

CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER CRFG

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Photo from <https://www.crfg-central.org/calendar>

Next Meeting:

When:

March 9, 2024

Where:

UCCE auditorium and Master Gardener's demonstration garden

2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo

Meeting and demonstrations will be in the auditorium and pergola in the demonstration garden.

Chapter Website: <https://www.crfg-central.org>

Facebook page:
[Facebook-CRFG-Central Coast](#)

YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@californiararefruitgrowers718/videos>

Chapter chairs contact:
central_coast@crfg.org
(underscore between l and c)

For article submissions:
crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com

Announcements



Do you have ideas about where we should have our meetings?

Join the Planning Committee!

Sharon would “love to have more members' input.” If you’re interested please email her at smlovelady2011@gmail.com

Upcoming Demonstration Orchard Workdays:

Saturday, March 16th, 2024
9am -12pm

Dara says: “We will be digging out weeds, putting name tags on trees, and late-pruning some trees.

At 10am we will plant a tree in honor of Chapter member Jaleah Brynn who passed away on 10/9/2023. Please come and share your memories.”

Saturday, July 6th, 2024
9am-12pm

Saturday, October 26th, 2024
9am-12pm

Schedule*:

12:30 Socializing and set-up

1:00 Meeting begins

1:30 Elizabeth Johnson’s presentation starts

2:00 Demonstrations start

*Times are tentative and subject to change. Please check the chapter calendar webpage closer to the event for updates: <https://www.crfg-central.org/calendar>

Parking:

Parking will be in the county parking lot. See [page 3](#) for more information.

Presenter:

Elizabeth Johnson, Seed Saver



Photo from <https://www.crfg-central.org/calendar>

Parking for March Meeting:

Park in the parking lot off of Sierra Way. There will be CRFG signs to guide you.



Our Best CRFG Manners While Visiting Homes, Nurseries, Growers, etc.

1. We never bring pets to meetings/tours and we never even ask if we may!
2. We do our best to use public facilities or our own restroom before the meeting.
3. We do our best not to ask to go inside the hosts' home.
4. We never pick fruit, flowers, foliage, weeds, seed pods and we never even ask.
5. We do our best to car pool and park with great respect to our host and the neighborhood.
6. We never talk when our host is talking. We do our best to stay up close when given a tour.
7. We never "take over" the tour and tell everyone how we do it at our home!!
8. We have thoughtful questions but try not to ask questions that embarrass our host.
9. We do our best to help our host feel good, feel appreciated. We clean up our mess.
10. We stay on the path, with our host ...and never go walking around on our own unless given permission by the host.
11. At the end of the tour, we make a special effort to thank the host. We "gather up" and have some sort of "closure" to the tour.
12. We even write thank you notes when we get home, especially if we asked a lot of questions, were impressed, were surprised, were treated well. We write thank you notes even when we are not the leader.

March Meeting Presenter Biography:

Submitted by Sharon Lovelady

Elizabeth Johnson has gardened organically for 35 years in SLO, growing and saving seeds along the way while producing sculpture and artwork for exhibits and commissions. Her first saved seed was from a volunteer cross between Butter and Romaine lettuce in 1991.

In 2007, she started the SLO Seed Exchange to organize annual community seed exchanges and free educational events. Elizabeth has designed demonstration seed gardens, given talks at the Eco-Farm Conference, at the on-line international Seed Library Summit in 2021, every year at the Santa Barbara Seed Swap, and to a wide variety of groups in SLO county. In 2016, she assisted our County Library in setting up a Seed Library program for the branch libraries to provide free seeds to patrons.

As lead facilitator for SLO Seed Exchange, Elizabeth joined the national Seed Library Network in 2012 and a couple months later she attended the Organic Seed Alliance workshop on basic seed saving and breeding. Since then, she participates in the annual California Organic Seed Growers Conference, the biannual international OSA Conference at Oregon State in Corvallis, and international Seed Library Network activities.

In summer of 2015, she volunteered at Cornell University's Organic Wheat program in Ithaca, NY. With her mentor, she visited research organic wheat plots throughout the northeast, documenting results for farmer-selected seed.

Elizabeth's academic training is in art and design. She keeps logs with maps to track who is who in the garden, dives deep for research, and takes lots of photographs. She encourages every person to learn how to grow at least one plant from seed to seed.

SLO County Libraries: Seed Exchange and Adopt-a-Plant

Submitted by Erica Williams

I contacted the Cambria Library to inquire if they had a seed library. They currently do not, but will have an Adopt-a-Plant program from 4/23 to 4/27 and invited anyone from our club to attend. They “will have sprouts, seeds, and water propagated plants available.”

They also provided a list of library locations that currently have a seed exchange program:

- ✦ Atascadero - 6555 Capistrano, Atascadero, CA 93422
- ✦ Arroyo Grande - 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
- ✦ Los Osos - 2075 Palisades, Los Osos, CA 93402
- ✦ Morro Bay - 625 Harbor Street, Morro Bay, CA 93442
- ✦ Nipomo - 918 West Tefft, Nipomo, CA 93444
- ✦ Santa Margarita - 9630 Murphy Ave, Santa Margarita, CA 93453
- ✦ Shandon - 195 N 2nd Street, Shandon, CA 93461
- ✦ Shell Beach - 230 Leeward Ave, Shell Beach, CA 93449
- ✦ San Luis Obispo - 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

The Spring Compost Giveaway is coming up!

Submitted by Sharon Lovelady

SPRING 2024 – Community Compost Give Away

Saturday, April 6th 2024, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at KOMPOGAS-SLO facility located at [4300 Old Santa Fe Road](#) in SLO.

Go and get your free load of organic compost from the Anaerobic Digestion facility.

There will be self-serve kiosks for those shoveling their own or you will be loaded with a loader if you arrive in a truck or with a trailer. If you have a truck or trailer, you must bring a tarp or you will be turned away.

<https://kompogas-slo.com/>

February Meeting Notes:

Welcome to the new members that signed up! We hope to see you at our next meeting!

The February Scion Exchange was a fun event! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, attended, or contributed to the exchange. A lot of work goes into this event and many volunteers contribute to make it a success. Thank you to the many volunteers and anyone that brought snacks or refreshments to share!

Enjoy some of the photos from the prep night and scion exchange on [page 8](#). There are also some terrific videos submitted by Tom Sheldon on [page 7](#) and on our chapter's [YouTube](#) page.

Scion Store Items Still Available!

If you missed the scion store or realized you forgot something, now is your chance to get it before it is gone!

Here is what is still available:

3 pkgs Bird Netting- 35'x50', extra heavy grade, 3/4" mesh- \$80 ea
9 pkgs Bird Netting- 17'x100', Black and White Medium- \$70 ea
15 pkgs Pheromone Loops- \$10/12ct
1 Zenport Pruner- \$12
8 Bird Scare Tape rolls (262ft)- \$3 ea
3 small Cut Guard Gloves- \$10 ea
3 medium Cut Guard Gloves- \$10 ea
6 containers of Grafting Goop- \$3 ea
1 small Green Tape- \$2 ea

Please contact Terri Monell at 805-546-8981 if interested or you have questions.

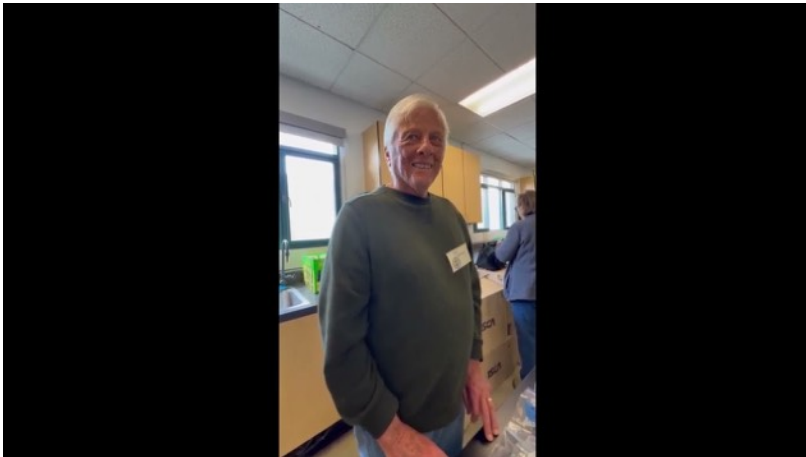
Pick up is in SLO.

Scion Exchange Videos

Submitted by Tom Sheldon



Event overview. This video highlights the people and the activities at the scion exchange, including grafting demonstrations and discussions of fruit varieties and their history.



This is a more complete video about fruit history. Jack Swords and Robert Scott explain where some of the fruit varieties at the annual scion exchange originated. Jack started the Central Coast Chapter of the CRFG (California Rare Fruit Growers) in the early 80s, so he is quite familiar with the fruit varieties shared among members. Many of these fruits came from experimental orchards, university orchards, and even "street trees," some of which were planted by missionaries.



Avocado grafting demo by Craig Righetti and Danny Fritado. Craig and Danny demonstration various grafting techniques and answer many questions.

Scion Exchange Prep Night

Photos Submitted by Dara Manker



Members work to separate rootstocks, fill bottles with grafting goop, write rootstock labels, and make parking signs.



Members were rewarded with a delicious chili made by Elaine and side dishes brought as part of the potluck.

Scion Exchange

Photos submitted by Tom Sheldon, Jenny Weaver, and Erica Williams



Members working hard to prepare before the doors open!



Scion Exchange

Photos submitted by Tom Sheldon, Jenny Weaver, and Erica Williams



Right: Terri Monell preparing items for the store.



Left: Mo and Jean Hyduchak working in the store.



Right: Erica Foronjy working in the store



Scion Exchange

Photos submitted by Tom Sheldon, Jenny Weaver, and Erica Williams



Left: Craig Righetti and Danny Fritado teamed up at the outdoor grafting table.

Below: The outdoor grafting demonstrations.



Scion Exchange

Photos submitted by Tom Sheldon, Jenny Weaver, and Erica Williams



Above: Nell takes a rootstock order.

Left: Manny makes announcements.

Below: A crowd forms waiting for the doors to open.



Scion Exchange

Photos submitted by Tom Sheldon, Jenny Weaver, and Erica Williams



Above and Below: The doors are open and the exchange begins.



Scion Exchange

Photos submitted by Tom Sheldon, Jenny Weaver, and Erica Williams

Right and Below:
Browsing through
scions.



Right: Robert Scott
and other attendees.



Scion Exchange

Photos submitted by Tom Sheldon, Jenny Weaver, and Erica Williams



Above and Below: More browsing through scions!



Scion Exchange

Photos submitted by Tom Sheldon, Jenny Weaver, and Erica Williams



Above and Below: More browsing through scions!



Scion Exchange

Photos submitted by Tom Sheldon, Jenny Weaver, and Erica Williams



Above and Below: Indoor grafting demonstrations.



Article Submissions

Would you pay \$1,780 for a 285-year old lemon?

Submitted by Barry D

Read the article here:

https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2024/01/31/old-lemon-auctioned-Brettells/6001706723000/

Cartoon Submissions

Submitted by Tom Sheldon

