

THE WEEEDER

FEBRUARY 2021

Volume 33 Issue 2

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

It's hard to believe it's been a year since this virus began and we've been under quarantine. In a normal year we'd be potting up cuttings and thinking ahead to our Annual Plant Sale. I can't say for sure what the year ahead holds for us or when we can meet again. I know many DIGgers will be ready when we're able to get together for our potlucks, meetings and work parties for future sales. I think we're all missing the camaraderie, finding new plants, and, *well*, Chris Artz's and other's baked goodies. I know I am. We will be back when we can, so hang in there. Thank you to those who are participating in the Seed program. Hopefully we will have good things to share later this spring.



Sushi visiting Grover Beach in 2019. Photo by Robin Choate

Did you know D.I.G.'s board is still meeting once a month via conference call? I'd like to keep you, our members, up to date on some good things going on. I'm happy to report that with savings, membership dues and donations from our membership only sale, we're able to keep up with our donations and scholarship programs. For those of you who may not be aware, D.I.G. awards two \$1000.00 scholarships to our high schools. One to the Antioch High School District and one to Liberty Union

High School District, rotating schools each year. We also made other donations last year to the Brentwood Community Chest, Family Harvest Farm, Deer Valley High School, East Contra Costa Firemen Assoc., Girl Scouts, and Brentwood United Methodist Church/Hope House. We are grateful to our very capable Treasurer, Ginger Guider, who budgets us very carefully for just such a rainy day as we're going through right now. Thus, enabling us to still be able to make these donations. We will continue to make donations this year too.

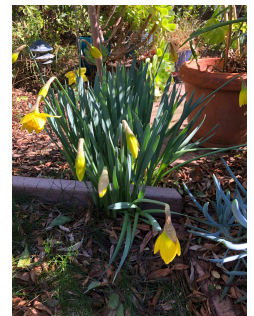


Photo credit: Connie Miller
"Am I early?"

I hope you're all enjoying your gardens. We've had some nice days to be outside. Stay well - and do a little rain dance! (We need some.)

Connie Miller, President 

Board Minutes

DIG's February 2, 2021 Board Meeting (via conference call) was called to order by Connie at 7:01 PM. Included on the call were Connie, Ginger, Robin, Pat, Chris, Bob S., Juli, Steve and Sue. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurer's report. Ginger added that Federal and State Income Tax forms have been submitted. She had also broken down the budget into monthly operating expenses which included Scholarships, expenses for a future Plant Sale, and the remaining monies. A discussion ensued regarding the continuation of payments of rent to the Brentwood Community United Methodist Church. The issue was put to a vote. Chris voted "no" and the rest of the Board voted to continue making the rent payments. 🌸 Chris reported DIG's 2021 Membership stands at 95, with 48 having paid their dues and 47 that have not paid. 🌸 The minutes of the January board meeting were unanimously approved. 🌸 Bob S. has reached out to Freedom High School in the Liberty Union High School District and the Dozier-Libbey Medical High School in the Antioch Unified High School District about our scholarships. 🌸 Juli has a couple of personal field trip ideas, but is always looking for suggestions. 🌸 In March Robin will send out an addendum to the membership directory with all new members and any updates to existing ones. 🌸 Connie still has seeds, but has given out a bunch. It was decided that 4 inch pots would be good for seedling/plant sharing in late April or May. 🌸 The meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Stay safe and be well, Diggers.
Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 🌸

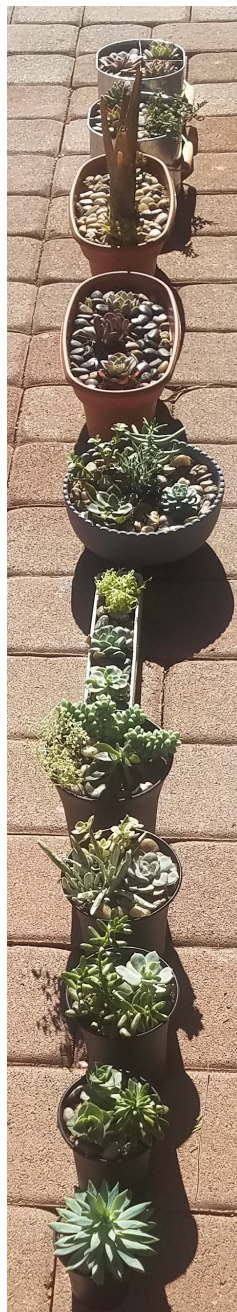


Photo Credit: Amy Buck from her new home in the desert.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 48 paid memberships so far and 47 who have not rejoined. Please call or text me if you're not sure if you have paid at [925-234-0395](tel:925-234-0395) or email me at cartz@comcast.net. Please include a sign up slip with your current contact information along with your check, \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family, and mail to DIG, P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513, ATTN: Membership. Thank you and happy gardening!

Chris Artz 🌻

D.I.Y. FIELD TRIPS

YAY!!! The stay-at-home order has been lifted and spring is around the corner!

Here are a few places to visit when the weather is pleasant. (By reservation only)

Filoli, is a lovely estate with beautiful gardens. It's been several years since I have visited but as I view the website, it's still as gorgeous as ever. While planning your trip, look on website and you can see what is currently in bloom. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a California State Historic Landmark, "Filoli's mission is to connect our rich history with a vibrant future through beauty, nature, and shared stories."



"It is nestled on a slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains and surrounded by more than 23,000 acres of the protected Peninsula watershed." Tickets must be purchased in advance.

86 Canada Road, Woodside, CA 650-364-8300
www.filoi.org



A few years back, we enjoyed a field trip to the U.C. Botanical Gardens at Berkeley. While many of the paths are hilly, the plants, flowers, and the view of the bay were enjoyable. If hills are not for you, look on the website to view February Virtual Programs. One program runs February 1-28, "Plants Illustrated 2021 A Virtual Exhibit of Extraordinary Plants."

200 Centennial Drive,
Berkeley, CA
510-643-2755 Visit By
Reservation Only



Juli Redford 🌸

GARDEN TIPS from Pat Moore

Spray fish emulsion on your roses,
it will help them resist powdery mildew.



FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

Courtesy of Green Acres Nursery & Supply

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

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN IS THE BEST KIND OF BUSY, with new bareroots to get planted, existing roses to prune, and yellowjackets to prevent. We've outlined a few garden tasks that will help build the foundation for a fruitful growing season by preventing disease and insect pests.

Planting Bareroots

Barefoot fruit trees, roses, and vines are frequently planted in recycled, biodegradable pulp pots to protect the roots and keep them from drying out. When you're ready to plant, simply score the container so the roots can spread easily, amend the soil, and plant.

Rose Care

To keep your roses performing and blooming at their best, this is the time to be sure all roses have been pruned. By removing dead, diseased and damaged canes, you are doing the number one job to prevent diseases and insect pests. Your roses will thank you all year long for the winter pruning you do now.



Pest Prevention

The first warm days in late winter and early spring are the ideal time to put out yellowjacket traps. This is when the queen and early workers are easiest to trap, and will stop new colonies from forming. Our [Rescue Disposable Yellowjacket Trap](#) has the bait that the University of California recommends as a yellowjacket lure that won't harm honey bees. Follow the package instructions for ideal placement and efficiency.



"Salvia" Photo Credit: Robin Choate

Other Tasks For February

- 🌸 Begin fertilizing citrus with an organic option.
- 🌸 If it doesn't rain for a week or so, schedule time to deeply irrigate, as needed.
- 🌸 Control mosquitoes by emptying standing water.
- 🌸 For weed prevention, now is the ideal time to add more mulch, keeping it at least three inches deep, but away from the base of the plant.
- 🌸 Be sure to check irrigation for leaks that may be keeping areas too wet, which encourages weeds.

RECIPE



PINEAPPLE ZUCCHINI CAKE

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup sweetened flaked coconut
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- freshly grated nutmeg to taste, optional
- 1 pinch ginger, optional
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups grated unpeeled zucchini (remove seeds if the zucchini is large)
- 1 (20-ounce) can crushed pineapple in juice, drained (reserve juice in case you need it for the cake batter or frosting)

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING:

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- splash of milk or pineapple juice, if necessary

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Spray a 9×13-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, coconut, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg and ginger.
3. In a small bowl, beat together the oil, eggs and vanilla. Add the mixture to the flour mixture, as well as the zucchini and pineapple. Stir until it all comes together. It might seem too dry to start, but continue to stir. If the batter is still dry, add a little bit of the pineapple juice to loosen it up.
4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake until a tester inserted in the center comes out clean, 30-35 minutes. Cool completely.
5. To make the frosting, beat the cream cheese and the butter together until light and fluffy. Add in the powdered sugar, beat to combine, then beat in the vanilla. Spread the frosting over the cooled cake. Store the cake covered in the refrigerator.

Recipe Notes:

Found on Pinterest from [Tasteandtellblog.com](https://www.tasteandtellblog.com)

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**

2021 Dues are due



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513