



The Central Coast Leaflet

Central Coast Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers
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March Meeting



The promise of an “unforgettable meeting” came true when 101 people descended on Paragon Vineyards in San Luis Obispo for our March gathering. The pre-meeting refreshments time got everyone’s anticipation up as they viewed the beautiful surroundings with the extinct volcano cone, Islay Mountain, in full sight. Co-chair Patti Schober opened and led the meeting with her usual enthusiasm. Then Art DeKleine, our program chair, introduced our host for the day, Scott Williams, and, as Joe Sabol said, “The meeting quickly went from **great** to **outstanding**. Scott was an inspired teacher! We all listened and some took

notes! We were impressed with his knowledge of just about everything from birds to magnesium! Scott was a talented, competent and motivated speaker!”

As Scott explained, Paragon Vineyards consists of 1000 acres in the Edna Valley planted in Sauvignon Blanc (50), Semillon (5), Chardonnay (591), Pinot Gris (21), Pinot Noir (142), Syrah (12) and Cabernet Sauvignon (104), with several other varieties making up the rest of the acreage. It is owned by the Niven family who planted most of the vines in the early 1970’s. Scott shared a wealth of knowledge on growing wine grapes in this very specialized area. If you missed this meeting, you won’t be able to go to the Paragon Vineyard site, but you will be able to taste some of its wine at the Edna Valley Winery Tasting Room nearby—which is fine. The only problem there is that you won’t get to hear the entertaining and educating talk by Scott that we heard during the meeting! See more photos of the meeting taken by Joe Sabol at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/joesabol/sets/72157623615348940/>



April Meeting



The April meeting was held at the Clark Canyon semitropical fruit and vegetable farm of our chapter friend, John Swift. This was another phenomenal meeting with 108 people making the trek! An extremely interesting tour of the hoop houses where the majority of their semi-tropical crops are grown was given by John and his Orchard Manager, Tom VonGnechten. They grow feijoas, pepinos, passion fruit, papayas, and other exotic crops, most of which they sell at local farmers markets, in addition to shipping them world-wide. (Check out the size of those papayas in the photo by Joe Sabol!) The unique

micro-climate of the Clark Valley is perfect in that it allows these exotic crops to flourish. John has been growing his semi-tropicals in the valley since 1982.

After the tour, there were workshops consisting of 15 minutes each where attendees were able to circulate and learn citrus budding techniques presented by Joe Sabol, learn about and participate in a seed exchange facilitated by Carol Scott and Pet Daniels, and learn about succulent propagation (with an emphasis on pitahaya) presented by Robert Scott. (There was also to be a workshop on air-layering of feijoas and hibiscus that was to be presented by Art DeKleine, but which, because of health issues, he wasn't able to do). Patti Schober kept everyone moving with her unique "bell", in this photo being "rung" by John Swift. Choung Crowe also had a sales area for pheromone strips and she quickly sold out. (More on the strips can be found in Joe Sabol's article.)



Newsletter Editor Needed!

In October of 2003 I took over the position of newsletter editor from the capable hands of Sandra Pirghaibi because she and her husband were selling their house and moving away from our area. Now, I need a volunteer to step up and fill this position because my husband and I have our house on the market and as soon as it sells, we will be moving to our new home in Palm Desert! (We'll spend those hot summers at our home in

Discovery Bay on the California Delta.) This job is one of the best I've ever had! While I'll admit the monetary compensation is low—actually it is nil—the ego boost is fantastic! Everyone loves what I do in this job (and if they don't, they'd never say differently for fear they'd get the job). I am privy to the “innermost” workings of the chapter! How much better does it get? It only takes me about one day every other month to compile the newsletter and that isn't a solid 8-hour day. I stick to the basics and use Microsoft Word to compose it. (I like Microsoft because I can easily copy and paste photos into the stories. I'm sure there are other formats one could use.)

The job has gotten easier, too, than when Sandra did it, or even when I first took it over. I compose the newsletter and send a copy to Linda Haus so she can make the copies that have to be mailed. She has a great mailing crew, too. I send a copy to John Crowe and he posts it on our website, and then lets Dick Pottratz know the IPS address and Dick informs all the chapter members it is there from his up-to-date e-mail list. Many people contribute to the information and articles found in our newsletter, too. If you think you might like this job, please e-mail me at: handynana@gmail.com and let me know. I'd be happy to give you all the training you'll need! **The final newsletter I will edit will be for June and July.** Please step up! Then when you leave, Art DeKleine might write a nice poem for you like he did for me:

There is a girl named Lennette that we all know.
Who's edited the Leaflet six years in a row.
She's loving and kind,
much better than wine.
She's one in a trillion - or so.

Top-Grafting by Our Top Grafting Team!

In February, our good friend, Mike Cirone, asked if some of our CRFG grafters would like to come to his peach orchard in See Canyon, near San Luis Obispo. He wanted to change peach varieties by top working some of the mature trees in his orchard over to a new variety. We have some really incredible apple grafting experts in our group, but were they up to the challenge of grafting on mature peach trees instead of little apple rootstock?

As you can see in the photos, they not only rose to the challenge, the grafts all seemed to take and grow beyond all



expectations. Now our grafting experts can add “peach grafting” to their resumes! Art DeKleine will be writing an excellent article on “top-working” trees after he has finished the job on his Michigan chestnuts!

Top-Grafters (I think this is the same as Top-Guns) in the photo include Jim Ritterbush, John and Choung Crowe, Robert and Carol Scott, Marv & Pet Daniels, Art DeKleine,

Larry Hollis, and Henry Mulder. Joe Sabol was not in the photo because he was taking it. Mike Cirone is also in the photo—does he qualify for the top-grafter position, too? The photos below show the strong grafts just a few weeks later.



How to Confuse a Moth

By Joe Sabol

For the past two years, members of our CRFG chapter have been using a pheromone in their fruit trees to help prevent the famous "apple worm" from eating our apples and pears. You know that the apple worm is really the larva of the Codling Moth, and is a very destructive pest of apples and pears!!

We are using a product that the late Dr. DeVincenzo recommended. It is called "Isomate CTT" and comes in small plastic loops that are placed in the tree. The pheromone confuses the male moth so he cannot find the female! The pheromone program is only ONE part of your codling moth prevention program! The following two paragraphs are from the Isomate literature.

“What are Isomate® dispensers? Isomate® pheromone dispensers allow growers to use the most advanced technology available to manage insect populations. These proven control methods, called mating disruption, uses the insect's own communication system to its detriment. In the wild, female moths release a sex pheromone into the air to attract male moths. Male moths detect the pheromone "scent" and follow it upwind to locate and then mate with the females. In plantings treated with Isomate® dispensers, the air is saturated with pheromone so the male moths cannot locate females and mating is suppressed. By suppressing mating, Isomate® protects the crop from fruit infestation.

Isomate® dispensers contain a synthetic pheromone that is similar to the natural pheromone of female moths. The dispensers are made of a porous plastic that slowly releases pheromone over a period of months. The release rate from a single Isomate®-C Plus dispenser is about 10,000 times higher than that of a female codling moth. When Isomate® products are applied at the proper time and at the recommended rate per acre, mating is suppressed. The result is insect control with less pesticide. With repeated yearly use, Isomate® products can greatly reduce the population density of insects in the orchard.”

You need two per tree and one or two for neighbor trees (you hang them in the apple tree and in the peach or plum or apricot tree next to the apple). If you have only one apple tree, you should consider having 4 strips!!! If you have neighbors who have apples, you need to have them in on a neighborhood program and get them to buy into the pheromone effort!!!

We know there are widely different results from back yard orchards. Research from the company indicates that this product works best in a big orchard. Some of our CRFG Members have had little success at controlling the moth in the past two years. The salesperson who came to talk to us two years ago did not predict much success for the back yard orchard!!! The success at the Joe Sabol acre however, has been fantastic! We have all four of our nearby neighbors in on the same pheromone program and we have had fewer wormy apples than ever before and expect even fewer in this, our third year. I will buy about 80 of the strips this year and hang them in all apple and all pear trees on my property!!! If you have English walnuts nearby, those need to be treated, too. If your walnuts are Black walnuts, you are in luck. Nothing short of a sledgehammer can get through their shells!

Our chapter ordered 1600 of the Isomate® loops this year and between pre-sales and sales at the April meeting we sold them all. Perhaps with our efforts, more and more moths will get so confused we will soon have the entire Central Coast wormy-apple free!

200 Trees Grafted in 100 Minutes

Mission accomplished! Yes, we did it! We grafted 200 apple rootstocks in 100 minutes.

A big thank you to those who came early to set up (Larry, Pet, Marv) and a big thank you to Patti for the refreshments! Thank you to those of you who stayed after 100 minutes to clean the mess up. Thank you to Gary F. for taking home 50 trees to baby-sit for one month!

A big thank you to all of you, for taking time to graft so many in so little time! What a team! What fun to be a member of this chapter!

(These rootstocks were left over from the high school apple grafting program. Each year we “can” the extras and have a “grafting party.” The resulting trees are sold throughout the year at various events we attend, such as Arbor Day at the Laguna Park in SLO, and at the SLO Farmer’s Market. They are also used in plant raffles at our own meetings.)



Announcements

WELCOME NEW or RETURNING ASSOCIATES: Esther Funke, Michael and Jacqueline Kafka, Sandy Garcia, Reo Cordes, and Lissen A. Bonnier.

JOIN THE NATIONAL 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.crfg.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. Newsletter fees are due January 1 of each year. The annual fee is a pittance at \$6 or \$25 for five years.

GIANT PUMPKIN GROWING WORKSHOP: Saturday, May 15, 10:00 AM at Farm Supply Company, 224 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, (805) 543-3751
<http://www.farmsupplycompany.com/>

Calendar of Meetings – 2010

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. **No pets** at any meeting, please! Pet Daniels suggests we **bring our own bottled water** to drink, too. What fun it is to be a member of **CRFG!**

May 8—Rios Caldonia Adobe—700 Mission Street, San Miguel: This is the meeting you've all been waiting for! Thanks to the persistence he is so well known for, Joe Sabol located 98 Carrizo citrus rootstocks and had them delivered to his home and inspected by the County Ag Dept. Those trees will be available for you to purchase for the measly price of \$1 if you are one of the first 98 people through the entrance at the Adobe. You will learn to bud your very own citrus tree! Citrus budwood that has been cleared for SLO County and compatibility with the Carrizo rootstock will be provided. On top of the "learn by doing" experience, our meeting is being held at a historical site that was built in 1835 and served as an inn and stage-stop from 1868-90 and has to be one of our more unique meeting venues. Refreshments will be provided by the **H-R** team.

Directions: Take the **101 Hwy** north of Paso Robles toward San Miguel. Take exit **239A** for **Mission St** and follow it until you see the sign for the Adobe.

June 12—To Be Announced: Refreshments will be provided by the **S-Z** Team.

July 10—Possible Bus Trip to San Jose: Each participant will provide their own refreshments.

August 12-15—Festival of Fruit—3801 W. Temple Ave. Bldg 35, Pomona: Celebrate the Year of the Pitahaya! (No local meeting.)

September 11—Garden of Melinda Forbes—17100 Walnut, Atascadero: Melinda Forbes has a B.S. in Crops Science, MS International Agriculture, spent 2 years in Costa Rica involved in Small Farmer Cropping Systems Research, and over 30 years teaching experience in gardening, herbal studies, cooking, and art classes. She is a lifelong gardener, lived on 1.5 acres of land since the mid 1980s and her garden was included in the San Luis Obispo Botanical Society's annual garden tour fundraiser, focusing on North County gardens. She will have fruits, ground fruits (including heirloom tomatoes), vegetables, and flowers for us to see. She is proposing that we have food sharing and book information sharing activities. Her water is limited so we will likely have a port-a-potty available. This is a meeting you won't want to miss! Refreshments will be provided by the **A-G** team.

Central Coast Chapter CRFG Contact Information: **Larry Hollis**, co-chair, L_Hollis@hotmail.com or **704-1513**; **Patti Schober**, co-chair, iampwolfy@charter.net or **467-5097**; **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; and **Lennette Horton**, newsletter editor, handynana@gmail.com or **474-6501**.