



LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

2016 Volume XXI Issue 2

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FIELD TRIP

Date: March 26th, 2016

Time: 9:00 a.m. PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY TIME

Place: Sylmar High School
13050 Borden Ave.
Sylmar, CA 91342

Program: Fruit Tree Symposium: Tom Spellman, from *Dave Wilson Nursery* will be the speaker.

Potluck to follow. Please bring a dish that serves 8-10. Remember students will be joining us.

FIELD TRIP:

Date: April 23rd, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Hansen Agricultural Center (Formerly Faulkner Farms)
14292 W. Telegraph Rd
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Program: Jose Fernandez de Soto will lead us on a tour of the grounds. UC Hansen Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HAREC) is located near Santa Paula. In 1997 the University of California Cooperative Extension Center purchased the 27-acre farm known as the Faulkner Farm. The Center is the newest of the nine Research and Extension Centers System (RECS) facilities. Projects include water quality, availability, management and conservation, pesticide alternatives, new promising crops, and biological controls for weeds and pests.

May 28th – Meeting - Sepulveda Gardens Ronnie Kern (LA Chapter member) on Vermiculture

June 25th - Field Trip - Huntington Farm at Huntington Gardens

July 23rd – Meeting -Sepulveda Gardens TBD

August 27th - Field Trip TBD

September 24th - Sepulveda Gardens TBD

October 22nd - Field Trip TBD

November 26th - Sepulveda Gardens TBD

December 10th - Sepulveda Gardens - Holiday Party

Thanks to **Edgar Valdivia** for the photo contributions.

Addendum: Due to time constraints I was unable to include **Deborah Oisboid's** article on *Air Layering* within this newsletter. I will be sending it out as an addendum for all those who receive the newsletter by email. For those that request a hardcopy only, the article will be available at the next two meetings.

Words From Our Chairman



March 2016

Dear Los Angeles Chapter Members,
Hope all is well with you and your gardens. I have not had the pleasure of attending the last two meetings, as I've enrolled in a woodturning class at Cerritos College that is held on Saturdays. I missed the January scion exchange and the February meeting with my friend Dan Nelson from La Verne nurseries. I've really missed chapter members and look forward to resuming soon. And I must say, I have heard nothing but rave reviews on both the meetings, and the fine job Tony Stewart has done in leading those meetings. I will be at The 4th Annual Tree Symposium at Sylmar High School on March 26. Steve List is encouraging you to invite family and friends for this event. So, how is your garden/orchard growing this fine year? I am so looking forward to a great stone fruit harvest. The last couple of years many people, including yours truly, have had dismal results with stone fruit trees. But now my Santa Rosa Plum tree and Pluot trees, Almond and Cherry trees are flowering and leafing out like crazy good. It must be all these chill hours (45degree nights) and rain this season. This is the first year that my four-in-one Almond tree (planted 2013) has flowered and now has approximately fifty thumbnail size almonds on it. I'm looking forward to a taste test and hoping they are not bitter. How are your stone fruit trees doing?
Past chairman of the Los Angeles chapter CRFG, Ed Hager, has passed away. Ed was a lifetime member and a special friend of our chapter. He was a very generous donor to CRFG. We are in the planning stages and will do something special to honor this special man and friend. Our prayers and thoughts are with Ed's family and

loved ones.

Well, I hope to see you all at Sylmar High School on March 26 for The 4th Annual Tree Symposium here is the link:

<http://www.davewilson.com/community-and-resources/events/2016/03/backyard-orchard-culture-dwn's-tom-spellman>

Best,
Jim Schopper

LOOKING BACK

By Debbie Schopper, Member at Large
January Meeting

CRFG began the year with our annual scion exchange. Our members brought scion wood from their fruit trees to trade and share (with the exception of the citrus family as a precaution against the possible spreading of greening disease). As member, Ed Valdivia, said, grafting is like cloning and the way to reproduce is to graft. Timing is important when grafting, for example, April is the month to graft avocado and June is the month to graft citrus.

Bill Brandt gave a grafting demonstration for club members. He also talked about the grafting classes taught by our club members to the local high schools and asked for **volunteers to help with this project.**

There are several grafting demonstrations that you can find online. One of my favorites is "How to Graft a Fruit Tree" on YouTube by Dave Wilson Nursery with Tom Spellman (Tom Spellman will also be teaching a workshop at the 4th annual Fruit Tree Symposium on March 26 at Sylmar High School)

February Meeting



The Sepulveda Garden Center was the venue for our February meeting. **Daniel Nelson of La Verne Nursery** was our guest speaker and spoke

on the subject of Huanglongbing (HLB) also known as the greening disease. HLB has been

attacking citrus trees in the United States and many countries throughout the world and is transmitted by the Asian Citrus Psyllid. If left untreated, the disease will spread, attack, and destroy citrus trees and fruit. Daniel had a slide show presentation showing the effects of a tree with HLB and also the fruit. In California, Whittier, Pasadena, Arcadia and South San Gabriel are cities considered as quarantine areas.

The Citrus Research Board has a PowerPoint presentation on their website titled HLB Tolerance and Resistance which is very informative. If you suspect your trees are infected, please contact the County AG Department.

Our meeting concluded with a potluck luncheon and a silent auction. Thank you Charles Portney and the other members who so graciously donated plants.

In Memory

Contributed by Pat Valdivia



A few days ago, at the age of 84, Ed Hager passed away. Those of us who knew Ed Hager are greatly saddened by his passing. He was preceded in death by his wife, Andrea and leaves 3 children, Daniel, Christa and

Robert.

A graduate of Baylor University Medical School, Ed practiced for many years in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles.

Unfortunately many of our newer members never had the chance to meet Dr. Edward Hager. CRFG, and especially the Los Angeles Chapter, benefited not only from Ed's humor and charismatic personality but also his financial

contributions. Getting to the heart of the man, and **HEART** is the operative word here; there are not enough words to describe his generosity. To mention just a few of the contributions Ed made over his 40 plus years of being a member of CRFG: he kick started the CRFG Development Fund, donated money for libraries to put copies of our magazine on their shelves and many other numerable acts of big hardheartedness which are too long to list here. He had served as LA Chapter Chairman and on the board of CRFG. He also was a big supporter of other organizations such as the *Special Olympics*, the *Rotary Club* and *Conejo Valley Botanical Garden*. His financial assistance was considerable and his volunteering also a part of his kindness.

There is a saying that a baby cries when it is born and the world smiles- but when a great man passes away he smiles and it is the world



that weeps. We weep as we bid goodbye to our dear friend.

There will be a **memorial service for Ed Hager on Saturday April 2nd at 1pm at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church One Church Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91362**. Those planning to attend please be advised that because of the many people expected you should arrive early.

Highlighting Members

Catherine Diaz, Editor

In the last newsletter I proposed that we include information about our members so we can get to know who is who. Ray Holm stepped up to share information about himself.

I'm a friend of Don and Judy who told me about the club two years ago. I live in Thousand Oaks, am retired, and have always enjoyed working in the yard. The club has been great for knowledge and learning about unique plants. I got some pomegranate plants from the club and they are doing great... five feet tall, but have to net them as animals do a job on the fruit.

Something I really want to know about is this... I would like to know if Well Water, that stinks, is bad for plants and trees? We had planted some Red Wood trees that did great last year, but this year there are many brown limbs. Can't figure out if it is too much water, not enough to water or if the water from the well is doing it.

Members: Does anybody have suggestions for Ray? Please send me your feedback and I will include it in the next newsletter. Or you can email Ray at

rholm24654@aol.com He has given permission to include his email.

When you see Ray at a meeting step up and say hello.

If you would like to be the next featured member send me an email and we will collaborate on the article - C. Diaz - Editor



Acknowledgements



Thanks to Ivan Thomas for his donation of 13 pomegranate trees for fundraising.

Thanks to Emory Walton and Daryl Mc Murrin for information about grafting.



Q and A

***CRFG Educational Outreach**

I received the following email from a community member...

Hi CFRG Leaders,

I came across your website because I was researching what to do about our backyard sapote tree. I'm hoping to get your expert advice.

My husband and I recently bought a home in North Hollywood with a glorious 40-foot white sapote tree in the backyard. The fruit is sublime, of course, but we discovered the abundance makes an unruly mess of our yard and roof. The tree is too large for us to harvest ourselves. We're busy with a baby on the way and we already fear the next fruit season.

Do you have any advice on a low cost, low maintenance solution? I hate to say we just may have to cut the tree down, but I wondered - would your organization be interested in harvesting and taking the fruit each year? Or are there local markets that would be interested in both harvesting and buying the fruit?

Your thoughts are appreciated.

Many thanks,

Christi Makely

If you have any information to share forward it to me and I'll pass it on. Thanks.

MEMBERS: I know that with the wealth of knowledge within our group she will receive some support and suggestions. How about some recipes for her?

***REMINDER: Educational Outreach is often a part of a non-profit's charter documents.**

C. Diaz - Editor