



Central Coast Chapter CRFG

January/February 2/6/23 Newsletter

by Jenny Weaver & Tom Sheldon

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

In This Issue

(Click the link to jump to the section)

[Next CRFG Meeting](#)

[Announcements](#)

[More Info About Scion Wood and Seeds](#)

[One of a Kind Quilt Raffle](#)

[January Meeting Notes](#)

[Dean Harrell's Pruning Presentation](#)

[Volunteer News](#)

[Fruit Gossip](#)

[What's in the Garden of Eatin' Now](#)

[Member Survey Results](#)

Next CRFG Meeting Is Open to the Public. Free Scion Exchange. Rootstocks, grafting supplies, Codling moth pheromones and Garden Swap-o-Rama for sale. Quilt Raffle...

When: Saturday February 18, 2023

Schedule:

11:30 Bring Garden stuff donations to Roxy for The Store

12:00 Volunteers arrive by the latest!

12:30 Drop offs for all materials. This is all set-up items and plant materials etc.

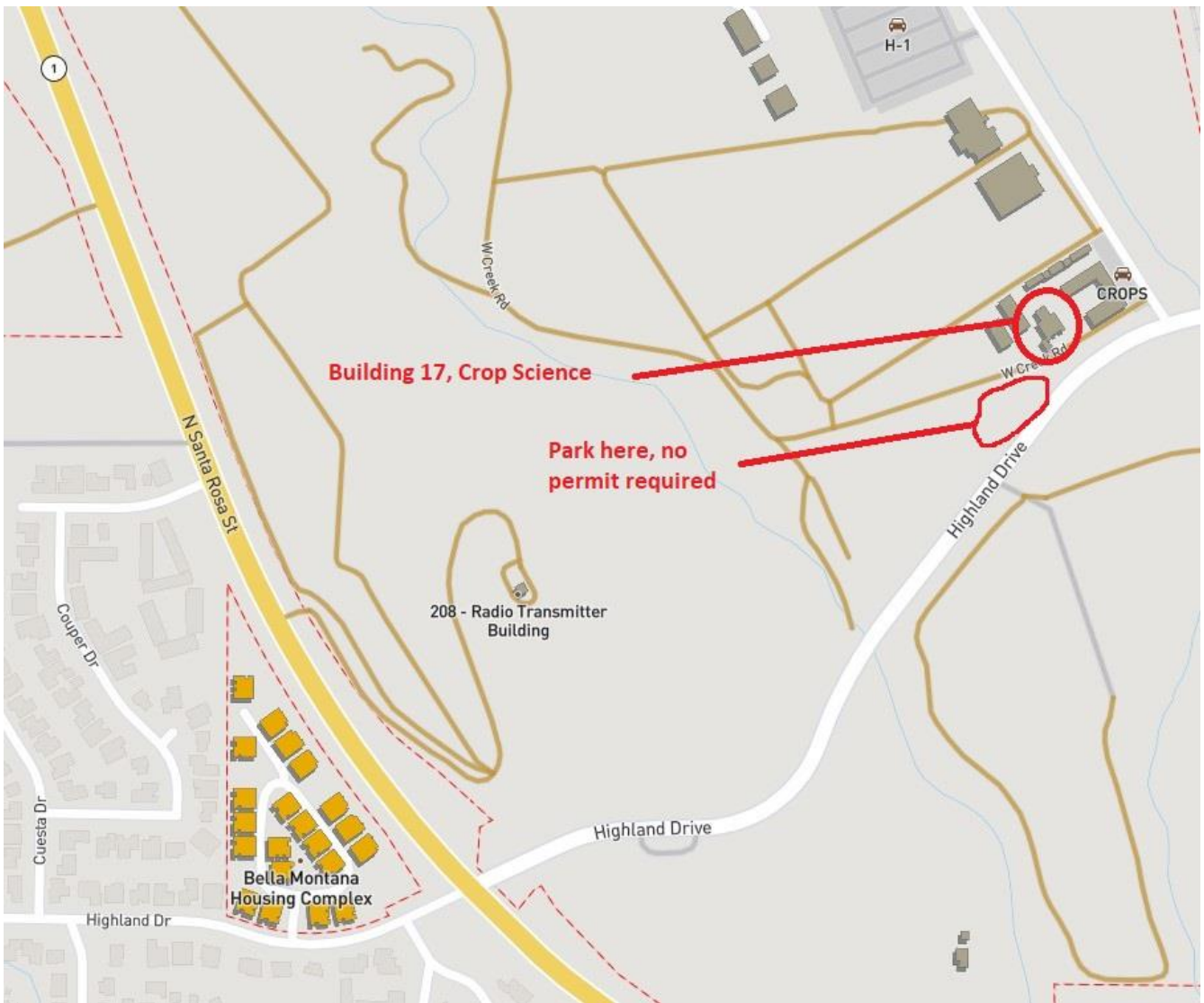
1:00 Chairman Seth McMillan will explain how it all works today!

Scion Exchange. Sale of rootstocks and grafting supplies at The Store. Grafting demonstrations...

3:30 Clean up Crops Unit courtyard and classroom!

Where: Cal Poly Crops Unit, Highland Drive x Mt Bishop Rd, San Luis Obispo

Parking: Is free on Saturdays. Park in dirt lot in front of Crops Unit. **DO NOT PARK next to fire hydrants where curbs are painted RED. You will be towed.**



Announcements

Editor's correction to Dec. 2022 Leaflet. My apologies for my error in the last newsletter. Our Holiday Potluck host Angela, is the daughter of ELAINE Rathbun, not Evelyn Ruehr! Both lovely ladies on the Hospitality Committee with initials E.R.! Sorry, Editor in Error

How to Collect Scion wood for the Scion Exchange

Everything you need to know select, collect, label, and store is at the following link, including videos, instructions, photographs, and blank labels to print.

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

DO NOT BRING ANY CITRUS STEMS, BUDS OR LEAVES TO Cal Poly! They may contain ACP insect pests or HLB disease!

Only bring clean, pest and disease-free scion wood.

Make sure each bag is fully labeled. Unlabeled wood will be discarded.

Note: Collectors need to know the variety because then they can decide if they want that in their yard, if it will grow well in their micro-climate, if it needs a pollinator for a crop, how to prune it! Include where it's growing, if it's LOW CHILL or HIGH CHILL, if it is self-pollinating or requires cross pollination. Put your name /contact information so collectors can ask questions.

DO NOT BRING ANY Patented scion wood!

How do you know if a plant is patented? Here's a message from John Valenzuela CRFG (Northern CA chapter).

"Since Covid-19 cancelled many of our Scion exchanges for the last couple of years, more varieties have expired patents, and are now open to propagation by all. To aid in determining if a particular variety is still under an active patent or not, follow this link to see a spreadsheet with all the patented fruit varieties that are now available to propagate."

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10PfuUp8GbpK_hXfcWWIODTqS_T3nF_isHs6viJZ_-7uI/edit

John Valenzuela
Cornucopia Food Forest Gardens
Growing an ecosystem of abundance
Horticulturist • Consultant • Educator
cornucopiafoodforest.com

Garden Swap-o-Rama Donations Wanted for the Store at the Feb 18 Meeting.

[Proceeds go to the Agricultural Students Scholarship Fund](#)

Message from Roxy:

Yay...It is a good year to have "yea ole' Swap-o-Rama" again. This was a big success for our chapter about 5 years ago. It only works if you help us accumulate beautiful, functional, desirable, and clean items that people will want to buy. You can use your imagination for this, but please let it be related to the garden. Ask your neighbors also please. These are some ideas but cleaning out your shed would give you even more.

Please bring it to the 2/18/23 event by 11:30 a.m. If you can not attend but want to donate, please contact Roxy at central_coast@crfg.org

Yard Art of many types...If you like it (or used to love it), odds are someone else will too. Rust is good if it is cute!

Books and Pamphlets that were useful in your learning process.

Tools that you no longer find a need for. No rust allowed unless it is vintage and can be put in the yard art category.

Ceramic Pots that are clean and usable and decorative plant-accommodating containers (think tea pots, cups you've drilled a hole in, colanders...)

Homemade crafts like Bat, Owl, Mason Bee houses, Bird houses...

Note: These items will be sold on a "make me an offer" status. If that isn't for you, leave that item at home. No donation receipts will be given.

Everything leftover will be donated to a charitable organization.

More Info About Scion Wood and Seeds

Is grafting too daunting for you? Afraid of sharp knives? Do you have young kids who love to grow plants? This is for you!



*Raine and Remy, our youngest and most enthusiastic CRFG members!
Photo by Jenny*

You can start many fruit trees and vines from cuttings (scion wood). It will take longer to get fruit than grafting onto an existing tree. But it's a way to get many trees for little cost. Some of the most commonly rooted plants are figs, grapes, mulberry, pomegranate and hazelnut. Gooseberry, blackberry, raspberry, and passionfruit grow from suckers. Make sure you dig up the roots.

Here are some websites to inspire you:

"The Easiest Fruit Plants to Propagate"

<https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/easy-fruit-plants-to-propagate-zbcz1403/>

Read about "Different Methods of Propagating Fruit Tree Cuttings" here:

[https://www.permaculturenews.org/2018/07/07/different-methods-propagating-fruit-trees-cuttings-etc/#:~:text=Any%20leaves%20should%20be%20removed,rooting%20medium%20\(info%20below\)](https://www.permaculturenews.org/2018/07/07/different-methods-propagating-fruit-trees-cuttings-etc/#:~:text=Any%20leaves%20should%20be%20removed,rooting%20medium%20(info%20below))

The University of Davis Agriculture and Natural Resources has a fantastic site about Fruits and Nuts. Here's one all about pomegranates:

https://ucanr.edu/sites/btfnf/fruitnutproduction/Pomegranate/Pomegranate_Propagation/#:~:text=Pomegranates%20can%20be%20propagated%20using,conditions%20for%20rooting%20to%20occur

Jack Swords, one of our founding fathers, is going to bring about 40 different types of avocado scions! He'll have information for you to look up to see if the variety is right for your growing area, if it needs a pollinator etc.

You can also get seeds at this meeting. Jack will also bring some macadamia nuts (seeds) you can take home and plant! YES, macadamia nut trees grow well in south county. There is a fabulous one across the street from me in Pismo Beach. Jack Swords and Robert Scott grow lots of trees. Mummm, I can smell macadamia chocolate chip cookies baking! Hawaii, watch out!



Robert & Carol Scott, Mike Cirone and Marv Daniels collecting apple scions. Photo by Tucker Schmidt

Many thanks to Mike Cirone, who grows apples in See Canyon. Mike donated apple scion wood as he has for many years. Thanks to Nell for storing it in her spare fridge.

One of a Kind 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" and measures 50" x 60". The quilt will be on display and be raffled off at the February 18th meeting. You do not need to be present to win.

You can purchase raffle tickets at the February meeting. Be sure to fill in your contact information legibly! Contact Roxy at central_coast@crfg.org to purchase raffle tickets beforehand if you can't be at the next meeting.

Donation is \$1.00 for one ticket or \$5.00 for six tickets. Proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.



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

January Meeting Notes

Report by Jenny Weaver

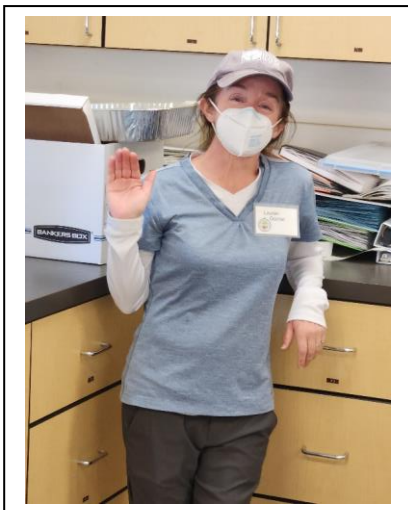
January 28th, Pruning Clinic and Demonstration & Practice in the CRFG Orchard

This meeting was rescheduled from a rainy Saturday 14th to a perfect Saturday, Jan. 28th. The weather gods shone down on us. It rained the next day!

It was well attended. Estimates of 80 – 100 people filled the Crops Unit classroom. Many thanks to our new Media manager, Sheri Thompson. She has been busy making fliers, posting our events on KCBX Community Calendar and Facebook.



Ag students, CRFG members, friends and neighbors...



Cal Poly Pomology professor Dr. Lauren Garner was there with several of her Pomology students.

Dr. Garner welcomed us and gave us information for those who would like to hire a pomology student to prune their fruit trees.

Email plantsciences@calpoly.edu and let them know what type of fruit tree work you'd like to have done for a fee.



Our Vice Chair, Linda Robertson ran the meeting. Several announcements regarding the Feb. 18th scion exchange meeting were given regarding members who need to bring clean, disease and pest free scions to share. Label it well. Don't bring any citrus. Also please bring healthy snacks and fruit from your yard to share. We will have lots of guests at the Feb. 18th meeting.



Tucker reminded everyone to not bring cuttings from citrus or patented fruit trees. Tucker is in charge of the scion wood portion of the Feb. 18th meeting. This will be held inside the same classroom.

Pre-ordered rootstocks will be available on Feb. 18th. Don't panic if you didn't pre-order rootstocks. There will be more at the Feb. 18th meeting.

Terri Monell is taking over from Jenny the distribution of pheromone loops. These are an OMRI approved organic biocontrol for codling moths that attack pome fruit (apples, pears), stone fruit (peaches, apricots, nectarines, cherries) and nuts (walnuts, pecans, almonds). The "Store" will have bundles of 12 loops for \$10.

Bring your wallet full of cash or checkbook!!



Evelyn and Remy reading about grafting. Remy has her own plant notebook!

Dean Harrell's Pruning Presentation



Our guest speaker for the January meeting was Dean Harrell from North County Cuesta College. He is an Agriculture Plant Science Instructor. About 10 of his Ag Plant Science students showed up also (maybe for extra credit?!). It was a full house.

One of his students assists Dean.

Here is the handout that Dean provided.

CRFG Pruning Cal Poly Crops Unit

- Dean Harrell
- Ag Plant Science Instructor
- Cuesta College
- January 28, 2023



Why we prune...

- Control tree size
- Manage light and air circulation to encourage flower formation
- Encourage annual fruit bearing
- Keep fruit from breaking branches
- Remove dead, dying and diseased wood
- Make the tree look good

Type of cuts?



Heading cuts reduce the height

- Manage tree height
- Usually 1st cuts made
- Maintain fruit weight close to main branches
- Produce the growth of many short shoots at cut
- Can result in sunburn

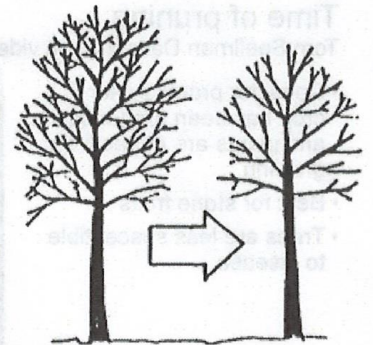


Type of cuts?



Thinning cuts

- Improve the light
- Keep the fruit from stacking on itself
- Used to eliminate diseased wood
- Encourages balanced tree growth



Where is the fruit located?

	Spurs	Shoot tips	Lateral of 1 year shoots	Axils of leaf
Almond	yes		yes	
Apple	yes	yes		
Apricot	yes		yes	
Cherry	yes	yes		
Fig				Yes (current)
Olive				Yes (1 yr old)
Peach/Nectarine			Yes(hangers)	
Pear	yes	yes		
Persimmon			yes (current)	
Plum	yes		yes	
Pomegranate	yes		yes	
Pistachios			yes	
Walnuts	yes	yes		

Source: UC Davis

Fruit and Nut Research Information: UC Davis

• <https://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu>



Vertical branches make more vegetation

- Structure of tree made with U shaped crotch
- Fruit production encouraged by flatter-angled branches or branches with an arch
- (Good Fruit Grower: Washington State Good source of pomology info)



Keys to successful pruning

1. Prune at the right time of year for your tree
2. Work around tree
3. Remove dead, dying or diseased branches
4. Manage height of tree
5. Make more thinning cuts than heading cuts
6. Leave the small spurs and branches on the structural scaffolds

Time of pruning

Tom Spellman Dave Wilson video

- Consider pruning after crop has been produced and plants are not actively growing
- Best for stone fruits
- Trees are less susceptible to disease



Take home messages

1. Learn the bearing habits of your trees
2. Be patient if you are working on a tree that has been neglected
3. Heading (cuts) manages height; Thinning (cuts) manages light
4. Give each branch a place in the universe
5. Remove less wood on spur bearing trees and more wood on lateral bearing trees

Here are some valuable tips. When pruning, remember a Heading cut reduced the Height of the tree. It shortens the branch and later it will produce lots of side growth. A Thinning cut lets in more light. A thinning cut removes the branch entirely. Treat a tree like a child. You can't train a kid to do everything his first year!

If you prune with loppers, you can't snip your finger like you can with hand shears.

After an informative meeting, the group went to the CRFG Demonstration Orchard to practice on a few trees. No fingers were cut, only branches!



Dean Harrell demonstrating pruning in the CRFG orchard (photos from Linda Robertson)



Volunteer News

Marvelous Marv was asked/volunteered to prune Joanne's two very old and tall apple trees in Cambria. Joanne's father planted the trees 30 years ago. Even though it was a rainy Sunday, Marv, Dean, John, Laura and Wendy joined to help. Sometimes it takes a village!

Marv explained to Joanne that CRFG members do not solicit pruning jobs for hire but if she wanted to give a "sizeable donation to the CRFG Scholarship fund" that would be appreciated. And a sizeable donation she gave! Thank you Joanne for the \$300 donation. It will go to deserving Agriculture students in the next round of scholarships.



Photo of Dean volunteer-pruning for Joanne the day after his pruning presentation.



Photos of Joanne, Wendy and Dean provided by Marvelous Marv

Fruit Gossip

My Christmas Apples

By Linda Robertson

When I lived in Petaluma, there were apple trees everywhere. Gravensteins, Pink Pearls, Winesaps, Golden Delicious, Jonathans, Jonagolds, Hauer pippins, Arkansas Blacks, Rome Beauties, Esopus Spitzenberg, McCouns, Ben Davis, and too many others to remember grew on farms or in back yards all over Sonoma County. But one I particularly remembered was a tree I saw near an old farmhouse out in the country. It was early January, and the tree was full of pale green apples, perfectly ripe, crisp like a Fuji, and delicious fresh off the tree. After that I kept an eye out for those winter apples, looking for a tree I could take some wood from. And one day, on a walk, I found one, an old, neglected tree at the edge of an overgrown yard, leaning over the fence above the sidewalk. I cut a twig and grafted it onto a rootstock. Then I did a little research on the Internet and decided that what I had was a White Winter Pearmain.

A year or two later I moved to San Luis Obispo, and carried the little tree in its pot, along with a lot of others, duly vetted by the county ag inspector, down to my new home. Most of them died within a couple of years of being planted in my new back yard. The Petaluma Pearmain was one of the survivors, but it didn't thrive. Something in the soil slowed its growth and seems to have permanently dwarfed it, along with a nearby McCoun. But in 2022, after eight years, it suddenly produced eight apples. They were pale green, with a little bit of red blush, and, like the ones on the tree up north they didn't ripen until late December. I was pleased with my success and decided to write something for the Leaflet about the White Winter Pearmain and what a cool apple it is. As it turns out, though, it's not all that clear whether my apple is really what I thought, or what the White Winter Pearmain even is.

There's a bit of lore that the Winter Pearmain is a very old English apple dating back to the year 1200. According to some sources its first documented appearance in North America was in the midwest in the mid-19th century, although others say pearmain apples were popular in the South in the 18th and early 19th centuries. There's a story that it was a mystery apple grafted from an unlabeled cutting and another suggesting it may have been descended from one of the many apple seedlings that grew wild in the eastern part of the country during the 18th and early 19th centuries. And the information I found – some in books, some on commercial growers' web sites – is all over the map about its ripening time. Some say it ripens in September, some in October. Only two sources described it as late-ripening. One was a page on the web site Pomiferous (<https://pomiferous.com/applebyname/white-winter-pearmain-id-6679>), which also tries to explain its confusing history.

According to Pomiferous, it seems there are, or were, several pearmain apples. Early growers' catalogs described a white pearmain and a red pearmain, but the latter was later determined to be a mislabeled Esopus Spitzenberg. The white pearmain was renamed White Winter Pearmain, but it has also been given other names: Campbellite, and Griffin's Pearmain. For awhile it was also incorrectly believed to be the same apple as a Michael Henry Pippin.

And there are, as it turns out, even more pearmain apples than those: the Home Orchard Society's Fruit and Nut Inventory names 22 pearmain varieties. Most of them are said to ripen in September and October, and only one, the Cannon Pearmain, as late as November.

So my apple is still a puzzle. It fits the physical description of what is usually called the White Winter Pearmain – pale green with a bit of blush and some russetting around the stem end. Its very late ripening fits with the description in Pomiferous. But what about all the other sources that say it ripens much earlier? When I tried an apple from my tree in October it was seriously 2 underripe, and even at Thanksgiving another sample was still astringent and clearly not ready for eating. The remaining apples were finally ready to eat during Christmas week. Like its counterparts up north, mine is definitely a winter apple, and one worth waiting for, tasty and fresh from the tree at a time when most apples have been stored for months. But since the history of the pearmain apples is so confused, and the descriptions of their qualities are so inconsistent, I'm still not sure just what my tree -- or a White Winter Pearmain -- really is. Whatever it is, though, it's an interesting and unusual tree, and one I hope will survive to give me apples for future Christmases.

An Attractive Palm That Produces Tasty Sweet-Tart Fruits

By Jenny Weaver 2/4/23

The other day I visited Robert and Carol on the Arroyo Grande Mesa and got to benefit from the delicious and varied fruit they produce. I was treated to some fruit I have never tried before. They were small yellow fruits from a beautiful palm tree. They were like a Sweet-Tart or a Starburst Fruit Chew candy. It's a small hard seed surrounded by fibrous flavorful fruit. The birds had already beaten us to much of the tasty fruit.

Madera Palms describes the fruit like this

"The fruit of the Butia capitata is most delightful - a tart guava-banana-pineapple-nutty taste - that cannot be adequately described or compared".

<http://www.maderapalms.com/butia-capitata-palm-tree>

Robert started his *B. capitata* palm from a seed. It took about 12 years until it fruited. I wish I'd known about them 12 years ago and had room for one now! It's a very attractive tree. It's also quite cold hardy.

The palm also looks like a *B. odorata* because of the shape of the fruit. Or is it a *Butia eriospatha*?! It's hard to tell. Could be a hybrid since it was grown from a seed. Robert says "Whatever the name, it's a keeper."

In addition to snacking on the fruit, you can make jelly and wine from the fruit.

[https://palmpedia.net/wiki/Butia_capitata_\(True\)](https://palmpedia.net/wiki/Butia_capitata_(True)).

The Palmpedia wiki is a great site with everything you want to know about palms.



Robert hiding behind his *Butia capitata* palm tree! Mr. Snippy at his side. Photo by Jenny

Barry D. thought this might be an interesting link for the newsletter, and so it is!

Meet the Appalachian Apple Hunter Who Rescued 1,000 'Lost' Varieties. It's written by Eric J. Wallace who says, "Tom Brown's retirement hobby is a godsend for chefs, conservationists, and cider."

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/heritage-appalachian-apples>

What's in The Garden of Eatin' Now



From left: Zuchetta winter squash (yes, it's a fruit!), Cocktail Grapefruit also known as Mandelo (Mandarin x Pummelo) 3 "Owari" Mandarins, 2 cute Butia capitata palm fruits grown by Robert in So. SLO Co. Far right: Orangelo (orange x grapefruit) grown by Sharon in No. SLO Co. Both the grapefruits are seedy but sweeter than traditional grapefruits. Photo by Jenny

Member Survey Results

CENTRAL COAST CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS SURVEY 2022

Total Surveys Returned	61
What's your favorite aspect of our Chapter?	
A. Various meeting places	39
B. Interesting speakers	35
C. Specific knowledge	35
D. Socializing in a beautiful setting	26
Other (Comments)	11
• It is a great group- everyone is very friendly	
• Being part of the Chapter.	
• All of the selections	
• Scion Exchange	

What would you like to see at future monthly general meetings?

- | | |
|--|----|
| A. Plant exchanges | 40 |
| B. Garden tool/book exchanges | 14 |
| C. Bulk purchasing of specific items, for example, pheromone strips, rootstock | 29 |
| D. Service projects | 15 |
| E. Workshop | 22 |
| F. Tool sharpening and maintenance workshop | 23 |
| G. Water efficient gardening techniques. Use of irrigation/drip tapes, etc. | 30 |
| H. Mulching | 15 |
| I. Rainwater collecting/ gray water storage systems | 23 |
| J. Setting up and operating hydroponic systems | 13 |
| K. Gardening in containers/small yards | 22 |
| L. Bay Laurel Nursery or Farm Supply- picking the right fruit trees | 20 |
| M. Pest control in gardens/orchards | 37 |
| N. Useful "weeds" | 24 |

Other

8

- Potager Gardens: Blending Natives with edibles.
- Library
- Service projects participation might be another way to get our name out to encourage new members.
- Open for all kinds
- Garden book exchange at December meeting. At monthly meetings bring a plant get a plant in return.
- Can never have too much soil, plant nutrition, and diseases of trees.
- Plant exchanges
- Garden tool/book exchanges
- Bulk purchasing of specific items (pheromone strips, rootstock)
- Service projects
- Tool sharpening and maintenance workshop
- Workshops
- Water efficient gardening techniques. Use of irrigation/drip tapes etc
- Mulching
- Rainwater collection/ gray water storage systems
- Setting up and operating hydroponic systems
- Gardening in containers/small yards
- Bay Laurel Nursery or Farm Supply – picking the right fruit trees
- Pest control in gardens/orchard
- Useful weeds

Do you have specific fruit gardening interests that you would like to participate in?

- | | |
|--|----|
| A. teaching fruit propagation/grafting | 15 |
| B. planting trees in public areas | 13 |
| C. educating public on organization at booths, fairs, etc. | 12 |

- D. grafting/propagating/caring for plants to be sold at booths 17
- E. orchard maintenance 17
- F. Writing short garden articles 3
- G. Volunteer management 0
- H. Event management 1
- I. Photography 6

Other 7

- I am willing to help wherever I can. (E.R)
- Organic fruit and vegetable gardening.
- Willing to help at Scion exchange and Demo grafting (Robert and Carol Scott)
- Soils and soil fertility.
- Working at booths (D. Shealy)
- Air layering
- Propagating plants

What area of the county (City) are you growing fruit?

- A. North County: PR, Creston, Atascadero, Templeton, San Miguel 6
- B. South County: GB, GB, AG, AG, AG Mesa, eastern AG Lopez, Halcyon, Nipomo, Orcutt, PB 22
- C. SLO area: 24
- D. Coastal: LO 10
- E. Out of county: Santa Barbara 2

Do you like our current meeting schedule? If not, what changes would you propose?

YES 58

NO 4

Other Preference:

- I have a ongoing problem getting to the scion exchange, because I attend an annual professional conference that is always held on President's Day weekend. (Linda R.)
- Love having NC sites
- Some weekday and evening meetings
- Later in the day
- Start in the morning and ending by noon.
- Mornings 9-12

Would you attend meetings at a different day and time? If so, please note what's your preference. Would you prefer this to be in addition to the monthly meetings or instead of the regular meetings?

YES 5

NO 4

Other w/ Comments 7

- The meetings work for me.
- Sundays
- Saturdays are best for me.
- Early evening

- Maybe, ride sharing would be great.
- I am open to other times, weekends are best.
- I like the regular 2nd Saturday meeting schedule.
- I'm flexible. It either works or it doesn't
- Saturday afternoon is probably the best for me.
- Like days as they are. Except for special meetings that can happen only during the week.
- Saturday mornings would be okay, but the 3rd Saturday because that is Master Gardeners hold their Advice and Grow by programs.
- I like it the way it is now.
- I would probably come whenever.
- I'd attend other meetings as long as they are in the evening, but I'd prefer the Saturday regular meeting time.
- Time and date are good.
- Prefer Saturdays

Do you have any ideas for future meetings? Future service projects – for instance, children's gardening booth at the Zoo in Atascadero held at one of their annual events.

YES

10

Comments:

- I like the garden at the zoo in AT
- Assist with my "pet project" which is our Global Family Farm – a children's garden at City Farm that is a food forest. I need to help with the fruit trees. They aren't bearing fruit and I don't know why. (Teresa Lees)
- Continue support of our scholarship funding, maybe one that honors Joe.
- I would like to visit growers of uncommon fruit.
- A trip to the Central Valley during pit fruit season.
- Would like to visit more member gardens.
- SLO Botanical Garden, Trees of Antiquity in Paso Robles (if they are interested), local nursey, such as Bay Laurel.
- Designing gardens for children, hydroponics, Avocado Farm.
- Scion Exchange.
- I would like to join the Imperial Chapter for the UC Riverside Research citrus groves for the open house in December or January. It is in Lindsey CA (Trudi B.)
- Fairly new to the area so none at this time (T.B.)
- Work with Central Coast Beekeepers Alliance on some projects
- Work with Central Coast Heritage Tree Foundation to promote oak Tree health.
- Speaker talking about mushrooms, foraging weeds/flowers and herbs on the central coast. Field trip
- A booth at Thursday night Farmers Market SLO.
- Harvest Festival in AG again.
- Children gardening at Zoo or schools
- Grafting workshop, Los Osos Garden Club to host.

Are you a current member of the state organization, CRFG, Inc. In other words, do you

receive the *Fruit Gardener* magazine?

YES

24

NO

34

LIFE

1

Have you attended a Festival of Fruit, usually held in August? If so, do you remember the year(s) and topic(s)? (Not on the Survey Monkey)

YES

6

NO

6

Comments:

- Cambell, LA, SLO (E.R.)
- SLO, SLO, 2011 – 2019, Oregon
- Yes when it was in SLO.
- 2006 in SLO, Santa Cruz
- Previous years.
- Many
- Most of them over the past 20 years, and the fruit of the year, but not all.
- San Diego
- Have attended all F.O.F. except the first in AZ and Oregon.
- Several: Year of the Olive Santa Rosa, Dragon Fruit Pomona, Pears Oregon, San Diego tropical's, SLO, Santa Clara.
- 2016 Cal Poly SLO and wonderful.
- Grapes and avocados
- SLO

Do you support the chapter hosting the 2026 Festival of Fruit here on the Central Coast?

If so, what's your main volunteer interest? (Not on the Survey Monkey)

YES

19

NO

1

Maybe

2

Comments:

- It is a lot of work. We hosted it in 2016. It was a great success. Much planning needed.
- Help wherever needed
- Willing to serve on the coordinating committee, interested in learning more. (C.V.)
- Event Management (N.W.)
- Garden tour at my home (M.D.)
- Set up, meet and greet, take down (Teresa Lees)
- By vote of the chapter membership- it is a lot of work.
- Can man booths, and organize (Drina Burns)
- Helping with a fruit tasting or whatever needed. (Larry Hollis)
- Catering setup (David and Joan Maislen)
- Maybe, would be willing to host tour. (The Scotts)
- Babysitting plants, working at the event itself. (Linda Robertson)
- Open to suggestions. (Dean)

- I would support it, can volunteer, not sure in what capacity because I'm not sure what is needed. (Sheri T.)
- Sure, whatever is needed (Trudi B.)
- Sure, sounds fun! I can volunteer in some way. (Laura Golden)
- Setup/takedown, booths, volunteer where needed. (D. Shealy)
- I can help with silent auction (Cindy Lewis)

Have you purchased any gardening supplies/tools from our chapter?

YES

51
10

NO

What have you purchased?

- Grafting materials
- Root Stock
- Netting
- Pheromones
- Grafting tools
- Netting, root stock, pheromones, grafting tape, and tools.
- Netting, pheromones, grafting tools.
- All of the above
- Rootstock, Pheromones, bird net, fertilizer, grafting supplies, garden tape.
- All of the above, I've made big buys for the chapter.
- Pheromones, netting, rootstock, fertilizer.
- Bird netting, Pheromone traps, buddy tape
- Pheromones.
- Netting
- Rootstock, netting, pheromones, grafting tools, grafting wax.
- Furlin strips, tape
- Rootstock
- Netting and pheromones
- Rootstock, netting, grafting tape, pheromone strips, tools
- Pheromones, grafting tools, rootstalk, supplies
- Pheromones

Is there anything else you'd like the chapter to purchase in bulk?

- Not sure
- Vermicompost
- Starter fertilizer
- Seeds, scion wood from certified facilities.
- Mulch and gorilla hair
- Tee shirts and hats.
- Powdered gypsum
- Organic compost

- Consider bulk purchase of grafting pots from Steuwe, they are about 8” diameter, tapered, 10” tall. I have purchased them in bulk for CCCRFG in the past. Would be potentially a great thing to have on hand when potting up rootstock for sale at the scion exchange
- Shade cloth.
- Organic Mulch
- Lottery tickets for plants
- Rice Hulls
- Would like fruit protection bags
- Organic fertilizer and potting soil in bulk

Comments:

- I have not used my grafting knife as I don't feel confident enough to do it right now (Teresa Lees)
- Mixers so we can get to know one another. Please identify “the board” by names. Draw a member name from attendance and request they tell us about themselves. Memorial trees at CRFG – Cal Poly orchard. Bring back the seed bank. Coordinate seed *** at the library.
- I am happy to see the chapter getting up and running again. If we can again hold regular meetings of interested and keep the membership notified, and add new younger members, we should have an active chapter for years to come.
- It should be a requirement for chapter members also be a state member.
- Great survey... good job!
- Appreciate the cooperative spirit and helpfulness of the group.
- I would love to be able to buy trees at the meetings.
- This year my stone fruit trees were not productive and I'm not sure why. I've asked others in the county and I'm not the only one. (My citrus trees and sapote tree are doing fine.) I suggest we invite comments each year from CRFG members in the various parts of SLO County telling us how productive (or unproductive) their various stone fruit trees had been doing. Maybe some patterns will be noticed in which case we might gain some knowledge about what the causes of poor crops might be.
- I just joined the group so I know nothing yet, but I'm happy to be here.
- Myself, I've pretty much just stopped socializing outside of my immediate family...for the past couple of years now. As such, I haven't been to a rare fruit meeting in ages, and will see you at a meeting if the world ever calms down. (Tom Ogren)
- Mixers so we can get to know one another. Please identify the Board by name. Draw a members name and have them talk about themselves. Information on memorial tree planting, Bring back seed bank J. Brynn)

Updated 01/15/2023