



# LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

2017 Volume XXII Issue 6

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

## 2017 Chapter Officers & Committees

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Debbie Schopper 818-362-3007

## MEETING

**Date:** November 18, 2017 at 10:00 am

**\*\* Please note this date! NOT the fourth Saturday of the month!\*\***

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

**Program:** How Does Your Garden Grow?

Round table discussion of gardening techniques, problems, questions, etc. Bring your questions and ideas. Please come with stories of your garden, what you are growing, what you wish you were growing, what you don't want to grow, success stories, failure stories (we can all learn from them!), recommendations, and so on. Please provide any photos you wish to present no later than 11/13/17 to our chapter photographer, Ed Valdivia ([photo@CRFG-la.org](mailto:photo@CRFG-la.org)) so they can be projected during the meeting.

**BLOW-OUT PLANT SALE/RAFFLE/AUCTION!!!! CHARLES PORTNEY will be bringing a wealth of rare food-bearing plants AND he requests that the rest of us do the same!!**

All Members: if your last name begins with **A-M** please bring something for our refreshment table. And since it will be served close to noon, please consider something lunch-y.

## HOLIDAY PARTY

**Date:** December 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

**\*\* Please note this date! NOT the fourth Saturday of the month!\*\***

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

**PROGRAM:** Our Festive Holiday Potluck!

Remember this is a full meal, not just snacks. It is a chance to prepare your favorite dish. Please bring a dish that serves 8 - and it would be great if you would include the recipe. Bring food to share and wear colors of the Season! Once again we can look forward to Marcia Melcombe and Mark Nudelman entertaining us with some wonderful music!

Please bring plants and other items for the raffle/sale. We will also include a white elephant gift exchange, so if you want to participate, wrap up something you think others would like; it does not have to be new, but in "gently used condition." Those that bring a gift will receive a raffle ticket at the door.

## SAVE THE DATES - CALENDAR FOR 2018 LA CHAPTER

- January 27<sup>th</sup> - Sepulveda Gardens – GRAFTING/SCION EXCHANGE
- February 24<sup>th</sup> - Field Trip to Debbie Oisboid's "Drought Garden"
- March 10<sup>th</sup> - Field Trip: Sylmar High School/Tom Spellman
- April 28<sup>th</sup> - Sepulveda Gardens- Rachel Surls: "Cows to Concrete"
- May 26<sup>th</sup> - Field Trip
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sepulveda Gardens - Garrett Long: "Soil Health and Regenerative Practices"
- July – *Date to Be Announced.* (To avoid conflict with the 2018 Festival Of Fruit held in Northern California at the end of July)
- August 25<sup>th</sup> - Sepulveda Gardens
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Field Trip
- October 27<sup>th</sup> - Sepulveda Gardens
- November 17<sup>th</sup> - Field Trip
- December 15<sup>th</sup> - Sepulveda Gardens - Holiday Party

## Words From Our Chairman



Dear Los Angeles chapter members, I really want to send out a big THANK YOU! Thank you to our directors and members who Debbie and I have partnered with these past seven years. Our many events were successful because members of this great (the best) chapter pulled together and worked hard to make our chapter what it is today.

Many opened up their homes and lead garden tours, propagated plant materials and brought them to the meetings for raffles. And some volunteered information and expertise as speakers, many taught students how to graft scions to rootstocks. It has truly been a pleasure working with everyone to make our Sepulveda Garden meetings and tours as great as they can be. Thank you one and all.

In the future, I'm sure we will all continue giving our time and making sure the Los Angeles chapter (did I say it's the best chapter? It is!) remains strong. Let's continue promoting the growing and tasting of fruits that you can't buy at the store. Let's teach others grafting and bring in the next generation of CRFG members. Yes, we need to pass our love of gardening on to others.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to invite and remind everyone to attend our annual holiday party at Sepulveda Gardens on December 16, 2017 for great potluck, great conversations, and great friends. I'm looking forward to our chapter benefitting from our next chapter chair, Mr. Tony Stewart.

As we look forward to the coming year, remember that the success of this chapter depends on more than the leaders who organize and donate their time and energy to make everything happen. Our success requires everyone to be active, so schedule a garden tour of your place, propagate and bring plants for the raffle. Yes, catch the fever and pass it on!

Looking forward to a fantastic year,

--Jim Schopper.

## LOOKING BACK

By Debbie Schopper & Deborah Oisboid

### September Meeting

Our own Los Angeles chapter member, Paul Talley spoke to us about figs. Paul presented a slide show which covered topics such as: propagation including the causes and failures, the many varieties such as Brown Turkey, Yellow Longneck, Valley Negra, Black Province & Vista, how to structure a growing tree, pests, and when a fig is ready to eat. There was a question and answer time after his presentation. When asked about his many trees, Paul said, "Just can't get enough of looking at these things."



### October Meeting

Our first Working Field Trip was gratifying. We met at Marcia Melcombe's garden on a lovely October morning and everyone pitched in exactly where they

were needed. Some people brought trees and plants for her garden, some trimmed the trees into shape, planted or repotted things, dug up at least 30 bags of weeds,



and generally made her garden look amazing. There were refreshments offered in the morning. The pizza for lunch was served with some wonderful home-made persimmon cookies and persimmon bars as well as fresh fruit. Congratulations to the LA chapter! No other CRFG chapter has done anything like this before.

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## Time of the Season

### Gardening Tips for

# November/December for

## Los Angeles (Southwest Region)

This list merges Almanac recommendations for November & December. For the full list check out:

<http://www.almanac.com/gardening/tips/CA/Los%20Angeles/03>

### CLEANING

- Bring in tender houseplants and place them in a sunny spot. Cut back on the fertilizer and remember to water them.
- Harvest all warm-season vegetables before the first freeze arrives.
- Deadhead spent blooms to encourage flowering.
- Once leaves begin to fall remove them from your lawn; wet leaves can block sunlight and increase the chance of disease.
- Store any remaining garden seeds in airtight containers and keep them in the refrigerator or freezer until the next planting season.
- Avoid major pruning over the winter. However, be sure to remove any dead, diseased, or damaged branches from trees and shrubs.

### PREPARING

- Prune deciduous trees, but only for structural and safety purposes.
- Do not prune fruit trees until February or March.
- Be prepared for early winter frosts. Protect citrus and other fruit trees if needed.
- Prepare the soil for any new shrub, flower, or rose bed for next spring. Dig up the soil, remove any weeds, and add compost.
- Apply a layer of winter mulch to protect your perennials after the first few freezes.
- If you want to change your garden, now is a great time to plan a new landscape or make structural improvements.
- Fertilize your winter lawn after the first mowing.

### PLANTING

- Now is the ideal time to landscape with trees and shrubs, because their roots will continue to grow even though the rest of the plant is dormant.
- Plant cool-season transplants such as: beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, leeks, onion, parsnips, peas, potatoes, radishes, spinach, and turnips.
- Plant cool-season transplants such as: asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, garlic, and lettuce.

- Replace summer flowers with winter-hardy flowers, such as pansies, snapdragons, or dianthus.
- New bare root roses become available at garden centers toward the middle of December.
- Continue to overseed Bermuda lawns to keep the grass green through winter.

### OTHER

- Remember to continue watering your plants, even as the temperature decreases; dry plants are more easily damaged by freezing temperatures.
- If you have highly acidic lawns or garden soil, now is the ideal time to fix them. Test your lawn or soil to determine how much agricultural lime is necessary.
- Leave the foliage on your perennials to help insulate them from the harsh winter conditions.
- Complete fertilization of established roses this month.
- Keep an eye out for pest problems and control before they get out of hand.
- Order your vegetable and flower seeds now so you will be ready to plant them in the early spring.
- Check to make sure indoor plants are getting enough sunlight and water.
- Set out bird feeders with food and water to attract birds to your garden during the winter.

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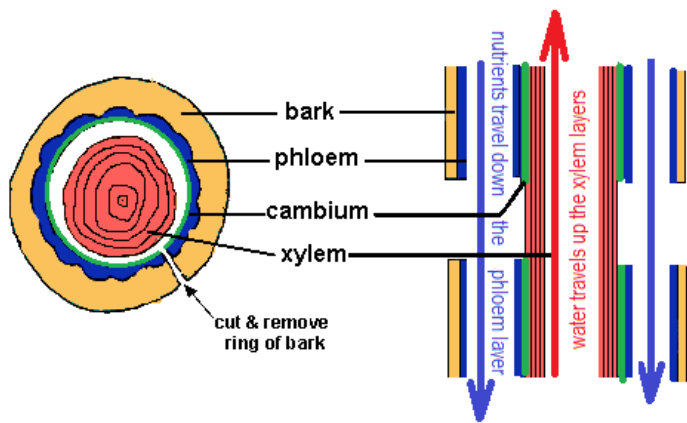
## Propagation Method of the Month:

### The Physiology of Air Layering

Taken from "What is Air Layering?" by Andy Walsh

Air layering is the process of removing a large branch or section of a tree to create another tree. Before the branch is removed it is girdled, protected with peat moss or other water-retaining media, and the girdled section is allowed to root. After rooting, the branch is removed from the tree. Knowing how a tree forms roots at an air layer site not only helps one understand the process but also suggests answers to problems when performing air layering.

Under the bark of trees is a layer of cells called the phloem. This tissue transports carbohydrates and other photosynthates down from the leaves to the lower parts of the plant. Beneath the phloem layer is another layer called the xylem that transports water and mineral nutrients from the roots and soil up to the leafy parts of the tree. Beneath the xylem is another xylem layer called the secondary xylem. These xylem layers are thicker and deeper into the wood of the tree than the phloem layer. Lying on top of these layers just under the bark is a layer of actively dividing cells called the cambium.



<http://generalhorticulture.tamu.edu/lectsupl/Propaga/propaga.html>

In the process of air layering the bark, the cambium, and the phloem layer are removed by cutting away about a 1 inch wide ring of these tissues from around the circumference of the shoot. The xylem, however, is left intact. This is known as girdling. Generally, synthetic auxins (hormones) are applied to the site where the tissues have been removed. (Although applying auxin is the general practice, it is not necessary for many trees.) Wet sphagnum moss (or other moisture retentive medium) is then bunched around and over this girdled site and covered with plastic and sealed.

The removal of the bark, cambium, and phloem, but not the xylem, prevents carbohydrates and photosynthates from flowing down the trunk past the girdling site but still allows water and mineral nutrients to flow upward to the leaves. This keeps the leafy portions of the shoot from drying out and maintains them with an adequate supply of nutrients. The removal of the actively growing cambium layer prevents the regeneration of phloem and healing over of the wound. Because of this the carbohydrates and photosynthates flowing down the trunk collect at the girdling site. The presence of these excesses of carbohydrates and photosynthates (especially auxin) at the girdling site, plus the presence of the water in the sphagnum moss, causes dormant adventitious buds in the area to grow into roots. When there are enough roots to sustain the shoot independently, the shoot is cut off of the tree and then planted or potted.

The propagation of plants by cuttings occurs by the same principles and has very similar circumstances. The difference is that the shoot is removed from the plant at the start and water and nutrients flow up the shoot from the cut side by capillary action instead. This kind of propagation can only be done with small and thin shoots since the flow of water is insufficient for larger branches. Air layering solves this problem and allows the creation of new plants from very large parts of trees.

[www.evergreengardenworks.com/airlayer.htm](http://www.evergreengardenworks.com/airlayer.htm)

### In Memory Of Alfredo Chiri "The Father of Lúcumá"

On Saturday, September 30, the Orange County Chapter had a tour of Edgar and Pat Valdivia's garden. Even though it was a long drive (one hour and a half) many of their members came.

Before the tour, Edgar took a few moments to pay tribute to Alfredo Chiri, who passed away on August 31



at the age of 87. He had been a long time member of CRFG. Edgar recalled how much Alfredo had done to maintain the rare fruit area of the Fullerton Arboretum, going twice a week for over 15 years, to water the trees and care for them.

Alfredo wrote many short articles about rare and exotic fruits that he shared with different Chapters to publish in their newsletters.

Alfredo also introduced the lúcumá, a fruit from his own native Peru. In fact, in front of his home there are two huge lúcumá trees (the name is Inca Gold) that are heavy producers. So, in honor of his work, everyone at the tour was given lúcumá fruit to taste as well as lúcumá ice cream. Many had never seen or heard of the fruit, so tasting it was a real treat. And they were very happy to go home with one fruit and the seeds to plant in their garden.

The example of Alfredo's dedication and love for exotic fruits should serve as an inspiration for all of us.

A sweet memorial to Alfredo was posted on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XyIBGzVMzw>

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## Letters to the Editor

Have a suggestion? A question? A story to share? Send it to [editor@crfg-la.org](mailto:editor@crfg-la.org) and see it published here

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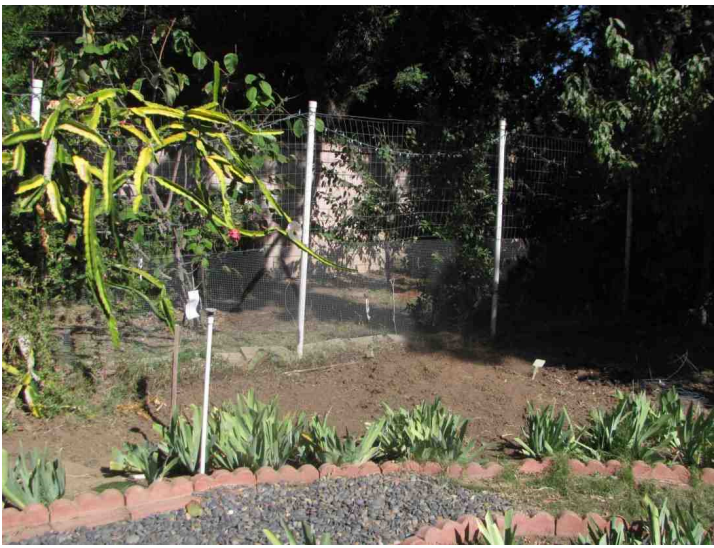
## Photographs from CRFG-LA's first Working Field Trip, October 29, 2017















It was an amazing day