

THE WEEEDER

DECEMBER 2020

Volume 32 Issue 12

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

The year 2020 is almost past and it has been a year we will never forget! A year where we haven't been able to meet or propagate plants for our annual plant sale, plus a pandemic that significantly changed our lives and will continue to do so well into 2021. Not to mention the strangest and most stressful political year we have ever seen. I'm looking forward to 2021 with a vaccine to put the pandemic behind us, allowing for businesses to open again and our economy to recover and jobs returning. This process will begin in 2021 and the recovery will extend well into 2022 if not beyond, but I'm confident that our lives will get back to a time when we can freely gather and spend time with our friends and loved ones!



As my term as President ends, this will be my last President's article in the Weeder and I want to thank the Board Members and Chairpersons who have helped me over the past 2½ years. It has been my honor and pleasure serving as the DIG President and now I pass that honor on to our new 2021 President Connie Miller, who has previously served as President and multiple other Board positions over the years. Joining Connie on the Board is Robin Choate as VP, who has also previously served as President and various chairperson positions; Ginger Guider as Treasurer, who has served in this position for years, and Sue Castle as Secretary, who has also served in this position for multiple years. Returning to the Board are most of the same Chairpersons including Chris Artz: Membership, Juli Redford: Field Trips, Kryssie Dupuis: Publicity, Steve Hendrickson: Plant Manger Emeritus/Founder, Pat Moore: Nomination/Garments/Founder, Robin Choate: Assistant Plant Manager/Weeder Editor, Marilyn Lanfri: Hospitality, Bob Selders: Scholarships. Martin Tucker has stepped down from the Board after numerous years and positions. As you read through this list of Board Members and Chairpersons you may notice a theme, the members who serve, serve often in multiple positions for multiple years! When you see these people please express your gratitude to them for serving the Club and for keep it running. Without these people there would be no DIG, so please consider helping this team by volunteering and accepting the opportunity to serve on the Board or as a Chairperson of a committee. We can always use help and new ideas to make the club even better.

Celia and I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year and hope that we can all get together as a group soon, once this pandemic is under control.

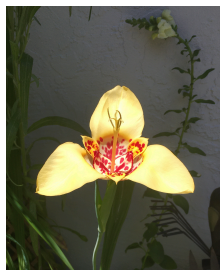
Bob Selders, President 🎅🌲🧊

Board Minutes

DIG's November 24, 2020 / December Board Meeting was called to order by Bob S. at 7:10 PM. Included on the call were Bob S., Connie, Ginger, Sue, Pat, Robin, Chris, Juli, and Steve. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurer's report, which included additional monies from donations and 2021 dues. 🌸 November's Minutes were approved as printed in the Weeder. Sue added that all the 501(c)3 donation letters had been completed and will be mailed in the next few days. 🌸 Membership for 2020 stands at 93. Chris added that 31 members have paid their dues for 2021. 🌸 Juli will write about a DIY Field trip for the Weeder. 🌸 Robin announced that 18 email and 4 verbal votes were returned for the 2021 Board election. Pat Moore installed the 2021 DIG Board as follows: Connie Miller as President, Robin Choate as Vice President, Ginger Guider as Treasurer, and Sue Castle as Secretary. 🌸 The Board discussed Donations, then unanimously voted to donate: \$500.00 to Brentwood's Community Chest, \$250.00 to Hope House and \$250.00 to Family Harvest Farm in Pittsburg. Brentwood Community Chest provides holiday meals locally. HOPE House is a food and clothing distribution ministry serving local individuals and families. Family Harvest Farm is a 3.5 acre working farm located in Pittsburg that employs transition-age foster youth ages (18-22). It is a program of John Muir Land Trust. 🌸 Next on the agenda was the Toy Drive. New unwrapped toys can be dropped off at Connie's or Juli's or Robin's house. Robin will send another e-mail blast to members reminding them of the Toy Drive details. 🌸 Robin extended the Weeder article due date to midnight on the following Tuesday, December 1st. 🌸 Bob reminded all that the next Board Meeting is January 5, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Happy Holidays!
Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 🌸



MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 93 members. A whopping 7 people sent in their dues since our November Weeder. Thank you to those 7 fine DIG members! Since we weren't able to have a plant sale last May, our treasury is dwindling. Please help us out and send in your 2021 dues as soon as possible.

Kindly send a sign up slip with your check to DIG, P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513. The fee is still \$20 for an individual; \$25 for a family. Or you can pay just half of the fee, this year only!! So what are you waiting for? Thank you.

D.I.Y. FIELD TRIPS

"Most people think of visiting a Japanese garden for cherry blossom season during the spring. But late November and early December are wonderful times to catch the fall colors at Hokone, when the maple trees turn fiery shades. The century-old 18-acre garden and estate was created in 1915 as an authentic replica of a samurai or shogun's estate. In the Saratoga hills, the gardens offer a serene respite. Stroll by the koi ponds, the moon bridge, bamboo gardens and other sights. Tickets \$8-\$10. Open 10 am to 4 pm weekdays. 11 am to 4 pm weekends. 21000 Big Basin Way, Saratoga. www.hokone.com" ... courtesy East Bay Times ...



Several years ago, I visited Hokone gardens in May and found it to be lovely place. The wisteria was in bloom and the koi approached whenever someone came near the pond, likely expecting food.

If a shelter at home order is in place, we are back to field trips in our own yards or a stroll around the neighborhood.

Juli Redford 🌸

THANK YOU S

To Connie Miller for volunteering once again to be our new President; to Robin Choate for offering to be our new Vice President (previously serving as president and continually serving as Co-Plant Manager, plant watering scheduler, editor of our Weeder and more); to Ginger Guider for volunteering again and again, year after year, to be our Treasurer; and lastly to Sue Castle for once again offering to be our Secretary which she has done for several years. These wonderful people are to be commended for being so dedicated to our gardening club. Without them always volunteering for offices, attending at least 2 meetings a month (before the Covid-19 Pandemic), showing up for all propagation sessions and work parties at the Wolfe Ranch, organizing our Holiday and Anniversary Potlucks, setting up and running our biennial auction, there would be no Delta Informal Gardeners. These dedicated members deserve fireworks for the numerous ways they support DIG. We need to show our appreciation to them by helping them with their duties whenever we can or volunteering to take on one of the many behind the scene jobs.

Chris Artz 🌸

DECEMBER IN THE GARDEN

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

Prevention With Benefits

December is when gardens calm. Many trees are bare of leaves, and dormant plants are content and undemanding. Also quiet are the diseases, pests, and weeds. In fact, they are so quiet they are nearly defenseless, which means now is perfect to prevent them from coming back. For December, we will focus on prevention through drip, mulch, and winter pruning.

Prevention might be easier than you think—you may already be doing dormant care prevention and not even know it! *Drip irrigation, mulch and winter pruning are key features of dormant care.*

Drip irrigation is a multi-purpose powerhouse that prevents diseases *and* pests *and* weeds. Diseases easily become airborne and land on your plants when splashed by sprinklers. Snails, slugs and earwigs thrive in moisture, and sprinklers put water everywhere, allowing these pests to be *everywhere*. When water is focused at the root zone, weeds aren't accidentally grown everywhere else. By using drip, we stop growing diseases, stop welcoming pests, and stop sprouting weeds—all while growing healthy, happy plants. This is prevention at its very best.

Pruning removes dead, diseased and damaged branches where diseases and pests wait and hide until spring to cause trouble. When we winter prune those branches away, we remove trouble breeding spots and encourage healthy wood. Pruning also opens up the tree canopy to increase air circulation—and that allows your plant to avoid powdery mildew and rust. As an amazing bonus, this pruning encourages higher flower and fruit yields that are more resistant to diseases and pests.

Prevention is so much easier and more affordable than trying to treat a problem later. Look at your drip, mulch and pruning practices with new appreciation for being the very best ways to prevent diseases, pests and weeds. Next year is looking better than ever!



Other Tasks For December

- ✂ Clean and sharpen your gardening tools.
- ✂ Harvest early-ripening mandarins, lemons and limes.
- ✂ Continue dormant copper and horticultural oil spraying.
- ✂ Asparagus can be planted in December.

Recipe

Chicken and Green Chile Enchilada Casserole

- 1 dozen White Corn Tortillas, cut in half
- 4-5 large Green Onions, chopped
- 2 - 4 oz. cans Diced Ortega Mild Green Chiles
- 1 can Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1-2 cans Chicken Broth, divided
- 4 Cups cooked Chicken, cut into bit sized pieces
- 1 lb. mix of shredded Cheddar and shredded Monterey Jack Cheese
- 1 small can sliced Black Olives, drained
- 1/2 cup or more Parmesan cheese

Sauce

In a bowl mix the 2 cans of chiles, cream of chicken soup, 1 can of chicken broth and green onions. Blend well. Set aside.

Spray a 13" x 9" baking pan with cooking spray. Arrange 6 of the halved tortillas to cover bottom of the pan. Sprinkle onto the tortillas 1/3 of chicken, cheese, olives and the sauce. Repeat 3 times. Top with Parmesan cheese.

If necessary, add more broth from second can to loosen mixture up, about 1/2 cup. Save rest of broth to add to the left over casserole.

Cover with foil that has been sprayed with cooking oil and bake at 400 degrees for about 40 minutes, until hot and bubbly. Let casserole sit for 10 minutes before serving.

Serves 6-8

Recipe Courtesy of Chris Artz



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** _____

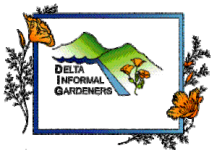
Email address(es) _____

Phone (_____) _____

_____ **New Member**

_____ **Renewal**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513