

THE WEEEDER

FEBRUARY 2024

Volume 36 Issue 02

2024 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.

2024 General Meetings

- January 22
- February 26
- March 25
- April 22 Earth Day!
- May 20*
- June 24 - Members Potluck
- July 22
- August 26
- September 23
- October 28
- November 25
- December 9 - Holiday Potluck

2024 Board Meetings

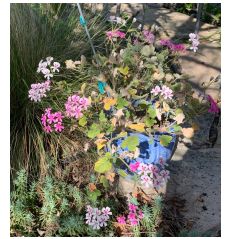
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|------------|--------------|
| January 2 | July 2 |
| February 6 | August 6 |
| March 5 | September 3 |
| April 2 | October 8 |
| May 7 | November 5 |
| June 4 | November 26* |

2024 Plant Sale: MAY 11

* Adjusted due to Holidays

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you fallen in Love with a plant? I have, but don't tell my husband. I have two favorite plants in my yard. One is a CA Native Bush Poppy - *Dendromecon rigida*. The other is an African Geranium- *Pelargonium Sidoides*, I have one burgundy and several pink & white. The poppy sways in the breeze and has just started to bloom - the bees love it. The pelargoniums start out one color and end up the other (I just can't remember which way they turn.) Happy Valentines Day!



There are so many great websites, Facebook pages, and U-tube channels that offer tips and information that I thought we could share some with you and you can share yours with us by emailing the links to info@deltainformalgardeners.org

Here are a few for you to check out:

<https://ccmg.ucanr.edu/> (Contra Costa Master Gardeners)

<https://www.epicgardening.com/> (Robin likes this one)

<https://www.digplantwaterrepeat.com/about>
(Chris & Dan recommended this one)

<https://www.tenthacrefarm.com/> (Another one Robin likes)

https://vric.ucdavis.edu/pdf/Vegetable-Planting-Guide_Sacramento.pdf
(This is a great vegetable planting guide)



Check out what Connie has to say about Saturday Plant Days on page 3. Hope to see you there.

Robin Choate, President 

"Flowers are love's truest language ."

Park Benjamin 

Board Minutes

The February 6, 2024 board meeting was called to order by Robin at 7:01. Members present- Ginger, Bob S., Connie, Robin, Juli, Roger, Chris, CiCi, Sue, Bob C. 🌸 Treasurer report- Given by Ginger. An accountant will be selected to prepare this year's tax papers. 🌸 Minutes from the January board meeting were approved. 🌸 Membership-Chris: 65 members paid for 2024. 🌸 Vice President- Sue: John Fike will be our February speaker - "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs." 🌸 Publicity- Roger: Has been contacting several sources for free seeds and information on seed starting to be added to the seed library at the Brentwood library. A promotional basket will be donated to Mothers of Brentwood Club for their fundraiser to promote DIG. Sandy M. will put this together in May. 🌸 Hospitality- CiCi: will roll over the deposit for the December potluck to reserve the date next year at the Brentwood community center. 🌸 Donations: This quarter will be half of typical \$500. Food bank at Hope House \$250 and Kaleidoscope \$250. 🌸 Scholarships- Liberty and Deer Valley high schools in 2024. The checks will be presented at their awards nights this spring. 🌸 Site Committee- Bob: nothing new. 🌸 Plant Sale/Manager-Connie: Start up divisions, succulents, geraniums on Feb. 24th at Connie's. Members bring a max of 25 cuttings/plants of each type of plant. 🌸 Garment ordering- Juli: Will start new orders at February general meeting. 🌸 New business: Delta Worms is providing a donation of worm castings as a fundraiser for DIG. Smaller bags will be available at the general meetings. 🌸 Meeting adjourned at 8:47.

Respectfully submitted,

Juli Redford, Secretary. 🌸

BRENTWOOD SEED LIBRARY

The Brentwood Library is in desperate need of assistance with their seed library. I would like to know if any members have seeds they would like to donate. Please include as much information about unpackaged seeds as you know. Of course, I will heartily accept packaged seeds, and will make a collection box available at the meetings. Expired seeds are totally fine! I will start collecting at the next meeting.

Thank you,

Roger Marman 🌸

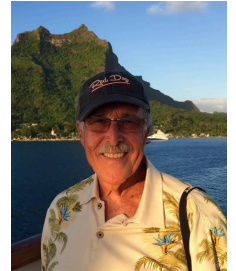


FEBRUARY 26th MEETING

"GOOD BUGS, BAD BUGS"

Dr. John R. Fike, Master Gardener and Professor Emeritus at UCSF

DIG's February Speaker is Dr. John R. Fike. He will be speaking on "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs."



Dr. Fike is a Professor Emeritus at UCSF and has spent his entire 34-year career on the faculty of UCSF after receiving his undergraduate degree in Biology in 1970 and his graduate degree 1978 from Colorado State. After retiring, he became active in the Master Gardener program for Contra Costa County. Dr. Fike's passion for biology and his interest in education have been instrumental in his contributions to the Master Gardener organization. One of his goals as a Master Gardener is to introduce more science into the gardening landscape in the hope that people will develop an enhanced perspective and appreciation of the fascinating world around us.

The Master Gardener Program Goals are:

- Promote environmentally responsible and sustainable horticultural practices.
- Reduce fertilizer and pesticide pollutants.
- Protect water quality and quantity.
- Reduce landfill materials.
- Improve soil quality.
- Detect and manage invasive species.
- Protect wild lands and urban areas from destructive fires.

Sue Castle, Vice President. 🌸

CC FRUIT RESCUE and HOPE HOUSE



CC Fruit Rescue is an organization that will come out and harvest excess fruits and vegetables from area residences, as well as some commercial growers. Last year they were invited in after the U- Pick cherry season was over and were able to pick the rest of cherries! Contact Pat Alger at [925-437-3333](tel:925-437-3333) if you have a crop to donate. The foods they harvest are kept local and are distributed through Hope House.

Hope House is a branch of the Contra Costa/ Solana County Food Bank that concentrates their efforts in the Brentwood area. They are affiliated with the Methodist Church and open Monday and Wednesday, 9am to noon.

SATURDAYS

We will resume our Saturday workdays on February 24th, *weather permitting*. Bring plant divisions, succulents, or geraniums (enough for no more than 25 plants) from your garden that you'd like to share. The first day we will also be moving soil from the driveway to the backyard, so if you have a wagon or small wheelbarrow to use please bring it. Also if you can send me an email with the name of plants you're bringing I will try to have labels ready, so we can label them as we plant. As always the hours will be 10am-12 and treats are always happily accepted. Looking forward to seeing you all again as we plan for our next sale. 530 3rd Street. Robin will send out a reminder or date change if rain. 925-329-7195

Connie Miller 

The Auction was a Success !

We had a lot of fun with Bob as our auctioneer and Connie as our own Vanna White. We do this every other year so save those garden things to donate.



MEMBERSHIP

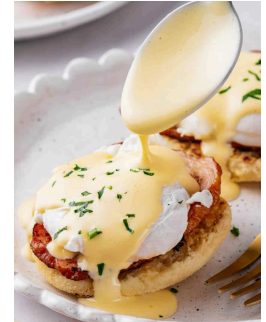
Thank you to all of you who have already sent in your membership dues. So far we've had a good response. We currently have 65 paid members. If you haven't already done so, please send in your dues to **Delta Informal Gardeners - Membership** (Not to Chris Artz), P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513. Our fees are still \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family.

Chris Artz, Membership Chairman 

RECIPE

EASY EGGS BENEDICT

About 3/4 lb. thinly sliced Black Forest Ham, each slice cut in half
1/2 pt. whipping cream
12 oz. shredded Monterey Jack and Cheddar Cheese blend
1 dozen eggs
6 English muffins, split, toasted and placed in warm oven



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 2 large muffin tins (not cupcake pans) with cooking spray.
Line each cup with 2-3 half slices of ham so that metal cup is covered and egg won't leak through.
Break an egg into each cup.
Add 1 Tbsp. cream and about 1 heaping tablespoon cheeses to each cup. (Be sure to put water in any empty cups or pan will burn.)
Bake 12-15 min.
Serve each portion on a toasted muffin.
Immediately spoon 1-2 tablespoons of Hollandaise sauce over each serving.

While eggs are baking, make the sauce.

Hollandaise Sauce – Makes 1 cup or enough for about 8 servings

1/3 cup egg product (or real eggs, beaten)
2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1 Tbsp. Grey Poupon mustard
1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper (Don't worry – it's not hot at all.)
1 stick butter, melted and kept warm on stove

Place first 4 ingredients in a blender. Cover with lid; blend on medium speed until mixed. Then on low speed, very gradually pour **hot** butter through feed tube in blender lid until mixture is well blended and thickens. You can keep the sauce warm for 20 min. or so by placing mixture in a 2 cup Pyrex container and placing container in a pan of hot, but not boiling, water. If mixture locks up, add a tiny amount of boiling water and beat with whisk until it smoothes out.

Leftovers (if any, ha!) can be reheated in microwave on low setting for a few minutes.

Recipe Courtesy of Chris Artz

**Sometimes I feel useless,
then I remember I
breathe out carbon
dioxide for plants.**



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

Our next meeting is
February 26th

 "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs" 



P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513