



The Central Coast Leaflet

Central Coast Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers
Volume 13 • Issue 2 • March-April 2010

January Pruning Meeting



What a fantastic meeting we had on Saturday, January 9. Our able co-chairs, Patti Schober and Larry Hollis got the meeting started by calling for elections of officers and board members. (Our thanks go to Dr. Lark Carter and his assistants for putting together the voting slate. See the list of those elected on page 2 of this issue.)

Cal-Poly professor, Dr. Dan Lassanske, knocked our socks off with his lively and informative lecture on pruning principles, rules, and suggestions. Then he and the other **230** of us in attendance went out to our community orchard to practice what he had preached!

During the pruning event, there was also a ceremony to plant a memorial Mutzu apple tree for our long-time friend, Dr. Tom Ruehr, who passed away on January 7, 2009. Tom, a Cal-Poly Soil Science professor, was a valuable resource for our community orchard, providing nutritional advice and fertilizer! (Tom's wife, Evelyn, in the photo below, appears to be doing all the work of planting the tree while the guys watch!)



Many thanks to those of you who came early to help set up, and to those who brought food, or who assisted with the clean-up. (The photos are by Ron Blakey and Joe Sabol.)

Elected Positions for 2010

Chapter Officers:

Co-Chairs: Larry Hollis and Patti Schober
 Secretary: Helen Whigham
 Treasurer: Dick Pottratz

Committee Members for 2010:

Program Coordinators: Joe Sabol, Bob Tullock, Roger Eberhardt, Robert Scott, Art DeKleine, Jaleah Brynn, Lauren Garner, and Chuck Atlee
 CRFG Board Member & Recruitment: Joe Sabol
 Newsletter Editor: Lennette Horton
 Newsletter Mailing: Art & Doris Henzgen and Linda Haus
 Web Master: John Crowe
 Web Assistant: Art DeKleine
 Publicity: Joe Sabol
 Raffle Directors: Morris Tracy, Owen Baynham, and Joe Shennum
 Apple Grafting Coordinator & Assistants: Joe Sabol, Marvin Daniels and Patti Schober
 Community Orchard Coordinators: Joe Sabol, Marvin Daniels and Pet Daniels
 Historian/Archivist: Joan Tomooka
 Librarian: Marie Moyer
 Photographer: Paul Moyer
 Assistant Photographers: Ronald Blakey and Joe Sabol
 Refreshments: Volunteers Alphabetically Designated
 Coffee: Evelyn Ruehr
 Name Tags: Gloria DeKleine
 Greeters: Suzie Allen and Choung Crowe
 Pruning Resource Coordinator Russee Parvin
 Scholarship Program: Lauren Garner, Chairperson, Carol Scott, Robert Scott, Barbara Mathews, and Joe Sabol
 Board of Directors: Above listed Officers & Committee members plus Lark Carter, Nancy Lehman, and Jenny Weaver

February Grafting and Scion Exchange Meeting

By Joe Sabol

What a day we had on Saturday, February 20!

Our CRFG volunteers came early and worked to get ready for the crowd. I think we had about 50 volunteers working by 12 noon. The crowd also came early! They came to buy rootstock like never before in history! We sold a ton of rootstock! The rootstock sales team, led by Pet Daniels and Larry Hollis, worked hard and fast for several hours and had people lined up halfway to Cuesta College! The people kept behind the ribbon until Carol Scott cut it for the surge on our scion wood! The scion wood tables were nearly empty at the end of the day! The seven gifted grafters had a big happy crowd all afternoon--many people told me they listened and watched many of the grafters and were very pleased. People come from all over the central coast to watch these gifted grafters! Marv Daniels was kept busy grafting trees for others for a donation. We sold out of the 50 Persimmons trees! We sold all 24 of the grafting knives! Owen Baynham, Art Duarte and Joan Tomooka quickly canned up over 70 of the rootstock for a small fee. This is a popular addition to our program! Art DeKleine had many requests for the popular Buddy Tape and sold lots of grafting kits that he had made up for the novice grafter. Volunteers brought hundreds of Starbuck bags and one gallon cans! The compost bin donated by a very generous Richard Fisher brought a final bid of \$250! Carolyn

Eicher was pleased with the donated fruit that came to her table and she took it to the two homeless shelters in SLO! Gloria DeKleine and her crew signed up a bunch of new subscribers and members! Evelyn's drinks and the nutrition table were popular with everyone. The clean-up crew got the place spotless and returned the borrowed tables well before dark!

In summary, it was a fantastic 16th Annual Grafting Party and Scion Exchange!! It was a lot of work for a lot of people, too many to name here. It was a major TEAM effort!!!

What fun it is to be a member of this outfit!!!

High School Apple Grafting



The high school apple grafting program is in full swing! As usual, this very popular program is being spear-headed by Dr. Joe Sabol, but he is the first to admit he could never do it without the assistance of **many** volunteers—and especially without help from his two main coordinators, Marv Daniels and Patty Schober. (This year Joe has depended on them even more since he caught a “bug” and couldn’t make it to a couple of grafting classes.) The photo on the left was taken at Nipomo High School where FOUR classes were taught in one day, with 100 trees grafted! The Nipomo HS FFA prepared a super tri-tip lunch for us.

For the FOURTH year in a row, we have received a \$500 donation from a good friend up in the Salinas Valley. This donor is a former co-worker with Marv Daniels. He has helped us with only a few grafting activities, but he loves our high school apple grafting project! This donation will help support some of the “hidden” costs related to the high school grafting program. We sell the schools the rootstock at near cost and we do not charge for the “goop”, green tape, labels, stickers, knives, and related materials. This generous donation will help us to plan for the future!

Announcements

WELCOME NEW or RETURNING ASSOCIATES: Stanton Keck, Mary Cardoza, David Madson, Dawn Rowlands, Ellen & Bill Fry, Dale Felton, Melinda Forbes, Paul Ames, Clark Bashore, Jens Hansen, Nate Vincent, Connie Middleton-Frayer, Wendy McKeown, Beverly Sessa, Larry & Kathy Hoenig, Doug & Denise Overman, Carla Hahn, Emily D. Pajak, Stephanie Gould, Leroy Davis, Charles Harber, John Robinson, Susan Mcleachern, Leonel & Monica Palomarez, Matt Wiener, Donna Hamber, Wayne Peterson, Zoya Rihal, Sanford White, Cam Mitchell, Dave Okura, Edward Rogell, Jordan Burbank, Ruth Scovell, Kathryn Santoyo, Laura Lehmer, Steven Sales, Mark Welch, and Cindy and Charles Jelinek.

JOIN THE NATIONAL CRFG: If you **haven’t** joined the national organization of the **California Rare Fruit Growers**, why not? With your membership you receive a wonderful color magazine, **The Fruit Gardener**, filled with great articles on fruit growing, news, many chapter activities and contacts. You can also vote on important membership issues and even elect the governing board. Where else can you get so much for a mere \$3.00 a month? That’s less than one trip to that specialty coffee place! Dues are **\$36 annually** or **3 years for \$100**. Membership applications are available from **Joe Sabol**. Call him at **544-**

1056 if you can't find him at a meeting or sign-up online at www.crfg.org. (If you prefer, you can save more by subscribing to the magazine by **e-mail only** which is just **\$25** per year!)

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER FEES: Please be sure your chapter newsletter fees are current and save our treasurer, Dick Pottratz, lots of work. Newsletter fees are due January 1 of each year. The annual fee is \$6 or \$25 for five years. The following are members who receive "hard-copy" newsletters and who need to renew their newsletter fees: **Dennis Voss, Tom Byrd, James Guse, Michael Keeling, Priscilla Mikesell, Mary Walcher, and Margaret Wiggin.** (This is the final notice.)

Calendar of Meetings – 2010

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. **No pets** at any meeting, please! Pet Daniels suggests we **bring our own bottled water** to drink, too. What fun it is to be a member of **CRFG!**

March 13—Paragon Vineyards and Orcutt Road Cellars-- 4915 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo: We will meet outside, on a hill overlooking Edna Valley, behind the Paragon Vineyard and Orcutt Road Cellars (4915 Orcutt Road), very close to a demonstration site. A walk of 100 yards will let us view four types of grapes and different kinds of trellising. Some of the grapes have not yet been pruned because they are scheduled for top working and grafting. The site alone is worth the visit--a great view of Edna Valley—but we will have a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic host in Scott Williams. This promises to be an unforgettable meeting! If it rains, we will meet at the Pacific Vineyard Co. farm management center and talk about viticulture. Bring your cameras! Refreshments will be provided by the **A-G** team.

April 10—Swift's Subtropicals— 3698 Clark Valley Rd, Los Osos: John Swift is an organic grower of exotic crops. The unique microclimate of the secluded Clark Valley allows him to grow unusual crops like feijoa, the horned melon from Africa and the pepino melon, originally from Chile, persimmons, Asian pears, and even tuberoses! This is a meeting worth driving to! Refreshments will be provided by the **H-R** team.

Directions: From Highway 101 take the Los Osos Valley Road west to Sycamore Canyon Road (this is Foothill Blvd. on the right side). Take Sycamore Canyon Road to Clark Valley Road (bear right) and follow it until you see the entrance to the farm on the right.

Central Coast Chapter CRFG Contact Information: Larry Hollis, co-chair, L_Hollis@hotmail.com or 704-1513; Patti Schober, co-chair, iampwolfy@charter.net or 467-5097; Art DeKleine, program chair, adeklein@calpoly.edu or 543-9455; Joe Sabol, publicity, jsabol@calpoly.edu or 544-1056; Dick Pottratz, treasurer, pottratz@sbcglobal.net; and Lennette Horton, newsletter editor, handynana@gmail.com or 474-6501.