



California Rare Fruit Growers – Central Coast Chapter

April 2018 Newsletter

by Lori Bright

Announcements

Thank you Master Gardener Linda Robertson for hosting us last month at the UC Master Gardener Demo Garden. You made our experience just perfect.

Our May meeting will be at the renowned Las Pilitas Nursery. You won't want to miss this one!

Joe has a new program for "gleaning" coffee grounds. Who doesn't Love Coffee Grounds for their garden? See Joe for details.

Our State newsletter has always run on a tight budget. The photos and color have been kept to a minimum. Now THANKS TO A 750 THOUSAND DOLLAR DONATION from a CRFG member in Orange County, our newsletter editors will be kicking-it-up a notch! Thanks So Very Much from every one of us readers. We are so appreciative.

Meeting April 14th: SLO Food Bank Warehouse

In April we had the



Our Co-Chairs Alisha and Tucker in front of the Food Bank warehouse in San Luis Obispo. Photo by Joe Sabol.

pleasure of touring the new SLO Food Bank Warehouse. An

incredible facility. Roxanne Sanders was our informative guide. This new location is larger, has more storage and works more efficiently. With its high ceilings, their palletted supplies are made accessible and easily rotated. The facility has 27 full-time workers and have many volunteers. Partnering with over 90 agencies and charities, they feed 46 thousand residents. They put together 600 "No-Cook" bags (think lunch bags) a month. The items in these bags are selected, with nutrient content and caloric concentrations in mind.



Roxanne Sanders tells CRFG Central Coast members and guests all about the Food Bank operations in San Luis Obispo county. Photo by Joe Sabol.

The Food Bank works closely with schools and in-need senior citizen homes. One of SLO Food Bank's proud partners is GleanSLO. GleanSLO was started in 2010 and works with residents to harvest overages from orchards and gardens. In 2017 alone, two hundred, seventy pounds of food were harvested by the SLOGleaners. Since their inception, the Gleaners have harvested over a million pounds of produce. The Gleaners boast over 1000 volunteers to date.

What an
amazing
community
we are so
fortunate
to live in!
Thanks be,
to all of
you who
currently
volunteer
your time

in these



Nell presents a thank you gift of a peach tree to our host. Photo by Joe Sabol.

organizations.

If you would be interested in volunteering for either organization, please visit their sites:

<http://www.slofoodbank.org/volunteer.php>

<http://www.gleanslo.org/volunteer.php>

To see a spreadsheet of the many Distribution Locations offered by the SLO Food Bank see

<http://www.slofoodbank.org/get-help.php>

And In Other News...

"The Quiet Rescue of America's Forgotten Fruit"

John Valenzuela sent us the following about one man who is responsible for roughly half of the country's stone fruit collection:

[The Quiet Rescue of America's Forgotten Fruit](#)" by Anne Ewbank.

Yes, they're talking about C. Todd Kennedy, who has contributed nearly 700 varieties of fruit to the National Germplasm collections. Nice little article.

Many thanks are due to Mr. Kennedy for his life long work. (Buy his trees!) <https://www.arboreumco.com/>

He will be speaking at the [2018 Festival of Fruit](#) on "The Trouble With Heirlooms."

February 2018 Scion Exchange Photos by Christine Chiu

Christine Chiu has shared the terrific photos she took at our Annual Scion Exchange last February. Christine, who is John Valenzuela's partner, has a knack with a camera. Be sure to check them out!

[Christine Chiu's Photo Album](#) of the February 2018 CRFG Central Coast Chapter Scion Exchange.

And don't miss those that comprise the [Dick Pottratz Grafting Demo!](#)

Orchard Workday: April 28, 2018

Joe Sabol summarizes this maintenance day [with editor's additions in square brackets]:

A very productive work day this morning!!!



Lots of weeds greeted us when we arrived at the orchard this morning!



Well organized. (Wow!! The fancy Job list was amazing.)

Well attended. [12 volunteers! Dick is not shown in pictures below, but he was here!]

Dedicated workers (we got a lot done... no slack, no breaks, no strikes).

[A dozen volunteers performed maintenance in the orchard by planting new trees, pulling weeds, cutting off sprouts on stumps and trees, weed whacking, digging out small poison oak plants, thinning fruit, cleaning and restocking the

Tucker was on it, though, weed whacking them down. They didn't stand a chance.

kiosk with updated orchard maps]

Safety first (weed whackers all wore glasses, no chainsaw work)

Educational (we shared stories of thinning, weeding, watering)

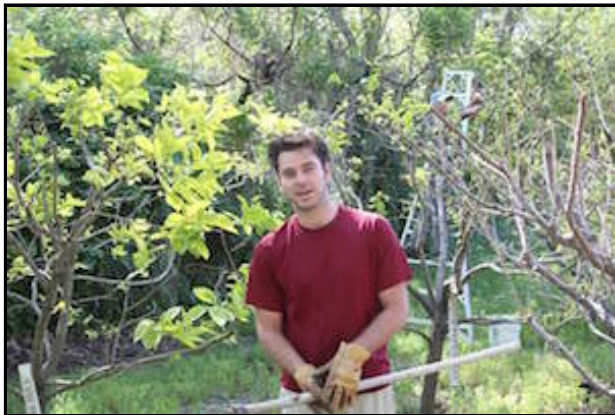
Food...(Thanks for the bananas and mandarines!!)

New folk... Lucas and Jessie & Maggie came to help... first timers ... we welcomed them

Hats protect skin... Look at photo of Susanne... our hat model ... covers ears, nose, neck!!

New tree planting (see photo of Manny planting Larry's donation... Allspice Tree!!!)
[Larry donated three trees today: a Pink Wampee, an Allspice, and a Kaffir plum!]

Water was available! Orchard looks good...green, productive, wet!!



Lucas' first day with CRFG: he joined us in abating the weeds and helped plant a tree with Tucker.



Dara also took a turn at whacking those weeds.



Susanne has been volunteering in the orchard on her own time. Today it is weed and sprout abatement and cleaning the kiosk.



Susanne cleans up by raking beneath the trees, and sports a hat of which Joe approves!



Lori pulled weeds and finished up the weed whacking via scythe!



Jessie has been helping out in his free time by pruning some of the peach and nectarine trees. Today he brought his assistant to help thin the fruit. We were all privileged to meet Maggie!



Jessie, Maggie, Tucker and Evelyn help thin fruit.



Larry says he filled three 5 gallon buckets with the thinned fruit, and there is still more to go!



Manny plants a Pink Wampee tree that was donated by Larry.



Manny also planted an Allspice tree that Larry donated to the orchard.