



# LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

2016 Volume XXI Issue 3

## MEETING

**Date: Saturday, May 28, 2016**

**Time: 10 a.m.**

**Place: Sepulveda Gardens  
16633 Magnolia Blvd.  
Encino, CA 91316**

**Program: Vermiculture**

**Ronni Kern**, one of our Chapter members, will speak to us on vermiculture and the importance of earthworms in our soil. She will be bringing her worm farm so it will be a very interesting and visual program.

**Attention All Members: If your last name begins with N-Z please bring something for our January table. Since we are usually eating around noon, and even though we love all those sweet treats, please also consider a dish more appropriate for a lunchtime meal.**

## FIELD TRIP

**Date: Saturday, June 25, 2016**

**Time: \*\*\*Time: Meet promptly at 9:45 at entrance to the Gardens  
(you are welcome to stay until closing at 4:00 p.m.)**

**Place: Huntington Library Botanical Gardens,  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino, CA 91108**

**Note: No cost to CRFG members**

**Program: Garden Tours**

Our Los Angeles Chapter visited the Huntington Ranch and Experimental Garden when those projects were just beginning back in 2012. The Ranch Experimental Garden has functioned since that time, and has offered a series of classes for urban farmers, as well as hosting open houses almost monthly. People who attend those events have a great opportunity to learn more about this program. CRFG, Orange County, has been invited to attend as well.

We will be greeted by *Gardens Director*, **Jim Folsom**, who will give a presentation on the natural and built history of the property, which explains much about our region and Mr. Huntington's interest in agriculture. Following his presentation, Jim will provide us with a map of the grounds, suggesting places to visit to find some of interesting fruit trees in the Gardens. You will have a chance to enjoy the Gardens the rest of the day **at no cost to you.**

**Kyra Saegusa**, will be conducting an Open House of the ranch from 10:30am – 1:00pm. So members can feel free to stop in during this time frame.

The Gardens have several new options for food including a café and a Chinese Garden restaurant. Members will be welcome to linger in the gardens throughout the day - 10:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATES

**May 28<sup>th</sup> – Meeting - Sepulveda Gardens Ronnie Kern (LA Chapter member) on Vermiculture**

**June 25<sup>th</sup> - Field Trip - Huntington Farm at Huntington Gardens**

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Meeting -Sepulveda Gardens TBD**

**August 27<sup>th</sup> – No meeting due to CRFG Festival of Fruit**

**September 24<sup>th</sup> – Meeting - Sepulveda Gardens – Mark Steele speaking on bananas**

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Field Trip TBD**

**November 19<sup>th</sup> – Field Trip – La Verne Nursery (Note change of date will not conflict with Thanksgiving)**

**December 10<sup>th</sup> - Sepulveda Gardens - Holiday Party (Note change of date will not conflict with other CRFG events)**

## 2016 Chapter Officers & Committees

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## Words From Our Chairman



Dear CRFG Los Angeles chapter members,

I am so looking forward to seeing all of your smiling faces. I have missed many meetings this year due to a woodturning class that I took at Cerritos College. It was a marathon; I left a little after six in the morning and didn't get back till after five in the evening. Although it was longer than I realized, I'm glad I went but I'm also glad it's over. I was able to attend one of our meetings, which was the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Symposium held at Sylmar High School. It's always a joy for me to see what Steve List and the Horticulture Class are doing.

So how is your garden/orchard growing? My tomatoes are in, Marzano for paste/canning, four grafted tomatoes for eating, and Sun Gold cherry. I was given two "Ketchup and Fries" plants from a grower to try out. They are cherry tomato grafted onto a potato plant, and sell for up to \$35.00 a plant. They are from the Nightshade family. I gave one to my granddaughter (with the green thumb) who was so excited to try it out. I have four types of Japanese cucumbers, six varieties of hot chilies, green and sweet banana peppers, three types of kale, garlic, and basil. And a rainbow assortment of beets and six varieties of squash are still in the cold frame for another two weeks before they are planted in the garden. I have some "Ali Baba" watermelon seeds from Baker Creek Seed Company [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com) this melon originates from Iraq. Has anyone grown these before? If you have, let me know how they grew and how they tasted. They're supposed to be the best!

I have been reading thru my copy of Edible Landscaping by Rosalind Creasy who will be the keynote speaker this year at CRFG's Festival of Fruit August 26<sup>th</sup> thru 28<sup>th</sup> in beautiful San Luis Obispo County. Debbie and I are looking forward to attending in August; certainly hope to see many of you there. The details of this are the featured article in the May/June issue of the Fruit Gardener magazine; also there is an article on Dr. Ed Hager, one of our own, who passed away in February of this year.

Best,

Jim Schopper

*PS: Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul. Luther Burbank*

Web Site for Festival of Fruit 2016 *Year of Edible Landscape*

<http://festivaloffruit.org/home/>

### Hansen Agricultural Center

The site used to be family owned and called Faulkner Ranch. At that time, in October there was a big pumpkin patch with crops on the vine. Families could wander through the garden and select and cut their pumpkins. On opening day there was a pumpkin festival that included a contest to see who could carry the greatest number of pumpkins a given distance. Also, Faulkner Farm included a seasonal Christmas tree farm with a wagon or train ride through the "forest". Then you could walk back to cut down the tree of your choice.

The recent field trip to Hansen Agricultural Center offered a unique opportunity to see how the center has evolved since it has become a research center. The center is not generally open to the public so we were very fortunate to tour and learn about this amazing place but it is open to the community a few times a year and for special events. At the time we were there the center was also hosting a 4-H program for children in the surrounding community. The rural

community vibe was evident in the fact that a few of the 4-H kids were from Santa Clara Elementary School, that Red School House along Hwy 126; approximate enrollment 60 students. In addition to our tour, the host Jose Fernandez de Soto, shared data about agriculture in Ventura County.

Over that last five years here are how crop values have changed:  
Fruit & nut - \$1,085,677,000 to \$1,338,004,000  
Vegetable - \$533,473,000 to \$557,614,000  
Livestock & Poultry Products \$6,161,000 to \$7,887,000

Nursery stock and cut flowers have remained about the same \$180,499,000 and \$47,615,000 respectively. For all those talented people Sadly Apiary Products have declined from \$1,505,000 to \$554,000.

If you would like copies of the data sheets let me know and I can email them to you.

Can you put these top ten leading crops in Ventura County in order of their value?

Avocados	Lemons	Kale
Cut flowers	Strawberries	Celery
Tomatoes	Peppers	Nursery Stock
Raspberries		

Answers in next newsletter. Send me an email if you think you've got the order correct.

### Highlighting Members

*C. Diaz, Editor*

As an educational non-profit we have the opportunity to share our knowledge with members and the community. One of our members, Deborah Oisboid, would like feedback on the following:

My precious apple tree (which had more than 20 grafts on it!) recently died. I don't know what it died from,



however there is a sucker at the roots which is doing pretty well. I was wondering if I cut down

the main tree and let the sucker grow. Can I use that as a new rootstock for future grafting? In this case, I would graft a primary apple first, and when it gets big enough I could graft more in the following years. Can I RELY on a sucker to be a good rootstock?

Thanks!

Deborah

**Members, any suggestions?** Please email your suggestions and I will forward them to Deborah, as well as include them in the next newsletter.

### Programs and Events

Pat Valdivia has been busy. Note that our calendar of meetings and field trips for the upcoming year has been updated. Pat made considered efforts to ensure that our November and December programs offer maximum opportunities for member participation. Check the calendar to view these changes.

Thanks Pat!

### CRFG Fruit Shoot

For all those people with talent and an artistic, photographic eye consider entering this year's Fruit Shoot. More information can be found at At the CRFG web site or in the following PDF.

[http://www.crfg.org/photocon/Contest\\_Rules\\_2016-1.pdf](http://www.crfg.org/photocon/Contest_Rules_2016-1.pdf)

### Photo Acknowledgment

Edgar Valdivia and Deborah Oisboid again contributed wonderful picture of the last two events. For those who were unable to attend these pictures will give you a glimpse of what our community and members experienced. It was difficult to pick a few to include in the newsletter so I have put together a collage for the newsletter. Here is a link to more Hansen Center Photos. [http://crfg-la.org/gallery2/main.php?g2\\_itemId=3402](http://crfg-la.org/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=3402)

# Sylmar High School Fundraiser



# Hansen Agricultural Research Center

