



**Foothill Chapter
California Rare Fruit Growers**

Next meeting: **Roger Meyer**
9:30 am, Saturday, February 6, 2010

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

First, Happy New Year (belatedly) to our Foothill CRFG members. It has been an interesting few months in the garden, starting with a cold snap and early rains, then a brief but warm "summer" in early January, followed by even heavier rains with a deeper



cold snap. I hope everyone's gardens have survived without flooding or frosts. My orchard is confused, with some trees still not getting enough chill hours to lose their leaves, while others are already flowering. Sometimes (due to grafting) this is all happening on the same fruit tree! Anyway, we have a great meeting coming up, with several important topics. This is a good one to bring your friends and neighbors to. We'd love to see a big crowd for Mr. Meyer and for our annual scion exchange.

Above - Spring is here (?) - Eva's Pride peach already flowering.

Next meeting: Special Guest speaker, Roger Meyer - "Jujubes"

Our speaker for the February 6th chapter meeting will be Roger Meyer. As many of you know, Roger is a long-time member of CRFG, and he and his wife Shirley operate a nursery in Fountain Valley in San Diego County. The lecture topic is jujubes, but Roger has a wealth of experience and is a well-known expert on many tropical and subtropical fruits, so bring all your questions.



Above - jujube.

Roger has also graciously offered to transport fruit trees to our meeting for purchase. Below is a list of plants that Roger has offered for sale. If there is something not listed,

try contacting Roger to see if he has a specimen available - his mail order list is extensive. If interested, to avoid disappointment, you will need to contact him as indicated below, to place an order and arrange payment to reserve your tree(s).

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|------|
| Longan--Kohala Air Layer | \$35 | | |
| Mango--Manila | \$35 | Grafted | \$75 |
| Cherimoya/Atemoya Grafted | \$30 | | |
| Green Sapote | \$35 | | |
| Canistel | \$35 | | |
| Rose Apple Air layer | \$35 | | |
| Hardy Kiwi Female | \$25 | Male | \$25 |
| Black Sapote | \$25 | | |
| Lucuma | \$25 | | |
| Pouteria hypoglauca (Unknown sapote) | \$35 | | |
| Cherry Rio Grande Air Layer | \$35 | | |
| Big Jim Loquat | \$25 | | |
| Macadamia Beaumont Air Layer | \$35 | | |
| Allspice | \$50 | | |
| Surinam Cherry 5 gal | \$25 | 1-3gal | \$15 |
| Paw Paw (need 2 for cross-pollination) | \$25 each | | |
| Peanut Butter Air Layer | \$35 | | |
| Wax Jambu Red or White as Available | \$35 | | |
| Jujube Various Selections | \$22 | | |
| Parafilm Approx 25 foot | \$3.00 | | |
| Clear Grafting Tape | \$1.25 | | |

To contact Roger, call his home number, (714) 839-0796. He says that he is usually available all day on Mondays, Wednesday evenings, all day on Thursday and Friday, and then on Sunday evenings. At other times, try him on his cell phone at his farm: (714) 458-4289, evenings. Roger's email is: xotcfruit@yahoo.com.

Below - Anna graft on Gordon apple, already flowering.

Annual Scion Exchange - before the lecture, starting at 9:30 am

It's that time of year again! Along with an excellent speaker, our annual Scion Exchange is coming up at the February meeting. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors, and educate and help our new members get started. Not only will we have dozens of varieties of fruits and nuts to graft or root, we hope to offer ad hoc tutorials in grafting techniques. This is also a good chance to exchange your favorite varieties with other CRFG members. Don't be shy about sharing disease-free scion wood, and bring anything you have, no matter how common or rare (but no patented



material, please). Please label each tree and variety clearly, bag, and bring the scion wood to the meeting. Our scion exchange isn't as big as some of the mega-events held by other chapters, but as Linus said about his pumpkin patch, it may well be the most sincere. Thanks to our previous scion exchanges, I can walk around my garden and see many trees grafted with donations from Foothill CRFG friends. The best part of grafting



for me is getting a continuous source of fruit from one small tree over a long bearing season. For example, my single apple tree starts bearing with Anna, an early cropper, and still provides apples from late varieties into the winter. Or, if you're not happy with a fruit tree, you can graft it over to something else in the same family. For example, I recently grafted most branches of my pear tree over to several varieties of Asian pears.

Left - Atemoya (Coochie Island) graft on cherimoya.

December 2009 meeting recap - Tour of Los Angeles Arboretum fruiting plants



In December we were graciously given an extensive tour of the Arboretum's fruit bearing plants by Frank McDonough. We observed everything from cacao, sapote, and finger limes to several unheard of species with commercial potential. I think we were all surprised by the variety of plantings, most of which we never would have found on our own. Many thanks to Frank and the Arboretum for volunteering at the last minute!

Left: Cherimoya, unknown variety.

National and local chapter memberships in CRFG



Our chapter chair, Joel Johnson, reminds us all to please renew our memberships with the parent CRFG organization. It's time for our chapter to pay for the insurance that allows us to operate, which is provided by the parent organization. Their current head count for the Foothill chapter is too low, meaning we have many delinquent individuals who attend meetings but are not part of the parent chapter. We're opening ourselves up to

trouble, such as losing the insurance that allows us to meet. It states in the CRFG bylaws that you must be a member of the parent organization to be a member of a local chapter. For about the cost of one plant, the \$36 annual dues are what keeps CRFG going, and also provides you with 6 issues of the fantastic Fruit Gardener magazine. Or, for only \$25 annually, you can opt to have the magazine emailed to you as a PDF. Here is the link to renew: <http://crfg.org/join.html> - please do so immediately. The magazine alone is worth it, the CRG website is a great source of information, and most importantly, our national organization needs our support.

And finally, a reminder from our treasurer Pauline Assarian regarding our local chapter dues. We currently have 43 paid-up members (who have paid dues through 2009). This is a healthy size for our chapter, but there is always room to grow. For the modest annual dues of only \$5 per year (yes, 1.37 cents per day), you join an active community of like-minded fruitarians. The benefits are numerous, from our excellent speakers at the bimonthly meetings, to field trips, to free advice at the meetings and by email, to the free scion exchange, to the fruits and other goodies shared at meetings, to the plants donated or raffled at every meeting. If you are reading this newsletter, you are either a paid-up member or have visited us recently. So everyone, please pay your dues for 2010 at the February meeting and continue to be a part of our chapter. And invite interested friends to join us! If you can't attend the meeting, please send a check payable to: CRFG Foothill Chapter to Pauline Assarian, 96 Village Loop Road, Pomona CA 91766.

Name tags

Feeling left out because you don't have your official Foothill Chapter CRFG name badge yet? Upset because no one remembers your name at the meetings? Here's your chance to solve both problems! Those of you who wish to order name badges may sign up at the next meeting. As soon as we get about 10 names we can process an order, and you can wear your badge with pride! The cost is only \$11.

Sharing table and plant raffle

Sharing Table

Members with last names starting with 'A' through 'M', please bring your harvest to share for the Sharing Table. Although we try share this effort equally by rotating every other meeting, of course, you are always welcome to bring your fruits and other goodies to any meeting, regardless of your initials! And as always, please lend a helping hand with the clean-up during and after the meeting.





Above - early blueberry flowers ("Sharpblue")
Left - Goldfinger bananas hanging through winter

Plant Raffle

Besides your scion wood, 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. Be careful to bring only healthy disease-free specimens.

More on our friendly neighborhood bears

I may have mentioned my bear problems this season. They have devoured my jujubes, grapes, persimmons, you name it. Well, I never thought my fruit trees would be newsworthy, but take a look at these two recent reports (one from our local Los Angeles television news, the other aired on national news):

<http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/monrovia-has-a-big-bear-problem-20090105>

<http://www.foxnews.com/search-results/m/28241355/bears-invade-california-town.htm#q=monrovia>

That's my house in the foothills of Monrovia, and my wife and kids being interviewed. But I will say that the real problem is not with fruit trees, but with garbage bins. The bears empty every garbage bin on the street except mine, because all our food waste goes into a bear-proof compost bin as pictured below.

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).
Treasurer: Pauline Assarian (passarian@yahoo.com).
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, April 3, 2010



Far left -Rotating compost bin made out of big pickle barrel.

Near left - Good crop of Encore mandarin oranges.