



Redwood Empire Chapter Newsletter

July 2005

Gary Goodenough steps forward as our new chapter Secretary!

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Garden tours in Petaluma and Forestville

By David Ulmer

About forty enthusiastic fruit growers were treated to an extraordinary tour of Florence and David Strange's garden and orchard in Petaluma on April 30. If your interests include beautiful flowers, raised bed vegetable gardening, citrus, cherimoyas, bananas, greenhouse growing, herbs, or the growing of any temperate, tropical, common or unusual fruits, you had a chance



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Tatiana in her garden with Guy, Carolyn, Ted, and David

Two Weeks in Hawaii

By Phil Pieri

If you are going to Hawaii to taste fruit, the best island to go to is the Big Island of Hawaii. But if you are going to Honolulu on the island of Oahu, there are still places to go to get and taste fruit. After settling in at my wife's family home in Kane' ohe on the windward side, my first stop was Chinatown in Honolulu. The place is amazing, you can buy just about anything there, and there are always some interesting tropical fruit there. This time (late May), I found and bought lychee,

Durian, Chico (sapodilla), soursop, longan, star fruit (both purple and green), mangosteen, and of course the local stuff, apple banana, pineapple, guava, mango. My brother in law grows papaya in the back yard, so I didn't buy any of that. I brought these back to the family to taste.

The lychee was at peak of season and very good, the Chico was extremely sweet and tasted like brown sugar. The soursop was OK with a slight sour tang, the longan was very similar to lychee, but not as tasty! The star fruit was OK, sort of

nondescript in flavor and quite bland. And last, but not least, the durian, which must crack open on its own before it is ripe, but then ripe means different things to different people. I'm sure there are some out there that like durian, even the smell--- yes the smell. I did taste it to be fair and it did not taste bad, but oh that smell, ugh!!!

The rest of the first week was devoted to family luaus for birthdays and graduations, and of course some beach time. Week number two---The first order of business was a hike up the

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Two weeks in Hawaii cont'd.



Phil's Chinatown Fruit Haul

"after almost being dragged back to the swamp by the mosquitos, we had our long bamboo."

old Pali road, from the windward side. On my last trip here I found a Malay apple tree, with no fruit and a star fruit tree loaded with ripe juicy fruit, of which I partook. This time there were still no fruit on the Malay apple tree or the starfruit tree, oh well.

The next day my wife and I and a cousin took a ride up to the head of the Manoa valley to visit a botanical garden, and ask the curator about some mabolo or velvet apple trees I had heard about. He said they had one way in the back of the garden but there was no fruit on it. He suggested I try the Mt. Tantalus road. This is a mountain that overlooks Honolulu. So up we went to Mt. Tantalus and actually found some mabolo trees with green fruit, and a Malay apple tree with fruit growing right along the road. But the fruit was thirty feet in the air. That night I contacted another cousin and told him my plight, and where could I cut some long bamboo. No problem says he, and the next morning off we went to the Pali golf course, which

has plenty of bamboo growing right next to the parking lot. Well, after almost being dragged back to the swamp by the mosquitoes, we had our long bamboo. It was a simple matter to attach a wire loop with a bag attached and we had our fruit picker. The next day we were back up on Tantalus road where we not only picked the mabolo and Malay apple, but also found rose apple, mango, quava, and a jackfruit tree with green jack fruit, which we left to get ripe.

There were still some places I did not get to visit because of time. I wanted to visit the Dole demonstration garden where they were growing every variety of pineapple known. The last visit to Hawaii I visited a small farm on the windward side owned by the Yee family. They gave me a scion of very sweet red pummelo, I wanted to tell them that I grafted it and it took. But that will have to be another trip. ☼

Subscribe to the Chapter Email Discussion List! Find out what other chapter members are up to each week. Also, get this newsletter online in full color!

To sign up go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/recrfg>

Variety: Hawaii

Gravenstein x Golden Delicious); a very pretty yellow apple with light pinkish-orange striping, crisp, tender-skinned, exceptionally sweet with a slight hint of banana or pineapple flavor. Spreading in growth (moderate sized, and easily trained). Introduced in Sebastopol in 1945 by William Silva.

Buy Limited Edition Commemorative Apple Trees

These Commemorative trees var. Hawaii were custom grafted in Sebastopol this year by our chapter. Only 25 trees are available, signed and numbered, \$25 each, with #1 and #25 reserved for a silent auction at the 2005 Festival of Fruit. Reserve

your tree now!

To buy, send \$25 to:

Commemorative Tree Purchase
c/o David Ulmer
7157 Camellia Lane,
Sebastopol, CA 95472



Upcoming Events

- July 17 CRFG Plant Sale
Migley's
Market in Sebastopol
9:00-2:00 PM

- Aug 6 Summer Scion Exchange at:

Keith Borglum
3468 Piner Rd.
Santa Rosa
9:00AM-12:00PM

- Aug 13 Cider Press Training at
Gregory Flick
2114 Pueblo Ct. N.
Santa Rosa

- Sept 7-11
CRFG Festival of Fruit
in Santa Cruz
For schedule of events
see:
[http://www.nafex.org/
ANNUALMEETING2.htm](http://www.nafex.org/ANNUALMEETING2.htm)

For more information about our upcoming events call Mike Lee at 887-1598 or David Ulmer 824-1650

Preparing material for the Summer Scion Exchange

Graciously hosted by Keith Borglum on Aug. 6, we will be holding our first greenwood exchange. Like our scion exchange in January, we can bring in budwood of apples, pears, peaches, plums, etc. However, this is also an opportunity to share budwood of citrus, loquat, pineapple guava, persimmon, avocado, surinam cherry and others that are best grafted when the rootstocks are actively growing.

To select scions, look for wood that has matured and is not too tender without swollen buds. This may mean you

might have to look towards the middle of the branch. For citrus, avoid the soft, rapidly growing new tips as these may wilt.

Harder to graft species like pineapple guavas can be girdled a month before cutting to improve take.

Cut wood as close to the exchange date as possible. Cut off leaves without damaging the buds. Keep in a ziplock bag with a few drops of water. Label the bag with the name of the fruit as well as variety name. Store in the crisper compartment of your fridge. ☀

Garden Tours cont'd.

to learn something in the Strange's garden. Every tree was clearly labeled with its Latin and common names, and Florence gave a fabulous talk and tour of the entire grounds. Florence, who has been a long time supporter of the CRFG and the Redwood Empire chapter, is very knowledgeable about all aspects of fruit growing, and has always been generous with her time and knowledge in support of our group.

Following the tour, we had a short but productive business meeting and plant raffle. We also had tastings of several fruits and juices from the freezer as well as fresh citrus.

On June 4, our group met at Philip and Tatiana Tamarkin's beautiful home and Italian gardens in Forestville. Following cookies and lemonade on the patio, surrounded by healthy potted citrus trees, the group was free to stroll through the

How to get to Keith's:

From South
101 North through Santa Rosa
In Santa Rosa take the Bicentennial exit, bear left, up over freeway (west) Turn right at the "T" intersection on Range Rd Go one block, then turn left at the "T" intersection onto Piner Road
Follow Piner Road 2 miles to Fulton Road, cross Fulton Road (big intersection, well marked) We are 1.9 miles further past this intersection, on the left hand side, well marked

From North
Hwy 101 South, take Fulton exit just before Santa Rosa Continue on Fulton Road to Piner Road, turn right on Piner Road

All:
Lots of parking, park anywhere you can, walk around to back of house.

grounds and orchard. Although they have only been in this location a little over three years, their orchard is progressing very well with apples, pears, figs, grapes, and other trees. Tatiana showed us gopher damage and told us that the best way to avoid gopher damage is to make your own baskets out of gopher wire, as they last longer than commercially available baskets.

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Garden tours cont'd.



Interested in growing subtropical fruits like cherimoyas, white sapotes, and cool climate bananas?

Check out the great posts at www.cloudforest.com/cafe/

Then we traveled to Mike Lee's home and garden, to see his place. Mike has also been in his location for about three years. He has a nice selection of citrus, pawpaws, figs, white sapote and other fruits, as well as a great collection of subtropical and tropical fruits that he overwinters in his greenhouse. We had a fun scavenger hunt, which introduced many of us to new and uncommon fruit. We also had a very lengthy

business meeting, where we discussed the future of our chapter of CRFG. We voted to send \$500 to the parent CRFG organization to help them with their shortfall for 2005. We elected Gary Goodenough as our secretary and voted to form an executive committee, consisting of chairperson, secretary, treasurer, events coordinator, and biomanager. The committee was vested with the authority to OK disbursements.

Unfortunately, because of the lengthy meeting, many people had to leave before the raffle took place. Mike Lee shared a nice selection of white sapote, longan, babacao, Surinam cherry and others for the raffle.

A lot of work and effort is involved in preparing for a tour and I want to thank Florence and David Strange, Tatiana and Phillip Tamarkin and Mike Lee for sharing their orchards with us.



CRFG Plant Sale

Come join us at the chapter plant sale at Midgley's Country Flea Market on July 17. We'll have a quite a selection of 5 gal. grafted trees that you can pick up at a very affordable price. If you'd like to donate plants to

sell you can bring your car in at 8:00 AM. Call David (824-1650) or Djubaya (824-0448) to find out about getting a car pass to drop off or we'll come with a wheelbarrow to unload you.



CRFG Plant Sale at Midgley's Country Flea Market

2200 Gravenstein Hwy South (Hwy 116) Sebastopol

July 17, Sunday 9:00AM-2:00PM

**REDWOOD EMPIRE
CRFG**
P.O. Box 187
Forestville, CA 95436

