

YEAR OF THE PITAHAYA LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

July 2010 Volume XIV Issue 4

<http://www.crfg-la.org>

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July Meeting

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2010

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91316

Program: Glen Woodmansee on Feijoas

Glen Woodmansee has traveled through California and New Zealand looking for varieties of the pineapple guava (feijoa) that you can't get from your nursery. He's interviewed many New Zealand commercial feijoa growers on their methods. He has brought back to Santa Monica some old heritage California varieties as grafts and air layers, and has succeeded in bringing in some New Zealand varieties that have never been imported into the U.S. before. Glen has done research on original documents on feijoa history at the Bancroft Library and the Regional Library Facilities. He demonstrated an unusual grafting technique for feijoas at the West Los Angeles Chapter's January meeting. Glen says that once you try one of the better varieties, you'll realize that the pineapple guava is a great back yard tree to grow.

NOTE: Volunteers for the Festival of Fruits will have a short but important meeting following the speaker today. Please plan on being present, if you are a volunteer.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!! If your last name begins with M-Z please bring something for our July tasting table. Please bring whatever you have ripening in your gardens, to share and show off.

****NO AUGUST MEETING THIS MONTH****

August-FESTIVAL OF FRUIT

Date: August 14, 2010

Time: 8:30am-6pm

Place: Cal Poly Pomona-Bronco Center
3801 W. Temple Ave.
Pomona, CA 91768

Program: The Los Angeles Chapter proudly presents the Festival of Fruit 2010 Year of the Pitahaya. There will be 24 speakers, fruit tasting, plant sales, and a lot of time for socializing

If you have not already done so, register NOW. **Remember after July 15th the registration will increase to \$10 more.**

MAN OF THE HOUR



President and Regional Chair with Ed Hager

On Friday June 4th, the CGCI organization honored our very dear **Ed Hager** for his more than generous support of the Conejo Valley Botanical Gardens.

CGCI stands for California Garden Clubs, Inc. It is the largest nonprofit volunteer gardening organization in the state of California. An affiliation of over 350 garden clubs and plant societies throughout the state, CGCI represents more than 20,000 members.

Held at the Hyatt Plaza Hotel in Westlake Village, California, the award ceremony recognized many outstanding garden clubs and individuals who have so generously contributed to the many garden clubs in California. We of the Los Angeles Chapter of CRFG are proud of the well deserved recognition given to **Ed Hager** at that ceremony

LOOKING FOR A NEW PROJECT?

How About Hydroponic Gardening (this information is from <http://hydroponicgardeningfacts.com>)

Growing fruits all year round is no longer a dream with [hydroponic gardening](#). With the use of water, nutrient solutions and grow light you can now grow your own fresh fruits without have to worry about season, poor weather and soil condition. Hydroponic allows you to grow plants without

using any soil at all, and this makes indoor garden possible.



However not all fruits are suitable for hydroponic growing. Certain fruits or plants will only thrive in dry condition, and this makes it impossible to grow with hydroponic gardening where plants grown mainly in the medium of water. Water-loving fruits like watermelons and cantaloupe are good choice for hydroponic growing. Melons in general are types of fruits that can grow pretty well with hydroponic method as they love water and can easily adapt to the circumstances.



Berries are another type of fruits that you can consider growing hydroponically. Most berries family like strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries can thrive in water medium that's enriched with nutrient and mineral. Grapes are another common fruits that can be grown in hydroponic manner. Some claimed to have successfully produced great yield of quality table grapes and wine grapes with hydroponic gardening technique.

Tomatoes though cannot be considered as fruits, have wonderful results with hydroponic growing as well. You can expect to have bigger and juicier tomatoes for your family. They are so fresh and tasty as compared to those soil-gardening produce. Tomatoes grow easily in hydroponic medium. With sufficient lighting, you can expect to reap supreme tomatoes

Hydroponic makes it achievable to grow plants and fruits that normally require tropical or warm climate. With the proper use of hydroponic system, adequate nutrient solutions and appropriate lighting, you can even grow banana trees using hydroponic method. When fruits are grown with hydroponic manner, nutrients and minerals are provided in the form of water solution. The [hydroponic systems](#) used need to deliver constant supply of nutrient solutions to feed the root system to ensure healthy

and maximum growth. The supply of oxygen is also boosted in hydroponic growing to accelerate the absorption of nutrients by the root system. There are various hydroponic nutrients available in the market and each of them has its own function. Some are meant to produce more flowers, which results in more fruits. Some for strengthen root growth.

If you have not tried hydroponic gardening, it's time for you to do so with the help of a hydroponic kit. Build an indoor garden and start growing your favorite hydroponic fruits. You will not regret it once you see the produce that's much tastier, bigger and better in quality. Furthermore, you can enjoy your favorite fruits all year round, fresh from your garden without having to wait for its season

Minted Fruit Salad



In medium bowl, combine all ingredients except fruit; stir until sugar dissolves. Place fruit in large shallow dish; pour lemon juice over. Cover; chill 3 hours or overnight, stirring 1/2 cup sugar
1/3 cup orange juice
1/3 cup lemon juice from concentrate
1/3 cup water
1/4 tsp. peppermint extract
8 cups cut up assorted fresh fruit
Fresh mint leaves for garnish (optiona

Wine Made From Pitahaya Wins BEST OF CALIFORNIA Award

Joe Real has been passionately making fruit wine for the past 35 years. With outstanding experience in fruit growing and excellent background in the sciences, he is able to turn various kinds of fruits into exotic wines. Joe is one of our speakers at this

year's Festival of Fruit and his topic is "Fruit Wine Making 101"

The following is **Joe's** report on his success:

"I wish to bring you the good news about the Pitahaya wines that I made. The results blew me away. The Pink Fleshed Pitahaya Wine got the highest award in California, BEST OF CALIFORNIA award. Truly this is the year of the Pitahaya, and it is just fitting that it got the highest award in the category of Fruits and other blend. The competition was held closed door session in Lodi Hotel; the results were posted last June 19th. The awarding ceremony will be on last week of July at the 2010 California State Fair in Cal Expo, Sacramento.

I hope to see you August 13th and will help .. with the wine tasting that evening. I will orient everyone about the wines, and I will personally pour some of them. I will also be bringing a special bottle of Durian Wine for the wine tasting"

So not only will **Joe Real** be speaking at the Festival, at the reception on Friday, August 13th, you will have a chance to sample his award winning wines. Just one more reason why you must not miss this year's Festival of Fruit!

THANK YOU EVERYONE

Dear CRFG,

I have been spending a lot of time in Lynn's and my garden. Thank goodness to you for all the kindness you've given to me and the memory of Lynn. It wasn't any surprise to see his over the top love of fruit trees. So here I am a devoted gardener thanks to my beloved Lynn. Now, I must thank you for the wonderful memorial in February and a special thanks to the Valdivias for the wonderful gathering at their home. Also thank you, thank you for turning out for our yard sale. It was a tremendous success. I must apologize for being so slow in thanking you. Time flies by.

You are lucky to belong to such a fabulous organization with such great people.

Love, Joan Hidalgo

trees through pruning and grafting to grow in a certain pattern.

Let's Show Our Support

Art Carpenter's lovely wife, Rose, whom we've tended mainly to see at the ends of meetings, has been extremely ill for several months. Things have been very difficult for Art and Rose, and they've been unable to come to our meetings or to do much of anything except deal with her illness. At this point, things are beginning to look up. Rose's recovery will take a while, and be difficult, but things should now be on the mend. Art misses us and our group very much and definitely plans on being back..

. He would be very happy to know that he and Rose and their well-being is very much in our thoughts. (Art and Rose are religious, and would feel good to think they are in people's prayers.) If you would like to send a card here is their address: 10919 Lakewood Blvd. #10, Downey, CA 90241



Stone fruit grown using an espalier technique

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Dr. Ed Hager
Evelyn Albers
Brokaw Nursery
California Cherimoya Association
CRFG South Bay Chapter
Green Thumb International
La Verne Nursery
MVP Ranch



Jesus Alvarez shows off his wonderful garden.

A RAINBOW AFTER THE RAIN

Truly worth the wait, the field trip to Jesus Alvarez' backyard was indeed a pleasure to visit. Jesus' warmth and enthusiasm were matched by the wonderful fruit trees growing at his home as well as the future projects he has in mind. It is hard to believe, that Jesus was once a little boy who hated working in a garden, let alone pulling out a weed! Today, what you see is a wonderful collection of more than 100 fruit trees gently cared for and guided into a bountiful harvest by this very passionate gardener.

As you can see from the picture below, one thing Jesus is doing successfully is growing stone fruit using an espalier technique -in other words training

Remember that gophers also need to
make a living;
preferably in somebody else's garden.