



THE WEEEDER

AUGUST 2025

Volume 37 Issue 8

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

New site update: The City submitted the formal surplus property disposition request to the State in mid July. The State will review and respond to the request by mid August, at which time the State should finally authorize the City to proceed with disposing of the property in any manner they want. Once the City has this authorization, the City and Harvest Time can then begin the negotiations on how the property will be transferred and developed. This will take multiple months with a target approval in December – January. DIG will also be negotiating an agreement with Harvest Time during this same period to negotiate a use agreement and coordination of developing our new site, concurrently with Harvest Time developing the rest of the 7.25 acres. It has been a long grueling process, but I am confident that we will be at our new site sometime in 2026.



Propagation: Due to the above update, we will be doing our propagation program at the same temporary site as last year, with a goal of the sale being at the new permanent site! (Fingers crossed)

Board and Chairpersons needs:

I am pleased to announce that Debbie St. Hilaire has agreed to wear a second hat and will be our new Hospitality Chairperson, in addition to her duties as the Field Trip Chairperson. Thank you, Debbie!

One down, more to go: We need more volunteers to help us grow with new fresh ideas and energy, so please step up, contact our nomination committee or me and offer to help as a chairperson or assistant for one of our many committees, or as a Board member or assistant. Ginger, our treasure for the past 10 years, really needs someone to take over her duties. She will work closely with that person while they learn the job. So please give it some sincere consideration. I am sure there is someone in the club who has relevant experience for this job or the many other jobs that we have available. Remember, this is your club and for it to continue to grow and thrive we need your help!

Bob Selders, President 🌱

Board Minutes

The August 5, 2025 Board Meeting was called to order 7:05 PM. Present: Bob Selders, Connie Miller, Sonja Sellers, Ginger Guider, Sue Castle, Debbie St. Hilaire. 🌱 President Bob Selders: Need a replacement for Cici-Hospitality. Debbie St. Hilaire volunteered to do the job. Responsible for General meeting goodies, and both Potlucks (June Mtg and Christmas) organization, set up, and clean up. 🌱 Treasurer: Ginger Guider: new balance was reported for general account, site funds have not changed. 🌱 Secretary: Juli Redford (absent) -Sonja Sellers taking notes. 🌱 July Minutes approved. Connie 1st, Sue Castle 2nd. 🌱 Garments: Juli Redford (absent) 🌱 Membership: Chris Artz (absent) 90 paid members (via Bob Selders). 🌱 Programs: Sonja Sellers - Brainstormed speaker ideas with board members for 2026 potential contacts. Scheduled: August speaker Lori Caldwell 'Eat What you Grow', September Cathy Voortman 'Dried Flower Wreaths' (growing and making), October – Roger Marman 'Hydroponics', November - pending, December – Pot Luck , January 2026 – Round Table discussion or auction. 🌱 Publicity: Roger Marman (absent) 🌱 Field Trips: Debbie St. Hilaire - Pottery World or Orchard Nursery in Lafayette for Christmas season Field Trip. Will ask members at the August DIG general meeting. 🌱 Weeder: Robin Choate (absent) Articles are due by Thursday to Robin (via Bob Selders). 🌱 Plant Site Manager: Bob Selders - The City sent to State the formal disposition request, expect final response in mid August. At that time, the City can legally begin negotiating with Harvest Time for the property. These negotiations and subsequent approvals by the City Council will likely push final approval into January 2026. Our current agreement for a temporary growing grounds was for Aug 2024 through August 2025. An extension to August of 2026 will be completed by end of August. 🌱 Plant Sale: Connie Miller - Nothing to report at this time. Next step is to plant seeds for Perennial plants. Looking for people willing to plant seeds and care for them at their homes, until the Plant Sale. 🌱 Nominating Committee: We need a treasurer -to shadow Ginger (treasurer) ASAP. 🌱 Motion to adjourn 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sonja Sellers for
Juli Redford*, Secretary 🌸



What Did You Do This Summer?

Did you visit a famous garden this summer or just a small botanical garden near a relative's home? Or is your relative a garden guru and you took photos galore? Let us know what you found and email your photos to: info@deltainformalgardeners.org

We stopped in Redding, CA on our way to the Fall River. They have a botanical garden near the river. It was so hot the day we went that we made it through the gate, took one photo, then headed back to the air conditioning in our car. Maybe next time we'll actually walk through.



Robin Choate 🌻

August 25th SPEAKER

Lori Caldwell - Eat What You Grow

There is nothing more satisfying than eating food from your own garden. Lori will be covering topics such as seeds vs. starts, soil fertility, and plant succession, companion planting, transplanting seedlings, watering/irrigation, seed saving & seed storage and the best crops for your garden. Emphasis on reusing materials will also be discussed.



Lori Caldwell is an Alameda County Master Composter, Bay-Friendly Certified Landscape Professional, self-taught edible gardener, and residential sheet mulch maven. She recently received a technical certification from the Maine Compost School. Making jam is one of her favorite pastimes.

Her mission: "To connect people to the soil and all that it provides." She has been happily teaching sustainable gardening classes and transforming yards in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2007.

Sonja Sellers 🌸



DO YOU LIKE MATH?

Do you feel good when you balance your checkbook? Then I have the position for you – DIG TREASURER! And as a bonus, 12 months of assistance from a 10 year experienced DIG Treasurer is available if desired. Come and join the fun of making all those numbers balance!

Ginger Guider 🌸

Preparing Your Flower and Vegetable Garden for the Fall Season

As summer winds down, your garden doesn't have to lose its charm or productivity. Fall offers a unique opportunity to refresh your beds, plant cool-season crops, and keep your landscape colorful well into the cooler months. Whether you grow flowers, vegetables, or both, thoughtful preparation now ensures a beautiful and bountiful autumn garden. Fall gardening has many benefits, including less heat stress for plants and gardeners, fewer pests and weeds, and an extended harvest and color into the colder months. It also improves soil health for spring planting.

It's time to spruce up your garden! Get rid of any veggies that have stopped growing or flowers that have lost their bloom. Compost the good stuff and throw away the sick ones. Also, make sure to weed your garden thoroughly. Fall weeds can steal the nutrients from your next crops and even overwinter if you don't get rid of them. Lastly, trim your perennials by cutting back overgrown stems and removing dead leaves. This will help keep pests and diseases away.

Let's give our soil a makeover! Add compost and worm castings: These natural fertilizers replenish nutrients lost during summer and improve soil structure. Test soil pH: Cool-season crops thrive in soil with a slightly acidic to neutral pH (6.0–7.0). Adjust with lime or sulfur if needed. Mulch generously: A 2–3 inch layer of mulch keeps soil temperatures steady, holds moisture, and keeps weeds at bay.

Choose Fall-Friendly Plants! Veggies like lettuce, kale, broccoli, carrots, beets, radishes, and spinach love the cooler weather. And for a pop of color, fall-blooming flowers like chrysanthemums, pansies, asters, and marigolds are a great choice. Plus, plants like calendula, nasturtiums, and violas are beautiful in gardens and can also be added to salads.

Create a Garden Plan! For a combined flower-and-vegetable space: Interplant strategically: Use flowers as borders or interspersed among vegetables to attract pollinators and repel pests. Stagger planting times: Plant quick-maturing crops alongside slow-growing fall flowers so both reach their peak together. Rotate crops: Avoid planting the same vegetables in the same spot year after year to prevent soil-borne diseases.

Protect from Early Frost! Use row covers or cold frames: These extend the growing season and protect tender plants from unexpected frost. Group container plants: Move pots to sheltered spots near walls or under overhangs for extra warmth. Plant in microclimates: South-facing areas and raised beds warm faster and can prolong growth.

Here are some tips to help you make the most of your fall garden:

Keep the soil moist: Even if it rains, check the soil moisture and water deeply when needed.

Deadhead flowers: Removing faded blooms encourages the plants to keep flowering.

Harvest regularly: Picking vegetables often keeps plants productive longer.

Final Tip: Preparing your garden for fall is more than just cleaning up - it's a transition into a season of beauty and abundance. With a little planning, you can enjoy crisp mornings surrounded by colorful blooms and fresh produce right up until winter sets in.

Chris Choate 



MEETING TREATS

Thank you to Connie Miller and Debbie St. Hilaire, for providing treats at our July 28th General Meeting.

Also thank you to Leslie Servin, Pat Barron, Laurie Wexler, and Sandy Marman for volunteering to bring treats to our August 25th meeting.



ZUCCHINI CR*P

Use up that excess of zucchini and all those other veggies before they wilt away.

It's a awful name, but is so good that years ago our teenage son requested it and gave its name. "Hey, Dad! Make that zucchini cr*p for dinner." The original version is cooked on the stove top, but we recently discovered we could cook it in a cake pan in the Traeger bbq or the oven.

INGREDIENTS:

Quantities aren't measured, we just use what we have on hand and adjust for the number of people we are feeding.

Zucchini - shredded

Onion, Garlic, Celery, Carrot, Bell peppers - chopped

Other veggies you have on hand

Eggs - enough to coat the veggies so they will stick together.

Salt and Pepper. Other seasonings can add a different touch.

Cheese (shredded or sliced). We usually use Cheddar, but in the photo version we used Muenster, because it was what we had on hand.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Shred or chop all the veggies.

SAUTÉ: start with the onions and garlic. Add other veggies in order of density. Once cooked through add the beaten egg(s). As it begins to set up top with cheese and cook until cheese has melted.

BAKED/BBQ'd: Thoroughly grease a pan that can be used in the BBQ or oven, set aside. In a bowl mix the veggies and add egg(s). *Spread* evenly in pan and top with cheese. Bake in a 400 degree oven or Traeger style BBQ for approximately 30 minutes.



Zucchini Cr*p shown with grilled swordfish.

Recipe courtesy of Chris & Robin Choate

MEMBERSHIP

Currently we have 90 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 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



"We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us."

-Jenny Unglow



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