

[Slow Food California's Ark of Taste in Sonoma County](#)

by Peter Ruddock, *Slow Food California, Ark of Taste Chair*

September was a busy month for the Ark of Taste in California.

Labor Day weekend found more than 60 Slow Food leaders from around California, and a few from beyond our borders, congregating in Sebastopol for the 4th annual Slow Food California regional meeting. While the Ark of Taste was only one topic on the agenda, its presence was continually felt. The opening reception, hosted by [Slow Food Sonoma County North](#) and the Zeffler family, featured platters of [Bodega Red Potatoes](#), an Ark varietal boarded by the members of Sonoma County North.

Sunday morning, [Slow Food Russian River](#) treated us to a demonstration of their [Community Apple Press](#) and glasses of crisp, cold [Gravenstein Apple](#) cider, freshly pressed in front of our eyes. The Gravenstein apple was boarded by members of Russian River, and is in fact the only [Presidium](#) for an Ark of Taste product in California. The Gravenstein seems to be everywhere in Sonoma County. I was asked at one point, why it needed the protection of the Ark, when it seemed so common. The only possible answer to the questioner, was that Slow Food Russian River had helped bring an endangered apple back to life, and had done that so well locally that Sonoma County residents no longer realized how rare and special their apple is. Finally, on Monday, the Ark of Taste committee went to work in a breakout session, talking about where we are and what we want to do. The foci of our talk included improving communications among chapters interested in working on the Ark, resuming boarding great California foods after a hiatus of almost a year, and working on strategies for integrating those items we do board into other Slow Food projects. [Read more...](#)



[Slow Food California Policy Committee](#)

Review and action

by Charity Kenyon, *Governor Central Valley California Region & International Councilor*



Brenda Ruiz (Sacramento), Chair of Slow Food California Policy Committee led workshop and a section of the closing plenary addressing Slow Food California policy advocacy; Charity Kenyon (Sacramento), past chair, moderated.

Slow Food California has a strong policy committee with the goal of having a representative from every chapter on the Committee. We rely on the committee members, a (secret) Facebook group page, email action alerts to committee members and governors, and occasional newsletter articles to keep members posted on positions taken and support requested.

We have come a long way and can do more. We enjoy a unique role as the largest international chapter/member based grassroots food justice organization and as network builders. Whenever we make or join in a call for action we hear from our representatives and partner organizations that Slow Food members follow through. We're building on a great foundation, thanks to the work of dedicated volunteers. And we are very fortunate to have the pro bono lobbying assistance of Conservation Strategies Group's Mark Fenstermaker, who makes sure we do all our required reporting to the Fair

Political Practices Commission and is an invaluable strategy guide.

Our policy workshop focused on using Twitter and Facebook comments effectively to communicate positions to our representatives. We can take the phone call one step further by making our support or opposition more public. We also reviewed our right and responsibility as a nonprofit to take policy positions. We are a 501(c)(3) and spend no money on advocacy. We may not support or oppose candidates. We certainly can and should invite candidates to state their positions on food policy. And we can educate. [Read more...](#)

**Making the National and Global Local –
Bringing Slow Food USA and International Themes into our Local Work**

by Charity Kenyon, Governor Central Valley California Region & International Councilor

Charity Kenyon (Governor, Central Valley and International Councilor) moderated with guests Kevin Scribner (Slow Fish, Pacific Region) and Sarah Shoffler (Slow Fish California) and Andrew Nowak and Lauren Howe of the Slow Food USA School Garden Program

The goal of this plenary session was to update leaders on opportunities to strengthen ties of their local chapters and members with Slow Food USA and Slow Food International projects. We learned what we know already – there is no substitute for face-to-face exchanges to convey the excitement and energy, answer questions, and encourage a broader view of the opportunities Slow Food presents to all of us. We committed at the meeting to strengthen our communications. (Help wanted!) [Read more...](#)

Slow Fish 2016

New Orleans, March 2016

By Sarah Shoffler

Slow Food Urban San Diego & Slow Fish Pacific Region

The first [Slow Fish USA meeting is being planned in New Orleans for March 2016](#). It will be both a convening of Slow Fish delegates from around the world and also a public seafood festival. We are in the beginning stages of program planning and your input is requested. Slow Food California and the Slow Fish Pacific Region would like our region represented and for local fishermen, chefs and seafood product to be there.



Please [let me know](#) if you are interested in being involved and representing California and if so, I'll keep you posted as Slow Fish NOLA 2016 develops.

As for logistics, Slow Food NOLA is working on those and will have information on registration, housing, and support for travel for some delegates in the next month or 2. Keep an eye on the website and consider whether you'd like to be a delegate or know someone who should be.

More info on Slow Fish USA [Slow Fish NOLA 2016 is here](#).

Native Food Symposium



Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and the Chia Café Collective invite you to join us at the first California Native Food Symposium on November 14 & 15, 2015. A discussion of native food is important and timely given the current drought, interest in the local food movement, and revitalization of traditional ways.

This event is the first of its kind, focusing entirely on California native food plants, and meant to appeal to anyone interested in the environment, culture, and sustainability. We hope to bring together a diverse audience to share traditions and stories surrounding the current movement and research in California native food. Want to learn how to garden with native plants,

incorporate native food into your diet, and see California's native plant diversity in a new way? Then the symposium is for you! [Read more...](#)

Final Call - All Aboard!

Ark of Taste Tour & Culinary Expedition

Slow Food Mexico + California -- November 6-15, 2015

Gayla Pierce, International Committee

Slow Food California is partnering with **Slow Food Mexico** and **Tia Stephanie Tours** to offer a once-in-a-lifetime travel experience to explore and discover the vast array of traditional Mexican cuisine, cooking methods and tools, now recognized by **UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage**.

On this culinary journey, trip members will discover indigenous vanilla and amaranth, and trace their origins, revitalization, and preservation. Participants will meet Raúl Manuel Antonio from **Rancho Grande, Valle Nacional**, who received the **Slow Food International Award in 2000** for his pioneering work in the revival of ancient vanilla, originating from this region. **More details**

Chapter Spotlight - A glimpse into Slow Food Chapters across the state

Slow Food Urban San Diego **Good Food Community Fair**

Slow Food Ventura **Farm to Ferment Dinner**

Slow Food Sacramento **Farm to Every Fork Dinner**

Slow Food Santa Cruz **recent events**

Connect with **California Chapters** and see what they are doing in their area

Want to know more or participate in one of Slow Food California's projects?

email **info@slowfoodcalifornia.org**

follow and like the **Slow Food California Facebook** page

check our archived Slow Food California newsletters on our **Slow Food California Web site**.

Thank you for your interest in Slow Food California!

Tiffany Nurrenbern, President (Russian River), Linda Elbert, Vice President (Orange County),
Dominick Fiume, Treasurer (San Diego Urban), Charity Kenyon, Secretary (Sacramento)