

CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER CRFG

Editors: Linda Robertson and Michael Kurland

Our Next Meeting: The Chapman Estate

Date: Saturday, August 8, 2026

Place: The Chapman Estate, 1243 Ocean Blvd, Pismo Beach 93449

The Chapman Estate is a beautiful blufftop estate in Shell Beach, bequeathed to the community by benefactor Clifford Chapman. Mr. Chapman was a philanthropist who supported local charities. His diverse interests included music, the symphony, and the opera, as well as gardening, cooking, and entertaining at his serene coastal blufftop home. He and his mother Rose also cultivated an amazing collection of tuberous begonias, now lovingly maintained by the Chapman Estate Foundation through the magic of "begonia whisperer" Paul Carlyse and his wife Laurel. They provide the knowledge and care to bring back one of the best displays of tuberous begonias on the west coast, year after year. The begonias will be in full glorious bloom for the CRFG tour! Also onsite are a variety of citrus and avocado trees, and a mixture of flowering plants and succulents. Come enjoy the coastal views and a tour through this unique property.

Schedule:

(Note: these times are approximate and may change slightly due to actual time needed.)

12:30-1: Set up crew

1:00-1:30: Socializing and refreshments.

Bring a snack to share and your own water.

1:30: Chapter business meeting.

1:45-3:00: Docents from the Chapman Estate Foundation will be available to guide a tour and provide us with a history of the property.

Bring:

Hat, sunscreen, and camera, photos welcome! Wear flat, stable walking shoes. No alcohol or dogs.

No Pets

Don't bring pets! Please review "Our Best CRFG Manners While Visiting Homes, Nurseries, Growers, etc." below. We never bring pets to meetings or tours, and we never even ask if we may!"

Additional Info:

The public is welcome! Please bring a (non-pet) friend.

Accessible restrooms are available onsite.

Location & Parking:

Location: 1243 Ocean Boulevard, Pismo Beach, CA

Parking: street parking only. Please carpool or Uber, park on the ocean side of the street in front of the Estate or Eldewayan Park. Avoid parking in front of neighborhood residences.

Map and directions:



Directions:

From 101 Southbound:

Take exit 193 toward Shell Beach Road.

Go for 0.3 mi.

Turn right onto Spyglass Dr.

Go for 102 ft.

Turn left onto Shell Beach Rd.

Go for 1.0 mi.

Turn right onto Esparto Ave.

Go for 0.3 mi.

End at

1243 Ocean Blvd

From 101 Northbound:

Take exit 191B toward Shell Beach Road/Mattie Road.

Go for 0.2 mi.

Turn left onto Mattie Rd (CA-1).

Go for 344 ft.

Turn right onto Price St.

Go for 0.7 mi.

Continue on Shell Beach Rd.

Go for 0.4 mi.

Turn left onto Esparto Ave.

Go for 0.3 mi.

End at

1243 Ocean Blvd

Announcements

Quarterly chapter board meeting

August 31, 2026, 7:00 p.m.: Quarterly meeting of the CRFG-Central chapter board. This is our regular quarterly meeting, at which we will discuss chapter business, including nomination and election of officers and committee chairs and planning our December potluck and plant raffle. The meeting will be on Zoom, and chapter members are invited to attend. The Zoom code is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88115421820?pwd=mXmJL2PiRghVlfSVxBsTrT3UYTxCQt.1>

Meeting ID: 881 1542 1820

Passcode: 056472

Volunteers needed for summer and fall events

CRFG is looking for volunteers for the following upcoming events:

1. August 9: Our chapter has been invited to set up an information table at the SLO Botanical Garden's Free Family Day. The event goes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed to come early and help set up, to staff the table, or to help take it down afterward.
2. September 25 and 26: The Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival. Our chapter will have a booth there and sell plants. Help with setup or takedown, or come by and take a shift. Fruiting plant donations are also needed.

Please send an e-mail to central_coast@crfg.org, if you're interested in volunteering at either of these events.

Our July speaker, Theo Badashi, is offering a discount to CRFG-Central on his foliar spray fertilizer products

Theo Badashi of Teregen Ag., the speaker at our July meeting, is offering CRFG-Central members [15% off all orders](#) of their biodynamic fertilizers through the end of the year. Order through their website, <https://teregenag.com/>. Use code **FRUIT15** to save.

Upcoming Events:

August 8 and 9, 2026: Central Coast Dahlia Society Show

For the dahlia enthusiasts among our members, the Central Coast Dahlia Society show will take place at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church, 1515 Frederick Street, in SLO. Admission is free. Hours are 11-5 on Saturday and 1-4 on Sunday. Find out more on their website: centralcoastdahlias.org

August 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.: Free Family Day at the SLO Botanical Garden

Join the Botanical garden staff and members of the Atascadero Zoo and Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society for a family exploration of snakes, reptiles, and cacti. More information can be found in the Botanical Garden's newsletter, at <https://slobg.org/this-month-at-slobg-july-august-2026/>

August 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon: UCCE Master Gardeners of SLO monthly Advice to Grow By series

August's workshop by the SLO- Master Gardeners will be a repeat of their popular "mythbusters" series. The format will be like the old TV game show, "Liar's Club." The moderator will show an image of an unusual plant problem to a panel of two Master Gardeners. One Master Gardener will give the true answer, while the other will try for a convincing bluff. The presenters will also answer questions on the cases and give advice on how to navigate researching plant problems in this new age of artificial intelligence.

The workshop will take place in the UC Cooperative Extension auditorium at 2156 Sierra Way in San Luis Obispo. Admission is free, but registration is recommended, since seating in the auditorium is limited. Register at the Master Gardeners website: www.ucanr.edu/sites/mgslo/

In addition to the workshop, there will be a plant sale featuring native and Mediterranean varieties, propagated by the Master Gardeners chapter volunteers.

September 25 and 26, 2026: Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival:

Our chapter will have a booth and plant sale at the Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival, a lively event in downtown A.G., with music, fun food, and local vendors selling jewelry, artwork, and crafts. Come join us and spend a little time strolling through A.G.'s charming old downtown and doing a little early holiday shopping. More information can be found here: <https://www.agharvestfestival.com/>

July Meeting: Fruit Tasting and Speaker at the Orchard

Our chapter and friends met on Saturday, July 11, in the orchard for our annual fruit tasting. For a lot of us, this has been anything but a good year for summer fruit, but the tables were loaded with food, including citrus, pepino dulce, and fruit-related items such as jams, bars, and an exotic grape juice based pastry from Georgia, called churchkhela.

July's meeting was also the day we finally retired our trays of paper name badges. We'll no longer bring those bulky trays to meetings. Members were invited to take home their pin-on badges or order a more permanent plastic badge through the store.



Dara Manker celebrating the end of the boxes of temporary badges.

Our speaker at the meeting was Theo Badashi, the founder and owner of Teregen Ag. Theo explained the different micronutrients plants need for health and productivity, the vital role they play in plant growth, and the efficiency of foliar feeding in getting those essential micronutrients to growing plants. The chemical and physical composition of soil can make it difficult to deliver micronutrients to plant roots in a form they can readily absorb and distribute to the plant through the xylem. Foliar feeding is a much more efficient delivery system because it bypasses the step of sending nutrients through the soil and drops them, dissolved in water, onto the leaf surfaces, where they are absorbed

through the stomata. Theo also explained how to make a compost tea for use on plant leaves, using ingredients you can find at home or in garden centers; how to properly aerate it as it cures; and how and when to apply it.

After the meeting, Theo provided links to two guides with more information on the topic of his talk, [Fruit Tree Nutrition](#), and an [Ultimate Guide to Compost Tea](#).

People with more questions can also reach out to him directly, at theo@teregenag.com. He is also offering CRFG members a discount on his company's biodynamic fertilizer products through the end of 2026. (More complete information is in the Announcements section in this newsletter, above.)

In addition to Theo Badashi, we had an unannounced bonus speaker, Bill Brandt, from the Organic Gardening Club of Ventura County and the owner of a large fig orchard. Bill gave an update about the black fig fly.

For those who haven't yet heard about it, the BFF is a small fly that lays its eggs inside immature figs through the ostiole, the small hole on the end of the fig opposite the stem. Infected figs tend to become slightly darker than healthy immature figs or look faintly striped, and they fall off the tree while still hard. The larvae burrow into the ground under the tree and pupate until they emerge as the next generation of adult flies. The good news is that BFFs aren't a threat to the health of the trees, but the bad news is that they can infest and destroy almost the entire crop of figs on a tree, and no one has yet found an effective control.

Bill spoke about the need for hygiene: to try to pick infected figs off the tree before they fall (apparently they come off easily) and collect all the fallen figs as soon as possible, hopefully before the larvae leave them. To check if a fig is infected, you can look for the tiny exit hole through which the larva leaves the fig, or you can cut the fruit in half; the tracks of the larvae will be visible in the flesh. Infected figs should be bagged, sealed, and discarded in the garbage, not composted or put into green waste bins.

Lacewings and ladybugs may provide some control of the larvae; and Bill reports, anecdotally, that he seems to get much less infestation when he has a lot of hummingbirds in his orchard. He has encouraged hummingbirds by planting flowers they like (they're partial to red flowers, for example, trumpet vine, red flowering sage, cape honeysuckle, and bottlebrush trees) and installing hummingbird feeders.

Another interesting thing people have been noticing is that figs pollinated by the caprifig wasp don't seem to get infested by the BFF. [Editor's note: Figs are actually not fruit, but strangely constructed flowers.] Some fig varieties (generically grouped under the name of Smyrna figs) need pollination in order to ripen, while others (called common and San Pedro varieties) are self-fertile but

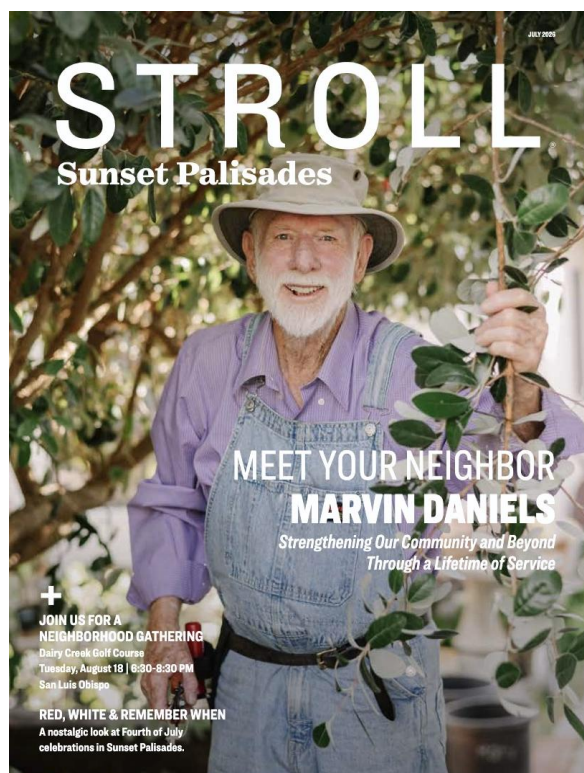
can still be pollinated (and may even be improved by being pollinated.) The pollen that fertilizes edible figs comes from a particular variety of fig, the caprifig. The caprifig tree is also host to the caprifig wasp, which carries pollen from its host tree to other fig trees. Caprifig trees aren't often planted here on the central coast, since most figs we grow here are the self-fertile common and San Pedro varieties. But if getting our figs pollinated by a caprifig wasp will save our crops, we may see more of those trees strategically planted in our back yards.



A black fig fly laying its egg. For more information and images of BFF damage, check out UC Riverside's website on the BFF, at <https://ucanr.edu/site/black-fig-fly-wilson-lab-uc-riverside/identification-and-biology>

Long-Time CRFG Member Marv Daniels Honored in Local Magazine

The cover article of this month's Pacific Palisades *Stroll* is a profile of Marv Daniels, one of our long-time chapter members. The article, with some great photos of Marv in his orchard and teaching Cal Poly students how to graft trees, details his long history doing volunteer work. He has been a member of the



CFRG-Central Coast chapter since 1994 and has been teaching grafting in local high schools almost as long. He was a charter member of Glean SLO and is still active in their work. Marv has helped repair bike trails, sold plants to benefit Arroyo Grande social programs, volunteered with the Repair Café, and worked with the group that successfully formed the Pismo Preserve. His personal campaign to get rid of tumbleweed in Pismo and Shell Beach areas earned him a Certificate of Appreciation from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works. Marv continues to volunteer, doing work wherever he's needed. We have all seen how amazing he is with the apple grafting program, and it's great to see his work shared with more of the world.

A PDF of the article is posted on the CRFG Central website:

<https://crfg-central.org/about#ourmembersinthenews>

“Meet Me at the Fair”

On July 19 and 23, a team of our intrepid grafters went to the Mid-State Fair, where we set up shop in the Flower Building and demonstrated apple grafting to anyone interested. We gave a pretty good talk, too, about how it worked, showing people the cuts and the cambium layers, and explaining how you build a tree. A pretty steady flow of people stopped, watched, and stayed for the demo and some conversation about their personal experiences with fruit trees. A few took our informational handout about our chapter, and one even joined. All in all, we had a great time, made some friends, and gave a bunch of newly grafted Red Fuji and Braeburn trees to kids and adults, to start their own orchards.



Michael Kurland (top) and Manny Magaña at the grafting table.

