



THE WEEEDER

NOVEMBER 2021

Volume 33 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 1st Monday) of each month, 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Delta Informal Gardeners encourages gardening through education and beautification of the community.

2021 General Meetings

January 25 - Canceled
February 22 - Canceled
March 22 - Canceled
April 26 - Canceled
May 24 - Canceled
June 28 - Picnic - Plant Exchange
July 26 - Canceled
August 23 - Canceled
September 27 - Wear a mask!
October 25
November 22
December 13 - Holiday Potluck -

2021 Board Meetings

January 5	July 6
February 2	August 3
March 2	September 7
April 6	October 5
May 4	November 2
June 8	November 30

2022 Plant Sale: MAY 7

President's Message

I'm loving this rain! I can finally get a shovel into the

ground and work on my soil and get a few things planted. I had the pleasure of joining Juli Redford on her last field trip down to Tracy. She introduced me to two nurseries I'd never been to that were unique and fun. Of course I couldn't resist buying several plants. I hope you'll consider coming along on one of the field trips Julie puts together. She always finds great places to go to and puts a lot of thought into these trips. The next one to Orchard is always popular and a fun Christmas adventure.

I'd like to take a moment to thank all of our members for their continued support throughout this pandemic. It seemed at times that we'd never get together, but here we are, well into propagation with lots of cuttings of plants, with some even ready to pot up.

Thank you to all of you who come out on Saturdays to help. We're getting a lot done and have already had people asking if we're having a sale next year. It's going to be a great sale and many in our community are already looking forward to it.

Mark your calendars for December 13, which will be our Holiday Potluck. It will be held at the Brentwood Community Center. Watch for more info in the coming weeks and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Connie Miller, President



Bob Selders "sticking" cuttings at propagation.

It's time to pay your dues for 2022! Please call Chris Artz at 925-234-0395 to see if you've already paid. Thanks!

Thank you Julie Redford, Anne Mingst, and Debbie St. Hilaire for volunteering to bring Snacks to the November meeting. A belated thanks to Linda Cullen, Marilyn Lanfri, and Pat Moore for treating us at the October meeting.

Board Minutes

Connie called to order DIG's November 2, 2021, Board Meeting at 11:07 AM. The Board Meeting was held at Wolfe Ranch. Included at the Meeting were Connie, Chris, Ginger, Pat, Sue, Bob C, Cecilia, Bob S. and Robin. 🌸 Ginger gave the Treasurers' report. 🌸 Chris reported that Membership has 50 paid members for 2022. 🌸 The Board approved Sue request that DIG's October Minutes be approved as printed in the Weeder. 🌸 Connie complimented Juli for organizing Field Trips and noted our next trip is to Orchard Nursery. 🌸 Robin commented on the Toy Drive. New unwrapped presents or Gift Cards can be brought to Saturday Propagation or our General Meeting on November 22nd. The toys are distributed by Brentwood Community Chest. 🌸 The recently delivered new soil for Propagation and "Potting Up" looks good. Robin noted that she would like to pass on Watering coordination to another member once we start potting up. 🌸 DIG's next speaker is on Nancy Tackett on Daffodils, Monday, November 22nd. 🌸 We discussed putting information on "Nextdoor." 🌸 Connie thanked Pat for announcing the Nominating Committee results for 2022 at the last meeting. (Connie, President; Robin, Vice President; Ginger, Treasurer and Sue, Secretary). There was a discussion on getting other members to join the Board or take on jobs (see watering coordinator above). Members will vote in November. 🌸 Next in the queue were Donations. After discussions on the budget and recipients, the Board approved donating \$500.00 to Brentwood Community Chest's Turkey/ Holiday Food Drive, \$200.00 to Family Harvest Farm in Pittsburg, and \$300.00 to H.O.P.E. House (the food and clothing ministry affiliated with the Brentwood Community United Methodist Church.) 🌸 Pat was asked to confirm Auctioneer for January. Information to go in next Weeders. 🌸 Details about Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange to be in email blast & Weeder. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 🌸

🎅 ANNUAL TOY DRIVE 🎅

Once again we are collecting toys for local children in need. Please bring new unwrapped toys or gift cards to our November meeting or to Saturday Propagation.



Thank You!

Speaker Committee



Our November 22nd speaker will be **Nancy Tackett**, President of the American Daffodil Society. Nancy will tell us everything we need to know about Daffodils.

Growing up on a family farm in Southwest Iowa, Nancy could not help but be interested in plants and animals. She helped her grandmother and mother plant their vegetable and flower gardens, and her father in planting much larger crops. Nancy first experienced daffodils with historic varieties like "King Alfred," which were frequently found at the local farm supply store.

Nancy has a BS in Computer Information Systems and worked with a variety of computers and projects. Her knowledge of technical issues was key to the development of a set of daffodil tools for use on the Internet. The most popular of these is DaffSeek.org which is a cultivar database with photos, pedigree trees, and information about more than 32,000 daffodils. For this effort, Nancy and her husband Ben, have been honored by being recipients of the Royal Horticultural Society Peter Barr Cup "for doing something good for daffodils"; honorary Vice Presidents of Great Britain's Daffodil Society; Life Memberships to the National Daffodil Society of New Zealand; as well as the Gold and Silver medals from the American Daffodil Society. They have participated in a "Daffodils Species Safari," where they traveled throughout Spain and part of France with the special friends, who are species experts, to document and photograph species varieties.

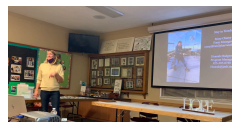


In addition to being president of the American Daffodil Society, Nancy also serves on the Northern California Daffodil Society Board of Directors. She grows her daffodils in the East Bay on a steep yard in Martinez. Many of her daffodils are grown in pots, especially her collection of miniature daffodils.

We want to thank member Richard Arp for finding her for us.



We want to thank **Hannah Hodgson**, Program Manager, from **Family Harvest Farm**, a John Muir Land Trust program, for speaking in October. We were fascinated by her talk about the farm and their foster care graduate program. And thanks to Chris Choate for arranging it.



On February 28th **Gwen O'Neill** will speak on Hydroponic Towers.

Robin Choate 🧑🌾

FIELD TRIPS

Our October field trip was a real treat! Connie and I toured Tracy's Nursery and Garden. The business is not named after the city of Tracy, but is the name of an impressive woman with many years of experience in the plant and nursery business. Located several miles south of the city of Tracy on a former vineyard, Tracy hosts community events and donates generously to local charities. Several volunteers work to maintain the garden, assist customers, and help with charity events. We both found lovely plants we "needed" to bring home for our gardens.



It's that time of year for our traditional field trip to **Orchard Nursery** in Lafayette so our next trip is scheduled for December 2nd. If you are not familiar with Orchard Nursery, it is a full-service nursery with a wide selection of plants, trees, succulents, seasonal vegetables, and knowledgeable staff. This time of year, they transform the main building into a Christmas store. Even if you are not purchasing anything, it's a treat for the eyes! After our shopping, we will have lunch nearby. Give me a call or sign up for this outing at our next general meeting on Monday, November 22.



Juli Redford 🌲

FUTURE EVENTS

Our **Holiday Potluck** is on December 13th, at the Brentwood Community Center, 35 Oak Street. 6:00 PM set up and appetizers, then dinner at 6:30. Bring a main dish, side dish, appetizer or dessert to feed six or more. DIG will provide plates, flatware, and water. You may bring an adult beverage if you choose. If you'd like to participate in our gift exchange, bring something that can be used as a table centerpiece. These are usually garden related, or a plant, or just something inexpensive that you'd like to have.



On January 24, 2021 we will have an **Auction** of garden related items that our members donate. This is a fun event where we raise money to donate. So, save those garden things you no longer use and bring them to the Auction.

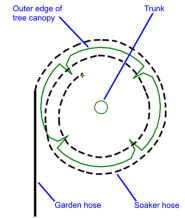


Trees need our loving support Saving our trees during a drought by Lori Palmquist

As if on a planetary conveyor belt, another drought is upon us, right on the heels of the last one. California is a dry state, getting dryer and hotter due to the effects of climate change. Drought is our new normal. We have experienced a measurable state of drought in 16 of the past 21 years. As with the previous drought, we need to manage our lives and our landscapes with an eye toward water conservation.

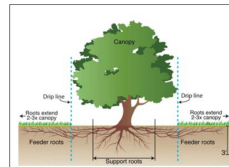
Lawns are water-guzzlers and are worthy targets for water conservation. A popular response to the water conservation restrictions is to remove lawns or simply stop watering our lawns. A sad consequence to turning off the lawn watering is the damage to the trees that were growing where the lawn was. We lost a great many trees due to this action during the previous drought simply because these trees were also being watered by those same lawn sprinklers. The trees were left to find water for themselves and too many of them died. We very much need to prevent this from happening this time around.

What caused that damage? Trees that have lived in lawns are used to frequent and plentiful watering. Since these trees have shallow roots, they will suffer quickly after the water is turned off. Unfortunately, they don't show this stress visibly for a long time. For example, Christmas trees that are harvested and shipped in August will only start turning brown in January. While lawns and flowers are easily replaced, a large tree takes many years to become established. It is important that you keep the trees on your property watered and thriving when you cut back or turn off the irrigation for your lawn or landscape.



Life Support for Trees

An online search, "Watering trees during drought UC," will yield great information and online references to achieve this. Following are a few suggestions for temporary irrigation solutions. Soaker hoses are good emergency tree-watering devices. (Soaker hoses are not recommended long term, as the laser-small holes get clogged by minerals in the water.) To position the soaker hose, start 3/4 of the way out from the trunk



the outer edge of the tree canopy and lay the hose in a spiral. Mature trees will need the hose farther out from the trunk than young trees.

Tree Ring Irrigation Contraction (TRIC) – The California Center for Urban Horticulture at UC Davis has put together a tutorial for a DIY tree-saving irrigation method, complete with recommended parts and photos showing the drip-ring spirals. <https://ccuh.ucdavis.edu/tric>. Professional irrigation stores in our county sell these parts. These stores welcome the public as well as landscape professionals.

Hand watering – If you opt to water the trees by hand, refer to the image below to know where to apply the water.

According to Sacramento Tree Foundation's Greenprint: A Regional Urban Forest Initiative, trees clean air and water, reduce storm water runoff and conserve energy. They also improve public health and increase property values.

In conclusion, this tree hugger asks you to embrace the notion that ensuring the ongoing watering and care of our trees needs to be at the top of our drought-action to-do list. For the love of trees, please do your best to make this happen!

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 (_____) _____

_____ **New Member**

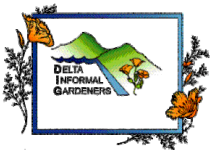
_____ **Renewal**

Pay your 2022 Dues now!

Next Meeting: November 22nd, 7:30 pm

Propagation every Saturday 10:00 am to Noon
through November

Details inside!

P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513