

THE WEEEDER

OCTOBER 2020

Volume 32 Issue 10

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

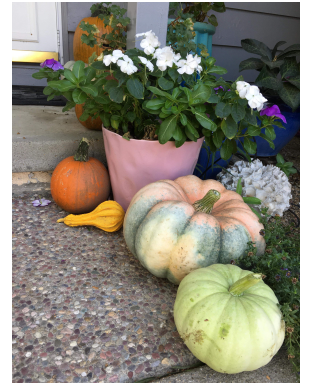
2020 Board Meetings

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

Fall is here, in spite of the recent hot weather. This year has gone by far too fast! I know everyone has missed the monthly meetings and the Saturday propagation get together, but hopefully 2021 will be a much better year and we will be able to meet once again. I want to thank the members who picked up plants and gave us generous donations for those plants. Enjoy the Fall, the holidays, and remember to vote on or before November 3rd! Stay safe, healthy and pray for an end to this pandemic soon.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

It's that time of the year already and the Nominating Committee has nominated the following individuals to be our 2021 Board of Directors:

Connie Miller, President
Robin Choate, Vice President
Ginger Guider, Treasure
Sue Castle, Secretary

Per our By Laws, we notify the membership of the nominations by our October meeting and ask the membership if there are any additional nominations from the Membership. We then vote and elect the officers at our November Meeting. Since we are unable to meet, we are doing the following process to elect the new Board:

If the Membership has anyone they want to nominate, in addition to the above, please send the name and position that you are nominating the person for, with their permission for this nomination, to Pat Moore (digitpat@yahoo.com), Chairperson of the Nomination Committee and copy Bob Selders (r.selders@yahoo.com). All nominations must be received by November 2. You can nominate yourself.

In the November Weeder we will provide the final list of nominees and ask the Membership vote by November 23 and we will induct the new Board at our December Board Meeting.

Bob Selders, President 🍃

Board Minutes

DIG's October 6, 2020, Board Meeting via conference call was called to order by Bob S. at 7:03 PM. Included on the call were Bob S., Connie, Ginger, Sue, Robin, Chris, Juli, Pat, and Steve. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurer's report. She reported that donations had been made at the recent member plant giveaway. Bob S. added that he expected additional checks are in the mail. 🌸 The Board approved the September 8th Board Minutes as printed in the Weeder. 🌸 Chris Artz reported that the 2020 membership stands at 99. Dues for 2021 are starting to come in. 🌸 Bob S. has offered to take the Scholarship position for next year and will train a new person for following years. 🌸 DIG received a thank you letter from Deer Valley H.S. senior, Andrew Ngu. Andrew was the recipient of DIG's Scholarship and will be attending U.C. San Diego this Fall. 🌸 In lieu of formal Field Trips, Chairperson Juli, will contribute articles to the Weeder with suggestions of places DIG members could visit as Do-It-Yourself field trips. 🌸 Robin asked if we should continue to share the Green Acres articles in the Weeder and was encouraged to do so. All articles and photos are due by Thursday. 🌸 The Member plant giveaway went well. Bob suggested that we move the remaining plants near the road with a sign to indicate they are Free with donations accepted. 🌸 The Nominating Committee proposes the following for the 2021 Board of Directors: Connie Miller for President, Robin Choate as Vice President, Ginger Guider as Treasurer, and Sue Castle as Secretary. DIG members can make other nominations. 🌸 Also discussed were composition of soil for propagation and watering needs at Wolfe Ranch. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 🌻

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of the year again...time to pay your membership dues! This year you have the option of paying your 2021 dues at half price ~ \$10 for an individual or \$12.50 for a family. This current decreased amount is because we haven't been able to provide monthly membership meetings with speakers, field trips, potlucks and all the other fun stuff we usually do. But, if you'd rather pay the normal dues, \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family, you will get no arguments from us! Either way, we'd greatly appreciate receiving your payment soon or no later than December 31, since this is our only source of income this year. Checks should be made out to **DIG, P.O. BOX 66, BRENTWOOD, CA 94513, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP.**

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to distribute our 2020 Membership Directories due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. Connie Miller and I both have a supply of these. If you'd like to pick one up, just call one of us and let us know when you'd like to stop by either of our homes so we can put a directory for you on our porch. Connie lives in Brentwood and her mobile number is [\(925\)420-5347](tel:9254205347). I live in Antioch and my phone number is [\(925\)234-0395](tel:9252340395). Come and get'em.....Free directories!!!

Chris Artz 🌻

Recipe

🎃 Pumpkin Bread 🎃

(Makes Three Loaves)

3 cups sugar
1 cup oil
4 eggs
1 lb. can of pumpkin (2 cups)
2/3 cup of water
3 ½ cups of flour
2 tsp baking soda
½ tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp cloves
1 tsp allspice
1 cup dates, chopped
1 cup walnuts, chopped



🌀 Blend sugar, oil, eggs, pumpkin and water in a large bowl and mix well.
🌀 In a separate bowl mix the remaining dry ingredients.
🌀 Use your hands to mix the date pieces with the flour mixture and be sure the date pieces are covered.
🌀 Add walnuts.
🌀 Mix the dry ingredients with the wet ingredients.
🌀 Pour the ingredients into 3 greased loaf pans and bake at 350° for 1 hour. Test for doneness then let cool before slicing.

Recipe courtesy of Celia Selders

FIELD TRIPS

It's been eight months since we have gathered for a field trip outing and I've missed the activity and social association. Many of us have probably spent more time in our gardens to keep busy and possibly stay away from television news, I know that I have. Since I cannot take you on an excursion, I'll share some indoor ideas.

As the next season comes, we have the opportunity to see change in the trees, plants, and wildlife around us as we ease into cooler weather. Maybe you are evaluating your garden and planning for next year or looking to grow winter vegetables. The Contra Costa Master Gardener group has posted two videos on their YouTube channel to help with these topics.

<https://www.youtube.com/cocomguc>

This time of year is sometimes referred to as the "second spring." It is an opportunity to add trees, perennials, and other such plants and give the roots a head start before the spring growing season. Fall is a great time to be in the garden while the soil is warm and weather is cooler.

Juli Redford 🌻

OCTOBER GARDEN TASKS

Courtesy of Green Acres Nursery & Supply

<https://idiggreenacres.com/blogs/articles/october-in-the-garden>

October is when summer's hot temperatures have finally left and now we can get so much done this month! We'll talk pumpkin and winter squash harvest, citrus care, and more on the best planting time of the year for trees and shrubs.

Pumpkins & Squash

Pumpkins and winter squash were planted nearly five months ago, and it's time to get them ready for recipes and decorating. Harvest is best when vines are yellow or dry, and stems are brown and dry. Give a good thump with your fingers for that hollow sound saying it is ripe. Using a sharp knife to cut stems, be sure to keep at least one inch of stem attached to prevent bacteria from entering the fruit.

Pumpkins and squash are perfect for long term storage, so cleaning and curing are important steps. Wash them after harvest to remove any surface bacteria that can cause rot, and then allow two to three weeks to cure in an airy spot, out of direct sunlight. Space each so they do not touch, and everything should stay fresh for many months to come.

Citrus Care

Citrus appreciates attention this month to ensure a good healthy harvest in winter. Fertilize in October, and then don't fertilize again until next February. Pull mulch away from the base to keep insect populations down and prevent the base from rotting.

Most important is to thin the fruit in October. Too much fruit can stress and break a branch. Thinning also allows for larger fruit by reducing competition. When thinning, cut the fruit, do not pull to avoid stripping tree and branch bark.

Fall Is For Planting

October is prime time for planting new trees and shrubs. Temperatures are cooler and the soil is warm, giving new plants months to mature before next summer's heat returns. Mature plants are able to fight off sunburn, disease and insects more efficiently when they are given time to develop large root zones and canopies.

Read on for more information on [Why Fall Is Ideal For Planting](https://idiggreenacres.com/blogs/articles/fall-planting). <https://idiggreenacres.com/blogs/articles/fall-planting>

To give your new planting the best start possible, we have excellent advice on how to choose and prepare your site with our [Tree Planting Guide](#).

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 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:

Chris & Robin are growing "Salad" in their new "Raised" bed.



Celia was prepping the basil she grew to make Pesto when this katydid strolled out of the bowl.

Recipe

CHOCOLATE PUMPKIN ALMOND TEA BREAD

1 2/3 cups flour
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 tsp. each cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves & baking soda
1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup pumpkin puree
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/3 cup water
2 eggs
1 cup mini chocolate chips, dusted with some of the flour
1/2 cup chopped, toasted slivered almonds

In a small bowl mix all dry ingredients together. In separate bowl, mix pumpkin, oil, eggs and water. Blend in dry ingredients, then stir in the "floured" chocolate chips and the almonds. Pour into greased and floured 9" X 5" loaf pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 15 min. Cake is done when toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean. Cool 5 min. and remove from pan to cooling rack. Then cool completely. Dust with powdered sugar.

Recipe Courtesy of Chris Artz

A special thank you to new member, Nan Kreeger, for not only watering our plants at the Wolfe Ranch recently but she also did a great job cleaning up all the weeds, dead leaves and debris around all the pots! What a wonderful Digger!

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** _____

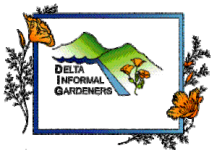
Email address(es) _____

Phone (_____) _____

_____ **New Member**

_____ **Renewal**

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www.facebook.com/BrentwoodDIG



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513