

THE WEEEDER

MAY 2021 Volume 33 Issue 5

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

DIG will not be having a sale this Fall as previously mentioned. The board has decided it's just not feasible given our time limitations, heat and drought conditions. The best thing we can do is focus our energies for next year's sale. I hope by September life will be close to normal and we can start up propagation for our 2022 sale and get our meetings up and running. That is the current plan.

We are planning a DIG picnic at Wolfe Ranch for June 28. We won't be sharing food this time so bring your own food for you and your family. As usual, DIG will provide plates, silverware, cups, napkins and water. We'll also have our curious container competition. There are pictures in the Weeder of previous entrees. This will also be the time to bring any plants that you wish to share/trade with other DIGgers. If you have any perennial plants that you would like to save over for next years sale please do keep them at your home.



I hope you're all well and keeping busy in your gardens. The heat and drought conditions will continue to be a challenge this year. Please share with us any good ideas you have for saving water. Send any ideas you have to Robin for the Weeder. Stay cool and I hope to see you at the picnic.

Connie Miller, President 



“The earth laughs in flowers.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Board Minutes

Connie called to order DIG's May 4, 2021, Board Meeting at 11:10 AM. The Board Meeting was held at Wolfe Ranch. Included at the Meeting were Connie, Robin, Ginger, Sue, Chris, Dan, Pat, Juli, Bob S. and Cecilia. ☼ Connie brought up the possibility of a Fall Plant Sale. It was decided that because of the heat, the drought and COVID19, we will not have a Fall Plant Sale. Our focus is Propagation in the Fall. Propagation is tentatively scheduled to begin Saturday, September 18th at Wolfe Ranch. ☼ Ginger gave the Treasurer's report. ☼ Chris noted that Membership stands at 59 paid members and 36 not paid. She added that Renee Best had re-joined DIG. ☼ The April Minutes were approved as printed in the Weeder. ☼ We will not hold meetings until our meeting room at the church is available at 100% occupancy. Robin will ask for Speaker Helpers at the picnic in anticipation of the all clear in the Fall. ☼ Juli and Robin were the only members who went on the last field trip to Markham Gardens in Concord. They said that it was very nice and has lots of shade. Juli added that she is considering the Livermore Native Garden for a future field trip. ☼ Juli told us about AmpleHarvest.org. They will help you donate the excess from your garden to food banks near you. ☼ Freedom High School's Scholarship Awards Night is May 20th and Bob S. will award the Scholarship. Freedom High School has decided upon their scholar. Bob will continue to attempt to contact Dozier-Libbey Medical High School. ☼ Bob S. announced that there is to be a Celebration of Life for DIG's Past President, George Doneux, at Resurrection Ministries, 1275 Fairview in Brentwood on July 16th. ☼ Our JUNE PICNIC will be on June 28th at Wolfe Ranch. It's BYO Food & Drinks (no sharing). Set up is at 5:30 PM and the PICNIC begins at 6:00PM. We will have our "Curious Container" contest with fun prizes. (Example: a Peanut Cactus in a Mr. Peanut tin can). Bring any plants that you would like to share or exchange. Current guidelines will be followed - Those not vaccinated should wear a mask. ☼ A general Clean Up at Wolfe Ranch will be held Saturday, May 15th, 9am. We will tidy up around the green house, organizing all the cans and general clean up. Bring a Lunch for after. ☼ The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 

Vegetables In The Garden - May:

From Harvest to Table - read the rest of the article at:
https://harvesttotable.com/may_vegetable_garden/

- Start sowing vegetables without protection if the soil and nighttime temperatures have warmed.
- Thin beets, carrots, lettuce, radishes, spinach, and other half-hardy and hardy seedlings planted late last month. As crops are harvested, plant successions of early or start introducing summer crops.
 - Early in the month, prepare outdoor sites for cucumbers, squashes, and tomatoes. Erect supports for runner beans, and place stakes, poles, and trellises in place for tall and climbing crops.
 - Stake tomatoes and tie them gently to stakes.
 - Remove cloches from broad beans, carrots, and peas.
 - Mid-month sowing: sow seeds of beans, lima beans, corn, okra, squash, cucumber, cantaloupe, Chinese cabbage, and other tender vegetables and herbs after temperatures have reached the 70sF.
 - Sow cucumbers in mounds enriched with plenty of well-rotted manure and compost.
 - Set out transplants after mid-month: tomato, eggplant, pepper, and sweet potato.
- Set out sweet potato slips on a cloudy day. Form a little mound of soil over young potato shoots to protect them from frost.
- Pinch out the tips on broad beans to encourage a good pod set and to deter an attack from aphids.
- Make further sowings of salad crops and summer spinach.
- Stop watering onions, garlic, and shallots when the foliage begins to turn yellow.



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

On Thursday April 29th we had our first **live and in person** field trip for DIG members in over a year. YAY!! As was announced in the April Weeder, we ventured out to



Markham Nature Park in Concord. The weather was mild and the park supplied lovely spring flowers to enjoy. The two of us walked the well maintained paths while viewing labeled trees and plants representing

various areas of the world. There was ample shade so this is a pleasant location on a sunny day.

Without an admission or parking fee to the park, we had money in our wallets so we stopped by Sloat Garden Center and Outdoor Supply Hardware on the way home.



All in all, it was a nice outing.



If you find yourself in Livermore, check out the Granada Native Garden. In a small newspaper piece last month, the garden is described as: Livermore's best kept secret. Its website states: "This park is divided into various plant communities: chaparral, oak woodland, grassland meadow, and riparian.

Juli Redford 🌿

Do you have a suggestion for a field trip? Have you been somewhere fun and plant worthy?

Let us know about it:

info@deltainformalgardeners.org



RECIPE



We will be featuring recipes from our member's cookbook. Let us know what you think.

WHATEVER'S IN THE GARDEN SQUASH SOUP

- 1 tbsp. butter
- 1 tbsp. oil
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 1 turkey Italian sausage link, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 c. white wine
- 1/2 c. vermouth
- 4 c. chicken broth
- 6 c. mixed chopped squash

In a large saucepan, saute the onion, carrots, sausage and garlic in the oil and butter until the vegetables are "tender-crisp". Set aside. In another pan combine the wine, vermouth and chicken broth; bring to a rolling boil. Add the squash and cook for 10 minutes. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Puree in a food processor or blender, a little at a time. Pour into the saucepan that contains the carrot and sausage mixture. Reheat, but do not boil. Serves 4 to 6.

TACO SOUP

- 1 lb. ground turkey
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 (16 oz.) can corn with liquid
- 1 (16 oz.) can kidney beans with liquid
- 1 (16 oz.) can Mexican style stewed tomatoes
- 1 sm. pkg. taco seasoning
- 1 (30 oz.) can vegetarian refried beans
- Low fat taco chips

Brown the turkey and garlic; set aside. In a 3 quart pot combine the corn, kidney beans, tomatoes, taco seasoning and refried beans. Add browned turkey and heat. Serve with low fat taco chips.

CHINESE ASPARAGUS AND BLACK MUSHROOMS

- 1 lb. asparagus
- 6 to 8 dried black mushrooms
- 1 tbsp. peanut oil
- 5 to 10 drops sesame oil

SAUCE:

- 1/8 c. dark soy sauce
- 1 tsp. cornstarch
- 1/4 c. chicken broth or water

Wash and trim the asparagus; cut diagonally into bite-sized pieces. Soak the mushrooms for 5 minutes in warm water. Remove stems and slice into 1/4 inch strips. Heat wok or fry pan on high heat. Add peanut and sesame oils to coat pan. Add asparagus and mushrooms; toss quickly for 2 to 3 minutes. Be careful not to burn. Asparagus should be hot, but still crisp. Combine cornstarch and soy sauce; stir in broth or water. Pour over asparagus and cook for a few more seconds to thicken; serve immediately.

CREAMY ASPARAGUS CASSEROLE

- 2 lb. fresh asparagus spears
- 2 tbsp. margarine
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 2 c. milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. sesame seeds
- Pepper to taste
- 4 hard cooked eggs, sliced

TOPPING:

- 1/4 c. cracker crumbs
- 2 tbsp. margarine, melted

half the sauce. Repeat with remaining asparagus and sauce. Combine cracker crumbs and melted margarine; sprinkle over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until bubbly.

"A garden is a delight to the eye and a solace for the soul."

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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 _____

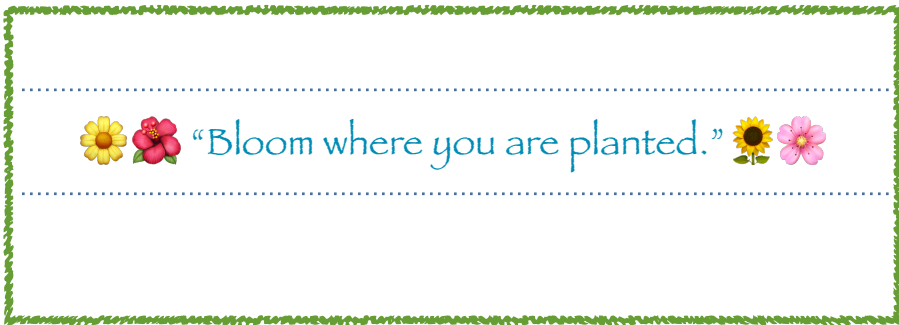
State _____ Zip _____

Email address(es) _____

Phone (_____) _____

_____ New Member

_____ Renewal



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513