

THE WEEEDER

APRIL 2023 Volume 35 Issue 4

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 Garden Tour: MAY 20

* Adjusted due to Holidays

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As most of you may know we aren't going to be able to have our Annual Plant sale this year. In its place we are going to have a Progressive Garden Tour and Plant Sale on May 20th. This is the weekend *after* Mother's Day weekend. Members will need to sign up ahead of time and let us know how many people are coming. Guests are welcome to come with members and we are suggesting a \$5 donation for non members. Most plants will be \$4. This is the first time we have done this, so please bear with us as we figure it out.

We will gather at the first location at 10 am for coffee and donuts while we tour the garden. Afterwards, we will select plants to purchase. The quantity will be recorded on your program and the master list. Then off we go the next location where we'll have lemonade and cookies while we tour the garden and donmore plant shopping. At the last location we will have finger sandwiches before we do our final shopping. When you're ready you will pay for all your plants at this location, by check only. If you buy more plants than you can fit in your vehicle arrangements can be made to hold them at that location until later in the day or the next morning.



Volunteers are needed, but don't worry, you'll get to go along with everyone else, you just may need to leave a location a little early or stay a few minutes longer. We need people to help with set up, moving plants, cookie donations, clean up, etc. If you'd like to help, we'll find something for you to do. We'll need some help the Thursday before the tour, and the Sunday after, as well as the day of the event.

In preparation for the plant sale portion of the day, we have been potting up plants on Saturdays. Watch for emails, as we will only be doing this for a few more weeks. We are currently looking for plants to divide or extra starts you may have and want to share.

We hope this will be a fun way to make up for not having the usual plant sale. Sign up at the next meeting or call Debbie St. Hilaire at 209-483-2135.

Robin Choate, President 



Myth Busted: The old wives' tale is that a robin is the first sign of spring. As the myth goes, all robins migrate south for the winter to avoid the cold, returning in the early spring. However, American Robins are adaptable birds, comfortable in all sorts of habitats across North America and don't always leave.

Photo Credit: Sally Castle





TOFFEE CRUNCH COOKIES



- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 eggs, beaten in small bowl
- 2 ½ cups flour
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp cornstarch
- One (10 oz. bag) toffee candy bits
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1 cup sweetened coconut flakes
- 1 cup chopped almonds

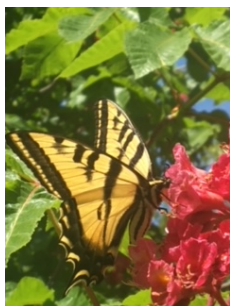
Preheat oven to 350°. Cream together butter, sugars and vanilla. Add beaten eggs and mix well. Place flour, salt and baking soda together in small bowl and whisk together. Then slowly add to the moist ingredients and mix thoroughly. Mix in toffee bits, oatmeal, coconut and nuts.

Roll dough into walnut size balls and place on parchment lined baking sheet. Bake for 12 minutes or until golden around edges. Yield: about 5 dozen cookies

*Note: For thicker cookies, freeze dough balls in wax paper lined container covered with lid or aluminum foil several hours or overnight, then bake as directed.

Recipe from Chris Artz

PHOTO SEARCH



Do you have a plant you've purchased (or propagated) from a past DIG Plant Sale that is doing well and looking fantastic? Would you mind if the Publicity Team featured it on NextDoor? Please email your pictures to sjmarman@gmail.com if you are interested. Thanks!

Sandy Marman

Photo Credit: Megan Kilkenny

APRIL SPEAKER


Monday, April 24th

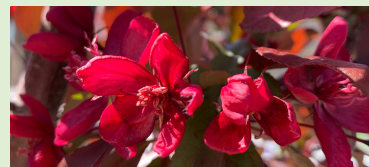
“Lori Caldwell - WORM COMPOSTING”

Our April Speaker is Lori Caldwell, aka the “Compost Gal”. She is an Alameda County Master Composter, sustainable gardening educator and residential sheet mulch maven. That is to say that she really knows her stuff. Her mission is “To connect people to the soil and all that it provides.” She has been happily teaching and transforming yards in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2007.



Lori will tell us the whys and how-to’s of worm composting. Worm composting is a great way to recycle food scraps and make a nutrient dense fertilizer for indoor and outdoor gardens. She will also discuss SB 1383, which is about increasing the amount of compost we use and produce in the State of California.

Sue Castle, Vice President 



We are looking for future speakers. Please contact Sue at 925-260-4860 if you know someone or have a suggestion.

Thank you Carol Ann Walthall, Lisa Blume, and Kay Dean for volunteering to bring snacks to our April 24th meeting.

Board Minutes

The April 4, 2023 Board Meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Robin. Members present: Robin, Pat, Connie, Chris, Ginger, Bob S, Roger, Juli, Sue, & Bob C. 🌸 Treasurer's report was present by Ginger. 🌸 The minutes from the March Board meeting were approved as printed in the Weeder. 🌸 Juli reported our next field trip will likely be to Cornerstone Sonoma. No date has been selected. The previous field trip was a success, even if extremely wet. 🌸 Chris reported we have 89 members. 🌸 A new member booklet is in the works. 🌸 Sue stated we have general meeting speakers scheduled through July. Our next speaker is Lori Caldwell on Worm Composting. 🌸 Roger presented more ideas to publicize DIG to the community. 🌸 Bob S. reported the high school scholarships will be given to Liberty and Antioch students this year. 🌸 Site Committee- Bob S. continues to work with the City to approve the move in September to the new location. 🌸 Plant Sale - Connie. Saturday workdays continue to prepare for the members only plant sale on May 20th with a progressive tour of three gardens in Brentwood. 🌸 Other- A fall membership drive to increase the size of the club. 🌸 Adjourned- 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Juli Redford, Secretary 🌸



MEMBERSHIP

Currently we have 89 members. Newest members are Kay Dean from Antioch, Diane Stater and Lisa and Daryl Blume from Brentwood. Please introduce yourself to them and make them feel welcome next time you see them.

THANK YOU

To Juli Redford for juggling two important positions in our club, Secretary AND Field Trip Chairperson and for handling both remarkably well. I'm sure she could use some help in the field trip department so don't be afraid to step up, shadow her in this fun position and then take over that job. You'll also have a committee to support you.

To Robin Choate our incredible president who already has way too many jobs, for working diligently on creating our 2023 Membership Directory in a neat and tidy little booklet. Not an easy task.

To Bob Selders and Connie Miller for continually working with the city of Brentwood for almost a year now in finding us a new home for DIG. They are getting really close!

Chris Artz 🌸

FIELD TRIPS

Oh what a day it was for a field trip! The weather forecast for that lovely Wednesday was for a 50% chance of rain, but it turned out to be 100% rain!! Seven of our intrepid DIG members ventured out together. The four good sports in my car laughed about our dedication to plant shopping. The first two stops were at native plant nurseries where everything was very well watered.

Oaktown Nursery in Berkeley provides a nice selection of potted plants. As a great bonus, the nursery is surrounded by in ground plantings for a nice representation of the mature plants.



Watershed Nursery is on a space near a water treatment plant in Richmond. Don't mind the odor, the plant inventory was large, well labeled, and worth the visit.

We found lunch nearby in Point Richmond where we dried out a bit. Next we headed to Annie's Annuals and Perennials. As a staple to many people in the Bay Area, Annie's has a huge selection plants in four inch pots. The variety is unmatched by any nursery I have visited. There are also planted beds displaying landscape ideas for using their plants.



Please feel free to join me and others as we plan our field trips. The next field trip will likely be to visit Cornerstone Sonoma. <https://www.cornerstonesonoma.com/>

Juli Redford 🌸

925-323-5854 or
julisews@hotmail.com

Field Trip Photo Credits: Juli Redford

If you'd like to see your photos in a future Weeder email them to info@deltainformalgardeners.org.

🌸 April Showers Bring May Flowers 🌸

The expression as we know it today originated in the form of a short poem written by Thomas Tusser. The poem can be found in the April section of a collection of his writings titled, "A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry." "Sweet April showers Do spring May flowers."

Thomas Tusser (c. 1524 – 1580) was an English poet and farmer, best known for his instructional poem *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry*, an expanded version of his original title, *A Hundreth Good Pointes of Husbandrie*, first published in 1557. For Tusser the garden was the domain of the housewife, and the 1562 text expands on this theme. It was among the best selling poetry books of the Elizabethan age.

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**

Sign up for our Member's
Progressive Garden Tour & Plant Sale
May 20, 2023
Details inside



P.O. Box 66
Brentwood, CA 94513