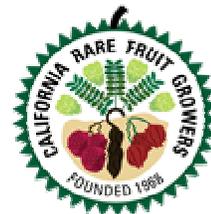


LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

May 2007 Volume X Issue 3



Our website--

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

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May Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 26, 2007

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91316

Program: Don't miss this meeting! Learn the best techniques about grafting, air layering, clonal propagation and scion wood selections from the experts: **Julie Frink, Dennis Luby, Don Winterstein, Roger Meyer and Riley Holly.** We will watch this wonderful DVD these Orange County members made entitled "*Techniques of Grafting*". The DVD will be available for you to purchase at \$10.

June Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 23, 2007

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Papaya Tree Nursery
12422 El Oro Way
Granada Hills, CA

Program: **Alex Silber**, will lead us on a tour of **Papaya Tree Nursery**. Be prepared to see many unusual and rare fruit trees consisting not only of guavas, mangos, cherimoyas, star fruit, miracle fruit and liches, but much, much more. You will have a chance to buy some quality trees. As most of you know, Papaya Tree Nursery was started by **Alex's** parents-**David** and **Tina Silber**- in 1985. **Alex** is carrying on the tradition in this wonderful and unique nursery. You can check out the website at: www.papayatreenursery.com

Directions: Take the 118 freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. At Balboa make a left turn. Go to Midwood Dr. and turn left. Make a right on El Oro Way. Arrive at **12422 El Oro Way**.

Till It Like It Is

What's been 'Growing On' at the LA Chapter Meetings



February Meeting - Dr. Herb Drapkin

April Tour - Boskovich Inspection Workers

March Meeting - Dr. Greg Partida

Dr. Herb Drapkin captivated our February attendees as he addressed us on “Integrated Pest Management”. Drawing from his vast experience, **Herb** gave us some insights into how to fight the **Argentine Ant** which interferes with the pollination of flowers by frightening away the bee. A fiberglass band which has been sprayed with the pesticide **Lorsban** and wrapped around the fruit tree is quite effective. This also aids in protecting against the **fuller rose beetle** which deposits its eggs under the calyx of the fruit. It is very important that no pole, fence or any other object which touches the ground is near or against the tree so that ants can not climb up into the tree. By placing a copper phosphate band under the fiberglass band you can also eliminate the **French snail** from getting into the tree and chewing holes in the fruit. The decollate snail which is a predator of the French snail will eliminate the eggs and young snails that remain on the ground. **Herb** demonstrated for the audience how to go about doing all this. He also advised us to be sure and skirt the trees. In other words, to be sure all limbs are 18 to 24 inches off the ground. How lucky our Chapter is to have someone so knowledgeable as one of our members. Thank you **Herb**, for a wonderful presentation. (If you would like to hear **Dr. Drapkin's** lecture in its entirety go to our website: http://www.crfq-la.org/Drapkin_1.mp3)

In March, **Dr. Greg Partida** spoke on caring for avocados after the freeze damage. Waiting until April to see if your freeze damaged tree comes back was emphasized. Before the spring flush of new leaves, cut them back to tall stumps (four foot high). Also, guard the graft by not cutting back too short. Keep only one center trunk. Whitewash the trunk with a 50/50 mix of white latex paint and water to protect from sunburn. Allow four new branches to come out on the trunk. Keep 10 after that, pinched back to 12 inches each. An established tree should be back to bearing fruit in one to two years. Keep the tree between seven to eight feet tall. The production will be just as good as or better than allowing the tree to grow tall.

As always, **Dr. Partida** had much information to impart and we all learned a lot.

Our April tour of **Boskovich Farms** was really impressive. As we donned our yellow safety hats, **Linda Martinez**, Director of Marketing walked us through the packing facility of **Boskovich Farms**. We were amazed at the scope of their operation. Strawberries are grown there year round. Approximately 600,000 pounds of finished product is run through their plant each week! Some of these products include onions, leeks, parsley, radishes lettuce, celery, carrots and spinach. **Boskovich Farms** grow not only in Oxnard, but in Baja California and in Mexico. Thanks to **Bill Brandt** for arranging this fascinating tour.

TASTING TABLE: If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring something to share for our May Meeting.

SOMETHING SWEET TO EAT

(Thanks to **Tor MacInnes** for this delicious sounding recipe)

All right, gentlemen how about treating your wives to a wonderful **Mother's Day Breakfast!**

COCONUT PANCAKES WITH ORANGE MANGO COMPOTE

COMPOTE:

- 1 1/2 cups chopped, peeled, cored red apple (about 1 medium)
- 1 cup chopped peeled mango (about 1 medium)
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon grated orange rind
- 1/3 cup chopped orange sections



- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons fresh lime juice

PANCAKES:

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour (about 3 1/3 ounces)
- 1/3 cup coconut flour or all-purpose flour (about 1 ounce)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup light coconut milk
- 1/4 cup fat-free milk
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 large egg

To prepare compote, combine first 7 ingredients in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and cook 8 minutes or until fruit is tender. Combine cornstarch, 1 tablespoon water, and lime juice in a small bowl, stirring with a whisk; stir into fruit mixture; bring to a boil. Cook 1 minute or until slightly thickened, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.

To prepare pancakes, lightly spoon flours into dry measuring cups, and level with a knife. Combine flours, baking powder, granulated sugar, and salt in a large bowl. Combine coconut milk, fat-free milk, oil, and egg in a small bowl, stirring with a whisk. Add milk mixture to flour mixture, stirring with a whisk (batter will be thick).

Pour about 1/4 cup batter per pancake onto a hot nonstick griddle or nonstick skillet; spread gently with a spatula. Cook 2 minutes or until tops are covered with bubbles and edges looked cooked. Carefully turn pancakes over; cook for 2 minutes or until bottoms are lightly browned. Serve with the compote.

Are Mobile Phones Wiping Out Our Bees?

Scientists claim radiation from handsets are to blame for mysterious 'colony collapse' of bees. (By **Geoffrey Lean and Harriet Shawcross** published April 15, 2007 in *The Independent*, a British newspaper)

It seems like the plot of a particularly far-fetched horror film. But some scientists suggest that our love of the mobile phone could cause massive food shortages, as the world's harvests fail.

They are putting forward the theory that radiation given off by mobile phones and other hi-tech gadgets is a possible answer to one of the more bizarre mysteries ever to happen in the natural world - the abrupt disappearance of the bees that pollinate crops. Late last week, some bee-keepers claimed that the phenomenon - which started in the US, then spread to continental Europe - was beginning to hit Britain as well. The theory is that radiation from mobile phones interferes with bees' navigation systems, preventing the famously home-loving species from finding their way back to their hives. Improbable as it may seem, there is now evidence to back this up.

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) occurs when a hive's inhabitants suddenly disappear, leaving only queens, eggs and a few immature workers. The vanished bees are never found, but thought to die singly far from home. The parasites, wildlife and other bees that normally raid the honey and pollen left behind when a colony dies, refuse to go anywhere near the abandoned hives.

The alarm was first sounded last autumn, but has now hit half of all American states. The West Coast is thought to have lost 60 per cent of its commercial bee population, with 70 per cent missing on the East Coast.

CCD has since spread to Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece. And last week **John Chapple**, one of London's biggest bee-keepers, announced that 23 of his 40 hives have been abruptly abandoned.

The implications of the spread are alarming. Most of the world's crops depend on pollination by bees. **Albert Einstein** once said that if the bees disappeared, "man would have only four years of life left".

No one knows why it is happening. Theories involving mites, pesticides, global warming and GM crops have been proposed, but all have drawbacks.

German research has long shown that bee' behavior changes near power lines. Now a limited study at Landau University has found that bees refuse to return to their hives when mobile phones are placed nearby. **Dr Jochen Kuhn**, who carried it out, said this could provide a "hint" to a possible cause.



Ed Hager presents memorial plaque to **Bob Chambers**

MEMORIAL HONORING CLYTIA CHAMBERS

Saturday, April 28th many, many people came to pay tribute to **Clytia Chambers**. A woman, whose remarkable personality and hard work touched everyone that knew her. Thanks to **Clytia**, the ***Fruit Magazine*** was established. She will be deeply missed and never forgotten.

Once more we are consolidating orders for blueberries from **Fall Creek Nursery** in Oregon. Members can go to their website:

<http://www.fallcreeknursery.com>

Click on the "commercial" icon, and on that page click on the "Southern Varieties". There they will find a catalog of the varieties we can order. All they need to do is select the quantities of the varieties they want and email me at lmaxson@pacbell.net. Lynn will acknowledge the order. After we have submitted our consolidated order the nursery will supply us with an estimate of the total cost, which we will use to calculate a per plant cost. **Lynn** fully expects that we can maintain the \$8 per plant cost of last year. The more orders we receive, the more likely we can hold to that price.

For those without internet access they can mail their order with the same information to **Lynn Maxson**, 1261 Ahart. St., Simi Valley, CA 93065. They should provide a telephone number so that he can acknowledge receipt of their order.