

THE WEEEDER

APRIL 2021

Volume 33 Issue 4

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 - Canceled
June 28 - Picnic - Plant Exchange
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

Here we are in April already. Beautiful days, plants blooming, and we unfortunately have no plant sale. But this year will be an anomaly for DIG, just this year. We will certainly be back with our May sale next year, barring any more catastrophes.

In the meantime, we cannot ignore the rest of 2021. Let's plan on a picnic this year on June 28th at Wolfe Ranch. We will call it a picnic this year instead of a potluck; bring your own food, not to share this time, but just for yourself and your family. Also, of course we can't forget our Curious Container Competition. If you're new to DIG and aren't familiar with this, just think of a container not customarily used for plants. These will serve as our centerpieces too and will also go back home with you. It's always very fun, but if you don't want to bring one that's OK too. Just come and have a good time. See some old friends. More details will follow.



We do have some plants (annuals) to give away to members who want them. Rather than devoting a day for that as we did last year, the board thought that our June potluck/picnic would be a good time to distribute any giveaway plants. If you have extra plants you want to share you are welcome to.

You may want to keep an eye out for Robin's email blasts too. We may be having some pop-up Saturday work days coming up. What for you ask?? Well, we are winging it this year so stay tuned.

As long as the pandemic continues to fade, we're feeling good that in the Fall we can get back to normal with Saturday propagation and we may be having meetings by then too. And wait - yes - maybe even a small Fall plant/garden sale. This would be a first for DIG and it's still in the thinking and planning stages, so again, stay tuned.

Connie Miller, President 

MEMBERSHIP



To date we have only 59 paid memberships and 36 unpaid. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please send in your check made out to DIG as soon as possible. Dues are still \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. Mail your check with a **completed membership slip** to DIG, P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513, ATTN: Membership. Not sure if you've paid yet? Just give Chris a call at 925-234-0395. Thanks and Happy Spring!

Chris Artz 

FIELD TRIPS

Last month in the Weeder, I wrote about Markham Nature Park in Concord. It's just a short drive away and free admission. Now that the restrictions have lightened I'd like to propose a field trip. We can all take separate vehicles and bring our own lunch so that we are social distancing.



Thursday, April 29th. We will meet as usual at the BART Park and Ride lot on Walnut Blvd. in Brentwood and LEAVE at 9 a.m. **Please call me and let me know if you are interested -**

Juli Redford 925-323-5854.

Markham Nature Park & Arboretum

Website: <http://markhamarboretum.org/>

1202 La Vista Ave, Concord, CA 94521

Parking and admission are FREE!!



Juli Redford. 

Board Minutes

Connie called to order DIG's April 6, 2021, Board Meeting at 11:12 AM. The Board Meeting was held at Wolfe Ranch. Attending the Meeting were Connie, Robin, Chris, Pat, Bob S., Cecilia, Juli, Sue, Bob C. and Dan. 🌸 In Ginger's absence, Chris gave the Treasurers' report. 🌸 Chris added that Membership stands at 59 paid members. 🌸 Juli said she would have a field trip suggestion this month in the Weeder and members can carpool or drive independently. 🌸 The Board unanimously approved the DIG's March Minutes as printed in the Weeder. 🌸 Connie asked that Pat coordinate the ordering of garments with DIG's logo. Members may order and purchase tee shirts, aprons, visors, caps, etc. 🌸 Per Bob Scholarships are proceeding and he is awaiting final word from the schools. 🌸 A discussion on Donations followed. Since DIG is not bringing in any money this year, the Board decided to hold off on donations at this time. Donations will be revisited in June.

🌸 In lieu of our normal Potluck we will have a Picnic on Monday, June 28, at the Wolfe Ranch. Members will bring their own food, drink & dessert (no sharing yet). We will have our usual "Curious Container" contest and a plant exchange. Set up is at 5 PM and the Picnic begins at 5:30 PM. Current social distancing guidelines will be followed. 🌸 Under new business the Board discussed several items: the possibility of a Pop-Up Saturday Workday at Wolfe Ranch. The work would include bringing your own seedlings or hold-over plants from 2019 that need division and up potting to new pots. 🌸 The other item discussed was a possible small scale POP-UP Plant Sale in the Fall. Further discussions included quantity of plants, organization, the need for home grown plants, advertising, e-mail blasts and communication. No decisions have been made and further discussion is needed. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 PM.



Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 

General April Garden To-Do List

- If you planted vegetable garden cover crops, cut them back and turn them into the soil prior to planting.
- It's time to turn your compost pile, start a new compost heap, and add compost around your plants.
- Proactively set out sticky traps to catch common insect pests like Whiteflies, Aphids, Leaf Miners, and Thrips.
- Pull up early weeds before they establish themselves or use organic weed control methods to eliminate them.
- If you planned to use a drip irrigation system, begin setting things up.
- Don't forget about your lawn. Keep it thriving by aerating and overseeding grasses. Have your lawn soil tested for pH and fertilize accordingly with an organic fertilizer.
- Divide and transplant perennials that have overtaken their space in the garden beds.
- Assess if your spring bulbs will need dividing. Make a note in your garden journal. Digging up and division of bulbs should only be done after the foliage has withered and browned.
- Plant your summer flowering bulbs and dry root plantings.
- Spread an organic fertilizer around shrubs and perennials. Be sure to use an organic fertilizer to treat the soil and microbial life rather than just the plants.



TOMATO PLANTING RECIPE



To grow great tomatoes, the first step is to planting them right.

1. Plant them deeper in the ground that you might think. Trim off the lower leaves, leaving the top third of the leaves in place. Dig a hole that is deep enough to bury the whole plant then just a little deeper!
2. Into the hole add: a handful of organic vegetable fertilizer, a handful of bone meal, a handful of worm castings, a couple of pulverized egg shells and two or three uncoated aspirin tablets. If you have one, you can also add a fish head.
3. Cover these amendments with a couple of handfuls of soil. Carefully place the plant so that only the leafy top is above the ground. Create a water basin around the plant and water GENTLY but thoroughly.
4. Add a stake or cage firmly seated in the ground before the roots form. This will prevent you from damaging the roots later. More roots will develop where the lower leaves were removed so the large root system will be strong enough to support a healthy plant.

Plant tomatoes when the soil temperature is at least 60 degrees or generally in May.

Source: In February 2021, I attended a webinar hosted by East Bay Times columnist Joan Morris with two Master Gardeners. Master Gardener Janet Miller oversees and manages the demonstration garden in Walnut Creek called "Our Garden." She shared her recipe for tomato planting. This information and more was printed in the East Bay Times on Sunday, February 28th. How to Grow Great Tomatoes by Joan Morris – East Bay Times writer and Master Gardener.

Juli Redford

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: PAT MOORE

Several months ago I did an article on Beverly and Martin Tucker's long history supporting the Delta Informal Gardeners. At that time I said that I would feature other long time active members of DIG. This article is on Pat Moore, a Founding Member of DIG!

DIG as we know it today would not be here, had it not been for Pat in 1988 simply inquiring at Norm's Brentwood Nursery if there was a garden club in Brentwood. Pat was introduced to Steve Hendrickson, who just happened to be shopping at the nursery that day. They didn't waste time, between Pat, Steve and Carol Hendrickson, and a life time friend of Pat's - Kaye Rosso, DIG was formed. Kaye was active with and helped form the San Francisco Cactus and Succulent Club, Heather Farms and the Ruth Bancroft Gardens. Kaye was experienced with the formation of each of these three organizations and with her expertise in this area, she prepared the Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and all the required paperwork to establish the name and organization with the State for DIG. Another founding member, George Dwelley, came up with the club name, Delta Informal Gardeners, concentrating on a relevant acronym, hence DIG! The first club meeting was held on June 25, 1988, with 14 persons attending and Pat serving as the first President. The newly formed DIG didn't waste time and held the First Annual DIG Plant Sale in August 1988 at the Brentwood Harvest Festival in City Park.

It took a world wide pandemic to disrupt DIG's monthly meetings and Annual Plant Sale, but we are confident that once we return to some sort of normalcy the Club will be strong again and continue our Annual Plant Sale. The Garden Club has been Pat's love and passion over the past 33 years. Pat has served as President and numerous other jobs to help the club grow to the great club that we all love and have helped to prosper over these past 33 years.

Other than being an original founder of DIG, who is Pat? Pat was born and raised in Oakland. Pat and Roger met on a blind date in December 1961, they became engaged in February 1962 and were married in August 1962. Roger worked for the Lawrence Livermore National laboratory for 50 years before retiring and also consulted for the Lab for a number of years after retirement. When they were first married, they lived in Concord, until they began looking for a home a little closer to Livermore. They looked in Discovery Bay, when the development first opened, and put a deposit on a lake lot. On the way back to Concord that day, they stopped in Brentwood and saw a new development on Oak Street. They liked Brentwood and put a deposit on one of the Oak Street lots. Pat laid out a floor plan for their new home and they hired a local builder to build their home. In 1975 they moved into that home, where Pat has lived for the past 46 years. During that time Pat and Roger raised their son, Jason. In the 1980's Roger did his civic duties, first serving on the Planning Commission and was then elected to the City Council, also serving as the Mayor. Pat and her family made Brentwood their home and also made significant contributions to the betterment of our community over the past 46 years and will continue to do so.

Thank you Pat, for asking that simple question at Norm's Brentwood Nursery in 1988, meeting Steve and Carol, involving your lifetime friend Kaye Rosso and forming the Delta Informal Gardeners!

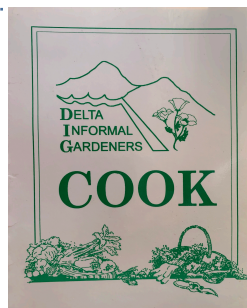


Bob Selders



Spring Garden Pruning

- Prune flowering shrubs after they have finished blooming.
- Do a hard pruning of overgrown shrubs.
- Pull out any partially dead shrubs or do a hard prune in an attempt to rejuvenate the plant.
- Cut back spring ground covers like carpet phlox after they have finished blooming.
- Check plants regularly for signs of pests and disease. Prune damaged limbs and dead portions of shrubs.
- If a plant needs to be relocated, now is the time to do it.



Did you know that DIG once published a cookbook?

We'll be featuring recipes from it over the next few months. If you have a copy and have a favorite recipe let me know what it is.

VEGETABLE FRITTATA

4 tbsp. margarine
1 (10 oz.) pkg. spinach, thawed
1 clove garlic, minced
6 med. zucchini, chopped
1 c. chopped green onions, including tops
10 eggs
10 tsp. milk
Salt and pepper to taste
Herbs and seasonings of your choice
1/2 c. grated Parmesan or Cheddar cheese
Chopped parsley
Paprika

Melt the margarine in a large fry pan and saute the spinach and garlic. Remove to bowl and saute the zucchini and green onions, adding more margarine if needed. Layer vegetables in a greased 13 x 9 inch baking pan. Beat the eggs with the milk; add seasonings. Pour over the vegetables in the pan. Sprinkle with the cheese; top with the parsley and paprika. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Serves 12.

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