



**Foothill Chapter
California Rare Fruit Growers**

Next meeting:

Special field trip to La Verne Nursery

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Arrive at Nursery (Piru, CA) before 9:30 am

April meeting: Field trip to La Verne Nursery

Joel Johnson, our chapter chair, has arranged a special field trip for our next meeting. La Verne Nursery has graciously offered to host us for a tour of their huge facility. La Verne is one of the premier sources of tropical and subtropical fruiting plants in our area, and we probably all have at least a plant or two of theirs. Dan Nelson, director of nursery operations, will be showing us around and discussing such topics as mass propagation, container culture, specific care instructions for various fruits, as well as any questions our members may have.



We are expected to arrive at 9:30am. Please arrive early, since it may be difficult to meet up once the tour is underway. Below are the directions to the nursery:

La Verne is located in Piru, 15 miles west of Santa Clarita (50 miles NW of Pasadena). Take I-5 N to Hwy 126 (exit 172) and drive West about 12 miles to Main St (ARCO on the corner), then turn North. Past the railroad tracks turn right on Camulos St. Follow Camulos St. to the nursery entrance. Drive on the main road past the shipping dock up the hill to the greenhouses.

La Verne Nursery: (805) 432-4345
Joel Johnson's cell phone: (818) 636-5184
For information, see www.lavernenursery.com.

This should be a rare chance to see how a large nursery goes about producing many thousands of plants a year, as well as learn some great information we can apply to our own gardens. It took some coaxing for Joel to organize this event, with spring being their busiest time of year. **They are really going out of their way to help us, so let's please try to get a big turnout to show our appreciation.**

Finally, for those of you who requested avocado scions, Julie Frink (curator of the Avocado Variety Collection, UC South Coast Research and Extension Center) has generously provided us with budwood from her favorite varieties, as promised when she

spoke to our group last April. Thanks to Joel for picking them up from Julie - he will bring them to the La Verne field trip. If there are any leftovers after supplying those of you who put in an order, I suspect Joel will be able to distribute what's left on a first-come basis.

February meeting recap: Laura Petro, CDFA Pest Detection/Emergency Projects



Thanks to all of you who attended our February meeting, where we were fortunate to have Laura Petro from the CDFA (www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP) speak to us about solutions for our local pest problems. We had a great question and answer session, and Dr. Petro also had lots of literature on hand for us.

Another successful scion exchange



Thanks also to everyone who participated in our annual scion exchange, either by donating or receiving scion wood, or advising on how to graft. Special thanks to Martin Koning-Bastiaan for his spontaneous grafting demonstration. I hope you all had good luck with this year's grafting. My efforts were largely successful, though a few grafts haven't budded out yet. For example, I grafted an unproductive old almond tree over to four varieties of peach and nectarine, and it

looks like all the grafts took. I can also now confirm that che (<http://www.crfg.org/pubs/ff/che.html>) can be rooted successfully - both male and female scions (from Joel Johnson) have budded out.

Above: Browsing the scion table

Right: Martin's grafting demo.



Sharing table, raffle, and dues

Sharing Table

Members with last names starting with 'N' through 'Z', please bring fruit and other goodies for the Sharing Table. And don't forget to lend a helping hand with the clean up during and after the meeting.

Right: Part of February's sharing table



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.

Below: Items from February's raffle



Dues

Please pay CRFG and local chapter membership dues at the next meeting if past due. Remember, we are collecting for the 2008 calendar year now, and are giving "amnesty" to those of you who may have lapsed on last year's dues. This is your chance to get back on the active member's 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). 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."



Above: Spring is here! Cherry blossoms in Monrovia. Thanks to those of you who bring in cherry scion wood every year to our exchange, I now have four varieties now blooming on one tree.

Date of next CRFG chapter meeting: Saturday, June 7, 2008

Note: Joel has lined up some good speakers and a few more field trips for the coming months, so stay tuned for more details.