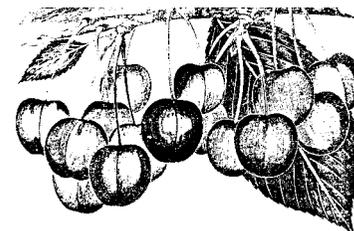


# The Fruit Leaf

January–February 2005



Newsletter—Santa Clara Valley Chapter—California Rare Fruit Growers, Inc.

## Scion Exchange 2005 Comes Home and Declares Victory

*W. Karl Gross*

It's hardly necessary to write about how successful this year's Scion Exchange was because most members rarely miss it and many of you helped bring it together.

This year the Scion Exchange returned to Prusch Park, one of the two possible venues that I think of as being a "natural choice." Prusch Park is a natural because of our close ties, starting with the bequest of land to the Parks Dept. with the caveat that it maintain its agricultural roots. Add to that the four orchards in the Park, which are the source of many of the scion varieties, and you've got an obvious and natural place for our Scion Exchange.

Although we'd originally planned on using the Barn at Prusch for the Exchange, thanks to Gina Aning, Acting Director of Prusch Park, the Scion Exchange was held in the Multi-Cultural Center (MCC), usually closed to all except dancers. The grafting demonstrations were held in the Meeting Hall.

During the busiest times of the Scion Exchange the MCC was just large enough, but the atmosphere was fully charged with spirit from one and all. Our initial count of varieties cut and available to members and the public was just over 300. Members continued to bring in scions throughout the day and unfortunately those

did not get added to the variety count. Andy Mariani of Andy's Orchard (<http://www.andys-orchard.com>) provided scion material for a hundred varieties of stone fruit and persimmons. The Heritage Orchard at Prusch and the Monterey Chapter's pome scions added a couple of hundred more. Todd Kennedy brought in a bag full of pome scions from the Filoli collection that seemed to number most of another hundred varieties, which were not added to the original variety count, either. In the end, it was likely closer to 400 varieties. Whatever the ultimate number was, it was a marvelous effort at spreading the varieties that are the history of the Santa Clara Valley and much, much more.

THANK YOU Very Much!! The combined efforts of a lot of people went into making this event. Plain and simple, without them, there could be no scion exchange. So thanks ever so much to all of you that helped. I've already mentioned Andy M., Todd K. and the Monterey Chapter for supplying so much scion material. To that list, let me add Ray Sheehy from Sacramento for his Wolfskill run, and the marvelous Redwood Empire Chapter for arriving at the Scion Prep Workday with a bag full of pome scions and TWO vehicles full of raingear-clad, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable, scion cutters. If you attended the Scion Prep Workday you were treated to a marvelous lunch organized and coordinated by Saeko Izuta, one of our new SCVC Board Members.

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## Santa Clara Valley Chapter Calendar of Events

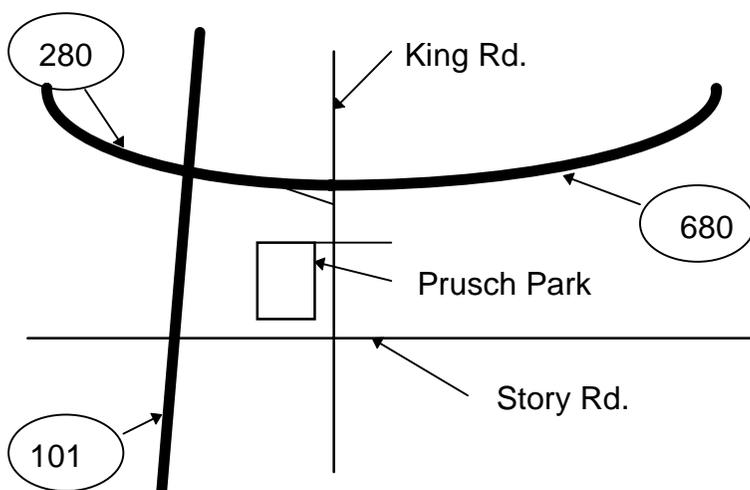
February 5 (Saturday) 10:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.	Prusch Park	10:30 A.M.—Pruning techniques by Andy Mariani, followed by practice and orchard clean-up, remove clippings, cut weeds, cut suckers. Volunteers bring pruners, shovels, saws, chain saws, weed eaters. Noon: conference hall doors open. (See page 3 for new meeting format.) 1 P.M.—Regular member’s meeting: <b>White Sapote</b> by Tom Addison.
February 10 (Thursday) 7:00 P.M.	Barnes & Noble Booksellers 5353 Almaden Expressway San José	Andy Mariani and Todd Kennedy on the history of orchards in the Santa Clara Valley: Book signing of <i>Encyclopedia of American Food and Drink</i> .
March 5 (Saturday) 9:00 A.M.	Heritage Orchard Prusch Park	Come Meet in the Orchard—learn more about preserving our fruit heritage; details on page 4. Event recurs in all odd months, first Saturday.
March 16-20	Cow Palace in Daly City	San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. We, volunteers, participate in an information and education booth. Contact Saeko Izuta to join in. Details on back cover.
April 2	Prusch Park	Tomato and chili plant sale by the Master Gardeners. The CRFG may have a promotional/educational booth and offer plants for sale.
April 9 (Saturday) 9:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.	Prusch Park	9:30 A.M.—Orchard maintenance. 1 P.M.—Regular member’s meeting: Topic TBA.

### February Speaker

Our February speaker, Tom Addison of El Cerrito, is a member of the Golden Gate Chapter of the CRFG. He serves as the white sapote specialist for the CRFG. He enjoys not only growing and eating *Casimiroa edulis*, or white sapotes, but a variety of temperate and subtropical fruit, including capulin cherries, lucumas, and assorted unusual Myrtaceae. He works as a lobbyist for clean air, and spends most of his free time climbing rocks.

Tom’s topic will be white sapote. This Mexican fruit does well throughout the Bay Area, producing abundant quantities of delicious fruit. He will give us some pointers on how to grow the plant successfully, including tips on cultivation and propagation. He will also talk about many cultivars of this fruit. ■

### DIRECTIONS TO PRUSCH PARK



Regular meetings of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers are held at Prusch Park, located at the intersections of Highways 280/680 and 101 in San José. The address is 647 S. King Road.

From Highways 280/680 going south, take the King Rd. exit going south. Proceed south on King Rd. to the first traffic light past the freeway. Turn right into Prusch Park.

From Highway 101, take the Story Rd. exit going east to King Rd. Turn left and continue to the first traffic light. Turn left into Prusch Park.

## Notes from Chairman Corrie Grové

Welcome to all the new members who signed up at the Scion Exchange. Please attend our meetings regularly to get the full benefit, fun and education from belonging to this interesting group. Our monthly meetings always have interesting speakers and interesting fruit related goodies to taste.

Our annual Scion Exchange is behind us and what a wonderful and successful event it was. Our thanks go to Karl Gross for outstanding management and organization. We distributed 420 different fruit varieties; where else would you find such a variety of fruit material? Thousands of fruit scions went into the community, which is what we are here to do.

Our December meeting was a bit unstructured due to too many things and our justifiable appetites for tasting and talking. To improve the meeting order, the format will be as follows:

- Noon: the doors open and we can start setting up displays, tasting, bragging and visiting.
- 12:55 Put the nibbles away in preparation for start of the meeting.

- 1:00 Business part of the meeting starts.
- 1:30 Time permitting, more tasting and visiting until 1:55
- 2:00 Speaker starts
- 3:30 Meeting closes

Saeko will be our Sergeant Major controlling eats and drinks.

At our last meeting I did not get to thank the members who brought fruit samples to share. These nibbles are wonderful for education and pleasure, and members are encouraged to bring anything fruit or derived from fruit to the meetings. Unfortunately I am not sure of who all brought things but at least I can mention Sini who brought in persimmons and kiwi. Nancy Garrison brought in a lovely jelly she made of passion fruit and feijoa, great with cream cheese and crackers. Thank you to all others who brought items to taste or to show.

Details on page 2 about our February program. I will only say that we will be blessed with two masters: Andy Mariani on pruning techniques in the morning and Tom Addison on white sapotes in the afternoon. Don't miss either of these experts.

### 2005 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Director Chair	Corrie Grové	650-372-0516	freestate@juno.com
Vice Chair	Nancy Garrison	408-298-5828	nancyg2@aol.com
Secretary	Cathy Berwaldt	650-856-1357	cberwaldt@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Jeffrey Wong	650-424-9664	jeffrey.wong@itv.com
Director	Nick Lolonis	650-574-0998	flolonis@yahoo.com
Director	Sarah Sherfy	408-846-5373	sherfy@us.ibm.com
Director	Saeko Izuta	510-299-2813	s.izuta@sbcglobal.net

### 2005 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Heritage Orchard	Ken Sherfy	408-846-5373	sherfy@myrealbox.com
Program Chair	Nancy Garrison	408-298-5828	nancyg2@aol.com
Librarian	Doron Kletter	650-571-1258	kletter@impact.xerox.com
Propagation Chair	Doron Kletter	650-571-1258	kletter@impact.xerox.com
Fruit Leaf Editors	Todd Kennedy	415-664-8851	
	Bob Allen	650-949-0280	boballen@stanfordalumni.org
Membership	Sarah Sherfy	408-846-5373	sherfy@us.ibm.com
Hospitality Chair	Saeko Izuta	510-299-2813	s.izuta@sbcglobal.net
Volunteers Chair	Aline Bier	650-343-4940	alibier@rcn.com

Five Northern California chapters, including ours, are already planning the 2005 Festival of Fruit, which will be held in Santa Cruz on the second weekend in September, with possible activities on the preceding Thursday and Friday. There will be bushels of exciting tours and speakers, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

See the new composition of the board and their duties, opposite, on page 3.

Members, please renew your memberships. We do not want to lose anyone. ■

### ***Scion Exchange report from page 1...***

Much of the Scion Exchange success is owed to Gina Aning and her staff at Prusch Park. They acquired the floor covering that allowed us to use the MCC rather than the much chillier and more redolent Barn and moved tables around on Park Vehicles to help make this happen. So to Gina, Peter, Lallo, Trisha, Dave and all the others that I don't know about, thank you ever so much.

Once again, Jim Kern and Doron Kletter provided those most important Grafting Demonstrations and Lectures that teach the beginner and refresh the experienced grafter the skills necessary to make proper use of their newly acquired scions. If we didn't say it on Saturday, let me say it now that without your participation many novice grafters would not be as successful as they are. I'm certain that you've helped create many new grafters and home orchard enthusiasts with your yearly presentation. Jeffrey Wong and Sarah Sherfy, also new SCVC new Board Members, spent the entire day helping people get into the Scion Exchange, physically and mentally. Cathy Berwalt and Jenell Doyon served heroic duty all day long at the sales table and helped out the public and our Chapter members.

As always there are many, many more people who showed up to help and did what needed to be done and was asked of them without question. Nick, Corrie, Erik, John, Sini, Bill, Ken, Brad and a dozen or more others whose names I can't remember at the moment, thanks much.

■ Thank You One and THANK YOU ALL! Successful! Very! A great Homecoming, I'd say. I heard and saw the reaction of the people that came. They were excited, loved what they saw and what we are all about. We spread the word of some 400 varieties throughout the Bay Area and spread the word about propagating rare varieties. We may have kept some varieties alive for future generations to enjoy. With luck, those who attended will be able to enjoy some fruit in the coming years, and for that they'll have this Scion Exchange to look back on and others to look forward to in the future. ■

## **Help in the Orchard**

We have a lot of work to do in the orchard which is of course also educational and social. This is particularly the case this time of the year when we have to do pruning, sucker removal, weeding and getting our watering system in order to work through the summer.

To achieve this we call on our members to please come out on a few Saturdays to help, in accordance with the wishes of members not on the same days as the general meetings. We will, therefore, do it on the first Saturday of the months we do not have meetings i.e. the odd numbered months.

Our first meeting will be on Saturday March 5 at 9:00 or later if it suits you better.

Our first order of business will be to prune and to move the clippings out of the orchard. Wee also can start weeding around the trees in order to start sucker removal at a later time.

Please come prepared with pruners, loppers, small saws, gloves and boots against the wet grass. A few weed eaters will also come in very handy.

We will have something to eat and drink.

Please call Aline Bier who is co-coordinating the volunteers and let her know that you are coming. Aline's no: 650 343 4940.

**MANY HANDS MAKE FOR LIGHTER WORK. ■**

*Aline Bier*

## EMLA Colt Cherry Rootstock Available for Sale at our 5 Feb. '05 Meeting

In an effort to locate the best cherry rootstock for a heavy clay soil, i.e., most of the Bay area, Karl Gross has ordered 50 EMLA Colt rootstocks in 1/4" & 3/4". Unfortunately they were not in by the Scion Exchange and as of this moment there is no guarantee that they'll actually be in by the meeting, but, the supplier said that they'd ship the third week of Jan. If all goes as planned, the rootstocks will be here for the February meeting.

EMLA refers to the research stations in East Malling and Long Ashton, England. Rootstocks with an M-# came from the East Malling work done starting in the early 1900's. They got together with the Long Ashton station and put some of the rootstock through a program to eliminate viral pathogens, in the 1960's, and are now classified as virus free. These were mainly apple rootstocks, but, a few others came out of the program.

### Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for a member with proficient database entry skills who could help us set up a database that we could use to enter our members fruit inventory information. We would like to capture who is growing what in their gardens, including: growing location (address), type of fruit, varieties, age of plants, whether growing outside in the open - in ground or in container, or in container in greenhouse, approximate age of plants or at least distinguish between less than 3 years old

Here is some info about Colt from the Internet:

Until the 1970s, cherries were grown on the vigorous Malling F12/1 rootstock, which required much space and time before cropping began, thus the growing of cherries was not a realistic option on a garden scale. The introduction of the rootstock 'Colt' enables trees reaching a maximum height of 12 to 15 ft (4 to 5 m) to be grown, and if trained as a pyramid it is possible to restrict growth to about 10 ft (3 m). The popular sweet variety 'Stella' could even be grafted onto a 'Colt' rootstock and successfully grown in a pot on the patio.

EMLA-Colt: Good anchorage and vigor. Heavier soils okay. Clay loam. Very vigorous, smaller than Mazzard. Not cold hardy.

Price will be in the neighborhood of \$3/rootstock. Provided all goes as planned, if you're interested, save some cherry scions and bring a plastic newspaper bag to the meeting and take some Colt rootstock home. ■

*W. Karl Gross*

and more than 3 years old, has it fruited and some simple quality rating such as lousy, good or great, maybe even if they'd be willing to host a small tour for other members.

We will need to come up with a template that would be used to glean this info and maybe it could be Web accessed and downloaded. If anyone can give us guidance on this, we would be very grateful. This will allow us to better learn what can be grown here and enable members to share more freely among themselves. ■

*Nancy Garrison*

## San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

The 20th San Francisco Flower & Garden Show will be held from Wednesday, March 16 to Sunday March 20 at the Cow Palace in Daly City. The Chapter has participated in the show since its first Fort Mason season in 1986. Again this year, CRFG is going to participate in the show in the garden vignette section. We need quite a few volunteers to tend our site.

This year, according to their brochure, the highlights are Container Show for apartment dwellers, free seminars, spectacular world-class display gardens, Bonsai Show, and lots more.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We need as many volunteers as possible to assist at our site during the Show period. Volunteers will be receiving free admission to the Show; while a regular ticket is \$20, and an early bird if purchased by March 8 is \$17. Early Bird tickets can be purchased at select retail nurseries throughout California.

To make arrangements for free admission passes, Saeko Izuta needs to sign up volunteers by the end of January, by email, [s.izuta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.izuta@sbcglobal.net), or telephone at 510-299-2813. It will be a great help if you choose more than one slot, to allow scheduling of all the volunteers.

Days & Hours: March 16 (Wed) - 19 (Sat), 9am - 8pm; March 20 (Sun), 9am - 6:30pm

### Time Slots:

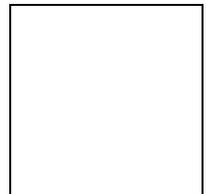
- #1 9am - 11am
- #2 11am - 1pm
- #3 1pm - 3pm
- #4 3pm - 5pm
- #5 5pm - 6:30pm
- #6 6:30pm - 8pm  
(except March 20, Sunday) ■

*Saeko Izuta*

### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ADDRESS CHANGE NOTIFICATION**

Chapter membership dues of \$10 for the year 2005 are now payable. For information on chapter membership, notification of address and phone number changes, please contact:

Sarah Sherfy  
9140 Paseo Tranquillo  
Gilroy, CA 95020  
408-846-5373



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