

# THE WEEEDER

MARCH 2021

Volume 33 Issue 3

## 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 - Canceled  
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: CANCELED**

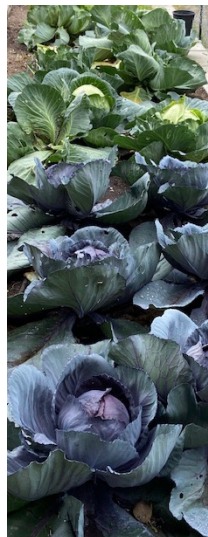
## President's Message

Many people are asking if we will be having our Plant Sale this year. Once again, due to the pandemic, we have decided at our March board meeting to officially cancel this years sale. We are all sad to have to do this. Our plant sale is such a popular event not only for DIG members but also for our community. Yes, California is loosening the restrictions and things are improving, but just not enough to be able to accommodate the crowds and many group work hours needed to proceed. We remain hopeful that in the coming months normal life will return. We all miss our monthly meetings and Saturday work days.

That being said, and if circumstances allow, we would still like to do something with DIG members similar to what we did last Spring. Something in the way of trading and sharing what we are growing at home. If you are growing seeds or have other plants you'd like to share please e-mail me and let me know what you have. We are still in the planning stages, but hopefully we can gather enough plants to put together something. I know the seeds I've planted have taken off and I'm eager to share them. Also I'm happy to make labels for plants you are growing. Please e-mail me plant names and number of labels you need. I know we'd all rather be working together, but let's do what we can.

I'd like to give a shout-out to our founder Pat Moore who will be celebrating her birthday this month. Thirty three years ago Pat founded D.I.G. and we are grateful for you, Pat. Wishing you a very Happy Birthday.

*Connie Miller*, President 🌿



Photos of Bob & Sue Castle's vegetable garden

## Board Minutes

Connie called to order DIG's March 2, 2021, Board Meeting at 7:00 PM via conference call. Included on the call were Connie, Ginger, Robin, Pat, Bob S., Juli, Steve, and Sue. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurer's report. Ginger added that we had received a thank you note from the John Muir Land Trust for our November 2020 donation of \$250.00 to their Family Harvest Farm. 🌸 During Chris' absence, Ginger made the Membership report. DIG's Membership now stands at 51 paid members, an increase of 3 paid members. 🌸 The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of DIG's February board meeting as printed in the Weeder. 🌸 Bob S. spoke on Scholarships. Freedom High School's Awards/Scholarship Night will be May 20<sup>th</sup> and Bob S. will make the presentation. Dozier-Libbey Medical High School in the Antioch Unified High School District had not yet scheduled their Awards/Scholarship Night and will let Bob S know of the date. Each school will decide the recipient for DIG's \$1,000.00 Scholarship. 🌸 Steve, the Plant Manager, said that our large May Plant Sale will not be possible. A discussion ensued regarding different kinds of plant sales; maybe a casual sale, a pop-up sale, a combined yard & plant sale, or a members only sale. 🌸 Juli's latest D.I.Y. field trip – The Markham Arboretum in Concord. 🌸 A discussion regarding how to add interest to the Weeder followed. Pat noted that years ago DIG had printed a Recipe Book that corresponded to the "In Season" fruits and vegetables that grow in the area. She will look for a recipe from it for the Weeder. It was suggested we reprint the cook book as a fund raiser. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Stay safe and be well, Diggers.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sue Castle*, Secretary 🌸

## MEMBERSHIP

We have 51 paid memberships so far. 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](mailto: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

Oh, how lovely is the sunshine, Oh, how lovely is the rain, Oh, how lovely are the plants that come in spring!

A few weeks ago, I found an article in the February edition of The Pioneer (Concord/Clayton) periodical. It highlighted the Markham Nature Park in Concord.



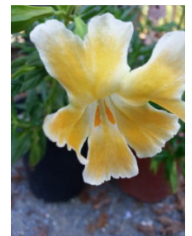
“A hidden gem, the Markham Nature Park and Arboretum is a 16-acre, walkable nature sanctuary that borders both sides of Galindo Creek, situated off Cowell Rd. right in the middle of Concord. The arboretum is filled with more than 600 trees from dozens of different species, many of which are more than 50 years old. Some trees are native to California and others come from parts of the world with similar climates.”

“In the spring of 2002 the garden's stunning wisteria arbor was finished and dedicated to Bud Hanson, a local builder and lifelong resident of Concord. His father, John Hansen, had built an 800-foot wisteria pergola around Todos Santos Plaza back in the 1930s, and Concord held annual wisteria festivals there until the 1950s.”

“With plenty of green lawn in the center, the garden features a perimeter with lovely pockets of shrubs, flowering plants and small trees from around the world. A walking path takes you on a landscape journey through South Africa, Australia, Southeast Asia, the Mediterranean, Northern Europe and South America, as well as all four corners of the USA. Artists appreciate the flat rocks, benches and border walls to sit and sketch the striking scenery. The garden feels like a spectacularly secluded place for quiet solo time to read, meditate or watch the squirrels and hummingbirds dart about. With every visit, no matter what time of year, you're sure to spot something wonderful that you missed before.”

See their website for walking tour and tree identifying maps. Classes & plant sales are not open at this time, but I'll keep I eyes open for a future field trip event.

Markham Nature Park & Arboretum  
Website: <http://markhamarboretum.org/>  
1202 La Vista Ave,  
Concord, CA 94521  
Parking and admission are FREE!!  
Open from dawn till dusk, 365 days a year



*Juli Redford* 🌸

## GARDEN TIPS from Pat Moore

For an allergy sufferer good plants for the garden are azaleas, pansies, and tulips. These plants are pollinated by bees instead of the wind, so less of their pollen is airborne. 🌸🌸🌸

# MARCH IN THE GARDEN

Courtesy of Green Acres Nursery & Supply

<https://idiggreenacres.com/blogs/articles/prepping-your-garden-for-spring>

## What's A Gardener To Do In March?

Spring is already here, but it's early in the season—still plenty of time to ready your garden for the coming months. Take care of your plants and amend your soil now to stimulate healthy growth, protect against pests, and prepare for the summer heat.

## Irrigation Tune-Up

Check irrigation for leaks and make necessary repairs. Research timer options and install to simplify following your local watering guidelines during the summer months. Consider converting to drip irrigation, which slowly applies water to the root zone to avoid runoff.

## Get Ahead Of The Weeds

Get ahead of weeds now by pulling by hand and applying a pre-emergent.



## Divide Bulbs

It's the right time to divide some plants like agapanthus, daylilies, irises, Fortnight Lily, and traditional lilies. When clumps start to look overgrown, producing less blooms, or when rhizomes start to grow into each other and pop up from the soil,

it's time to divide and conquer. As a general rule, every three to five years is a good guide to review and divide as needed. You'll have new plants to fill some empty space.

## Fertilize Roses

Fertilize roses, annuals and berries when spring growth begins. Spring feeding is important to stimulate new growth and promote flowering. Look for an organic fertilizer with humic acids and beneficial soil microbes like mycorrhizal fungi (for root growth).

## Other Tasks For March

☘ As weather permits, prepare beds for planting by cutting down cover crops and adding compost and soil amendments.

☘ Watch for early signs of powdery mildew on grapes, roses and ornamentals. Treat as needed with a copper fungicide.

☘ Prevent codling moths! Hang pheromone traps in apple and pear trees.

☘ Check roses for aphids. Control them with a strong spray of water, insecticidal soap, or neem oil. Or, let lady bugs and lacewings do the work for you.

☘ Feed young citrus trees monthly through June with a balanced organic fertilizer for citrus and fruit trees.

☘ Clean debris from fountains, bird baths and hummingbird feeders.

☘ Add a layer of mulch to retain moisture and keep the soil cool as the temperatures warm. It's one way you can save on your water bill.

# RECIPES

*It's not corned beef, but it does have cabbage.*

## Top Ramen Chicken Salad

- 6 Cups Cabbage – Diced
- 4 Green Onions - Chopped
- Chicken – Cooked & cubed (Qty: 1 – 2 Cups or more)
- ¼ Cup Slivered Almonds (optional: toasted in Peanut Oil)
- ¼ Cup Sunflower Seeds
- 1 Package Top Ramen Noodles  
—Uncooked & crumbled



☘ Mix in large bowl

- ½ Cup Peanut Oil
- ¼ Cup Vinegar (regular or cider)
- 1 Seasoning Package from Top Ramen
- 3 Tbls Sugar
- 1/2 tsp Salt
- ¼ tsp Ground Pepper

“Cabbage” Photo Credit:  
Sue Castle

☘ Mix together and pour over cabbage mixture.

☘ Refrigerate over night.

Recipe Courtesy of Robin Choate



## PARMESAN ROASTED ASPARAGUS

- 2 ½ pounds of fresh asparagus ( about 30 large stalks)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- ½ cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic (optional)
- 2 lemons cut into wedges for serving

Preheat oven to 400 degrees

Lay the asparagus in a single layer on a sheet pan and drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and chopped garlic. Roast for 15 to 20 minutes until tender. Sprinkle with the grated Parmesan cheese and put in the oven for another minute to melt the cheese.

Serve with the lemon wedges. Serves six.

Recipe Courtesy of Celia Selders



Taste tested, photographed, and approved by Robin Choate. Yum!

**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**



**P.O. Box 66**

**Brentwood, CA 94513**