



Foothill Chapter California Rare Fruit Growers

Next meeting: **Questions & Answers**
Saturday, April 4, 2009

Lecture Hall A
Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia

Next meeting: Open forum

Everyone's busy this spring with their gardens, and we haven't confirmed a formal speaker for April. So please come for an informal, informative, and entertaining question and answer session. This is a good chance to tap into the wealth of knowledge present in our group, and an opportunity to help out new members (and old) with their fruit gardening questions.

February meeting: Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson Nursey

We had a great turnout for the February meeting due to our guest speaker Tom Spellman, the expert's expert on growing all manner of fruit trees, bushes, and vines in Southern California. Tom delivered a very informative lecture while we plied him with numerous questions throughout. See www.davewilson.com for much more information on growing fruit in the home garden.



Scion Exchange 2009

In addition to Tom Spellman's lecture, we held another successful annual scion exchange. It seems to grow larger every year, thanks to everyone who contributes and shares their advice. Let us know how your grafts and rootings did at the next meeting. I am happy to report that mine were very successful this year. For example, I successfully grafted some favorite apricot and peach varieties, plus grafted medlar onto pear, and also was very successful with pomegranate cuttings.



Right: Gold Kist apricot grafts



Left: Eversweet pomegranate, rooted cuttings

Chill hours - Useful Resource



The University of California Fruit and Nut Information Center has a useful site which monitors chill hours at 100 weather stations located through the state. There are eight stations scattered around Los Angeles County, including locally in Monrovia, Glendale, Pomona, and Claremont. For example, Monrovia has had a paltry 300 chill hours this year. To see where the stations are, and all recent and historical data, go to <http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/chillcalc/index1.htm>. And thanks to Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez for forwarding this information.

Sharing table and plant raffle

Sharing Table

Members with last names starting with 'A' through 'M', please bring your spring harvest to share for the Sharing Table (citrus, avocados, loquats, etc.). As always, please lend a helping hand with the clean 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.



Above: Red Baron peach flower

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).
Newsletter: David Szymkowski (david.szymkowski@gmail.com).

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, June 6, 2009.

Tentative speaker and topic: David Szymkowski, "Raising Orchard Mason Bees in the Home Orchard".



Above: *Flowers for next year's Beaumont macadamia crop*

Left: *This year's Beaumont macadamia harvest with hardworking farmhand*