

Schreiber and Sons CSA Update April 30

Hello CSAers,

"I am as flawed as the next person." This is a quote from my mother. It applies to me as well. We have made two communication errors.

- 1) We forgot to attach the directions to the CSA drop off sites.
- 2) In the April 25 CSA Update, a portion of my write up mysteriously was deleted. It contained my request for some of you to give me some advice. Sort of an advisory board or just some folks to bounce some ideas off of. Below is the missing section.

I need advice.

On a regular basis I have questions and dilemmas. Things like.... how many times would people want tomatillo's in their boxes? Would they take more eggplants if they were heirloom varieties instead of typical big purple Italian types or is once enough? Should we start the CSA only one week late and have 5 or 6 items or two weeks late and have 8 or 9 items? It does not work to take a vote of all of the members--it is too big and chaotic, however, I want feedback, guidance and the occasional admonishment. For example, when we sent an end-of-the-season survey out last year, everyone told us that we should have put the tomatoes in a bag and not let them roll around and get squished by marauding melons. Apparently everyone felt that way but no one told us about during the season. Feedback, particularly constructive criticism, is appreciated.

I am asking for volunteers. I need some people who do not mind irregular emails from me soliciting input on how we should handle things, should we do this or not do that. There will be no meetings, no teleconferences, no phone calls--just emails. We need to keep it simple. A dozen or so people would suffice. I am going to call this group *The League of Culinary Adventurers, Ltd.* You get to be like the CSA's advisory board-Advisory board sounds boring, but *The League of Culinary Adventurers* sounds a lot cooler. I would like some of the folks who were in the CSA last year, and if possible some from two years ago, but really anyone can do this. Just email me and let know you are interested.

I sent out my griping email yesterday and so far I have over 40 respondents, which is way too many, but will forge ahead with all those who have expressed interest. By the way, if you have not yet volunteered, please do not--we have plenty. Thanks to those that have responded and those who read these updates, we hope they are informative.

In other news. We have a !#\$%?, %^&*(\$#% mouse in the greenhouse. That \$%^#&%\$# mouse is eating the seeds before they germinate. Put out mouse poison you say, "I can't" I reply. We have organic and conventional together and we cannot put out our usual kill'em dead stuff. I put out snap traps baited with peanut butter. The !#\$%&*? mouse just licks the trap clean as an appetizer and the proceeds on to dig up the seeds and has dinner. What is interesting is that the \$%^&?" mouse has specific preferences. So far he has only gone after squash seeds. His favorite is the green striped Cushaw winter squash. He eats other squash, including the Hubbard squash. I am sure that his preference for those seeds is because they are by far the largest seeds. We have a plan for this #\$\$\$?# fat mouse.

Cold Weather. I was thinking the cold weather is over, but the lows for tonight and tomorrow are going to be in the low to mid 30's. If we can dodge these next two days, we will be past the cold weather-just suffering from the delays called by the coolness.

Gearing up for Warm Weather. We have to be thinking about warm weather. We are starting to plant the warm weather crops. We have transplanted peppers, tomatilloes and tomatoes without benefit of row covers. We have started planted warm weather seeds such as beans. By the end of the week we plant to start transplanting eggplants, squash and cucumbers without row covers.

People who are important to you, that you do not know. All of you know, or at least hear from me and see my name on the updates, but there are other people who make the CSA really happy. Tracy is the CSA project manager. She is the detail person-she helps seeds, over sees the inventory, the packing, processing, washing and distribution. Stacey is the office person who handles the accounts, payments, bills and is the person who manages the office aspects of the CSA. She also handles the website. Chris is my farm manager, Jack is the assistant farm manager and the mechanic. Andres is my crew chief. A crew chief is a critical individual on a farm that requires a lot of hand labor. He hires and manages the farm workers. He is a good friend of mine. Along with his workers, Alfredo, Francisco, Fernando and Willivaldo, they plant the seeds, transplant, weed, lay plastic mulch, drip tape and row covers and all of the things that have to be done to grow things. It takes a lot of people to make this happen. For what it is worth, I have the best group of people working here.

Just to remind you..... the CSA will start next week. The pickings will be on the low side, but the first produce of the year is always the most welcomed and we will all be happy with the earth's first offerings. We are very excited about it. The response to our CSA was a little more than we expected so we are building a packing line to accommodate the volume of produce that will be needed to feed all of you.

Directionsto your drop site.

-West Richland drop off is at Curves Fitness Center. It is at 4033 Van Giesen and is located in a small strip mall next to Subway.

-N Richland is at 2129 Hamilton Court. Go north George Washington Way, turn Right on Saint Street, turn on the first road to the right which is Hamilton Court.

-S Richland- 176 Riverwood street.

Take the Columbia Dr exit ,turn right at Columbia Park Trail, turn left at Hillwood St, turn left at Riverwood St

Pasco-2921 Road 48 - Go on Argent until road 48-house is located on the corner of 48 and Draidie.

Kennewick- is at 4417 W 12th until June 5 and then it is at the Kennewick FArmers market in historic downtown Kennewick located at Kennewick Ave and Auburn St. Next to the Roxie Theater.

Here is a Google Map with your drop site locations, you can use the "get directions" tab, just below the search box and enter your address to get detailed directions from your location to the drop site:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?client=firefox-a&hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=104973808794430172196.0004498307f614a0e3e7c&z=12>

Regards

Alan Schreiber

