

THE WEEEDER

JANUARY 2023

Volume 35 Issue 1

2023 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.

2023 General Meetings

- January 23
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- May 22
- June 26 - Members Potluck
- July 24
- August 28
- September 25
- October 23
- November 27
- December 11 - Holiday Potluck

2023 Board Meetings

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| January 3 | July 11* |
| February 7 | August 8 |
| March 7 | September 5 |
| April 4 | October 3 |
| May 2 | November 7 |
| June 6 | November 28* |

2023 Plant Sale: MAY 13 ?

* Adjusted due to Holidays

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! The rain has been a welcome event, even if it has been a little too much all at once. I've been staying inside watching the wind blow things around and planning my next garden. I received a bunch of seeds for Christmas and have watched several videos on growing carrots and radishes in containers, so I will soon be out planting in my "Hot Tub" garden. We don't have enough area in our yard



to have a garden, so I have added large pots and buckets to the concrete pad where someday we hope to put a hot tub. I currently have broccoli, bok choy, eggplant, and something purple growing. (I was given a bunch of starts, but didn't write all the names down correctly.)



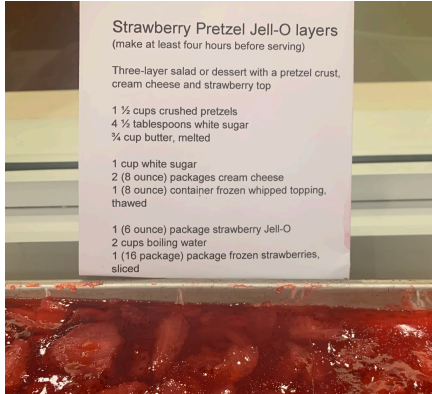
This year will be a little different for DIG, as we still do not have a solution for our plant sale. We believe we should be at our new location in 2024, but 2023 is still up in the air. We will present some options at our next meeting and ask for your input. All ideas are appreciated.

Robin Choate, President 

**"My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view."
— H. Fred Dale**



Holiday Potluck & Recipes



Strawberry Pretzel Jell-O layers (make at least four hours before serving)

Three-layer salad or dessert with a pretzel crust, cream cheese and strawberry top

- 1 1/2 cups crushed pretzels
- 4 1/2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1/4 cup 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 package) package frozen strawberries, sliced

Pecan Squares

Preheat 350 degrees. Line 9x13 pan with parchment paper.

Crust

- 2/3 cup powdered sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 2 sticks (1/2 pound) butter

Mix sugar and flour. Cut in butter until fine crumbs. Pat crust into pan. (It helps to put some plastic wrap or parchment on top when pressing in pan.) Bake about 19-20 min and remove from oven.

Topping

- 2/3 cup (11 tablespoons) melted butter
- 1/2 cup honey (I like star thistle best for this.)
- 3 Tablespoons heavy cream
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

Mix together.
Add
3 1/2 cups coarsely chopped pecans. Stir to coat thoroughly. Spread over crust. Bake 25 min more. Cool completely before cutting into squares.



❁ JANUARY SPEAKER ❁

Monday, January 23rd

Our Speakers in January 2023 will be Stephani and Tom Huffner, owners of the Secret Garden Design Shop located at 7740 Brentwood Blvd., Brentwood, CA 94513. Starting out the Huffners became successful in selling their arrangements at Farmer's Markets throughout the Bay Area. They subsequently left their 9 to 5 jobs to open their plant store. Initially, their focus was on plant design and growing succulents. The Secret Garden Design Store is full of beautiful plants, succulents, pottery and plant related items. The Huffners are very knowledgeable about house plants – so bring your questions! In addition, they will be bringing plants to sell at our General Meeting, Monday January 23rd at 7:30 pm.

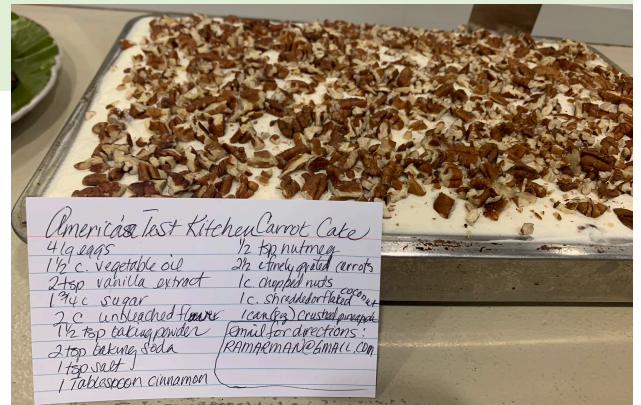


A shout out and thank you to Connie for finding this speaker.

Sue Castle, Vice President

Future Speakers:

February 27: Jeff Bennett - the gardener at Dry Creek Garden in Union City on Irises.

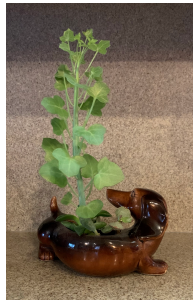


America's Test Kitchen Carrot Cake
 4 lg eggs
 1 1/2 c. vegetable oil
 2 tsp vanilla extract
 1 3/4 c. sugar
 2 c. unbleached flour
 2 tsp baking powder
 2 tsp baking soda
 1 tsp salt
 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
 1/2 tsp nutmeg
 2 1/2 c. finely grated carrots
 1 c. chopped nuts
 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
 1 can (16 oz) crushed pineapple
 Email for directions:
 RAMP@MANE@GMAIL.COM



Board Minutes

The January 3, 2023 meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Robin. Members present: Ginger, Robin, Chris, Connie, Bob S., CiCi, Bob C., Sue C, Juli, Roger. 🌿 Robin distributed the calendar of meetings and events for 2023. 🌿 Ginger presented the Treasurer's report. We received a note of thanks for donation to Dear Valley High School's student garden project. DIG is looking for QuickBooks software program which is not internet based. Board approved the purchase of an external hard drive for DIG financial data. 🌿 November 28, 2022 (December) minutes were unanimously approved by the Board as printed in the Weeder. 🌿 A new field trip committee leader is being sought. 🌿 Chris reported we have 42 paid members. 🌿 V.P. Sue named the speakers for January will be in the Weeder. 🌿 Bios and February. Will create an Instagram. 🌿 Publicity: Roger will account for DIG. Will also verify that the general meeting is listed in the Grapevine and Brentwood committee: Bob S. Press. 🌿 Site and Connie, are hopeful the new city council will be more responsive to working with DIG on the proposed site. 🌿 Plant Sale: Ideas were discussed and will be presented to the members at the general meeting on January 23rd. 🌿 Old Business: Is there a repository for past editions of DIG's Weeder newsletter? What might be an appropriate way to create a condensed volume to document DIG's history for historical purposes? 🌿 December potluck dinner was well attended even with the restriction of no alcohol. This saved money as no extra fee was required for security. The plan is to use the same location and arrangements for December 2023. 🌿 Adjourned- 8:20 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Redford, Secretary 🌿

MEMBERSHIP



Thank you to the 42 members who have already paid their 2023 membership dues. I'll be emailing you a reminder soon if you haven't paid yet.

To pay your dues please fill out a membership slip. Then make your check out to DIG and mail it along with your membership slip to DIG, P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 93413 or pay at the next meeting.

Chris Artz 🌿

STEVE'S CATS

Juli & Dave adopted 2 of Steve's cat and are enjoying them as they settle in to their new home. There are seven more looking for new homes for their golden years.

If you are interested in adopting one or more of Steve's cats please contact Connie at 925-420-5347. Most of the cats are over 12 years old.



Product Recommendation

This has been my favorite pair of Pruners for several years, but they broke the other day. I sent an email with a photo to the address on the label and quickly got a reply that they were busy, but would evaluate my claim soon. Two weeks later I had brand new Fiskars Super Pruners. ~ Robin Choate

FIELD TRIPS

It's a Happy *Wet* New Year and isn't that great!

No field trips are currently scheduled but I'd like to receive suggestions from you. We like to stay within the East Bay Area to avoid long drives in traffic BUT if you know of a really great place, let's talk.

Please let me know if you'd like to attend a field trip planning meeting/lunch. We'll discuss where to go, visit with each other, and have a bit to eat.

Juli Redford 🌿



Members at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette

925-323-5854 or julisews@hotmail.com

WEIRD PLANT FACTS

- 🌿 Carrots were originally purple.
- 🌿 Bamboo is the fastest growing plant on the planet.
- 🌿 Over 100 billion bananas are consumed every year.
- 🌿 In the 1600s the recently introduced tulip flowers in Holland were so valuable that their bulbs were often worth more than gold.
- 🌿 The tallest living plant is the coastal redwood (sequoia sempervirens) and can reach up to 379 feet (115 meters).
- 🌿 Strawberries are the only fruit that has seeds on the outside. The average strawberry contains 200 seeds.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

What are you planning for your garden this year?



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513