

THE WEEDEDER

JANUARY 2025

Volume 37 Issue 1

2025 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.

2025 General Meetings

- January 27
- February 24
- March 24
- April 28
- May 19*
- June 23 - Members Potluck
- July 28
- August 25
- September 22
- October 27
- November 24
- December 8 - Holiday Potluck

2025 Board Meetings

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

2025 Plant Sale: May 10

* Adjusted due to Holidays

** Subject to Change

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all you DIG'gers! We have a big job and a whole lot to do this year and I am going to need everyone's help. We have not had a regular Annual Plant sale since 2020, due to COVID and securing a new site for the sale. As previously reported, we have secured a temporary site for our annual sale and our permanent site will be at the same general location as this year's sale. There are a number of hoops that Harvest Time and DIG need to go thru to finalize this site. I'm confident, barring no unexpected surprises, that we will be at our permanent site for our 2026 sale.

I want to thank those members who have helped move pots and tables to the new site. We will be having additional workdays this month to move more of our equipment from the Wolfe's and install temporary fencing, set up our canopies that we will use as a green house this year, etc. We also will begin our propagation program again this month, with our annual plant sale being on May 10 (more information to follow).



Once our 2025 sale is completed, we will hopefully be busy bidding out certain improvements to our new site and then developing the site with fencing, irrigation, a storage facility, relocating and installing our hoop house, etc. We will be contracting the larger items, but there will be plenty of jobs for members to help with, so we will be having workdays later this year to get our new site up and operational in time for our propagation program at the end of this year.

This year DIG will be celebrating its 37th year and I'm looking forward to a busy, productive and exciting year for DIG. Our success and ability for the club to thrive another 30+ years requires a lot of help from all our members. I will be counting on every member to do as much as they can to make this year's Plant Sale successful, and the establishment of our new permanent sale and propagation site a smooth transition.

Bob Sellers, President 🌱

Board Minutes

The January 6, 2025 board meeting was called to order by Bob at 7:00 pm. Members present- Connie, Robin, Bob S., Juli, Ginger, Sonja. Sue, Bob C., Debbie. 🌸 We need some new and some younger board members, especially a V.P. to become our next president. 🌸 Garments: Juli will start taking orders at the general meetings, beginning in January. 🌸 Treasurer report was given by Ginger. Balance sheet and income statement presented. DIG is still searching for an accounting software, one that does not require a monthly fee. 🌸 Minutes from the November 25th board meeting were approved. 🌸 Membership: We have 49 paid members for 2025. 🌸 Programs/ Speakers: Sonja - January's program will be a roundtable discussion. Bring your favorite gardening tool to share. More speakers are scheduled. We are looking for someone to talk about bees and about hydroponics. New compensation policy to be discussed next month. 🌸 Scholarships: Bob S. All set for Independence High, still waiting to hear from Antioch school district. 🌸 Field trips: Debbie would like some ideas from the members. The plan is to have two or three per year. 🌸 Site Committee: Bob. S. - The water well will receive a new pump and a generator, then our plants can be moved to the site. Members will be needed to help to move the canopies to the site for temporary greenhouse. 🌸 Plant Manager: Connie - potting up the cuttings will be on January 11th at 10 am to 12 noon at Connie's. The cuttings are ready. Then the signup for watering the plants needs to begin and a new coordinator is needed. 🌸 Meeting adjourned at: 8:15 pm.



Respectfully submitted,

Juli Redford, Secretary 🌸

FUTURE SPEAKERS & PROGRAMS

Are you trying something new in your garden in 2025? Are you struggling with pests? Or knowing what might work well in a particular spot in your garden? **Please come and SHARE!** Come and listen to others and perhaps get inspired to venture into something new! Bring your favorite garden tool to share! Come and Share your expertise!

In **January** we will be **Sharing What We Know**, a round table (without the table), discussion and sharing time.

Bring your questions and plans! A picture is worth a thousand words, **SO let's share SOME pictures!** Here are a couple of ways we can all see each other's pictures while you narrate them.

1) You could send them to me via email (sonjasellers1@me.com) I will attempt to create a PowerPoint to show them on our screen. Please get them to me no later than Friday, Jan 17th.

OR

2) Just print out a copy and bring it to the meeting! I have a document camera we can use to project them onto the screen.

Coming Soon: At our February meeting we will be exploring **SUCCULENTS!** 😊 with John Fike. Be sure to put it on your calendar!

Sonja Sellers 🌹

MEMBERSHIP

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2025. Thank you to the 49 members who have already paid their membership dues. Our dues are still \$20 for an individual; \$25 for a family. Please don't hand me cash without a membership slip. And handing me your cash/check and slip in an envelope would be over the top wonderful. Checks made out to DIG can be mailed to: **DIG, P.O. BOX 66, BRENTWOOD, CA 94513, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP.**

We'll begin working on our 2025 Member Booklet soon, so get your money in to be included. Thank you!

THANK YOU

To Bob Sellers for volunteering to be our club's awesome President AGAIN after the unbelievable hours he has spent over the last 3 years nailing down our move from the Wolfe Ranch to our new site next to the East Contra Costa Historical Society Museum. Please thank Bob next time you see him and check out our new "digs" at 3900 Sellers Avenue in Brentwood.

Chris Artz Membership Chairman 🌱



PROPAGATION: SEEDS

We had a meeting on January 7 to distribute seeds and soil. We had about a dozen people claim seeds to start for our sale. From the amount of containers left we don't think you took enough. Feel free to come by and pick up more. They'll be on the front porch if I'm not home. Also, we will try to save the packages to use the pictures for signs.

If you couldn't make the meeting, but would like some seeds to grow give me a call. We have lots of seeds available. Any questions call me at 925-329-7195.

Connie Miller 



RECIPE

VEGETABLE STEW

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 medium carrots, sliced into rounds
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 medium potatoes, diced
- 1 medium zucchini, chopped
- 1 medium bell pepper, chopped (any color)
- 1 cup green beans, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 cup mushrooms, sliced
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 2 bay leaves
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce (optional for added depth)
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped (for garnish)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice or vinegar (optional, for a bright finish)



Instructions

- Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and cook for about 5 minutes until soft and translucent. Stir in the minced garlic and cook for an additional 1 minute until fragrant.
- Add the carrots, celery, and potatoes to the pot. Cook for 5-7 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Add the zucchini, bell pepper, mushrooms, and green beans. Stir everything together and cook for another 5 minutes.
- Pour in the diced tomatoes (with their juices) and the vegetable broth. Stir in the dried thyme, rosemary, smoked paprika, bay leaves, and soy sauce (if using).
- Bring the stew to a boil, then reduce the heat to low. Cover the pot and simmer for about 30-40 minutes until the vegetables are tender. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking.
- Once the veggies are tender, add the frozen peas and cook for another 5 minutes. Remove the bay leaves. Adjust seasoning with salt, pepper, and a splash of lemon juice or vinegar for brightness.

Recipe Courtesy of insanelygoodrecipes.com via Pinterest.

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 _(_____) _____ HOME MOBILE

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

“Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.”



– **A.A. Milne**



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513