

The Leaflett

California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter Newsletter
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2009 The Year of the Olive

May Meeting



The May chapter meeting, held at the beautiful ranch of Paul and Kathy Madonna near Cayucos. Here is the report (with ALL exclamation points included!) from Joe Sabol. (In the photo at right by Paul Moyer, Joe Sabol introduces Paul and Kathy while our chapter co-chair, Larry Hollis, looks on.)

The weather was perfect!!!! Sun was warm, shade was needed by many!!! Big thanks go to Brokaw Nursery for donating 150 Zutano

seedlings that we used for rootstock!!

1. Craig (Righetti) did the job for us!! He was loud and clear, confident, knew his stuff, and we loved him. He answered question after question and did the job!!!
2. Kathy and Paul (Madonna) were gracious hosts for the meeting. We really moved in on them and they took very good care of us. We must go back!!!
3. We counted 95 people in the audience!!! All were happy, learned a lot, and will take good care of their newly grafted avocado tree!!! Several Poly students came today!!! Gregory came!!!
4. We have a good sign-up for both shifts of our Dave Wilson Public Fruit tasting event on June 6th. We can use 20 to 25 for each shift!!!
5. We sold out of the pheromone strips!!!! Two or three paid their dues!!!
6. We sold all the "extra" rootstock to people who wanted to graft a second one for a friend,

relative, or one of the many CRFG Members who could NOT make it to the meeting today

7. We gave away a lot of pumpkin plants and seeds in the parking lot!!

8. MANY of the people in the audience had NOT been on a single apple grafting trip with us and were really pretty much "lost" on the first demonstration. Those who really paid attention during the second demonstration gained some new insights and skills. Craig (shown in photo on the right by Joe Sabol) is very patient and answered every question!!!!



9. People read their email. Did you see the number of coffee mugs that came today? Notice that everyone brought their own water!!! Refreshments were just right!!!

10. There were some new faces today... And faces we have not seen in a LONG time!!! Avocado Grafting brings out new faces!!! It was a good meeting today!!! (Photo below, taken by Paul Moyer, shows just some of the crowd.)



June Meeting

The Dave Wilson Nursery Staff brought 35 varieties of fresh fruit to Cal Poly for the annual fruit tasting on June 6. The public was invited—as well as members of our organization. People showed up! The doors were opened at 1:00 PM and didn't close until nearly three hours later! People stood in line to get a chance to taste wonderful apricots, pluots, peaches, and even blueberries. Representing Dave Wilson Nursery were Ed Laivo, Tom Spellman and Mike Tomlinson. We had a myriad of local volunteers from our chapter as well as from Cal Poly. (The photo below, taken by Joe Sabol, shows the happy shift one group. The other photo below, also taken by Joe, shows the **VERY** long and patient line of eager tasters.)



July Meeting & BBQ

Heads up for our **very special** July meeting! It is being highlighted here because we don't want anyone to miss it! Please note that this meeting is starting **ONE HOUR LATER** than our usual time. (See more information and directions for the gathering in the Calendar of Meetings section of this newsletter.) We have waited for quite a while to get to the home of Joan and David Maislen. Here is what David says: "Welcome to Lupine Meadow Farm-- named for our plentiful Spring-blooming lupine. We developed our 5 acres about 6 years ago specifically with rare fruits in mind. We'll first discuss honey bees and the latest in beekeeping methods. There are currently 14 active hives accounting for approximately half a million bees busily working. (I should point out that no one visiting the property has ever been stung and we hope to keep it that way.) After this discussion we'll tour the orchard composed of 40+ trees, the raised vegetable beds and visit the bee hives during our tour. We'll then explain the use of The Magic Box gopher traps. I've identified a couple of locations that need traps. I'll show you how to find the tunnel and set the traps for successful "gophering". This will be followed by a BBQ. (Good news...we won't be cooking gophers!)"

Special needs for this meeting:

1. You must bring your own chairs. We are not renting chairs for this meeting.
2. If you have a folding table, we will need tables! Bring three!!
3. If you have a dog or cat, please **leave them home**. (This is true for all meetings.)
4. Wear a hat. Not only will it be sunny, hats are required near bees!
5. If you are allergic to bee stings, bring appropriate first aid. This is serious.
6. If you like to BBQ, please contact Larry Hollis at 549-9176. He needs your help.

There will also be a **plant raffle** coordinated by Owen Baynham and Marv Daniels. Please bring a potted plant (**preferably** fruit bearing) for the raffle. Include any information you have on the plant so it and the new owner will get off to a great start! (Please don't bring non-fruiting plants unless they are **rare or unusual**.)

A "Rare" Grafting Visit to John Swift's Orchard

By Joe Sabol



CRFG Member John Swift had a whole bunch of Feijoa seedlings that he wanted grafted over to a known high producing Feijoa. On very short notice, a small team of expert CRFG apple grafters made the quick trip to Clark Valley and grafted nearly 60 of the seedling rootstock late one afternoon. A wide variety of grafts were made, mostly "whip and tongue" but also the traditional "cleft graft" and others with the grafting tool. John Swift promised to let us know which of the grafts were most successful as each graft was

clearly identified as to the type of graft and any special treatment or technique used. What fun it is to be a member of CRFG!

Announcements

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Jerry & Maureen Stanley, Craig Righetti, Bret Bigger, John Denniger & Bridey Root, Ronald A. Rose, Sue Wilcox, Lori Kramer, Kent & Dotti Smith, and Luis Tapia.

JOIN CRFG: If you **haven't** joined the national organization of the **California Rare Fruit Growers**, why not? With your membership you receive a wonderful color magazine, *The Fruit Gardener*, filled with great articles on fruit growing, news, many chapter activities and contacts. You can also vote on important membership issues and even elect the governing board. Where else can you get so much for a mere \$3.00 a month? That's less than one trip to that specialty coffee place! Dues are **\$36 annually** or **3 years for \$100**. Membership applications are available from **Joe Sabol**. Call him at **544-1056** if you can't find him at a meeting or sign-up online at www.crfq.org. (If you prefer, you can save more by subscribing to the magazine by e-mail only which is just **\$25** per year!)

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER FEES: Please be sure your chapter newsletter fees are current and save our treasurer, Dick Pottratz, lots of work and begging. Newsletter fees are due January 1 of each year. Looking to save some money? Then pay the five-year rate of \$25 and you will save \$5 (since the **annual fee is \$6**)!

Calendar of Meetings – 2009

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**!

July 11—Meeting & BBQ: **Please note, this meeting begins at 2:30 PM.** After the meeting there will be a BBQ with tri-tip, chicken, bread, and drinks provided by our chapter, along with plastic ware, paper goods, cups, etc. The rest of the meal will be pot luck. Please bring enough to feed 10 or 12 people. Your last name determines what you should bring:

- A-G** Salad and serving tongs
- H-O** Side dish (vegetable or carbohydrate) and serving spoon
- P-Z** Dessert

Directions to the Maislen's: [225 Michael, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420](#)

From the North (SLO):

1. Drive south on 101 about 15 miles from SLO and turn right on El Campo Rd. Go 318 feet then,
2. Left on E. El Campo Road for 0.56 miles then,
3. Right on E. El Campo Road for 0.86 miles then,
4. Left on Los Berros Road and go only 246 feet then,
5. Right on W. El Campo Road for 0.17 miles then,
6. Right on Sevada Lane for 0.33 miles then,
7. Left on Michael Lane for 0.11 miles and you are there!

From the South (Nipomo/Santa Maria):

Take the Los Berros Road Exit to W. El Campo Road and follow the directions from there.

No Local August Meeting: Attend the “Year of the Olive” 2009 Festival of Fruit hosted this year by the Redwood Empire Chapter on **August 12-16** at the Santa Rosa Junior College campus. If you plan to attend the Festival of Fruit and wish to stay in the Flamingo Hotel, you need to make your reservation by July 13th to get the special CRFG Festival Rate. For more information on directions or events call (707) 242-5821 or visit their website at: www.festivaloffruit.org

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