



The Fruit Leaf

Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Nov/Dec
2005

California Rare Fruit Growers, Inc



Notes from Corrie

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, December 3rd. Doors open at noon when we start tasting, exchanging, selling, and talking. The speakers start at 1:00pm.

In anticipation of the upcoming scion exchange we will have three speakers to cover a wide variety of fruits which will help us in our selections of scions. The speakers and topics will be Andy Mariani on stone fruits, Todd Kennedy on pome and Don Polensky on figs. You are urged to attend to get primed for the scions you may want to graft to your trees. Andy, Todd, and Don are very good speakers, very generous with their wealth of knowledge and tastes for flavory fruits. We are privileged to have these gentlemen as members.

Do not miss this meeting.

Bring to the meeting any horticulture things you want to sell, give away, exchange or for the group to taste. Please volunteer to Karl for the scion collection and exchange on January 7th and 14th. This is our biggest event for the year requiring a lot of hands, it is also rewarding and good fun.

As previously advised all our meetings next year will be on the SECOND Saturday of the month. Therefore, please mark your calendars as follows for 2006: February 11, April 8, June 10, August 12, October 14, and December 9.

December will also be my last month as Chair. It was a little more work than I anticipated but then it was also very pleasant and rewarding to work with such a wonderful, friendly and knowledgeable group, board members, and all others. Thank you all for the privilege to serve in this position.

I WISH YOU ALL HAPPY HOLIDAYS FOLLOWED BY A MOST PROSPEROUS AND JOYFUL 2006.

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POMEGRANATE TASTING AT WOLFSKILL

Corrie Grove

A few of us attended and enjoyed the pomegranate tasting at Wolfskill on Saturday, November 5th. It was well organized by Jeff Moersfelder, and a few friendly helpers. It was a gorgeous sunny day, but not hot at all. The pomegranates looked beautiful on the tables.

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Scion Exchange Preparation Has Begun!

Year Of The Healthful Grape!

W. Karl Gross

It's that time again! Yes, we are ready to start gathering scions for our January 14, 2006 Scion Exchange!

Great Schedule:

The Calendar is nice to us this year. With New Year's day on a Sunday, the first and second Saturdays fall on the 7th and 14th. Absolutely perfect timing for a Cutting Party and Scion Exchange. The five Northern Chapters have the following schedule for their Scion Exchanges:

Sat. 14 Jan. 2006 - Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Sun. 15 Jan. 2006 - Monterey Chapter

Sat. 21 Jan. 2006 - Golden Gate Chapter

Sun. 22 Jan. 2006 - Sacramento Chapter

Sat. 28 Jan. 2006 - Redwood Empire Chapter

Gathering & Prep Day/Cutting Party:

This is always a fun working event for all those who participate. We will be gathering and preparing all the scion wood at Prusch Park on Saturday January 7, 2006 starting at 8:30 a.m. to whenever it takes to finish. This is a great opportunity for all to get acquainted with and learn about the different varieties we maintain in the Heritage Orchard. So please put it on your calendar and we look forward to spending the day putting this effort together. Many hands make light work.

...And, if you cannot be there on Saturday, Jan. 7, but could put in a few hours work prior to that, let W. Karl Gross know and he might have a couple of other chores to get done (tree marking, etc. (408-733-5317 home or email: gross_karl@sbcglobal.net). We will have signup sheets for volunteers at the Dec. 3 meeting for Scion Prep day as well as the Scion Exchange - although Showing Up is more important than Signing Up!

To the Gathering and Prep Day on Jan. 7, you should bring hand-pruners, loppers, spritz bottles to spray the scions in the zip-loc bags to help the scions retain moisture, gloves and, of course, a lunch dish and/or snacks to share with all as we have a great time working and sharing knowledge and information together. Boots, layered clothing, and rain gear are a must if you plan to collect scion material from the Heritage Orchard. Although it has started out to be a dry year, only time will tell what it is like in Jan. 2006.

The Scion Exchange on Saturday January 14, 2006 will remain at **Prusch Park** this year. The main exchange is slated for the **Cultural Center**, while the **Meeting Hall** will house the Grafting Demos and Fruit Variety talks. We will be setting up the Scion Exchange from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Please come and help set up as access at this time will only be given to those who sign up to help. The Exchange will be open to the membership at 10:00 a.m. and the General Public will be admitted at 11:00 a.m. In order to get in at 10 a.m. make sure your membership is current for 2006! The Exchange will be over at 3 p.m. Clean up is usually completed in about an hour.

EXCHANGE DETAILS: The event includes grafting wood and cuttings for rooting, grafting demonstrations and talks, low-cost pamphlets about growing uncommon fruits, and sale of some grafting supplies (labels, **Doc Farwells**, para-film). We have not lined up all the presentations yet, so if you have a suggestion, please pass it along to W. Karl Gross (408-733-5317).

POMEGRANATE TASTING AT WOLFSKILL

Cont. from page 1.



The pomegranates were already broken open so we did not have to battle to get to the fruit, called Arils. There were 18 varieties to taste with colors from very **dark red** to a light pink.

Tastes varied from sweet with no acidity to a tart flavor with very little sweetness and many combinations in between. Seeds varied from very soft and very edible to very hard and woody.

There were a number of varieties with wonderful flavor and with soft and very edible seeds, easy to chew and swallow, the kind of fruit we like to have in our orchards.

We tasted only a small portion of the varieties at Wolfskill but they tried to let us taste the ones they thought we would like best. However, after the official tasting Nancy and went to the orchard where she tasted a lot more and very interesting varieties, Nancy will provide a separate article of her orchard discoveries.

We will be able to get a limited number of scions for our scion exchange and we may have to apply some control of distribution of these. We will wait and see how many we get and what the demand will be.

We were asked to comment on our favorites and there was fairly good conscientious of favorites by the tasters.

Below are my favorites (I liked the balance of sweet and tart with a little more tartness and soft edible seeds) comments on some of the varieties:

#0125, Ariana, pink, very soft seed, tarty but very good

#0107, Girsrski Rouavyi, light pink, fairly soft seed, good flavor.

#0124, Parfianka, red, soft seed and good sweet/acid flavor.

#0117, Viskusnyi, pink, slightly seedy more acidic but good.

#0085, Crab, red, very good flavor but very seedy, will make a very good juice.

#0037, Wonderful, dark red, slightly hard seeds and fairly good flavor.

I am enthused by the wonderful flavors of pomegranates and will graft new scions on my two trees that never produced a single fruit in 5 years.



More Wolfskill from Nancy

I too attended the pomegranate tasting at Wolfskill on Nov 5, as did Corrie and his wife. The table tasting was good, but the orchard walk and harvest was like being in the Garden of Eden and felt like I was in heaven. What a thrill to take all the time in the world to walk the rows and rows of pomegranate trees that numbered in the hundreds and be able to taste and harvest anything I wanted. I was able to take the leftovers from the official tasting and to that, I picked another 10 varieties from the planting, both of which I brought back for another tasting for the Master Gardeners at our monthly meeting on November 17.

More Wolfskill from Nancy



Ed Laivo records our preferences

What an ordeal to prepare 28 varieties of pomegranates for 100 people to taste. It took four of us two hours or 8 hours total. I carefully tasted and recorded my preferences so that I could determine what scionwood I want to grow. My top varieties include: **0066** (no name) hard seeds, but really good flavor that would be ideal for juicing, **0082** (no name), which had pink arils, very soft seeds and sweet, **Ukusnyi (0117)**, which had red arils, fairly soft seeds, sweet with excellent flavor, **Pamyatirozanov** which had deep purple arils with very soft seeds and good acidity balanced with sweetness, **Parfyanka (0124)** has bright red arils with very soft seeds and good sugar acid balanced flavor, **Neozhidannyi (0144)** with very soft seeds and excellent flavor, **Koinekosyrka** with deep purple arils, wonderful rich flavor and fairly hard seeds, making it most suitable for juicing, **Kara Bala muirsal** with dark red arils moderate seed hardness and great flavor, **Gissarki Rozoyi** with pink arils and soft seeds that I thought was the best pink, **Eve (0044)** was delicious for juicing but had very hard pithy seeds and finally **Al Surhan nar (0060)** with beautiful purple arils, hard seeds but great flavor for juicing. I liked **Ariana (0125)** quite a bit as well, for the beautiful pinkish red color arils, good flavor, with moderate seed hardness.

I really look forward to going back to Wolfskill next year so I can further analyze for productivity, ease of removing arils and ornamental qualities. I found it fascinating to see the differences in varieties, some of which had fruit that were almost turned inside out, other somewhat cracked open and others hanging on the tree in perfect condition. That difference may just have to do with maturity, but it was interesting to observe the differences. The other thing I enjoyed was looking at all the varieties with highly ornamental flowers that looked like crepe paper and sometimes having both orange and white flower color in each bloom. I'm wondering if some of the ornamentals might also have good fruit quality. They ranged from flowers that never were followed by fruit to ones that bore small sour fruits to ones that bore reasonably sized fruit of varying quality.

Ed Laivo from Dave Wilson Nursery was there again this year and he was avidly tasting and choosing some more new varieties for the nursery to carry and I caught him carefully checking the list of each taster's top five favorites. He does his homework, that guy, and will be releasing some really good new material in the coming years.

Calendar of Backyard Gardening Operations for Citrus Fruits

Paul Vossen, UCCE Marin/Sonoma County Farm Advisor

Winter Dormant Citrus Season:

Prune out any crossing, broken, or shaded out branches from the interior of the tree. No topping or hedging is necessary and removal of the skirts around the lower portion of the tree's bearing capacity.

If scale insects are present (appear as small bumps on twigs and a black sooty mold on the leaves), spray the tree with volk or superior oil. The best time to treat is February during cool weather. Thorough coverage is important.



Cultivar

A cultivar is a contraction of the words "cultivated" and "variety." It is a plant raised or selected in cultivation that retains distinct, uniform characteristics when propagated by appropriate methods. *Extracted from the CRFG website.*

I'M LOOKIN FOR YOUR BADGES

Saeko Izuta, Hospitality Manager

Last chance to get your personalized CRFG name badge for just \$10. Since I announced that **CRFG Market Place** was offering "New CRFG Name Badge" to be made at our last October meeting, and some of you may have read their ad in the "**Fruit Gardeners**".

I have received seven orders from our members, but seven is still three orders short to place a bulk order of at least ten to make each \$10 instead of \$15. So I decided to extend the deadline to the day of our December meeting, Dec. 3, 2005. If I receive \$10 on/by that day, you are in.

The **CRFG Market Place** manager and I also discussed what would happen if someone belongs to more than one chapter. Here's his answer: He would combine the two chapter names like Santa Clara/Golden Gate or he would gladly try to twist the vendor's arm to add the word "Chapter" after shortened two chapter names. So if you want your badge that way, please let me know.

My mailing address is: Saeko Izuta, 249 Marguerite Drive, Newark, CA 94560.

Please make your check payable to CRFG, Inc., with your name and chapter names (in the case above) the way you want.

Events

ECO-FARM 2005

January 19-22, 2005

Asilomar, Pacific Grove

**"Shining Light on
the Path to
Sustainable
Agriculture"**

Speakers

Eliot Coleman
Michael Pollan
Sandra Steingraber
Paul Stamets

50plus workshops,
innovative farming
techniques,
organic meals,
farm tour,
organic wine tasting
and exhibitors.

CONTACT

**ECO-FARM
ASSOCIATION:
(831) 763-2111,**

or

www.eco-farm.org

Andy's Orchard and Village Harvest

Holiday Sale

Sunday, December 4th

10:00 - 3:00pm

Andy's Orchard

1615 Half Road

Morgan Hill

Free dried fruit and jam samples,
music, mini tour, hoshi gaki
(persimmon drying) demonstration.
Preserves, dried fruit, confections
and harvesting equipment will be
available to fill holiday wish lists for
loved ones (and perhaps something
to treat yourself).

For further information:

<http://www.andysorchard.com/>

or

Village Harvest
Public: (888) FRUIT-411
Direct: (650) 740-7725
www.villageharvest.org

**NO
FEE**

UCCE Monterey County Annual Entomology Seminar

Thursday December 8, 2005

8:00am - 12:00 pm

Monterey County Agricultural Center

Richard W. Nutter Conference Room

1432 Abbott Street

Salinas

Contact Bill Chaney at (831) 759-7359

Fruit Slices

From Nancy Garrison
How about this one ... a very knowledgeable gentleman in my audience while I was speaking on mulberries offered this method for keeping mulberries within reach ... prune trunk and/or branches back to 3'-4' from ground every 2-3 years. As new branches emerge, weigh down the flexible whips so they grow down rather than up into air.

Dear All:

Gophers used to be a problem.

Gophers be gone!! Put too many of these in enthusiastic hands and there might not be enough gophers left for Barn Owls. As seen in the latest issue of the Fruit Gardener.

I feel like ordering one and then just going round the countryside, stopping in at people's homesteads and taking out their gophers! May-be the Chapter needs a couple?

<http://www.rodenator.com/index.html>
WKG

Golden Gate Chapter 2006 Scion Exchange
Saturday, January 21, 2006 / 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.
UCSF Mission Center,
1855 Folsom (at 15th Street), San Francisco
for more info:
www.crfg.org/chapters/golden_gate/index.html
or
(510) 843-1657

Saeko has designed the below graphic so we may cut out and use as a badge. Just write your name nice and large with a sharpie and pin to your lapel for any CRFG event.



**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

Newsletter

Submit articles, pictures, cartoons
by email
Sue Conde
weedeater@earthlink.net

**Nancy's organizing a trip
to Lincove Citrus Field**

If you want to visit one of the most extensive collections of citrus on the plant and taste to your heart's content, citrus you won't have a chance to taste anywhere else, most of which you've never even heard of, then join me in a special trip to Lincove Citrus Field Station near Fresno. This is organized by the Sequoia Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers and January is the time to go for the greatest assortment of citrus that is ripe.

Please RSVP to me and I will send our RSVP as a group. Obviously we will want to carpool. The carpool train will leave at 6:00 am sometime in early January.

Call me at 408 298-5828 for more details.

ALL ABOARD!

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...
<http://www.crfg.org/>

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