THE WEEDER

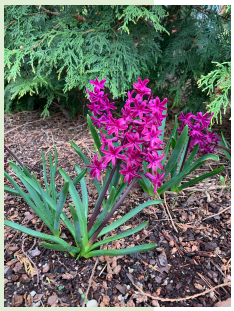
APRIL 2026 Volume 38 Issue 4

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

We have had a few inquiries about what we do with the money we make with our annual plant sale and any other fund raisers that we may have. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization we are restricted on on what we spend our funds on. We can only spend our funds on operating expenses. Members of the club cannot receive any payment for a speaker fee or a gift from the club, etc. Each quarter of the year the Board and Committee members reviews our finances, determine a total amount to be contributed that quarter. Our donations go to various local organizations who benefit East County. Each year we give $1,000 scholarships to one graduating senior in both the Liberty High and Antioch High School Districts, rotating through the different high school within each district. We also have donated to specific programs in various High Schools. Other organizations that we routinely contribute to includes the Brentwood Community Chest, Hope House (Methodist Church), and the Family Harvest Farms. We have also contributed to other similar organizations on a case-by-case basis.

The more we make at our plant sale the more we can contribute to other organizations that benefit the residents in East Contra Costa County. With all the significant help from so many of our members, we will have a great sale this year. I thank everyone who has helped with our propagation and sale program, we still have a lot to do over these last few weeks before Sale Day.

Bob Selders, President



MEETING TREATS

Thank you Roxanne, Debbie, and Bob for volunteering to bring treats to our April 27th meeting.

Thank you to Michele, Juli, and Karen for bringing treats to our February meeting.

Board Minutes

The April 7th board meeting was called to order by DIG president, Bob Selders, at 7:02 pm. Members present: Bob Selders, Connie Miller, Robin Choate, Chris Choate, Debbie St. Hilaire, Ginger Guider, Juli Redford, Chris Artz, Sue Castle, Bob Castle, Sally Castle, Rachel Ortega. ❁ Vice President report: Chris C. - Compost announcement made at general meeting, update on how the city giveaway is going. ❁ Treasurer: Ginger - DIG is listed in the John Muir Land Trust Annual list of recognized donors. The income statement and balance sheet were provided. ❁ Secretary: Juli - Minutes from the March 3rd board meeting were approved. ❁ Garments: Juli - Items were distributed to members who ordered shirts, aprons, and vests. ❁ Membership: Chris A. - We have 88 paid members. ❁ Programs/Speakers: April- Irrigation by Lori Palmquist, May- Anna Windor on pollinators, July- tbd, Aug. Debbie Arnold on herbs. Several ideas for more speakers were shared. ❁ Scholarships: 2026 schools- Freedom High and Antioch High. Karen is in contact with the schools. ❁ Publicity: Flyers are printed for the plant sale. Robin will arrange for a flyer holder at the site. Bob Castle will purchase metal poles to mount the onsite sign. Roger will secure the permit for displaying the other large signs. ❁ Donation: Debbie has prepared a garden basket to donate to the Brentwood Pony Baseball League. DIG will contribute a $25 certificate towards plants at our plant sale. ❁ Field Trips: Debbie - Next will be after July. ❁ Hospitality: The location for the June 22nd potluck is ECCHS. Debbie will obtain the tablecloths, plates, cups, utensils, and water. ❁ Permanent Plant Sale Site/DIG's Garden: Moving forward. ❁ Propagation & Plant Sale: Will likely have 5,000 plants. Watering three days a week now. Soil pile needs to be watered during the week also. General cleaning and straightening up of the site will be done on Saturdays. Bob Castle presented ideas for critter deterrents. Short flags were effective, society garlic plants are also helpful, and repellant scent packages hung around the plants. Robin proposed that Bob Castle order the scented deterrent, Connie seconded, approved. Saving the seed packets should be done and used for plant sale signs. Members who brought plants from their yards should send the photo of the blooming plants the plant sign maker. ❁ New Business: An idea was presented to have DIG hold a garden tour as a fundraiser. Sue will secure donated feed bags to hold the excess soil to sell at the plant sale. ❁ Adjourned at 8:23 pm



Juli Redford, Secretary



APRIL 27, 2026 SPEAKER

LORI PALMQUEST

WATER IN YOUR GARDEN

Taking Control!

This month Lori Palmquist will be talking to us about garden irrigation and water efficiency.

How to make "friends" with our watering systems, so we can use water wisely and responsibly in our drought prone 9B zone. She will be giving us a veritable buffet of strategies for lowering our water use with a no-nonsense approach, including actionable steps and a checklist for watering correctly! She will provide new tools for drought-proofing our landscapes.



Lori is an irrigation expert who has designed, installed, repaired, maintained, and upgraded hundreds of irrigation systems in her 37-year career as a landscape professional. She has been a Water Manager for several HOA's and large residential landscapes in the Bay Area and teaches irrigation at Merritt College in Oakland.

Sonja Sellers, Programs

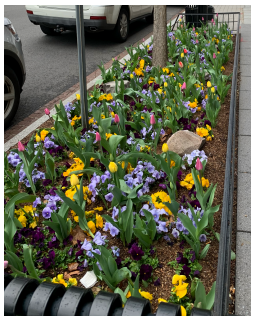
Travelogue

As many of you know Chris & Robin Choate tend to travel. In March they went to Washington, D.C. to see the Cherry Blossoms. The blossoms were almost at peak and just starting to turn pink. A lot of plants had not woken up yet, so the grounds of the United States Botanic Garden were not in bloom, but there were plenty of plants to see around the Capital Mall and Arlington National Cemetery. We hope you enjoy the photos shown throughout this issue.



MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 88 paid members. To pay your dues, please make your check out to DIG and mail 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 your membership slip or it could very easily get lost. Thanks!



Chris Artz

Membership Chairman
925-234-0395





Thank You

To Debbie St. Hilaire (who is our Hospitality Chair as well as being in charge of our Field Trips) for planning such a fun field trip last month. First we went to The Watershed Nursery and then to Curious Flora. Afterwards we stopped for a yummy lunch at Golden Gate Bistro because plant shopping is such hard work.

To Chris Choate for picking up mulch to spread around DIG's Garden to keep the weeds down. He also donated several bags of worm castings that other members purchased to take home and the funds went to DIG. Thank you to John Sierra for coming out to weed whack, even though he was injured. And, of course, Joe McMurtrey for weed whacking, spreading the mulch, watering, and painting the well house.

Chris Artz

RECIPE

Pistachio Crinkle Cookies

Make these festive crinkle cookies with a white cake mix and pistachio pudding mix. Pistachio crinkle cookies are as delicious as they are easy to make! Makes 18 cookies

Prep Time 10 **minutes** **Cook Time** 9 **minutes**

Ingredients

- 1 box white or pistachio* cake mix 15.25 ounces
- 1 box instant pistachio* pudding mix 3.4 ounces
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ⅓ cup confectioners' sugar



Instructions

- Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper, set aside.
- In the bowl of your mixer combine cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, oil, and vanilla extract until well blended.
- Place confectioners' sugar into a medium bowl.
- Using a medium** cookie scoop (1 ½ tablespoons), drop balls of dough (dough will be sticky) into the confectioners' sugar, roll to coat. Gently form dough into a ball by lightly rolling between your palms.
- Place dough balls on prepared baking pan about two inches apart.
- Bake in preheated oven for 7 to 9 minutes. The bottoms will be set but middles will look slightly undercooked. Allow cookies to cool for 5 minutes on pan before removing to a wire rack.

Notes

Add 1-2 drops of green food coloring for an extra-bold green color if desired.

*Change up your flavors! Chocolate cake & chocolate pudding, white cake & butterscotch pudding, strawberry cake & strawberry pudding, … you get the idea.
** I used a smaller cookie scoop for half the batch and liked the smaller one better. Plus you get more cookies.

Recipe courtesy of Jamie at www.mybakingaddiction.com



To Share the Sale Flyer

Click on the link to print or copy it to send to friends and family!

https://deltainformalgardeners.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/DIG-Plant-Sale-Flyer-w-Prices-26.pdf







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**

"In the Spring, at the end of the day,
you should smell like dirt."
Margaret Atwood

DELTA INFORMAL GARDENERS

P.O. Box 66

Brentwood, CA 94513

deltainformalgardeners.org