



# THE WEEDEEER

MARCH 2026

Volume 38 Issue 3

## 2026 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.

## 2026 General Meetings

- January 26- Auction: Early time 6:00 pm
- February 23
- March 23
- April 27
- May 18\*
- June 23 - Members Potluck
- July 27
- August 24
- September 28
- October 26
- November 23
- December 7\*- Holiday Potluck

## 2026 Board Meetings

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| January 6  | July 7      |
| February 3 | August 4    |
| March 3    | September 8 |
| April 7    | October 6   |
| May 5      | November 3  |
| June 2     | December 1  |

## 2026 Plant Sale: May 9

At DIG's Garden - 3900 Sellers Ave., Brentwood

\* Adjusted due to Holidays

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our propagation program is progressing, thanks to the help of many DIG'ers this past number of Saturdays at DIG's Garden. The temporary green house is up and receiving plants. The fencing is up to discourage nonmembers from roving through the growing grounds, and we have planted about a third of our plants for this year's sale. There is still a lot of work to do; including getting our seedlings up planted to gallon cans so they have time to mature, grooming our plants as they mature, and arranging the plants by type on our sale grounds, as well as repairing some of our wagons for use at the sale. If you have not been out to see our progress or help on Saturdays, you are missing a great social event! The weather is getting much nicer, so I hope to see more members on Saturday. You will meet new friends, have a fun time, and help the club. Our propagation and sale site is at 3900 Sellers Ave., and we are there every Saturday from 10:00 to noon rain or shine. I hope to see you there.

*Bob Selders,* President 🌱



## Website Gallery

**Chris Choate has been working on our website and has added photos from our Saturdays at DIG's Garden. To check them out go to: <https://deltainformalgardeners.org/gallery/>**

🍌🍰 **MEETING TREATS** 🍇🍪

Thank you Michele, Juli, and Karen for volunteering to bring treats to our March 23rd meeting.

Thank you to Bob, Robin, and others for bringing treats to our February meeting.

## Board Minutes

✿ The March 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting was called to order by DIG president, Bob Selders, at 7:06 pm. Members present- Bob Selders, Robin Choate, Chris Choate, Debbie St. Hilaire, Ginger Guider, Connie Miller, Juli Redford, Sonja Sellers, Bob Castle, Sue Castle. ✿ Vice President report: Update of the DIG website will include weekly photos of Saturday workdays. Chris will clean up the webpage and make it user friendly. Discussed the possibility of membership growth. ✿ Treasurer: Ginger and Rachel- The income statement and balance sheet were provided. ✿ Secretary: Juli proposed the approval of minutes from the February 2<sup>nd</sup> board meeting as printed in the Weeder. Seconded by Sonja, board approved. ✿ Garments- Items are ordered and should be ready by third week of March. Will start a new order with delivery in April. ✿ Membership: We have paid 81 members. ✿ Programs/ Speakers: March- James Breuner (a Master Gardener) on native plants. Speaker fee going to veteran's group at Trilogy. April- Irrigation/Lori Palmquist, May- Pollinators /Anna Wendorf. ✿ Scholarships: 2026 schools- Freedom High and Antioch High. ✿ Publicity- Flyers are printed for the plant sale. In April, we will put one of the large size signs on greenhouse. Everyone is encouraged to put the flyer on their person Facebook page after April 1<sup>st</sup>. ✿ Field Trips: March to Curious Flora and Watershed on March 11<sup>th</sup>. ✿ Hospitality: A location for the June potluck is being researched. Debbie will stock drinking water for workdays. ✿ Permanent Plant Sale Site/DIG's Garden: Surplus property sale status with the City: New city manager and mayor are wanting to get the agreement done. ✿ Propagation & Plant Sale: The well house needs paint to complete the upgrade project. Temporary greenhouse is up, as is the fencing. Need rabbit protection alternatives. Propagation status: Seedlings can now be brought for transplanting. Vegetables should be brought later. Additional signs were considered and traffic ideas. ✿ The document with yearly procedure for plant sale has been distributed. Board members are encouraged to read and suggest edits. ✿ Adjourned at 8:22 pm.

*Juli Redford*, Secretary 🌻



## 🌱 FIELD TRIP NEWS 🌻

On **Wednesday, March 11th** we will take a Field Trip to Richmond. We will visit Watershed Nursery and Curious Flora (formerly Annie's Annuals) and then go out to lunch. Sign up at the next meeting or call 209-483-2135.

*Debbie St. Hilaire* 🌻

## MARCH 23, 2026 SPEAKER

### James Breuner California Natives in the GARDEN



**This month we will be learning all about using California Natives in our gardens!**

Jim Breuner and his wife, Nan, moved to Brentwood from Orinda in early May of 2025. He has nurtured a passion of California natives since he first started gardening many years ago. His former Orinda garden was full of natives, along with other non-native plants that do well in our Mediterranean climate. His criteria for plant selection are:

1) deer resistant, 2) clay tolerant, 3) drought resistant, and 4) attracts pollinators, in no order of importance. Extra points if it's a California native! He's gotten a lot of inspiration from attending and volunteering at the annual "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour" for many years.

He graduated from the UC Master Gardener Program in Contra Costa County in 2024. Since then, he continues to put in many volunteer hours at the *Gehringer Native Plant Demo Garden* in Concord and at the "Ask a Master Gardener" table at the Framer's Market in Martinez. He loves talking to people about California natives and is eager to share what he's learned with others. In this presentation Jim will explain the importance of planting CA natives, including their role in local ecosystems, their evolution with and in support of local wildlife, and the tendency of many of them to be low maintenance, low water usage plants in a world that's getting hotter due to climate change.

*Sonja Sellers*, Programs 🌻



## MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to the 81 members who have already paid their membership dues. If you recently received an email from me reminding you to pay your dues, please do so soon or kindly let me know if you are not planning to join this year. Robin, our editor-in-chief, is chomping at the bit to get everyone's updated contact information so she can create another beautiful DIG Directory (Member Roster). We hope to hear from you soon!

To pay your dues please send your check (made out to DIG) to: DIG, P.O. Box 66, Brentwood, CA 94513, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP. Kindly include a completed membership slip with your payment. If you plan to pay me at a Saturday propagation workshop, please make sure your check or cash is in an envelope along with the membership slip. Thank you.

*Chris Artz* 🌸

Membership Chairman  
925-234-0395

### Thank You

To Sabina and Frank Morganti for adding a donation to their check when they paid their 2026 membership dues. We so appreciate their generosity.

To our wonderful fellas who have worked diligently for several weeks to construct our greenhouse to keep all our plants and seedlings warm and toasty until the weather warms up. These guys never gave up until the greenhouse was super strong and perfectly situated. So *Thank You* Bob Castle, Joe McMurtrey, Fred Valentin, John Brunck, and others (I know I've missed some names, so remind me when you see me.)

To Joy Moniz for volunteering for an essential task - being in charge of keeping all our plants watered. Joy is currently looking for volunteers to help her with this huge task and will set up a schedule to make sure our plants are watered on a regular basis. This is a perfect job for someone who would like to be part of the DIG team. Please contact Joy at 510-303-3030 if you can help.

🌻 *Chris Artz*



## RECIPE

# Watergate Cake

Active Time: 15 mins Total Time: 2 hrs 20 mins

Servings: 12

## Ingredients

Cooking spray  
1 (14.25-oz.) pkg. white cake mix (such as Betty Crocker)  
1 cup lemon or lime-Savored sparkling water (from 1 [12-oz.] can)  
1/2 cup canola oil  
3 large eggs  
2 (3.4-oz.) pkg. pistachio instant pudding and pie filling mix, divided (such as Jello)  
1 tsp. kosher salt, divided  
1/2 cup sweetened flaked coconut, plus more for garnish  
1/4 cup finely chopped toasted pecans, plus more for garnish  
1/4 cup finely chopped toasted pistachios  
2 cups heavy whipping cream  
1/2 cup powdered sugar



## Directions

Step 1 - Prepare oven and baking pan:  
Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 13- x 9-inch baking pan with cooking spray; set aside.

Step 2 - Make cake batter:  
Beat cake mix, sparkling water, oil, eggs, 1 package of the pudding mix, and 1/2 teaspoon of the salt in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Fold in coconut, pecans, and pistachios. Pour into prepared pan, and spread in an even layer.

Step 3 - Bake cake:  
Bake in preheated oven until top is lightly golden and a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool completely in pan on a wire rack, about 1 1/2 hours.

Step 4 - Make frosting:  
Beat cream in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until just starting to thicken, about 3 minutes. Add powdered sugar, 3 tablespoons of the remaining pudding mix (reserve any remaining pudding mix for another use), and remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt; beat on medium speed until thickened and smooth, about 1 minute. Spoon onto cooled cake, spreading into an even layer; swirl decoratively if desired. Garnish with coconut and pistachios.

By Marianne Williams

<https://www.southernliving.com/watergate-cake-11697841?>

# 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**

“I love Springtime anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in the garden.”  
Ruth Stout



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Brentwood, CA 94513