

THE WEEDEER

SEPTEMBER 2026

Volume 38 Issue 9

2026 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.

2026 General Meetings

January 26- Auction: Early time 6:00 pm

February 23

March 23

April 27

May 18*

June 23 - Members Potluck

July 27

August 24

September 28

October 26

November 23

December 7*- Holiday Potluck

2026 Board Meetings

January 6

February 3

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 2

July 7

August 4

September 8

October 6

November 3

December 1

2026 Plant Sale: May 9

At DIG's Garden - 3900 Sellers Ave., Brentwood

* Adjusted due to Holidays

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is DIGgers' favorite time of the year! The end of summer on September 22, the time to start your fall-winter garden, but most important it is time to start our Plant Sale propagation program! We will be meeting every Saturday from September 12 until November 21. Then we take a break until mid-January when we start back up every Saturday until mid-May, when we have our annual plant sale on May 8, 2027. I encourage all new members and existing members who may have not previously taken part in our propagation program to join us on Saturday mornings from 10:00 AM to noon. We meet at DIG's Garden, our growing and sale grounds, located at 3900 Sellers Ave, next to the ECCC Historical Society Museum.

Propagation & Event Reminders

Sept 17 - Rose Grower Group 5:30 pm

Sept 19 - "How To" Class 10 am

Sept 25 - R & M* 10 am

Sept 26 - Propagation- Bring Plant Material

I know all our long time members who have participated in our past propagation programs are anxious to get back for the camaraderie, new friendships, learning from other Gardeners, and the treats that members bring to share!

This is our major fund raiser of the year. It allows us to support many other local non-profit organizations, who provide services to far east county residents. We are also able to grant scholarships to two seniors in the Liberty and Antioch High School Districts.

I hope to see lots of members on Saturday mornings.

Bob Selders, President 🌱



MEETING TREATS

Thank you Leslie, Lisa, and Lane for volunteering to bring treats to our September 28th meeting.



Board Minutes

The September 8, 2026 Board Meeting was called to order by DIG president, Bob Selders, at 7:04 pm. Members present: Bob Selders, Robin Choate, Chris Choate, Debbie St. Hilaire, Ginger Guider, Rachel Ortega, Juli Redford, Bob Castle, Sonja Sellers, and Fred Newlan. 🌸 President: We received Thank You letters from Hope House and Family Harvest Farm for our donations to them. 🌸 Treasurer: Ginger and Rachel- The income statement and balance sheet were provided for the site fund and the general fund. 🌸 Secretary: Juli proposed the approval of minutes from the August 4th board meeting as printed in the Weeder. Seconded by Debbie, the board approved. 🌸 Garments: Juli will take orders at Saturday propagation workdays and the meeting. Aprons, T-shirts, and more are available. 🌸 Membership: We have 109 paid members. 🌸 Programs: Sonja- Sept. Bonsai demonstration, Oct. Micro greens. Nov. Hydroponics. Jan. member roundtable discussion. 🌸 Field trips: Fundraiser at The Gardens at Lake Merritt - Autumn Lights Festival on the afternoon to evening of Oct. 16th. Tickets are \$26 and it's suggested purchase in advance. Suggestions for a December/Christmas field trip are welcome. 🌸 Hospitality: Room for the Christmas potluck is reserved. 🌸 Permanent Plant Sale Site: Harvest Time and City agreement negotiations are progressing. 🌸 Propagation & Plant Sale: September 12th workday to setup the area. Maintenance work on the pump needed. September 19 Propagation Class, workshops on all following Saturdays until mid November. The potential of having plant starts grown for us was discussed. 🌸 It was suggested that we have Greeters for new people attending meetings and events to make them feel welcomed and encouraged to become members. 🌸 All members should share the DIG Facebook page so your friends can learn about us. 🌸 Bob Castle proposed a new pest control with essential oil. 🌸 Nomination Committee: Will announced candidates at the October meeting. Election at November meeting. 🌸 Donations: A teacher at Pioneer Elementary is asking for a donation for a school garden. Juli proposed that we fund the project, Chris seconded, board passed. 🌸 New Business: DIG Rose Growers Group- First meeting at DIG's Garden Sept. 17th, 5:30 pm. Will discuss what is desired from the group, where and how often to meet. Chris and Robin will be putting in a rose garden so we can experiment at their home. Meet every season to discuss and share experience. Could have a speaker on roses. 🌸 Adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Redford, Secretary 🌸



SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

7:30 pm - 809 Second St., Brentwood

Bonsai For Beginners

LAURA WHITTINGTON
of Created By You Art Studio

This month we are honored to host Laura Whittington from Created By You Art Studio. She will be sharing with us her love of **Bonsai**. With an introduction to the Art, Techniques and Joy of Growing Bonsai with two Beautiful Species. Helping us understand what makes a Bonsai, what plants to use, and how to care for them.

She will be doing a **demonstration** at the meeting showing us how to create a Bonsai! Including pruning, shaping and wiring techniques! With time afterward for questions and answers.

Sonja Sellers, Programs

Delta Informal Gardeners (D.I.G.) PRESENTS

Bonsai FOR BEGINNERS

Creating Living Works of Art

An Introduction to the Art, Techniques and Joy of Growing Bonsai with Two Beautiful Species

Procumbens Nana Juniper Classic - Hardy & Beautiful

Mexican Heather Evergreen - Flowering - Unique

LIVE DEMONSTRATION & Q&A!

Easy to Learn Fun to Create Relaxing & Rewarding A Lifetime of Enjoyment

YOU'LL LEARN:

- What makes a bonsai a bonsai
- Choosing the right tree for beginners
- Pruning & shaping techniques
- Wiring fundamentals
- Watering, fertilizing & seasonal care
- Repotting & bonsai soil basics
- Common mistakes & how to avoid them
- Long-term care for healthy, thriving bonsai

Laura will demonstrate basic styling techniques on live trees and share practical tips that you can use right away.

Whether you're brand new to bonsai or already have a few at home, you'll leave inspired and confident to begin or continue your bonsai journey!

MEET OUR PRESENTER
Laura Whittington
of Created By You Art Studio

Laura has over 10 years of training experience teaching children, families, and adults through hands-on masterclasses, workshops, and seminars. She shares her passion for creating beautiful living works of art, and encourages others to explore the art of bonsai, and designed to make bonsai accessible and enjoyable for gardeners and beginners alike.

Created By You Art Studio

1300 Central Blvd
Brentwood, CA 94513
CreatedByYou.com

Classes & Workshops
Walk-ins Welcome
Parties & Events
Charity & Offsets
Collaborations

Connect • Create • Celebrate

Questions? Contact DIG or visit our website: www.deltainformalgardeners.org

Let's Grow DIG!

Getting new members will help keep DIG around for years to come. One ways to do that include **sharing DIG's Facebook posts**.

To do that you click the share arrow at the bottom of the post, add a comment if you want, and then click the share now button. It's easy, and your friends might just surprise you by coming to a DIG event.

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MEMBERSHIP

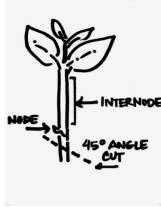
We currently have 109 paid members. To pay your dues, please make your check out to DIG and mail to DIG, P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP. Please include a completed membership slip with your payment.

Chris Artz 🌸

Membership Chairperson
925-234-0395

PROPAGATION

SEPTEMBER 19 - Our "How To" class on Propagation. Bring your clippers and your friends. The public has been invited, so let's welcome them cheerfully in hopes they decide to join DIG. This week the Board will bring plant materials so you can see the type of plants we are looking for. We will learn or relearn how to make proper cuttings and what we do with them, including potting up and watering.



SEPTEMBER 26 - Bring plant material from your yards. Water the plant well the night before and bring enough material to make about 50 - 6" cuttings (less is ok). If you missed the "How To" class there will be people available to walk you through it. If you can't stay for the workshop, please feel free to drop off plant material.

Guests are welcome. If you see someone new, please greet them and make them feel welcome. Snacks to share are also welcome. DIG will provide water, but bringing your own cold water in a reusable bottle is a good idea.

Future dates:

OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21* *Last propagation for 2026

Questions about Propagation call or text Robin Choate 925-759-0700.



FIELD TRIPS

☹ Unfortunately, Debbie St Hilaire will be unable to coordinate the field trip to the AUTUMN LIGHTS FESTIVAL at the Gardens at Lake Merritt in Oakland. If you would like to make the trip on your own you can go to their website to purchase tickets:

<https://gardensatlakemerritt.org/autumn-lights-festival-2026/>

☹ Debbie is still planning a field trip around the holidays and is considering the West End Nursery in San Rafael on either December 9 or 10. Let her know if you are interested. There will be more information soon.

☹ *Chris Artz, our membership chairperson, invites everyone to join her the Friday before our meetings, around 10 am at R & M Nursery, located at 6870 Marsh Creek Rd, Clayton CA. R&M donate plants for our meeting raffles. They also offer a 10% discount to DIG Members.

Rose Grower Group

The new Rose Grower Group's first meeting is Thursday, September 17th, 5:30pm at DIG's Garden - 3900 Sellers Ave., Brentwood. The group will talk about what they'd like to accomplish, when, where & how often to meet, who would like to help with organizing, and what knowledge people have to share. Everyone is welcome to attend or join the group. Text Chris Choate at 925-809-0695 if you have questions.



RECIPE

APPLE CIDER DOUGHNUT LOAF CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup apple cider
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 2 large eggs at room temperature
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 1/4 cups plus 2 Tbsp all purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp cornstarch
- 1 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp freshly grated nutmeg (more to taste)



TOPPING

- 3 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray a 9x5 loaf pan and line with a sheet of parchment paper so you can more easily lift the bread out after baking. (This is optional.)
- Put the cider in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Boil for about 10 minutes, or until the liquid is reduced to 1/2 cup.
- Pour the cider into a small bowl and set aside to cool slightly. Then stir in the sour cream and vanilla.
- Melt the butter in the same saucepan. Let cool slightly.
- Meanwhile beat the eggs and brown sugar until smooth and frothy.
- Drizzle the melted butter into the egg mixture, while the machine is running on low. If doing by hand, keep whisking while you add the butter to get everything incorporated.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, cornstarch, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg until well combined.
- Add the dry ingredients to the egg mixture, alternately with the cider/sour cream mixture, beginning and ending with the dry ingredients. Mix just until combined but don't over mix.
- Pour the batter into your prepared pan and bake for about 55 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out without wet batter on it.
- Let the pan cool on a rack for ten minutes, then remove the cake from the pan using the parchment paper sling. Let cool for 5 more minutes.
- For the sugar coating, mix the sugar with the cinnamon. Brush the outside of the cake with melted butter and coat thickly with the cinnamon sugar. I do the top first, then each side, one at a time. For the sides I cup the sugar in my hand and quickly press up against the cake. Do this a few times until you get the surface well covered.
- Do not slice the cake until ready to enjoy. Store at room temperature loosely covered with foil.

Recipe courtesy of theviewfromgreatisland.com on 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(s) (_____) _____ ☐ HOME ☐ MOBILE

_____ New Member _____ Renewal



"When a flower grows wild, it can always survive.
Wildflowers don't care where they grow."

Dolly Parton 



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513