



# The Leaflett

## California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter



### Central Coast Chapter Officers

*Chair:* Chuck Atlee and Laura Lopez

*Program Chair:* Joe Sabol

*Board Members:* Lark Carter, Pet Daniels, Bill Furtick, Art Henzgen, Gerda Martinez, Carol Scott, Robert Scott, Jenny Weaver

*Secretary:* Rhonda Underwood

*Treasurer:* Dick Pottratz

*Librarian:* Marie Moyer

*Newsletter Editor:* Sandra Pirghaibi

*Raffle Director:* Marvin Daniels

*Historian:* Arlene Vogele

*Photographer:* Paul Moyer

*Webmaster:* Art DeKleine



### Reminiscing. . .

Since our newsletter is only distributed every two months, this is technically the last newsletter of 2002. Its hard to believe that the "Year of the Banana" is coming to a close. Let's see...what has happened in the last 10 months. Some new, some past officers continued to give their all for the chapter. Our Board members, program chair and active members have done a fantastic job moving our chapter along and providing everyone with interesting and informative meetings. Our web site is looking good and the newsletter is now being sent primarily by e-mail.

We have attended the Cal Poly Crops Unit yearly sale, taken part in an enormous grafting party, keep pruning that red apricot tree, visited a turtle farm, learned all about organic farming, got involved in a fruit tasting extravaganza, and attended the annual state meeting in Santa Barbara. Guest speakers were well, just fantastic. We even had guest writers provide some articles on the almighty banana and the illustrious tomato.

Thanks go out to everyone.

You know who you are.

### Recent Happenings

#### September Meeting

##### Cal Poly Leaning Pine Arboretum

Business: The meeting was called to order by Chuck Atlee and Laura Lopez. Chuck Atlee talked about Charlie Rich affectionately knows as the "Tomato Guy" who recently passed away on May 5th at the age of 87. Mr. Rich had studied tomatoes for over 60 years, including expeditions to the Andes Mountains which boast some of the world's largest species of tomatoes. Mr. Rich also directed agricultural students and made many advances in growing techniques. Almost all of today's tomatoes contain at least one gene from Mr. Rich's studies. Chuck indicates that whenever he bites into a tomato he thinks of Charlie Rich.

What a wonderful place this is! Students at Cal Poly along with their instructor maintain the Arboretum in several theme gardens including South African, Mediterranean, Californian, and Australian. The students primarily use the arboretum as a laboratory for independent research and project studies. Anyone wanting to visit the arboretum can do so from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. There is no admission and guided group tours are available. Phone

number is (805) 756-2279. Everyone is encouraged to visit this garden in progress.

#### October Meeting Al and Dawn King

The business meeting was short as several members had attended the Santa Barbara Chapter and experienced a grand tour of a very old orchard near the Santa Barbara coast. We also had many guests from the Santa Barbara chapter.

Al and Dawn King live on a property owned and operated by the Solar Logos foundation. This 4000 acre property serves as a retreat and boasts over 200 varieties of fruit trees. Al indicated their obsession with these trees started as a hobby that "got out of hand". The temperature in the area can vary from 20 degrees in the a.m. to 80 degrees in the p.m. making growing anything a challenge!

After the meeting which was held in the lodge, members and guests toured Al and Dawn Kings "out of hand hobby" and its many varieties of plants and trees. Following the tour, a 100 lb. + pumpkin was auctioned off to none other than Joe Sabol who indicated it would go to a local elementary school.

Thank you Al and Dawn for a n informative and enjoyable tour.

## Upcoming Events

**See the attached (or the end of the e-mail newsletter) for a current event list) Dr. Joe will send out details to members with e-mail as meetings get closer. For those still on snail mail, you can contact Dr. Joe at 544-1056.**

Business meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. usually the second Saturday of the month. Joe will bring handouts to each meeting detailing future events. Remember to bring chairs and wear appropriate clothing. Refreshment groups are indicated on Joe's event list.

Howard Brown needs a count for the **November meeting**. RSVP him at 543-2467.

And....don't forget our end of the year **holiday party** at the PG&E Center. It's our biggest celebration of the year. Attendees bring enough food to make everyone sign up for a gym in January and we all have a great time. There will be a plant raffle so bring your plants. I still have the wonderful gourd decoration Marie brought to be auctioned last year.

## Chapter Chat

### **Congratulations Dr. Joe (again)**

Rumor has it that Dr. Joe Sabol has been presented with an award from U.C. Davis in recognition of his work in agriculture ambassador program. Congratulations

from all of us.

## Just a Nice Story

*From the Editor...*

Art, the next time you get crazy over the work involved in keeping our web site up to date and think perhaps it doesn't reach enough people, think again.

Most times I write the newsletter and forget it goes on our web site available to an international audience. Last week I received an e-mail from an agricultural professor in Quebec who evidently reads our web site as part of his research. He sent me a nice e-mail about how much he enjoyed the information and had picked up my name from one of the newsletters. He also said he might be related to us (he is). Thanks to technology we now have a new family member (son of my husband's cousin) and are planning one day to visit Canada. Shahrokh, if you are reading this, we look forward to talking to you and reminiscing about childhood adventures.

## Announcements

**Semi-annual Board Meeting** was held in October and a nominating committee appointed. Details of the meeting will be announced at a future meeting.

### **We still need a coffee coordinator...:**

The chapter still needs a coffee coordinator to bring coffee to the business meetings. The chapter picks up


the cost. Contact Chuck Atlee at [catlee@calpoly.edu](mailto:catlee@calpoly.edu).

**Newsletter Update...**Have an interesting article to contribute or comments on how to improve chapter communication? Send them to your newsletter editor at [slpir@yahoo.com](mailto:slpir@yahoo.com). Newsletter costs are way down this year due to electronic distribution. Please keep membership coordinator Dick Pottratz updated on your current e-mail address. Newsletters are distributed every two months the first week of the distribution month (i.e. first week in September for September/October issue).

**New Orchard Combination..**the combination lock on the orchard has been changed. The new combination can be obtained from Joe Sabol at 544-1056.

**Dues Due Again...Annual dues are due again. Please mail a check for \$6 or \$25 for 5 years to Dick Pottratz, 2430 Leona, SLO, CA 93401**

**Thought for the day...**  
The pessimist complains about the wind  
The optimist expects it to change  
The realist adjust the sails and gets out the oars



**CRFG** Central Coast Chapter  
**Dick Pottratz**  
 2430 Leona  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401