

THE WEEEDER

APRIL 2020

Volume 32 Issue 04

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.

2020 General Meetings

January 27 - Auction

February 24

March 23

April 27

May 18 (a week early due to holiday)

June 22 - Member's Potluck

July 27

August 24

September 28

October 26

November 23

December 7 Holiday Potluck

2020 Board Meetings

January 7

July 7

February 4

August 4

March 3

September 8

April 7

October 6

May 5

November 3

June 2

November 24

2020 Plant Sale: Canceled

President's Message

I sincerely hope that this month's Weeder finds you all healthy, happy and securely sheltered in your homes! Our world has seen many tragedies in its history, but nothing like the coronavirus pandemic that was first identified in December and now, a short four months later, has spread throughout the entire world. We will survive and thrive once we slow the spread of the virus and develop medications that will protect us from this specific strain of virus. In the meantime, we need to listen to the medical experts and follow the restrictions imposed to help fight this so we can get our lives back to normal as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, the restrictions that have been imposed isolate us from our family, friends, and our normal care free routine. We can't participate in activities like our DIG Propagation, general meetings, lunches, etc.

The DIG Board has been following this situation and has adjusted to the imposed restrictions by conducting our Board meetings via telephone conference calls. We had an emergency Board meeting via conference call on March 19, 2020, immediately following the initial shelter in place mandate that was imposed. This resulted in the cancelation of the March General Meeting and Saturday Propagation work days until further notice. We decided to take a wait and see stance on how this virus emergency would progress before deciding on the status of further General meetings, Propagation, and the Plant Sale. As of March 31st the shelter in place has been extended to at least May 3rd and increased the restrictions. This will prohibit DIG from having our April General Meeting as well as our Saturday morning Propagation work days, which, in turn, significantly impacts our annual Plant Sale scheduled for May 9.

At our regular April 7th conference call Board meeting, the Board canceled the April General Meeting and decided to discuss subsequent General Meetings on a month by month basis. We also discussed a variety of options for the Plant Sale, ranging from canceling the sale this year to changing the date of the sale to later in the year. After weighing the pros and cons of many options **the Board determined to cancel this year's Plant Sale on May 9** and plan for our next year's sale. Therefore, there will be no additional Saturday morning propagation work days until the fall when we will begin preparing for next years Sale. We are disappointed, but we need to stay safe and healthy and hope that we can get this pandemic under control and our lives back to a more normal situation. Stay Safe!

Bob Selders, President 

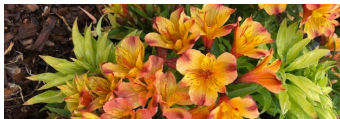
Board Minutes

Bob S. called to order the April 7, 2020, conference call Board Meeting at 7:05 PM. Included on the call were Bob S., Connie, Sue, Chris, Martin, Robin, Juli, Pat, Steve and Kryssie. 🌸 Bob S. passed over the Programs as meetings have been cancelled due to the State of California's decree regarding "Social Distancing". 🌸 Bob S. gave the Treasurer's report and noted we received a thank you from Deer Valley High School's garden program. 🌸 Sue followed with obtaining approval for the March 3rd Board Minutes as printed in the Weeder and the emergency Board Meeting Minutes on March 19, 2020, which were emailed to the board members. Both the March 19th and April 7th Minutes will be printed in the April 2020 Weeder. 🌸 Chris reported that DIG has 91 paid members. 🌸 The Carole Hendrickson Scholarship will award \$1,000 each to Antioch's Deer Valley High School and Freedom High School in Oakley. Martin will mail the letters to each high school informing them of the scholarships and each school will then decide on the recipient. 🌸 Field trips have been cancelled because of "Social Distancing" decree. 🌸 Members will be encouraged to post photos on DIG's Facebook page. 🌸 Robin reported that DIG's 2020 Roster is ready to be printed. 🌸 A lengthy discussion followed regarding DIG's Annual Plant Sale. Due to the Stay at Home order, the Board unanimously voted to cancel DIG's Plant Sale. A discussion of what to do with the plants ended with a suggestion that would need Peter's permission. An email to members will be sent once the final plan is in place. 🌸 Watering of the plants will continue. 🌸 Bob S. noted that John Sierra's garden fence project has been put on hold.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 🌻



Bob S. called to order the March 19, 2020 emergency conference call Board Meeting at 11:10 AM. Included on the call were Bob S., Connie, Sue, Ginger, Chris, Robin, Juli and Pat. 🌸 The emergency meeting was called due to California's "Shelter in Place" order. Bob S. brought up Peter's concerns with the "Walkers" on the road through his property getting the wrong idea regarding DIG's Saturday's volunteer work group. We have been averaging over 20 plus volunteers and the "Walkers" could easily assume that the Club was ignoring the Governor's order and create a hassle for all involved. Bob S. pointed out that most individuals in the club are of the age group that is susceptible to the Covid-19 Virus. It was decided to cancel Saturday volunteer work days until further notice. We have approximately 3500 plants at the Ranch and will continue with watering the plants two or three times per week depending upon the weather. 🌸 DIG's General Meeting on Monday, March 23rd, was also canceled. 🌸 The Board adopted a "wait and see" attitude regarding the May 9th Plant Sale and future meetings, and will revisit the issues at our next scheduled Board Meeting, April 7th at 7PM. In order to avoid exposure to one another, the Board Meeting will be another conference call. Robin will send an "E-mail Blast" to all of the club's members regarding the Board's decisions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 🌻

Hospitality

Since our meetings have been canceled for the time being we haven't gotten to enjoy the wonderful snacks our members bring. Once we are able to meet again we hope those that signed up for the March meeting will be able to bring goodies for the next meeting. Sandy Marman, Roxanne Solak and Juli Redford, thank you for volunteering to bring goodies for our March meeting.

SHOW US YOUR GARDEN

Since we are Sheltering-In-Place let's share our "places" online. Post photos of your garden on www.facebook.com/BrentwoodDIG so we can enjoy them with you. If you don't have facebook or have trouble posting you can email them to info@deltainformalgardeners.org

Here are a few we've already received:



Poppy's fairy garden and columbine.

Other photos
in this issue
courtesy of
Chris A and
Juli R.



Do you have a garden tip or recipe or photo to share?
Heard of an event or garden to go see?
Email it to info@deltainformalgardeners.org

Field Trips

Our April field trip to the San Francisco-Northern California Flower and Garden Show in SACRAMENTO was canceled, but there's always next year! In fact the show is scheduled for April 8-11, 2021.



Since we can't all meet together for outings, you may wish to try taking little "walkabouts" in your own yard. Maybe step back from the garden chores and admire the new spring growth. Do you see birds, bees, or bugs? I've discovered several blue belly lizards have moved in to my yard. These little guys are welcome little insect diners.

Juli Redford  925-323-5854

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to everyone who has paid their membership dues for 2020. We are currently at 91 members. Our 2020 member booklet is at the printers and should be available when we can next get together.

Chris Artz 



Strawberry Pretzel Jell-O Layers



*a three layer dessert with a pretzel crust
(Make at least four hours before serving.)*

- 1 1/2 Cups Crushed Pretzels*
 - 4 1/2 Tablespoons White Sugar*
 - 3/4 Cups Butter, melted*

 - 1 Cup White Sugar*
 - 2 - 8 ounce packages Cream Cheese*
 - 1 - 8 ounce container Frozen Whipped Topping, thawed*

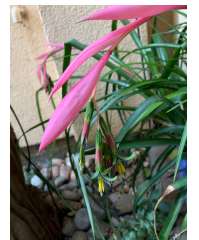
 - 1 - 6 ounce package Strawberry Jell-O*
 - 2 Cups Boiling Water*
 - 1 - 16 ounce package Frozen Strawberries, sliced*
- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together the pretzels, 4 1/2 T sugar, and melted butter. Press into the bottom of a 9" x 11" pan. Bake 10 minutes until lightly toasted. Let cool completely.*
 - 2. In a medium bowl beat the sugar and cream cheese until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Spread evenly over cooled crust. Refrigerate until set, about 30 minutes.*
 - 3. In the medium bowl stir together the gelatin and boiling water. Mix in frozen strawberries and stir until thawed. Pour over cream cheese mixture in pan.*
 - 4. Refrigerate until completely chilled, best overnight.*



This dessert was a hit at our Holiday Party. I apologize for not remembering who brought it. Let me know and I'll be sure to give you credit.



Billbergia nutans (Queen's Tears) - A vigorous bromeliad that is easy to grow and will readily form clumps of narrow upright bronzy-green rosettes. The nearly tubular 2 feet tall rosettes have one foot long slender leaves with small teeth along the margins. In spring the arching flower stalks carry pink bracts and pendant flowers that have chartreuse green petals edged with royal-blue. Plant in shade in a well-drained organic rich soil and water occasionally. It is reliably hardy to 30-32 degrees F but able to tolerate short duration temperatures much lower.



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 (_____) _____

_____ **New Member**

_____ **Renewal**

**We regret to announce that
OUR PLANT SALE HAD BEEN
CANCELED**



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513