



# Central Coast Chapter CRFG

December 2022 Newsletter

by Jenny Weaver & Tom Sheldon

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<https://www.crfg-central.org>

[Facebook: California Rare Fruit Growers-Central Coast Chapter](#)

*About the hyperlinks in this PDF: Press the CTRL key, then click the link to open the target Web page in a new tab. "The Leaflet" newsletter will stay open in the current tab so you can continue reading.*

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## Next CRFG Meeting Open to the Public

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**When:** Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1:00p.m.  
Pruning Clinic and Workshop.

### Schedule:

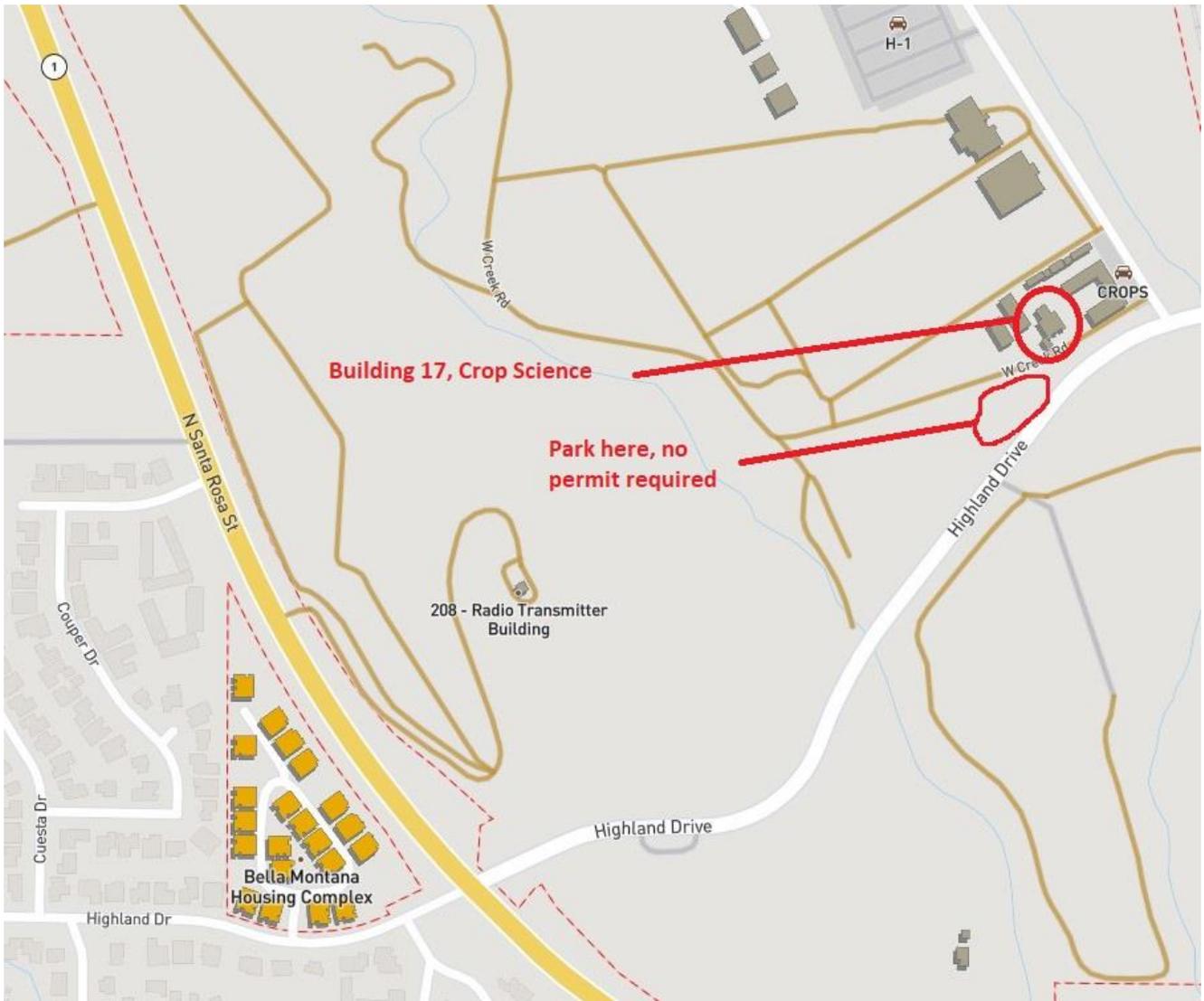
**12:30-1:00:** Set up crew.

**1:00-1:30** Socializing and refreshments. Bring something healthy to share and your own water.

**1:30-3:30** Chapter meeting, information about future meetings. Instruction on winter pruning and scion collection followed by a hands-on demonstration at the CRFG Demonstration Orchard at Cal Poly SLO. LIGHT RAIN WILL NOT CANCEL THIS EVENT. Please bring hand clippers and wear appropriate shoes and clothing for outdoor activity.

**Where:** Cal Poly Crops Unit Classroom 17-101/102  
Highland Dr x Mt. Bishop Rd  
San Luis Obispo  
**No parking permit is required on Saturdays.**

**Directions and Parking:** Map to Cal Poly Crops Unit, Building 17, Classroom 17-101/102. Free parking.



## Announcements

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE: How to collect scion wood for February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023 Scion exchange. A message from Tucker Schmidt, Scion Exchange Chair.**

We need your help to make the 2023 Scion Exchange a success. In past years we were very fortunate in the fact that John Valenzuela brought large amounts of scion wood left over from earlier exchanges held by other chapters in Northern California. This year many of the Northern Chapters are holding their exchange later or during the same time our event is scheduled. This will make it impossible for John to bring leftover scion wood to add to the contributions of our local fruit growers. In order to accumulate a vast selection of scion wood we will be depending on our chapter members more than ever to collect and share scion wood from their healthy, productive trees.

Things to remember when collecting and storing scion wood:

1. Cuttings from 2022 growth that are about the diameter of a pencil are preferred.
2. Take cuttings from disease-free trees.
3. Put cuttings in a plastic bag with a damp, (not super wet) paper towel and store in the refrigerator. Do not allow the material to freeze.
4. Label the bag with information about the cultivar. Include the fruit name and cultivar (ex. Apple "Hawaii" or Apricot "Flora Gold"), chill hours, the area you grew it, month that fruit is ripe, your name and any other pertinent information.
5. Put only one cultivar per bag.
6. Do not bring any citrus plant material of any kind.
7. Do not bring any patented cultivar.

Please visit our website and read the information about the scion exchange. There is a more thorough explanation of how to prepare for the scion exchange.

(press CTRL, then click the link) <https://www.crfq-central.org/contributing-scions>

Watch John Valenzuela's video about how to collect scion wood from your tree and how to collect the scion wood at the exchange.

(press CTRL, then click the link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=042ugo3x-TY>

If you have any questions don't hesitate to call me.

Tucker Schmidt 805 709 4811

Mark your calendar! Date and times are different than usual meetings.

**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (THIRD Saturday). OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Time to be announced.** Scion Exchange and Sale of Rootstocks, Grafting Supplies, Pheromone Loops, Used Gardening Books and Tools. Grafting Lessons, Quilt Raffle!

Mark your calendar.

**March 11, 2023 (usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday)** Grafting workshop in CRFG Demonstration Orchard. Learn to graft, practice and create trees for our CRFG chapter to sell at future events like Master Gardener and Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival events. Funds raised go to our scholarship fund.

## Meeting Notes and Presentation December 10<sup>th</sup> Holiday Potluck, Elections, Plant Raffle, Quilt Unveiling, Fruit Sharing...

*Report by Jenny Weaver*

Our meeting in December was at a beautiful location. Many thanks to Elaine Rathbun's daughter Angela and her husband Randy for offering their fantastic hilltop house to host our holiday potluck.

**Christmas party video** (press CTRL, then click the link): <https://youtu.be/YmVNz0rQ3TE>



*It was raining, but the views on top of the hill were spectacular*

It was just for our CRFG chapter members because we held elections for our Officers. Also, volunteers for various committees were announced. Many thanks

to Larry Hollis for coaxing members to step up and volunteer. There are many jobs to be done and the more volunteers we have, the easier it is for everyone. Even though it was a rainy day, it didn't stop many of us from sharing in the activities, food, friendship and fun.



*The holiday potluck is always a great food fest. This pic shows only some of the food.*

Nell ran the plant raffle in the garage. Many people brought special fruit bearing plants and trees. Carol, Kathy and I sold raffle tickets before and after the potluck.

Evelyn, Elaine and Larry provided the turkey, ham and chicken and there were many delicious side dishes and plenty of desserts!

Seth ran the meeting and announced the nominees for officers. They were Seth for Chairman for a second year, Linda Robertson for Vice Chair, Elaine Rathbun as Secretary and Dick Pottratz as Treasurer. Dick has served as Treasurer since he took over from me in 2001! Please give Dick a huge "Thank You" for the 22 years he has served doing many jobs as our Treasured Treasurer.

There are also many committees and important positions that are "manned" or "womaned" by volunteers! Please thank them for their commitment of time, energy and willingness to help. Please offer to help one of them! The more help that is given, the less one individual must do. You can help with a certain committee or help organize and manage a certain event. See the Elections list on page 12.

Our speaker was Jim Patterson from the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo (LCSLO). He braved the rain under the canopy and gave us a great overview of what the LCSLO does, the properties it owns and the conservation easements it has. Jim also covered the ownership of the apple orchards along the San Luis Obispo Creek near San Luis Bay Drive and Monte Rd. The orchards are leased back to SLO Creek Farms, Two Broads Cider and Gopher Glen Apple Orchard. These orchards were once owned by the late Dr. John DiVincenzo, an entrepreneur and traditional apple hybridizer. One day the Bob Jones trail will connect from the Octagon Barn to the existing Ontario trailhead.



Jim Patterson

**Video of Jim's talk (press CTRL, then click the link):** <https://youtu.be/DK-irN9HXzQ>

We finished our meeting with the plant raffle. We had special help from two of our youngest members, Remy and Raine. They helped Nell by picking the raffle tickets out of the bags attached to special plants. They even won some plants and got to take home some of the unclaimed plants. Their mom says the girls are very excited about trying new fruit and then they want a plant for their yard!

Nell had this to say after she got home and counted the money:

*"Many thanks to Jenny, Carol and Kathy for selling \$434 worth of plant raffle tickets - sometimes with the rain coming down just a foot from where they stood. They were wonderful in their festive holiday antlers and tiaras, (thank you Jenny for providing them). I am still surprised at the amount of plants that show up at our raffles - the outpouring from members is always amazing to me! What a group!"*

Several members brought fruit to share. Paul and Marie Moyer and Larry Hollis brought loads of Hachiya persimmons from SLO. I hope no one bit into a hard one!



Nell, Carol, and Jenny with the money, honey!



Hachiya persimmons

Hachiya persimmons are the **astringent** type. Be sure to wait until they are very soft (like a water balloon) before eating fresh. Otherwise your mouth will not be happy! You can slice them when they're hard or semi soft and dry them in a dehydrator. You can also peel them when they're hard and make Hosigaki.

Marv brought some large Feijoas and some small but delicious Kishu mandarins from his trees in Shell Beach. Sadly, I'd never heard of a Kishu until then.

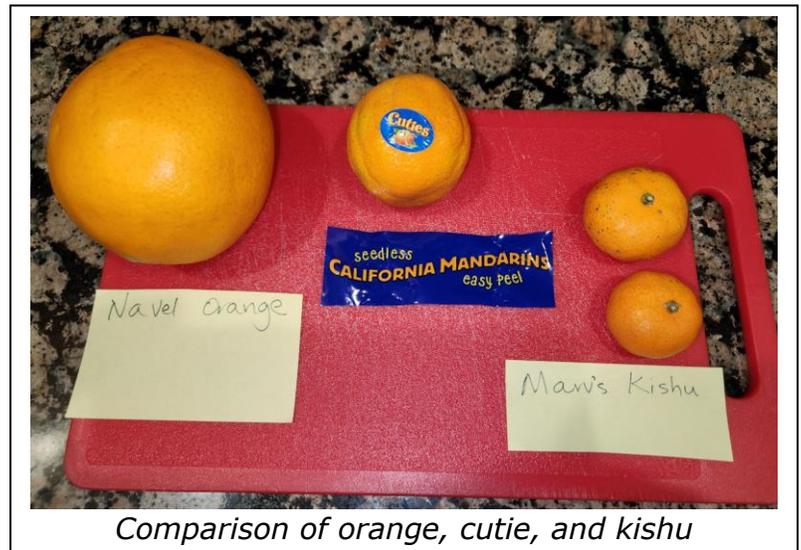
Here is an excerpt from an article in *Town And Country* 2018.

*"When kishus were first discovered, almost 1,300 years ago in a forest in southern China, the wild fruits were considered so delicious they were immediately sent to the emperor. He liked them so much he decided they were far too fine for ordinary people and began cultivating them for his*

*own use. For the next thousand years his imperial descendants kept the trees alive by grafting them from one year to the next (the fruit is seedless).*

*Some 700 years ago the tiny fruits, which are a kind of mandarin orange, made their way to Japan—nobody really knows how—and there they remained, an Asian secret across the centuries. It was not until 1983, when the University of California at Riverside added kishus to its Citrus Collection, that these supertangerines finally crossed the ocean." (Editor's note, they aren't really tangerines, they're mandarins!)*

Thanks to everyone who brought food, fruit and plants to share.



Comparison of orange, cutie, and kishu





*Yumm! There were plenty of desserts for all*



*Seth and Sharon, our Program Chair, call a name for one lucky survey-replier!*



*Larry H our Nominating  
Chair reads the list of  
nominated Officers for  
2023*



*Seth our Chairman tells  
some jokes to warm us  
up.*



*Nell, Raffle Chair and her elves, Carol, Jenny and Kathy*



*Nell and Marie have a good laugh*



*Angela, our party host*



*Some of our youngest and most enthusiastic members help and score plants.*



The Orangelo variety, courtesy of Sharon Chiri-Lovelady.

The Orangelo variety, presumably a cross between a grapefruit and an orange, probably originated in Puerto Rico. In 1956 Carlos G. Moscoso of the Department of Horticulture of the University of Puerto Rico saw a wild seedling tree in the rural mountainous Angeles and Caguanas areas of Utuado municipality, which produced large, bright yellow fruit, and other seedling trees were found in isolated areas among the coffee plantations. The name Chironja is a combination of Chi(na), the local term used for the sweet orange, and (to)ronja, the Spanish word for grapefruit. The large Orangelo fruit is obovate or pear-shaped, and eaten in the same way as a grapefruit, but it is sweeter, paler, and easier to peel. The tree closely resembles a grapefruit and produces isolated flowers.

Alfredo Chiri brought seeds from  
Puerto Rico  
Sharon Chiri Lovelady has tree.

## Elections

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At the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, we held our chapter's annual election for Officers. Larry handed out a sheet showing who had agreed to be committee Chairs and fill other important volunteer positions. You may have gotten one. If not, here it is.

### **POSITIONS** **Chapter Officers**

Chairman

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

### **For January through December 2023** **ELECTED OFFICERS**

**Seth McMillan**

[mcmillanfarmstead@gmail.com](mailto:mcmillanfarmstead@gmail.com)

**Linda Robertson**

**Elaine Rathbun**

**Dick Pottratz**

### **Committees and responsibilities**

Program Committee

Larry Hollis

Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Technical Consultant

Web Master

Demonstration Orchard

Co-Managers

Hospitality Committee

Welcoming & Membership Team

Apple Grafting Team Coordinator

Master Gardeners Liaison

Publicity – Media Manager

Procurement Manager

Raffle Team

Scion Exchange

Scion Exchange Store Mgr.

Rootstock Procurement & Sales

Scholarship Program

Nominating Committee

Schmidt

Board of Directors

### **VOLUNTEER Chairs and assistants**

**Sharon Lovelady-Chair**, Elaine Rathbun,

Jenny Weaver [ccrfgccnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ccrfgccnewsletter@gmail.com)

Tom Sheldon

Dara Manker

Dara Manker, Manny Magaña, Jesse Englert –

**Evelyn Ruehr- Chair**, Elaine Rathbun, Karen Kolba

Keri McMillan, Keri Schmidt, Elaine Rathbun

Marv Daniels

Linda Robertson

Sheri Thompson

**Gabrielle Robbins**

Nell Wade – Chair, Kathy Longacre

**Tucker Schmidt - Chair**

Roxy James

Nell Wade - Chair

**Nell Wade - Chair**, Karen Kolba, Linda

Robertson, Tucker Schmidt, **Dr. Lauren**

**Garner** (ex-officio)

**Larry Hollis – Chair**, Nell Wade, Tucker

4 Officers, 5 Committee Chairs plus, Gabrielle Robbins (long time member) & Dr. Garner (Cal Poly Pomology Professor) 11 names that are in bold

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## Quilt Raffle

From Roxy James

This handmade, one-of-a-kind quilt comes from the Central Coast Quilters "Quilting Angels", a group I belong to. It is named "Brightness in the Garden" It measures 50" x 60".

It will be on display at the January 14, 2023 and February 18, 2023 meetings. You can purchase raffle tickets at either of those meetings. Donation is \$1.00 for one ticket or \$5.00 for six tickets. Proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.

It will be raffled off at the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. You do not need to be present to win.

You can also contact Roxy beforehand to purchase raffle tickets if you can't be at either of those meetings. [rocksandjames@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rocksandjames@sbcglobal.net)



Roxy with "Brightness in the Garden" quilt to be raffled



## Rootstocks Info

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Nell oversees ordering rootstocks for the Central Coast Chapter. You can order them from her at the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting. You will also be able to purchase them at the February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.

Start dreaming about creating some new trees for yourself next year! They also make great gifts! Graft them next February and give them away to friends and neighbors.

Remember, the best time to plant a tree was 10 years ago! The second-best time to plant a tree is now!

ROOTSTOCKS 2022/2023	
Rootstock name	Recommended for:
<b>EMLA 106</b> Semi-vigorous; recommended over a wide range of soils and climactic conditions Well anchored, does not require staking.	Apple
<b>EMLA 111</b> Tolerates wet, dry or poor soils. Well anchored and deep rooted.	Apple
<b>PRUNUS AVIUM – MAZZARD</b> <b>Standard size.</b> Original cherry rootstock. Compatible to all cherry cultivars. Slow to produce fruit	Cherry
<b>PRUNUS MARIANA 26-24</b> Well adapted to many soil types. Shallow rooted while young, needs staking. Prone to suckering.	Plums, Prunes, Apricots*
<b>PRUNUS MARIANA GF-8</b> Vigorous, resistant to root knot nematodes. Tendency to sucker	Plums, Prunes, Apricots
<b>PYRUS Old House-Farmingdale 97</b> <b>Standard size.</b> Especially good for Asian Pears	European and Asian Pears

\*Although we don't recommend either Prunus' for Peaches or Nectarines, one on-line nursery did recommend using 26-24 for peaches and nectarines