



California Rare Fruit Growers – Central Coast Chapter

October 2019 Newsletter

by Lori Bright

October 12 2019: Meeting: Rick Tibben's Home



Another Beautiful day on the Central Coast! We met at the lovely home of Rick Tibben. Tucker greeted us and we began our meeting. Tucker said that the Harvest and Fall Festivals were great successes.

SLO City Farms will be having their **Fall Festival on October 20th** where we will have a booth and could still use some help from 1:00-5:00.

Work Day at the CRFG Demo Orchard will be on October 26th from 9am to Noon. Can we count you in? Let's do lunch when we're done?

We had an UGLY FRUIT CONTEST. Yep, and they were ugly. Our winners were:

- 3rd Place: Alisha (with an ugly Knobbed Russet Apple)
- 2nd Place: Joe (with an ugly Pear)
- 1st Place: Myron (with a lemon masquerading as a buddha hand!)
NICE ONE!



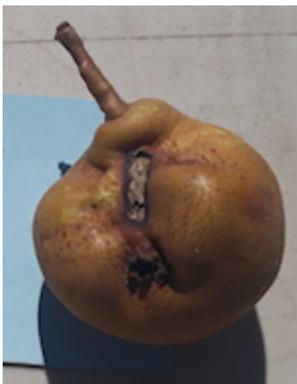
The scholarship winners were tasked with judging the 1st Annual Ugly Fruit contest.



Behold the Ugly Fruit!



Myron's 1st place Ugly Lemon!



Joe Sabol's 2nd place Ugly Pear



Joe's reward for winning 2nd place is the dragonfruit he donated for the contest!

We gave out more Scholarships. Four at One Thousand dollars each! Amazing huh? Our recipients this time were:



Joe Sabol, Adam Afriade, Sammy Springer, Annie O'Neill, Gareth McCormick

- Adam Afriade
- Sammy Springer
- Gareth McCormick
- Annie O'Neill

Congratulations to you all!

**Dixon
Smith is
now
heading
up our
Coffee
Grounds
Pick-up at**

the Black Horse Coffee House. He is working on making the schedule smoother and the pick-ups easier.

Please see Dixon if you would like to participate or have any suggestions.



Dixon explains about the enhancements he's made to the coffee grounds pickup program.

Pat shared that he, along with Marv, Joe and Roger helped teach 450 fourth-graders to graft. 1500 fourth-graders attended AGventure North 2019. Nice job guys. Those will be our future farmers and fruit growers.

Joe gave out some Bay Laurel Bare-root Catalogs. They are simply the best local place for getting our all of our Barefoot edibles. Oh, and don't get me started on their fabulous collection of roses. Within their catalog are answers to many fruit gardener questions such as "What are my chill hours?", "Why does it matter?", "What type of rootstock should I be using?", "What is an Inter-specific Hybrid, and why should I want one?". I make a sojourn to Bay Laurel right after the first of every year. This is a tradition I highly recommend. 😊

Rick Tibben moved to Nipomo in 1999 and bought a property that had an existing orchard. Many of the trees were in poor condition. Rick removed the bad ones as well as the majority of an 8800 sq. ft. lawn, and began to renovate. Rick is a big believer in planting fruit trees that will have successions of fruit so as to extend his harvest period. Rick now has Avocado, Citrus, Persimmons, Apples, Plums, Apricots, Pluerries, Pluots, Nectarines and Peaches. He has a Strawberry Guava, a Mexican Cherry and a Peacotum too! He has Marion Berries, Raspberries, Blackberries and Blueberries.







I think his biggest love, however, must be The Growing of Giant Pumpkins. His first giant pumpkin weighed in at 246 pounds, no shrimp by any means, but he wasn't at all satisfied with that weight. Rick is selective about the seed he uses and has paid up to \$100.00 for one seed! Wow! So now his top weight for a single pumpkin is 700 pounds! Geeze! We were able to view a big one in-the-works. His estimate on

that one was 500 pounds. It was humongous.



So here are a few growing hints for those that might want to embark on this spirited pursuit for themselves. Start with good Atlantic Giant Seed. Rick starts his in his greenhouse in late April or early May. He shifts them to 1 gallon pots before planting them out. Once they are in the ground he very regularly feeds them fertilizers including, but not limited to Kelp, Compost Tea, Calcium and mycorrhiza.



He keeps all but one fruit cut off each vine. As the vines roam, and they will run for 40 feet, he prunes them back to a tidy 20 ft.

Make way for the Giant Pumpkin! Well, I'm inspired. How about you?

Thanks Rick, that was fun.

Master Gardeners' Fall Festival: Saturday, September 21 2019, 10am - 2pm.

A big thanks to all who donated plants... and to all those who came to help at the Master Gardeners' big Event!! A very successful event!!! We made a lot of friends today, sold some nice plants, told stories, had fun.



2nd shift volunteers Gundi, Nell, Manny, and Mark.



Mark, Dara, Manny, Pat, Nell, Maureen.

**Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival: Saturday, September 28 2019,
9am - 4pm.**

Another big thanks to all who donated plants and those who volunteered at the CRFG booth at the 82nd Annual Harvest Festival!! Many people stopped by the CRFG booth to ask questions, buy plants, and swap stories about their trees and

gardens. Pat even donated a multi-grafted apple tree to a couple who had just gotten married!





How To Never Have A Serious Poison Oak/Ivy Rash Again!

Thank you, Marv, for recommending this helpful video:
[How to never have a serious poison oak/ivy rash again](#)