

The Fruit Leaf

March–April 2004



Newsletter

Santa Clara Valley Chapter

California Rare Fruit Growers

Greetings from New Chapter Chair

Corrie Grové

In February I was too slow to get a few words in before the Fruit Leaf was published, so now I need to say something belatedly but still very valid. We had a very successful scion collection and exchange in early January. Thanks to a very large number of members coming twice out to help but the project was ably led by Karl Gross with lots of help mainly from, Sini, Mike and Cathy. (See article below.)

Since our previous meeting we again had a good turn out to prune the orchard. There is still work to be done such as some more pruning and removal of clippings. We will be calling for help for this work soon, possibly before you receive this News Letter.

Please note that our next meeting is on the 2nd Saturday of April, i.e. on the 10th. We will have a very exciting

Another Successful Scion Exchange

W. Karl Gross

Saturday, 10 Jan. 2004 saw another successful Scion Exchange by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the CRFG. We hope you made it down to the Southside Community Center, San Jose, CA for the event and managed to participate in the scion-exchanging portion of the event as well as listen in on the presentation by our fine trio of speakers. Todd Kennedy started off with a talk on Pome Fruit, Jim Kern followed with a presentation of specialized grafting, and Doron anchored the speakers that day with his in depth presentation on grafting for all skill levels.

However, the work that culminated at the Scion Exchange began a few weeks earlier as numerous members participated in scion cutting parties around the Valley. That preparation work reached a crescendo on Saturday the 3rd of Jan. at the Meeting Hall at Prusch Park when we had our "Five No. CA Chapter Scion Cutting and Bagging Fest." We had members from all five chapters: Sacramento (complete with Ray's

speaker, Craig Ledbetter. Some of you may remember him, he brought us, from Fresno !, a good supply of scions mainly of a new Apricot: the Apache which he helped to develop. Please don't miss this speaker.

Now, you still should go to Prusch Park on the April 3 for another exciting event. The Master Gardeners are putting up a huge sale of unusual tomato and chili plants. They will have over 100 varieties of tomatoes and about 80 varieties of chiles. Nancy Garrison and Jim Maley were our enthusiastic speakers on tomatoes and chiles at our February meeting. Also our congratulations to Katie Wong who was elected to the CRFG Board!

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selected cuttings from Wolfskill), Redwood Empire sent the usual car full of energetic cutters and some special scions from their northern clime, Golden Gate had people showing up all day, and Monterey (though they brought their bundles of pome scions into the Scion Exchange) were there cutting on the 3rd. Santa Clara turned out a fine contingent of enthusiastic cutters and baggers, many of who brought some great munchies to lunch on. If you didn't attend this get together, well, you missed a great day filled with camaraderie and one-on-one information sharing. We had such an enthusiastic group that we cut and bagged some 250+ varieties for the five chapters (four heavy bags to each chapter) and were done by 1:30 in the afternoon. Clean up and out of there! This portion of the Scion Exchange process is more like an old fashioned "barn raising." Hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

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GARDEN TOOLS SHARPENED

One of our members is sharing with us a great place to get your garden tools sharpened and put in good working condition for the new garden season. To sharpen and oil your garden hand pruners is only \$5.20.

Valley Saw, Inc.
1269 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95116

Tel: 408-292-0181

They will be open on Saturdays starting June 26.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CRFG

April 3 (Saturday) 9 A.M.-3 P.M.	Prusch Park	Master Gardeners 10th Annual Spring Garden Market —see below. Our CRFG Chapter will have a booth at this event to promote rare fruits and recruit new members.
April 10 (Saturday) 1 P.M.-3 P.M.	Prusch Park	Prunus Breeding and Evaluation by Craig Ledbetter. He is a research geneticist with the Postharvest Quality and Genetics Research Unit at the new San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center in Parlier, CA. Craig has been with the Agricultural Research Service for the past 17 years. He specializes in breeding of almonds, apricots and Prunus rootstocks. Also, Evergreen Scion Exchange —see article on page 3.
June 5 (Saturday) 1 P.M.-3 P.M.	Prusch Park	Know all about Passiflora by Mark Cooper, the Passiflora grower. His talk will be on how to cultivate Passiflora, what kind of soil it needs, what to do with the fruits, recipes to enjoy, preserving fruits for year round use.
August 7 (Saturday) 1 P.M.-3 P.M.	Prusch Park	Growing Tropical Fruits in the Bay Area (Mangoes and Papaya) by Dave Giordano.

10th Annual Spring Garden Market

Saturday, April 3, 2004

9 AM to 3 PM

NO SALES BEFORE 9 AM! (Don't even ask!)

Prusch Farm Park located at 647 South King Road in San Jose

Off 680/280 at King Road or 101 at Story Rd. East

See <http://www.mastergardeners.org/scc.html> for a preview of this event. Mark your calendar and tell your friends!

U. C. Recommended Vegetables—including:

Over 100 varieties of Heirloom & Hybrid tomatoes

http://www.mastergardeners.org/events/2004/ Tomato_List_2004.html

Over 80 varieties of Chile Peppers: Hot & Sweet

http://www.mastergardeners.org/events/2004/Chile_list_2004.html

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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Propagation Chair:	Doron Kletter	650-571-1258	Kletter@impact.xerox.com
Scion Exchange Chair:	Karl Gross	408-733-5317	kgross@usgs.gov

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There are far too many people to thank for all their hard effort put into getting this thing going, but a few are a must to thank.

Sini provided much assistance to me throughout the entire process and many times saved me from forgetting something important that needed doing. Additionally Sini was available for ALL the cutting and bagging parties, worked the entire Scion Exchange at the greeting/sign-in table, and single-handedly brought most of a bag of scion material from her own yard, living the reality of a "true" scion exchange. Thanks for your continued hard work and help. You saved me and the Exchange

Our presenters did a great job and everyone coming from their talks raved about the information content and practical tips and procedures they'd learned that day. Thanks to Todd, Jim and Doron for coming through with great presentations.

Cathy stepped forward and took over the helm at the Sales Table and did a marvelous job keeping that hotbed of activity smoothly running. Thanks, Cathy, for handling that task, requested at very nearly the last minute, and I might add, tallying our biggest year ever.

Thanks to Dave for bringing his Tropical Fruit display, which was up on the stage. We'll be hearing from Dave at one of our monthly meetings later in the year.

And a special thanks to Craig Ledbetter, ARS Fresno, CA for bringing in the new ARS apricots that he developed in Fresno along with the paper describing the seven (7) generations of apricot breeding required to bring the Apache to fruition. Again, we'll be hearing from Craig later this year at a monthly meeting so keep your eye peeled.

Scion Exchange means - to exchange scions

Though we've been extremely lucky to have access to large commercial and public orchards to gather vast quantities of scion material for our exchanges, the concept behind the scion exchange, and the way that many/most chapters have to run their exchanges, is that

the participants, i.e., YOU, collect, bag, and label scions from their trees, store them until the day of the exchange and then bring them to the Scion Exchange and place them on the table. The day may come when we need to operate in this mode so keep that in mind next year as you start your pruning and put those great varieties aside to bring to the Exchange.

Venue –

As you all realize the financial crisis of the State of CA is trickling down all around us. Fees at State Parks are going up, the counties are being shorted on funds from the State, and the Cities are feeling it, too. Which means that all the Community Center type facilities are jacking up their prices to a point where we're being priced out of the market for an event which is open to the public free of charge. When it comes to us securing the use of a facility for our Scion Exchange the costs this year were well above those of just a year ago and we imagine that the trend will only continue into the future. We've just about reached the point where the Chapter needs to locate a venue that is not so expensive. If you're someone with the inside track at a facility that might work, we need to talk. If you're a member of an organization that has access to a facility and would be willing to work with our Chapter, we need to talk. We had that opportunity three Exchanges back at Burnett Academy and we used to have that option at Prusch Park. Those opportunities no longer exist and we're looking at outdoor venues (the barn at Prusch and others) for next year. While a fine weekend of January weather will provide a very doable Exchange, a storm could be miserable so we're putting out the call NOW for people to put their thinking caps on and see if we can locate a facility that might fit our needs. If you have such a place in mind please get in touch with me and we'll arrange a meeting soon so we can get started talking and see if it might work for next year. You can reach me at, 408-733-5317 or kgross@usgs.gov.

Again, thanks to everyone that helped out and the best of luck with your grafting over the next couple of months.

Evergreen Scion Exchange

Our members may have searched the January scion exchange for citrus, cherimoya, avocado and then returned home unfulfilled. These fruits are better propagated by grafting or budding during the growing season (April–September). So we do not encourage collection of scions of these evergreen fruit trees for the January exchange. Instead, we hold an evergreen scion exchange as part of our spring chapter meeting.

Citrus are propagated best by chip budding in April–May, just as the rootstock begins to produce new growth. Citrus scions may be stored for at least two months, properly and moistly bagged in the refrigerator. Cherimoya scions should be collected (by now!) while still

C.T. Kennedy and Sini Falkowski

fully dormant and likewise refrigerated until the rootstock has commenced new growth. Fejoas, guavas, avocados should be treated the same way.

This is a *true* exchange where the chapter volunteers don't do all the work and collect the scions for you. **You** must participate to make the exchange a success.

So, if you want scions, bring some in, too. Even if you didn't know to collect scions back then, you may still collect from any trees that remain dormant. Clip off (don't tear) the leaves and put the scions in a ziploc bag sprinkled with water. Label the bags with a permanent marker as to species, variety, and source.

This Year's Festival of Fruit

Corrie Grové

The CRFG's "Festival of Fruit" conference will be held on June 18,19 & 20 in Pomona, Calif. (near Riverside). It will be a very pleasant and informative conference to attend. I have attended a few of these and found them wonderful to broaden one's knowledge of all aspects of fruit growing. Included are always many lectures to choose from, plant

sales, fruit tasting, opening event, lunches, a dinner and many tours to interesting places. It really is an educational short vacation. The application form is in the Fruit Gardener and on the Internet (www.crfg.org). Please think hard before you decide not to go.

Andy's Country Store . . .

Andy Mariani, our lifetime member, has just finished renovating his Country Store, and it is twice as large as previous. The store is already open, but Andy plans a grand opening when fruit season commences.

Andy also has a new website: www.andysorchard.com and his email address is andysorchard@andysorchard.com where you can get the latest dates and details of what

fruits are ripe and for sale. Also Andy plans on fruit tastings. There will be at least one cherry tasting (probably) in mid-June and at least two peach/nectarine/plum/pluot tastings/tours in late July to early August. These events will have an admission charge and they will be posted in the 'Calendar of events' section of the website. We also will try to keep members in touch with these tasty events.

Mystery Apple Trees

John Baum

John Baum picked up some apple scions at the exchange that he is calling "mystery apples" because he can find no descriptions for them. John is asking for help from chapter members for descriptions of these mystery apples. He has also included some 'corrections' of names: Edward's Fine Winter, Red Fresno Winter, Pink Delight (mentioned on a Washington State University

Website), Fukon Shiki (believe that the correct name for this apple is Fukunishiki), Harrell Red (believe that the correct name for this apple is Haralred, a variety of Haralson).

Please contact John at baumhwb@jps.net.

2004 DUES NOTICE

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
ADDRESS CHANGE NOTIFICATION**

Apparently quite a few of you do read this notice because a lot of you paid your dues. THANKS! However, there are still quite a few of ou who haven't, so check your label. If it says anything other than 2004, then your dues are due. We don't "carry" members as long as we used to, so please send your check for \$10.00 dues to SCVC/CRFG, using the return address on the outside mailer.

Santa Clara Valley Chapter/CRFG
5124 Forest View Drive
San Jose, CA 95129
408-446-1992

**Fruit and Wildlife of Borneo
Summer 2004**

Linda Kincaid, who traveled extensively in Borneo last year, photographing wildlife and indulging her taste for tropical fruit, is returning in July and August this year for a visit of 3-4 weeks. She estimates costs of approx. \$1000 for airfare, \$500 for food and lodging, and \$200 for guide fees. To get actual costs and details of the trip, contact Linda at lk@berkeley.edu.



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Santa Clara Valley Chapter
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