



THE WEEDEDER

February 2019

Volume 31 Issue 2

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.

2019 General Meetings

February 25

March 25

April 22

2019 Board Meetings

March 5

April 2

May 7

2019 Plant Sale

May 11



President's Message

Propagation is ongoing every Saturday at the Wolfe Ranch from 10:00 until Noon, weather permitting. We need everyone's help. There is a lot to do in only 11 weeks! Weather is always an issue this time of the year between the rain and wind, so we will try to notify everyone of cancelation of propagation no later than early Saturday mornings, so check your e-mail before heading out to the Ranch for status.

If you are planting seeds for the sale, they need to be planted soon. Also, coordinate with Connie Miller to see what plants are needed and/or what you are already growing so she knows what plants and approximate quantity to expect.

Spring is almost here so it is time to get ready for spring planting. Inventory all your garden tools, clean and sharpen as needed and purchase tools that you need. Inventory all your supplies, fertilizers, insecticides, etc. and make a list of what you will need throughout the planting and growing season, then keep an eye out for sales so you can restock at a savings. Clear your garden of weeds before they get out of control, divide perennials, prune, etc.. Feed your soil by adding compost, manure and slow release fertilizer. But most importantly, come to the Wolfe Ranch on Saturday's from 10:00 to noon to help the garden club get plants ready for the May annual Plant Sale!

Bob Selders, President



Board Minutes

The February 5, 2019 Board Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Bob S. Elinor, VP of Programs reminded us that on February 25th Don Bergman will be speaking about Camellias. Following Elinor's report, there was a discussion of additional topics and sources for speakers. Ginger gave the Treasurer's report. She also reported on the subject of Raffles and 50/50 drawings. She explained the limitations due to DIG's non-profit status and tax requirements and the board determined it was not something we wanted to do. DIG's November 27, 2018 and January 8, 2019 Minutes published in The Weeder were approved by the Board. Chris reported that only 80 members have paid for 2019. Bob reminded everyone that in March we will decide on donations. Martin pointed out that Hope House has been one of our donation recipients and that they feed 1400 people per month. In the past few weeks, due to government shut down, Hope House has also been feeding Coast Guard families. Martin will tell more about Hope House at our next general meeting. Juli Redford is the new Field Trip Chairperson. The Field trip to the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens in Santa Rosa has been rescheduled for April 3rd. Juli led a discussion of ideas for future field trips. Robin announced that she will be using a new program to publish for The Weeder.

Under old business, Bob S. led discussions regarding the composition of soil purchased for the sale and that he and Steve would be purchasing replacement soil soon. The "old" soil is to be purchased by an anonymous benefactor. We need 1 gallon pots. There is still an opening for Publicity.

Under new business, the board discussed raising DIG's dues. It was pointed out that in thirty years the dues have never been increased, while our costs have increased. It was proposed that dues be raised from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for individuals and from \$20.00 to \$25.00 for families effective June 1, 2019. The DIG Board voted and passed the motion unanimously. The Board discussed becoming more Earth Friendly, i.e. using biodegradable plates, utensils and water containers. It was decided that we would start small- by no longer providing bottled water. At future meetings, we will have a large water container with paper cups rather than plastic water bottles. We will encourage members to bring their own. Sue joined Pat M. with the Nominating Committee. Pat suggested that the Plant Sale needs a theme. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sue Castle, Secretary

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

DON BERGAMINI -February 25,
2019 Speaker Topic: Camellias

Our February speaker, Don Bergamini, grew up around camellias. His dad had them growing all around the house, and he would slip the camellias and give them to friends and relatives.

When Don was twelve, the Kiwanis Club of Martinez was putting on a show. He took some of his dad's camellias, walked down to the show, and entered. He won a few ribbons and from then on, he says, he was hooked. When Don was given his grandmother's camellias around 1967, he began his own collection.

Don became a member of the Delta Camellia Society where he served as president, vice president, treasurer, show chairman, and chairman of judges. In the following years he joined the American Camellia Society, International Camellia Society, New Zealand Camellia Society, Australian Camellia Society, Northern California Camellia Society, Southern California Camellia Society, Northern California Research Committee, Southeastern Camellia Society, Napa Camellia Society, the Camellia Society of Modesto, and Sacramento Camellia Society. Don also served as president and vice president of the Northern California Camellia Council, where he was awarded the Camellia Person of the

Year in July 2014, and has been running the Judge's school since its inception. He currently serves as the President of the American Camellia Society and has been recognized as their Camellia Person of the Year.

About 900 named varieties and about 200 seedlings -- as well as the largest collection of miniatures and smalls that he knows of -- reside in his garden. Don has named several camellias and is hoping one day to name one for himself. He loves the hobby and has a wealth of information to share.

Elinor Bell, Vice President



The Greenhouse Thanks You!

You'd be surprised to know all the work that goes on behind the scenes throughout the year to make our yearly plant sale happen. A few weeks ago several wonderful DIG members braved the cold, wet weather as they replaced the worn out plastic cover on our greenhouse. First they had to remove the frame along with the old plastic using pry bars as they clung to ladders. They worked from mid-morning to mid-afternoon and did such a great job. Our greenhouse no longer leaks thanks to "The Bobs," Bob Selders and Bob Castle, "The Steves," Steve Hendrickson and Steve Lanfri, as well as Peter Wolfe, Dan Artz, Antonio, and even Robin Choate who also pitched in. Also, a special thank you to Robin and Chris Choate of Delta Worms for donating two huge buckets of worm castings to add to our seed starting soil. What a generous gift that we are already putting to good use.



Field Trips

On Wednesday, April 3, we will be driving to the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens in Santa Rosa. It's located at 204 Santa Rosa Avenue Santa Rosa. Along with a lovely garden, the property includes a Carriage House Museum and a gift shop. We'll find a place for lunch nearby then you have a choice of nurseries to visit after we eat. We will meet as usual at the BART Park and Ride lot on Walnut Blvd in Brentwood and LEAVE at 9 a.m. Sign up at the next meeting or call 925-778-5842

Juli Redford 

Membership

Thank you to the 81 members who have paid their membership dues. To those of you who have not paid your dues, we would like to know if you are planning to join DIG this year. If you're not receiving The Weeder, you probably haven't paid your dues. Please send your check in as soon as possible ALONG WITH A MEMBERSHIP SLIP to the address listed at the end of this email. Thank you.

Chris Artz 

Hospitality

Thank you Pat Moore, Juli Redford, Robin Choate and others for bringing some great goodies to our January meeting. Thanks also to Elinor Bell, Marylin Lanfri and Sue Castle for volunteering to bring goodies to our February 25th Meeting.

Peanut Butter Golden Brownies

2 1/4 cup unsifted flour
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt

2/3 cup butter
2/3 cup smooth peanut butter
1 1/4 cups sugar
1 1/4 cups firmly packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 eggs

1 12 ounce package (2 cups) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt; set aside. In large bowl, combine butter, peanut butter, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla extract; beat until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time beating well after each addition.

Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in 6 ounces chocolate morsels. Spread evenly into a well-greased 15 by 10 by 1 inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.

Remove from oven, sprinkle top with remaining 6 ounces of chocolate morsels. Let stand about 4 minutes until they become shiny and soft. Spread evenly over top of brownies. Cool completely. Cut into 2" squares. Makes 35 2 inch squares.

Optional- I added two tablespoons of softened butter to the melting chocolate topping to allow to spread easier.

Juli Redford

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.....\$15

Family Membership\$20

Make checks payable to DIG

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email address(es) _____

Phone (_____) _____

_____ **New Member** _____ **Renewal**

Dues to Increase JUNE 1, 2019

For the first time since we became a club we will be raising our dues. Join or pay soon to avoid the increase. Individual memberships will be \$20 and Family will be \$25, effective June 1, 2019.



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513