the same as last year (\$20 per individual, \$25 per family) and are due by the end of December. However, we are aware that we haven't been able to have General Membership meetings, programs, field trips, etc. Therefore, due to these unique circumstances, the Board and Committee Members at our September Board meeting agreed to offer to the membership the option to pay the 2021 dues at half price which would be \$10 per individual or \$12.50 per family. With no Plant Sale this year and possibly none next year our dues take on a greater roll in our operating budget. So please pay your dues as soon as possible and no later than the end of this calendar year. As always, checks should be made out to **DIG** and mailed to **DIG, P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513, ATTN: Membership**. Thank you for your prompt payment.

Chris Artz 🌸

Recipe

🍓 Strawberry Bread 🍓

2 cups fresh strawberries
3 1/8 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups white sugar
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 1/4 cups vegetable oil
4 eggs, beaten
1 1/4 cups chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Butter and flour two 9x5 loaf pans.

Slice strawberries and place in medium bowl. Combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, salt, and baking soda in large bowl; mix well. Blend oil and eggs into strawberries with mixer. Add strawberry mixture to flour mixture, blending until dry ingredients are moistened. Stir in pecans. Put batter into pans and bake 45 to 50 minutes, until an inserted fork comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Turn loaves out of pans and cool completely before slicing. Makes 24 servings.



Recipe courtesy of Ginger Guider



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

SEPTEMBER GARDEN TASKS

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

September Garden Tasks

Ants, Lawn Care & Fall Planting Preparation

September gives us the gift of lowered temperatures to reward us for having gotten through August in one piece! By the end of this month, we will be mostly in the 80s and that is a huge relief to us and our plants. In September, there are some really enjoyable garden tasks that are quick to do and make all the difference for a healthy, happy fall garden. We'll talk ants, lawn, and fall planting preparation. Oh, and we haven't forgotten to add a fun project to the mix.

Rainfall is a distant memory, and ants love to set up their homes in dry soil. To give ants an eviction notice, check your soil to make sure you are watering deeply, and that mulch is thick enough to keep irrigation in the soil longer. If ants are starting to come in the house, check that mulch and other plant litter is pulled back from against the house by about six inches. Mulch right against the house provides ants with a covered entrance that encourages insects to walk right in and make themselves at home.

Mid- to Late September is a good time to put down lawn seed or sod. When air temperatures drop, and the soil is still warm, lawn seed and sod have a high rate of germination success. Our soils stay warm enough for germination all the way through October in our area.

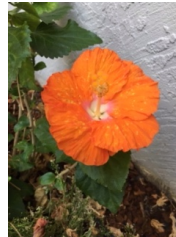
Garden Tip: Do not put down pre-emergents 90 days before or after putting in seed or sod. Pre-emergents will prevent lawn seed from germinating, and can stunt sod root growth.

September is the beginning of one of the greatest planting times of the year for trees and shrubs. Just like lawn, new plants really appreciate and respond to warm air and soil. Roots will expand to double or even triple their original size over fall and winter. Tree canopies will reach out and grow, providing critical shade protection to trunks and branches. With fall planting we allow plants to mature and really be able to handle next summer's intense heat and sun with ease. When plants are allowed to mature over fall and winter, they better resist disease, insect pests, as well as sunburn when next summer arrives.

You might have a little bit of work to get that planting site ready if it is bone dry and solid. Our gurus have some helpful tips for you: Gently sprinkle the area with water, then cover it with mulch to keep that water in the soil. Every now and again, sprinkle with more water and replace the mulch. This encourages earthworms, beneficial insects, and soil-loving bacteria to get busy and improve the soil for you. After a while you will find it is possible to dig the planting hole you need, and the soil will be in better condition, ready for your new plant.

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:



Other Tasks For September

- Take a little time out from the task list and fill your favorite pot with seasonal annuals like pansies, add mums or ornamental kale, and a tall grass to ring in fall. Extra room? Add a decorated pumpkin!
- Thin citrus fruit for healthier, larger fruit.
- Roses will love having spent flowers removed and give you a fresh season of blooms as a thank you.
- Relocate irrigation to water at the canopy edge (drip line) of plants that have been in the ground for six months. The drip edge is where thirsty roots are.
- Check a Vegetable Planting Calendar for which cool season veggies you can plant or sow by seed this month.
- Towards the end of September, you might need to reduce the number of watering days for fruit trees, as well as landscape trees and shrubs.



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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