



Redwood Empire Chapter Newsletter

July, 2011

CHAPTER MEETING AND CITRUS GRAFTING DEMONSTRATION

RECRFG held its summer chapter meeting and citrus grafting demonstration on June 5, at the Environmental Technologies Building at Sonoma State University. Mike Roa, our treasurer, reported that the chapter is in excellent financial shape, thanks to the annual scion exchange and plant sale; we have over \$18,000 in our account.

A substantial part of the meeting went to discussing ways of using some of our money to support the community. We voted to make a donation to the Arizona chapter of CRFG to help bring pomegranate expert Dr. Gregory Levin to the Festival of Fruit, and to donate money for scholarships to the state organization and to Sonoma State and Sonoma Junior College. The minutes of the meeting are on page 2.

After the meeting, Louis Hunt, assisted by David Ulmer, gave a talk and demonstration on citrus grafting techniques. Your intrepid reporter was too busy with other chapter business to take good notes, but Louis brought with him some very useful informational materials which he has collected over the years. These have been scanned and uploaded to the chapter web page maintained by co-chair Keith Borglum, <http://www.borglum.com/crfg/>

Additional resources: Harvey Correia, of the Sacramento chapter, made a video of grafting white sapote by two methods: bark graft and cleft graft. It can be viewed at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pfk3W0xxQRE>



**SANTA ROSA FARMERS MARKET
VETERAN'S BUILDING**

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 16: RECRFG plant sale, 8 a.m. to noon, Santa Rosa Farmer's Market, at the Veteran's Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa.

July 30: Greenwood exchange and potluck, 1:00, Tony Bryhan's and Nyla Larsen's house, 626 Gold Ridge Road, Sebastopol, (707) 829, 1581.

August, date TBA: Greenwood exchange and work day, Sonoma State University.

August or September, date TBA: fig and grape tasting at Wolfskill Ranch.

September 13-15: National Heirloom Exposition, Santa Rosa fairgrounds. We'll be sharing a booth and display with the Golden Gate chapter, and we'll need volunteers to spend a couple of hours during the day staffing the booth and talking to the public about what we do. If you have some time to help out, please contact Phil Pieri, (707) 795-6594, or Linda Robertson, at (707) 766-7102. For more information about the exposition, see:

<http://theheirloomexpo.com/events/about>

October, date and place TBA: Apple tasting.

November 3-6: Festival of Fruit, Year of the Pomegranate, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. For registration information and details:

<http://www.azrfg.org/festivalOfFruit/fof.html>

RECRFG has an events calendar on Google. Members can find information on upcoming events, both in our chapter and elsewhere, on Keith Borglum's chapter web page, <http://www.borglum.com/crfg/>. If you know of an event other chapter members might be interested in, contact our events coordinator, Tony Bryhan, at abryhan@comcast.net, to add it to the calendar.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

We're always looking for articles for the newsletter about anything to do with fruit growing. If you've traveled somewhere interesting, have some specialized knowledge you'd like to share, or have had an interesting experience with whatever grows in your orchard or yard and are willing to write a couple hundred words or so about it, let us know. If all you have is notes, we'll work it up into an article.

And let us know if you know of any other events of interest to RECRFG members in the fall and winter of 2011.

THE RECRFG DISCOUNT AT HARMONY FARMS

For years, Harmony Farms has generously offered a 10 percent discount on some of their products to RECRFG members. In the future, if you request the CRFG discount there, you may be asked to give your name and telephone number. The reason for this new requirement is that it seems that non-members have been asking for the members' discount – enough of them that the manager at Harmony called us about it. He thinks that shoppers may be overhearing CRFG members ask for the discount and deciding to claim it for themselves also.

We discussed possible ways of helping Harmony verify the status of customers asking for the discount, and decided on the following procedure: Harmony will collect the names and phone numbers of everyone who requests the CRFG discount. We will periodically check their information against our membership records and let Harmony know who the non-members are. This seemed easier on everyone than other alternatives such as requiring proof of membership when asking for the discount. And just hearing that they have to give their names for the discount may discourage some shoppers thinking of faking their way into it.

MINUTES OF THE June 5, 211 RECRFG CHAPTER MEETING

1 Treasurer's report: Mike Roa reported that we have \$18,308.67 in our treasury. Most of our income was from the scion exchange and the annual plant sale. Someone mentioned hearing that the rent for the Sebastopol Veteran's Hall is going up substantially this year. Mike said he will check into it and see if he can lock a rent in for next January's scion exchange.

2 Biomanager's report: David Ulmer reported that we sold out of apple rootstocks at the scion exchange and don't have any for grafting this year. Keith Borglum added that the grafted apple and pear trees from last year are doing well at his place, and that we have 20 trifoliolate citrus rootstock.

3 Report re verifying chapter membership for Harmony Farms discount: Keith Borglum reported. The manager of Harmony Farms contacted us a few weeks ago because large numbers of customers were claiming the discount we negotiated for chapter members. Keith talked with him, and it seems the problem may be that non-member customers hear CRFG members ask for the discount and then claim to be members, too. The agreement they reached is that Harmony will ask people requesting the CRFG discount to give their names and phone numbers, and we will periodically check them against our membership

4 Plant sale, July 16, 2011: We can always use a few volunteers.

5 August bud grafting trees for next year: We are out of apple rootstocks and have only a few cherries and plums, so we won't be able to graft a lot of trees for future sales.

6 Greenwood exchange: We decided to consider combining a greenwood exchange and work day at Sonoma State; they could use some help with their garden and orchard. Linda will coordinate with Frederique Lavoipierre and set a date.

7 The National Heirloom Exposition, September 13-15, sponsored by Baker Creek Seeds: John Valenzuela of the Golden Gate chapter suggested partnering with our chapter in setting up a booth and informational display. We voted to go ahead with this. Booths are free to non-profits, but we decided to donate \$100, which is what the exposition charges small businesses and farms for a booth. We formed a committee, headed by Phil Pieri. Phil will contact Christian Dake of Baker Creek Seeds and John Valenzuela to coordinate.

8 Donations. The donations committee consists of the three chapter officers plus Ed Maybrun and Larry Case. Ed and Larry were not at the meeting, but we discussed and approved the following donations:

a. A donation of up to \$2,000 to the Arizona chapter to help with the expenses for bringing pomegranate expert Gregory Levin to the Festival of Fruit this fall.

b. We also decided to see if Dr. Levin would be willing to make a trip to California to speak. We approved up to \$1,000 for expenses for that.

b. Scholarships: we approved the following donations for scholarships: \$1,000 to the agriculture program at Santa Rosa J.C.; \$500 to Wolfskill; \$500 to Sonoma State; and \$1,000 to the state CRFG. Mike Roa will check with them and report at the next meeting.
c. \$250 to Slow Food

9 We reported on the need for people willing to serve as chapter officers. Mike Roa will be termed out this year, so we particularly need a new treasurer. Linda would be happy if someone else would take over as chair.

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