



THE WEEEDER

FEBRUARY 2022

Volume 34 Issue 2

NEW- 2022 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.

2022 General Meetings

January 24 - Auction - Canceled
February 28
March 28
April 25
May 23
June 27 - Members Potluck
July 25
August 22
September 26
October 24
November 28
December 12 - Holiday Potluck

2022 Board Meetings

January 4	July 5
February 8	August 2
March 8	September 6
April 5	October 4
May 3	November 8
June 7	November 29

2022 Plant Sale: MAY 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can this really be February? Such beautiful weather and my garden seems to think it's spring now. I hope you're enjoying your gardens and please, do a little rain dance when you think of it. We sure need some!

With the pandemic seemingly winding down, we are back to the business of our plant sale. Saturday workshops are in full swing and I hope you'll come and join us on Saturdays from 10am -12 noon. Lots to do to get ready for our plant sale. I'm having great luck with seedlings so far and I hope those of you trying your hand at seed growing are doing well too. This great weather must be helping too. Mark your calendars, May 7 will be our plant sale, the day before Mothers Day. Since we haven't had a sale for 2 years I think our community will be looking forward to our sale also. Where else can you buy such a great variety of plants at such reasonable prices?

Our Monday night meetings are resuming on February 28. We have many interesting speakers lined up for the coming months. Thank you to all who are helping Robin with this.

I'm looking forward to working with and seeing you all on Saturdays. We can use all hands on deck. It's fun, we learn a lot and get to know other DIGgers better. And sometimes we have lots of goodies to eat too.



Sushi helping Robin in the garden.

"To a gardener there is nothing more exasperating than a hose that isn't long enough." Cecil Roberts 1951

Board Minutes

Connie called to order DIG's February 8, 2022 Board Meeting at 7:03 PM. The Board Meeting was held at the Fireside Room at the Brentwood Community United Methodist Church on 2nd Street. Included at the Meeting were Connie, Steve, Robin, Ginger, Sue, Chris, Juli, Pat, Bob S. and Bob C. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurer's report. She then passed out a comparison of expenses for 2019, 2020, 2021 and this year, 2022, to date. Where upon there was a discussion regarding DIG's revenues and expenses. 🌸 Chris reported that Membership stands at 79. Chris asked that Sue send thank you letters to the Morgantis and the Alexanders for their donations included with their dues. 🌸 The Minutes of January's Board Meeting, as printed in the Weeder, were unanimously approved by the Board. 🌸 Juli will continue making self field trip suggestions in the Weeder as Covid winds down. A few possible field trip locations were discussed. 🌸 Connie pointed out that February is typically a DIG Donation Month, but we will hold off for the time being. 🌸 Robin reported that General Meeting speakers are lined up until the Potluck Dinner in June. Robin added that the Auction is rescheduled for DIG's September General Meeting. 🌸 The Plant Sale for 2022 will be Saturday, May 7th. 🌸 Propagation begins again on Saturday, February 12th. We will be potting up cuttings from last Fall. Seed progress was discussed. 🌸 The Member booklet was discussed and it was decided to print supplemental pages with new members and changes to old members contact information. New books will be printed for 2023. 🌸 The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM



An Emergency Board Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM on January 11, 2022, by Connie. The conference call included Connie, Ginger, Sue, Chris, Pat, Bob S. and Steve. After a discussion regarding the current spike in infections of the Covid 19 Omicron Variant, the Board unanimously voted to postpone the Auction and cancel the General Meeting scheduled for January 24, 2022. The membership will be notified via email of the Meeting cancellation. Connie reminded everyone that Propagation is to begin Saturday, January 22, 2022, and because we would be outside we should be ok. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 🌸

🌸 FEBRUARY SPEAKER 🌸



On February 28th **Gwen O'Neill** will speak on Hydroponic Towers.



Gwen O'Neill has been a life-long gardener. Her mother was raised on a farm in Dubois, PA and Gwen has always felt that gardening was in her DNA. Even when they had a postage stamp backyard, they would always have at least one tomato and pepper plant. Gwen has been using an "aeroponic system" for 8 years and will speak on "How to grow plants faster and easier, using air and mist, without soil".



FUTURE SPEAKERS

March 28: TBA

April 25: Bonnie Dwyer, Demystifying Peppers

May 23: Pamela Anderson, Edible Flowers

Do you know of someone who has an interesting garden related story to tell? Ask them if they'd like to be a speaker at DIG. Contact Robin at 925-759-0700, and she will give you the information you need to schedule your speaker.

MEMBERSHIP

Currently we have 81 paid members including new member, Susan Alexander, who recently moved to Brentwood from Virginia and is eager to learn how to garden in our area. She has already joined us at a Saturday propagation work party and it was like she has been a DIG member for years. We are really looking forward to getting to know Susan better.

Dues for this year can be paid at a membership meeting or mailed to DIG, P.O. BOX 66, BRENTWOOD, CA 94513, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP. If you're not sure if you have paid your dues for 2022, please feel free to call or text me at 925-234-0395 to find out. When you do pay, **please make sure you have filled out a membership slip to include with your payment.** Without these slips, it's really hard to keep track of who has paid their dues, especially if you just hand me cash on a Saturday at propagation. Please make sure your payment is always in an envelope with a completed sign up slip. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

Chris Artz 🌸

FIELD TRIPS

Can you feel it? Spring is in the air ... and so are the weed seeds! I've spent days pulling weeds, it's now time for a field trip. Yay!!

The exact date is yet to be determined, but the plan is to visit The Granada Native Garden in Livermore. It's a lovely place to view native plants and stroll along the paths. This garden is an "attempt to restore one tiny corner of California to a semblance of its former self." "Water has always been a limited resource in California. The plants that are native to California have adapted to that limitation, and so must we, like it or not. They use less water, and so must we. Learning what kinds of plants are best suited to our neighborhoods is a step in the right direction. That is what the Granada Native Garden is about." granadanativegarden.org

Save the dates! April 7 or 8, to go to the San Francisco-Northern California Flower and Garden Show in Pleasanton. This will be an all-day outing. "Stroll through gorgeous designer gardens, with artfully arranged plants, trees, and flowers in full bloom. See the designs and watch the demonstrations by world-class floral designers. Discover how to create your own remarkable garden with hands-on demonstrations and inspiring seminars. Meet professional gardeners and nursery owners who can answer all your questions ... and help solve those nagging problems. Browse a wide selection of specialty shops featuring unique flowers, plants, gifts, tools, and more." SFGardenshow.com
Purchase tickets online [before March 13th](#) for a discount.

Juli Redford 🌿

Lavender Bliss: Exploring Lavender Varieties

<https://www.highcountrygardens.com/gardening/lavender-bliss>

By David Salman, High Country Gardens Chief Horticulturist

Grown since ancient times, [Lavender](#) has been a beneficial companion to mankind for thousands of years. This genus of perennial Old World herbs is a source for healing, fragrant oil, culinary spices and beautiful, aromatic plants for our gardens. Gardeners have been cultivating and growing lavender plants since Roman times. Combining fragrance with evergreen foliage, resistance to browsing deer and rabbits and showy displays of purple and blue flowers, Lavender plants are a cornerstone of any good waterwise landscape. Growing Lavender plants also provides an invaluable source of nectar for honeybees, bumblebees, and butterflies. For vegetable gardeners, this means that having Lavender planted near your eatables will ensure pollination and fruit set.

Growing Lavender. 🌞 Lavender plants thrive in full sun, heat and fast-draining, low fertility soils. 🌱 Lavender plants are actually small woody shrubs, that once established, thrive in dry growing conditions. 🌱 Mulching is helpful in dry climates, but not recommended in areas that get more than 18-20" of annual precipitation. 🌱 Lavender plants need very little fertilizer. Instead, keep their soil healthy and well drained by fertilizing with natural or organic soil builders applied once annually in the fall.



CAULIFLOWER PICCATA

- 1 cauliflower, cut into large 2-inch florets
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste
- 1 (15-ounce) can chickpeas, drained (optional)
- 1 shallot, finely diced
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 cup vegetable stock
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons capers, drained
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice (from 1 lemon)
- Parsley, chopped, for garnish
- 1 lemon, sliced, for serving



Kate Sears for The New York Times, Food Stylist: Barrett Washburne

Heat the oven to 425 degrees. Place the cauliflower onto a sheet pan and drizzle with 2 to 3 tablespoons of olive oil. Season with kosher salt and black pepper, and roast for 20 to 25 minutes, until the cauliflower is golden and tender. Remove from the oven, add the chickpeas, if using, and toss to combine.

Heat a medium skillet to medium-high. Add 1 tablespoon of olive oil and the shallot, and sauté until soft and fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute longer, stirring constantly to keep from scorching. Pour the stock into the pan and simmer until reduced by half, about 4 to 5 minutes. Reduce heat to low, then stir in the butter, capers, lemon zest and juice. Season with 1/2 teaspoon of kosher salt and a few turns of black pepper.

To serve, place the cauliflower and chickpeas, if using, on serving plates. Top with the lemon caper sauce. Top with parsley and serve with lemon slices.

By Hetty McKinnon. www.cooking.nytimes.com

Recommend by Gwen O'Neill

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**

Pay your 2022 Dues now!

*Propagation Every Saturday
10 AM to Noon*



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513