



THE WEEDEEER

NOVEMBER 2025

Volume 37 Issue 11

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 12** - Holiday Potluck

****DATE CHANGE ****

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 |

* Adjusted due to Holidays

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2026 Board Member Election:

We will be electing the 2026 Board members at our November 24th General meeting. The Nominating Committee announced the four members nominated to serve at our October General meeting, however, it is not too late to throw your hat in the ring! We will ask if there is anyone who would like to run for one of the Board positions at the November meeting before we vote. The members nominated for the four Board positions are: President – Bob Selders, Vice President - Chris Choate, Secretary - Juli Redford, Treasurer - Ginger Guider with Rachel Ortega learning the job. The new Board will be sworn in at our December potluck.

December Holiday Potluck:

There was a slight hiccup with our location requiring us to move our potluck from Monday to Friday December 12, 2025, so mark your calendar. More information on the potluck will be provided over the next few weeks.



Propagation:

Our Propagation activities for this calendar year are about to wrap up. We will continue doing cuttings until Saturday, November 15th, then we will resume propagation after the Holidays in mid to late January. We will notify everyone of the date in January.

Bob Selders, President 🐦

DIG DECEMBER POTLUCK & GIFT EXCHANGE

Please note the day and date have changed.

The Potluck will be Friday, December 12th.

Setup at 5pm, dinner at 6pm. More details at the November meeting. This is our Holiday Celebration so come and spread some Christmas Cheer!

MEETING TREATS

Thank you to Roxanne S., Juli R. and Michele M. for bringing treats to our October 27th meeting.

Thank you to Elinor, Sally and Lisa for volunteering to bring treats to our November 24th General Meeting.

Board Minutes

The November 4, 2025 board meeting was called to order by DIG president, Bob Selders, at 7:03 pm. **Present-** Bob Selders, Robin Choate, Chris Choate, Ginger Guider, Juli Redford, Sue Castle, Bob Castle, Debbie St. Hilaire, Connie Miller. **☘ Treasurer-**Ginger: The account balance, income statement and balance sheet were provided. Brentwood community chest sent a reminder to send a donation. Looking at the ZoHo for accounting program. **☘ Secretary-** Juli: October board meeting minutes were approved. **☘ Membership-** 98 paid members. **☘ Programs/Speakers-** Nov. 24th Davy Tree. **☘ Dec. Holiday Party** date changed: **Friday** December 12th, 5:00 pm set up. **☘ Scholarships-** Karen is working with schools on 2026 scholarship awards process. **☘ Hospitality-** Debbie will meet with City person about Holiday potluck details. **☘ Field trips-** Debbie: Orchard Nursery in Lafayette, R M Pool, Patio & Gardens in Clayton and lunch on December 4th. **☘ Weeder-**Robin needs articles by Nov. 6th. **☘ Permanent Plant Sale Site/DIG's Garden-** Bob S.: Harvest Time still in discussions with City. A roofer will be out this week to repair the well house roof. **☘ Nominating Committee-** Connie will announce the nomination of the new board members and ask for a vote at the next general meeting. Also accepting nominations from the floor (from other members.) **☘ Donations-**Connie proposed \$500 to Hope House and \$500 to Brentwood Community Chest. Robin seconded; after a discussion the Board voted; the motion passed. **☘ New Business-** Robin will collecting toys for the community toy drive. Bring to the November meeting or holiday pot luck. **☘ Delta Worms** is donating worm castings, which will be available for purchase at Saturday propagation workdays beginning Nov. 8th. All money goes to DIG. **☘ Discussion** on the reinforcement of the 2026 temporary greenhouse. **☘ Next board meeting:** Dec. 2nd. **☘ Adjourned** at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juli Redford, Secretary 🌸



NOVEMBER 24th SPEAKER

JOE BERG



This month's speaker is **Joe Berg of Davey Tree Services**. Joe will be talking to us about **Proper tree pruning techniques, general tree care, soil basics and how to improve those conditions**. Joe is the District Manager for the East Bay Residential Office of Davey Tree Service, which has been around for 145 years! As an ISA certified Arborist, he has accumulated 22 years of experience, first in the Forest Service in the Sierra Nevada's, then 19 years with Davey Tree Service. His interests include Rock Climbing, backpacking, and driving kids to sporting events. Joining him will be **Thomas Stover**, also an experienced ISA Certified Arborist professional with Davey Tree Service.



Please join me in welcoming Joe and Thomas to D.I.G. to learn more about the trees around us and how to best care for them. Trees are the foundation of any garden. We will have time for Q & A after his presentation, so bring your tree concerns and questions!



Souja Sellers 🌿

Auction January 26, 2026

Remember to save all those garden tools and items you no longer need to donate to our Garden Auction.



How's your Grammar & Spelling?
Can you help once a month by proofreading the Weeder?
Contact Robin 925-759-0700

🏈 🏀 🧸 TOY DRIVE 🧸 🥁 🏈

DIG is participating in the annual toy drive again this year. Please bring a new toy or gift card to the November 24th meeting or the Pot Luck on December 12th. The toys go to local children in need. Please don't forget the older kids when you are shopping.

Robin Choate 🎅

December 4th Field Trip

On Thursday December 4th we will be visiting Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. We will then travel to Clayton for lunch at Ed's Mudville Grill. We can browse some of the local shops then we will head to R & M Nursery to check it out and say thank you for all their generous donations to DIG.

Please plan on parking at my house rather than the BART Parking Lot. 16 Dove Ct., Brentwood. Sign up at our next meeting on November 24.

If you're unable to attend the meeting give me a call and I will add you to the list. 209/483-2135.

Debbie Sth Hilaire

MEMBERSHIP

Sending a warm welcome to our newest members: Barbara & Ronald Schneider from Brentwood, Yvonne McCoy-Clark from Antioch, Mary Woods of Brentwood, and Cheryl Van Blom who recently moved from Washington to Brentwood. We currently have 98 paid members.

Dues are now being accepted for 2026. Membership fees are still \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family. You can give your check to Chris Artz at a meeting or on a Saturday at propagation or you can mail it in. **PLEASE BE SURE TO INLUDE A COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP SLIP WITH YOUR PAYMENT** (found on the last page of this Weeder). Your check should be made out to DIG and mailed to DIG, P.O. BOX 66, BRENTWOOD, CA 94513, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP. Thank you to all of you who have already paid your dues.

Chris Artz Membership Chairman 925-234-0395

Experiment with Coleus Cuttings

At the October meeting Fred Newlan gave out cuttings of Coleus plants and supplies for rooting them in water and then potting them in soil over the coming winter. Not everyone got a copy of the instructions for doing this project. So the instructions are reproduced here for those not getting them at the last meeting.



COLEUS CUTTING EXPERIMENT

1. Place the stem of the cutting in the bottle of water. Remove from the stem any leaves that get in the water. Only the stem should be in the water.
2. Coleus like bright shade, but not direct sunlight. So set the cutting in a bright window, but out of direct sunlight. Or place it under bright lamp light for as many hours in the day as is practical for you.
3. Add water to the bottle as needed to keep the stem submerged as much as possible.
4. In 2 to 3 weeks the cutting will grow roots. When they are 2 to 3 inches long, pot up the cutting in the black plastic pot. Use normal potting soil. Keep the soil damp but not waterlogged. Keep the plant in the bright window, out of direct sunlight or under artificial light. Turn the plant 90 degrees every week or so for even growth.
5. About 2 to 3 weeks after potting up the cutting you should notice the color in the leaves becoming brighter. The plant should look more vigorous. Keep growing the plant throughout the winter months. When Spring arrives bring the plant to one of our Saturday morning potting sessions. Pot up the plant into a gallon pot and the plant will quickly grow in size for our Spring Plant Sale.

Any Questions or Problems, Please call Fred Newlan 301-661-2449



Cranberry, Pistachio, White Chocolate Shortbread

INGREDIENTS

- 2 ⅓ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter at room temperature
- ⅔ cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¾ cup pistachios, lightly toasted
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- ½ cup white chocolate, chopped into tiny pieces
- 1-2 teaspoons water, optional if dough does not hold together.



PREPARATION

Whisk together the flour and salt in a bowl and set aside.

Using a stand mixer, cream the butter and sugar until light and creamy, about 3 minutes. Add the vanilla.

Add the dry ingredients and stir till just mixed. Fold in the pistachios, cranberries, and white chocolate into the dough until well distributed.

If your dough does not hold together, add a teaspoon or 2 of water and mix well.

Shape the dough into 2 logs about 2 inches in diameter then chill for at least 2 hours and up to 3 days.

Preheat oven to 325° and line baking sheets with parchment paper.

Slice the cookies ¼ to ½ inch thick and place about 1 inch apart on prepared pans. Bake for 16-20 minutes. The cookies are ready when they begin to brown around the edge.

Recipe Courtesy Liz Berg, That Skinny Chick Can Bake, via Pinterest

THANK YOU

To Judy Secor for bringing another great batch of donations for our "free table." Once again, they literally flew off the table!



To Fred Newlan for his 5 Minute Gardener presentation on propagating coleuses and sharing beautiful cuttings with members.

To Chris Choate and Delta Worms for donating Worm Castings for a club fund raiser.

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**

“If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden.”

Frances Hodgson Burnett



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Brentwood, CA 94513