

The Leaflett

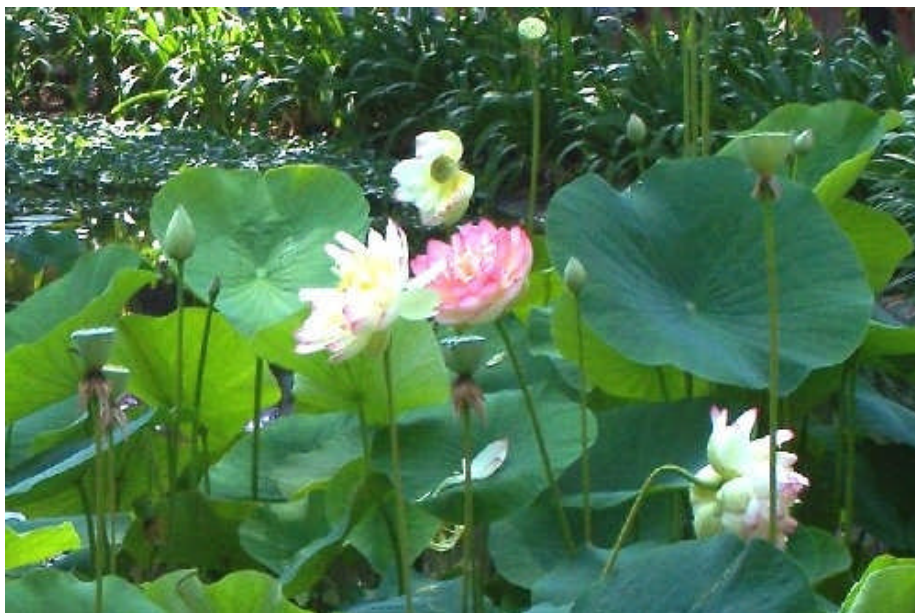
California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter Newsletter
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2008 The Year of the Avocado

July Meeting

Did you ever wonder what your garden could look like if you could spend all the money you wanted to on it? Our July meeting was a bus trip to Lotusland in Montecito and there we saw what both an eye for design and a pretty much unlimited budget could do in the creation of a showcase garden. (Photo of Lotusland namesake flowers was taken by Ron Blakey.)



The bus ride was part of the fun. We rode in a brand new bus driven by our own member, David Maislen. He is just one more example of our chapter's diverse membership—he drives bus for a living as well as being an avid gardener and beekeeper. He managed to get us into and out of some amazingly tight spots! Marv Daniels, Pet Daniels, Patti Schober, and Larry Hollis kept everyone busy on the long ride with plenty of action from raffles.

If you weren't among the fortunate 65 of those who went to Lotusland, it is a place you should visit for yourself. It's one of the "you have to see it to believe it" kinds of gardens. The garden is home to over 3,000 different plants from all over the world—many of the plants being important for their potential for education, research, and conservation. Not only are the plants amazing, but so is the garden art (much of it antique statuary from France) and the pools and ponds.

After visiting Lotusland, we stopped at Norman Beard's Nursery in Goleta. He has an amazing variety of rare plants growing on his grounds and many people took advantage of his low prices and bought their own rare plants to grow. If you've ever heard Norman discuss his philosophy "if it doesn't have fruit, pull it out" you'll know those are the kinds of plants he sells, too. (Norman has some very special plants you may be interested in purchasing such as Goji Berries, Allspice, PawPaw, Capulin Cherry, bananas, Dragon Fruit, all kinds of Citrus(Dwarf and Standard), World Famous Flying Dragon Root stock(Japanese), all kinds of Dwarf Citrus for people who want potted plants, and many others. Norman will be happy to give you a list of what he has and you can make arrangements for pick-up or delivery. Call him at 805-968-0989.)



Our last stop on the way home was at the Restoration Oaks Ranch blueberry farm on the 101 just north of Gaviota. Although we were tired, we still enjoyed listening to the owner of the farm, Rolland Jacks, talk about his adventures in blueberry growing and about how they have developed the ranch. Not only do they sell blueberries (U-pick) there from about May to August, they have a Retreat House there for families or groups of up to 24 people. Visit their website at www.restorationoaksranch.com or call them at 805-686-5718 for more information.

August Meeting

Our August meeting was held at another amazing garden—this time at the home of Robert and Carol Scott—who have created a veritable Eden on their 2 1/2-acre plot with a limited amount of money and lots of work! The large crowd gathered that warm afternoon first munched on a wide array of delicious fruits and other treats, and then nearly everyone took home a wonderful plant from the raffle supervised by the Daniels. (The plants in the photo on the right, many of them donated by Larry Hollis, were ALL included in the raffle! WOW!)



Owen Baynham was busy selling fabulous bird netting by the foot. He sold the entire bale (1,250 feet) and could have sold more. "Net" income was over \$850. This netting is so superior to the "usual" type that anyone who sees it wants it. Keep your eyes out for the next sale!

The Scotts gave us a quick overview of their property. They bought the land when it had nothing on it and during the past 20 years have created their own self-sustaining paradise. Everything there was created or envisioned by them. They built the house and all the outbuildings. Robert does the metal sculpture and Carol creates whimsical garden art using various mosaic techniques. (One of her favorite things is covering old bowling balls with bright designs. As she says, "Anyone can grow things, but a real gardener has balls!")

Our large group of over 80 members and guests divided into two—one led by Carol and one by Robert. I went with Carol's group and was especially amazed at all the huge plants growing that the Scotts had started from seed. Everything in the garden is grown organically and following low water usage principles. The tour was truly inspiring and enlightening! Thank you, Robert and Carol, for sharing your wonderful garden with us! (Photos below were taken by Ron Blakey and Joe Sabol.)



Photo one: Enjoying the snacks. Photo two: "Oh, wow, another CRFG mug!" Photo three: taking time to smell the—what is that plant? Photo four: Robert's wonderful espaliered fruit trees.

La Purisima Mission Pear Trees

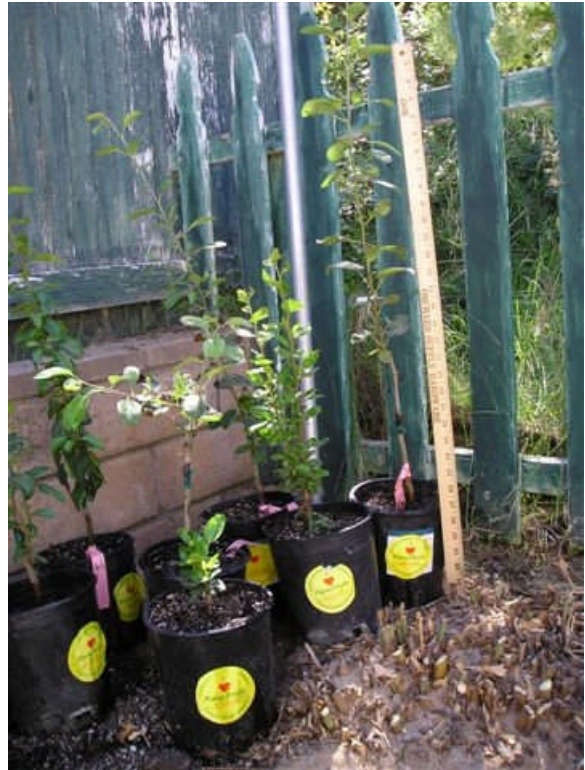
Several members of our group helped save the antique pear trees at La Purisima Mission. Here is a photo of how well they are doing as well as a report from Linda Agren who had spearheaded the project to save the trees.

Hi Joe:

Here are pics of the pear trees you and your group grafted for La Purisima Mission back in April. As you can see they are thriving in my backyard. Note the yard stick I stuck in the ground. Six of the grafts took and the remaining four pear root stocks are doing well too. The good grafts can be credited to: Patti, Jene, Carol, Marvin, Dave and the last name was faded but I think it is Pat maybe Pet.

Other than watering them is there anything else I should be doing? Also what about planting them this winter at the Mission?

Please thank your wonderful California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter for their help.



Got Rare Fruit?



Jack Swords of Nipomo does! He just had to share this photo of his jaboticabas with us! He said: "This is the third year of getting fruit on my seedling jaboticaba. Second crop this year and a third set of flowers forming. This plant has never been touched by frost, it is very hardy! I am going to propagate it to share with chapter members. Most impressive is the size of the fruits...not grape sized like some literature says. More like plum sized." He plans to take some to the Festival of Fruit for tasting.

Can't Afford T-bones?

We've all heard how papaya makes tough meat tenderer, but have you heard about the tenderizing properties of kiwis? Norman Beard shared this tidbit from ehow.com.



Step1

Grab your steak knife and cut the kiwi in half and then do nothing more elaborate than rub the meat all over with the fruit side down.

Step2

Wait at least a half hour and no more than an hour and then cook the meat as you normally would.

Step3

When you finally sit down to eat your steak or other meat that you've tenderized, you'll find that the enzyme properties in the kiwi have served to create the juiciest and tenderest meat you've ever eaten. Even normally tough cuts of meat like flank steak will slice cleanly and chew smoothly.

Raffle Readiness

Christmas Potluck/Meeting/Plant Exchange December 13, 2008

There are plans being made for the Annual CRFG party to be held this December 13, at the PG&E building at 6588 Ontario Rd. SLO. The Potluck is where you bring your favorite recipe for all to taste! This year for the plant Exchange/Raffle we will be using a simple guideline as follows.

1. All plants should be **EDIBLE**. We will accept those that are not edible, but they will be in a separate exchange section when they can only be exchanged for another non-edible plant.
2. All plants are to be labeled before they arrive with the following information:
 - A. **Edible or not edible.**
 - B. **Source**--who grew it?
 - C. **Contact** information of the grower (telephone # or email).

This way, we will learn more about the plants in our exchange, things will move quicker, and we will have a more educational meeting.

In the past, a few members of CRFG have grown the most plants for the plant exchanges. Plans are being made to share propagation methods with the membership so that more members can participate in the various ways by grafting, budding, growing from seed, making cuttings and air layering. Please let the CRFG officers know if you would be interested in such a meeting?

Raffle Chairpersons Marv and Pet Daniels

Announcements

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Emily Morris and Hamid Martin, Roxy James, Rick Algert, Edith Perman, Gunde Nemling, Patti Duron, Linda Dregler and Scott Furness, and Chantelle Brown.

FREE BULBS AND BERRIES: Paul Rhys is giving away free narcissus bulbs and olallieberry plants. All you must do is help him to dig them. Call him for an "appointment" and bring a shovel. He lives in SLO near the airport. Call 235-1302.

SAVE THE DATE: The **SARC's** fourth annual fundraiser dinner will be held on Thursday, October 2nd. This year, they are proud to host one of 'Cal Poly's Own', Tim LaSalle, who is currently CEO of the Rodale Institute. Rodale is America's leader in organic agricultural research. As always, the event will be a memorable showcase of some of the Central Coast's finest farms, vineyards and chefs. More information will come!

MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY: Their annual event will be held Saturday, October 4 thru Monday, October 6. There will be tours of local gardens and talks by local landscapers and nursery growers. For more information please contact: Laurel Golling at 805-459-1170.

TEACHERS NEEDED: Carmela Vignocchi, one of our chapter members, works at Hancock College in Santa Maria. She received the following announcement and thought there might be someone in our group who might be interested.

Dear Carmela,

We are beginning planning for our spring semester this week. If you know of anyone who is interested in teaching noncredit gardening and landscaping courses, please ask them to contact me. In particular, we hope to find instructors who would be available to teach a class on pruning techniques and orchid growing. We are open to new class ideas as well. These courses are offered under the noncredit short-term vocational area. To meet minimum qualifications for this area, candidates needs to possess a bachelor's degree and two years of related occupational experience OR an associate degree and six years of related occupational experience. Thank you!

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JOIN THE PARENT ORGANIZATION: Many of our chapter members are also 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.

Calendar of Meetings – 2008

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!**

September 19-20—No Local Meeting in September—Attend the Festival of Fruit which is hosted by the Orange County CRFG at CSU-Fullerton and the Fullerton Arboretum.

October 11—Talley Farms—Arroyo Grande: Meet at Talley Farms Office, 2900 Lopez Drive, Arroyo Grande, CA

Directions:

From 101 take Lopez Lake (Grand Ave) exit, turn east toward Lopez Lake go thru the old village of Arroyo Grande. At the stop sign turn right toward Lopez Lake. Go 5 miles turn right at Talley Farms road. The Talley Farms office is the grey and white building next to the loading dock.

If starting from the east side of SLO - Go to the east end of Johnson Avenue and turn left onto Orcutt Road at the stop sign (Tank Farm Rd.) and then turn left to remain on Orcutt Road. At the end of Orcutt Road turn left onto Lopez Drive, immediately turn right onto Talley Farms Road.

Tentative agenda:

1:30 Refreshments and business meeting of CRFG.

1:50 Rosemary Talley--History of Talley Farms and current operations.

2:00 Ryan Talley--New Organic Program – Heirloom Tomatoes. View Bell Pepper Packing Shed and Coolers if interested.

2:20 Carpool to Alisos Ranch to view Heirloom Tomatoes varieties and cultural practices.

November 8—Open

December 13—Annual Potluck—Held at the PG&E Building at 6588 Ontario Road in SLO.

Central Coast Chapter CRFG Contact Information: **Larry Hollis**, co-chair, I_Hollis@hotmail.com or 704-1513; **Patti Schober**, co-chair, pwolfy@tcsn.net or 467-2706 ; **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; or **Lennette Horton**, newsletter editor, handynana@gmail.com or **474-6501**.