

## Schreiber and Sons CSA Update April 29

### *The details on how the CSA will operate are included*

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Hello CSAers,

If you want to reply to this email, please do not hit the reply button and send this to Stacy, but rather hit the forward button and send it to me, Alan Schreiber, at [aschreib@centurytel.net](mailto:aschreib@centurytel.net).

**League of Culinary Adventurers, Ltd.** (Get it, the acronym spells *LOCAL*). Okay, so either no got it last week, no one read it or no one cared. In my request for people to serve as an advisory board, I got exactly ZERO responses-I cannot believe it! I need feedback from you, but I cannot handle responses from everyone on the same subject. For example, I want to run by you some things like.... how many times can be handle getting Swiss chard? If I do not have a dozen volunteers by the end of this week, I will start drafting you. I just need a group of you to bounce questions off of. It is easy, it will be interesting and you do not have to answer all of the time. I just need feedback.

**Cold Weather.** First. What do you call a group of farmers in a basement? A w(h)ine cellar. This jokes works much better when told orally. The point is that growers like to whine and compliance. For example, wheat growers are getting record prices and all they can say is that fertilizer and diesel prices are too high. I am not immune to this. I am still cursing the freeze from a week ago. Yes, it got down to 28 degrees this weekend, but who cares, anything that is susceptible to cold weather was already dead from the 22 degree weather 8 days. I did not lose a wink of sleep that 28 degree night.

However, the damage from the cold weather has come in to focus. Out of 100 cherry blossoms I dissected, 8 were good. Peaches were worse. The good news is that I did not lose all of the okra, squash, cucumbers and cauliflower I first thought, however I lost enough that there is insufficient plantings to go around--they will be rationed. The bad news is that even the more cold hardy crops were hurt, not killed, but knocked back. For example, the carrots, which were in the cotyledon stage, lost their leaves. [The cotyledons are the first leaves that emerge from the seed.] I see that the carrots are pushing their first true leaves, however, they have been delayed by more than a week. I had not seen this coming. Other cold hardy crops such as kale, mustard greens, cilantro, etc. are similarly affected. They are coming, but they will be delayed.

Enough griping.

**Exciting News.** We have been planting seeds in the field and in the greenhouse and transplanting like crazy. The weather has warmed up and the plants are responding. It is really exciting. Things like spinach and arugula are growing like weeds. They are probably more than doubling in size every 5 days. On one hand it is painful to see the crops that are behind due to the cold and thinking how are we going to meet our deadlines to have certain crops ready on time. On the other hand, you cannot walk the rows and not help but be buoyed by what you see. The potatoes are just starting to emerge-we have about a dozen different kinds. We have the usuals such as russet burbanks, but what about a potato that is all red, I mean red skinned and red fleshed. Literally the name of the variety is *All Red*. There is a fingerling that is called Finn Apple. What until you see that one.

To some folks, bok choy, which is also called pak choy, pok choi, and on and on, is an interesting plant. Just the name is interesting... all of those names mean exactly the same, and they all mean green plant in Chinese, how original. The bok choy love the weather we are having. They scoff at 22 degrees. We have some under row covers and they are growing wildly. For the uninitiated, bok choy may seem exotic, however, it is a staple of Asian cooking, particularly in China. I love this vegetable and you will to. [I hope you do, because you are going to be eating it quite a bit of it.] This is a crop that is probably tripling in size every 7 days. Expect to have it in your boxes for many of the next several weeks. We will supply you with some recipes, but you may want bone up on what to do with it. I will give you one hint: stir fry.

**Culinary Adventurers.** If you are a meat and potatoes kind of a person and want to stick that way I suggest you drop out of the CSA now. I can promise you this.... if you are not eating better by the end of the summer, if you have not significantly increased your culinary IQ, if you have not eaten two dozen crop/varieties that are new to you, you must have not read our emails and tossed your boxes out the window on the way home from the pick up sites. When I check the list of crops that we have planted it is up to an incredible 355 different items and there are a few dozen items we have yet to plant. I expect we will be close to 400 items before we are done planting. Now, many of these items-over 100, are test plantings and we may have only 30 plants of particular item, and some are in the conventional side or just on the organic side, but regardless it is simply an incredible list; a veritable horticultural Noah's Ark. And all of it is planted just for you. Get your forks out, the CSA is about ready to start!

**Farm Party and Farm Tours.** Want to see where food is coming from. We are having a kickoff party at the farm with tours. Please see the attached invitation. Our little CSA has grown up a bit from last year. We are requesting RSVPs from members.

**We are kicking off the CSA next week!!!!** We are excited by this, however, we still have so much to do. We wonder how it will all get done. Just to get you thinking.....some of the items you will be getting includes asparagus, bok choy, leaf lettuce and a mixed greens. There will be some other items, but we have not zeroed in on what else we will have as of yet.

We need to get you the details on exactly how all of this will work, so here goes.... and read carefully.

#### **Schreiber and Sons CSA Rules**

1. We have specific times for each pick up site. Remember this is someone,s house or business. Respect it. Do not come early or later than the stated times.
2. Do not take someone else,s box. Your box will have your name on it. Eventually the members with LARGE shares will get two boxes and they will be so marked.
3. There will be a choice box, you may take one item out to substitute for an item that you do not like. I suspect there will not always be enough items for everyone to do this. This is a courtesy that we are doing for you. Especially early on, it may be difficult to have a lot in the choice box.
4. If you cannot make your pick up, have someone else pick it up for you. We cannot hold it for you and we do not ask the pick site coordinators to hold it for you either.
5. You can switch pick up sites, but you have to let us know ahead of time.
6. Please bring back your boxes the following week; there is no penalty to you if you do not - there is a penalty to us, we have to buy more boxes. When you bring your boxes back, we need you to flatten them and put them in the designated areas.
7. If you cannot pick up your box, please let us know in advance. If you leave your box at the pick up site and you do not pick it up, we are giving it to the drop site coordinator.
8. If you have questions, email Stacey ([shill@centurytel.net](mailto:shill@centurytel.net)) or me ([aschreib@centurytel.net](mailto:aschreib@centurytel.net)). If you need to talk, call us at 509 266 4348. We will answer with our business name and not Schreiber and Sons.

**Times and Locations of the Pickup Sites - see attachment for the location and directions to pick up sites.**

Tuesday -- West Richland 4:30 to 6:30  
-- South Richland 4:00 to 6:00

Wednesday -- Pasco 4:00 to 6:00  
North Richland 4:30 to 6:30

Thursday -- Kennewick 4:30 to 6:30

For May, the pick up site will be at one locations and in June the pick site will move to the Kennewick Farmer's Market.