



August 2004

## Welcome!

by  
Djubaya



### A word from this month's host...

Dear Friends and family. August was such a full month. So full in fact that it leaked over into September. It was cold the first half of the month and HOT!! HOT!!! HOT!!!! the last weeks.

We were able to get to many little projects which were hanging around just waiting for the right inspiration—as it turned out we got just the right inspiration. I call my inspiration 'Deborah' I enjoy creating this home with Deborah so very much. We work so smoothly together and are able to support each other in developing creativity we never knew we had. So here are this month's creations. Enjoy, Djubaya

## Cornucopia



### A harvest to be thankful for

Our gardens were overflowing this year. We have had to give most of our harvest to friends and family. I think we might have harvested well over 500 pounds of lemon cucumbers.

This year's fruit and vegetable harvest was amazing because our 5 beehives helped pollinate the crops. Peach & pear trees were bearing fruit within months being planted as bare roots.

The bees seem to do quite a job of keeping our plants producing fruit and vegetables. We hope they have enough honey to keep them through the winter. We are looking forward to next year when we can finally harvest our first 'Catchtail Honey'!!

[Click here to see our beehives](#)

## Chicks Ahoy



### New members of the family

We could not resist. While we were at our local feed store, we popped in to look at the new chicks they had (yes, it is true we have baby fever; that may be a future article).

To make a short story shorter we got some new baby chicks. We got two breeds that lays chocolate brown eggs called Cuckoo Marans & Welsummers. They are very cute and friendly and attract every child in the neighborhood between the ages of 2 & 14.

## Pond Evolution

### Moving ahead with the rock work



After 2 years we have finally given our pond a facelift. We had to remove all the fish, frogs and pollywogs and place them into a temporary pond (1/2 wine barrel) and they seem to enjoy it there.

The Buddha is our final touch sitting above the waterfall. We will fill the area around the pond with stone from Sonoma Mountain, and landscape with many lush green plants. When the PH of the water is balanced we will add Koi and a few water lilies.

## New 'On-Demand' Water Heater



After a huge amount of red tape and trench digging we got natural gas running to our house. We were then able to remove our electric hot water heater which ran our bill through the roof. This new on-demand water heater will lower our cost and use fewer resources.

We also added a filter system to the house. A sediment pre-filter pulls out all the small rocks which have been clogging our faucets and an 'activated carbon' filter removes VOC's (volatice organic compounds) and the iron taste from the water. Now it is just like drinking spring water out of the faucet.

## The Well House Remodel

This well house was falling over when we moved here. We put a new roof on last year and then added an 'irrigation shed' to the back side of the building. We placed recycled cedar shingles on it to give a rustic feel.



In a couple years you will not be able to even see this building. We hope to plant it with vines and shrubs in such a way that it melts into the garden. We'll keep you posted on the evolution.

Nearby, we hope to build a small compound of 3 strawbale structures. These will act as guest cottages....so come visit!

## The Great Sebastopol Blueberry Rescue



Yes, we were part of history. In the last hot dusty days of August hundreds of people descended on the oldest blueberry farm in California to dig up the 54-year old bushes. All of the 500 bushes were rescued from the bulldozer and planted at their new homes in more than 300 gardens around the state.

We were able to get 10 of these to plant at Catchtail Gardens. We can only hope they survive the 90 - 100 degree F temps which have been scorching us every day since.

### Want to get in touch?

write to: [gaiabee@catchtail.com](mailto:gaiabee@catchtail.com)  
visit our web site at: <http://www.catchtail.com>

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## AUGUST Harvest Log: FRUIT...

boysenberries, blackberries, mulberries, elderberries, lime, asian pear.

## VEGETABLES...

TOMATOES, lemon cucumbers, pickling cucumbers, sweet peppers, yellow squash, onions, potatoes, jacon & mashua (root vegetables) pumpkin...

AND Cosmos is BLOOMING!

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