



CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER CRFG

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

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

YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@californiarefruitgrowers718/videos>

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

For article submissions:
crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com



Photo by Jared Williams

Next Meeting

When:

April 20, 2024*

*Please note this meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday instead of the 2nd Saturday due to Cal Poly's Open house.

Schedule:

- 12:00 Setup
- 1:00 Refreshments and socializing
- 1:30 Meeting begins and includes Scholarship announcements.
- 2:00 Tour and Presentation
- 3:00-3:30 Clean up

Bring:

Snacks to share and your folding chair. Wear shoes suitable for walking on dirt.

Announcements



Volunteers Needed!

We have been invited to have a booth in Nipomo at the Greenhouse Growers Association Fundraiser on April 13. We can only do this if club members volunteer to staff the booth. This is a great opportunity to share about our club! Please contact Manny at: mannym25@gmail.com or by phone: 805 295-0613

Join the Planning Committee!

Do you have ideas about where we should have our meetings? Sharon would "love to have more members' input." If you're interested please email her at smlovelady2011@gmail.com

Upcoming Demonstration Orchard Workdays:

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

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

Where

Cal Poly Experimental Garden: Nicholas Babin Ph.D. will be our presenter

Additional Info:

No bathroom at the facility. Go before you go! You can read more about the farm and program here:

https://cfs.calpoly.edu/Student_Experimental_Farm

Parking:

Parking will be in the rodeo area parking lot. Check the chapter website for parking updates.



Photo by Jared Williams

Parking for April Meeting:

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.

April Meeting Information:

Submitted by Sharon Lovelady

The CAFES Experimental Farm (formerly known as the Student Experimental Farm) is a two-acre farm and garden that has served as a hands-on living laboratory for Cal Poly students since 1989. In keeping with its name, it has been home to an interdisciplinary array of innovative appropriate technology projects, demonstrating everything from sustainable agriculture and horticulture to holistic management, aquaponics, alternative energy and green building. With a panoramic view of campus, it has also served as a popular meeting spot for classes, workshops and community gatherings. The farm is managed by the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) and is located next to the Compost Unit off of Mount Bishop Road.

Dr. Nick Babin is an assistant professor of Agroecology in the Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences Department at Cal Poly. He manages the Agroecology Learning Garden located with the CAFES Experimental Farm. This garden serves as an outdoor classroom and laboratory for a variety of courses he teaches including Natural Resource Ecology, Agroecology, and Social Dimensions of Sustainable Food Systems. It is also the focal for ongoing research projects with undergraduate and MS students concerning the ecological evaluation of perennial grain and vegetable intercropping systems.

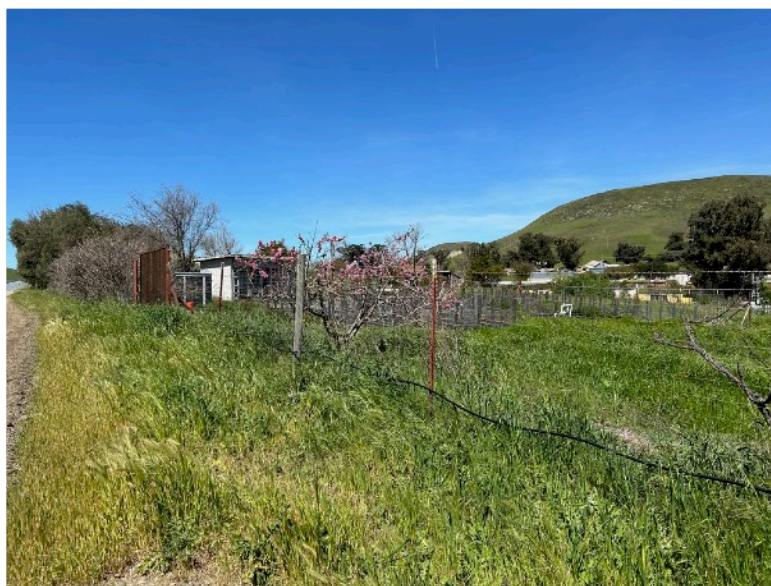


Photo by Jared Williams

March Meeting Notes

The March meeting showcased two types of propagation (grafting and seed saving) was held on a beautiful day and well attended. Elizabeth Johnson gave a presentation on seeds and provided information to attendees on how to save seeds. She also brought free seeds and encouraged everyone to take as many as they wanted! Terri Monell brought the scion exchange store to the meeting and rare plants and gardening supplies were sold with proceeds to benefit the scholarship fund. Nell made beautiful corsages. Mark and Elaine sold rootstock. Claudia, Manny and Marv gave grafting demonstrations. Many thanks to Elizabeth Johnson for educating us about the huge variety of seeds we can save and plant, and bringing so many for us to grow; and also to everyone in the chapter who worked so hard planning, setting up, transporting and potting rootstock, teaching and doing grafting, selling plants and merch, providing food and coffee in challenging conditions, and everything else people did to make the day a success. And congratulations, Sharon, on being our new liaison with the Seed Savers -- looking forward to an ongoing relationship between our two groups. See photos starting below and continued on [page 13](#).

March Meeting Photos



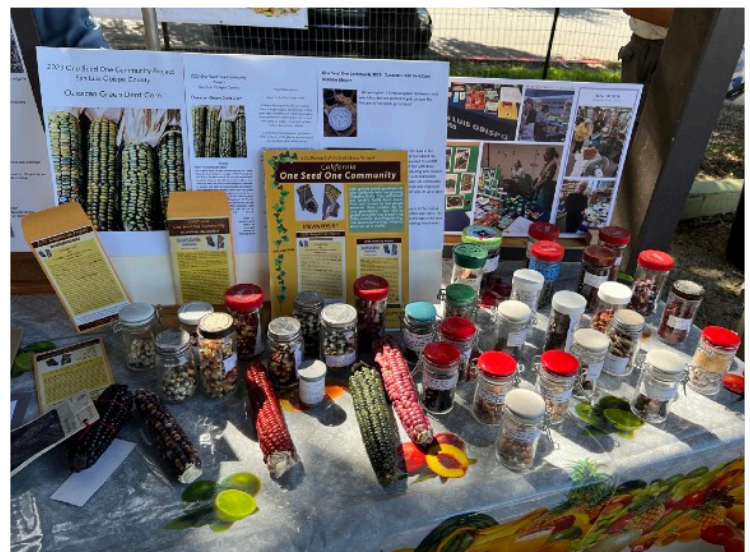
Elizabeth Johnson setting up the seed display -
Photo by Dara Manker



Debbie Jo Bird at the seed display - Photo by Tom Sheldon



Seed display - Photos by Tom Sheldon



You Can Still Buy Rootstock, And It's Already Been Potted For You!

Send your purchase request to Manny:
mannym25@gmail.com

Please include your full name, phone number, and type and quantity of rootstock.

Price: \$5/potted rootstock.

Apple: M.7 EMLA

Semi-dwarf rootstock, Produces trees about 50-60% of standard. Good resistance to collar rot and fireblight and adapts well to a wide range of soil types and climates. Has a tendency to sucker.



Rootstock ready for sale - Photo by Dara Manker

Sweet Cherry: Prunus avium, "Mazzard"

The most-common standard-size sweet-cherry rootstock. Produces a very vigorous tree with good anchorage. Some tolerance to root fungus. Will grow on a wide range of soils.

Plum/Apricot:

Prunus Marianna 2624

Compatible with plums, apricots, some almonds. Not compatible with peaches and nectarines. Produces a semi-dwarf tree well adapted to many different soil types. Can be shallow rooted the first couple years and susceptible to leaning until established so staking may be necessary. Somewhat prone to suckering. Tolerates wet soils. Resistant to root knot nematodes, lightly resistant to phytophthora, but prone to bacterial canker.

Prunus mariana GF 8-1

Produces a standard sized tree (10 – 15 ft). Is very robust and adapts to all types of soil. Mariana produces good crops of plums, but doesn't anchor well when it is young and tends to produce root suckers. It resists root knot nematodes, root asphyxia, oak root fungus, crown gall, and prune brown line, but is susceptible to bacterial cankers.

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:

Bird netting 35x50 ft extra heavy grade Raschel knitted \$80
Bird netting 17x100 ft medium black and white netting \$70
Pruners \$15
Budding knives \$15
Green grafting tape \$2
Aluminum tree tags \$4/10ct.

Pheromone loops are on back order and hopefully will arrive in about a month.

Please contact Terri Monell at 805-546-8981 if interested or you have questions.
Pick up is in SLO.

King City High School Apple Grafting Day

Submitted by Marv Daniels

On March 15, 2024, a King City High School Horticulture Class was taught to graft by some of our members, including Marv Daniels, Jim and Bridget Ritterbush, and Dan Daniels. They were really good students and the day was a success!



Left to Right: Jessica (teacher), Jerry Clark (retired teacher), Jim & Bridget Ritterbush, and Dan Daniels (Marv's brother) - Photo by Marv Daniels



King City High School teacher Patrick Smith in center apple grafting - Photo by Marv Daniels

CRFG Demonstration Orchard Workday

Saturday, March 16 th , 2024

by Dara Manker

Our Orchard workday was well-attended. Nearly 30 people were there, about a third of whom arrived expressly to participate in the memorial tree planting for long-time member Jaleah Brynn.

We gathered to plant a Li Jujube tree that Jaleah's friends had purchased in her honor. They chose this unique tree as a representation of Jaleah's unique spirit. Memories were shared, Manny planted the tree, and we now have a lovely new addition to the orchard (visible to the right in the foreground).



Jaleah Memorial Group - Photo by Dara Manker

Before and after the memorial tree planting, we spruced up the orchard:

- Mowed the orchard a few days before.
- Planted a yellow on white sapote, red jaboticaba, purple grumichama, and pitangatuba donated by Seth M.; and a guabiju donated by Jack S.
- Dozens and dozens of remaining rootstock were potted.
- The potting area was cleaned up and repopulated with the potted rootstock.
- The front fence, which some scalawag had squashed down, was repaired.
- Grafted apple varieties to the orchard's apple trees.
- Grafted persimmon varieties to the orchard's persimmon trees.
- Dead wood was pruned from some trees.
- Weeds were removed from around the younger, fenced trees.



Jaleah Memorial Group - Photo by Marv Daniels

Attendees: Orchard co-managers Manny, Jesse, and I thank you for participating!



Jaleah Memorial Group - Photo submitted by Marv Daniels

Upcoming Plant Festivities

Cuesta College Plant Sale

When and Where: Online plant sales will begin April 2nd. The pickup will be April 12th and 13th at the North County Campus in Paso Robles from 8am to 6pm on Friday, and 8am to 2pm on Saturday. There will be a pickup of plants in SLO on the Cuesta Campus in Parking Lot #3.

What: A large selection of tomato varieties including slicers, paste, cherry and some heirloom varieties for hot inland and coastal areas. Pepper plants will include various color bell peppers, sweet frying peppers and a good selection of hot chiles including Jalapeños, Serranos, Anaheims and Poblanos. Other plants to be sold include eggplants, tomatillos, squash, melons, cucumbers, basil, and many types of herbs.

The Spring Compost Giveaway is coming up!

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/>

Central Coast Dahlia Society

Annual Dahlia Tuber and Mini Plant Sale
Sunday, April 14, 2024
9:30am UNTIL SOLD OUT
3241 South Higuera St.,
SLO 93401 (Across from the DMV)



Over 300 varieties of dahlias for sale. Knowledgeable members to help and answer questions! Cash, Check, Debit, and Venmo Accepted

Cambria Library Adopt-a-Plant Program

When: April 23-27

What: Members from our club are invited to attend. They “will have sprouts, seeds, and water propagated plants available.” (Cambria librarian)

Master Gardeners’ Workshops

Grow Your Best Vegetable Garden this Year

The UC Master Gardeners of San Luis Obispo County will host a FREE community workshop for home gardeners on Saturday April 6th from 10AM to 12PM at the Pergola at Centennial Park (if inclement weather, workshop will be moved indoors).

Participants will learn the importance of prepping their vegetable garden for success through soil management, planting the right vegetables for their conditions, and watering. Raised beds, gopher and pest control, as well as amendments will be discussed. Questions and audience participation is encouraged! The garden will be opened after the workshop, weather permitting and based on volunteer availability.

Click the link to register: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgslo/>

Gardening with Succulents

April 20, 2024 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

In this workshop you'll learn:

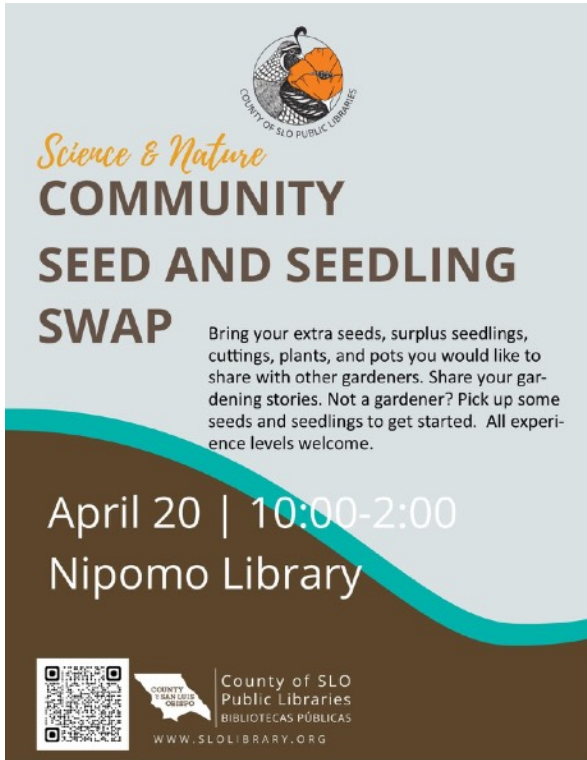
- Characteristics of Succulents and Cacti
- Landscape and gardening uses
- Right Plant, Right Place: how to choose best succulents for your Sunset zone
- Live demonstration of various succulent propagation methods

2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, CA

Click the link to register: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgslo/>

Upcoming Plant Festivities

Nipomo Library Community Seed and Seedling Swap



Science & Nature
COMMUNITY SEED AND SEEDLING SWAP

Bring your extra seeds, surplus seedlings, cuttings, plants, and pots you would like to share with other gardeners. Share your gardening stories. Not a gardener? Pick up some seeds and seedlings to get started. All experience levels welcome.

April 20 | 10:00-2:00
Nipomo Library

County of SLO Public Libraries
BIBLIOTECAS PÚBLICAS
WWW.SLOLIBRARY.ORG

American Association of University Women Garden Tour Fundraiser



Join us in the garden for the 36th Annual GARDEN TOUR

Hosted by the American Association of University Women!

PROCEEDS ARE USED FOR HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS IN MORRO BAY, A NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AT CUESTA COLLEGE AND TO SEND SEVERAL 7TH GRADE GIRLS TO A TECH SUMMER CAMP AT CSU MONTEREY BAY IN JULY TO STUDY THE STEM SUBJECTS.

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT:
VOLUMES OF PLEASURE IN LOS OSOS
COALESCE BOOKSTORE IN MORRO BAY
FARM SUPPLY (LOCATIONS INCLUDE SLO, AG AND PASO ROBLES)
MY80STIX.COM - USE THE QR CODE
OR WITH ANY AAUW MEMBER

GET YOUR WALKING SHOES ON! SCAN THE QR CODE TO EASILY PURCHASE YOUR TICKET!

SUNDAY APRIL 28 2024 FROM 12-5PM TICKETS ARE \$15

CCGGA Open House Scholarship Fundraiser



CENTRAL COAST GREENHOUSE GROWERS ASSOCIATION
www.ccgga.com

Family fun-filled day event...
Plant Sales, Demos, and Educational Booths!

CCGGA
21st Annual
OPEN HOUSE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

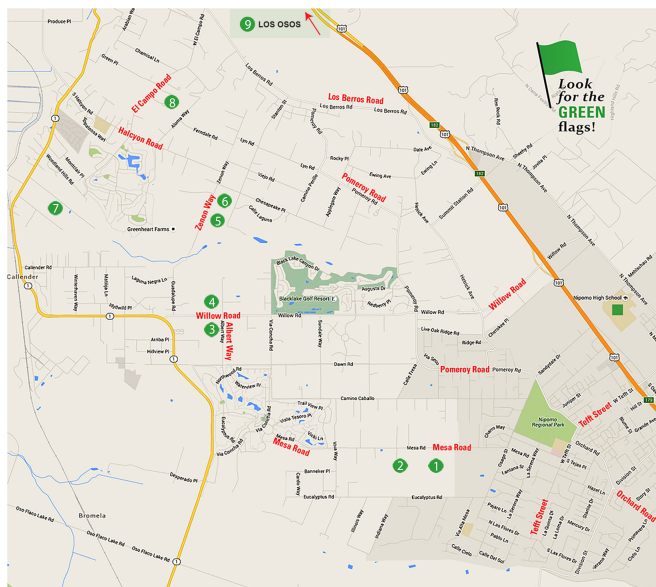
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 9AM-2PM

Begin your tour at CCGGA Education Center located at Nipomo High School.

A selection of plants will be available for purchase from several nurseries.

Proceeds benefit the CCGGA Scholarship Fund.

INFORMATION: (800) 961-8901 or info@ccgga.com



- 21st Annual CCGGA OPEN HOUSE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
Plant Sales, Demos, and Educational Booths!
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 9AM-2PM
- Begin tour at CCGGA Education Center located at Nipomo High School
- 1 Eufelia Flowers 885 Mesa Road, Nipomo Rose and spray rose bouquets.
 - 2 Altman Plants 987 Mesa Road, Nipomo Assortment of potted indoor foliage plants and succulents.
 - 3 Holland America Flowers 808 Albert Way, Nipomo Lily bulbs, fresh cut lilies, tulips, snapdragons, and pre-made mixed bouquets.
 - 4 Ocean Breeze 1810 Willow Road, Arroyo Grande Gerbera daisies, oriental lilies, sunflowers, dianthus, statice, solidaster and avocados.
 - 5 Ball Tagawa Growers 812 Zenon Way, Arroyo Grande Assorted ornamental and vegetable seedlings. Select from a wide range of annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs.
 - 6 Ball FloraPlant 725 Zenon Way, Arroyo Grande Flowering potted plants, mainly annuals and lots of hanging baskets.
 - 7 West Covina Nursery 2453 Fowler Lane, Arroyo Grande We provide plants from Australia, South Africa and California that are suited to the local climate.
 - 8 Native Sons 379 W. El Campo Road, Arroyo Grande Providing California gardens with plants that flourish in a Mediterranean climate including perennials, grasses and shrubs.
 - 9 Cal Coast Orchids 2181 Blue Heron View Lane, Los Osos Phalaenopsis orchids and an assortment of tropical houseplants. Specialty orchids include Paphiopedilum, Cymbidium and Dendrobium.

Article Submissions

How to grow Pineapple guavas (Feijoa) in cooler climates

Submitted by Marv Daniels

An article about growing Feijoas or "Pineapple Guavas" in cooler climates. Although it's written about growing in South Carolina, Zone 7b, I think it can still apply to growers north of the Cuesta Grade.

Not only does the article have information about protecting plants when it's very cold, it covers pollination, easily starting plants from seeds and the characteristics of all the varieties.

Read article here:

<https://www.tyrantfarms.com/how-to-grow-pineapple-guavas-feijoa-in-cooler-climates/>

Giant blueberry grown in Australia smashes Guinness World Record for heaviest ever!

Read article here:

<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2024/3/behemoth-blueberry-grown-in-australia-verified-as-heaviest-ever-767762>



World Record Blueberry from Costa Group Facebook

Home with Orchard for Sale

Submitted by Claudia Callwood

If you're looking for a home with a beautiful established fruit orchard already planted, there is one for sale in Atascadero right now! Read more here: https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/9305-Santa-Lucia-Rd-Atascadero-CA-93422/15430577_zpid/



March Meeting Photos



Elizabeth Johnson gives her presentation - Photo by Erica Williams



Nell and Elaine selling rootstock - Photo by Erica Williams



Terri working the store - Photo by Dara Manker



Sharon speaking to the audience - Photo by Dara Manker

March Meeting Photos



Nell and Larry - Photo by Dara Manker



Nell making corsages - Photo by Dara Manker



Mark and Elaine - Photo by Dara Manker

March Meeting Photos



Attendees take seeds - Photo by Erica Williams



Claudia grafts an apple - Photo by Erica Williams



Members visit while Marv (center) smiles after spotting the camera - Photo by Erica Williams

March Meeting Photos



Manny grafts a fig - Photo by Erica Williams



Members visit after the presentation - Photo by Erica Williams



Jenny smiles, other members talk - Photo by Tom Sheldon



Marv grafts an apple - Photo by Erica Williams

March Meeting Photos



Some of the items available for sale - Photo by Tom Sheldon



Rootstock sales and corsage making- Photo by Tom Sheldon



Attendees shop the scion store - Photo by Tom Sheldon

March Meeting Photos



Mark smiles for the camera - Photo by Tom Sheldon



Medhi poses for a photo - Photo by Tom Sheldon



Larry shows his scion store purchase - Photo by Tom Sheldon



Robert and Medhi - Photo by Tom Sheldon