

The Fruit Leaf

January–February 2004



Newsletter

Santa Clara Valley Chapter

California Rare Fruit Growers

Scion Exchange Perspective

C. Todd Kennedy

The Scion Exchange, now in its twentieth year, is the chief of special events of the fruit-growing calendar for members of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CRFG. The inspiration for the event was the offering of orchard pruning to chapter members by CRFG co-founder John Riley, during a field trip to Four Winds Growers in February 1983. The author organized the first scion exchange at our new home in Prusch Park the following winter, and it has grown and been copied in many of the other CRFG chapters.

The Scion Exchange is not only the most popular, but also the easiest of events to conduct. The willingness of the general membership to perform the set-up and take-down of the meeting room on that day is always impressive. The real work of the exchange is not immediately apparent to our member, however. That is the securing of the scions themselves, storage and identity before the exchange day. That work has chiefly been managed recently by the indefatigable Karl Gross. For several years past, Karl has worked behind the scenes to obtain propagating material for the exchange. The unfortunate result is that nearly all our members have been sheltered from the realities of the exchange: just where do these scions come from, and for free?

Of course, the chapter is involved in the care of the Heritage Orchard at Prusch Park, and has available to it propagating material from the 350 or so stone fruits, figs, and grapes growing there. Member Andy Mariani has for many years assured the chapter of first right to the prunings from his family's commercial orchard, at least of the varieties that are not patented. While many, perhaps most, of these are duplicated in the Heritage Orchard, Andy's contributions complement the limited quantities that can be

obtained from many Prusch trees that suffer from poorly supervised overcollection in years past. The third source, more important in the past two years, is the restored orchard at Filoli, a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Woodside. The opportunity to collect there is given year to year to the author, in his capacity as a garden volunteer at Filoli, not as a member of the chapter. These scions are mainly of the older, historic varieties of pome fruits. And the fourth source is the USDA Germplasm Repository at Winters, whose scions we receive indirectly via the CRFG Sacramento Valley Chapter in most years.

Taken together, the four sources provide the largest and most varied offering of fruit propagating material available at any place in the world today—for fee or for free.

But with this bounty comes a responsibility. Those who take a scion, are not to take many of a kind. The scions are for grafting (in some cases, rooting), not to litter the back of the fridge. The varieties are to be identified and kept labeled in the garden. The trees are to be maintained in good health. And the varieties are to be returned to the Exchange in the form of scions in years to come. Do not expect our scions to be available every year to come. The source trees may die, indeed several have died, and your grafts may be all that remain of it. Last year, the author prepared a lengthy list of fruit varieties that have been distributed at past scion exchanges, and the source trees are now dead. No replacements are known to have survived. The USDA Repository seeks a source for these from our members. One cherry has been located, the rest are still missing. (See list on back cover of this newsletter.)

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Call for Last Call

There have been inquiries regarding LAST CALL—the coddling moth control for pome fruit—as mentioned in the November–December newsletter. Gordon Osser is taking orders for Last Call. If ten people purchase together there is a considerable savings. If you are interested, please contact Gordon at 510-276-1491 for details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CRFG

February 7 (Saturday) 1 P.M.-4:30 P.M.	Prusch Park	Tomatoes and Peppers Nancy Garrison, SC CRFG member and a Master Gardener will share Tomato secrets, focusing largely on the varietal characteristics of about 30–40 of her favorite tomatoes, with some info on trellising methods. This is based on about 7 years of varietal evaluation spread over the last 21 years. Jim Maley will do a companion talk on very rare and lesser known types of chile peppers. He has researched chiles for the last 5 years and is an active Master Gardener volunteer who also has a monthly garden radio program called the Old Time Farm and Garden Show on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10 AM–12:00 noon on KKUP 91.5 fm.
April 3 (Saturday) 1 P.M.-4:30 P.M.	Prusch Park	Growing Apricots and Almonds by Craig Ledbetter.
May	Prusch Park	Propagating Plants through Tissue Culture by Carol Stiff.
June 5 (Saturday) 1 P.M.-4:30 P.M.	Prusch Park	Know all about Passiflora by Mark Cooper, the Passiflora grower accompanied by his buddy Patrick Worley, who developed the 'Frederick' Passiflora variety.
August 7 (Saturday) 1 P.M.-4:30 P.M.	Prusch Park	Growing Tropical Fruits in the Bay Area (Mangoes and Papaya) by Dave Giordano.

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Scion Exchange a Huge Success

Sini Falkowski

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter Scion Exchange was a huge success on January 10th. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the scion gathering, scion preparation and with the setup and cleanup at the Exchange. There were so many that it is hard to name them all here. We received pome scions from Monterey Chapter and material from Golden Gate, Redwood Empire and Sacramento Chapters. Members from these Chapters came down to help also. Without all you volunteers this exchange could not happen. And thanks most of all to our Scion Chairperson, Karl Gross. Again Karl has done an outstanding job pulling all the pieces together.

This year the rent for the Exchange site had doubled in cost from last year and we are looking for a new venue for 2005 where we can hold our exchange. If anyone knows of a suitable facility that is large enough to hold our gathering and at a fair cost, please let Karl Gross or me know.

Andy's Orchard

A Source for Heritage and Newly Released Fruit Varieties

Andy Mariani, our lifetime member and expert fruit grower, has started a new business for himself, called Andy's Orchard. Andy has taken over his family's Morgan Hill orchard, located at 1615 Half Road, Morgan Hill. Andy's Orchard will have a newly expanded fruit stand and Country Store, offering favorite heirloom fruits and old standards plus newly released varieties—one of the greatest resources of different fruit varieties in California.

Andy has been featured in many newspaper and magazines articles, including *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, and *Gourmet*, *New Yorker* and *Saveur* magazines. Andy's Orchard plans to offer more fruit tastings, tours, cooking demonstrations and harvest walks. A Harvest calendar with complete descriptions of many of the varieties Andy grows will be available in March.

For more information on this summer's upcoming events, please call the new phone number: 408-782-7600.

Lindcove Citrus Field Station Trip

Sini Falkowski

Approximately 15 members of our Chapter carpooled to Lindcove Citrus field Station on Saturday, January 17. We were the guests of the Sequoia Chapter located in the southerly part of the San Joaquin Valley in the heart of citrus country. Lindcove is located east of Exeter toward the foothills. We had to start before sunup as it is about 3 ¾ hour drive from San Jose, but the time went quickly with interesting conversations.

Arriving at the Station at 10 a.m. we were briefed on the few rules involved when touring the groves, the main one being that no knives or pruners are allowed to make cuttings from the trees. This is intended to prevent the transfer of virus or bacteria.

What a beautiful site! The groves are laid on a rise with the green hills in the background. I have never seen such pretty hills with their outcroppings of native granite rock. It was quite picturesque. The day was slightly overcast and not too warm so that we were all comfortable during our trek through the groves. Then off we trudged. We were first shown an area where the trees have been growing for 20 years on flying dragon rootstock. None of the trees except for the lemons were over 6 ft. and the lemons maybe a foot taller. Then we were taken to a section of the Station where our guide would give us the name of the variety and some history and we were allowed to sample the fruit. There were so many different varieties that we had not tasted before let alone heard of. It was the first time I had tasted some citrus as they are supposed to taste in perfect growing conditions and it helped us evaluate and know what to plant in our gardens later. Of those that we particularly favored we were allowed to pick and take some home. Some of my favorites were the Cara Cara navel and the TDE mandarin crosses which

resulted in the 'Gold' series: Shasta Gold, Yosemite Gold, Tahoe Gold, and one more still without a name. Some of the visitors couldn't wait until we got to the Rainbow grapefruit. We all had our different favorites and we all were interested in seeing such things as Bergamot, sweet limes and lemons, pommelos, blood oranges, different orangequats and kumquats, etc... too many to list.

After our trek through the portion of groves that was open to us, we headed back to the Station house where Eva Berghuis and the rest of the Sequoia Chapter ladies had laid out a delicious lunch! We had different salads, sandwiches, chili and homemade cookies for dessert. Everyone was overwhelmed by the graciousness and courtesy of our hosting Chapter. The Station is building a new meeting center so that they will be able to accommodate more visitors next year.

Many of our members then traveled to Martin and Eva Berghuis' home where Martin showed us around his 5 acre spread. Martin is "into" everything but especially Jujubes and bamboos. He is quite proud and rightly so of his collection of bamboo. In their greenhouse Martin had everything from orchids, pitahaya, banana, tropical plants and citrus being budded up. In his stone fruit orchard were peaches and plums. Pomegranates, grape and citrus were everywhere. He also has an Australian finger lime, but it has not fruited yet. He even had a row of Paulownia flowering trees. Also a highlight was Martin's pink banana, growing in one of his two green houses. There was so much to see that I cannot remember all the unusual plants with their exotic names!

Ming-Wei Shen has posted his photo album from the Lindcove tour. See the following URL:

<http://albums.photo.epson.com/j/AlbumIndex?u=4064209&a=31059320&pw=>

Scion Sources Sought for the Following Fruit Varieties

GRAPES

Anna Maria
Bell
Buffalo
Chasselas Rouge Breisgau
Dattier St Vallier
Diamond
Essex
Gagarin Blue
Grove End Sweetwater
Leon Millot
Marechal Joffre
Pirovano 15
Schone Bozerin
Tereshkova
Van Buren

PEACH

Diamond
Royal George

NECTARINE

Lord Napier

CHERRY

Annonay
Bigarreau Lamotte
Brunbar
Burcombe
Dyehouse
Karsona Rana
Louis Philippe
Marienhohe
Merton Favourite
Merton Glory
Rijmaker
Roter Freiburg
Udense Spaanse
Victor
Wczenez Pain
Wolynska
Zeisberger Riesen

PLUM

Buhler Fruhwetsche
Fursts Fruhwetsche
Imperial Gage
Langley Bullace
Miracle (stoneless)
Oullins
Raymond Prune
White Damson

APRICOT

Casaba
Maxson
Toyahvale

Members who are growing any of the above varieties or who know where such varieties are growing are asked to contact Todd Kennedy at 415-664-8851.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

ADDRESS CHANGE NOTIFICATION

2004 memberships are active on January 1. Those members who receive their newsletter by email and have not yet renewed have been notified by email. Those members who receive the Fruit Leaf by US mail, please check the address label on your mailer. If it reads 12/30/03 by your name, you have not renewed your dues for 2004. This will be the only notice you will receive. You can pay your dues of \$10.00 at the February meeting or mail a check to me at the address below. Please make out your check to: SCVC/CRFG. Thank you for keeping your membership viable.

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Volunteers Needed

for San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

Katie Wong is looking for chapter members to commit to 2-hour shifts at the CRFG booth during the show from February 17-21. Contact Katie at 408-251-2742.



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