



**Foothill Chapter
California Rare Fruit Growers**

Next meeting: Field trip to Cal Poly Pomona
Saturday, June 2, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

Next meeting: Field trip to Cal Poly Pomona

Dr. Greg Partida, Professor of Horticulture at Cal Poly Pomona, has agreed to give the Foothill Chapter a tour of the Cal Poly Pomona growing

grounds for the June meeting. He will speak on close-planting and other fruit gardening information. Dr. Partida is extremely knowledgeable, and Joel Johnson reports that a tour he recently attended was fantastic. We will meet at the large lecture hall building in front of the Farm Store at 9:30 am sharp.



Directions to Cal Poly: Take the 210 East from the LA Arboretum to the 57. Go South on the 57 just past the 10 to the Temple exit. Go right (west) on Temple Ave, over the train tracks, past Valley Blvd, to S. Campus Dr. Turn left (south) onto S. Campus up the winding hill and follow it around to the Farm Store parking lot. Parking may be limited, so we are encouraged to carpool. (see bottom of map at: <http://www.csupomona.edu/map/campus/campus.shtml>). If anybody gets lost, Joel Johnson's cell phone is 818-636-5184.

To quote from Cal Poly's web site, "Located on forty acres at Cal Poly Pomona, AGRISCAPES integrate and showcase farming and urban landscaping practices that are sustainable — environmentally beneficial, economically viable, and technologically sound. "

April meeting - Julie Frink, Avocado Expert

We had another interesting, informative, and fun chapter meeting in April, with our guest speaker **Julie Frink**, curator of the Avocado Variety Collection, UC South Coast Research and Extension Center in Irvine. Julie brought dozens of avocado varieties for inspection, and handed out three samples (Bacon, Pinkerton, Zutano) for our personal taste test. We had a great crowd for the event, with lots of questions from the audience. Thanks to Julie for sharing her expertise and enthusiasm, and to everyone else for the lively discussion.

Below: Julie Frink educating the CRFG masses



Right: Julie Frink Joe Johnson, and plenty of avocado varieties



**May Garden Gathering:
Special thanks to Kazi Pitelka**

Saturday, May 5, was another beautiful day for a "Garden Gathering". This month's gathering was hosted by Kazi Pitelka at her amazing garden, including almost an acre of orchards tucked away on a quiet street in Altadena. Kazi's place had everything from a citrus grove (with a huge grapefruit tree) to stone fruit to mature avocados to old walnut trees to a chicken coop to... and the list goes on. To start the day off right, Kazi provided some wonderful scones and homemade jams, and then gave us an extended tour. As one of our group said afterward, *"it was an enchanting tour of your garden.... simply the best inspiration I could hope for in a perfect environment for all plants (good for the soul too). You indeed have a mini arboretum!"* Kazi even handed out a detailed map so we could keep our bearings in her "arboretum". Thanks again to Kazi for opening her home and garden to the group. As always, volunteers for future events are most welcome - please contact Joel Johnson!

Below: Starting the tour (Kazi on the right)
Right: Chicken coop



Below left: Into the citrus grove
Below right: Mega compost piles



Left: Wrapping up a great morning with more refreshments



Sharing Table, Raffle, and Dues

Obviously, with our field trip to Cal Poly Pomona, we will have a month off from these usual meeting events.

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)

Date of next CRFG chapter meeting: Saturday, August 5, 2007