



California Rare Fruit Growers – Central Coast Chapter

March 2018 Newsletter

by Lori Bright

Meeting March 10, 2018



After demonstrating how to cleft-graft a scion to rootstock, Larry Hollis shows us how to do two types of bud grafts. Photo by Dara Manker.

Propagation & Grafting Seminar Extraordinaire!

For our March Meeting Larry Hollis held a Grafting Seminar Extraordinaire! Due to the rain we held it indoors and Larry did a great job of keeping us all under control, engrossed and well-involved.

Larry gave us descriptors for several methods of propagation. He explained why and when it's best to use each method. Some propagation techniques discussed were: air layering, cuttings and even when it's best to use plain old seed. Then we moved onto



Larry explains how deeply the grafting knife should cut the rootstock for the cleft graft. Photo by Tucker Schmidt

grafting.



Chuong and Marv provide expert advice and guidance to grafters. Photo by Dara Manker.

So why do we graft? In short, for control of tree size, disease control and to produce fruit sooner. What can be grafted to what you might ask, well Larry has the answers here too.

When we graft between plants of the same genus and species we will have the best luck. If we graft between two plants of the same genus alone (not the same species as well) it is more "iffy". In the genus *Prunus* we have cherries, plums, apricots, peach, nectarine and almond. You could, in fact buy yourself a grafted tree of a selection of these species. Better yet, graft one yourself. Know your

rootstock and you can build your own Tree Cocktail.

Today, Larry taught us about cleft grafting, chip budding, and other modes of joining rootstock to scion wood. The best time to graft is when the bark begins to slip and always make sure that the cambium

layers match up. Today the crew, under Larry's supervision, used a cleft graft to graft 100 apple trees.

Thanks Larry. That was simply Amazing!

Thanks also to the students from Cal Poly and Cuesta for helping out. What great energy! You guys made the day Fun for all of us.



Art and Larry discuss the upcoming meeting while the rootstock stand by, awaiting new owners. Photo by Tucker Schmidt



Cal Poly Fruit Science student checks a scion cut to ensure a successful graft. Photo by Dara Manker.



Cal Poly student volunteers help aspiring grafters become successful ones. Photo by Dara Manker.



*Thank you Cal Poly Fruit Science and Cuesta students for taking the time to volunteer at our meeting. We loved your being completely engaged and engaging... you were outstanding!
Photo by Mark Woefle*

Thanks to Nell for the Plant Smorgasbord! Let's not forget that these plants were lovingly raised and donated, so thanks to everyone that brought in their plants to share. What a fabulous selection of goodies and Free to Boot!

Another successful and educational meeting.



Larry holds up a bag of Kellogg (G&B) potting soil. Thank you Kellogg for donating soil for our grafting education meetings! Photo by Mark Woefle



Yesssss! This is what it's all about!!! Photo by Mark Woefle

Announcements

Orchard Maintenance Saturday, April 28th, 2018.

Time: 9am - noon

We're doing maintenance of the CRFG Central Coast Chapter Demonstration Orchard. Come help thin fruit, fix drip lines, pull weeds, weed wack, and fill gopher/squirrel holes!

Marv & Tucker Graft To Donate to Non-Profits!

Central Coast
CRFG Members
Marv Daniels
and Tucker
Schmidt have
been busy
grafting apple
scions to
rootstock. They
will donate
these trees to
non-profit
groups, most of
which are in
SLO county.
Marv has been
doing this for
quite some
time, and

Tucker has been helping for several years now.

By the way, if you missed Marv's article about how he started apple grafting, be sure to read it in [last month's newsletter!](#)

Here is a partial list of the non-profits that have received their trees:

- Afternoon of Epicurean



Photo by Keri Tucker



Photo by Keri Tucker

Delight

- Arroyo Grande Village Summer Concert Series
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Luis Obispo County
- Cambria Historical Society
- CAPS
- CASA of San Luis Obispo County
- Central Coast Aquarium, Avila Beach
- Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers Organization
- Central Coast Roadroad Festival
- Central Coast Woman's League
- Central Coast Woodcarvers
- Center for Creative Thought
- ECOSLO
- Family Care Network inc
- Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County
- Fort Hope
- GleanSLO
- Goleta Valley Railroad Club in Goleta, CA
- Heritage Days, Cambria
- Hesperia Hall Quilt Show
- Hi Mountain Lookout
- Jubilee by the Sea

- KELRIK Productions
 - Los Padres Forest Association
 - Nacitone Museum Organization
 - Noor Foundation
 - Opera San Luis Obispo
 - Pacific Repertory Opera
 - Quiet Star Center
 - RSVP
 - San Antonio Valley Historical Association
 - San Luis Lighthouse Association
 - San Luis Obispo Bicycle Club inc
 - San Luis Obispo City Parks and Recreation
 - Senior Nutrition Program
 - SLO Bigs
 - SLO Buddhist Temple
 - SLO CASA
 - SLO Co., 4-H
 - SLO Symphony
 - South Bay Woman's Network
 - Stepping Stones
 - St. Patrick School Catholic School
 - Senior Volunteer Services
 - Wine Waves & Beyond
 - Woman's Alliance Hospice SL
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