

The Leaflett

California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter Newsletter
Volume 12 • Issue 6 • NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009



2009 The Year of the Olive

This is the last issue of our “Year of the Olive” newsletter. While we haven’t focused greatly on the noble fruit in this newsletter, I hope you have made the effort to learn something new about the olive on your own.

However, there is only one thing you really need to know about olives and that is that one of the best things about olives is eating them! Whether you are a “digitizer” (that’s a person who takes pitted black olives, sticks one on each finger, and delicately eats them off one at a time like the little girl in the photo) or a “gourmetizer” (okay, so that isn’t a word) who sees the deli olive selection as just short of Nirvana, there is an olive for (nearly) every taste!



September Meeting



Ninety people found their way up See Canyon on Saturday, September 12 to hear Mike Cirone give a wonderful presentation on dry-land fruit farming. We were amazed at the size and flavor of the fruit we tasted (apples and Last Chance peaches) and awed that fruit could be grown in our area with no supplemental watering. Mike is a terrific speaker and wonderful about answering our “1,000” questions. His daughter, Kalena, was an integral part of his show, too. What a wonderful experience

it was! Thanks again, Mike, and thanks, too, to Dr. Reg Gordon who allowed us to spill over onto his property and to use his driveway!

October Meeting

After a brief business meeting, we broke into five groups and went to different stations within our Community Demonstration Orchard on the Cal Poly Campus to learn about "Orchard Management". Our five very talented speakers conducted small group workshops and discussions as follows: Larry Hollis—summer pruning; Patti Schober—IPM and orchard health; John Crowe—painting exposed branches and trunk bark; Robert Scott—T-budding; and Joe Sabol—mulching fruit trees. Everyone—except the five doing the workshops—got to rotate to all the groups and learn more than they imagined they would. Work even got done on the orchard! Great job you instructors and thank you!



“Snail Mail” Newsletter Fees Are Due In January

If your name appears below, please send your newsletter fees (**\$6 for 1-year or \$25 for 5-years**) for 2010 to our treasurer, Dick Pottratz, at 2430 Leona Avenue, SLO, CA, 93401.

Harry Toy; Mary M. Walcher; Michael Keeling; Priscilla Mikesell; James A. Guse; Kenet Curtain; Virginia Egelund; and Dennis Voss.

In Memoriam—Dr. D JOHN PETER DEVINCENZO



It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of another of our staunch CRFG supporters, John DeVincenzo, known to one and all as “Dr. D.” According to his obituary, “John Peter DeVincenzo, 73, passed away from an apparent heart attack on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009. He was found in the back of his favorite truck, a ‘58 Chevy, in the middle of his favorite apple orchard, Gopher Glen Apple Farm in See Canyon.”

Dr. D has hosted our group more than once and we always came away affected by his enthusiasm

for growing things—especially apples! He was also a generous provider of scion wood used for the high school apple grafting program. A very special apple tree will be planted in his honor in our Community Orchard on the Cal Poly campus in the spring of 2010.

Announcements

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Betty Tegner, Michelle & Sal Graceffa, Warren Bates, Mike Baumgarten, George Frisch, Ron Ziegler, and Ed & Gaye Peltzman.

JOIN THE NATIONAL CRFG: If you **haven't** joined the national organization of the **California Rare Fruit Growers**, why not? With your membership you receive a wonderful color magazine, *The Fruit Gardener*, filled with great articles on fruit growing, news, many chapter activities and contacts. You can also vote on important membership issues and even elect the governing board. Where else can you get so much for a mere \$3.00 a month? That's less than one trip to that specialty coffee place! Dues are **\$36 annually** or **3 years for \$100**. Membership applications are available from **Joe Sabol**. Call him at **544-1056** if you can't find him at a meeting or sign-up online at www.crfg.org. (If you prefer, you can save more by subscribing to the magazine by **e-mail only** which is just **\$25** per year!)

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER FEES: Please be sure your chapter newsletter fees are current and save our treasurer, Dick Pottratz, lots of work and begging. Newsletter fees are due January 1 of each year. Looking to save some money? Then pay the five-year rate of \$25 and you will save \$5 (since the **annual fee is \$6**)!

LINDCOVE OPEN HOUSE: The annual December Citrus Fruit Display and Tasting will be held again this year. As of press time I do not have the date, but you can contact the employees there for further information if you are interested. The University of California Lindcove Research and Extension Center is located at 22963 Carson Avenue (Corner of Road 228 and Avenue 315 North of Exeter) Exeter, CA. For more information, please contact Anita Hunt at 559-592-2408 Ext. 151 or by email at amdhunt@ucdavis.edu

Calendar of Meetings – 2009

Meetings are held the **second Saturday** of the month and **begin at 1:30 PM unless otherwise indicated**. Bring a friend, car pool, and, for most meetings, **bring a chair** for all in your party. **No pets** at any meeting, please! Pet Daniels suggests we **bring our own bottled water** to drink, too. What fun it is to be a member of **CRFG**!

November 14—SLO HIGH SCHOOL: Ag teacher, Erin Thompson, and her students will be our teachers in the process of air layering Feijoa and hibiscus plants! These students are bright and enthusiastic and we always have a great time with them—remember those Christmas wreaths last year? We'll have a brief business meeting before the instruction. Refreshments by the **A-G team**, please!

provided by the H-R Group. This is a heavily attended meeting, so please bring plenty of snacks to share! Thank you!

**February 20—Third Saturday—Annual Grafting Meeting and Scion Exchange—
Outside Cal Poly Crops Unit Classroom:** Plan to arrive early for this heavily attended meeting! We will have a scion exchange, and grafting knives, Buddy Tape, and rootstock for sale. Cal Poly students usually have some great plants for sale at this meeting, too!
Refreshments to be provided by the S-Z Group. This is a heavily attended meeting, so please bring plenty of snacks to share! Thank you!

Directions to Cal Poly Crops Unit: From San Luis Obispo, take the HWY 101 Santa Rosa exit (Hwy 1) towards Morro Bay. Go to Highland Avenue and enter the Cal Poly campus. You will see Mt. Bishop Road to the left. Turn in immediately and park. There is no parking fee on Saturday.

Central Coast Chapter CRFG Contact Information: **Larry Hollis**, co-chair, l_hollis@hotmail.com or **704-1513**; **Patti Schober**, co-chair, iampwolfy@charter.net or **467-5097**; **Art DeKleine**, program chair, adeklein@calpoly.edu or **543-9455**; **Joe Sabol**, publicity, jsabol@calpoly.edu or **544-1056**; **Dick Pottratz**, treasurer, pottratz@sbcglobal.net; and **Lennette Horton**, newsletter editor, handynana@gmail.com or **474-6501**.