

THE WEEEDER

SEPTEMBER 2021

Volume 33 Issue 9

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 - Wear a mask!
- October 25
- November 22
- 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

It is with great pleasure that I announce the resumption of our Monday night meetings and the beginning of propagation this month. We do ask that masks be worn at the Monday night meetings as we are indoors. On our Saturday workdays we only ask you to wear a mask if you're not vaccinated. We will revisit this policy on a month by month basis.



Our first propagation meeting will be at Wolfe Ranch on Saturday, Sept.18 at 10:00 am until noon. This first day will be an instruction class given by our Plant Manager, Steve Hendrickson. Please do not bring plant material. Just bring your gloves and shears.

Our Monday meeting will be, as always, the 4th Monday of the month, that will be Sept. 27 at 7:30. I'm very thrilled to say that Cathy Voortman will be giving a talk on seed growing. I think we've all seen her beautiful flowers at her flower stand and I look forward to her expertise. It'll be so great to see everyone and get our programs started up and planning for our plant sale next year. Hope you'll join us.



Connie Miller, President 🌹

"I grow plants for many reasons: to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty, or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow."

- David Hobson

Board Minutes

DIG's September 7, 2021 Board Meeting was called to order at 11:11 AM. The Board Meeting was held at Wolfe Ranch and was attended by Connie, Steve, Ginger, Bob C., Pat, Chris, Sue, Juli, Cecilia, Bob S. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurers' report. 🌸 Chris said that DIG's Membership stands at 97 after 1 renewal membership. A discussion followed regarding the actual number of members and the need for new members. 🌸 Sue asked that DIG's August Minutes be approved. The Minutes as printed in the Weeder were unanimously approved by the Board. 🌸 Juli will continue making field trip suggestions in the Weeder. 🌸



In order to begin our local high schools' Scholarship Process, Bob S. has contacted the next two schools in our donation queue - Heritage High School in Brentwood and Bidwell Continuation High School in Antioch. 🌸 September is a DIG Donation Month, but we will wait until December in order to see what happens with Covid, etc. 🌸 We are planning on having a Plant Sale in May 2022 - actually May 7, 2022. We will need to know the plants and number of plants that people have been babysitting at home. 🌸 DIG's Propagation begins Saturday, September 18th at 10 AM - noon at Wolfe Ranch. Bring your shears and gloves and learn how to propagate. The Board decided that it is up to the individual and whatever makes the

member most comfortable - so masks are optional for the vaccinated. However, if you are NOT vaccinated masks are mandatory. This year, we will need volunteers to take 2 boxes of cuttings in perlite to water and care for at home. 🌸 Then on Monday, September 27th at 7:30 PM, it's DIG's General Meeting at the Brentwood Community United Methodist Church on 2nd Street. Masks are mandatory. It will be a Round Table discussion on gardening tips. Plus, Cathy Voortman will discuss how to plant seeds. Including the care of seeds during and after potting up. Steve will



demonstrate the proper watering of 1 gallon plastic pots. Pat will have the garden clothing book and will be taking orders and payments - for aprons, tee shirts, vests, jackets etc. with and without the DIG logo. Yummy baked goods will be provided by Connie, Chris, and Cecilia. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

What to plant in September:

- [Beets](#)
- [Broccoli](#)
- [Brussel Sprouts](#)
- [Cabbage](#)
- [Carrots](#)
- [Cauliflower](#)
- [Kale](#)
- [Lettuce](#)
- [Peas](#)
- [Radishes](#)
- [Spinach](#)
- [Swiss Chard](#)

SEPTEMBER GARDEN TIPS

From www.kelloggsgarden.com

(Links to online articles)

September Garden Maintenance in Zones 9

Fall Fertilizing

- Stop fertilizing trees and shrubs during September gardening. Cooler weather is approaching, and new growth established from fertilization can cause those limbs to be susceptible to damage.
- **Fertilize vegetable gardens** as needed. This includes gardens that include summer vegetable plants that are still producing, **fall vegetable gardens**, and gardens that have finished producing. **Organic fertilizers** help build the soil and take time to break down to be available to plants for the next growing season.
- If you have a cool-season lawn variety, it's time to **fertilize your lawn**. If you are unsure what kind of grass that you have, bring a small clump to your local extension office and ask for some guidance.

September Garden Pruning

- Remove some foliage from pumpkin plants to allow fruits to ripen.
- In late September, remove female flowers from squash, melons, and pumpkins and remove immature fruits from squash, tomato, melons, pumpkins, and eggplants as they have less chance of maturing fully. Pinching them off will push the energy to fruits that are already established.
- Allow perennial plants to die back before cutting them back. Allow some seed heads to remain on plants for birds to feed on and for seed collection.

Other Garden Tasks on September Garden Checklist

- It's a terrific time to divide perennials like hostas, grandma's daisies, bee balm, phlox, daylilies, herbs, rudbeckia, Shasta daisies, etc.
- Plant new hardy perennial plants in the cooler days of September. This gives plenty of time for roots to get established before cooler weather sets in.
- Tidy up your garden landscape, picking up any dried foliage, dropped fruit, or dropped leaves.
- Start assembling your fall containers. Create an eye-catching pop of color and textural intrigue.
- Collect seeds from high-performing plants and store them in seed collection envelopes. Don't forget to label them.
- Plant your spring bulbs. In Zones 9, you may need to perform a cold treatment in the fridge for your bulbs before planting.

DVC Horticulture Fall 2021 Plant Sales

September 17 & 18 and November 5 & 6

Online & In person

www.dvchorticulture.org/sale

D.I. Y. FIELD TRIP

To my relief, the summer and our hot weather are winding down. For an idea to escape the heat, last month I wrote about the regional parks in the Oakland hills. This week I heard that one of our DIG members had visited the park and enjoyed the trip.

With the pandemic virus still a concern for many of us, I'll continue to offer ideas for self-guided field trips each month in the Weeder. Since I have not visited these locations personally, it may be an adventure to explore the destinations. Oh, how fun this could be!

Late September and October is our second planting season. Whether it's winter vegetables or perennials, here are two locations you may wish to visit.

East Bay Nursery- Covers most of an entire Berkeley city block. In an article from the newspaper last spring, this nursery was noted for large stock California native plants. One customer told me it can be a bit expensive. But if a specific plant you need is in stock, it might be worth checking out this place. www.eastbaynursery.com
2332 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Western Garden Nursery- Described as a full-service garden center offering a wide selection of top quality plants from premium growers like Monrovia and Fredrick's. Also fountains, statuary, a gift shop, and soils and advice on disease diagnosis and pest management.

A few years back, we planned a field trip to visit Western but we were rained out!! Rain, do you remember rain? www.westerngardennursery.com
2756 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton.

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

RECIPES



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

LEMON THYME BREAD

2 c. flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
6 tbsp. softened butter or margarine
1 c. sugar
2 eggs
1 tbsp. grated lemon peel
2 tbsp. lemon juice
2 tbsp. finely chopped lemon thyme
2/3 c. milk

GLAZE:

2 tbsp. lemon juice
1/2 c. powdered sugar

Sift the flour, baking powder and salt; set aside. In mixing bowl, cream the butter or margarine and sugar. Add eggs one at a time; beat well. Beat in the lemon peel, lemon juice and lemon thyme. Add the milk, alternately with the sifted dry ingredients until just blended. Pour batter in greased and sugared loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 55 to 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes before removing from pan. Make a glaze with the lemon juice and powdered sugar and put over top of loaf while still hot.

BEETS AND APPLES

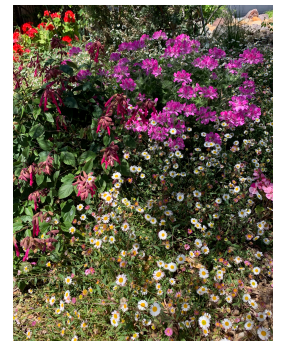
1 lb. fresh beets
2 med. apples, peeled and cored
1/2 c. packed light brown sugar
1 tbsp. flour
1 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. vinegar
3 tbsp. margarine

Place half the beets in a 2 quart shallow baking dish; spread half the apples on top. Repeat layers. Combine sugar, flour, salt, vinegar, margarine and the 1/2 cup reserved beet juice in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat until sugar is melted. Pour over the apples and beets in the casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Serves 8.

Leave root and 1 inch of stem on beets; scrub. Place beets in saucepan; add water to cover. Bring to a boil; cook 35 to 40 minutes or until tender. Drain, reserving 1/2 cup of the juice. Trim off the beet stems and roots. Rub off skins. Cut beets into 1/4 inch slices. Cut apples into 1/4 inch rings.

Membership

Beginning next month, I will begin collecting membership dues. The fees are still the same, \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family. Your checks should be mailed to **DIG, P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513, ATTN: Membership**. Keeping track of who has paid gets really confusing for me when a member doesn't include a membership slip with their payment. So please help me out. I already get confused easily enough. Kindly include the slip, even if it just has your name on it, **especially if you're paying with cash and handing me your money.**



Thanks so much.

Chris Artz 

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**

September 18, 2021 - Our Return to Propagation!

🌻🌸🌻

September 27, 2021 - In Person Meeting!



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513