



**Foothill Chapter  
California Rare Fruit Growers**

Next meeting:

**Special guest speaker**

**Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson Nursery**

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Lecture Hall A

Los Angeles County Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia

**Next meeting: Tom Spellman to speak on fruit trees in the home garden**

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding fruit tree expert as the guest speaker at February's meeting. Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson nursery will answer all your questions about the best varieties of fruit to select, plant, and grow in southern California. For those unfamiliar with Tom and the nursery, see [www.davewilson.com](http://www.davewilson.com).

The nursery has a particular good site full of advice geared specifically for the home orchardist (see [www.davewilson.com/homegrown/homeindex1.html](http://www.davewilson.com/homegrown/homeindex1.html)).



According to their web site, Dave Wilson nursery currently is farming more than one thousand acres, on a four year rotation, growing over two million trees a year for the commercial and wholesale nursery trade. The nursery also carries the largest selection of home garden fruit varieties in the U.S. You may know them from their regular public fruit tastings and ratings system which guides us all in selecting the best-tasting fruit varieties, many of which have been bred and introduced by the nursery specifically for California home growers.



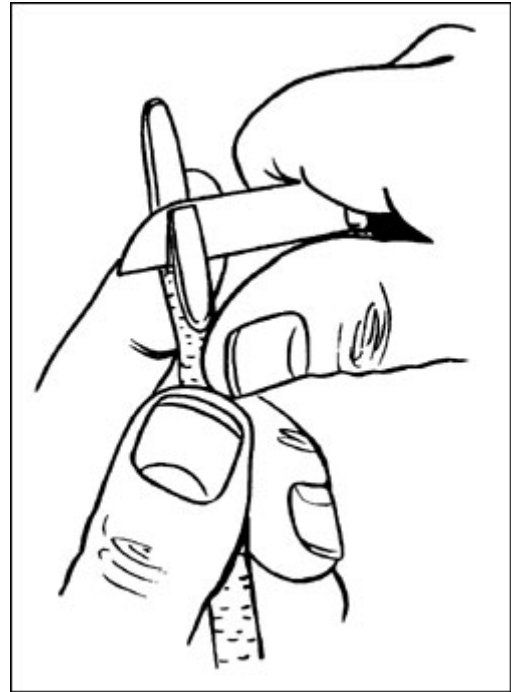
Make sure to bring your friends and neighbors to this one - it will be extremely informative.

***Left: Tom Spellman***

## Scion Exchange 2009

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In addition to Tom Spellman's lecture, we will also hold our annual scion exchange, always a popular event. This is another good reason to attend the February meeting, and to bring along anyone interested in grafting. Please collect (and label!!) healthy disease-free scion wood from all your winter pruning of stone fruits and other deciduous trees (cherries, apricots, plums, pluots, apples, peaches, nectarines, figs, jujubes, pawpaws, persimmons, pomegranates, grapes, etc. etc.). Even if you won't be doing any grafting this year, please take the time to collect scion wood for others. And do remember to bring your own supplies: pruners, some extra bags and a marker will help you organize and carry your collection. With Mr. Spellman visiting, we may not have time for a formal grafting demonstration, but our more experienced grafters are always happy to advise on basic techniques.



## December meeting: Growing strawberries with Julie Bawden Davis

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December's guest speaker was Julie Bawden Davis, a Master Gardener certified by the University of California. Julie literally wrote the book on growing strawberries in Southern California, and she shared her expertise with us in her lecture and in an extended question and answer period. Afterward, Julie signed copies of her book, "*The Strawberry Story: How to Grow Great Berries in Southern California*", and also provided a free strawberry plant to those who purchased the book.



## Citrus Greening Disease

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Citrus Greening Disease (Huanglongbing or HLB) has been in the news lately, including in a recent extensive piece in the Los Angeles Times. According to the California Citrus

Research Board, it is the most serious citrus plant disease in the world and once a tree is infected, there is no cure. Diseased trees produce bitter, inedible, misshapen fruit and eventually die. HLB is a bacterial disease carried by the Asian Citrus Psyllid, so it is critical to keep this insect out of California. HLB has already severely affected citrus fruit production in various parts of the world, including in Brazil and Florida, where the industry is now in rapid decline. Fortunately, the disease has not reached California yet. However, we all must be vigilant against introducing it into our gardens. More

information can be found at the website below.



**Left:** *Citrus Greening* example (see [www.californiacitrusthreat.com/huanglongbing-citrus-greening.html](http://www.californiacitrusthreat.com/huanglongbing-citrus-greening.html) for more information)

### **An important message from our treasurer**

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Happy New Year! I hope 2009 will be a fruitful year for all of us.

As the new secretary for the Foothill Chapter, I want to thank all of you who filled out new application forms, paid chapter dues in 2008, and made my job easier with your friendly cooperation.

As you know, your chapter dues are to be paid the beginning of each calendar year, no matter what your expiration date is with CRFG National. Reminder: you must be a member of our parent organization before you can be a member of the Foothill Chapter.

You may pay chapter dues at any of our meetings or mail a check to me, PAYABLE TO:  
CRFG FOOTHILL CHAPTER:

Pauline Assarian  
96 Village Loop Road  
Pomona, CA 91766

Good News! Those of you who ordered name badges at the December meeting may pick them up at the February meeting. Just see me. The cost is \$10 (\$5 for the badge kit and \$5 for the engraving).

## Sharing table and plant raffle

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### Sharing Table

Members with last names starting with 'N' through 'Z', please bring your winter harvest to share for the Sharing Table (citrus, avocados, 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.

**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](mailto:joel@aridscapes.com), [foothill@crfg.org](mailto:foothill@crfg.org)).  
Newsletter: David Szymkowski ([david.szymkowski@gmail.com](mailto:david.szymkowski@gmail.com)).

Also see the website of our parent organization: [www.crfg.org](http://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 4, 2009. Topic to be determined.***