

CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER CRFG

Editor: Linda Robertson

Next Meeting

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Meeting and Tour of Orchard of CRFG Member Gabrielle Robbins

Gabrielle Robbins has been a CRFG member for 35 years. She started with the Santa Barbara chapter and is now a member of the Central Coast chapter. She has been a lifetime member since 1997. The yard of her home in Solvang is covered in edible landscaping, including an artichoke forest entirely populated in volunteer plants. And she has a variety of fruit trees, including citrus, figs, and plums. Gabrielle is an expert grafter and has a wealth of knowledge about plants, so bring questions

Schedule:

(Note: these times are approximate and may change slightly due to actual time needed.)

12:30-1:00 Set up crew

1:00-1:30: Socializing and refreshments.

1:30: Chapter business meeting.

1:45-3:00: Information about what attendees can expect to see and do.

Bring:

A chair, a snack to share (fruit from your own orchard is always welcome), water, sturdy shoes, and sunscreen.

Where:

758 Elsinore Drive, Solvang, CA

No Pets

Don't bring pets! Please review "Our Best CRFG Manners While Visiting Homes, Nurseries, Growers, etc." below. We never bring pets to meetings or tours, and we never even ask if we may!"

Additional Info:

The public is welcome! Please bring a friend.

Restroom will be available.

Location & Parking:

There is parking on the street; carpooling is advised.

Directions:

From Highway 101:

Take exit 140A on CA 246 toward Solvang.

Drive 3.2 miles to Atterdag Road

Turn left onto Atterdag Road.

Drive about .5 mile to Elsinore Drive.

Turn right onto Elsinore Drive.

758 Elsinore Drive will be on the right.

Gabrielle, with a list of the plants she grows on her property.



Announcements

Volunteer Opportunity: the 2026 Mid-State Fair

CRFG has been invited again to participate in the Mid State Fair. This time we'll have a table and exhibit for two days, Sunday, July 19, from 2pm to 7pm, and Thursday, July 23, from 4 pm to 8 pm. Both are in the Flower Room.

People interested in volunteering are welcome to contact Manny or Linda. Volunteers get free passes to the fair (but you're on your own for parking.) We're looking for people who can demonstrate grafting and/or answer questions from visitors.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

April 22nd (Wednesday), Chapman Estate Earth Day Plant Sale & Grafting Demo

Our own CRFG chapter and the Chapman Estate Foundation will be having an Earth Day plant sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the beautiful Chapman Estate, 1243 Ocean Blvd., Shell Beach. Marv will be demonstrating apple grafting, and there will be live music. Come join us!

April 25 and 26: Tomato Fandango at Tiber Canyon Ranch.

Tiber Canyon Ranch, which you may remember from our meeting there last summer, is hosting its annual Tomato Fandango on April 25 from 11 to 4, and April 26 from 11 to 3, at the ranch, at 280 W. Ormonde Road, SLO. The event will feature tomato plants propagated by Growing Grounds Farms, with all proceeds from the tomato sale going to Transitions Mental Health Association. In addition to the tomatoes and Tiber Canyon's awesome olive oils and balsamic vinegars, the event will feature local crafts, baked goods, and pizza.

May 30: Free community skillshare homesteading event, from 12-3, at the Atascadero Lake Park bandstand.

The event will feature talks and tips on regenerative grazing, vermicomposting, seed saving, and other topics related to growing food. There will be a veggie planting station for kids. Our chapter will have a booth, where members will sell plants and demonstrate grafting.

<https://atascaderoskillshare.carrd.co/>

June 9-14: Festival of Fruit 2026: The Year of Eugenia and Her Sisters

Registration is open for this year's Festival of Fruit – The Year of Eugenia and Her Sisters – hosted by the Orange County chapter of CRFG. This is the first Festival of Fruit since 2019, so it's especially exciting. The official festival day, with lectures and a dinner afterward, will be Saturday, June 13, but Orange County has arranged for a series of tours and social events running from June 9 through June 14.

If you haven't been to a Festival of Fruit, it's an annual highlight for all of CRFG, a place where you can explore fruit growing in a different climate and spend time with other people who share our interest in growing and propagating fruit trees.

Visit the festival's web site, festivaloffruit.org, to register and sign up for tours and Saturday's dinner and buy a festival t-shirt. Registration is \$85.00 per person.

The Orange County chapter reserved a block of rooms at the Marriott Hotel on the Cal State Fullerton campus for a special rate of \$169.00 per night.



June 19-21; Open Farm Days Weekend.

Visit over 20 farms, ranches, producers and sellers. "Local farms will be featuring everything from beekeeping to olive oil production, vegetable and fruit growing. Local ranchers will introduce you to goats, alpaca, sheep, pigs, and more, while local purveyors will showcase their locally made products using our locally grown." Tickets are free. Register and download the trail map on the website, <https://www.farmstaded.com/>.

April Meeting: Cancelled Due to Rain

April's meeting at the home of Russee Parvin was cancelled because of the rainstorm that weekend, but is now planned for October.