



Dear Friends of the Fruit Tree:

Yes, it's the Central Coast CRFG July newsletter! There was no newsletter for June. I ran into computer problems that have since been resolved, so June's newsletter has morphed into July's.

In May we put out a call to all members to share their "stay-at-home" gardening stories. Here are their stories and tips. A big thank you to everyone who contributed!

Now we need your stories for the August newsletter. They can be a few sentences or span many pages. We are eager to see what you've been up to! Send your stories and pictures to crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com. (You can send the text and pictures separately.) August newsletter deadline is midnight, Sunday August 16th.

Free Plants

Three small [Angel Trumpet](#) plants are up for adoption, thanks to Larry Hollis. If you are interested, please email crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com. First come, first served!



Available! Needs a home!



Available! Need homes!



Example of what the three trees to the left aspire to look like one day, if only you will give them a home! This tree not available.

Joe's Vintage Birthday Wagon!



This year held a milestone birthday for Joe Sabol. At the start of the year, Marv came up with the idea of getting a wagon for Joe to use around his garden.

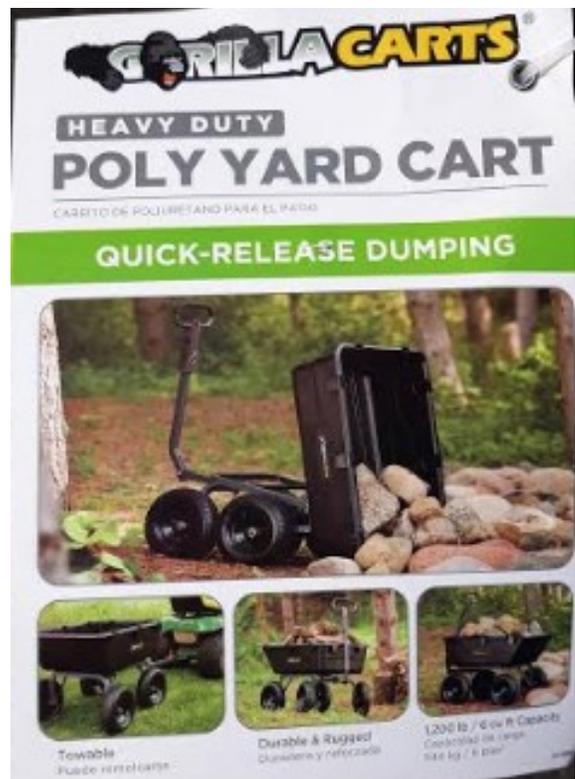
Marv researched wagons and ultimately decided on a Gorilla Carts' Poly Yard Cart, a heavy duty cart that includes four pneumatic wheels and a dumping feature.

Marv bought the wagon and collected money from those members who wished to donate to it. He coordinated with Roger Eberhardt and Elaine Rathbun to customize it.

Roger constructed and painted the removable wood panels that slip into plastic holders on three of the wagon's sides

Elaine Rathbun's daughter designed the four truck decals for the side panels, and the "Joe's Wagon Vintage 1940" on the front panel.

Elaine printed them out, and also made Joe a custom t-shirt!



In a flurry of emails it was decided to give this surprise gift to Joe at the March meeting. Unfortunately, as we all know, that meeting was canceled due to coronavirus concerns. So in the middle of June, a few masked people got together to bring the wagon to Joe's house to surprise him with his birthday wagon.



Joe inspects the custom-made decals on his new wagon

Thank you to Jill who kept the secret and managed to get Joe back to his house at the right time to receive his wagon! Thank you to all who contributed and made their payments to Marv.



Roger Eberhardt constructed three sides for the wagon and painted them white. The slides slip smartly into holders on the wagon's sides.



Elaine's daughter created custom designs for each of the sides built by Roger. See them "up close" on the next page.





Front of custom shirt made by Elaine



Back of custom shirt



A Tip About Labels From Dennis Getchius

My tip is that labels fade in the sun, so I take aluminum cans, cut them in one inch wide strips and write the name of the plant with a ballpoint pen on a magazine, indenting the name into the thin metal for a permanent id.

Update on the Daniels' Home Garden by Marv & Pet Daniels

Marv submitted his article back in April. The pictures were taken on May 21st.

Right up front I have to say I've never had a vacation as good as this one.

Tucker brought plants. I planted them and they are growing. Lets talk about Tucker's grafting as his results are better than mine.

I've topped four varieties of avocados, three varieties of Cherimoya, and one Suebelle White Sapote. Have harvested some very large Cherimoya fruit. Also harvested average size white sapote and avocados. Have raised some nice truck crop vegetables.

I'm still using rainwater maybe until Mother's Day..

Last major drive was to Cal Poly on March 12, for the 26 Hour Project.



Coolidge Feijoa



Trask Cherimoya



Cherimoya seed germination in toilet tissue spools.



Feijoa - Coolidge seeds were germinated in Ziplock bag, transplanted into toilet tissue spool, transplanted into gallon pots.

Grafting, Grafting, and More Grafting!

Tucker has been grafting up a storm this year. He's successfully grafted 10-12 cherimoya. He's also grafted avocados, asian pears, feijoa, and sapote. He's also propagated pomegranate, and germinated feijoa and cherimoya seeds.



Feijoa seedlings germinated via Marv's method of placing seeds on a damp paper towel then putting the towel in a zip lock bag to create a mini-greenhouse.



Cherimoya seedlings



He has planted a large vegetable garden that includes rows of corn, kale, onion, broccoli, zucchini.



Beautiful gladiolas also grace this amazing garden.

Pollinating all of these plants are some bees owned by Marcel Mueller, who was our guest speaker at our December 2017 meeting. You can read about Marcel's talk about bees in our [December 2017 newsletter](#).



This brilliant pomegranate flower, on a scion that Tucker grafted, is actually this bright- not photo enhanced!



Tucker's beehive from Marcel Mueller looks almost custom-painted to match the flowers on the vine!



An amazing variety of fig trees. Tucker has found that putting fig trees in rows and raising them on blocks allows for easier watering.



Tucker points out one of several grafts that he's made to this sapote tree



Tucker shows one of many avocados that he has grafted this year



Grafted feijoa

Somewhere while doing all this, and hand-watering his enormous yard, he found the time to build a 2nd chicken coop.



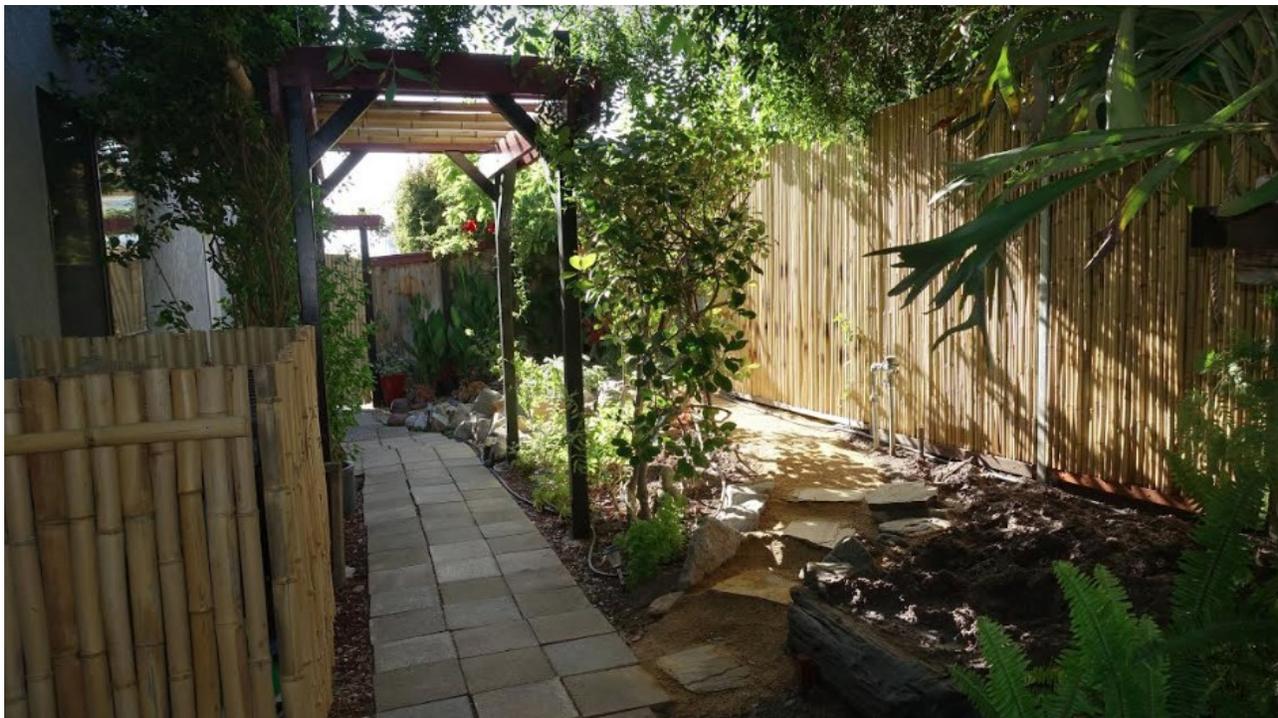
An old graft on a Black Pakistan Mulberry that came with the property.



This loquat was grafted by Robert Scott to quince rootstock in order to dwarf it

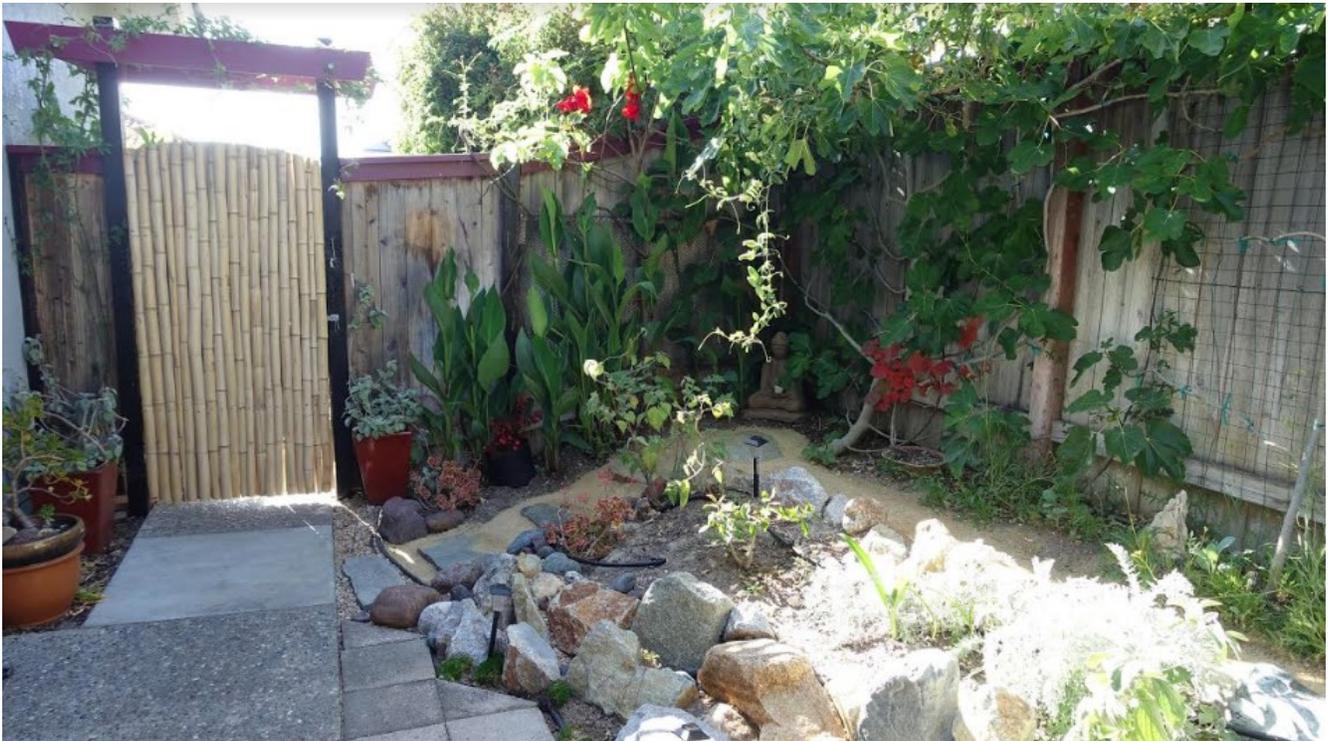
**Tom and Jenny's Asian-Inspired Arbor and Garden in Pismo Beach
June 25, 2020**

What do you do with 2 Quan Yin statues, a Cherry tree, a broken Asian pot, 2 Camellia plants, some free 2"x8"x20' boards, bamboo poles, beach rocks and a LOT of FREE TIME from the Covid-19 Shelter at Home Order given March 16, 2020? Make a Low Budget, Time-Consuming Asian -Inspired garden!



There was one last area of our garden that needed a Garden Makeover! I (Jenny) like to have different "garden rooms". So far there is the Wildlife area, Kiddy Corner, Tuscan Patio, Herb garden, Cactus Corner, Nursery, Garden Bed, English Garden and now there's the Almost-Asian Garden.

The Asian garden is on the shady side of the house. There are some huge Escallonia bushes that were leaning into the path and making passage hard. We also wanted to create some privacy from the neighbor's 2 story windows that look down into our yard and guest room. I had a Sweet Cherry tree I won in a CRFG Plant Raffle. It's been in a pot since 2016 and was screaming at me "Let me out"!



Hardscape:

We had some free, long 2"x8"x20' boards so Tom cut them up and created an Arbor to hold the Escallonia bushes in place and allow them and Wisteria to grow over the top.

We bought large bamboo timber poles from Paso Bamboo Farm. The Bamboo Farm/Nursery is mainly wholesale, but will sell to the public. Just call ahead. Gavino and his son are very knowledgeable and helpful. The poles were about 20' long and we cut them down to fit in the SUV.



For the entrance gate and air conditioner screen, we split the bamboo poles with a machete and hammer. It's amazing how they split right down the middle. The bamboo gate is pretty lightweight.

We gathered rocks from a beach north of San Simeon. It was a fun socially-distanced outing on a hot day. Since we started, we have been back to the beach and various landscape yards for more.

We converted wasteful sprinklers to drip irrigation.

I have two Quan Yin statues inherited from my Mom. We wanted to make them part of the garden from the beginning. Quan Yin is the Goddess of Mercy in Buddhism.



Plants:

I have several Passionflower vines that are draped over the gate arbor and fence to provide food to the larvae of the Gulf Fritillary. I let them eat all they want since the vine doesn't produce fruit. I have a Passion Fruit Vine on the other side of the house that produces fruit and so far the Gulf Fritillary have stayed away from that vine! If they dare to eat that vine, I'll relocate the larvae to the ornamental vines!

The Fig trees were espaliered years ago against the fence at the top of the hill where they get sun in summer. An ancient Buddha meditates in the shade next to my attempt of a



Bonsai "Roger's Red Grapevine".

The Camellia plants are left over from another project and literally dying to get out of their pots. The Begonias are discards from an Arroyo Grande in Bloom replanting project.

The Wisteria are "Cooke's Purple ". I will eventually train them up and over the arbor.



The Maiden Hair Ferns were transplanted from another shady area of our garden.

One of my favorite plants, the reddish-bronze foliage of the "Geranium Pelargonium hortorum Brocade Vancouver Centennial" takes the place of an expensive and slow growing Japanese Maple tree. I've had those plants in pots since Canada's 150th Anniversary in 2017!

The Canna Lilies were given to me years ago by Marv and Pet and they continue to spread and have beautiful red blooms.

The Dusty Miller was started years ago from a flower arrangement that grew roots!! Likewise, the pink Scented Geranium was started from a cutting years ago.

The existing Goldenberry bushes remain because they reminded me of Chinese Lanterns and are a tasty treat.



Tom and I started this project in February 2020 and each month we do a little more. We added a roll of Bamboo fence from Home Depot and it looked so good we added 2 more 8' lengths. BUT, before that Tom had to reinforce the existing wooden fence. He told me to make sure to tell everyone to always use metal fence posts if you want a fence to last!

So, here it is June and we are still mostly at home, healthy, enjoying our latest garden creation and slowly putting the finishing touches on... mulch and a meditation bench.

May the mercy of Quan Yin shine on those affected by Covid-19.