

THE WEEEDER

AUGUST 2023 Volume 35 Issue 8

2023 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.

2023 General Meetings

- January 23
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- May 22
- June 26 - Members Potluck
- July 24
- August 28
- September 25
- October 23
- November 27
- December 11 - Holiday Potluck

2023 Board Meetings

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|------------|--------------|
| January 3 | July 11* |
| February 7 | August 8 |
| March 7 | September 5 |
| April 4 | October 3 |
| May 2 | November 7 |
| June 6 | November 28* |

2023 Garden Tour: MAY 20

* Adjusted due to Holidays

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Summer Heat has taken a toll on my garden. My veggies are frying on the plant or disappearing in the night. My temporary irrigation seems to be hit or miss, with one side of the pot dry and the other side wet. Thank goodness we have so many farm stands in the area to make up for my ineptitude! I'm going to start some seeds to see if a fall & winter garden will fare better.



I recently read an article about *Chaos Gardening*. Doesn't that sound like something we Delta **Informal** Gardeners would do? I've got a few bare spots in the yard and a lot of partial seed packets, so I'm going to try it. I've included an edited copy of the article, plus the link to it on page 3. I'll keep you updated on my progress.



GOOD NEWS! We are getting ready to start propagation again next month. Check out Connie's note below.

Robin Choate, President 

PROPAGATION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 23RD

While we are still waiting for our new location, we will begin our Saturday propagation on September 23. We will be working at 530 Third Street, where we worked last spring. Our first day will have some instruction, as well as actual propagation, so bring your shears and gloves. As always, we'll meet from 10am to noon. Treats and goodies are always welcome, as are visitors and guests.

We are still in need of water helpers. Please call me at 925-329-7195 to get on the schedule.

Connie Miller 

Board Minutes

The August 8, 2023 board meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Robin. 🌸 Members present- Robin, Pat, Connie, Chris, Ginger, Juli, Roger, Bob C., CiCi, Bob S. 🌸 Treasurer's report was given by Ginger. 🌸 Minutes from the July board meeting were approved. 🌸 Field trip- Waiting for a new chairperson. 🌸 Chris reported we have 93 paid members. 🌸 The August speaker for the general meeting will discuss vegetables & gardening. 🌸 Hospitality- Where to store the supply tote. 🌸 Publicity- Roger found another webpage to publicize the club. 🌸 Site Committee- Waiting on the city to give us a lease. 🌸 Plant Manager-Propagation will start September 23rd at 530 Third St. Need people to water current plants. Bob S & Connie to get supplies. 🌸 Garment ordering- See Juli at meetings and Saturday propagation. 🌸 New Business: A Nomination committee has been created: Connie, Bob S. More members are welcome. 🌸 Adjourned at: 7:57 pm.



Respectfully submitted,

Juli Redford, Secretary 🌸

DIG SHIRTS & APRONS

Now available to order: DIG Shirts and Aprons.

At our next general meeting on August 28th and on propagation Saturdays I'll have samples and order forms for you to use. There will be ladies' and men's t-shirts along with three apron choices. Shirts and aprons will have the DIG logo monogrammed and you can choose to include your name for an additional fee. If you choose to have your own shirt monogrammed, that is an option as well. Once we have a several orders we will place the order.

Juli Redford 🌻

925-323-5854 or julisews@hotmail.com

August 28th SPEAKER -

Cheri Ferguson from Salem Street Garden

“IN THE GARDEN”

On Monday, August 28th, Cheri Ferguson of Salem Street Garden will be speaking to DIG's members about a plethora of garden information – including tomatoes, vegetables, herbs, insects and pests. Be sure to bring your questions for Cheri.

Finding a heartfelt fascination for gardening at an early age, Cheri Ferguson has a colorful history with plants, which she first learned from her family members. Growing up they had a half an acre where they grew plants, fruits, veggies, and flowers. She absolutely loved eating tomatoes off the vine at harvest time.

Cheri was taught by her grandmother how to plant and prune. Learning to detail plants ignited her passion and interest in learning landscape design. Proper harvest technique was also something she learned from her family. She dedicated many hours to studying and researching gardening. When she moved to her second home, she applied this knowledge. Everything from planting plants, landscapes, how to grow plants from seed, propagation, pests, and irrigation with sprinklers.

When Cheri came down with cancer, her daughter Niccole began taking care of Cheri's plants. All that she learned while doing so made her so interested in plants that she started with a college degree in horticulture and kept going to complete a degree in Agriculture Science at Chico State University.

In 2014, Cheri moved back to Concord to a home with typical landscape. Her daughter noticed the trees were sick and they immediately removed them. Cheri began planting all variations of plants that she wanted to see in her yard. The planting led to the propagation of succulents for her father. It evolved enough for them to section off a portion of her yard. They accumulated so many plants that it led to what was supposed to be a one-time plant sale. Now, 8 years later, they still have the plant sale 2 weekends a month from March to October. All plants are grown from seed or propagation. They include succulents, regular plants, fruits, and veggies. She feels truly blessed to be able to share her passion, mentor new gardeners, inspire people that weren't initially interested in plants, and to have met so many people with the same interests and love for gardening.

Special thanks to Chris Artz for discovering Cheri Ferguson and her Salem Street Garden in Concord.

Sue Castle, Vice President 🌻

What is Chaos Gardening?

Chaos Gardening is exactly what it sounds like—a haphazard and laid-back approach to gardening in which rules and meticulous garden planning are thrown out the window. Simply gather up any leftover seed packets you have (or buy some new ones), and throw the seeds around in the garden to see what takes. The result is a natural-looking garden that teems with life and plenty of variety. Plus, if you find the process of planning a garden and sowing seeds stressful, chaos gardening saves you lots of time and effort.

This laissez-faire approach to seeding a garden can be used with any type of plant, including flowers, fruits, vegetables, and grasses. You can turn your entire yard into a wild and wonderful chaos garden or keep the chaos contained to a few beds. The trick is to let go of expectations and allow mother nature to do its thing. Inevitably, certain plants will thrive while others may not grow as well.

While chaos gardening is all about letting go of the rules, a few things are still good to keep in mind. Like most gardens, the best spot for a chaos garden is a spot that gets plenty of sunlight. That's not to say you can't make it work in a shady location, but you have to choose plants that survive in the shade. Since most vegetables and wildflowers require several hours of direct sunlight, a sunny spot is a great place to start. Decide how big you want your garden, whether you will keep it confined to beds or let it spread wild, and whether you will start it in the back yard or the front.



The soil quality is also important to keep in mind since most seedlings need rich, well-draining soil to sprout and survive. If the soil in your yard is overly rocky or has a lot of clay, mix in some fresh garden soil before you begin seeding your chaos garden.



The types of plants you choose for your chaos garden play a role in its longevity and the amount of maintenance it needs. Choosing native plants, for example, results in a long-lasting garden that is not only low-maintenance but also eco-friendly. If you opt for fruits and vegetables, you must reseed the garden and maintain the plants more frequently. Becoming familiar with companion planting is also important. Choosing annuals gives you a beautiful garden for a season, but you must completely start over the next year. There are no right or wrong choices when it comes to your plant selection; just be sure to choose plants that align with your vision for the space.

As you might expect, maintenance is minimal in chaos gardening. However, a small amount of maintenance is necessary to help your garden thrive, particularly if it's your first year. For example, the seeds need to be watered regularly after they are sown to help them sprout. After the seedlings begin growing, you may need to thin them slightly to prevent overcrowding, particularly since you never know exactly how many seeds will take at one time. After the garden is established and the plants begin naturally reseeding, you may find yourself doing less and less work as the years go on.

This information is an edited version of the article from Better Homes and Gardens:

https://www.bhg.com/chaos-gardening-7558210?hid=1999890a6708cf157a0f101bf0465451390aa01f&utm_campaign=bhg-daily-inspiration_newsletter&utm_medium=email&ctg=1999890a6708cf157a0f101bf0465451390aa01f&did=9899766-20230808&utm_source=bhg&utm_content=080823

OTHER RESOURCE LINKS:

<https://www.ruralsprout.com/chaos-garden/>

<https://www.homesandgardens.com/gardens/chaos-gardening>

<https://www.thespruce.com/chaos-gardening-guide-7557245>

Photo Credits to the articles listed.



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 _____

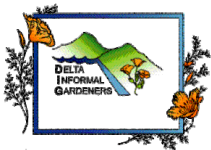
State _____ Zip _____

Email address(es) _____

Phone _(_____) _____ HOME MOBILE

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Our next meeting is
August 28th
Propagation Begins Sept 23rd



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513