Foothill Chapter
California Rare Fruit Growers

Next meeting:
Saturday, February 3, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.
Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
Lecture Hall "A"

Next meeting - Annual Scion Exchange and Grafting Demo by Mits Kawahara!

It's time for our annual scion exchange, which means spring is on its way! The silver lining to our recent cold snap is that many of our deciduous fruits are still dormant, with plenty of time left for grafting. To help make our exchange a success, please remember to put aside some scionwood from this year's winter pruning. Scionwood should be roughly pencil diameter (typically last year's growth), and have several buds on it. Labeled ziplock bags containing a damp paper towel make good storage. Please label the bags with the fruit and variety. And don't forget to bring your own ziplock bags, a marker, and labels so you can identify what you bring home. Please bring everything you can to help our newer members introduce your favorite varieties into their gardens.

And to offer hands-on demonstrations of how it's done, we welcome Mits Kawahara from the Inland Empire chapter as our special guest speaker.

A Cold Snap in the San Gabriel Valley

This has been the coldest winter in recent memory, and on the bright side, my kids enjoyed sliding on some real ice in the backyard. On the other hand, my garden certainly has sustained more damage than ever before. The papayas and bananas in particular took a hit, but should recover. I also had leaf damage to lychee, mango and

cherimoya, but it could have been much worse (e.g, my citrus suffered no damage at all). You can really see how the lower leaves are hit hardest as cold air settles - every night the damage moved higher. Between the deer, citrus leaf miner, and the cold, the garden has taken a beating this year. I hear that other chapter members have had far more extensive damage (e.g., Joel Johnson reported a low temperature of 17°F and many dead trees in Pasadena).

Right: Crunchy papayas

Right: Fried bananas

A question, or request

Do any of our chapter members have orchard mason bees in their gardens? I am interested in getting them started this year. I tried last year with some mail-order bees, but they didn't hang around long enough to lay eggs. If anyone manages them in something transferable (e.g., paper tubes or wood blocks) and is willing to share, please let me know (at david.szymkowski@adelphia.net).

Ideas on Future Chapter Meeting Topics

Ideas for future speakers at our chapter meetings are always welcome. If you have

expertise in a particular subject and are willing to share, or if you know an expert who can speak, please let our new chair Joel Johnson know (joel@aridscapes.com or foothill@crfg.org).

Sharing Table

Members with last names starting with 'N' through 'Z', please bring goodies for the Sharing Table. And everyone, please lend a helping hand by cleaning up during and after the meeting. Let's all bring something to share with the rest of the chapter - a great way to get rid of those extra lemons!

Chapter Miscellany

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 bring your unwanted extras.

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, and I would be happy to put a few in this newsletter.

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, April 7, 2007 (springtime!)