



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

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

2015 Volume XXI Issue

MEETING

Date: Saturday, July 25th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

Program: Toby Lebron, Western Distribution Manager with Kellogg Garden Products in Carson, CA. He will be speaking on sustainability, organic fertilizers, soils and various Kellogg products. Toby has ongoing business relationship with Steve List and the Sylmar High School horticulture programs. Toby will also bring samples from Kellogg.

Attention All Members: If your last name begins with A-M please bring something for our luncheon 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.

PROGRAM/FIELD TRIP:

Date: Saturday, August 22nd

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Trip to: Garden of LA Chapter member, **Serge Shammus**

Serge got into gardening when he was about 8 years old. He was always fascinated by the way seeds sprout and turn into what nature intended for them. He used to place seeds (different kinds) on wet cotton balls, put them by the window and watch them germinate.

At his home in Granada Hills **Serge** has about 40 assorted fruit trees ranging from macadamia nuts to cherimoya. He finds that gardening relaxes him and helps shed the stress of the day. **Serge** also enjoys grafting and growing plants from seed or cuttings.

Potluck to follow.

Attention All Members: The field trip will include a potluck and we are asking all members attending to bring food for the event.

Save the Dates

July 25th – Sepulveda Gardens - **Toby Lebron**, Western Distribution Manager with Kellogg Garden Products in Carson, CA.

CRFG 2015 Festival of Fruit – San Diego, **August 7th through 9th** – Information and Registration at <http://www.festivaloffruit.org/>

August 22nd - Field Trip

September 26th – Sepulveda Gardens

October 24th - Field Trip - Olive Tree Orchard tour and talk on Olive Oil Making-Buon Gusto Farms-Ventura area

November 28th - Sepulveda Gardens-Pomegranate presentation and tasting Ed Valdivia - hopefully no thefts from hungry squirrels - will prevent us from having a good selection of fruit to sample

December 12th - Sepulveda Gardens - Holiday Party

2015 Chapter Officers & Committees

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Words From Our Chairman



June 2015

Dear CRFG, Los Angeles chapter members,
Hoping this letter finds you in good health, with fruitful trees and bountiful gardens.

Forced labor. What comes to mind? Forced to someone else's will instead of yours, slavery, human trafficking? In preparation for a garden tour at my house, I often thought of forced labor, there was much work to be done and I wasn't sure if I could have everything completed on time. This tour forced me to work on projects that had been stacked high on the "I'll get around to it someday list".

I trimmed a neighbors oak tree that was spread twenty-five feet over my property and about ten feet over my garden, yes on a 28-foot ladder with a chainsaw! Then I repaired my chipper shredder and chipped everything up and mulched garden areas. Planted two trees. Next I completed installing 50% shade cloth over my garden. I had completed the frame about six months ago, and the neighbor who helped me dig the holes for the frame kept badgering me, "When are you going to put up the cloth? Have you ordered it yet?"

Oh, how we procrastinate!!! Well at least I do, I know none of you do. And then I cleaned out the 10 X 10 garden shed and discovered it actually had a concrete floor instead of dirt, leaves and debris. I threw out stuff that had been in there for twenty some years and found brand new things that I purchased and forgotten that I even had. What a thrill to clean and organize



that shed so that it is functional, everything in its right place. You see I needed this tour more than you all. It forced me to labor and complete some projects that I had neglected or simply put off, and it benefited me with the satisfaction of completing work that needed to be done. It was a swift kick in the rear end.

Could anyone else use a little motivation? Well, sign up to show your garden and fruit trees in 2016 you will be glad you did. Yes, breathe in deep, let it out slowly, get over your fears, trust me, nobody is coming to inspect your orchard or your garden. And when it's all done you will be glad at what you have accomplished.

PS: Although, I didn't finish everything. I did accomplish a lot.

Growing,

Jim Schopper

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." Abraham Lincoln.

LOOKING BACK

By Debbie Schopper, Member at Large

MAY MEETING

Our May meeting was held at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

Jose F. DeSoto from UC Davis spoke on a topic we are all



interested in during these times, "Dealing With the Drought". Some of the changes that we can implement in our backyard gardening:

- Apply summer pruning
- Remove water from older trees and transfer to younger ones
- Monitor soil moisture
- Modify irrigation system to reduce soil volume wetted
- Utilize deficit irrigation (DI) which is a watering strategy designed to apply a lower amount of water than that needed to satisfy the full crop water requirements
- Forget deep watering, most absorption is only

18" deep

- For a weekly update on the overall drought in the United States

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

JUNE MEETING

We had a double tour this month with properties belonging to the Schopper's and Wohlers', which are across the street from one another in the beautiful, rural city of Sylmar.

The Schopper's home is "a work in progress and transition" as the grass areas are being replaced with trees and edible plants, and drip water systems. There is a large covered vegetable and herb garden in the back yard area. Fruit trees, including lemon, blood oranges, grapefruit, pluots, pomegranates, almond, avocado, and white sapote along with Debbie's flowers are planted throughout the property.

Bob Wohlers home includes 35+ fruit trees (which we were told to please pick the fruit, not a norm for our tours), vegetable and herb garden, succulent garden, and bulb garden. He has a pond with fish (and if you are fortunate you may see a turtle or two), waterfall, treehouse, and two greenhouses one with vegetables and plants and my favorite the orchid greenhouse.

Field Trip Photos

Deborah Oisboid submitted a number of photos from our June Field Trip. They are available for viewing at <http://tinyurl.com/CRFGJuneTours> Use the password CRFGJune to view the photos.

Highlighting Members

Welcome to new members (since May/June newsletter):

- John Berlot
- Lea and Leon Johnson
- Kevin Kratzer
- Elliott Austin Kuhn
- Pamella and Bob Whitman

Festival of Fruit

If you will be attending the Festival of Fruit in San Diego please consider sharing pictures in the September/October newsletter.

Q and A

A member has asked for help/input from anybody who has had experience with turf removal and replacement.

A: municipal water districts generate the turf removal program funds. In my area it is the Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif. However, cities manage the implementation and can set standards. The rebate for city of Los Angeles is about \$3.75 per square foot with a minimum of 250 sq.ft. (As of July 9th 2015, applications for rebates from MWD So.Cal, have been exhausted. Future rebates may be available).

Cities can set different rates or requirements than the water district. For example, Glendora added to the basic rebate if the homeowner used local vendors in the removal or landscaping plan. The rebate was up to \$5 per sq. ft. I would suggest that you first contact your local county office to find your water district, then contact city hall for rebate programs. For my rebate the water district had a list of acceptable plants for the lawn area but LA City had a shorter list for the parkway. I had to submit two separate plans for each entity. I wrote about my experience in a previous newsletter but if you need more information contact me directly. Catherine - editor@CRFG-la.org

Grey Water Part 2

Graywater (Greywater) in Los Angeles

Debbie Oisboid, Member at Large

I have a graywater system at home, sort of. No, really. It is a legitimate graywater system. It takes "used" wash water and moves it into my garden for the



plants. (Ok, so I'm the one who moves the water. Me and a bucket.)

What I actually have is a disconnected drainpipe



from my washing machine. I can either hook it into the existing drain on the wall, or I can hook it over the edge of a 50-gallon barrel which is on a wheeled cart. The cart can

be brought to almost any spot in the garden, after which I take a plastic 2-gallon bucket and pour the water wherever I think it's needed.

Graywater systems can be pretty simple. First we fill the barrel... then we water the plants

Don't forget to use your solar "pre-dryer" to save electricity!



The legalities of graywater are **more complicated**. *Editor note: Indeed the information is very complex so I decided not to include the text submitted. There are city codes, county codes, state codes, plumbing codes, and codes relating to nonpotable water systems to name a few. An online search will result in a lot of information. For example when I search for "Graywater systems in Los Angeles" this site came up. Graywater Systems for Single-Family Dwellings, LA County Code of Ordinances at (If the link doesn't work Copy and Paste the URL into your browser window)*

https://www.municode.com/library/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TI28PLCO_APXGGRSYSIMIDW&next=true

So what's a person to do if they want to recycle their graywater?

Soaps and Detergents

Even though a dish soap or laundry detergent may be labelled "biodegradable" you might not want to use it in your garden. Many chemicals are biodegradable but can still kill plants. Check the label and **avoid chemicals such as:**

phosphates
chlorine or bleach
peroxygen
sodium perborate
sodium tryochlorite
boron
borax
petroleum distillate
alkylbenzene
nonylphenol ethoxylate (also known as NPE),
"whiteners"
"softeners"
"enzymatic" components
Sodium is a special concern in our local desert soils. Salts raise the soil alkalinity, degrade the soil structure, and harm plants. To prevent salt buildup, watch out for soaps and detergents made with sodium compounds. Powdered soaps and detergents are usually trouble, because in addition to normal amounts of sodium used they include "filler" ingredients that are usually high in sodium as well. Liquid soaps and detergents, on the other hand, typically use water as their primary "filler" ingredient. If you're concerned about salts or other chemicals getting into your garden then flush the soil with fresh water in between graywater "feedings".
I've tried a few different "biodegradable" and "graywater-safe" laundry detergents and they all more or less work, although they don't have the extreme stain-fighting chemistry of the more powerful off-the-shelf (and down-the-drain) brands. Soapnuts were a fun option I used for about a year. The broken shells of the soapnut tree produce a slight foam and they do an adequate job of cleaning clothes. They have a nice smell and are perfect for garden use, but I found my laundry colors fading or turning gray in under a year. I have used both Seventh Generation and ECOS brands for a few years, and recently discovered the Sprouts house brand Free and Clear 2x Liquid Laundry Detergent. All three liquids soaps seem to be

fine for my plants. Other recommended brands include Bio Pac and Oasis.

Since I do not harvest our bathroom water I have no recommendations for shampoos or dishwasher soaps. However, I've heard yucca root is very nice as a laundry detergent, soap or shampoo.

Appropriate plants

Some plants do better with soapy water than others. If a plant prefers acid soil, then it might not do so well with graywater. Azaleas and camellias, for instance, may not thrive in the alkaline environment of graywater. (I don't have any of these bushes so can't comment on it.) Fruit and nut trees, however, especially citrus, are supposed to do very well with graywater. (My potted citrus are doing just fine.) recommend watering wider than a typical mulch basin around these trees, to encourage wider root expansion.

Plants which are eaten raw should never come into contact with graywater for safety reasons. (ie: bacteria!) This means *don't splash* graywater on above-ground edibles, such as lettuce, or use it to water below-ground edibles, such as carrots and radishes. Cooking can minimize or eliminate this risk but in my opinion it's better not to take the chance.

Your own graywater system

There are lots of ways to get house water into the garden. Two of the simplest methods are to catch a few of gallons of water in a bucket while warming up a shower, and capturing rinse water whenever you wash vegetables. More complicated systems can include removing a drain and putting a barrel underneath a sink, or re-plumbing a room (or the entire house) so it drains outside. This last system will require a permit.

Several very good online resources I used in researching this article include:

Graywater information flier published by Los Angeles: **Copy and Paste the following link into your browser window to download the PDF**

document:

http://www.lacitysan.org/irp/documents/BOS_Graywater_Flier_2012.pdf

Greywater Action, a collaboration of educators, designers, and artists:

<http://greywateraction.org>

Specific information about greywater from *Greywater Action* can be found at this link

<http://greywateraction.org/contentabout-greywater-reuse/>

Oasis Design, a landscaping company with some excellent advice and educational materials:

<http://oasisdesign.net/>

The EPA, their website on the difference between water recycling and graywater use:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/recycling/>

In researching information for the Q&A section I looked through Simi Valley's city web site. They are offering free Graywater Workshops. The last workshops available will be July 23, August 6 or August 20. Use this link for more information.

<http://www.ci.simi->

[valley.ca.us/?page=14&recordid=4700&returnURL=%2findex.aspx](http://www.ci.simi-valley.ca.us/?page=14&recordid=4700&returnURL=%2findex.aspx)

Editor

Community News

Our CRFG chapter supports a number of community groups especially those that support the future of youth and their involvement in agriculture.

SEEAG'S 3rd ANNUAL VENTURA COUNTY FARM DAY RETURNS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

Celebrating the Hands and Lands that feed us
SEEAG is pleased to invite the public to visit and tour over 20 working farms in Ventura County on Saturday, September 26 for the 2015 **Ventura County Farm Day**

<http://venturacountyfarmday.com/>

This free, multi-location and self-guided event will feature unique tours, hands-on activities, educational demonstrations and an artisanal farmers market that will showcase the farmers and farm lands that produce foods and goods

such as lemons, strawberries, tomatoes, onions, avocados, olives, goat milk soap and more! After four hours have concluded, locals are invited to enjoy a rustic outdoor BBQ at Limoneira Ranch in Santa Paula. For more details about the above link.

About SEEAG

Founded in 2008 in Ventura County, **Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG)** aims to help young students truly understand the origins of their food by bridging the gap between agriculture and consumption through its agricultural education programming. **SEEAG's Farm to Table - The Journey of Our Food From Field to Fork** Program available in Ventura and Los Angeles counties teaches elementary school children about the origins of their food and the importance of local farmland by providing schools with classroom agricultural education and free field trips to farms. Through this program, over 8,000 Ventura County elementary school students have increased their understanding of the food journey. For more information, please visit <http://www.seeag.org>.

CRFG Donation Opportunity

California Rare Fruit Growers has been issued a \$5.65 donation from the **AmazonSmile Foundation** as a result of **AmazonSmile** program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2015. The donation has been deposited to the organization's bank account before May 15, 2015.

CRFG can enhance our donation share from Amazon by following this link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7082170> when preparing to shop on Amazon.

Thank you for your participation in the AmazonSmile program!

Mark Your 2016 Calendar

From Karen Payton

Pat Valdivia and Steve List have planned that March 26, 2016, will be our next Los Angeles Chapter CRFG/Sylmar High TREE SYMPOSIUM. Remember that funds from this event help with scholarships for students interested in studying horticultural and related agricultural programs in college.

A Final Reminder

CRFG 2015 Festival of Fruit: *Year of the Drought Tolerant Fruit*

Follow the link to the beautiful web site (created by Emory Walton) with more information about the festival taking place in San Diego, August 7th - 9th

<http://www.festivaloffruit.org/index.html>