

The Leaflett

California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter Newsletter
Volume 9 • Issue 3 • March 2006



2006 – The Year of the Healthful Grape

February Meeting

This is what Joe Sabol had to say about the successful scion exchange meeting held at Cal Poly on February 17. "Congratulations Rare Fruit Growers! What a delightful day we had today!!!! It was a team effort!!!! Thank you for your input, help, and positive spirit!!

The rain and snow did NOT come!! The seven Gifted Grafters were MUCH better than a single guest grafter in front of that mob. We never need to have a single "Guest Grafter" try to talk and demonstrate to that many people!!!! Our official count was 200 people... A new record for this event!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Did you know that people came and brought scion wood and then had to leave for other activities?

We sold out of bird net... Nearly 1000 feet sold!! We sold out of knives... 24 went like hotcakes!! Cal Poly students sold a ton of those fruit trees!!! What a great sale!!! Our rootstock sales were the BEST ever!!! Art sold all of the Buddy tape!!! People came from as far away as Ventura and the S.J. Valley!!!



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Craig Righetti will help us next year with an official "Avocado Grafting Table" instead of using the back of his pick-up. We must have an avocado corner next year!!! Citrus corner too!!!

The place was cleaned up, inside and out, by some dedicated members of the Team and we all were home before dark!!!! Thank you!!!!

Festival of Fruit 2006

The exciting event known as the “Festival of Fruit” will be held September 5 through 9, 2006, right here on the Central Coast. We are expecting a turnout of at least 400 people from some of the other 22 CRFG chapters in the state, as well as at least 150 people from our own chapter. It is a memorable and fun event and one all of you will want to be a part of. We need “many hands” to make it successful. If you can help, call **Pet Daniels at 773-9311** and cheerfully volunteer your services!

The next meeting of the Festival Steering Committee will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at the Pismo Outlet Center Community Room. Below is an initial listing of committees and chairs. Don't be left out of the fun! Sign up somewhere today!

Speakers/ Workshop Presenters--Art D., Bob T., Lark C., and Roger E.

Tours--Bob Tullock and his committee

Registration--Art DeKleine and his committee

Hospitality--Sandy Ahearn and committee

Donations/Gifts--Art and Doris H., Dorothy S. and committee

Propagation of Grape cuttings--Bob Tullock and his committee

Partnerships--Patti Schober and committee

Plant/Nursery Sales/Venders--Norm Beard and committee

Publicity/Signage--Joe S., Norm B., and committee

Photographers--Larry Hollis and committee

Money Matters--Dick P.

Fruit Tasting--Dorothy S. and committee

Facilities--Art D., Joe S., and Dan R.

Crops Club and Department--Dan R., Kristin P., and Philip Y.

Comfort Stations Map--Marv Daniels and committee

Local Rare Fruit of the Month—March—Mexican Papaya

By Norm Beard

The Mexican Papaya shown in the photo on the next page is growing just south of my greenhouse, as it needs warmth and reflected heat. The warmest place you can grow them, generally, is close to your home on the south side, preferably in an ell shape of your exterior, out of the wind. (Photo of Norm's beautiful papaya was taken by Joe Sabol.)



The soil must be well drained. The tree prefers lots of sand or loose soil with amendments. I have some other papayas growing on the south side of my avocado trees, which are doing very well on a slope. A combination of cold and wet soil will cause them to damp off, if that happens, cut the root off and stick the stem in a bucket of sand and it will re-root. They will not tolerate salty soil or water. Keep on the dry side.

When the papaya shows a little yellow on it, that's when you want to bring it in off the tree, until it ripens fully, then enjoy!

(Papayas don't tolerate frost! When frost is expected, be sure to cover your tree with plastic or cloth and, if possible, put a light bulb under the cover. They are easy to propagate—plant the seeds from that nice juicy one you just ate into at least one gallon containers of sterile potting soil! Seedlings sprout easily, but are susceptible to “damping off” and they don't like being transplanted. When you do put them into the ground, disturb the root ball as little as possible. Mexican papayas are slightly more frost tolerant than Hawaiian varieties. You should have your first crop in less than two years. Trees are rather short-lived and for best production, you should replace them every four years. LH)

High School Apple Grafting

The 2006 Apple Grafting season is well underway. If you haven't joined a happy group of volunteers like those shown below after a very successful day of grafting apple trees at Nipomo High School, then you should give Joe Sabol a call immediately so you can smile, too! And if you have connected with Joe Sabol, Pet and Marv Daniels, and Patty Schober, then **kudos!** (Ron Blakey Photo.)



Wednesday, Mar 1 -- 8 am to 11 a.m. Templeton High--Cody Domenghini and Jerry Clark. Van leaves Joe's at 7 a.m. sharp. Garden Club will join us there.

Thursday, Mar 2 -- Bradley to graft with a small class and with Joan Tomooka. Van leaves Joe's at 8:50 a.m. This is not a high school.

Friday, Mar 3 -- San Miguel, Lillian Larson School grafting with C. Wilkinson. Morning session with middle school students, exact times pending.

Monday, Mar 6 -- Master Gardeners and Achievement House 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.--two sessions. This is a Art Henzgen Special. Need help here!! Meet at Achievement House at 12:30. No van going to this event. Session ONE will be with Achievement House Students. Second session at 3 p.m. advanced grafting with the Master Gardeners. Need volunteers for both sessions please!

Tuesday, Mar 7 -- Gonzales High School in the morning with Kris Callison and Tom Jones. Class starts at 9 a.m., we arrive at 8:30 a.m. teach two or three classes and then go on to Soledad in the afternoon; arrival at 1:15 p.m. with Mandi Ramirez and Janice Souza. We teach Janice's class, 1:45 to 3 p.m. Departure from Joe's at a very early hour, no later than 6:30 a.m. Full day of fantastic grafting! This is a very early departure for retired volunteers. Bring lunch.

Friday, Mar 10 -- Lompoc from 9 a.m. to noon with Mike Clifford and Kelly Hargett. Van leaves Joe's home at 7:20 a.m. sharp.

Tuesday, Mar 14 -- King City, arrival at 11:30, class starts at noon and we stay for two hours. Meet with Debbie Benson, Marti Chambers and Gregg Bridges. Van leaves Joe's home at 10 a.m. sharp. Bring a sack lunch.

Wednesday, Mar 15 -- Morro Bay with Peggy Flynn, class starts at 10 a.m. and we teach until 12:30 p.m. Van leaves Joe's home at 9 a.m.

Thursday, Mar 16 -- Shandon with Deanna Cleek and classes from 9 a.m. to Noon. We meet at SHS at 8:30 to set up. Van leaves Joe's home at 7:35 a.m.

Friday, Mar 17 -- Hold for Grizzly Academy (very tentative).

Monday and Tuesday -- March 20 and 21 -- Hold both days for Coast Union HS in Cambria. What ever day is best for Coast Union, the other day we go to Arroyo Grande with Mollie R. and Teresa C. for two back to back classes in a.m.

Yet to be arranged: Atascadero and Arroyo Grande and Pacific and a second visit to Paso Robles HS. Call Joe Sabol, 544-1056, or email jsabol@calpoly.edu for regular updates! Or call Marv Daniels or Patti Schober, they both know all the details!

Got Stuff—Want Stuff?

One of our newer chapter colleagues thought we should have a section in the newsletter where we could let others know of our needs or of what we have that we might want to get rid of. Since this is strictly a non-profit deal, anything listed here must be FREE!

I am looking for used but usable irrigation supplies like 2", 1/2", and other tubes & emitters, etc. for creating a garden, orchard, berry home on the cheap at my new Los Osos property. I'm interested in getting trees, herbs, plants, and whatever I can, too, I have an empty greenhouse and there are bee hives on the property for pollination- I'm rarin' to go! Also willing to let people use my place for projects or? Contact Nancy Lehman at 528-4519 or NMLehman@aol.com

New Orchard Signs

William L. Brandt, a teacher at Redwood Middle School in Thousand Oaks (and also a CRFG member) donated his time in routing and delivering wonderful wooden signs that will go into our Community Orchard to identify each tree. He was going to let his students do it, but decided, since they were on break, that he'd do it himself. What was our cost? A very nominal \$10 for the wood! What a deal! The photo on the right was taken by Joe Sabol as Bill Brandt and his wife, Nina, presented the signs to Marv and Pet Daniels. They'll be a wonderful addition to our orchard and save lots of steps when we need to identify a specific tree—no more running back to the kiosk to check the list.



Announcements

Welcome to Our New Chapter Colleagues: Sanford White, Steve Knudsen, Paul Nelson, Leslie Maughmer, Kathy Keil, John Hischier, and Richard and Lois Downs.

Art DeKleine's Grafting Info: I promised several grafters attending our last meeting, the grafting workshop, that I would provide the following references:

(1) Grafting Tool: See www.datrepair.com/grafting_tools.htm for pictures and pricing. The price is about \$50.

Contact Larry at 818-996-8542, let him know that you are a CRFG member from the Central Coast Chapter.

(2) Grafting Tape: I will have more tape at the next meeting. I ran out of tape at our grafting workshop. The tape is purchased from the following company at a cost of about \$72 for 6 rolls.

SHIGYO Company [aglis – Medel Grafting Tape]

Ted Nishihira President

12335 Viking Way

Truckee, CA 96161

birdshigyo@earthlink.net

(530) 582-4910

Join the Parent Organization: Many of our chapter colleagues are members of the Parent association and, for those of you who aren't, perhaps you **should** consider joining. With parent organization membership you receive a wonderful color magazine, *The Fruit Gardener*, filled with great articles on fruit growing, news, many chapter activities and contacts. Dues are **\$30 annually** or **3 years for \$87**. Membership applications are available from **Joe Sabol**. Call him at **544-1056** if you can't find him at a meeting.

Return of the Dave Wilson Fruit Tasting Event: Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, August 12, 2006** when Dave Wilson Fruit Tasting will return to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. This has been a **wildly** popular event that we weren't able to host this year. (Yes, I **do** mean "wildly". Have you ever seen fruit enthusiasts high on fructose?) Note that this is less than one month before we host the Festival of Fruit. **Your** assistance is not only requested, it is **NEEDED!**

Calendar of Meetings – 2006

Meetings are held the **second Saturday** of the month and **begin at 1:30 PM** unless otherwise indicated. Bring a friend, car pool, and, for most meetings, **bring a chair** for all in your party. Pet Daniels suggests we bring our own bottled water to drink, too. What fun it is to be a member of CRFG!

March 11—The Sustainable Agriculture Farm at Cal Poly: Join us on a visit to this unique instructional unit, learn all about the CSA, and meet some Cal Poly students. Dr. John Phillips will host us. **Refreshments group A through G, please.**

Directions to the Organic Farm at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Go to San Luis Obispo and then go north on Santa Rosa towards Morro Bay. Santa Rosa is the same as Highway One. Turn right on Highland, enter the Cal Poly Campus. Watch for Mt. Bishop Road to the left. Turn left and continue towards the Dairy Unit. Keep going straight ahead and take the dirt road. Do not angle left and up the hill. Go straight ahead towards the Rodeo Unit. Go slowly. The Organic Farm is at the top of that hill just beyond the Rodeo area. No parking permit needed on Saturday. The meeting is OUT doors and light wind is predicted!

April 8—Green Acres Lavender Farm in Atascadero: Janice Silva and Bob Bostwick will host our meeting and share their fascinating lavender with us. Thanks to Roger Eberhardt for helping to line up this adventure. Check them out at: www.greenacreslavenderfarm.com **Refreshments group H through R, please.**

May 13—Wildwood in Arroyo Grande: Jane and George will host. **This meeting starts early!** We will begin at NOON, with a BBQ lunch. We will enjoy a practical and memorable "Orchard Development" planning session for a community orchard on a north facing hillside! Details and directions will follow. Do not miss this meeting!

Central Coast Chapter CRFG Contact Information: Art DeKleine, co-chair, adeklein@calpoly.edu or 543-9455; Bob Tullock, co-chair, tullock@tcsn.net or 238-2868; Joe Sabol, program chair, jsabol@calpoly.edu or 544-1056; Dick Pottratz, treasurer, pottratz@sbcglobal.net; or Lennette Horton, newsletter editor, handynana@gmail.com or 474-6501.