



THE WEEEDER

APRIL 2022 Volume 34 Issue 4

2022 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.

2022 General Meetings

- January 24 - Auction - Canceled
- February 28
- March 28
- April 25
- May 23
- June 27 - Members Potluck
- July 25
- August 22
- September 26 - Auction
- October 24
- November 28
- December 12 - Holiday Potluck

2022 Board Meetings

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| January 4 | July 5 |
| February 8 | August 2 |
| March 8 | September 6 |
| April 5 | October 4 |
| May 3 | November 8 |
| June 7 | November 29 |

2022 Plant Sale: MAY 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are getting very close to our Annual Plant Sale on May 7.

As I look at our nursery and greenhouse I'm so impressed with what you DIGgers have accomplished. We have so many beautiful plants that our members have grown from seed, propagated and divided. There's an especially wonderful assortment of vegetables including tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, herbs and so much more. Many beautiful flowers too. We are still working every Saturday from 10am to noon, so come out as we can always use more help. We usually have some delicious treats there too. Also, if you haven't already



signed up to work at the sale we still need more workers. I'll have a sign-up sheet on Saturday or you can also just call me. We also ask our members to bring preferably homemade cookies to the sale to pass out to our customers.

This will be D.I.G.'s last sale at Wolfe Ranch. We have been so fortunate to have been here for so many years. D.I.G. is so grateful to the Wolfe and Voortman families for their hospitality and generosity in sharing their bucolic spot with us. It has been really a pleasure to be there. Again, thank you Peter and family for having us. Our new location is yet to be determined, but stay tuned.

Connie Miller, President 🌻

THE ANONYMOUS GARDENER

On Gardens:

"A thing of beauty and a job forever."



Do you have old teapots or teacups that you'd like to donate to DIG to make succulent gardens? Is so, please bring to our Saturday work days and give to Chris Artz.

Board Minutes

The April 5, 2022 board meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Connie. Members present were Connie, Pat, Chris, Ginger, Bob S., Steve, Juli, Sue, Bob C., Cici, and Robin. 🌸 Ginger presented the Treasurer's report. The report included the current profit and loss statement. Ginger said that the donations that we have received in the past year are helping keep DIG afloat. 🌸 Chris announced that DIG now has 88 members, including many new members. The influx of new members led to a discussion regarding a new DIG Address/Phone booklet. It was decided that any booklet decision would be made after the Plant Sale on May 7th. 🌸 The Minutes of the previous board meeting were unanimously approved as printed in the Weeder. 🌸 Bob S. commented that the two high schools will soon be picking the seniors who will receive DIG's Scholarships. This year's scholarships are going to Heritage High School in the Liberty High School District and Bidwell High School in the Antioch School District. 🌸 Juli said that the last field trip to the Native Garden in Livermore was wonderful. It included an unexpected guided tour. The next field trip is April 7th to the S.F. Nor-Cal Flower and Garden Show in Pleasanton. 🌸 Cici reported that watering is going well and another watering day has been added due to the hot weather. 🌸 Discussions followed regarding the Plant Sale on May 7th: We are short on plants so will continue to accept well rooted plants. No "pre-shopping" of plants by members. New soil has been delivered, Bob will fertilize soon, watering schedule will increase and cleanup of plants needs to be done. Bob will be in charge of chalking and ordering a Porta-potty, Pat will order sandwiches for sale workers from Mr Pickles, Robin will print price signs and tally sheets. We will be working every day during the week before the sale. We need ceramic pots for succulent dish gardens, Chris will organize. Photos of plants for signs can be sent to Bob C. 🌸 John Sierra (DIG member and teacher at Freedom High School) has been contacted to bring his student volunteers to help at the Sale. 🌸 The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Castle, Secretary 🌸

FUTURE SPEAKERS

May 23: Pamela Anderson, Edible Flowers
September 26: Auction - Save your Garden Stuff!
November 28: Ed Laivo, Fruit Trees

Do you know of someone who has an interesting garden related story to tell? Ask them if they'd like to be a speaker at DIG. Contact Robin at 925-759-0700, and she will give you the information you need to schedule your speaker.

🌸 APRIL 25th SPEAKER 🌸



Demystifying Peppers

Presented by Master Gardener Bonnie Dwyer

Scorpions / Reapers / Vipers / Black Pearls /
🌶️🌶️ Scotch Bonnets / Bishop's Crown 🌶️🌶️

What in the world do these things have in common? What on earth are we going to be learning about? Reptiles...not a chance! Royalty... too posh!

From ornaments to ointments...from heat to sweet and from sauce to spice. We will travel the globe from Mexico to South America. From Spain to Bulgaria and on to Italy. We'll visit India, Thailand and Asia in our quest to unravel the mystery that the humble pepper has become. Join us for this fascinating journey into world of peppers.



Bonnie Dwyer comes from a long line of farmers and gardeners; dairy farms and vegetable gardens were a family affair. Bonnie realized she could expand her love of gardening and share her knowledge with other aspiring gardeners by applying to the California Master Gardener Program; she became a Master Gardener in 2013. To date she has volunteered over 3,500 hours with the program. In addition to doing speaker talks she has a passion for the Help Desk where all kinds of weird and wonderful client questions get researched and answered. One of her roles in the program is to select the 35 varieties of peppers which will be propagated into 4,000 pepper plants to be sold at the Great Tomato Plant Sale, the major fundraiser for the Contra Costa County Master Gardeners. In the Master Gardener organization, she is fondly called Dr. Pepper.

Thank you Sandy Marmon for arranging for Bonnie to speak.

Robin Choate 🧑🌾

FIELD TRIPS

So far this year, we've enjoyed two field trips. I'm looking forward to several more and I'd appreciate your suggestions for destination ideas.

As six of us toured the Granada Native Garden in Livermore, we saw so many lovely California native plants and delightfully, some were in bloom. It is impressive to find plants surviving so well in our climate with little or no summer water. The garden was created and is maintained completely by volunteers. Our lunch was pleasant on the patio at Casa Orozco.



Our outing to the San Francisco Bay - Northern California Flower and Garden Show was on April 7th. The weather was nice and the traffic not too heavy so we made good time between Brentwood and Pleasanton. The show was on hold for two years and this year seemed to be a small restart. Only one building had vendors and another displayed some unique flower arrangements. Maybe next year it will be larger.



Please consider joining me and others on the field trip committee to plan our outings. We have meetings about three times a year and enjoy getting together for a lunch at someone's home or we can dine out.



Juli Redford  925-323-5854

MEMBERSHIP

Great news! We had 5 new members join DIG in the last month. Several of them have already joined us at Saturday propagations and proven themselves to be really fun, but also hard workers. Fred Newlan and his wife recently moved here from Maryland and now live in Antioch. Karen Hardee, Kim Wang, Shirlee Clark and her daughter Heidi Holm are from Brentwood. Please introduce yourself to them when you see them at propagation or at one of our meetings and make them feel welcome.

THANK YOU

To **Linda Cullen** for volunteering for one of the most important jobs at DIG. She not only spends several hours a week watering all our potted plants, but is also in charge of the watering schedule so we don't lose any precious plants. Thank you for the great job you're doing, Linda! If you'd like to help water our plants, just call Linda at **415-599-9712**.

To **Cici Kirchner** for being our Hospitality Chairperson and setting up all our scrumptious goodies at our membership meetings. She's also a regular on Saturdays at propagation but you'll never see her because she's always got a hose in her hand and is out and about watering our plants. Cici has only been a member since October but she has certainly made a difference since she joined. Thank you for all that you do, Cici!

If you would like to help our club meet its goals by becoming an active member, please contact **Connie Miller** at **925-420-5347**. I'm sure Connie can find something for you to help out with.

Recipe from Kevin Lee Jacobs

A Garden for the House website

<https://www.agardenforthehouse.com/coffee-and-spice-drop-cookies/>

Coffee-and-Spice Drop Cookies

These easy cookies have a crisp edge, a soft center, and a tantalizing coffee-nutmeg-cinnamon aroma. The recipe ingredients are from The Betty Crocker Picture Cookbook (1950). The instructions are told in my own words.



Prep Time
10 mins

Cook Time
8 mins

 Print Recipe

Course: cookies Cuisine: American

Servings: 4 dozen 2 1/2-inch-diameter cookies

Ingredients

For the dry ingredients:

- 3 1/2 cups (456g) SIFTED all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

For the "wet" ingredients:

- 1 cup (227g) butter, softened to room-temperature
- 2 cups (400g) brown sugar (light or dark)
- 2 eggs, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup (118ml) cold coffee

Instructions

1. Making the cookie dough -- In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, soda, salt, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Set aside.
2. In the bowl of a stand mixer outfitted with the paddle attachment (or in any large bowl if you are using electric beaters), cream together the butter, sugar, and eggs until fluffy -- 4-5 minutes. Stir in the coffee. Then stir in the flour mixture.
3. Chill for 1 hour in the refrigerator (or for 30 minutes in the freezer). About 15 minutes before you are ready to bake, center the oven rack and preheat the oven to 400°F.
4. Forming and baking the cookies -- Place rounded teaspoons of dough 2 inches apart on parchment-lined baking sheets. One baking sheet will hold approximately 20 cookies.
5. Bake the cookies in the preheated 400°F oven until set -- when lightly pressed with a finger, almost no imprint should remain -- 8-10 minutes. For best results, bake one batch of cookies at a time.



New member, Heidi won the door prize.

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

Pay your 2022 Dues now!

Let's Get Ready for Our Plant Sale
Every Saturday
10 AM to Noon





P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513