

**Foothill Chapter
California Rare Fruit Growers**

Next meeting:

Guest speaker from CFDA, plus scion exchange

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Scion exchange 9:30 am

Speaker 10:30 am

Lecture Hall A, Arboretum of Los Angeles County

Happy New Year to all our chapter members and friends! In spite of the wild wintry weather these last few weeks, spring is already here (at least, my early peach trees are already in blossom). We have a great meeting lined up for this Saturday, starting with our annual and ever-popular scion exchange (SciEx 2008) and followed by an interesting speaker. Please join us, and bring a friend.

Next meeting: Laura Petro, CDFA Pest Detection/Emergency Projects

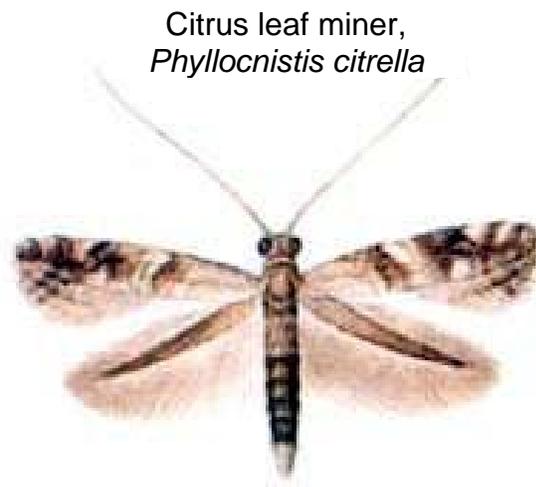


We are fortunate to have a topical and very interesting guest speaker for this Saturday's meeting. Our speaker is Laura Petro, an Agricultural Biologist with the California Department of Food and Agriculture Pest Detection/Emergency Projects branch, and her topic will be "Exotic Destructive Insects". Come join us and bring your gardening friends to share all your questions regarding what's eating your garden.

Some background from the CFDA PD/EP website (www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP):

Pest Detection/Emergency Projects

The primary responsibilities of the Pest Detection/Emergency Projects Branch (PD/EP) are the early detection and prompt eradication of serious agricultural pests from California. This is accomplished through the operation of a statewide detection trapping program, special detection surveys, and the maintenance of emergency projects response teams. The Branch administers the statewide detection trapping program through trapping contracts with 48 county departments of agriculture. State personnel conduct trapping in Inyo/Mono,



Citrus leaf miner,
Phyllocnistis citrella



Orange, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Riverside, Santa Clara, Marin, Mendocino, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. Functionally, Branch activities may be divided into the following four components: Managerial, Operations Center, Pest Detection, and Emergency Projects.

The primary objectives of the statewide pest detection system are to find insect pests before they infest one square mile and plant diseases before they exceed one-half of a square mile.

Insects targeted for detection by the statewide network of traps include exotic fruit flies (particularly species of *Bactrocera*, *Dacus*, *Ceratitis*, and *Anastrepha*), Japanese beetle, light brown apple moth, khapra beetle, gypsy moth, European corn borer, and European pine shoot moth

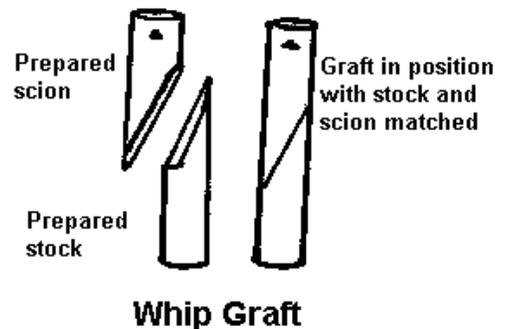
Emergency Projects

The primary objective of the emergency project component is to quickly and efficiently eradicate incipient infestations of serious agricultural pests, thereby preventing permanent establishment and subsequent spread in California. Other activities include:

- Preparing specific "action plans" for such unwanted agricultural pests.
- Maintaining properly trained and equipped pest response teams situated at strategic locations around the State.

Scion Exchange 2008

Our annual scion exchange, although more informal than those of some other CRFG chapters, is always a popular chapter event. Please make every effort to collect scionwood from your winter fruit tree pruning. Please cut your scionwood to sharing size (several buds) and bring along a selection from the deciduous fruit trees in your garden (apples, almonds, apricots, cherries, figs, pomegranates, plums, pears, persimmons, peaches, nectarines, etc.). Keep the wood cool and moist (e.g., in a ziplock in the refrigerator or shed), and above all, please label clearly as to variety and fruit. Put your name on the bag so people can ask questions about the variety.



Please bring scionwood to the meeting, even if you don't graft yourself. Your favorite trees can help start someone else's fruit orchard - they did for me when I moved here several years ago.

A special request - I am still looking for scionwood from almond trees. I have a single tree and would like to graft it over to several varieties for cross-pollination. Does anyone have a productive almond tree, and if so, can you bring in some wood?

We will start the exchange promptly at 9:30 am in order to give our full attention to our speaker at 10:30 am.

Right: Our chair, Joel Johnson, demonstrating grafting in his garden



Below: One of Joel's hydra-like fig grafts



Above: Loquat (Tanaka) - bees love the flowers, and the fruit is delicious and among the earliest to ripen in the spring. Thin to one fruit per stem, and you'll get much larger fruit.

Sharing table, raffle, and dues

Sharing Table

Members with last names starting with 'A' through 'M', please bring fruit and other goodies for the Sharing Table. This is also a good chance to exchange fruit with other chapter members - many of us are overwhelmed with citrus right about now. And everyone, please lend a helping hand by cleaning up during and after the meeting.

Plant Raffle

Please bring extra plants, seedlings, cuttings, etc., to the next meeting, with information and instructions for care. This is a steady fundraiser for our chapter, so please make the effort to share your surplus materials.

Dues

Please pay CRFG and local chapter membership dues at the next meeting if past due.

An end to postcard reminders

Folks, this editor has made the decision to eliminate the postcard reminders of upcoming meetings. Since I first took over this responsibility from Debby Prohias back in August 2003, the vast majority of you have moved from snailmail postcards to the email distribution list receiving this newsletter. The handful of members requesting a postcard have been taking up most of my time and all of the cost (for postage, postcards, printing, etc.). My apologies to the few of you still receiving the mailed reminder, but note that the meeting schedule never changes from alternating first Saturdays. Therefore, if you know of individuals who are interested in receiving these updates on Foothill CRFG events, first, forward this email to them, and second, please provide me with their email address so I can include them on the distribution list.

THE FOOTHILL CHAPTER OF THE CRFG meets at 9:30 a.m. the first Saturday of alternate months (February, April, June, August, October, December) at the Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia (just south of the 210 Freeway). There is no charge to enter the Arboretum to attend the meeting, which is usually in Lecture Hall "A". The easiest access is straight through the Gift Shop, then down the stairs to the right in the adjacent building. CHAIRMAN: Joel Johnson (joel@aridscapes.com, foothill@crfg.org)

Also see the website of our parent organization: www.crfg.org
"Founded in 1968, the California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG) is the largest amateur fruit-growing organization in the world."

Date of next CRFG chapter meeting: Saturday, April 5, 2008