

CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER CRFG

Editors: Michael Kurland, Linda Robertson

Next Meeting

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Propagation and Grafting Demonstration Workshop

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.
- 1:30:1:45** Chapter business meeting.
- 1:45-3:00:** We'll have several grafters who will demonstrate grafting mulberries, cherimoyas, and possibly apples, and a demonstration of how to propagate figs and mulberries. There will be a limited amount of medlar scions available (by popular demand at the Scion Exchange). CRFG merchandise will be available, and we will have fruiting plants for sale.

Where:

Master Gardeners' Garden of the Seven Sisters, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, and UCCE auditorium (see next page for map).

Meeting and demonstrations will be in the pergola in the demonstration garden, weather permitting. If it rains, the event will be in the auditorium of the UCCE Building, across the parking lot from the garden.

Bring:

A snack to share and your water bottle. Wear clothes and shoes suitable for walking in dirt.

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, and there is no charge to attend. Please bring a friend.

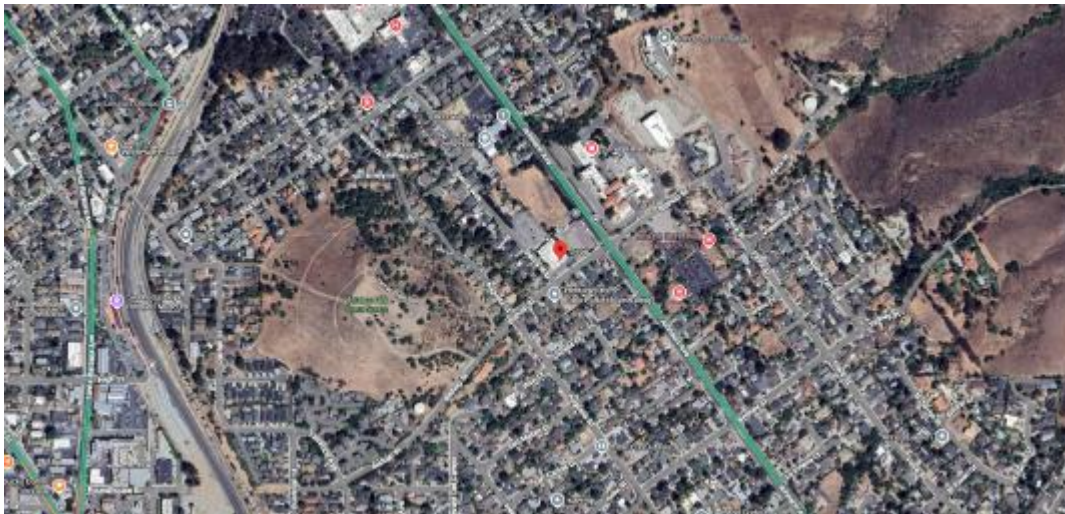
Parking is available in the UCCE parking lot and on the street. Follow the CRFG signs.

Restrooms will be available.

For more information visit our website:

<https://www.crfg-central.org/calendar>

Location & Map:



https://www.google.com/maps/place/2156+Sierra+Way,+San+Luis+Obispo,+CA+93401/@35.2740581,-120.6476082,887m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m6!3m5!1s0x80ecf11423b12655:0x5e1d793f56000eac!8m2!3d35.2740537!4d-120.647222!16s%2Fg%2F11c4wvpg_p!5m1!1e1?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI2MDI

Announcements

RIP Jay Ruskie

We are sad to pass on the news that Jay Ruskie and his wife Kristen passed away unexpectedly on February 8. Jay and Kristen were the owners of Good Land Organics in Goleta. For over twenty years, Jay pursued a vision of growing coffee in southern California, establishing about 70 orchards from Goleta to San Diego, selling coffee, and planting and selling trees. Jay sold coffee trees at the Festival of Fruit our chapter hosted in 2016. But his connection to CRFG goes back long before that.

According to Joe Sabol's notes on the establishment of the CRFG orchard, Jay and Steve McShane were among the people who started the project and got it going. It was their idea to form a committee to set up an orchard and partner with Cal Poly to make it happen. Jay was also a co-chair of our chapter in the early 2000s.

An [article](#) in the Santa Barbara Independent described the Ruskies and their pioneering coffee growing business.

For those who knew Jay and Kristen or would like to contribute to help their family with their funeral and other expenses, a Go Fund Me account has been set up on their behalf. To go to the site, [click here](#).



Announcement: Festival of Fruit 2026: The Year of Eugenia and Her Sisters

This year Orange County will be hosting CRFG's Festival of Fruit, the first since 2020. This year's theme is Eugenia and Her Sisters, and will take place from June 9-14, with garden and commercial tours, and the main event, a day of talks and workshops, happening on June 13 at the Titan Student Union, Cal State University, Fullerton. Planning is still underway, and registration isn't open yet. Keep checking at the festival's web site (<https://festivaloffruit.org/>) for more information; and we will post updates in future newsletters. FYI to attendees: since the festival is a statewide event, membership in the state CRFG is required for registration. We understand that people who are not already members will be able to join on the FOF website when registration opens.

February Meeting: Our Annual Scion Exchange

Our annual scion exchange took place on Saturday, February 28, at the Cal Poly Crops Unit. We'll write more about it and post photos in the next newsletter. For now, we can report that it was a lively and successful event. The weather was beautiful, with plenty of sun, and we sold a lot of rootstock, plants, and merchandise, grafted a bunch of trees, and passed along advice and help to a crowd of attendees. We also gave scholarship checks to three of the five students to which we awarded them. (Two were not able to make it to the exchange.)