



Foothill Chapter California Rare Fruit Growers

Next meeting:
Saturday, June 3, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.
Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
Lecture Hall "A"

June meeting features special guest Don Knipp, aka "Mr. Fertilizer"

Don Knipp, also known as "Mr. Fertilizer", will speak about soil amendments, fertilizers, insect and disease controls for the fruit garden.

Mr. Knipp will bring a number of product samples for raffle prizes, as well as rebate certificates, but will not be selling any products.



got fertilizer?

April business meeting: Who will be our next chapter head?

Rod Kiewet announced at the April meeting that he is stepping down as Foothill chapter head after six good years. We all greatly appreciate Rod's efforts on behalf of the chapter over these years. A committee has been formed to nominate, and accept nominations for, our new chair. For those interested, the main responsibility of the chapter chair is lining up speakers for future chapter meetings, a task we are all willing to help with. If you would like to learn more, please speak to committee members Marga and Bob Loncar, Paul Rosnau, or Joel Johnson.

May Garden Gathering at Ruth Stern's garden in Shadow Hills

Two years to the month after Ruth Stern was kind enough to host one of our first Garden Gatherings, she again welcomed our chapter to her Shadow Hills garden on May 6. In addition to being an excellent host in providing coffee, juice, cakes, and fruit, Ruth gave a tour of her garden of about half an acre. Her specialty seems to be berries, including blackberries, tayberries, boysenberries, ollalieberries, dewberries (Ruth's favorite), red and yellow raspberries, etc. Ruth also has examples of almost every



conceivable fruit growable here, including cherry, apricot, plum, avocados, feijoa, atemoya, cherry of the Rio Grande, Asian pear, peach, fig, mango, white sapote, babaco, bananas, mandarin, grapefruit, lemon, lime, loquat, may orange trees, Valencia oranges, lemon guava, strawberry guava, tropical guava, jaboticaba, strawberries, a vegetable garden and spices such as allspice, cardamom and bay. Quite a garden - I think you'll agree. For the plant swap, there was plenty of Hawaiian ginger, various berries, and other plants for sharing around. Ruth also demonstrated the workings of several worm farms that she maintains.

I will also add that Ruth has kindly shared of her garden wealth with the chapter; for example, I have a nice dewberry patch and grafted cherry tree thanks to Ruth.



We're always looking for volunteers to host future Garden Gatherings - please contact Joel Johnson at the meeting, or at joel@aridscapes.com.

Garden Tour, Long Beach Veteran's Facility on July 22

Jim Bradford of the Long Beach Veterans' Facility has invited CRFG members to tour the Patients' Memorial Garden at 9:00 am Saturday, July 22. Jim will be leading the tours. At 10:00 am following tours Charles Portney will speak on Plant Propagation. You may wish to bring a folding chair, as seating will not be provided.

Portney's talk last year at the VA facility was well received, and I expect an equally favorable reception this year. He is a Life Member of the CRFG (WLA and LA chapters as home base) and has guest lectured on edible horticulture for Santa Monica College, UCLA, CRFG and local public and private schools. His strictly organic garden is in a coastal canyon with about 200 fruit trees and berry bushes, multiple herbs and spices, and he grows over 100 varieties of vegetables each year.

Directions:

The address is 5901 East 7th Street in Long Beach. The facility is just west of the Cal State Long Beach campus. Take the 605 Fwy south to the 22 Fwy west. Go west on the 22 and exit onto 7th Street. Continue west on 7th past the Cal State Long Beach campus. Turn right into the VA facility *immediately* after passing the campus (and before reaching Bellflower Blvd.). The sign at the entrance says, "Veterans Affairs Medical Center Long Beach." Once inside, take a left at the first stop sign. This puts you on a road that you should follow all the way around to the north side of the facility. The road makes several turns and passes two stop signs. At the second stop sign two tall water towers should be visible in the distance off to your right. Continue straight past that stop sign till you can see a sign that says, "North Gate Open." Take a right on the road *immediately before* you get to that sign and proceed to a parking lot near the water towers. The VA gardens are to the east (far side) of the water towers.

Questions? Contact Don Winterstein, Program Chairman, Orange County chapter of CRFG (dfwinterstein@msn.com)

Ideas on Future Chapter Meeting Topics

Ideas for future speakers at our chapter meetings are always welcome. If you have expertise in a particular subject and are willing to share, or if you know an expert who can speak, or even if you just have a request for a particular topic, please let Rod Kiewiet know (foothill@crfg.org).

Sharing Table

Members with last names starting with 'N' through 'Z', please bring goodies for the Sharing Table (of course we won't turn any donation away, regardless of your last name). And everyone, please lend a helping hand by cleaning up during and after the meeting.



Our first home-grown pineapple...delicious!

Chapter Miscellany

Plant Raffle

Please bring extra plants, seedlings, cuttings, etc., to the next meeting, with information and instructions for care. This is a steady fundraiser for our chapter, so please bring your unwanted extras.

Dues

Please pay CRFG and local chapter membership dues at the next meeting if past due.

Nametags

Please wear your CRFG nametag, if you have one, to our meetings, so new people can learn some names. If you don't have a nametag yet, you can order one at the next meeting.

Save a stamp

If you are reading this and still also receive a postcard reminder, please drop me a line and I'll happily remove you from the snail mail list. Please respond to the editor, David Szymkowski, at david.szymkowski@adelphia.net.

THE FOOTHILL CHAPTER OF THE CRFG meets at 9:30 a.m. the first Saturday of alternate months (February, April, June, August, October, December) at the Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia (just south of the 210 Freeway). There is no charge to enter the Arboretum to attend the meeting, which is usually in Lecture Hall "A". The easiest access is straight through the Gift Shop, then down the stairs to the right in the adjacent building. CHAIRMAN: Rod Kiewiet, foothill@crfg.org

***Date of next CRFG chapter meeting: Saturday, August 5, 2006
Tentative speaker & topic: Jim Bathgate, "Health & Fruit"***