

**Foothill Chapter
California Rare Fruit Growers**

Next meeting: **Jules Dervaes**
Saturday, October 6, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

Next meeting: Jules Dervaes of "Path to Freedom"

We are extremely fortunate, in that it has taken nearly a year for our October speaker to find time from his labors to come join us, so please help me in welcoming Mr. Jules Dervaes from the very special "Path to Freedom" (<http://www.pathtofreedom.com/>). The Dervaes family has been featured in newspapers and on television describing their efforts to "promote a simpler and more fulfilling lifestyle and reduce one family's footprint on the earth's dwindling resources." "Since the mid '80s, Jules Dervaes and his sons and daughters have steadily worked away at transforming an ordinary city lot in Pasadena into an



integral urban homestead. On this 1/5 acre urban homestead we have set out to live by example and inspire others to do the same. We are striving to be a sustainable homestead complete with solar energy, waste water management, growing our own food, and more. The Dervaes are supplied with food year round, and also sell salad greens to local restaurants to help fund their purchase of solar panels, energy efficient appliances, a biodiesel processor, etc.

It should be very interesting to learn about their techniques for maximizing production with minimal input, planting for extended harvest, and other ideas for urban gardening. Mr. Dervaes will be showing a video along with a discussion tailored to our fruit interests, followed by a question-and-answer session. Please join us for this unique and rare opportunity.

"Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bands."

- Thomas Jefferson

Right: Bananas; photo from Gail Murphy



Special request: Donations for Mayflower Elementary School fundraiser

Mayflower Elementary School in Monrovia is holding a plant sale in late November to raise funds for campus beautification (gardens, painting, etc.). We are now seeking donations from local gardeners to supply stock for this event. Therefore, if you have any spare bulbs or potted plants, I would greatly appreciate if you could bring them to Saturday's meeting. This is a great opportunity to thin out your plants and donate them to a good cause. Please label them! I know our group grows some unusual plants so I would really appreciate your donations of interesting items for this fundraiser.



Thank you if you are able to help by donating any of your extras to this worthy cause. Please email (david.szymkowski@roadrunner.com) or give me a call (626 305 0443) if you have any questions. In addition to bringing items to the meeting, I am also willing to pick up donations at your home.

Notice: CRFG fruit tree sale

From Ken Burton, LA Chapter CRFG:

California Rare Fruit Growers - L.A. chapter had grafted well over 200 deciduous fruit trees last year. They still have a number of apples, pears and plums left (see below).

They are planning on selling the trees for \$3 to \$6, depending on size. These trees are young successfully grafted trees in #1 grow bags or pots. They are small compared to typical bare root fruit trees you'll find in nurseries in January. Those bare root fruit trees are a fair bit bigger because they've been grown out in the ground for perhaps a season longer before they're dug up. All the CRFG apples are grafted on EMLA 7 rootstocks. The pears are on OHxF 97 rootstocks. The plums are either on St. Julian or Marianna 2624 rootstocks.

I can't recall for sure when apples, pears and plums typically begin to go dormant around here. It is possible that the Pears may be dormant by mid October. You are Not Obligated to buy the tree(s) if you decide you don't like them at delivery. Cash payment is preferred.

I can bring plants to people who may want to pick them up at the CCA field trip in Goleta on 10/13.

Please let me know ASAP if you're interested in ordering any of these grafted plants. Thanks.

Ken Burton

PLANT SALE - CRFG Grafted Plants - \$3 to \$6, depending on size

Inventory as of 09/19/07

To Order - Email Ken Burton at: KenBurton@earthlink.net

Orders to be picked up at CCA Field Trip in Goleta on Sat. 10/13

APPLES

2 Beverly Hills Long-time favorite summer apple for coastal So. California. Pale yellow, red blush or stripes. Medium size, slightly tart. Fresh/cooked. 300 hours. Self-fruitful.

5 Ein Shemer Heavy-bearing, very low chilling requirement. Sweet yellow apples in early summer (late June in Central Calif.). Excellent pollenizer for Anna. 100 hours. Self-fruitful.

11 Gala Wonderful dessert apple from New Zealand. Skin is reddish-orange, striped over yellow. Crisp, dense, aromatic flesh with nice blend of sweetness and tartness, rich flavor. Good pollenizer for other apples. Ripens in August, 2-3 weeks before Red Delicious. Adapted to cold and warm winter climates. Chilling requirement apparently less than 500 hours. Self-fruitful.

7 Granny Smith From New Zealand. Large, late, green, all-purpose, very popular apple. Crisp, tart, excellent keeper. Requires long summer; thrives in hot climates. Prolonged bloom; good pollenizer for other apples. Ripens in Oct./Nov. 600 hrs. Self-fruitful.

2 Pettingill Chance apple seedling discovered near Long Beach, Calif., introduced in 1949. Large fruit with red over green skin; flesh is crisp and juicy with a balance of sugar and acid. Large, vigorous, productive tree. Good keeper; ripens late Sept. to mid-Oct. in coastal so. Calif. climates. Very low winter chilling requirement, about 100 hrs.

Self-fruitful.

1 Winter Pearmain (a.k.a. White Winter Pearmain) Believed to be the oldest known English apple, dating back to 1200 A.D. High quality, all-purpose apple; an old favorite, especially for fresh use. Medium to large size with round to oval shape, pale yellow skin with dull red blush. Cream-colored flesh is fine-grained, crisp, juicy and aromatic with a rich, subacid to sprightly flavor. Healthy, vigorous, spreading, heavy-bearing tree is widely adapted, including to California's mild-winter coastal climates. Excellent pollinator for other apples. Ripens Sept./Oct.; good keeper. Self-fruitful.

PEARS

5 Hosui Asian pear. 1972. Large, top quality fruit; high scoring in taste tests; perhaps the tastiest Asian pear. Juicy, very sweet, flavorful, refreshing, low-acid Asian pear. Brownish-orange skin, russet-type. Blooms late, ripens early to mid Aug. 450 hrs. Pollinated by Shinko, Chojuro, Bartlett, or 20th Century. Good keeper.

3 Seckel (a.k.a. Sugar Pear) European pear. New York. A must for the home orchard. Connoisseur's favorite. Sweet, flavorful, aromatic, spicy pear, perhaps the best. Fruit small, reddish-brown russet over yellow or greenish-brown. Best flavor. Flesh creamy white and sweet. Good for preserving, spicing. Thinning produces better size fruit. Tree is naturally semi-dwarf. Resists fireblight. One of the most cold hardy. Ripens in Aug. 500 hrs.; full crop 800 hrs. Self-fruitful.

PLUMS

2 Elephant Heart Japanese plum. Home orchard favorite--large, heart shaped plum with sweet, juicy, firm red flesh, rich flavor and dark reddish-purple, mottled skin. Hardy, heavy bearing. Ripens in Sept. with long harvest season. 500 hrs. Pollinated by Beauty or Santa Rosa.

1 Faux "Green Gage" Japanese plum. Early blooming, July and August harvest. Very low chill. Precocious, very prolific and fast growing. Extremely juicy, sweet syrupy soft yellow-orange flesh; sour at skin (green) and near pit. Cling stone. Great if you like sweet-tart candies.

1 Shiro Japanese plum. Medium size greenish-yellow fruit is juicy, moderately sweet with a pleasing mild flavor. Bears reliably in many climates, including Western Oregon and California's northern coast. Late June/early July in Central Calif. 600 hours. Self-fruitful.

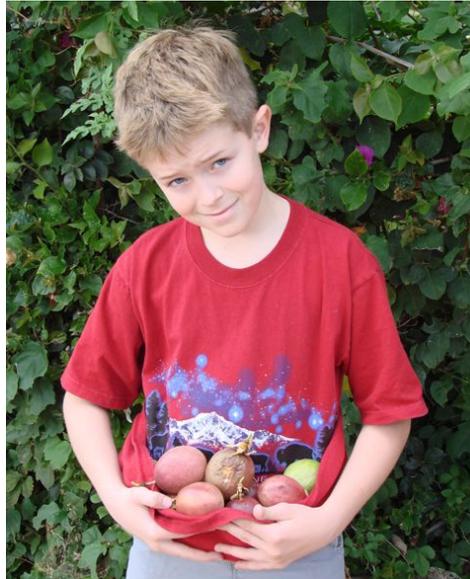
Sharing Table, Raffle, and Dues

Sharing Table

Members with last names starting with 'A' through 'M', please bring fruit and other goodies for the Sharing Table. And everyone, please lend a helping hand by cleaning up during and after the meeting. It's still harvest time - let's all bring something to share with the rest of the chapter!



Left and below: Passion fruit, *passiflora edulis*



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.

Photos

Send me your digital photos from your garden for inclusion in this newsletter.



Above: Cherries blooming in late September (?).



Right: Good crop of jujubes this year.

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, December 1, 2007