

CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER CRFG

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Next Meeting

July 11, 2026: July Fruit Tasting in the CRFG Orchard

This is an annual event for our chapter, in which we visit the demonstration orchard during stone fruit season, and members bring fruit from their home gardens and orchards to share.

Schedule:

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

12:30-1: Set up crew

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

Bring home-grown fruit, if you have it, or a snack to share and your own water.

1:30: Chapter business meeting.

1:45-3:00: Share your harvest with other attendees, and walk through the CRFG

Central Coast chapter's orchard and sample whatever fruit is ready. More information about the orchard and a map of the trees planted there can be found at [https://www.crfg-](https://www.crfg-central.org/orchard)

[central.org/orchard](https://www.crfg-central.org/orchard)

Bring:

Home-grown fruit to share, if you have some ready to pick, or a snack to share, and your water bottle. Wear clothes and shoes suitable for walking in dirt.

Where:

CRFG-Central Coast demonstration orchard, Highland Drive (on the Cal Poly campus), San Luis Obispo, CA.

Additional Info:

The public is welcome! Please bring a friend.

Restrooms will be available.

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!"

Location & Parking:

Highland Drive (on Cal Poly campus), San Luis Obispo, CA



Announcements

June 27: CRFG Orchard Maintenance Work Day

We're cleaning up the demonstration orchard (see map above) for our July meeting, on June 27, from 9 a.m. to noon. Help prune branches, pull weeds, repair the fence, hang tree signs, and perform other orchard maintenance tasks. If you can't make it by 9, come when you can, and work as long as you like. There's a job for everyone!

July 6: Chapter Board Meeting:

On July 6, at 7:00 p.m., the board of the Central Coast chapter will hold a special meeting on Zoom, to re-adopt the chapter bylaws and discuss the need to raise chapter dues. Board meetings are open to chapter members. The zoom code is:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88115421820?
pwd=mXmJL2PiRghVlfSVxBsTrT3UYTxCQt.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88115421820?pwd=mXmJL2PiRghVlfSVxBsTrT3UYTxCQt.1)

Meeting ID: 881 1542 1820
Passcode: 056472

July 19 and 23: California Mid-State Fair

CRFG will have a table and exhibit at the Mid-State Fair 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. We'll be demonstrating basic grafting techniques and answering questions from visitors.

The 2026 Festival of Fruit: The Year of Eugenia and Her Sisters

“If you want to see real rare fruit, come to southern California.” For me, this was possibly the main takeaway from this year’s Festival of Fruit, the first since 2019. Our hosts, the Orange County chapter of CRFG, chose as their theme “Eugenia and her Sisters” and featured, among other events, a fruit tasting of two tables of mostly tropical fruit, a lot of which were completely new to me. The Eugenias, I learned from several of the speakers, are a vast collection of plants in the Myrtaceae (myrtle) family. They grow all over the world and produce fruit from smaller in size than your pinky fingernail to as large as a grapefruit. Most of it I’d never heard of. Many of the varieties grow in tropical and subtropical regions on six of the seven continents. Speakers at the festival had traveled to Brazil, Peru, Thailand, India, Australia, and other countries in search of new varieties of fruiting Eugenia, and some of them are working on growing them in their own gardens and greenhouses. A few will be familiar to us: we have a Surinam Cherry tree and a Cherry of the Rio Grande in our demonstration orchard, and strawberry guavas are fairly common landscape plants. But many are basically unknown outside their country of origin or even isolated villages where the people who live there harvest them from the forest nearby.

The Festival ran from June 9 through the 14th. It began with several days of tours of members’ gardens and local garden-related businesses. On Friday evening, attendees got to tour the amazing orchard and greenhouses of the Long Beach Community College horticulture department.

The main event, on Saturday, June 13, took place at Cal State Fullerton. It was a day of speakers, with a tempting raffle of donated garden tools, books, gift cards, and so forth. The presentations on Saturday included talks on dozens of topics, including air layering, kiwis, mushrooms, olives, figs, dates, passion fruit, mangos, bananas, plant pests, soils, and plant genetics.

Several vendors sold plants, honey, and garden-themed merchandise during the Saturday program. Individual chapters were invited to set up tables, to educate festival attendees about what we do in different parts of the state. Manny and Dara brought our table display and set it up. It attracted quite a few people who stopped to chat; it was a great advertisement for our chapter and fruit growing in general on the Central Coast.

Some photos from the Festival:





A Note from the Festival: Our Visit to the Cal State Fullerton Arboretum

Linda Robertson

One of the tours listed in the Festival of Fruit schedule was the arboretum at Cal State Fullerton, the main venue for the Festival. It wasn't actually a tour, but a recommendation for an interesting plant-related place to visit in the area. Michael and I spent an hour there on Sunday morning.

Hidden in a corner of the large, modern campus, the arboretum is an old-fashioned space, almost a park, but with trees grouped together and labeled. A creek runs through it, with pretty water plants and a grassy bank that would be perfect for a picnic. There is a rose garden with antique and modern roses, many identified by variety, a rare fruit grove, and a Mediterranean garden in front of one of the park buildings.

A nostalgic feature was the reproduction of an old farmhouse and orange orchard. Some of us are old enough to remember when Orange County was a place of small towns and vast orange groves, before the land was taken over by development. To walk past the gingerbread farmhouse, with its water tower and windmill and its kitchen garden, into the sunny orange orchard behind it was to travel into a landscape from southern California's agricultural past. I was pleased to see it, to feel that sense of abundance that comes from being among trees filled with fruit, and to know that a small domestic piece of the state's history has been preserved for the area's young people to learn from.

