

CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER CRFG

In this issue

Next Meeting.....	1
Announcements.....	2
May Meeting Information.....	4
April Meeting Notes & Photos.....	5
Rootstock for Sale.....	6
Rare Plants for Sale.....	7
Scion Store Items.....	8
Upcoming Plant Festivities.....	9
Article Submissions.....	10
April Meeting Photos Cont.....	14

Chapter Website:

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

Facebook page:

[Facebook-CRFG-Central Coast](#)

YouTube Channel:

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

Chapter chairs contact:

central_coast@crfg.org
(underscore between l and c)

For article submissions:

crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com



Photo from www.BlackDiamondVermicompost.com

Next Meeting:

When:

May 18, 2024*

*Please note this meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday instead of the 2nd Saturday.

Schedule:

12:00 Setup
1:00 Refreshments and socializing
1:30 Meeting begins
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



Pheromone Loops are Available!

See [page 8](#) for more details

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:

Black Diamond Vermicompost
5325 Broken Spur Pl, Paso Robles, CA 93446

Additional Info:

Restrooms are available.

From www.blackdiamondvermicompost.com:

"What is vermicompost? Simply put, it's a soil amendment made by worms. Vermi is Latin for Worm. Add “compost” to it and you get worm compost! This stable, mature and biologically active product is the result of the proprietary processes we use to prepare the worms' food, as well as the state-of-the-art environment the worms live in. They live in a worm palace!

The vermicompost is a soil product full of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, humates, and beneficial nematodes. All this invisible microbiology is essential for living soil and play important roles in plant growth, food and flower production and even our beneficial insect friends, like bees and butterflies.”

You can read more about Black Diamond Vermicompost here: <https://www.blackdiamondvermicompost.com/>

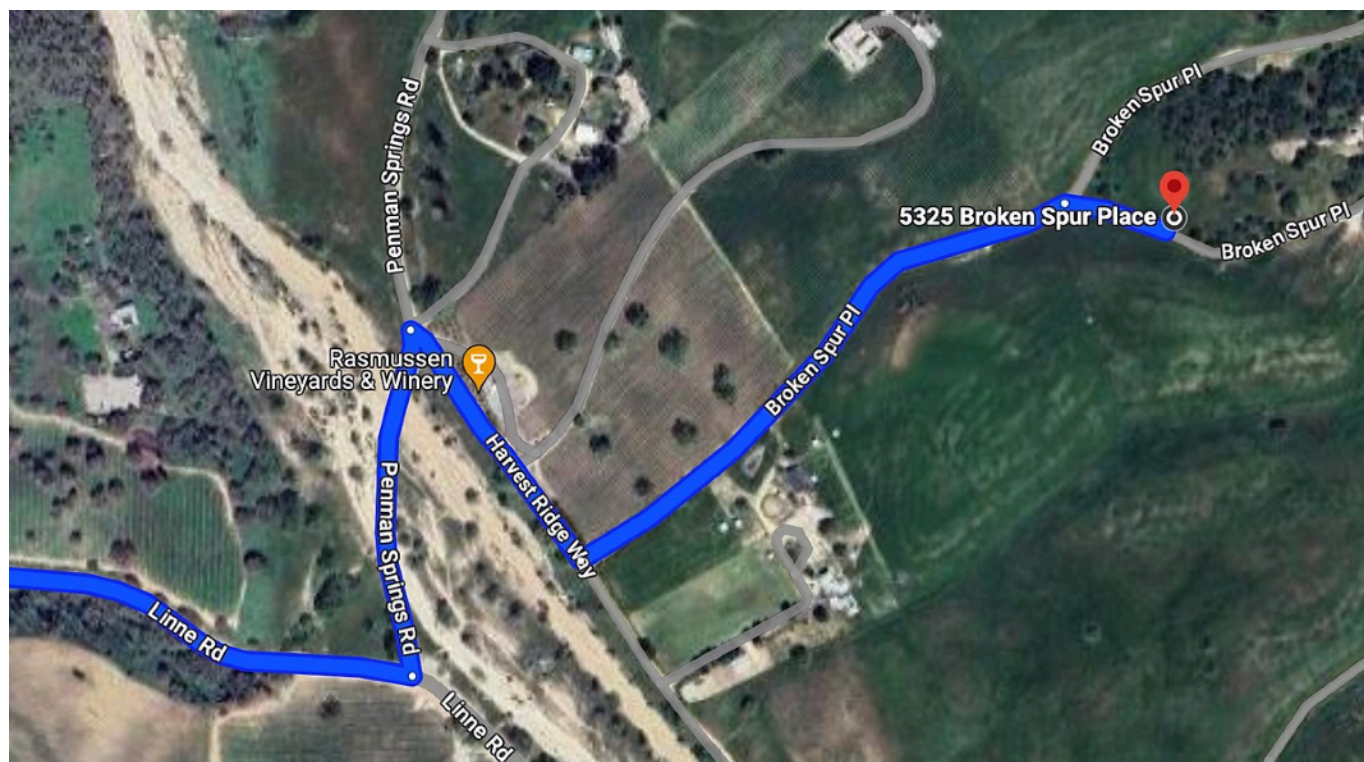
Location & Parking:

5325 Broken Spur Pl, Paso Robles, CA 93446

1. Take Hwy 101 to Paso Robles, take exit 229, the Spring St. off ramp.
2. Turn east onto Niblick Rd, which eventually becomes Sherwood Rd
3. Sherwood Rd bends right, becoming Fontana Rd, then bends left becoming Linne Rd
4. Stay on Line Rd until you get to Penman Springs Rd
5. Turn left onto Penman Springs Rd
6. Turn right onto Harvest Ridge Way
7. Turn left onto Broken Spur Pl
8. Turn right to stay on Broken Spur Pl (You will see a CRFG sign here, unless you are very, very early!)

Parking for May 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.

May Meeting Information:

Submitted by Sharon Lovelady

Cristy Christie is the owner/operator of Black Diamond VermiCompost, a Paso Robles based company where over a million redworms are the “employees.” These compost worms produce vermicompost, aka worm castings. The food her worms process is very special and totally organic and they live in quite a fancy environment! The final product, Black Diamond Vermicompost, is rich in organic matter and loaded with diverse communities of bacteria, fungi, beneficial nematodes, protozoa and more – all aerobic soil microbes, essential for truly healthy soil.

She explains her introduction to worm farming: “When I was introduced to vermicomposting, living soil and what growing healthy food really means, it was far from my knowledge base. But something about it intrigued me and the deeper I went, the more excited I became. I came to realize I had finally found my “purpose.” After 14 years, I know what it takes to run a vermicomposting operation, having successes and plenty of failures, and I have a deep understanding of what makes a facility hum. I really like the educational aspect of it too – holding workshops on topics like Back Yard Composting, How to Set Up A Worm Bin, How To Test Your Garden Soil, to name a few.”

Cristy has attended several international vermiculture conferences learning from educators and scientists in the field. Her soil and microbiology library is extensive and she spends plenty of time using her microscope, assessing her own vermicompost and compost teas, as well as evaluating customers' soils and composts. She has presented at vermiculture conferences and workshops around the country.

Cristy enjoys donating time and vermicompost to a variety of organizations for planting projects, fundraising events and community activities. She has spoken to garden clubs and other groups across the local counties.

Consulting takes Cristy around the country. Most projects are centered around building new vermicomposting facilities and helping others in the same business get over the many hurdles they face. You will no doubt hear: “If it was as easy as it looks, everyone would be doing it.”

April Meeting Notes

Submitted by Terri Monell

Six Cal Poly students were recognized and gifted scholarships at this meeting. Dr. Lauren Garner helped to facilitate the applications our chapter received of potential recipients for these scholarships and the scholarship committee then chose these lucky 6 individuals. Gabrielle Robbins presented the scholarships to the well deserved students and each of them spoke and thanked our chapter for the generous donation given to each of them.

Terri Monell shared that we now have LOTS and LOTS of pheromone loops to sell in addition to other store supplies if anyone needs anything. There was a short lesson on the effectiveness of these loops for those unfamiliar to the product. In addition, potted rootstock (\$5 each), grafted trees and extra scion were made available.

Dr. Nick Babin was not able to attend the meeting and give the presentation due to an unforeseen emergency so he and Sharon Lovelady met prior to the meeting and he gave her the run down of the facility and how it operates. The property was in a state of disarray due to the fact that a water treatment plant was supposed to be built on that piece of property as of several months ago so the experimental farm came to a complete halt.

Equipment was moved, weeds had grown, power was physically cut to the green house, trees had not been pruned and basically the farm was left high and dry. Then a couple of months ago the water treatment project came to a halt and the experimental farm was given the go to continue to operate. Lots of work now needs to be done to get this farm back to the state it was prior to the “temporary bad news.”

All Cal Poly students are welcome to come and work a plot of land, even those not in agriculture. Classes are held at the farm where Dr. Nick Babin lectures about the operation and philosophy of this experimental farm. It is a true hands on operation. It is open to the public as well to walk around and see the fruits of the students’ labor. Our CRFG chapter may hold another meeting at the farm a year from now to see the farm in a much improved state of being than we saw today and as it should be.

Not many CRFG members were in attendance, 2 guests joined the meeting and one of the scholarship recipients became a member of our chapter. There were 32 people total.

Several people brought snacks and goodies for all to share and the most popular was the dragon fruit that Manny cut up and passed around for all to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who helped to set up, clean up, bring snacks and enjoy the beautiful day outdoors that we all enjoyed so much.

April Meeting Photos (See Page 11)

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.

Rare Plants for Sale!

Our club was fortunate enough to receive donations of unique plants from Jack Swords and Seth McMillan that are now being offered for sale to our members! Sales from these plants will help the club provide more scholarship opportunities!

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

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

Plant	Quantity Available	Pot Size (gallon)	Price
Avocado - Edranol	2	5	\$15
Avocado - Fuerte	1	5	\$15
Avocado - Hass	11	5	\$15
Avocado - Pinkerton	2	5	\$15
Avocado - Stewart	1	5	\$15
Capulin (Mexican Cherry)	9	1	\$5
Cherry of the Rio Grande	15	1	\$5
Cherry of the Rio Grande	7	5	\$10
Feijoa (Pineapple guava) "Triumph" New Zealand selection	unknown	3	\$5
Feijoa (Pineapple guava) "Triumph" New Zealand selection	unknown	5	\$10
Grumichama (purple)	1	1	\$5
Guabiju	2	1	\$5
Jaboticaba Red	2	2	\$5
Jaboticaba Sabara (black)	16	1	\$5
Jaboticaba Sabara (black)	6	2	\$10
Lucuma	14	1	\$5
Macadamia	10	1	\$5
Pitangatuba	18	1	\$5
Pitangatuba	1	5	\$10
Pomegranate	9	2	\$5
Raisin Tree	2	1	\$5
Starfruit	5	5	\$10
Surinam Cherry	10	5	\$10
White Sapote (White)	17	1	\$5
Sapote (Dwarfed: Yellow grafted to White)	6	5	\$15

Pheromone Loops and 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 have arrived! Codling moths are key pests of apples and pears. Pheromone loops deceive the male moth, thereby helping to disrupt the mating cycle. Place 2 to 3 loops in the top third of your apple and pear trees. Petals should be about 90% off and small fruit setting before you loop your trees!

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



Upcoming Plant Festivities

Cal Poly Plant Conservatory Plant Sale

A message from Gage Willey, Curator:

Greetings from the Glasshouses,

The Cal Poly Plant Conservatory is having a HUGE clearance sale in preparation for summer. We have massive houseplants, overgrown specimens, and lots and lots of random plants to choose from. Most of these plants have just gotten too big to use for the teaching collection, or we don't have room in the greenhouses for them. Some are from classes doing propagation projects throughout the past year as well, so there are lots of different sizes to choose from.

Come by to browse through and buy succulents, orchids, tropicals, outdoor landscape plants, and more. All proceeds go directly to supporting the conservatory and its students as well, so you can purchase with a confidence that your money is well-spent.

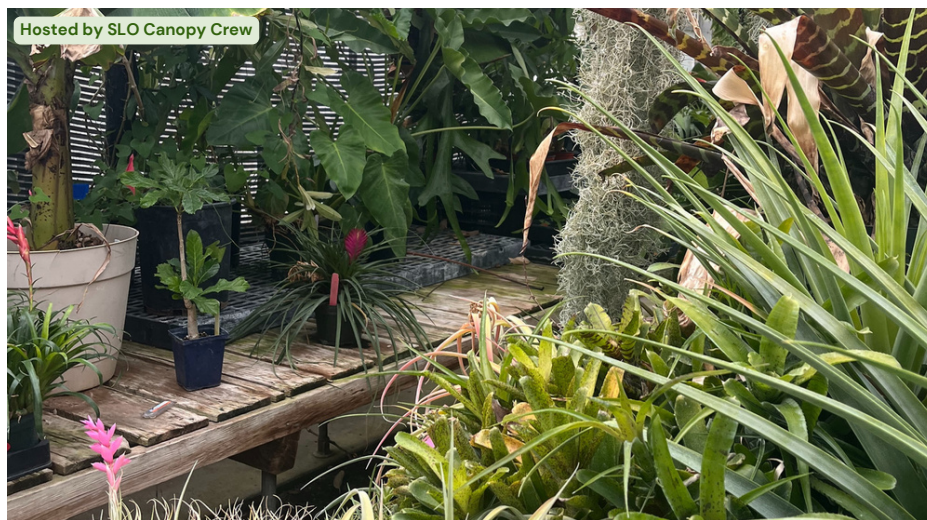
The plants are priced to SELL! Show up expecting to walk away with some great, unique plants at bargain prices. The display greenhouses will be open as well for you to wander through if you need a break from all the good deals!

Saturday and Sunday, May 4 & 5, 10-2pm!

Parking is free during the weekend, and the best spots to park are in the H4 lots. More info on parking locations can be found at Cal Poly Parking. Just scroll to find the H-4 lots, which are at the corner of Village Dr. and N. Perimeter Rd.

See you there!

Gage



Spring Cleaning Plant Sale!

MAY 4TH & 5TH, 10AM-2PM
CAL POLY PLANT CONSERVATORY

Support the conservatory and its students by helping rehome some of our extra specimens during a "cleaning house" sale to prep for summer!!

Bromeliads, succulents, orchids, large specimens, and so many one-of-a-kind-plants!



Parking is available in the H4 lots at the corner of N Perimeter and Village Drive!

Upcoming Plant Festivities

Land Conservancy SLO

Invasive Plant Removal

Wednesday, May 8 from 9am-11am

The LCSLO staff helps you identify invasive species and will teach best practices on removal.

Make sure you fill out the waiver before you arrive:
<https://app.waiverforever.com/pending/DoRJ5BvnRSi697822715>

Click here to see more volunteer opportunities:
<https://lcslo.org/volunteer/>

Master Gardeners' Workshops

Gardening for Pollinators and other Beneficial Insects

Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 10:00 am to noon

Garden of the Seven Sisters in San Luis Obispo

Click here to register:
<https://ucanr.edu/pollinators2024>

California Strawberry Festival

The festival is back at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The proceeds benefit their non-profit partners.

May 18 & 19, 2024
Sat: 10-7:30; Sun: 10-6:30

Click here for more information:
<https://castrawberryfestival.org/>

Engel & Gray, Inc. Compost Awareness Week

Compost & Garden Fair

May 11th 10am - 1pm

745 Betteravia Rd, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Complimentary Compost!

Click here for more information:
<https://www.engelandgray.com/event-details.php?id=12>



SPRING IS HERE!

SOIL COMPOST

COMPOST & GARDEN FAIR

MAY 11TH, 10AM-1PM

745 Betteravia Rd. Santa Maria, CA 93454

- FREE SEEDLINGS AND VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN!
- KIDS CAN SIT IN A TRUCK & LOADER!
- COMPLIMENTARY HARVEST BLEND COMPOST!
- MUSIC & GAMES!
- FREE KITCHEN PAIL!

Join in the fun with Engel and Gray Inc. and the City of Santa Maria as we celebrate International Compost Awareness Week. Learn how compost is made and the benefits it brings to soil. Bring a bag or a pail to take some complimentary Harvest Blend Compost home.

HARVEST BLEND COMPOST

EG Engel & Gray, Inc.

CITY OF SANTA MARIA

Utilities Department

(805) 925-0951 ext. 7270 | www.cityofsantamaria.org

Article Submissions

Fruitwood Nursery

Submitted by Larry Hollis

Fruitwood Nursery is a business that supports CRFG by advertising in the Fruit Grower Magazine. They have an extensive selection of plants available on their website, as well as informative videos.

View a Nursery Overview here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjAP9gMxxXE>

Check out their website here:

<https://fruitwoodnursery.com/>

**Have you read any
interesting articles lately?
Please submit them for
the next newsletter!**

crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com

Strawberry Recipes

Submitted by Erica Williams

Now that strawberries are in season, these strawberry recipes may come in handy!

Read article here:

<https://www.southernliving.com/food/entertaining/strawberry-recipes>

**Do you need ideas on what
garden tasks should be tackled
in May?**

Submitted by Erica Williams

Some of the tasks are planting and maintenance.

Read article here:

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/content/may-gardening-chores>

**A new species of fairy lantern
discovered in Japan!**

Submitted by Erica Williams

Read article here:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10265-024-01532-5>

Article Submissions

The Buzz on Bee Swarms

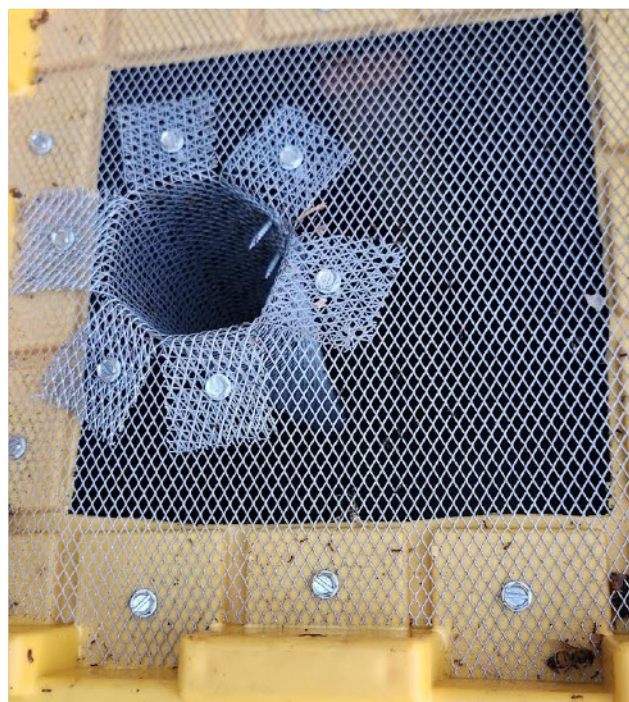
Submitted by Jenny Weaver

If you're lucky to have a swarm of honeybees move to your property as we recently were, here's some information. If you are not set up to move them into an empty beehive of your own, you can have them moved by the Central Coast Beekkeepers Allliance. They have a website where you can report the swarm, and depending on the area, someone nearby will contact you.

Centralcoastbeekkeepers.net

Brian Alaniz, the editor of the Central Coast Beekeepers Alliance came to our place in Pismo to move the swarm that set up a new home in our worm bin! It was protected, near water in the birdbath and surrounded by plenty of blossoms. Unfortunately it was right next to a path and guests may be frightened.

Ryan scraped most of the bees into a bucket with a special funnel in the top. It was easy for the bees to go in but not back out. He was careful to get the bulk of the bees and most importantly the Queen Bee. He left the bucket overnight and the stray foragers came back and congregated on the bucket. This morning they're slowly making their way into where the queen is.



Lid with Cone - Photo by Jenny Weaver



Beekeeper Ryan - Photo by Jenny Weaver

Article Submissions

The Buzz on Bee Swarms (continued)

Submitted by Jenny Weaver



Bees in a bucket - Photo by Jenny Weaver



One way bee lid - Photo by Jenny Weaver



Collecting the bee swarm - Photo by Jenny Weaver



Collecting the bee swarm - Photo by Jenny Weaver

April Meeting Photos



Members and guests socialize before the meeting - Photo by Erica Williams



Gabrielle speaks to the crowd - Photo by Dara Manker



Gabrielle presents a scholarship - Photo by Erica Williams

April Meeting Photos



Gabrielle and Manny present a scholarship - Photo by Erica Williams



Gabrielle presents a scholarship - Photo by Erica Williams



Gabrielle presents a scholarship - Photo by Erica Williams



Gabrielle presents a scholarship - Photo by Erica Williams

April Meeting Photos



Gabrielle poses with the scholarship recipients- Photo by Dara Manker



Sharon and Manny leading the meeting - Photo by Dara Manker



Sharon speaking to the crowd - Photo by Dara Manker