

THE WEEEDER

FEBRUARY 2023

Volume 35 Issue 2

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

We have a Plan! We just could not work out the logistics of doing a public sale this year, so we decided to go with the most popular ideas that we discussed at the last meeting: a Progressive Garden Tour & Plant Sale for members and their guests. If you'd like to be on the committee to help plan this event or to volunteer your yard for a tour, please call me at (925) 759-0700.

We'll start meeting on Saturdays from 10 am to noon on March 4th at Steve's house, 530 Third Street, Brentwood, with a clean up day. Bring your gloves, pruners, and rakes so we can clear the side yard for our

potting tables. On March 11th we'll gather there to fill cans with soil and start potting up the cuttings we did in the Fall. If you started seeds and have extra seedlings to share you can bring them to future Saturday gatherings.

If members are planning a yard sale, plants may be available to pickup and sell, with the proceeds of the plants to be donated to DIG.



The view from Robin's garden last Fall.

The good news is that the City is starting the process to lease us the land next to the Historical Society. Once that becomes official we can move the greenhouse and put up fences so we can begin to do propagation workshops there. We'll need a lot of help getting set up so I hope everyone will volunteer their time or a family members' time. We'll have tasks for all abilities.

Robin Choate, President 



"I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty, or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow."

— David Hobson



RECIPE

Lemon Pie Coffee Cake

Ingredients

- 1 ¼ Cups sugar, divided
- ¾ Cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 Cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 can (15 ¾ oz.) lemon pie filling



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Spray a 13x9" or 11 3/4 x 7 1/2" baking dish (see note under Tips and Stuff below) and set aside.
2. In a stand mixing bowl, combine 1 cup of the sugar, plus the oil, and vanilla; mix well. Add eggs; beat until lightly lemon-colored.
3. In a mixing bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt. With mixer on low, add the flour mixture and mix until just combined. Give it a final stir by hand to make sure the flour isn't stuck at the bottom of the bowl.
4. Pour half of the batter into the prepared pan. Carefully top with the pie filling, smooth to the edges with the back of a large spoon. Pour the rest of the batter over the top of the pie filling.
5. Sprinkle the remaining 1/4 cup sugar over the top of the cake, then bake for 30-40 minutes, until the top is golden brown. Cool on a wire rack in the pan. Best served cool or right out of the refrigerator.

Notes:

You can make this in a 13x9" baking dish (glass) or an 11 3/4 by 7 1/2" baking dish (glass) and both work fine. If using the smaller dish, bake the cake for five to ten minutes longer. Baked in the smaller baking dish it will be thicker.

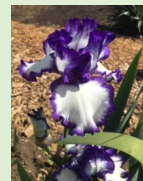
Found on Pinterest by susanb@myrecipereview.com

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Monday, February 27th

"ALL ABOUT IRISES"

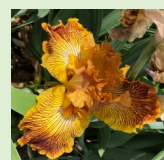
Our next speaker will be **Jeff Bennett** who will be sharing his wealth of information on growing gorgeous irises in our yards. Jeff grew up with irises in his family's yard, but only remembers purple irises and a few yellow ones. In 1991 he discovered a Schreiner's Iris Catalog, never dreaming there were so many other



irises to be had and soon sent in his first order. By 1994 he had over 200 bearded iris varieties. Then in 2013 while buying irises at the Benicia Peddlers Fair, Jeff was introduced to Shirley Trio who was looking for a display garden for an upcoming American Iris Society Convention. In 2019 Dry Creek Gardens

became the master planting area for the AIS Convention. Jeff joined the Mt. Diablo Iris Society in 2014 and became president during 2019-2021.

Jeff has worked for East Bay Regional Park District for 14 years and is currently the gardener at Dry Creek Garden in Union City which is a 4.5 acre public garden that boasts almost 1500 varieties of bearded and non-bearded irises. You will be shocked to learn that there are no fees to enter the garden or to park. There are hundreds of unbelievably stunning irises in a rainbow of colors all blooming in the spring and Jeff has a delightful variety of stories to share with visitors.



Thank you to **Chris Artz** for finding this speaker and providing this write up and photos.

Sue Castle, Vice President

Thank you Judy Secor, Linda Cullen, and Debbie St. Hilaire for volunteering to bring snacks to our February 27th meeting.



My broccoli has produced several bunches and they are so tender and tasty. The radishes are starting to peek out, but it's still too soon to see the carrots. We are adding a new Vego garden bed and will soon be planting in it. - Robin

Board Minutes

The February 7, 2023 board meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Robin. Members present: Robin, Ginger, Connie, Bob S., Ginger, Cici, Chris, Roger, Sandy, Bob C. Juli. 🌸 Treasurer's report was presented by Ginger. DIG is a beneficiary of Steve's trust, thank you Steve. Still need a desktop version of QuickBooks. 🌸 The minutes of the January 3, 2023 were approved by the Board as printed in the Weeder. 🌸 Juli stated that a field trip is being planned to Oaktown Native Plant Nursery. No date has been set. 🌸 Chris reported we have 75 paid members. 🌸 Bob C. reported for VP Sue that the March speaker will be Andrew Pierce from Vector Control. He has presented to DIG before and is a great speaker. 🌸 Publicity: Roger – Looking for more ways to spread the word about DIG. A possible ad for DIG in the Brentwood Recreation Service flyer and other ways to advertising DIG's monthly meeting. Flyers in public places, at schools, library and putting the DIG business card/bookmark in gardening books in the little neighborhood libraries. 🌸 Site Committee- Bob S. The City has sent the long awaited information on the DIG home site. Approval for a lease is possible within a few months. YAY!!! 🌸 Plant Sale Manager- Connie. DIG cleanup day at Steve's March 4th to get the yard ready for propagation workdays. Potting up workdays could begin March 11. The board voted to not have a public sale in favor of a member's only progressive sale/garden tour and members are welcome to take plants to sell at a yard sale to give money to DIG. 🌸 Pat- Will begin a DIG clothing order when we are meeting on Saturdays. 🌸 Adjourned 8:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Redford, Secretary 🌸

WEIRD PLANT FACTS

Did you know Variegation is caused by mutations that affect chlorophyll production or by viruses, such as mosaic viruses? The striking look of variegated plants is desired by many gardeners, and some have deliberately induced viruses for aesthetic purposes.



STEVE'S CATS

There are still seven cats looking for new homes for their golden years. While we don't normally act as an animal rescue we feel it's important to find these cats new homes, as they were so important to Steve, and Steve was important to DIG. If you are interested in adopting one or more of Steve's cats or know someone who is please contact Connie at 925-420-5347. Most of the cats are over 12 years old.



FIELD TRIPS

It's the time of year to be out in the garden again, so maybe you are looking for a plant or two or three or.....

As of last month, I'm teaching science to my 2nd grade homeschooled granddaughter. This month's curriculum is about plants, soil, food, and pollinators. So off we went to Valley Oak Nursery for a seed and plant buying trip. There is still time to start cool vegetable seeds and put in bare root plants. We found a Heritage Raspberry bush and seeds for the project. They were happy to see a DIG member and provide the club discount. He asked that I remind the DIG members to come by. You may want to take yourself on a quick little field trip to Valley Oak Nursery at: 7021 Lone Tree Way, Brentwood, CA.

The next DIG trip is to **Oaktown Native Nursery** in Berkeley, which is only open Wednesday to Sunday. No date is set yet. Updated information will be at the general meeting on February 27th.

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 bite to eat.



Great Valley Gumplant - *Grindelia camporum*

Juli Redford 🌸

925-323-5854 or
julisews@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all the members who sent their dues in this month! We currently have 75 paid members. I really appreciate those of you who take the time to include a membership slip with their check or cash. It sure helps with the bookkeeping! If you still haven't paid, please send your check soon to: **DIG, P.O. BOX 66, Brentwood, CA 94513, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP.** We'd like to have everyone's updated contact info soon to include in our new 2023 Membership Directory.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the members who generously brought succulent cuttings to our last meeting for Bruce Ellison's Special Needs student garden at Deer Valley High School. A special shout out to Peggy Menzie for even including the name of each succulent with her cuttings. What a gal! Bruce's students plan to plant these cuttings in various flower beds around campus. He was extremely grateful for the cuttings as well as for our recent monetary donation. If anyone else has succulent cuttings to share with this student garden, please call me at 925-234-0395 and I'll tell you where to drop them off.

Chris Artz 🌱

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

Please Pay your 2023 Dues
We plan to print new member booklets in the
Spring and would like you to be in it!



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513