



Photo by Fred Kenyon

July 10th Central Coast CRFG Meeting Will Be "In Person!"

Great news! July will be our first "in person" meeting since the Pandemic hit. We'll be meeting in the CRFG Orchard. So many reasons you'll want to attend:

- Alisha will be providing lunch! **Be sure to RSVP with Alisha so she can get an accurate head count: 72ali.tee@gmail.com**
- We're trading plants after our lunch! Have you propagated or otherwise accumulated a bunch of plants during the pandemic? Here's your chance to exchange them with others or just give them away. Bring your bug-free, snail-free, weed-free plants to this meeting.

- Get a workout in the morning, 9am-12pm, hoeing weeds, digging out invasive grasses, removing suckers, raking, painting trunks and limbs to prevent them from burning, or replacing the shingles on the kiosk roof. Or just come and try out the swing Jesse made! Bring your own shovels, rakes, hoes, and pruners.
- Don't forget your folding chairs, water bottles, hats, gloves, shoes suitable for walking in the orchard, and long sleeves, long pants, and insect repellent to ward off the no-see-ums (or are they black flies? Larry is investigating)!
- **Again, be sure to RSVP with Alisha so she can get an accurate head count for lunch: 72ali.tee@gmail.com**

Thank you to Evelyn Ruehr, Elaine Rathbun, and Fred Kenyon whose contributions made it possible for us to have this June newsletter.



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“The Bean That Could Save Coffee”

Evelyn sent in an article entitled “The Bean That Could Save Coffee” from May 7, 2021 edition of *The Week*. It tells the story about a variety of coffee plant, stenophylla, that may solve a [looming coffee shortage](#) as global warming makes regions untenable for the traditional Arabica coffee variety. I can't post the article here due to copyright laws, but you can read the [full story in this link from the pressreader.com](#) and even more details in this [article from CNN](#).

“For Cleaner Home Composting, Learn the Bokashi Method”

Tired of the smell of your kitchen composting bucket? Elaine Rathbun may have an answer for you. She sent this link to an article by Wilder Davies on the [epicurious.com](#) website.

According to the article, the Bokashi method differs from composting in the following ways:

- it uses anaerobic lactic acid fermentation rather than aerobic decomposition
- the bucket in your kitchen will not smell like garbage
- you can bury the contents in your backyard and it converts back to soil in a couple of weeks
- you can process nearly all of your food scraps including dairy products and meats

You can read the [full article about the Bokashi method on the epicurious website](#).

Articles Needed For The July Newsletter

Thank you to those who contributed articles over the past year for keeping our newsletter alive during the Pandemic.

Articles are still needed. Please send your contributions to crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com. The deadline is Sunday, July 18th, 2021.



Photo by Fred Kenyon

Flower Photography by Fred Kenyon



I'm in the habit of attaching an image or two when communicating with folks I believe will most admire beauty. That likely includes all the members of CRFG. Long/short, whatever Nature proves fit to allow us to view becomes subject. Of course flowers are an easily obvious source. And that includes the flowers' implementation employing pollen or sometimes even nasty tricks to lure pollinators towards their open arms. Wait till the time is ripe and they all present their glory.

Dara asked how it's done. She was also curious re what type of equipment we use to capture, as best we can, the essence annually offered by Mother N. Of course you can bend towards the abstract quite easily, like go impressionistic for example, but I just try to look close and see "what" rather than just enjoy the view. Photography should be a required course of study along about Jr high. Yeah - opinions.



In the old days, watching an image appear in the developing bath on B&W photo paper you had timely exposed from a negative through your enlarger was pure magic. After that first night in the dark room, I never looked at the world the same again. Something about negatives becoming positive. OK, politics - more opinion.



Anyway, my equipment is rather dear, but the new phones produce images nearly as good. They offer close-up apps. The worst enemy of good is better. So I use a Nikon 850 and a dandy Nikon macro lens. But you can easily purchase less expensive stuff that does the job quite well, like:

<https://products.bestreviews.com/best-macro-photography-kit>



My Process: A stable tripod to promote a clean lengthy exposure with tiny apertures (high f-stops, like f 36) is required to capture the image. Photoshop or Gimp etc make the rest pretty easy. And the new photo papers even offer archival value, lasting years beyond the older methods. Making it all easy requires the added purchase of a light box which is basically like a little stage in which to arrange your display under controlled/variable lighting. They are inexpensive. If interested, suggest you get a bigger one so your compositions can be easily expanded in more extended height or width.

<https://products.bestreviews.com/best-lightbox-for-photography>

I place some black velvet in the background, so correct exposure times will initially be quite a trial, but they'll remain fairly constant once you zero-in. Pretty soon you'll be pumpin' out close-ups while discovering that each flower goes through several stages in its displays while forming seed. We love our "girls." Especially the bearded iris my wife so enjoys.









