



# THE WEEEDER

JULY 2025

Volume 37 Issue 7

## 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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have a quick update on the City process regarding our new site. The minimum 60 day offer period, when other agencies had an opportunity to initiate negotiations to acquire the property, has expired with no one showing any interest in acquiring the property. Now the City must prepare a report reflecting their process and the results to the State, about a two-week process. Then the State will take about 30 days to review the report and finally authorize the City to proceed with disposing of the property in any manner they want. So, we are getting closer to Harvest Time gaining control of the property and DIG being able to move our hoop house and establish our new growing grounds. It been a long process, but we are almost there.

On another matter, please read the article in the Weeder about our need for members to serve as Board and Committee Chairperson and/or assistants to those positions for our 2026 year.

*Bob Selders,*

President 🌿



## CURIOUS CONTAINER CONTEST

The potluck was enjoyed by those who went. I'm still sad I was sick and didn't get to go. No one remembered to write down who won, so let me know if you did. Here are some photos people sent me. If you got some good ones please send them to me at [rchoate80@yahoo.com](mailto:rchoate80@yahoo.com).

*Robin Choate* 🧑🌾



Our New Site has a Name!



# DIG's Garden



## Board Minutes

The July 8, 2025 board meeting was called to order by DIG president, Bob Selders, at 7:05 pm. Members present- Bob Selders, Robin Choate, Chris Choate, Ginger Guider, Sue Castle, Bob Castle, Sonja Sellers, Juli Redford, Connie Miller. 🌸 Treasurer: The income statement and balance sheet were provided. 🌸 Secretary: Juli proposed the approval of minutes from the June board meeting be approved. Seconded by Connie, board approved. 🌸 Membership: 84 paid members. Membership booklets and information business cards are printed and available for members. 🌸 Programs/Speakers: July-Bonnie Dwyer: fall gardening, Aug- Laurie Caldwell: eat what you grow, Sept.-Cathy Voortman: dry flower wreaths. 🌸 Hospitality: CiCi moved to Folsom, we need a new chairperson. Bob will ask for a volunteer at the next general meeting. 🌸 Permanent Plant Sale Site: The 60 day waiting period expired by the City. No purchase interest expressed by anyone, next step is City completing a report to the State, over the next 2+/- weeks. Then State has 30 +/- days to authorize City to dispose of the property to anyone. So *hopefully* by first of September they can transfer property to Harvest Time. 🌸 Fred has plants that need foster care while he recovers from surgery. Ask for volunteers at the general meeting. 🌸 Nominating Committee: To be formed by August 28, will announce nominations at the Oct 27 general meeting, and in the November Weeder, open nominations and vote at Nov. 24 general meeting and install new officers at 12/8/2025 Holiday Pot Luck. Sonja and Connie will serve on the committee. Need: vice president (in training for president), treasurer apprentice, and a hospitality chairperson. 🌸 Propagation & Plant Sale: Plan for May 9, 2026. Propagation to start in September. We will need people to take home and care for cutting boxes. Seeds for perennials. Connie asked for and received approval to order seeds. 🌸 Old Business: Reviewed By Laws to see what qualifies as a quorum. Our quorum is six of the eleven board members. 🌸 Accounting software still needed for DIG. 🌸 Adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Juli Redford*, Secretary 🌸



## SEEDS

I am again ordering seeds to grow for our next Plant Sale. These are not the regular seeds we get, but perennial plant seeds. I would like to get an early start on these this fall. Do you have a favorite perennial plant you'd like to try growing? Let me know what it is, so I can order the seeds. If you would like to participate in growing some of these at home, please let me know. I'll be getting the vegetable and other seeds at a later date. Text or call 925-329-7195

*Connie Miller* 🌻

## PLANT FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Fred Newland has 40 or so plants he's caring for until our next plant sale. He is having knee surgery and won't be up to watering them all for a while. He's going to bring around half of them to the next meeting in the hopes someone will take them home to "Foster" them in his place. Please help out by taking some home.

## JULY 28th SPEAKER

### BONNIE DWYER - FALL GARDENING

**The Dilemma: Put it to bed or keep it in production. The question: Who needs more rest, you or the garden?**

A garden waits for no gardener! Fall will be on us in no time: it's just around the corner. We can revel in the summer garden, while at the same time, giving some of our thoughts to the months ahead. Will we put the garden to bed and give it a rest or plant a fall garden to take us through the winter? We'll look at each choice, cover the pros and cons and talk about the unique possibilities a fall and winter garden give us.

Bonnie comes from a long line of Vermont dairy farmers and vegetable gardening was a family affair. Bonnie realized she could expand her love of gardening and share her knowledge with other aspiring gardeners by becoming Master Gardener. She realized that dream in 2013. To date she has volunteered over 5,000 hours with the program. One of her roles in the program is to select 35-40 varieties of peppers which are propagated into 4,000 plants and sold at the *Great Tomato Plant Sale*. In addition to working with the *Speaker Series* she has a passion for the *Help Desk* where all kinds of weird and wonderful questions get researched and answered. Along with her husband Jon they lead the *Ask A Master Gardener Table* at the Saturday Farmers Market in San Ramon. One of her favorite garden quotes is:

*"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow".*

*Sonja Sellers* 🌹

## FIELD TRIPS

We had a great time on June 18th at FILOLI gardens in Woodside. The gardens were beautiful and the Dambo Trolls were fun to find, but a bit of a hike to get too.

*Debbie St. Hilaire* 🧝



## HOT WEATHER GARDENING

Growing plants in super hot weather (like 90–110°F or 32–43°C) can be tough, but it's totally doable with the right tricks. Here's a step-by-step guide to help your garden rock despite the heat:

1. Improve Soil with Organic Matter: Add compost and worm castings to make sure your soil holds water and your plants can handle the heat. You can also use biochar to make the soil even more stable and packed with nutrients.

2. Mulch Heavily: Mulch acts like a blanket, keeping your roots cool and dry. Organic mulch (like straw or bark) breaks down over time and improves the soil.

3. Watch for Heat Stress Signs: If your leaves are wilting in the morning, or if your tomatoes or peppers are dropping their blossoms, it's time to take action. Sunscald on fruit can also be a problem, so watch out for white or pale patches on the fruit. Here are some things you can do to combat heat stress:

- Water your plants more often, especially in the morning and evening.
- Prune your plants strategically to improve airflow, but make sure to keep some leaves for shade.
- Use shade or row cover to protect your plants from the sun.

4. Fertilize Lightly: Heat can slow down how quickly your plants absorb nutrients, so it's best to fertilize them lightly. You can use compost tea or diluted fish emulsion to give your plants a gentle boost. Avoid heavy nitrogen fertilizers during extreme heat, as they can burn your plants.

5. Monitor Pests and Disease: Hot weather can bring out more pests like aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. To keep your plants healthy, encourage beneficial insects like ladybugs and lacewings. You can also use neem oil or insecticidal soap in the early morning or late evening to control pests.

With these tips, you can grow beautiful plants even in the hottest weather! Happy gardening!

*Chris Choate*

Delta Worms 



It's too hot to cook, so we didn't include a recipe this month. If you have a favorite recipe to share for next month please send it to: [info@Deltainformalgardeners.org](mailto:info@Deltainformalgardeners.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

Currently we have 84 paid members. If you haven't paid yet, please mail your check made out to DIG to **DIG, P.O. BOX 66, BRENTWOOD, CA 94513**. You can also bring your payment to me at our next meeting. Thank you!

*Chris Artz*

Membership Chairman 

925-234-0395.

## DIG BOARD and Committee Opportunities

It's that time of the year already! Time to think about nominating the new Board of Directors for 2026 and consider new Chairpersons for the many Committees that help run this great Club. We have formed the Nominating Committee to develop a list of members who want to serve as Board or Committee Chairpersons. Board positions include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Committee Chairpersons include Membership, Publicity, Programs, Hospitality, Weeder Editor / Web Site Manager, Scholarship, Garments, Field Trips, Plant Sale, Plant Manager. We are also looking for members interested in serving as assistants to the various positions so that they can learn more about the job and be able to fill in or ultimately take over the position. Specifically, the Treasurer and Secretary but all positions can use an assistant.

Nominations for these four Board positions are presented to the members at the October General meeting and open nominations are accepted at that time. The election by the members at large is at the November General Meeting and the new Board Members are installed at the December annual Holiday Potluck and begin to serve in their elected positions.

The President appoints Chairpersons to the many committees and other committees can be added by the President as the need arises. Several of the current Board and Committee members wear several hats, filling multiple positions. **Also we currently need a Hospitality Chairperson.** Cici Kirchner has just moved out of the area, and we need someone to fill that position immediately.

There are many new and long-time members, with fresh ideas that can help our garden club. If any of the above positions tweak your interest and you want more information on the details or specifics on any of the positions, please contact this year's Nominating Committee: Sonja Sellers, Sue Castle, and Connie Miller. Contact any of the Nominating Committee members or Bob Selders at [r.selders@yahoo.com](mailto:r.selders@yahoo.com) or call at 925-642-0080 and we can send a written job description for most of the positions, or we can talk about the duties of the positions. We need everyone's help, so please step up and volunteer for one of the many positions. The Board and all Chairpersons have a wonderful time serving DIG!

*Bob Selders*, President 



Photo credits: De-De Hays, Sonja Sellers, Connie Miller, Robin Choate.

## 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

*"I was rich, if not in money, in sunny hours and summer days."  
- Henry David Thoreau*



P.O. Box 66

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