

BREA NEWS

www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/

Volume 13 Issue 3

May/June 2013

BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. in one of the conference rooms in Bldg. 400 (except where noted).

All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

Meeting Schedule

May 14, 2013

June 11, 2013

July 9, 2013

BREA Officers

President

Dave Cox
expatdave@aol.com

Vice President

Ken Mohring
kenwadingriver@gmail.com

Secretary

Louise Hanson
hanson.louise@gmail.com

Treasurer

Steve Shapiro
shapiro@bnl.gov

* * *

Newsletter Editors

Mona S. Rowe
mrowe@bnl.gov
Anita Cohen
afcohen@optonline.net



Just look at the size of this broccoli! Read Vic Gutierrez's account of gardening in Tucson, on page 3.

From the President

by Dave Cox

On behalf of all BREA members, I congratulate Doon Gibbs on being appointed the new Director of the Laboratory. We look forward to working with Doon in the coming years for the benefit of Brookhaven retirees and the community.

See page 2 for information about the annual retiree luncheon! We will be trying out a new venue, which offers spectacular water views – Lombardi's on the Sound at the Port Jefferson Country Club. Note the date and time: Wednesday, June 5, noon to 4 p.m. Even better, fill out the reservation form and mail it today! For questions, contact Ken Mohring at kenwadingriver@gmail.com or (631)929-6744.

As we all are painfully aware, we no longer have The Bulletin to issue timely reminders about the luncheon during the weeks leading up to June 5. Our membership secretary, Carmen Benkovitz, will send out an email reminder next month, but, nevertheless, you should send in your reservation as soon as possible, especially if you have no email address. I look forward to seeing all who can attend on June 5th!

(continued on page 4)

BREA Luncheon, June 5

Don't miss the annual BREA get-together luncheon, our special event for members and guests. This will be our 10th!

When: Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 12 noon to 4 p.m.
Where: Lombardi's on the Sound, Port Jefferson Country Club
What: Hors d'oeuvre, followed by a four-course luncheon consisting of a salad, choice of beef, chicken or fish entrées, dessert, coffee or tea, and soda (wine and beer available at cash bar)
Price: \$39 per person, must reserve and pay before the event

Join us for an afternoon of good fun, good food and good company in the lovely surroundings of Lombardi's on the Sound – and chat with your friends and colleagues!

The luncheon is open to BREA members and their spouses or a guest. To make reservations, complete the bottom portion of this invitation and return it with your check in the amount of \$39 per person payable to BREA to the address below as soon as possible – **but to be received no later than June 1**. Members who have not yet renewed for 2013 and would like to attend should also complete and return the membership form on page 4. For more information about the lunch, please contact:

Ken Mohring
kenwadingriver@gmail.com or (631) 929-6744

Directions: Long Island Expressway (I-495) to Exit #64, Route 112. North to NY 347, Nesconset Highway East. Make a right onto NY 347 going east. Take NY 347 to Crystal Brook Hollow Road and make a left. Take Crystal Brook Hollow Road to the end and then make a quick right onto North Country Road and a quick left back onto Crystal Brook Hollow Road. Continue straight onto Winston Drive North to the end. Take 1st exit onto Fairway Drive. The address is 44 Fairway Drive, Port Jefferson, NY 11777. Phone: (631)473-1440

For travel assistance, contact Dave Cox, expatdave@aol.com or (631) 286-9725.

----- detach here and mail to BREA at the address below -----

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ **Email:** _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

BREA c/o BERA
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Building 400
Upton, NY 11973

Gardening in Tucson, Arizona

When Marie and I moved to Tucson, I looked forward to gardening in a sunny, warm climate, just like I did on Long Island. It would be easy, or so I thought. After a few failures, I realized I needed help. So, I attended the local Cooperative Extension's gardening classes. The following is what I learned about gardening in the desert southwest.

Veggies - Most veggies like soil with about 5% organic matter and water and soil with a pH around 6 -7 (close to neutral).

Tucson soils / water / heat – Our water and soils are alkaline (pH about 8.5) and the soil has low organic matter (less than 1%). We get about 12 inches of rain a year, yielding a relative humidity of about 10% or less. Our soils have layers of dense compact soil and limestone, common for places with little rain. Summer temperatures break 100F (for 30 days straight) and often get over 110. Our summer sun is intense!



One day's yield of tomatoes!

Garden Preparation – Improving our native soil is hard work so many prefer raised beds filled with rich soil/compost blends. I decided to improve my garden soil so I dug down 18 inches, mixed in soil sulfur to lower pH, fertilizer, compost and steer manure to increase organic matter. I've done this for the past 4 or 5 years with good results.

Watering – Most veggies will tolerate our water. Drip irrigation and night watering are common for gardens. Many gardeners have also installed large tanks to collect rainwater for use around their property. A 1,000-square-foot roof will collect about 600 gallons for every inch of rainfall.

Planting – Most veggies can be planted here. To ensure a harvest before mid May, when temperatures regularly get over 95 F, we select varieties with only 60-80 days to harvest. In the spring we typically grow beans, corn, cucumbers, peppers, tomato, and squash. Summer veggies that take the heat are melons, okra, sweet potato, and pumpkin. In the fall we plant broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chard, Chinese cabbage, and collards.



The fence keeps out critters like rabbits and javelina (ha-ve-leen-a), which look like small pigs but are actually part of the peccary family.

Fruit – Here we usually experience mild winter nights, with an occasional freeze. To set fruit, most fruit trees require many hours of cold during winter, called "chill hours." Fortunately, a number of low-chill fruit trees are available, and I've planted apple, apricot, cherry, citrus, fig, grapes, peach/nectar and plum. I also grow blackberries and/red raspberries, which are very tolerant of our soils.

This gives you some idea of garden-ing in the desert southwest. It's a challenging hobby, but rewarding.

– Vic Gutierrez
vicandmarieg@centurylink.net

Answers to a Good Question!

How can retirees keep up with Lab news when *The Bulletin* is no more? Those with internet access can go to the Lab's website at www.bnl.gov, or sign up for the online publication "Brookhaven This Week," at www.bnl.gov/newsroom/thisweek/ or Announcements at lists.bnl.gov/mailman/listinfo/bnl-announce-l

Also, BREA membership secretary Carmen Benkovitz emails two former Bulletin staples – Classified Ads and In Memoriam notices – to members who request them by writing to her at sjbenk@optonline.net.

The following items were gleaned from recent issues of *Brookhaven This Week*. Full stories are available online at the links provided:

• **Three Retirees Named Senior Scientist Emeritus** – Honored for particularly noteworthy contributions to the Lab were:

Satoshi Ozaki, www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=1846

Keith Jones, www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=23576

Peter Daum, www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=23602

• **BNL Has New Interdisciplinary Science Building**, a world-class facility to address the nation's energy challenges.

www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=22923

• **BNL Enters Long Island Technology Hall of Fame** – On March 6, BNL was honored as the Hall's 2013 Corporate Leader in Technology.

www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=23779

– Anita Cohen, afcohen@optonline.net

From the President (cont'd. from p. 1)

Here are useful links so that you can stay informed about various events at the Lab:

BREA: www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/default.asp

BERA: www.bnl.gov/bera/recreation/events.asp

BNL calendar: www.bnl.gov/events/

Finally, I encourage you to sign up for "Brookhaven This Week" (go online to www.bnl.gov/newsroom/thisweek/) and "Monday Memo" (sign up online by going to lists.bnl.gov/mailman/listinfo/mondaymemo-l).

– Dave Cox, expatdave@aol.com

Renew BREA Membership

If you see the year 2012 on the mailing label of your newsletter, you need to renew your BREA membership. Complete the form below to continue receiving BREA's newsletter.

Membership type:

☐ annual (\$10) ☐ 5 years (\$40) ☐ life (95)

Last name: _____

First name: _____ MI: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check made out to BREA for \$ _____

Mail to: Carmen Benkovitz
BREA Membership Secretary
12 Sandy Drive
Smithtown, NY 11787

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

BREA c/o BERA

Brookhaven National Laboratory

Bldg. 400

Upton, NY 11973

Phone: (631) 344-2873

E-mail: brea@bnl.aol.com

Web: www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/

