



The Flower Pot

President's Message

We have now made it through 6 months of the biggest changes ever to our daily lives! September threw us another curveball with inhumanely hot weather followed by dense smoky air and falling ash produced by innumerable forest fires in California, Oregon and Washington states. We are fortunate that the fires are not in our immediate area but some are not too far away. There are not enough words to express one's gratitude for the bravery and stamina of all the fire fighters.

My 'happy' place is in my garden so not being able to get outside to "potter around" while the weather has been too hot and the air too polluted, to tend to all the necessary dead heading, fertilizing and repotting that needs to be done is rather frustrating.

September is the beginning of the year for the garden club so last month's Zoom meeting was our first one since last June. It was wonderful to have 64 of us 'together'! I recorded the meeting and sent an email to everyone with the link so you could watch it. I can see that over 50 of you have viewed the video. When I had a quick look through it, I discovered that for an inexplicable reason the last 30 minutes of the meeting did not get recorded. What you missed on the video were the drawing for the September Birthday Arrangement (which was created by Michele Snover and won by Vicki Freeberg), and also our Sponsors' donations. The winners of those prizes had to be present at the meeting. Once again, our sponsors have been very generous and there were 7 opportunities to win something. See the Sponsor Reps report on page 12 to see who won the plants and gift cards.

We will definitely not be meeting at the Alamo Women's Club for the remainder of the year. Our January 2021 Winter Event at the Diablo Country Club has been postponed until, hopefully, a date in June. The tentative plan will be to have a Summer Gala/Installation Lunch there.....only time will tell whether this will be at all possible. We'll let you know what is happening in due course.

By the time you read this we will have ventured out on our first real tour of the year to the Ruth Bancroft Gardens (see page 10) and maybe had a chance to watch the 2020 UC Master Gardener Conference online. If you miss either event, there will be photographs of the tour and even a video link to watch the conference!

I hope you can join us for the October Zoom general meeting on Thursday October 8th. Watch out for the Zoom information emailed a few days before. See Victoria's information on page 3 about our guest speaker who will appear 'virtually' from her farm!

President's message continued next page

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President's message continued:

One of our members asked me for a recommendation for a plant recognition app and although I can't remember who you are, I asked the Board members recently if they knew of a good app. Rose Khurana recommended this one which looks very comprehensive:

<https://www.plantsnap.com/> (This is a free app available to download).


Verna Kershaw, a previous DAGC member, has recommended a wonderful movie to stream on Amazon Prime called 'The Gardener'. It's about a garden in Quebec that it is only open for **four** days a year!

I found a very appropriate message for this time on the UC Master Gardener website so can take no credit for creating it myself..... ***Romaine Calm and Garden On!!!***

Linda Scotting, President

Membership

Updates for 2020-2021



This year is a unique and challenging one for our club due to COVID19 pandemic. As Membership Chairs we reviewed our meeting processes and presented the board with safety steps we could take while we are working our lives through this virus. At this point it appears we will be conducting our general meetings on Zoom for an indefinite time. These changes to our Standing Rules were presented and approved at our August Board meeting for the 2020-2021 year only. **They were then presented to the membership at the September General meeting on Zoom:**

- The requirement for members to attend three (3) general meetings in order to renew membership for next year has been waived for the full year, September through June.
- The requirement for guests to pay \$15 to attend general meetings has been waived for general meetings held on Zoom.
- The limitation on number of meetings guests can attend has also been waived for general meetings held on Zoom.
- Guest attendance (including those on our Wait List) will be by invitation and on a space-available basis. We are limited to 100 participants, with members accommodated first.

If you know of anyone who would like to attend one of our general meetings, please contact Holly Sauer or Cindy Wininger. We will provide Linda Scotting with names of guests to be included in her Zoom email notice. We will then contact those guests after the meeting to find out if they'd like to be on our Wait List. Those who find us via our website or Facebook will continue to be able to contact us with any questions they have.

Good news: our Wait List has continued to grow over the summer. Interest remains high, we have a great club with great members! Please let us know if you have any questions about these changes or other Membership questions.

Holly Sauer and Cindy Wininger, Membership Vice Presidents

Sharing Some Good Notes:

"Dear members of the Danville-Alamo Garden Club,

Today I received a lovely surprise when Cindy Wininger came to visit me and delivered a beautiful planted garden. I wanted to thank you for your thoughtfulness and promise to take good care of it. I look forward to the future when we shall finally win the battle against Covid and we can meet once again in person. That will surely be a day of celebration. Also, thank you to our Board who are working so hard to plan a program for us under these trying times. Better days are coming, so let's hang in there.

*Sincerely,
Ann Schultzel"*



Workshop News

'Making Fabric Pumpkins' was the theme of the September workshop. This was organized by Susan Terzuoli and led by Fran Davis, a previous member of the club. It was presented through ZOOM.



October Guest Presenter from Morningsun Herb Farm

Our guest speaker in October will be Rose Loveall. She is the co-owner of Morningsun Herb Farm in Vacaville.

She will be speaking about "Culinary Herbs and Herbs in the Garden".

Rose is a much sought-after garden speaker, giving presentations and classes to many garden clubs and community colleges around the Bay Area and the Sacramento Valley, as well as teaching classes about herb growing at her nursery.

Thankfully, Morningsun Herb Farm survived the recent devastating fires in and around Vacaville. The nursery is now open! For more information about plants go to their website – morningsunherbfarm.com.



Verónica Polívka, Programs Vice President

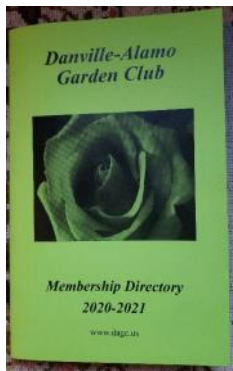
Operation Directory Distribution

Thank you to all that helped distribute the 2020-2021 directories. Several people offered to deliver them or make them available at their homes for pickup. I want to give a special shout-out to **Helen Miller** who drove from Martinez to deliver directories in San Ramon and Dublin. She wins the ribbon for most miles driven in this effort. These volunteers also collected food, that you each donated, for the September Community Outreach project.

Please join me in thanking these members for their help:

Penny Adams, Vicki Brown, Tena Gallagher, Rose Gogarty, Jess Ann Meadors, Helen Miller, Linda Scotting, Ann Smith, Beth Topor, Sharon Townsend, Darlene Wiskel

For receipt of your **Neon Green** Directory...Look at what positive support that you have provided to the Food Bank:



← This in exchange
for all
This! →



Thanks to All!



Nancy Norland, Directory Chair



Members helping Members!

If you or someone you know in the club is experiencing a health issue, a family crisis or is in need of cheering up, please give that information to Julie Grisham, our Corresponding Secretary. We will attempt to help in whatever way we can to ease the burden. Being a member of DAGC means you are not alone. We are here to help. Julie can be reached by phone or email. Thank you!

Julie Grisham, Chair

Wanted: Newsletter articles and pictures to share!

For the **November Newsletter**, **articles are due Thursday, October 15th, 4 pm.** Not only am I **accepting articles from our club supported areas, but also from all our members.** Find those special places in your garden that bring you peace....and I will incorporate those "peaceful pieces" in our newsletter to share with all.

Linda Holmes, Editor

Horticulture:

Should I worry about the safety of the produce in my backyard vegetable garden, which has been coated with ash?

To answer this question, I looked at several resources with information about how smoke and ash affect produce. The references are listed at the end of this article. The best information I found was developed by the Sonoma County Master Gardeners, and is summarized here. I quote their article.

[http://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/Disaster Resources/Fire/Crop Resources/#pro](http://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/Disaster_Resources/Fire/Crop_Resources/#pro)

"When assessing the safety of exposed produce, the difficulty is knowing what has been burning. If it is just vegetation smoke then it is probably safe to eat produce after rinsing off the ash (just the same as having a bonfire in your garden), although it might still taste/smell smoky.

If the air pollution has particulate matter from treated timber, tires, non-food grade oils, or anything plastic or chlorinated that burned it may include a mixture of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins, and metals. Exposure to fire retardant may have also occurred.

An unpublished literature review on the health impacts of PAHs from traffic-related air pollution on lettuce grown in urban agriculture found that:

- Some PAHs can be absorbed into plant tissue, and so cannot be simply washed off.
- The health risk from eating these PAHs is a small proportion of the health impact from breathing them, and it is far below the EPA's level of concern for lifetime cancer risk.
- It is possible that the health benefit of eating the vitamins and nutrients in green leafy vegetables might outweigh that negligible negative impact.
- There is not enough research available on the cumulative impacts of air pollution on produce to make any solid conclusions about the health impacts."

Recommendations from UC Extension in Sonoma County:

1. Wash Your Produce. Wash your hands before eating and handling food.
2. Observe your produce, noting signs of particle deposits, and whether your plants appear healthy.
3. Wash produce well by running fruits and vegetables under running water before storing, cooking, canning or eating them.
4. Soak your produce in a 10% white vinegar solution by volume, which can lift soil particles off produce such as deeply veined leafy green vegetables like kale, swiss chard, savoy cabbage, and hairy fruits like peaches.
5. Remove the outer leaves of lettuce or leafy greens and peel root crops before eating.

Links for more information:

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/SoCo/files/315093.pdf>

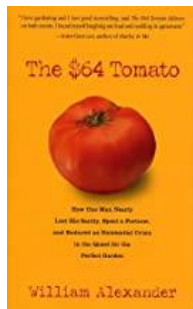
https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ask-expert/featured/it-safe-eat-my-garden-produce-affected-wildfires?fbclid=IwAR04xACtdWK7vJvkLq9sAaAFFbJw_SUJeR-O7-m3t5ZwV6ZmB6pdz1CWuzo

https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/take-precautions-when-wildfire-ash-falls-fruits-and-vegetables?fbclid=IwAR04xACtdWK7vJvkLq9sAaAFFbJw_SUJeR-O7-m3t5ZwV6ZmB6pdz1CWuzo

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Monika Witte, and Kathy Stapleton, Horticulture Chairs

September Book Bees Recap

We read *The \$64 Tomato*. We had brunch boxes and favors of cherry tomatoes with a recipe included.



Lovely day!



Jess Ann Meadors and Susan Polk, Book Bees

THE BOOK BEES are buzzing



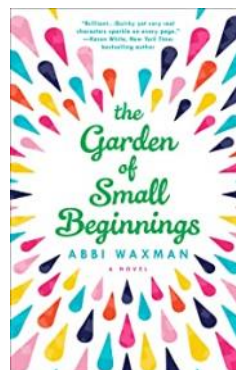
We decided to cancel our November Meeting and move it to Thursday, October 22 to take advantage of the warmer weather outside.

Join us in Jess Ann's garden as we socially distance ourselves, share our thoughts and indulge in some spooky Halloween goodies.

Date: Thursday, Oct 22nd 10:00 am

Where: Jess Ann Meadors' Home

Book: *The Garden of Small Beginnings* by, Abbi Waxman



Our hive is currently full, but if you would like to be on our wait list please e-mail Jess Ann.

Jess Ann Meadors and Susan Polk, Book Bees

Penny Pines: Time for us to change

NOW: One Tree Planted

Ladies, We have changed the organization to which we will be donating funds to reforest California. The National Garden Club site I gave you last month did not pan out very well. I sent a donation and did not receive any sort of receipt or acknowledgment.

Nancy Norland gave me another name, [OneTreePlanted.org](https://forest-fundraiser.raisely.com/vicki-freeberg). *

I contacted them and got a reply the next day. They gave us the possibility to start our own fundraiser to which we will contribute. You can donate any amount and get a certificate any time if you wish to make your donation in honor or memory of someone or as a gift. Take a look at their website. I think you will be impressed and I hope you will want to donate to our very own fundraiser. Let me know when you need a certificate and I'll make sure you get it.

Go to <https://forest-fundraiser.raisely.com/vicki-freeberg> and type in Danville Alamo Garden Club. (It may say Vicki Freeberg's team. I'm trying to get rid of that.) It may take a few days for your donation to show up on the site. Our forests will need a lot of help after this fire season so we can feel good about whatever part we play.

If you have any questions please contact Vicki.

Vicki Freeberg, One Tree Planted (previously Penny Pines)

* TAX ID #46-4664562

One Tree Planted is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S.

Workshop: Succulent Decorated Pumpkins

Thursday, October 15th from 9:30 AM -11:00 AM

The succulent pumpkin workshop will be held on Thursday, October 15th at the home of Deborah White. We will be decorating outside in my backyard. Our stations will be socially distanced. Please wear a mask.

You bring the pumpkin! (Cinderella Pumpkins are best because they have a flat top). I'll provide Tacky glue, spray adhesive, sphagnum moss, and a selection of succulents. The cost is \$15. Arrangements are said to last two months, and then you can plant them in your garden.

Please email Deborah White if you would like to come...



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

Susan Terzuoli and Deborah White, Workshop Chairs

ROSE PRUNING AT OSAGE PARK

Come join us!

We are the **PANDEMIC PRUNERS**.

We volunteer weekly to deadhead the roses at Osage Park in Danville.

It's a great way to socialize at a distance.

Bring your own pruning shears.

Contact me, Mary Zellhart,

if you have any questions or would like to volunteer,
we meet Thursdays and Saturdays from 9-10 am.



Mary Zellhart, Coordinator

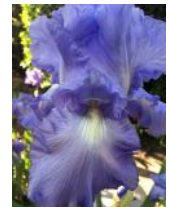
Plant Exchange

Orchard Nursery, one of our DAGC sponsors, has stated, "fall is the absolute best time to plant your trees, shrubs and many perennials for a burst of spring growth and color". Fall is California's second spring before the cool weather of winter. They suggest getting plants into the ground so Mother Nature can assist.

In terms of Plant Exchange, Linda Holmes, our newsletter editor contacted me to say she has divided her Bearded Iris plants, making them available to anyone interested in the rhizomes. Please contact her if you are interesting in getting some. You may see the Bearded Iris plants as pictured in the September newsletter under the Plant Exchange article. Linda is the only member who offered plants. I anticipate the Plant Exchange program will be on hold until our first proposed meeting at the Alamo Women's Club in February. Looking forward to seeing our DAGC members there and please bring your extra pots and plants for exchange.

Jenny Offringa and Ellen Efros, Plant Exchange Chairs

Samples for sharing:



Special FYI: Native Buckwheat Care

As illustrated by their native habitats, California buckwheats are at their best in lean, well-draining soil and full sun. Experts recommend mixing gravel or sand in the top few inches of soil around the plants' crowns to keep them dry. Plant in fall through spring in full sun to light shade. They perform well in mounds or on slopes. Water initially to establish. Most buckwheats can survive with no summer irrigation, but they will benefit from a deep watering once per month.

<https://mailchi.mp/nativeplants/september-2020-newsletter?e=dc1584429c>

Tena Gallagher





Are you Snap Happy?

Do your fingers twitch and reach for your camera or cell phone when you see a stunning plant or a flourishing flower?

Then I have just the project you've been waiting for!

For many years, our website has been adorned with delightful photographs mostly from a former member Sharon Gibson.

To give the website a 'refresh' we invite you to send in some interesting snaps from your gardens and the 'winners' will see their works displayed on the various pages of the DAGC website. Please send your photos to me via my email address, preferably as jpeg files, and we'll see what artistic members we have in our midst.

Be sure to identify the plant or subject of your photograph so a caption can be added on the website and include your name so I can give you credit for your contribution.

Have a happy snappy time.....

Sharon Townsend, Webmaster



Arrangement for September Birthday Member

was created by our Artistic Arranger Michele Snover
and won by Vicki Freeberg!



*Happy October Birthdays....***



Judy Allen, Marsha Anderson-Landau, Evelyn Boetes, Fran Crisman, Myra Cummins, Ellen Efros, Dee Evans, Rose Gogarty, Nancy Goreth, Page Krause, Diane Ringwood, Barbara Ruderman, Jeanne Ryan, Sharon Townsend, Kerry Weisser, Julie Zimmerman

*** I apologize for putting the February Birthdays in the last version, here are the official 16 members who have October's Birthdays...*

Historian

Hello. I am the historian for the club and I will be documenting all the wonderful things we are doing this year. I am asking everyone, when you are out and about somewhere fun like a garden center, beautiful park or the mountains with yourself or a club member to please send me any photos you take. I will use these photos for the end of the year slide show and/or include them in my article for the Flower Pot. This is going to be an interesting year, so I need your help! Thank you in advance!

Rose Goharty, Historian

Contra Costa and Solano Food Bank

Volunteer Session

Date: Thursday, Oct. 22

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Place: 4010 Nelson Ave. Concord, 94520

Needed: 15 volunteers to bag produce or sort food

Must: wear masks, closed toed shoes, great attitude!

Please RSVP to Darlene Wiskel and the slots will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

I hope to enjoy a fulfilling afternoon with a few of you ladies in the near future...

Darlene Wiskel, Community Outreach



Recap: September Ruth Bancroft Garden Tour



13 members and 2 guests took the challenge to take this tour. The day was gorgeous and we had beautiful blue skies, perfect for taking pictures.

All members of the group were very co-operative and maintained social distancing along with wearing masks. The tour was a self-conducted tour with the party separated into groups of two or three.



The garden is relatively small, however there is a lot to see, note and learn about. The local staff who were working and the volunteers were very helpful and were glad to take the time to talk to us, share information on the plants, the growing conditions, the garden's history and the plants growing there.

There were small tables and chairs throughout the park for taking breaks and/or eating lunch. We took a lunch break around noon.

Thanks to the members and their guests who ventured out and took the tour while observing the COVID requirements.



More pictures on

Page 12



The garden is always looking for volunteers to help with the work in the garden and in the office too.



Rose Khurana, Tour Chair



DAGC Sponsor Highlight: Orchard Nursery

Orchard Nursery in Lafayette has a wonderful selection of houseplants now. And, as usual, their autumn displays of pumpkins are beautiful! There will not be the usual weekend harvest events this year, but their nursery is loaded with lots of beautiful healthy plants...



Go, enjoy, and prepare for fall planting.



Rebecca Byrom, Joan Hines, and Diane Ward, Sponsor Reps

*Our last season was stopped shortbut our **sponsors had been generous**. They had provided a number of gifts for us to share with our members. We chose to distribute these item with members who attended our September ZOOM meeting. Here are the attending members who were lucky to win:*

- Sloat Garden Center: Maroon Mum won by Linda Holmes and "Sunbelievable" Sunflower won by Rhonda Raphael
- Annie's Gift Certificate: won by Patty Dobbin
- Orchard Nursery Agastache Plants: won by Sandra Olinger and Lynn Hoaglin
- Orchard Nursery Mum: won by Holly Sauer
- Reagans Nursery: A gift card won by Joan Rush
- Alamo Ace: 4 succulent plants won by Patty Walker

Please visit them and thank them for their continued support.

OUR SPONSORS

Alamo Ace Hardware (Nursery)

3211 Danville Blvd., Alamo, CA 94507
925-837-2420

Lucky Garden Dublin Hydroponics

7071 Village Pkwy, Dublin, CA 94568
925-828-4769

Annie's Annuals & Perennials

740 Market Ave., Richmond, CA 94801
510-215-3301 or 888-266-4370

Orchard Nursery

4010 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-4474

Armstrong Garden Center

7360 San Ramon Road, Dublin, CA 94568
925-551-0231

Regan Nursery

4268 Decoto Road, Fremont, CA 94555
510-797-3222

Cottage Jewel

100 W. Prospect Ave., Danville, CA 94526
925-837-2664

Sloat Garden Center

828 Diablo Road, Danville, CA 94526
925-743-0288



October Calendar

DATE & TIME:	EVENT:	DETAILS:
October 1st, Thursday Sign in at 9:20, meeting begins 9:30 am.	<u>BOARD MEETING</u> via ZOOM	Watch for email from DAGC
October 8th, Thursday Sign in at 9:20, meeting begins at 9:30 am.	<u>GENERAL MEETING</u> via ZOOM	Watch for email from DAGC
October 15th, Thursday 9:30 to 11:00 am.	<u>October Workshop:</u> <u>Succulent Pumpkins Creations</u>	Home of Deborah White. Details on page 7
October 15th, Thursday	<u>Newsletter Articles</u> (And member pictures) due	Send to Linda Holmes
October 22nd Thursday, 10:00 am.	<u>Book Bees</u> <i>The Garden of Small Beginnings</i>	Details on page 6
October 22nd, Thursday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm.	<u>Food Bank Volunteers</u> needed to sort contributions	Details on page 10

More views from our tour of the Ruth Bancroft Gardens

