

Bodega Red Potato Club NEWS

BRP Club Meeting

April 16, 2012

Bodega Fire Hall

6:30 pm

POTLUCK

Meet to discuss
and distribute
mini-tubers.

Share any
potatoes you
may not have
returned in the
fall.

Discuss planting
strategies and
information.

Please bring a
\$1-\$2 donation
to the Bodega
Volunteer Fire
Department for
the use of the
Hall.

Bodega Red Pre-Nuclear Mini-tubers are IN!

Huh? What's a Pre Nuclear Mini-tuber?

They're those very expensive (\$40/pound) tiny potato seeds that we ordered to revitalize our local Bodega Red Potato stock.

In 2010 we sent a handful of Bodega Red Potatoes to Washington to determine if our discovered potato was the real thing. Yes. Then the samples were sent to Pure Potato in Washington State, where the potato tissue was freed from virus and carefully grown out for seed potato.

Through Club donations, the raffle for Denny Hunt's painting, and donations from the Rancho Bodega Historical Society and Slow Food, we have raised enough money to order a whopping 26 pounds of the precious darlings.

Those who would like to grow out the mini-tubers will please come to the spring meeting on April 16th at the Bodega Fire Hall at 6:30 pm.

Because the tubers are SO PRECIOUS we must be very strict about who can take a pound or two.

Those who are selected to receive the mini-tuber seed potatoes will be expected to:

- ❖ Be good, experienced potato gardeners or farmers;
- ❖ Grow them in soil that has not been used to grow potatoes for at least three years;
- ❖ Grow them no less than 400 yards away from any other potatoes (including other Bodega Red Potatoes);
- ❖ Ensure that gophers do not steal any potatoes;
- ❖ Document and report growing information and conditions;
- ❖ RETURN HALF of your HARVEST to increase our community supply;
- ❖ USE THE TUBERS FOR SEED POTATO ONLY. None of the harvest should be eaten.

If you can live up to these requirements, please contact Abby with your desire and qualifications, and come April 16th meeting for the distribution ceremony.

So when should we get planting the regular potatoes?

Please go to our new Facebook Page to discuss this question. I have heard that it is best to plant only when the soil temperature reaches 55 degrees, after the last frost, and after any really wet weather. I have also heard it's best to plant potatoes under a waning moon. Stored potatoes should be removed from their dark storage area about a week before planting. It's good if they start to sprout prior to planting. If you cut them to increase the number of seed, you can "harden" them in ashes or lime just before planting.

If you didn't get any potatoes at the fall meeting, you can wheel and deal with your fellow club members. Just adhere to the code!

The Bodega Red Potato Club Code:

- ❖ Don't eat your whole harvest;
- ❖ Keep the best seed for yourself for next year;
- ❖ Return twice what you received to distribute to other Club members at the fall Club Meeting;
- ❖ Store next year's seed VERY SAFELY.

Abby Killey
PO Box 255
Bodega, CA 94922

PHONE:
707-876-3093

E-MAIL:
abigailmyers@comcast.net

We're on
Facebook!

Search for:

Bodega Red Potato
Club

Just "Like" the page,
and you will receive
notices when new
messages or
information is added.

Please contribute
ideas, questions,
resources, etc.

Other Contacts:

For information on **Slow Food's** BRP distribution efforts please contact:

David Katz

Phone: (707) 543-5877
Email: davidkat@sonic.net

For information on the **Rancho Bodega Historical Society** or to contribute historical BRP information contact:

Robin Rudderow

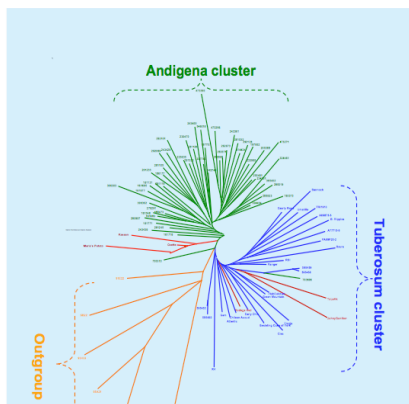
Phone: (415) 298-6925
Email: robin@bodegamoon.net

Bodega Reds a Big Hit at the Heirloom Expo

The Bodega Red Potatoes were proudly featured along with the Slow Food Booth at the National Heirloom Exposition in Santa Rosa last September. Our potatoes were obviously popular given the number of people that signed up for information (here it is at last!). We thank Kate Wolf especially for the great parade costume turned booth display, which may well become our Club ascot.

The Bodega Red Potato certainly fit in well with its interesting history, unique and delicious taste, and its grass roots support (that's us).

The Expo will return to Santa Rosa September 11th through 13th this year. Pipe up if you'd like to go and represent the Bodega Red Potato.



Genetic profile of the Bodega Red Potato

Need some Potato Recipes?

Buy a copy of "Spuds 'n more Spuds", a collection of great recipes and anecdotal information collected and published by the Rancho Bodega Historical Society. Copies are \$5 each, and can be found at the Rancho Bodega Historical Society office behind the Bodega Bay School, at the **Organic Cotton Fabric Shop** in Bodega, or wherever RBHS has a booth at a local event.



4H member Lily Morris ensures that Jim Grant dutifully signs his contract promising to return twice what he received at the Spring, 2011 Bodega Red Potato Club Meeting.

About Our Club...

We are a VERY LOOSELY organized group of folks who want to bring back the Bodega Red Potato to its rightful glory. We meet twice a year at planting time and harvest time. We are not a non-profit and don't intend to get that organized. We don't even have a checking account. We are working together with Slow Food and the Rancho Bodega Historical Society.

However, we are not at all opposed to help to further the cause or get us *slightly* more organized.

Would you like to:

- ❖ Write a Newsletter? (or articles for it?)
- ❖ Organize the Parade entry or Potato Races at the Bodega Big Event in August? You may have a title for either of these jobs.
- ❖ Work on gathering or organizing growing, harvest, or historical information?
- ❖ Do anything to help us help Bodega Red Potatoes?

Let us know!