

The Leaflett

California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter Newsletter
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2007 – The Year of the Mango

September Meeting at Jack Creek Farms



In September we had a wonderful visit to Jack Creek Farms, the Barlogio family orchard and roadside stand, located on Highway 46 between Paso Robles and Cambria. There were 58 chapter members and guests who made the trip. (Photo on left was taken by Joe Sabol of some members of the Barlogio family and two friends.)

Jack Creek Farms is a small fifth generation family farm where the owners take pride in growing things naturally and also allowing the public to “put a face” on the farmer. Tours are available year-round. Miles Barlogio

(born September 30th, 1898) was the first in their family to plant pumpkins along the fertile banks of Jack Creek.

They believe in sustainable agriculture; they use natural based sprays, plant untreated seeds, and employ organic methods of pest control whenever possible. For example, they use sunflowers planted around the pumpkin fields as a lure crop to attract those pesky cucumber beetles away from cash crops of pumpkins and squash. Their goal is to make the farm last for many more generations!

We were able to purchase many delicious fresh-picked veggies (see photo on right from their website of some of the heirloom tomatoes available); specialty fruit drinks like apple cider slushies and pomegranate juice granitas, and a couple of people even bought some of their “world class” fudge! If you



missed this meeting, visit the Jack Creek Farms website for more information on this fascinating farm! Go to: www.jackcreekfarms.com

Thanks to the refreshments team A to G group for all the wonderful summer fruits and other goodies you brought to share with us.

October Meeting at the See Canyon Apple Orchard

By Joe Sabol



1. Biggest October meeting in our history. Head count 140 to 150 people!! (Photos do not lie, there really were that many people listening!)

2. Longest meeting in history. Dr. DeVincenzo was still going strong at 5 p.m. He did not run out of energy or facts!! Very impressive fruit grower with a passion for sharing all of his secrets with us!! He had a great afternoon!!

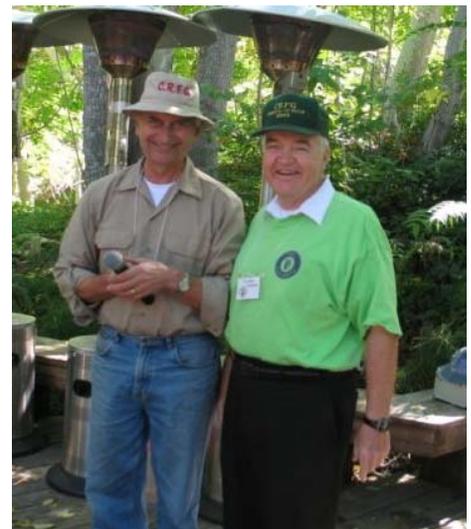
3. Most educational meeting in history? We all learned so much!! People ran out of room writing on those orange pumpkin

cards, took notes on their hand!! Dr. D has a fantastic memory and can spit out the facts and figures like a computer!!!

4. Probably the most new member/subscribers at an October meeting!! LOTS of first time guests, visitors. Art was passing out new name tags to our guests like candy bars.

5. Greatest tonnage of food consumed? Not only did we have great nutrition/snacks, including fresh Indian Blood Peaches, we must have consumed slightly over one ton of freshly picked apples!!!

6. Possibly a new record for miles walked with the P.A. System. Larry and others carried our P.A. system up and down the rows as Dr. DeVincenzo walked, jogged, and ran up the stairs!!! Did you see him run up those steps at 4:45 p.m.? (Photo on right is of Dr. D and Art DeKleine. Photos were taken by Joe Sabol.)



Lennette's Mystery Apple

Speaking of apples, three years ago I purchased some apple trees from a local nursery. They were all low-chill varieties. This year, I got a great crop of the apples in the photo on the right, but I don't know what kind they are since something happened to the tree tag. (I think the ground squirrels ate the tags!) Does anyone recognize this apple? If you can help, please contact me at: handynana@gmail.com and let me know what it is called. Unfortunately, I probably won't get a crop this year because it is blooming already and even has some apples that are over an inch long. However, I want to get some more of these trees!



Gary's Mystery Sour Cherry Tree in Arroyo Grande

Chapter member, Gary Jenks and his wife, Jeannine, discovered an apparently self-pollinating sour cherry producing very well in downtown Arroyo Grande. Gary asked for some help in identifying the type of cherry it could be and who better to answer that question than our in-house cherry expert, Dr. Art DeKleine?

Gary:

Cherries may be either deliciously sweet and deep brown-red, or quite tart and bright red. The two most common are the sweet cherry, *Prunus avium L.*, and the sour (often referred to by growers as the pie or tart) cherry *Prunus cerasus L.*

By far the most common variety of tart (or sour) cherry is Montmorency. There are several other trial varieties: Meteor, North Star, Sabina, and Galaxy. There is also a very sweet tart cherry, Balaton, from Europe that had some trial plantings in the U.S., but most growers have pulled them out for various reasons.

Tart cherries are grown in Zones 4-7.

Check out the following web site for information about tart and sweet rootstock varieties:

www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/02-037.htm

2. Tart cherry rootstock

Mahaleb

Seedlings have good seed germination and stand for easier budding in the nursery. It is very winter hardy and is recommended for tart cherry plantings on well-drained orchard sites.

Mahaleb Seedling-Mahaleb (P. mahaleb)

This variety originated from the same geographical area as Mazzard but it is rarely found in the wild in Canada and the United States. Results from previous experiments indicate that there are no differences in yield or growth of either Montmorency or Meteor cultivars on the different Mahaleb strains.

Mahaleb x Mazzard (MxM®) Clones

The MxM clonal rootstock selections are similar to Mahaleb seedling in vigor but offer more uniformity since they are clonally propagated. The selections have hardiness similar to Mahaleb.

MxM®2

A vigorous tree, moderately precocious and produces few root suckers. It adapts well to a wide range of soils and performs better than Mahaleb in clay soils. It is susceptible to Armillaria Root Rot.

MxM®60

A vigorous tree, productive and produces no root suckers. It is moderately tolerant to Armillaria Root Rot and adapts to a range of soils.

Mazzard

Is preferred for tart cherry grown in imperfectly drained soil but is not as winter hardy as Mahaleb. It is not adaptable to heavy, poorly drained and wet soil.

I hope that this helps! Art

Get Ready!

Dear CRFG members, and guests,

Please get your plant exchange/donation items ready! Each year at our December meeting you bring tons of food to gorge on and lovely fruiting plants and trees for the raffle/exchange.

Members, please try to only bring the specimen plants, not flowers or weeds but the 'others', as we call them, (remember we are the CA Rare Fruit Growers), that will go into the raffle. First choice is always the wonderful specimen grafted, cuttings, or seedlings, of special varieties, fruiting plants.

We must say our 'Bob Tullock' green fig of unknown variety that we won at last year's raffle, fruited this year! OH---the fruit was divine! The pulp was MAGENTA colored, green skin and so very sweet! We are talking "it is growing close to the beach mind you!" Figs don't usually get sweet near the ocean. This is only one example of what to expect at the plant exchange.

Please bring your rooted cuttings, seedlings or grafted fruit trees. Hopefully you have been working on these items this summer? If you haven't there is still time to root some cuttings. Please don't hesitate, rush right out now!

This meeting always has a few wonderful exotic plants that are 'food for the soul', like Dahlias, but please keep in mind that we are first and foremost CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS.

Thank you from members, Pet and Marv Daniels, who work on the raffle/exchange.

Help Wanted!

We need a newsletter editor! I have been editing this newsletter for four years now and I have some other things I want to do. Isn't there one of you out there who would like this job? Before you say "NO!" let me tell you how much fun it is and how simple the job is to do.

You don't need to be a computer whiz to do it. (If that was required, I couldn't have done it!) If you have access to a computer with Microsoft Word and the internet, you, too, can edit this newsletter! It takes me about one day a month to put it all together. I then send copies to Linda Hauss to make hard copies. She gets those to Art & Doris Henzgen and they fold, stamp, and mail those. I send another copy to John Crowe and he posts it to our website. I then notify our members by e-mail that it is available. I would be happy to give training! If you think you might have an interest in this great job, working with fun people, please call me at 474-6501.

It's That Time of Year Again

Our trusty treasurer, Dick Pottratz, wants to remind everyone that Chapter dues are due in January! If your name follows, you are on his list! Stay off his list longer and pay your dues for five years at a time! Annual dues are \$6, but it is only \$25 for five years.

Steve Agronsky, Tamara J. Allen, Chris Anderson & Will Carlton, Alfredo Arciniaga, Robert L. Asbell, Chuck & Susan Atlee, Don & Judy Beach, Shirley Beaumont, Emily & Nancy Belot, Wayne & William Bennett, Ernie Block & Susie Allen, Don & Arlene Boaz, Lora Bourdon-Snow, Aura Carmi, Benjamin Chow, Reo Cordes, Gary Epstein, Candace Evenson, Randy Fallgatter, Ken Farrow, Michael Ferreri, Bill Forbes, Jack Friesen, Lauren Garner, Linda Hauss, Stephen Kaminaka, Kathy Keil, Virginia Kennedy, Dawn & Alfred King, Dieter & Barbara Klaubert, Steve Knudsen, Brent Lamon, James Landreth, Brian Larson, Laura Lopez, Lane C. Lummus, Joe Malatesta, Leslie Maughmer, Ben & Carolyn Middleton, Priscilla Mikesell, Tom & Debbie Mix, Paul & Marie Moyer, Paul Nash, Long T. Nguyen, Françoise Nigro, Juan Olivarria, Alessia Passalacqua, Dick & Jeannie Pottratz, Liese Rego, Karen Reinecke, Sally Reynolds, Ernest & Susan Righetti, George & Jane Roach, Rachel Rosenthal, Evelyn Ruehr, Lyn K. Schultz, Robert & Carol Scott, Don Shealy, Janice Silva, William Spencer, Gus S. Sundberry, Patricia Sutton, Jutta Thoerner, Bob & Judy Thomas, Joan Tomooka, Harry Toy, Bob & Janet Tullock, Arlene Voge, Madeline J. Walker, Don Weeks.

Announcements

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Jim and Ellen Kramme, Kevin M. O'Connor, Chris Anderson and Will Carlton, Joe Shennum, Doctor Saturnino, Vic Silveria, Inge Elbourne, Ursula Campbell, Priscilla Ko, Faylla Chapman, Marilyn N. Brannon, Wayne Trost, Lee Chivens, Margaret Groothuis, Marilyn and Harris Goldman, Jane L. Beckett, John Robbins, and Larry Shore.

SPREAD THE WORD—SHARE THE WEALTH: Susan got tired of walking around and seeing fruits and vegetables rotting on the ground, so she did something about it. She began a website similar to Craig's List, where anyone with an excess of produce can give or exchange it for another type of produce. The service is free! If you have too much of one crop to eat yourself, the get involved with this exchange. To find out more go to: <http://www.neighborhoodproduce.org>

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI): This is the best thing since the Saturday afternoon Matinee. It is continuing education from Cal Poly but better! No tests, no homework and almost all the classes are in San Luis Obispo County.

The teachers are all volunteer, all students must be 50 years of age or older and wanting to learn something exciting! The classes are from 1 1/2 hours to several sessions, they vary. To mention a few classes: History, Finance, Field trips, Lunch trips, and so many others you need to go to www.osher.calpoly.edu to look and see and read what is available presently.

Follow the link above to sign-up now or call 756-2053.

CAL POLY ORGANIC FARM OFFERING CSA SUBSCRIPTIONS: The Organic Farm is now hosting its eighth annual Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Shares are available for pick up on-campus or at convenient county-wide drop sites. Along with the harvest share, members receive a newsletter each week detailing recipes and announcements. A small CSA share is available for \$19/week and a large share is available of \$26.50/week (plus \$1/week delivery fee for off campus pick up). For more information, please visit: www.calpolyorgfarm.com, call: 805-756-6139 or e-mail: orgfarm@calpoly.edu ALSO: The Cal Poly Organic Farm welcomes VOLUNTEERS year round. Currently there is a need for docents to assist with the hosting of school field trips to the Farm. For more information or to be added to the Farm's volunteer contact list, please contact Anastasia Killham at: akillham@calpoly.edu or call: 805-756-6139.

MASTER GARDENERS TRAINING CLASS: Applications for the class are now available. The deadline for submitting applications is November 16. The class will be held on Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 beginning **February 21** and continuing until **June 26**. Application forms and further information is available from the local Cooperative Extension at: 2156 Sierra Way, SLO. For more info, call: 781-5939 or contact Nancy Hartwick at nhartwick@charter.net.

JOIN THE PARENT ORGANIZATION: Many of our chapter members are also members of the Parent association and, for those of you who aren't, perhaps you **should** consider joining. With parent organization membership you receive a wonderful color magazine, *The Fruit Gardener*,

filled with great articles on fruit growing, news, many chapter activities and contacts. Dues are **\$30 annually** or **3 years for \$87**. Membership applications are available from **Joe Sabol**. Call him at **544-1056** if you can't find him at a meeting.

Calendar of Meetings – 2007

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!**

November 10— Elliott Paulson's Clearwater Color Nursery — Los Osos Valley Road: Elliott Paulson will host this greenhouse meeting where we will consider commercial and private greenhouse practices. We are encouraging local high school agriculture students to attend this meeting and to participate in a discussion of how greenhouses can be used. Elliott is enthusiastic about helping students develop an interest in greenhouses. He has lots to show us and tell us about propagating and growing plants. He has constructive opinions about marketing plants. This location is an amazing color nursery with bedding plants and perennials all over the property! **Refreshments team is the H to R group.**

Directions: From **Highway 101** take the Los Osos Valley Road exit west. Proceed to Jacaranda Lane which is north (right) of Los Osos Valley Road. The nursery is located at 2335 Jacaranda Lane.

December 8—Annual Potluck and Plant Exchange: This meeting begins at 12 Noon. Full meal sharing, not just snacks! Wear your holiday outfit—anything red is good! Bring your best fruit/vegetable plants for the plant swap and big raffle! Thanks to Marv Daniels for arranging for us to use the space.

Directions: From Highway 101, take the San Luis Bay Drive exit and go west. Turn left onto the frontage road, which is Ontario Road. The Community Center is located about half a block from there at **6588 Ontario Road**.

Central Coast Chapter CRFG Contact Information: **Bob Tullock**, co-chair, tullock@tcsn.net or **238-2868**; **Larry Hollis**, co-chair, L_Hollis@hotmail.com; **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; or **Lennette Horton**, newsletter editor, handynana@gmail.com or **474-6501**.