



LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

California Rare Fruit Growers

September 2003 Volume VI Issue 5

2004 YEAR OF THE BERRY

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2003
Time: 12:00 p.m. (Please note time change and NEW location)
Place: Encino Community Center
4935 Balboa Blvd. Encino, CA 91316

Program: John Adkins of Coastal Services, a distributor of JHBIotech products and Franz Fernandez, Doctor of Chemistry, at JHBIotech will be speaking to us. JHBIotech focuses on ecologically safe and effective chemical products for agricultural use.

Directions: The Encino Community Center is about 3 blocks from Sepulveda Gardens. Take the 101 Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Exit towards Encino (south), Go about 3 blocks. The Center will be on your right hand side.

OCTOBER MEETING

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2003
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
PLACE: WE WILL BE HAVING A TOUR OF TWO OF OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS, DON WEBER AND RON HAY. FOLLOWING THE TOURS, WE WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF LARRY BERGEZ FOR POT LUCK.

As usual, if those of you whose last name begins with A-L would go the home of Ron Hay first, and those whose last name begin with M-Z would go to Don Weber's home. Then at about 10:45 or so each group will proceed to the other garden .We will try to be at Larry Bergez' home by 12:15 or so for our Pot Luck.

Directions: Ron Hay is at 15404 Leadwell St. Van Nuys. From the west end of San Fernando Valley, take the 101 Fwy south to the 405 north. Take the Sherman Way exit towards Sherman Way east. Turn right on Sherman Way; turn left on Sepulveda Blvd. turn left on Valerio St. Turn left on Zombar Ave. Zombar becomes Leadwell St.

To Don Weber's—from the west end of San Fernando Valley, take the 101 Fwy south. Take the Reseda Blvd exit. Turn right on Reseda blvd. Turn left on Prairie St. Turn right on Crebs Ave. Turn left on Liggett St. Don Weber's home is at 16387 Liggett St. Northridge.

Larry Bergez' address is 8446 Sale Ave. West Hills.(See page 3 for directions) .

ALL IN A DAYS WORK Our August meeting turned out to be a profitable one. With about 50 members present, the LA Chapter accomplished quite a bit towards making our Festival of Fruit '04 a memorable experience for all of us. Some of the topics touched on were registration fees, speakers, field trips, sale of tee shirts, reception and meals. We especially want to thank Roger and Shirley Meyers for coming up from Orange County and volunteering to help organize the field trips.

Thanks to all of you who brought the delicious dishes for our pot luck lunch-and to the Valdivias for hosting the meeting and the wonderful tour Ed gave us.



“Jahns Prairie” Gooseberry

A selection of *Ribes oxycanthoides* L. cv. **Jahns Prairie** was recently named and released by a cooperative effort of the United States Department of Agriculture. This plant is disease resistant and produces a high quality, dark red, dessert gooseberries. The species is native in the northern prairies of the U. S. and Canada. Cuttings were propagated, grown and field evaluated as RIB 139 from 1991 to the present. The cultivar is named in memory of Dr. Jahn, who was the first curator for the National clonal Germplasm Repository in Corvallis, Oregon.

JAHNS PRAIRIE blooms in mid-April to early May. The flowers are inconspicuous, 1.0 centimeters long, 1-2 flowers per node, with a light green bell-shaped hypanthium and pinkish sepals that reflex upon maturing. The globose green fruit turns red-pink upon ripening (3.8 grams per berry) from mid to late July. The fresh fruit quality is equivalent to European gooseberries.

Genetic material of this release is deposited in the National Plant Germplasm System where it will be available for research purposes, including development and commercialization of new cultivars. Limited quantities of **JAHNS PRAIRIE** CUTTINGS are available from: **Kim Hummer**, Curator, USDA-ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository, 33447 Peoria Road, Corvallis, OR 97333-2521. These plants are not for commercial sale.

(This is an excerpt from an article found at the UCCE Farm Advisors website)

We are now at the stage where we should be planning in earnest for the Festival of Fruit 2004. We have a number of people who have volunteered to “pick up the ball and run with it.” I note at the meeting (hosted by **Edgar and Pat Valdivia**) that a number of you were either reticent to offer services, or wanted to assure everyone that you were willing to serve, but not lead. The critical issue from my perspective is to not only having adequate participation, but that those of us involved enjoy the experience.

I think we all appreciate that CRFG is a volunteer organization, and some of us have more time (retired) than others (working). The key issues are redundancy and honesty. By redundancy, I mean lots of people willing to assist at whatever level they can. This requires an honest assessment of time available, and of course planning to allow adequate notice so that vacancies can be filled. Clearly, issues arise, emergencies happen, and we all appreciate that. This is why it is critical, that anyone who can make himself or herself available do so. Who knows, you might even have fun, learn something new, and find a new friend.

It should also be noted that we are soliciting volunteers from a number of chapters. This again is consistent with the notion that the Festival is a CRFG event, and we (LA) are merely organizing it in 2004. Let's make this the best Festival of Fruit ever, and provide a challenge for 2005. If we do our job, this should be a memorable experience for all. With a little luck, the 2005 event will be even better than the 2004.

Lynn Maxson and I (mostly **Lynn**) have made great strides in organizing the community aspect of the Festival. This will include open **Dave Wilson** Fruit tasting, tours of the DW planting near the Cal Poly store, demonstrations of tools, soil management and testing, grafting, etc. If you have an interest in participating in this aspect, please contact **Lynn**.

As I mentioned at the meeting, I am making a diligent effort to get a food preparation track going. I have been negotiating with the chef (**Joszepp**) who presented at Santa Barbara, as well as several other candidate organizations. Any ideas, or interest in participating in this area -contact **Larry**.

Thank you in advance for your participation.
Larry Mallach

RAFFLE

Please bring items to our September meeting that can be used for our raffle. Remember we are trying to raise money for the Festival of Fruit '04. Plants, garden items, books etc. are all welcome.

Annual dues are now \$6.00 per year.

Make checks payable to **LA Chapter CRFG**. Dues can be paid at the meetings or by check mailed to our treasurer:

Karen Payton

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, include your email address with your dues payment or send a message to

los_angeles@crfg.org.

All members are encouraged to belong to the parent group of **CRFG** in addition to a local chapter. The parent group depends on the **\$25** annual dues to publish our bi-monthly, four-color magazine, **Fruit Gardener**, a subscription to which is included with those annual dues.

ON LINE

Those of you, who have been receiving our newsletter by email, know that by going to our **CRFG homepage on the web, you can read our Los Angeles Chapter Newsletter on line and in color!**

To find out more about CRFG, its Board members, meetings and by-laws, click on local chapters. On the left hand side of the page, click on "e bulletins". Charles Allen has good articles and lots of information.

If there are any of you out there, who have not already given me your email address, please do so and I will send you the newsletter by email. I also send out email reminders about meetings and field trips about 3 days before the event. That way you have a reminder of what's coming up.

Pat Valdivia bd907@lafn.org

\$\$\$TREASURER'S REPORT\$\$\$

As of September 3rd, our total assets are \$2827.00. This includes money earned from our raffle last month and paid dues.

Karen Payton

CAMPAIGNING FOR NEW MEMBERS

As you probably noticed the September/October issue of your **Fruit Gardener**, included an application for a new member. Please don't throw it away. Find a relative, a neighbor, a friend who might be interested and sign him/her up today.

"Wishing to be friends is quick work, but true friendship is a slow ripening fruit." Aristotle

DIRECTIONS to Larry Bergez home (Pot Luck on October 25th). Off the 101 Freeway, exit at Topanga Cyn Blvd North. Take Topanga Cyn to Roscoe Blvd and turn left. Make a right on Sale Ave. The address is 8447 Sale Ave. West Hills, CA. His phone number is: (818) 999-0860.

PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAPS

Courtesy of Emory Walton, we have a puzzler for you. Bring the completed crossword puzzle that is enclosed, to our meeting in September. The winner will receive a plant. Good luck everyone!