



# The Leaflett

## California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter



### Central Coast Chapter Officers

*Chairs:* Art Dekleine, Roger Eberhardt

*Program Chair:* Joe Sabol

*Board Members:* Chuck Atlee, Lark Carter, Marvin Daniels, Anne Furtick, Bill Furtick, Art Henzgen, Laura Lopez, Joe Sabol, Carol Scott, Robert Scott, Jenny Weaver

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*Photographer:* Paul Moyer

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*Webmaster:* Art DeKleine



### 2003..Year of the What?

In the January newsletter I proudly announced that the banana was dead and it was year of the Orange. This was based on a comment by a respected member (who shall remain unnamed) at the December meeting. Since then several members have contacted me with a request for a correction. So here it is... it is **year of the citrus**. Well, I think it's year of the citrus. If not, perhaps we should pretend it is. The orange travels in the same social circles it's rumored. Anyway, all those facts I had gathered on the Orange are now a little redundant. So...for this newsletter I have selected the lovely lemon for a little press. Mainly because I think this wonderful addition to recipes, desserts, drinks, etc. gets a bad rap. Sourpuss, life dealing people lemons, lemon laws all have their origins in the poor lemon. I searched the net to get a few facts about lemons and was rewarded with 307,000 sites listed by how popular each one is. It seems there is more interest in automobile lemon laws than this nice food. Instead I will editorialize a bit. Frankly, the lemon and I have been friends most of my life. I remember humid lazy summer days and how wonderful a freshly-squeezed lemonade tasted...yum. And who can forget young roadside entrepreneurs who set up lemonade stands to test their first entry into the business world. Over the years, we have planted several lemon trees

that seem to survive on neglect, keep producing lovely fragrant blooms all year and enough lemons to keep us in lemonade for a lifetime. The lemon must be easy to grow; it can purchased at the market for as low as 10 cents each during the season. Given the price of gas these days, perhaps some one can come up with a way to run automobiles on lemon juice.

Rumor has it that not all lemons are sour; some are sweet. Sailors in past centuries coveted the lemon for its nutritional value and ability to ward off the dreaded Scurvy.

So, for all its contributions to our society, I salute the illustrious, inventive, intriguing lemon.

### Recent Happenings

#### January Meeting Cal Poly Crops Unit

This was our annual meeting for election of officers. The newly elected officers are listed at the top of this newsletter. In addition, a special thank you to the newly formed refreshment committee: Barbara Matthews, Susan Atlee and Laura Lopez!

The crops unit had many types of plants, trees and rootstock for sale and everyone seemed to have brought their checkbook. Our newly purchased Public Address System was introduced complete with a cordless microphone and a range of 300

feet. It was used not only to conduct the meeting but was later taken into the our community orchard where guest speaker Fred Hunt of Fowler Nurseries in Sacramento gave a pruning demonstration. Members had a chance to "learn by doing". A special thanks to Marv Daniels who set up a sharpening demonstration where we could all sharpen up those dull tools we brought for the pruning class.

Thanks to our program chair Joe Sabol, Fred Hunt and the Cal Poly Crops Unit for a great day.

#### February Meeting Grafting Party

Every year this annual meeting attracts more members and guests. The head counters reported over 150 people attending this gathering. Grafting demonstrations and talks were abundant; special thanks to Art DeKleine, Howard Brown, Dick Pottratz and Gene Santos for the grafting demonstrations. So many people assisted with food, drink, photography, sharpening projects, program folding, supervising the scion exchange, publicity, parking, and all the other details that go into a successful gathering it was it was mind boggling. Thanks to all. If this is any indication of how the new office-holders team together, we are in for one very successful year.

At the end of the day we signed up many new members and received commitments from several volunteers for the apple grafting program (see later article).

Only thing is...how do we top this next year..Joe?

## Upcoming Events

**See the attached (or 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 (805)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.

## About Our Web Site

If you haven't taken a look at our web site lately, do a little clicking around. Art DeKleine has added some new items including an on line Chapter Application and information. Way to go Art...

You can get to our web site a number of ways but the simplest is to:

- Type CRFG in your search box.
- Select the CRFG main site.
- Click on Chapter Information.

- Click on Central Coast (it's the first one listed)

The official location of our web pages is now: <http://www.kcbx.net/~crfgslo/>

## Apple Grafting Project

Many of our chapter members are involved in an ongoing high school grafting project. It's about time they got some press for the wonderful contribution they make to the youth in our local area and beyond. Each year several members travel to local high schools and teach students how to graft. These volunteers give willingly of their precious time to schools from Templeton to Camarillo. It's a tricky business. Schools are very concerned about visitors who carry grafting knives. From the stories told at monthly meetings and publicity in local newspapers, this is a wonderful project that benefits all. A pat on the back from the chapter and a "keep up the good work" from all of us.

## Announcements

**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). We are now participating in a **newsletter exchange** with other chapters. These will be displayed at monthly meetings.

**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. If you haven't already, please mail a check for \$6 or \$25 for 5 years to Dick Pottratz, 2430 Leona, SLO, CA 93401**

### **Thought for the day...**

It takes less time to do a thing right than it does to explain why you did it wrong.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

**CRFG**



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