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2016 Chapter Officers & Committees

Chairman: chairman@CRFG-la.org
Jim Schopper 818-362-3007

Vice Chairman: co-chair@crfg-la.org
Tony Stewart, 213-760-5142

Secretary: hospitality@CRFG-la.org
Margaret Frane 310 828-0092

Treasurer: treasurer@CRFG-la.org
K. Payton 818 222-7556

Newsletter Editor: editor@CRFG-la.org
Catherine Diaz 818-772-9523

Program Chairman: editor@CRFG-la.org
Pat Valdivia 805-584-6244

Photographer: photo@CRFG-la.org
Edgar Valdivia 805-584-6244

Historian: historian@CRFG-la.org
Emory Walton 805 497-8835

Food Coordinator: food@CRFG-la.org
Chris Warren 818 362-8537

Plant Sales: plants@CRFG-la.org
David Payton 818 222-7556

Plant Sales Associates:

Tony Stewart
Don Indermill
Dusty Rhodes

Development Fund:

Bob Vieth 805 495-9789

Members At Large: atlarge@CRFG-la.org

Marcia Melcombe 818-349-8677
Debbie Schopper 818-362-3007
Marcia Holtz

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

2016 Volume XXI Issue 5

MEETING

Date: September 24, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

Program: Mark Steele will speak on "Bananas". Mark is an avid fruit grower living in Ventura. His small yard is packed with about 20 different varieties of bananas, most of which he has fruited. A simple gift of a banana plant on his birthday from the yard of a local friend shortly after he bought his house six years ago started something of an obsession with growing bananas. Mark's talk will cover the basics of banana biology and advice on how to successfully grow varieties that do well in Southern California.

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: October 22, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Home of Member

One of our newer members, Van T. Do, will open up her garden. We will see many Asian fruit trees such as jackfruit and wax apples as well as guavas, bananas to name a few.

Open to LA Chapter members only.

SAVE THE DATE

November 19th – Field Trip – La Verne Nursery (*Note: date does not conflict with Thanksgiving*)

December 10th - Sepulveda Gardens - Holiday Party (*Note: date does not conflict with other Chapters' events*)

Community Event of Interest

2016 Pitahaya/Dragon Fruit Field Day

Friday - September 16, 2016

Registration 7 a.m. – 8 a.m. at MVP Farms

MVP Farms - Off Highway 126, Fillmore, CA

3095 West Telegraph Road, Fillmore, CA 93015, and

Hansen Agricultural Research and Extension Center - Santa Paula, CA

14292 West Telegraph Road, Santa Paula, CA 93060

This month's photos courtesy of Emory Walton, Edgar Valdivia and Catherine Diaz

Words From Our Chairman



Dear Los Angeles chapter members,

I was pleasantly surprised by the number of Los Angeles chapter members who attended the 2016 Festival of Fruit, titled "Edible Landscape From Apples to Zapotas" held on the campus of Cal Poly College, San Luis Obispo. I'm guessing maybe twenty plus? Kudos to the Central Coast chapter, all your hard work and effort made this a memorable Festival.

Friday's reception at the Sands Inn featured yummy finger foods, fine wines and local microbrew beers. Everyone received a free plant and then a raffle was held. Saturday, the ever-enthusiastic Joe Sabol was the M.C., and the keynote speaker was Ms. Rosalind Creasy author of the book Edible Landscaping. I brought my copy and had her sign it. If you don't have her book, I recommend it. It's in the hall of fame for gardening books. Rosalind ripped out her lawn over twenty-five years ago and started planting edibles, disturbing some of her neighbors and perplexing her husband. She was definitely before her time and her husband and neighbors finally came around and joined in.

There were three sessions Saturday afternoon, each session listed many fine speakers, including Tom Del Hotal, David Karp, Renee Shepherd, Rick Yessayian, and our very own Edgar Valdivia just to name a few of the more than twenty speakers to choose from. There were also tours on Friday and Sunday (I heard some chose to tour area wineries, I guess that's drinkable landscaping).

There was, of course, fruit tasting with many wonderful berries, grapes, apples, stone fruits and some rare fruits all in all a beautiful cornucopia of fruits. There were many vendors featuring subtropical plants, compost, olive oils, rainwater tanks; the list goes on. Altogether,

there were over twenty display booths. Saturday evening's BBQ dinner with friends was great. We were honored to have Bob Ludekens from L.E. Cooke nurseries join our table for dinner. Every year Bob donates many bare root trees to Sylmar Agriculture at Sylmar High School that our chapter sponsors. The last speaker was "Dr. Chocolate" Cal Poly Food Science Professor, Dr. Tom Neuhaus. Dr. Neuhaus started Project Hope and Fairness, helping native peoples in third world chocolate producing countries manufacture and market their own chocolates. We then learned how to taste fine chocolates from Vietnam, Madagascar, Peru, Dominican Republic and Mexico it was a great way to end the 2016 Festival of Fruit.

Best,
Jim

Looking Back July meeting

Speaker

Steve Murray Jr. presented information about a variety of fruit. His selections reflected his many journeys and discoveries while traveling the world. Those in attendance were treated to tasting and explanations of the fruit.



Plant Auction

Member, Charles Portney contributed a number of items from his garden for a plant auction. He invited anybody who has questions to submit them through the newsletter editor editor@CRFG-la.org and he would try to answer them through future newsletters.

The L.A. Chapter Board held meeting following the regular meeting.

Highlighting Members

2016 Festival of Fruit - Joyce's Journey San Luis Obispo

Member Joyce Willing attended this year's Festival of Fruit. These are some highlights of her journey.

Day 1 - On the Road to Kiler

Olive Farm...

Are we in Tuscany?



View of Kiler



Free Trees? - "If it's free, it's for me."

Which one?



Got it!



Fruit Tasting



Raffle?



Hey! There's more fruit here?



Is hard cider still fruit?



Joyce - Day 2 - Dragon Fruit Lecture

Choices



Joyce Examines Dragon Fruit



This is the best!

Made her selection



*That's Joyce's Journey through the
2016 Festival of Fruit*

Festival of Fruit Highlights

