

# The Leaflett

**California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter**

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**Editor's Note:** Members of the Central Coast Chapter CRFG or those on our courtesy mailing list receive this newsletter. If you would like to unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to slpir@yahoo.com.

**A New Look...**the Leaflett has been changed and simplified a bit. You will find more information and white space, less graphics and those on snail mail will receive a newsletter that looks the same and those on e-mail. The result is the newsletter editor can now be included in the sane human being category.

## 2003...Year of the Citrus

Well, let's see...so far this year we've heard some facts (and fiction) about the orange and some philosophy about the lemon. The citrus pick for this newsletter is the fruit most commonly eaten during the first meal of the day...the grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*).

A relative newcomer to the citrus clan, the grapefruit was originally believed to be a spontaneous sport of the pummelo. James McFayden, in his *Flora of Jamaica*, in 1837, separated the grapefruit from the pummelo, giving it the botanical name, *Citrus paradisi* Maef. About 1948, citrus specialists began to suggest that the grapefruit was not a sport of the pummelo but an accidental hybrid between the pummelo and the orange. The botanical name has been altered to reflect this view, and it is now generally accepted as *Citrus X paradisi*. The grapefruit prospers in warm subtropical climates and is one of the most cold-sensitive of the citrus.

The grapefruit was at one time called the "forbidden fruit" and is believed to be of Caribbean origin. Grapefruit trees reach a height of between 22 and 30 feet at maturity with leaves 3-5 inches long, pointed at the tips with a rounded based. The oldest grapefruit known attained a trunk diameter of 8 feet. Flowers are white. An average grapefruit has 50-60 seeds or no seeds in a seedless variety (makes sense. The largest United States exporter of grapefruit is Florida and the largest importer Japan. Varieties of grapefruit include the Duncan, Foster, Marsh, Oroblanco, Paradise Navel, Redblush, Star Ruby, Sweetie, Thompson, and Triumph.

Other uses (besides eating) include use as a soil conditioning (dried seed hulls) and medicinal uses including a remedy for insomnia (an essence prepared from the flowers). For more information you can visit one of the 437,000 web sites on the net if you have time to surf through the grapefruit diets, grapefruit league and thousands of web sites selling grapefruits of all kinds.

## Recent Happenings

**March Meeting...Thompkins Ranch...**more than 50 people attended at this outlying coastal ranch and enjoyed the cattle and wild turkeys, the old rustic barn (the cleanest barn we had ever seen), fruit trees and green houses. The combination of llamas, alpacas and cherimoyas was interesting. The flock of turkeys seemed to have as much fun watching us as we did them. John provided a very informative talk about cherimoya, varieties, characteristics, problems, propagating, growing and marketing. Many thanks to our wonderful hosts and Carmela for spotting this opportunity.

**April Meeting...Don and Judy Beach Home Orchard...** who would have think that so many different plant and tree varieties (over 200) could be grown on this one acre space. Many of Don and Judy's trees were beginning to bloom and members were treated to an informative tour of the multi-variety orchard and the successes and failures of orchard tending. An appreciative thank-you to the Beaches for opening their home.

## A Few Words from the Chairperson

by Art DeKleine

I find being a member of the Central Coast Chapter of CRFG a kick! What fun!

There are an incredible number of friendly, knowledgeable, supportive, helpful, experienced, creative, adventurous and encouraging people in this organization. I never know what to expect at a meeting; I'm always surprised and I'm never disappointed at what I learn and see. We are most fortunate to have Joe Sabol for our Program Coordinator! A big thanks goes to all of you as well.

There are a lot more ideas and suggestions for places to go, things to see, items to discuss, skills to practice, and knowledge to share than we have time to do. We only meet 12-15 times per year. Having said that, we value your comments and suggestions. Please share them with Joe Sabol. The meeting schedule for this year is not yet complete and there's always next year.

Fruit! Good fruit! Rare Fruit! Fruit grows on trees, vines, bushes, and canes. Its pretty! It tastes good! It's healthy! It comes from flowers, It grow in gardens, out back, in orchards. It's grown for fun and for profit. It' available from early spring to late fall.

Apples, bananas, cherries, mangos grapes, figs, pears, berries (black, blue, crangoose, boysen, logan, bramble, mulberries, citrus, feijoa, date, watermelon, strawberry plumb, pomegranate, pineapple, persimmon, paw paw, cantaloupe, kumquat, loquat, kiwi, orange, lime raspberry, apricots, nectarines, peaches, guava, cherimoya, asian pear, currant, mango, persimmon, cactus fruit, sapodilla, quince, ber. pitanga,,,,,,

Fruit growers have many issues in common with other horticulturists including:

- Classifying-cataloging (including sharing and expanding our understandings)
- Propagating (seeds, rootings, grafting, budding, culture, selecting)
- Growing (fertilizer, water, ground, weather, years vs orchard, pruning)
- Protecting (weed control, pest control, disease control, environment)
- Harvesting
- Distributing (selling, storing)
- Eating (processing, display, recipes)

Each issue warrants investigation. Fruit is a basic food group; it's vital for good health. The central Coast Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers is all about basics: good horticulture, good fruit, good fellowship, and, of course, good fun!

## Upcoming Events

**See the end of the newsletter for a current event list) Dr. Joe will send out details to members with e-mail as meetings get closer. For those still on snail mail, you can contact Dr. Joe at 544-1056.**

Business meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. usually the second Saturday of the month. Joe will bring handouts to each meeting detailing future events. Remember to bring chairs and wear appropriate clothing. Refreshment groups are indicated on Joe's event list.

**June 21st - Cal Poly Crop Science Laboratory Building - Dave Wilson Fruit Tasting** - This is a fun event and all CRFG members and their friends and relatives are invited. Many varieties of fruit will be available for tasting. If you would like to help with the event, please contact Joe Sabol.

## Announcements

**Join the State...**Many of our chapter members are also members of the State association and those who aren't should consider joining. With state membership you receive a wonderful color magazine filled with all sorts of great articles, news, chapter activities and contacts. Yearly dues are \$25 and applications are available from Joe Sabol.

**Newsletter Update...**Have an interesting article to contribute or comments on how to improve chapter communication? Send them to your newsletter editor at [slpir@yahoo.com](mailto:slpir@yahoo.com). Newsletter costs are way down this year due to electronic distribution. Please keep membership coordinator Dick Pottratz updated on your current e-mail address. Newsletters are distributed every two months the first week of the distribution month (i.e. first week in September for September/ October issue).

**Community Orchard Update..**the combination lock on the orchard has been changed. The new combination can be obtained from Joe Sabol at 544-1056. The super special low Texas Peach donated by Burchell Nursery set fruit this year and it's delicious. Also needed are members to spread mulch around the trees, thin the fruit, remove all suckers originating below the graft, hand water the newly planted fruit trees, chop at least 12 major weeds not killed by the herbicide and of course enjoy the flowers and spring growth. Thanks Roger Eberhardt for volunteering to build the Kiosk/Welcome sign.

**How to get to the Central Coast Website:** Type CRFG in your search box. Click on Chapters. Central Coast is the first one listed. Also you can visit other chapter web sites.

## **Calendar of CRFG Meetings - 2002-2003**

**May - Festival of Fruit** - This is our "State Convention" and will be hosted by the Inland Chapter (San Bernardino/Riverside). We will not conduct a local chapter meeting this month. Make plans to be in So. California for the annual meeting instead.

**June 14** - David Gurney's home first for a two-part meeting and tour...then drive to Robert and Carol Scott's home right around the corner. Don't miss this one...David's home: 2188 Callender Road, Arroyo Grande. Robert and Carol are at 573 Winterhaven Way, Arroyo Grande. We will have a plant raffle at the Scott's home. Bring your quality plants for this special event. Refreshments: I through Q please.

**Directions:** Gruney home: Exit 101 at Fair Oaks, turn right (left if you are going north), turn left on Valley, turn left on Callender Road.

**July 12** - Orcutt Flower Grower "GLAD-A-WAY GARDENS INC", 2559 E. Clark Ave, just south of Santa Maria. They are commercial flower growers, mainly Gladiolus. This meeting is a result of a suggestion from CRFG member, Mike Metz. Refreshments: R through Z.

**August 16** - Burchell Nursery in Fresno. A full day. We will tour their fruit variety breeding program with some fruit tasting too. August is a great month to travel to Fresno. More information in July newsletter. Note: This is the third Saturday in August, mark your calendar.

**September 13** - Cliff Chapman's home and garden. A beautiful home right on the Pacific Ocean in Shell Beach with nice plantings of fruit trees, vegetables and a Begonia collection that will be in full bloom. Refreshments: A through H.

**October 11** - Tentative

**November 8** - Tentative

December 13 - Marv Daniels will attempt to reserve the PG&E facilities again for our December meeting.

If you have program ideas for 2003....please call Joe Sabol, 544-1056 or talk to any officer.