

# THE WEEEDER

AUGUST 2021

Volume 33 Issue 8

## 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 - Canceled  
August 23 - Canceled  
September 27 - TBD - Maybe!  
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

**2022 Plant Sale: MAY 7**

## President's Message

Is it Fall yet? Just when I think I can't take another hot day, I wake up to a beautiful day like today. There's a breeze and it's definitely cooler. I can happily go out in my yard and get some work done. It's looking a little tired from the heat, but I do have tomatoes to pick, pumpkins coming along, peppers and eggplant. August is a tough month in my garden and I have a few favorite plants I've come to count on. Geraniums for sure, some roses, and I can always count on the honeysuckle to be blooming. The zinnias I planted from seed are also doing well. One other annual I love is portulaca. It's a very colorful little plant. I put it in my window boxes and their brilliant colors are a welcome sight. They don't seem to need much water either. We usually have them at our plant sale too.



Chester Miller enjoying the catnip.

We'll be getting ready to start propagation next month so keep an eye out for starting dates and information. Right now, September 18th, from 10 am to noon, is the planned first day. The first one will be an instructional class. This is always a fun start to the season and start for our next year's plant sale. Come out and join us. Bring a friend.

*Connie Miller*, President 

*"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."* — Alfred Austin

## Board Minutes

Connie called to order DIG's August 3, 2021, Board Meeting at 11:03 AM. The Board Meeting was held at Wolfe Ranch. Included at the meeting were Connie, Robin, Ginger, Sue, Bob S. and Cecilia. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurers' report. Ginger added that she had paid the rent to the Church. 🌸 Connie reported for Chris that DIG's Membership stands at 72 after 2 renewal memberships. 🌸 The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the July board meeting. 🌸 Connie said that DIG is having a 2022 Plant Sale in May – for the income and to remain viable. Connie restated that DIG's focus this Fall is Propagation. Propagation begins on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at Wolfe Ranch. With regards to "Masks," for Propagation, the Board decided that it is up to the individual and whatever makes the member most comfortable. Propagation is outside and social distancing should be fine. The first day of Propagation will have a mini class on how to propagate. 🌸 Whenever DIG's General Meetings begin, hopefully in September, masks and social distancing will be required for all attendees. The first one may not have a speaker, but it could be a Round Table Discussion on Gardening Tips and questions. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sue Castle*, Secretary 🌸



## Other August Garden Checklist Zones 9-10 Must-Dos

- Repair your lawn by patching up bare spots.
- Protect tender vegetable plants with shade cloth to protect them from the intensity and heat of the sun.
- Amend vegetable gardens with compost and other **organic soil amendments** to replenish the soil.
- Remove spent vegetable plants that have stopped producing to keep pests and diseases from becoming a problem.
- Divide irises and perennials at the end of the month.
- Remove dead or underperforming annuals. If they are not thriving now, it's best to cut your losses. Place a high-performing container of blooms in empty spots.
- Deadhead perennial flower heads.
- **Collect seeds** from your most successful vegetables, herbs, and flowers.
- Remove spent tomato plants and pumpkin vines to make room for fall plantings.
- With the heat bearing down, raise the lawn mower height to 3 inches to prevent scorching.

## AUGUST GARDEN TIPS From [www.kelloggsgarden.com](http://www.kelloggsgarden.com)

### August Garden Maintenance in Zones 9-10

Gardens are in full bloom, and fall gardens are already in the works. The majority of the garden maintenance tasks warrant repeating throughout the growing season. Weeding, mulching, pruning, fertilizing, watering, and a few other tasks on the August Garden Checklist Zone 9-10 will do wonders to keep your garden thriving and productive in the heat of summer.

### Summer Garden Weeding

Weeding regularly is the best method for **organic weed control** so, continue to weed your gardens frequently. The more often you evict those weeds, the less likely they will have the opportunity to go to seed and further propagate.

### Summer & Fall Garden Mulching

**Mulching the garden** continues to help regulate soil temperature, cool plant roots, retain soil moisture, deter weeds, and **protect the soil from erosion**. Keep some mulch close at hand in case a bare spot opens up in your garden.

### August Garden Pruning Checklist

- Pinch off basil to promote a bushier plant and keep it from going to seed.
- Pinch off the flowers of coleus plants to encourage a fuller plant with more beautiful foliage.
- Deadhead flowering annuals and perennials.
- Trim back herbs to prevent going to seed and prolong your harvest.
- **Prune tomato suckers**, pepper plants, and eggplant to encourage new growth.
- Prune squash plants if their foliage is overlapping other plants.
- By the end of the month, you can remove the female flowers from pumpkin plants to push more energy back into the producing plant.
- Deadhead roses and practice **summer rose care** during the month of August.

### Fertilizing the Summer Vegetable Garden

Vegetables are heavy feeders and have been working hard to produce this summer, so they could benefit from compost or organic fertilizer. If you are using your summer vegetable garden beds for a fall crop, it is paramount to **amend the soil with nutrients**. Fertilize citrus trees after harvest.

### Outdoor Planting in August

Fall gardens should be planted and are being maintained this month:

- Plant garlic in late August or in the Fall and enjoy a carefree crop come springtime.
- Remember to cover your fall crops with shade cloth to keep them protected.
- Plant seeds for marigolds, nasturtiums, cosmos, and zinnias for fall blooms.

## D.I. Y. FIELD TRIP

Is it hot enough for you? Are you tired of the heat and need an escape? I do!

Living in East Contra Costa County, my yard looks baked this time of year. While trying to conserve water so my fruit trees will survive, I've let some flower beds and the lawn suffer on much less water. It looks a bit sad. So if you, like me, are looking for a bit of relief, we only need to look west. "Go west, young man!" as the old saying goes. West toward the ocean we can visit places to escape the heat just a 30 to 50 minute drive away.

Two of my favorites are Roberts Regional Area and Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park. My husband's love of redwood trees pulls us to groves of these trees where the shade is welcoming and the noise of the world is softened.



Weekends are busier of course, so weekdays are easier to find parking. Being only 10 miles from

downtown Oakland one can enjoy the trails in the trees then slip into town for a bite to eat and wait for the traffic to lighten before heading home.

We took a walk one year in early May on the Stream Trial from the Canyon Meadow Staging Area (in the Reinhardt Redwood Park). All along this gentle trail, there were wildflowers aplenty. If the rains return this winter, it will be a lovely place to visit next spring.

For more information:

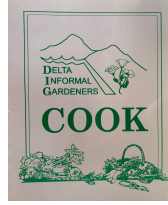
[www.ebparcs.org/parks/roberts](http://www.ebparcs.org/parks/roberts) and [www.ebparcs.org/parks/redwood/](http://www.ebparcs.org/parks/redwood/)

*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](mailto:info@deltainformalgardeners.org)

## RECIPES



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

### PEACH BREAKFAST CAKE

1/2 c. margarine  
1/2 c. sugar  
1 tsp. grated orange peel  
1/4 tsp. almond extract  
2 eggs or 1/2 c. egg substitute  
3/4 c. flour  
3 ripe peaches, peeled and sliced  
1 c. fat free sour cream  
1/4 c. sugar  
1 egg white  
1/4 tsp. almond extract  
Cinnamon and sugar

Cream margarine and sugar; add peel, almond extract and egg substitute. Stir in flour and beat until smooth. Spread batter into greased 9 inch cheesecake pan with removable bottom. Arrange peaches on top of batter. Bake at 350 degrees for about 25 to 30 minutes until lightly browned and just beginning to pull away from sides of the pan. Meanwhile blend the sour cream, 1/4 cup sugar, egg white and almond extract until smooth. Remove cake from oven and quickly spoon the sour cream mixture on top of peaches. Bake 10 minutes longer. Cool on rack at least 30 minutes. Serve warm or cool. Remove sides of pan and serve on platter. Sprinkle top with a cinnamon and sugar mixture.

We recently visited friends in Portland, OR and they served us this at dinner. It was so good I have to share it with you.

- Robin Choate

### SPIRALIZED CUCUMBER AND WATERMELON SALAD

Leger & Son Inc., Big Chuy, Perry & Sons, Growers Select Produce Inc., Robinson Fresh

#### HONEY LEMON MINT VINAIGRETTE

1 Tbsp lemon juice  
3 Tbsp olive oil  
1 Tbsp honey  
1 Tbsp fresh mint, chopped  
Zest of 1/2 lemon

1 lb fresh shrimp, peeled  
Blackened seasoning, to taste  
2 to 3 Tbsp vegetable or olive oil  
2 cucumbers, ends trimmed and spiralized  
2 cups seedless watermelon, cut into tiny cubes  
1 avocado, pitted, peeled and sliced  
1/4 cup feta  
1 tsp black sesame seeds

Prepare the vinaigrette: Whisk all ingredients in a bowl; set aside.

Lightly dredge the shrimp in blackened seasoning. Cook the shrimp in a lightly oiled skillet on medium-high, 1 to 2 minutes per side. Keep warm.

Divide the cucumber noodles among 4 serving bowls. Top each bowl with watermelon, avocado, feta and shrimp. Drizzle with the vinaigrette and sprinkle with black sesame seeds. Makes 4 servings.



Peaches and flowers at a local farm stand.

**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**

*Save the Date: September 18, 2021*  
*Our Return to Propagation!*  
*More details coming soon*



**P.O. Box 66**

**Brentwood, CA 94513**