The Final Word!!

I do want to take this opportunity to thank you, the growers of citrus in California, for the opportunity to serve this noble industry for the past 20 years. I have always wanted to say that! However, this will be my final editorial as President of the Citrus Research Board. As of June 1st, Ken Keck has taken the helm of the CRB. Please note the wonderful cover photo by Teresa Ferguson from the CRB staff. The program will be in great hands with Ken, as he brings a wealth of experience to the Board and to the program. You read about his background in the March/April Citrograph and will, of course, learn much more about him in upcoming issues.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank you, the growers of citrus in California, for the opportunity to serve this noble industry for the past 20 years. When I first took the leadership, we had a staff of one (me) and have grown to a program with multiple elements and 15 full-time staff members in three locations throughout the state. We operated with a staff of four for the first 15 years. In 2008, with the introduction of the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), we expanded to over 40 personnel with the statewide trapping and detection program. Last year we transferred many of those duties to CDFA for regulatory purposes, leaving the current staff levels.

The ACP and huanglongbing issues are still with us and will be for many years to come. This devastating HLB disease will haunt the growers from now on until a permanent solution can be found through scientific development. I fully believe that there will be a cure for HLB that will keep the California industry alive and vital for centuries to come. The scientific community is close to unlocking the critical factors to bring resistant rootstocks and early detection diagnostic technologies to provide you, the growers, the tools necessary to survive the disease.

There will be more challenges to the industry from invasive pests and diseases -- some of which we already know and others that have not even been discovered yet. This is just the evolutionary cycle of things in agriculture. I also believe that the industry will continue to build on the knowledge base currently available to meet these challenges and survive the threats as they come forward.

There is not enough room in this entire magazine to thank all of the wonderful folks who have made my career the true joy that it has been. Everyone that I have been associated with has added to my life and brought something of value to me and to the program. To all of you, a very heartfelt THANK YOU!!
The Mission of the Citrus Research Board:
Develop knowledge and build systems for grower vitality.
Focus on quality assurance, clonal protection, production research, variety development, and grower/public education.

CITRUS RESEARCH BOARD MEMBER LIST BY DISTRICT 2012-2013

**District 1 – Northern California**

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- Allan Lombardi, Exeter
- Donald Roark, Lindsay
- Jim Gorden, Exeter
- Joe Stewart, Bakersfield
- Etienne Rabe, Bakersfield
- John Richardson, Porterville
- Kevin Olsen, Pinedale
- Richard Bennett, Visalia

**Alternate**
- Justin Brown, Orange Cove
- Dan Dreyer, Exeter
- Dan Galbraith, Porterville
- Franco Bernardi, Visalia
- John Konda, Terra Bella
- Jeff Steen, Strathmore
- Tommy Elliott, Visalia
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- Craig Armstrong, Thermal

**Alternate**
- Ed Civerolo, Kingsburg
- Steve Garnsey, Fallbrook

**Public Member**
- Member
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**CALENDAR**

**August 20-22**
CRB Research - Presentation of Proposals and CRB Board Meeting, DoubleTree Hotel, Bakersfield, CA. For information, contact the Citrus Research Board at (559) 738-0246.

**September 17**
CRB Annual Meeting, Lindcove REC, Exeter, CA. For information, contact the Citrus Research Board at (559) 738-0246.

**October 10**
California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC) Conference and Workshop, Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, CA. For information, contact CCQC at (530) 885-1894.

**October 15-17**
Citrus Health Research Forum, Embassy Suites, Denver, CO. For information, contact the Citrus Research Board at (559) 738-0246.

**November 7**
California Citrus Mutual (CCM) Annual Meeting, Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, CA. For information, contact CCM at (559) 592-3790.

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**DO YOU KNOW...?**

When, and under what circumstances, was the slogan “Don’t Bug Me” used in a public service ad campaign in Southern California? (Go to page 34 for the answer.)

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