

# THE WEEEDER

JANUARY 2021

Volume 33 Issue 1

## 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.

### 2021 General Meetings

January 25 - Canceled  
February 22 - Canceled  
March 22 - Canceled  
April 26 - TBD  
May 24 - TBD  
June 28 - Potluck TBD  
July 26 - TBD  
August 23 - TBD  
September 27 - TBD  
October 25 - TBD  
November 22 - TBD  
December 13 - Holiday Potluck -

### 2021 Board Meetings

January 5	July 6
February 2	August 3
March 2	September 7
April 6	October 5
May 4	November 2
June 8	November 30

**2021 Plant Sale: May 8 - TBD**

## President's Message

Happy New Year and good riddance to 2020. It's been a tough year and I know we're all looking forward to a better year ahead. As I'm sure you all know, this Pandemic is still very much with us. The Board and Committee Chairmembers met via phone conference on January 5. It was decided we are still unable to hold our meetings or have any Saturday planting parties yet. As much as we all miss these events it is still unsafe to do so. We will re-visit these issues again at our future board meetings and watch what the local guidelines suggest.



In the meantime, we were thinking maybe some of you might like to try your hand at seed growing. It would mean working at one's home alone, but maybe sharing and/or trading seedlings with one another or maybe even we could have something like we did last spring. We will have seed packets available soon for anyone who might be interested. Look for Robin's e-mail blast coming soon with more information.

Did anyone have any success with propagating on their own, with or without the Propagation Kits DIG provided? We welcome any stories or pictures to put in the Weeder.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Selders for his outstanding commitment to D.I.G. Serving as President for the last 2 1/2 years he worked tirelessly planning events and organizing our many projects. He will remain on the Board as our Scholarship Chairperson. I know I speak for the whole membership in telling him how much he is appreciated.

I hope you all stay safe and healthy and I hope sometime this year we can finally get back to some kind of normalcy. I miss seeing you all!

*Connie Miller*, President 

## Board Minutes

DIG's January 5, 2021, Board Meeting was called to order by Connie at 7:05 PM. Included on the call were Connie, Ginger, Robin, Pat, Chris, Bob S., Juli, Steve, and Sue. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurer's report. 🌸 Brentwood Community Chest and the Discovery Bay Toy Drive sent thank you notes. 🌸 With regard to Membership, Chris said that only 48 members had paid their 2021 dues to date. An Email will be sent to members reminding them to pay their dues. 🌸 The December 2020 Minutes were approved. 🌸 Sue reported that all of the 501-3C donation letters had been completed and mailed. 🌸 Next on the agenda were Donations and Scholarships. Bob S. is compiling a list of the high schools in the Liberty Union High School and the Antioch Unified High School Districts. This year the \$1,000.00 scholarships will go to Freedom High School in Brentwood and to the Dozier-Libbey Medical High School in the Antioch. Other donations will be considered at a later date and will depend upon funds available. 🌸 Juli will have a personal field trip suggestion in the Weeder. 🌸 Robin asked for recipes and photos for the Weeder. 🌸 Connie has ordered seeds and will offer to members to try growing plants from seeds. Robin will send out an Email regarding seeds when they arrive, including planting procedures and possibly the location of a u-tube video demonstrating seed planting. 🌸 Ginger shared a tip on making biodegradable pots out of strips of newspaper to start seed in for plants that do not like being transplanted or re-potted. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Stay safe and be well, Diggers.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sue Castle*, Secretary 🌸

Flower Photo Credits: Juli Redford



## MEMBERSHIP

Time's up! Did you forget? Membership dues were due by December 31st and we only have about half of our members paid up so far. If you're not sure if you've paid yet, just give me a call at 925-234-0395 or email me at [cartz@comcast.net](mailto:cartz@comcast.net). Don't be embarrassed to call. I'd love to chat with you! When mailing in your dues, **please, please include a completed membership slip** so we are sure to have your current contact info. Checks should be made out to DIG and sent to: **DIG, P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513**. Currently dues are \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family. If you've already paid, thank you very much! Hopefully, DIG's post office box will soon be brimming with checks!

### Thank You

A huge thank you to the many members who have made very generous donations to our garden club this past year. You know who you are!! It's heartwarming to know that DIG means so much to our members. Your kindness is very much appreciated during such a tough year.

*Chris Artz* 🌸

## D.I.Y. FIELD TRIPS

Happy New Year! Let's hope by the end of this year, we can gather together again for our field trips. But for now, we are still asked to stay home and stay safe.

When cabin fever strikes, I suggest a short drive around town or to the edge of town. The rains have settled the dust and ash in the summer air and the hills are beginning to take on some green. There are camellias blooming around Antioch, mostly in the neighborhoods near the river. Some of the bushes are quite large!

Now is the time or enjoy seed catalogs or shopping online for seeds for your garden.

Do you want to improve your gardening skill? Since we are not holding DIG general meetings, you can still "attend" a lecture or lesson. Don't forget to look at the Master Gardener's website. <http://ccmg.ucanr.edu> They are currently offering an online class on vegetable gardening. Their YouTube channel is also helpful. <https://www.youtube.com/c/CoCoMGUC>

*Juli Redford* 🌸

## GARDEN TIPS

### How to make pots out of newspaper.

You can use these "pots" to plant seedlings directly into the ground without disturbing the plant and its roots. These are especially useful for plants that do

not like to be transplanted or have a tap root like lupine or California poppies.

Step 1: Cut newspaper (1/2 sheet) into thirds (top to bottom).

Step 2: Wrap 1 strip around a small tomato paste can\* with enough hanging over the end to fold in to make a bottom for the pot. Don't wrap it too tight; it has to be loose enough to remove the can.

Step 3: Fold the paper around the bottom of the can. It is nice to leave a little hole in the middle for drainage. Press the bottom down on something hard with force to enhance the folds. Dampening the paper is an option. Remove the can. Adding soil will strengthen the shape. I found this on the internet, but don't remember the website. I had fun trying different techniques. I used the Brentwood Press and folded the top down to double the thickness of the side and found that the top was sturdier. I had fun making them, and no glue or tape and completely biodegradable. –



*Ginger Guider* 🌸

\* I didn't have a can of tomato paste when I took the photo.

## JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

Courtesy of Green Acres Nursery & Supply

<https://idiggreenacres.com/blogs/articles/january-garden-tasks>

### It's Time To Prune

Winter provides gardeners the chance to reflect, recharge and plan new projects for the coming year. It's much easier to visualize and plan for seasons ahead while our gardens are fairly bare, making January perfect for pruning!

We frequently receive pruning questions from local gardeners. What should be pruned now? Why should we prune? How much should we prune? Should every plant get pruned in winter? (Hint: No.) It can be intimidating at first.

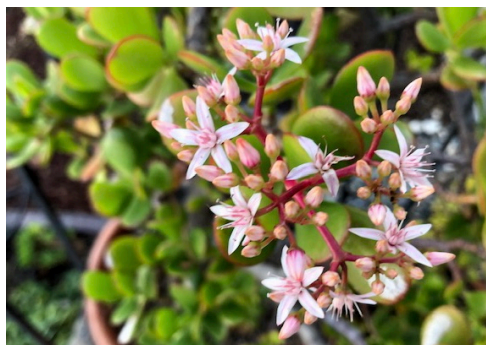
Winter pruning is for dormant plants because they can take a significant amount of pruning without going into shock. Roses, vines and stone fruits (except cherries and apricots) are especially well-suited to dormant pruning.

There are many reasons to prune your plants:

- Removing dead, diseased and damaged branches allows the plant to focus all of its energy on the good wood left behind.
- Pruning keeps your plants at a manageable size.
- Pruning opens up the plant, increasing air flow to reduce diseases, removes insect pests and disease-breeding spots, and allows more sun into the canopy. The fruits and flowers that are produced on a pruned plant are healthier, larger and more abundant.

How much should be pruned off in the dormant season? Each plant is different, but the benefit of dormant pruning is that dormant pruning is when you get to prune the most. When a plant is "awake" (fully leafed out), it's best to prune a limited amount, or the plant will be at risk for shock.

Plants that are not dormant, like citrus, should not be pruned in winter. Also resist the urge to prune away any freeze-damaged parts of plants; save that for early spring, when you prune non-dormant plants.



### Other Tasks For January

- Take the opportunity to add mulch & adjust drip lines while plants are bare.
- Plant Bareroots; including roses, fruit trees, and vines.
- Start seeds for transplant later or direct sow now.

## Recipe

### Spanish Almond Torte

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9" cake pan or springform pan (or use cooking spray); then line pan with a circle of parchment paper and grease or spray top of parchment paper.

3 eggs and 3 egg whites

1 cup granulated sugar plus 2 Tbsp.

¼ tsp. almond extract

¼ tsp. vanilla extract

½ tsp. salt

2 ½ cups almond flour

3 Tbsp. Turbinado sugar

1/3 cup sliced almonds



Whisk eggs, egg whites and sugar until frothy, about 1 minute. Stir in both extracts and the salt. Then whisk almond flour into egg mixture until completely blended. Pour into prepared pan. Sprinkle top evenly with Turbinado sugar. Sprinkle sliced almonds over the sugar.

Bake on rack in middle of oven for 45-55 minutes. Top of cake should be firm and brown.

Cool cake for 10 minutes. Flip over onto plate, remove parchment paper and then flip cake back over onto serving plate. Cool completely before serving. Torte can be served with crème fraiche or Mexican crema and fresh berries.

Recipe Courtesy of Roxanne Solak

*Highly Recommended by Chris Artz*

### Kitchen Tip from Pat Moore

To keep bananas from turning dark buy them green, put in a plastic bag, secure by twisting the end and put in a brown bag to keep out of bright light.



**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 NEW YEAR! 2021 Dues are due**



**P.O. Box 66**

**Brentwood, CA 94513**