

# The Weeder

November 2018

Volume 30 Issue 11

## 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 first Monday), of each month, 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Delta Informal Gardeners encourages gardening through education and beautification of the community.

### 2018 General Meetings

November 26  
December 10 Holiday Pot Luck

### 2018 Board Meetings

November 27

### Propagation

November 17

### Field Trips

December 5 - Orchard Nursery  
March 20th - Luther Burbank Home & Garden

### Programs

**November 26<sup>th</sup>** Cathy Voortman will be presenting a program on chrysanthemums.

**January 28<sup>th</sup>** will be Marsha Hildebrand from Regan Nursery in Fremont, will talk about Bare Root Roses, planting and early spring care, and pruning/forcing dormancy.

## President's Message

Propagation of plant material for our annual Plant Sale in May will have wrapped up for the Fall by the time you receive this Weeder. We will be starting up again in January every Saturday from 10:00AM until noon at the Wolfe Ranch. I want to thank everyone who came out to help this Fall with bringing their cuttings, as well as rooted plants and plants to be divided. We all enjoyed the camaraderie, the propagation classes and especially the treats each week.

Whether you were there one Saturday or every Saturday your help is very much appreciated. As of Saturday 11/3 we have had 40 individual Diggers and friends who come out and helped. We have averaged 15.5 Diggers each week, who have contributed a minimum of 368 person hours toward making the 2019 Plant Sale a success. You all will be notified when we start up again in January. Thank you all.

The Plant Sale Committee and Board has prepared a detailed month by month draft manual on what needs to be done to put on a successful Plant Sale. We will be sending this Draft out to all members for your review, comment and suggestions to help improve our Propagation and Plant Sale process. We hope to have it out to you before the new year and are looking forward to your comments. This is a team effort to put on an annual Plant Sale and each one of you are part of the Team.

Bob Selders,  
President



## FIELD TRIPS

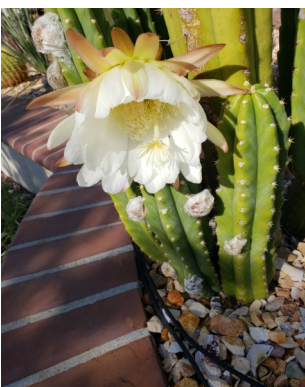
# Orchard NURSERY

On December 5th we will go to Orchard Nursery in Lafayette to peruse their Christmas decorations and plants. This is a favorite trip that we have made several times in the past and we always come home with our cars packed with holiday plants and decor. After we spend time and money enjoying what they have to offer we will have lunch in a nearby restaurant. Sign up at the next meeting or call/text Robin 925-759-0700.

March 20th is tentatively scheduled for our Spring trip to the Luther Burbank Home & Garden in Santa Rosa. Luther Burbank was a famed horticulturist who introduced more than 800 new plant varieties in his time. After our tour we will lunch and, if time allows, visit a nearby nursery.



If you go on a trip and take photos of the plants you see, please share them with us. You can email them to [johnacase@comcast.net](mailto:johnacase@comcast.net). We generally have lots of room to post them up for you!



Echinopsis pachanoi in flower



Leopard Lilies (*Iris pardalinum*) in flower in San Francisco. This is a California native.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**November 26<sup>th</sup>** - Cathy Voortman is thrilled to be DIG's speaker for November and will be discussing the topic of "Chrysanthemums, A Garden's Fall Splendor" Cathy has been an avid gardener for at least 15 years and a lifelong lover of plants, which probably was rooted in her upbringing by her father, an apricot farmer, and her mother, a former biology major with a love of botany. Cathy admittedly has a plant problem (that some call a passion). Despite vowing to scale back due to the demands of her growing family, the problem seems only to grow with the promise of each passing year.

Cathy graduated from UC Davis in 2000 with a B.A. earning her basic plant biology while surrounded by some of the finest greenhouses and arboretums a plant-lover could imagine. She interned at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory and worked for a few years as a lab manager for the UC Extension's Plant Pathology specialist--doing everything from sweeping floors and pouring petri dishes to assisting grad students with their research on agricultural crop diseases. Cathy also worked a short stint at the Amador Flower Farm--a retail nursery and daylily growing grounds in Plymouth, CA. Much of her gardening knowledge, however, comes from experience in her Brentwood garden where she has lived most of her life.

While most of her free time is now devoted to "all things kid" as she is a full-time housewife of three young daughters, her favorite pastimes include field botany and mycology in both the Sierras and Mojave, growing heirloom tomatoes, exploring Western 4WD backroads and...gardening....of course!

While Cathy has been growing chrysanthemums for only a few years, she has come to appreciate this often overlooked fall gem and learned the proper cultural practices to raise these beautiful additions to your late-fall/early-winter garden. Cathy is enthusiastic to share with you some of the not-so-common mums of yesteryear with the hope that you too may come to better appreciate of them as well. Do not come to this talk expecting to hear about your average Home-Depot mums, rather be prepared to see the crown jew-

els of your fall garden, a colorful display of fall in its full splendor.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** is our annual Holiday Potluck and installation of officers for next year. It will be at the Brentwood Community Center. Save the date, more information to come.

### Hospitality

I want to thank Cece White, Michael Pollock and Rene Best for bringing some great goodies to our October Meeting.

I also want to thank Sandy Marmam, Linda Soliven and Kryssie Dupuis for volunteering to bring goodies to our November Meeting.

Bob Selders—Vice President

## BOARD MINUTES—November 6, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Bob S. Bob S., as V.P., reported on future Speakers. The January speaker is Marsha Hildebrand of Regan Nursery. She will discuss bare root roses, planting and early spring care and pruning. Bob reminded us to mark our calendars for DIG's Holiday Potluck/General Meeting on December 10th.

Ginger gave the Treasurer's report. Chris reported that DIG now has 131 members. The Minutes were approved by the Board for October. Robin reported that on December 5<sup>th</sup> DIG's Holiday Field Trip will be to Orchard Nursery in Lafayette followed by lunch. We will meet at 9AM at the BART Park and Ride. In March, the field trip will be to the Luther Burbank Home and Garden in Santa Rosa. Martin discussed donations and the Board voted and approved \$500.00 donation to the Brentwood City Council for Mayor's turkeys for Thanksgiving. Further donations were postponed until the December meeting.

A shout out to Muriel Hilliard for her rooted geranium cuttings and THANK YOU!

Bob S. led the following discussion on donations, scholarships, water schedules, soil, DIG's survey and the annual Toy Drive. Robin reminded us to please bring an unwrapped new toy for the TOY DRIVE to the next General Meeting on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

### Reminders:

Next General Meeting is November 26, 2018 at 7:30PM

Next Board Meeting: November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7PM

Holiday Potluck/General Meeting December 10<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully,

Sue Castle, Secretary

## PROPAGATION REPORT

Propagation continues every Saturday through November 17th.



Bad air stymied our progress on November 10, but we were hard at it on the last day of the year, November 17. However,

this does not mean that nothing will be going on during the holiday break. Plants still need to be watered, turkeys need to be shooed away, general cleanup and preparation for the spring is always a need for us. If you are interested, contact any of the captains to find out how you can help, especially with the watering.

In the meantime, if you are planning to bring more plant material from your garden, please be aware that the time of year is important for successful propagation. A good example is that we need to propagate *Oscularia deltoidea* in the fall. Spring cutting will not grow as that time is used by the plant for producing flowers. Many plants are sensitive to the seasons, so if you do not know, please ask. We welcome your donations but we also want to have them be successful in our customers' gardens!



Jonah Sutherland with a lupine seedling at a recent propagation. Jonah is a senior working on his community service to graduate next spring. The door is open to all Liberty Union Students!

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### Michaelmas Daisy (*Aster amellus*)

"The Michaelmas daisy, amongst the dead weeds,  
Blooms for St. Michael's valorous deeds. "



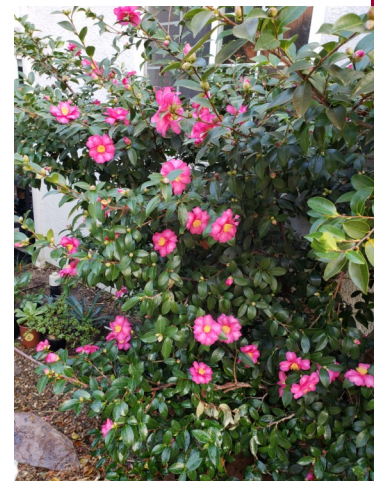
Clusters of old-fashioned double lilac blooms cover this upright, mounding plant early in the season, and eventually appear along horizontally spreading branches as the season progresses. Mass in perennial borders for long-lasting color. An herbaceous perennial.

This tough-as-nails-aster which blooms near St Michael's holiday on September 29th loves sun and is not too picky about water needs.

Loved by honeybees, it lights up in a blanket of blooms in late fall and usually can be found at our plant sale.

Many thanks to Cathy Voortman for the contribution!

The *Camellia sasanqua*, more popularly known as the Yuletide Camellia as it blooms during the holiday season.



## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

Are you tired of having leftovers that you do not know what to do with? Try this!

Thanksgiving Leftovers: Shepherd's Pie

### Ingredients:

for 4 servings

2 tablespoons butter  
1 cup onion, diced  
1 cup carrot, chopped  
1 cup peas  
1 cup mushrooms  
3 cups turkey, cooked, diced  
½ teaspoon dried thyme  
½ teaspoon dried parsley  
¼ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
1 cup gravy  
½ cup heavy cream  
4 cups mashed potato  
cooking spray, as needed



### Preparation

Preheat the oven to 425°F (220°C).

Melt butter in a large pot. Then add onions and carrots and cook until tender (about 5 minutes on medium heat).

Add in mushrooms and peas. Cook for an additional 2-3 minutes.

Then, add in the turkey, salt, pepper, parsley, and thyme and stir until well-blended. Pour in the gravy and heavy cream, stir, and cook on low heat for 5 minutes.

Transfer to a greased baking dish or ramekins. Top with leftover mashed potatoes.

Mist with nonstick cooking spray. Place on a baking sheet and bake for 10-15 minutes until the potatoes are lightly browned and the filling is bubbly around the edges. (This may get messy, so clean up the edges before serving.)

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### TOY DRIVE

For the last few years DIG has participated in the local toy drive. All toys stay in the nearby communities and are given to children who would likely not have anything for the holidays. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy or a gift card to our next meeting, November 26th. If you would like to donate money to the program please make a check out to Delta Community Services, Inc.

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### HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Our annual holiday potluck will be at the Brentwood Community Center on December 10th. Set up is at 6:00PM and dinner will start around 6:45. Bring a main dish, salad, side dish or dessert to share.

Please bring a gift to use as a centerpiece on the tables. They will be raffled off at the end of the evening. Be creative and decorate your gift or bring a holiday plant, just bring something you would be happy to receive as well as give.

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**DIG** welcomes comments on how we can improve things or what we can do better. If you have ideas for speakers or field trips we'd love to hear them. Email Robin at [rchoate80@yahoo.com](mailto:rchoate80@yahoo.com)

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The good news is that we have 131 members. The newest one is Debbie St. Hilaire from Brentwood. Welcome, Debbie! We look forward to meeting you soon at a meeting or at propagation on Saturdays out at the Wolfe Ranch where we visit, eat goodies and, oh yeah, pot up plants, too!

The not so good news is that only 57 members have paid their dues to date. Yikes! We'd like to get everyone paid up by the end of December so that we can give our full attention to getting ready for our plant sale in May instead of hounding people to pay their dues. Our dues are still a mere \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a family. Please mail your check to DIG, PO Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513, ATTN: Chris Artz. Thank you for doing this soon.

Chris Artz

**DELTA INFORMAL GARDENERS**

P.O. Box 66

Brentwood Ca 94513

[deltainformalgardeners.org](http://deltainformalgardeners.org)

Road, Brentwood.

Winter and Spring propagation events, as well as our annual plant sale, are held at Wolfe Ranch, 700 Creek

809 Second Street in Brentwood.

DIG meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Brentwood Community Methodist Church,

**Directions**



*Please make checks payable to DIG.*

New Member  Renewal

What can you teach or want to learn from you DIG membership?

(PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

Family Membership.....\$20

Individual Membership.....\$15

PHONE

dues to the next general meeting.

EMAIL ADDRESS

may also bring your form and

dues to the address above. You

CITY

form and mail it along with your

ZIP

STATE

Please fill out the membership

ADDRESS

**ATTN: Chris Artz**

**Brentwood, CA 94513**

NAME

**PO Box 66**

**DIG Membership**