

# The Leaflet



California Rare Fruit Growers – Central Coast Chapter – Vol. 18 Issue 4 – Sep/Oct 2015

## **SEPTEMBER AT THE SLO BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Yes, you heard right. The September chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12 at 1 p.m. Central Coast Chapter members will be sharing information on how they grow fruit on the Central Coast.

Directions: From SLO take Highway 1 towards Morro Bay.

SLO Botanical Garden is located about halfway between SLO and Morro Bay at 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., SLO, across the highway from Camp San Luis Obispo. For more information go to <http://slobg.org/fruit/>.

## **ENCORE!! ENCORE!!**

### **OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN WITH LES FERREIRA**

Once again Les has extended a generous invitation for our Chapter to visit his home and garden for our October meeting. You will see how Les has been able to grow several varieties of fruit trees, amass a collection of bonsai's, and maintain a beautiful koi pond. Les will also show us how he makes the faux rocks that he uses in his bonsai display.

Location: 1372 Sydney St., SLO

Time: Business meeting at 1 pm followed by presentation.

See you there.

## **LOOKING BACK**

The July meeting was held at the home and garden of Peter and Gabrielle Robins. This was our first chapter meeting ever in Solvang.

This event was very well attended. A total of 87 members and guests made the 1 hour trip and were not disappointed. Gabrielle and Peter gave an informative and entertaining talk and tour of their garden that consists almost entirely of edible plants.



Photo by Ron Blakey

## Central Coast Chapter History

One of the highlights of the meeting was the following resolution honoring Art Henzgen with a life time membership in the central coast chapter.

The Central Coast Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers

## *Resolution*

### **Mr. Art Henzgen**

*Whereas,* Art Henzgen was one of the founding members of the Central Coast Chapter, and

*Whereas,* Art was one of the very first Co-chairs of our chapter, and

*Whereas,* Art was one of the co-chairs of a Festival of Fruit that our chapter hosted in 1996, and

*Whereas,* Art was the architect of many of the traditions currently used and celebrated by our chapter, and

*Whereas,* Art was on the apple grafting team from the very beginning when we grafted trees at three schools in 1998, and

*Whereas,* Art has been one of the most aggressive and successful recruiters of new members to our chapter, and

*Whereas,* Art has been an “Ambassador” for our chapter as he sold hundreds of common rare fruit trees and thousands of tomato plants at Farmers Market, and

*Whereas,* Art has been a major donor of plant materials to our plant sales, plant exchanges, and door prizes, and

*Whereas,* Art has been one of the most consistent and most active members of the Central Coast Chapter Meetings, service projects and educational activities. and.....

..... *now therefore, be it resolved*..that Art Henzgen be thanked for his many years of service and awarded LIFE MEMBERSHIP in our Central Coast Chapter... along with our best wishes for a successful move to the San Joaquin Valley and a long and healthy life.

Dated: July 11, 2015

Sally Requa, Co-Chair

Les Ferreira, Co-Chair

## GROWING SAPOTES ON CALIFORNIA’S CENTRAL COAST

Robert and Carol Scott

Many years ago, a CRFG meeting was held at Mike Cirones white sapote orchard in Morro Bay. We tasted our first sapote (Vernon variety), it was love at first bite. We saved all the seeds from the fruit we ate that day and grew our trees. We also got seeds from the CRFG Seed Bank and started Rainbow seedlings. They were slow growing at first, without any fruit. After grafting them it still took 3 to 4 years to give us fruit. We now have 14 multi-grafted trees with 40 varieties.

White Sapote (*Casimiroa edulis*) is a medium to large evergreen tree that is the hardiest of exotic subtropicals, it can be grown wherever oranges are grown and can take occasional frost to 22 degrees when established. (More information about sapotes can be found on Fruit Facts at [CRFG.org](http://CRFG.org))

In May of 2011, Robert, Jack Swords, Bob Holzinger, Harvey Correia and John Valenzuela, met with Bob Chambers at his property in De Luz to obtain scion wood from his extensive collection of over 40 varieties of sapote. The purpose was to distribute the wood so that his collection would not be lost. Bob was a longtime member of CRFG and was very generous to share his knowledge and scion wood.

4 years later, our trees are grafted and are becoming very productive. With 40+ different varieties of sapote, we have fruit ripening at different times with many unique flavors and textures; it is hard to pick a favorite. The only downside is that the fruit is fragile, so growing your own tree is the best way to obtain fruit. Contact us for seed or scion wood anytime.



Photo by Mel Smith

White Sapote on a very prolific tree at the home orchard of Robert and Carol Scott.

Editor's Note-Many thanks to Robert and Carol for offering to write an informative article.

I would love to hear from other members interested in writing an article for our chapter newsletter. Your article doesn't need to be lengthy. The article submitted by Robert and Carol is a good example of what we need for the newsletter. So sit

down and start putting something on that blank page and tell us about your fruit growing experiences. You can contact me at [melsmithart@gmail.com](mailto:melsmithart@gmail.com).

-Mel Smith/Leaflet Editor-

## **SPECIAL LATE EDITION OF THE LEAFLET!!!**

The following two stories were slipped under the door moments after we went to press. They are both too important not to be included in this edition.

### **NOTES FROM SAN DIEGO**

**BY**

**JOE SABOL**

More than a dozen CRFG Members from the Central Coast Chapter attended the Festival of Fruit in San Diego. The Festival is the annual meeting of the organization and each year the location moves to the home of the "host chapter." The Central Coast Chapter will host the Festival of Fruit in August, 2016.

Our "delegates" were all assigned to watch closely and take notes. We even met privately with the Festival Chairman, Tom Del Hotal to learn some of his secrets.

One of the many highlights of the Festival, was the recognition of Dr. Art DeKleine. He received high praise from CRFG Inc. President, Margaret Frane, who thank him for his many years of service as Treasurer for the entire CRFG Inc. organization. See photo. We all can be proud of our own, Dr. Art DeKleine!!

One other special feature of the Festival was the very strong partnership that the San Diego Chapter had with the Master Gardeners. The S. D. Master Gardeners took over the management of the vendors (mostly plant vendors) which resulted in a fantastic "market place" for shopping and storytelling.

San Diego set the bar high...



Photo by Joe Sabol

Dr. Art DeKleine receiving an award for his outstanding years of service as Treasurer for CRFG, Inc. from President Margaret Frane.

## **CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS COME THROUGH ONCE AGAIN AT THE TOMATO EXTRAVAGANZA**

**By**

**Joe Sabol**

Tomato Extravaganza!! The Master Gardeners held their 9th annual Tomato Extravaganza on August 29 and our Central Coast Chapter was invited to

participate with an educational booth and tree sale. A strong team of volunteers signed up to staff our booth where we sold grafted apple trees, Dragon Fruit, and a whole host of plants donated by Larry Hollis. We made many new friends, signed up a few new members, and answered 1000 questions. Our location was right at the entrance to the Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden so we became the first place for people to ask questions. We were honored... to be the ONLY outside "vendor" allowed to participate in this very successful annual Tomato and Basil event!! Tomato Extravaganza!! The Master Gardeners held their 9th annual Tomato Extravaganza on August 29 and our Central Coast Chapter was invited to participate with an educational booth and tree sale. A strong team of volunteers signed up to staff our booth where we sold grafted apple trees, Dragon Fruit, and a whole host of plants donated by Larry Hollis. We made many new friends, signed up a few new members, and answered 1000 questions. Our location was right at the entrance to the Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden so we became the first place for people to ask questions. We were honored... to be the ONLY outside "vendor" allowed to participate in this very successful annual Tomato and Basil event!!



Les Ferriera, Pet Daniels and Marv Daniels sharing fruit tree knowledge with the public at the Tomato Extravaganza.

Photo by Joe Sabol

Thanks goes out to Joe Sabol for contributing these two timely articles.





