



LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

2023 Volume XXVIII Issue 1

MEETING

Date: Saturday, January 28, 10:00 am
Location: Sepulveda Garden Center
 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino 91406
Topic: Annual Scion Exchange

<http://www.crfg-la.org>

2023 Chapter Officers & Committees

Chairman: chairman@CRFG-la.org
 Anwar Hachache

Treasurer: treasurer@CRFG-la.org
 K. Payton 818-222-7556

Secretary: hospitality@CRFG-la.org
 Margaret Frane 310-429-9455

Newsletter Editor: editor@CRFG-la.org
 Deborah Oisboid

Program Chairman: program@CRFG-la.org

Historian: historian@CRFG-la.org
 Emory Walton 805-497-8835

Food Coordinator:
 Chris Warren 818-362-8537

Plant Sales: plants@CRFG-la.org
 David Payton 818-222-7556

Members at Large:
 Eve Guth guth_atlarge@CRFG-la.org
 Kathleen Doran doran_atlarge@CRFG-la.org
 Kevin Lieu kevin_atlarge@CRFG-la.org

Emeritus Members:
 Pat Valdivia edpitaya@gmail.com
 Edgar Valdivia

We're back!! After a 2-year hiatus, our annual scion exchange and grafting demo will once again take place in person at Sepulveda Gardens. Bring plant materials to share (seeds, cuttings, scions, etc.) Please do not bring scions from patented trees. (See first article, page 2 for more details.) NO CITRUS PLEASE! Help prevent the spread of Citrus Greening Disease. PLEASE LABEL YOUR SCIONS CLEARLY with its variety. See the Want Ads for more information on preparing scions for the Exchange.

A "Wish List" has been set up online for people to request particular (non-patented) varieties. Please DO NOT DELETE anyone else's request. If you can't edit the list, please email me at editor@crfg-la.org. The list can be found at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NjuNrdyK3yRTMzkzZK_rov6zimmiljSeO7AFuMNgfy/edit#gid=0

To all members: please bring something to share for our snack table. Trading scions is hungry work, and we will all need to keep up our energy levels!

MEETING

Date: Saturday, February 25, 10:00 am
Location: TBA (Possibly via Zoom)
Speaker: Ernesto Sandoval

Ernesto Sandoval is the manager and curator of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He runs tours, keeps the greenhouses in order and shares his knowledge of plant science with visitors. Mr. Sandoval is known for presenting an uncommon, hugely useful perspective for fruit growers. He details the role of plant hormones, providing insights that can substantially influence approaches for successful plant management.

Save the date!

CALENDAR FOR LA CHAPTER 2023

January 28	Scion exchange
February 25	Speaker - Ernesto Sandoval
March 25	Sylmar High/2nd Annual Tony Stewart Fruit Event
April 22	To be announced
May 27	Field Trip - Reza Shabestri
June 24	Sepulveda Gardens - Annual Plant Sale
July 22	Field Trip - George Campos
August 26	Speaker - David Karp
September 23	To be announced
October 28	Speaker - Mark Steele
November 18	To be announced
December 16	Holiday Party

Chapter Membership Now Due

By Karen Payton

Hello Chapter Members—and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is time again to confirm/renew CRFG memberships. As you know, individual chapter memberships require concurrent/up-to-date CRFG, Inc. membership. There is no such thing as “chapter membership” only. So, as we do every new year, we’ll be confirming that everyone is current with both. Further, as we told members who joined our chapter for the first time during the second half of 2022, their new Los Angeles Chapter CRFG membership is covered through 2023. But, for that to be useful, there also must be current CRFG, Inc. membership.

Within the next few days, if you will be needing to renew either Los Angeles Chapter membership and/or CRFG, Inc. membership, we’ll be letting you know. If you are planning to attend the Los Angeles Chapter CRFG Scion Exchange on January 28, 2023, BE SURE THAT YOUR DUAL MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN FULLY RENEWED AND RECORDED BEFORE THAT DATE.

Patently Wrong

By Deborah Oisboid

Please do not bring patented fruit varieties to the January Scion Exchange. A plant patent is for newly invented strains of asexually reproduced plants (not from seeds). To be patentable, the plant must have been asexually propagated, such as by rooted cuttings, air layered cuttings, budding, grafting, or inarching. You cannot propagate patented plants without the inventor’s permission. Violating plant patents is against the law and a form of stealing.

Plant patents typically expire 20 years from the application date. Since it can be challenging to confirm whether a variety is patented or not, the Orange County chapter created a patented varieties list, including the patent expiration date when known. (Plants with expired patents may be shared.) The OC chapter have graciously shared the link with us and encouraged us to share it with other chapters as well. The list is not complete, as data is always being added/corrected, but is a good place to start.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PbDzMNueUzp9ljK4vBm7cjYsgoWEIewbO2yTsBX8lo/edit?usp=sharing>

If anyone wants to help add/correct content, please contact the Orange County chapter at <https://southoccrfg.org/contact-us/>

For more information about plant patents and propagation, try this link: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/propagation/propgen/plant-patents-and-propagation.htm>

LOOKING BACK

By Deborah Oisboid

November 19 - Plant Sale & “Ask the Expert”

It was great to be back at the Sepulveda Garden Center again. About 40 people attended our end of year “clearance sale” and “Ask the Expert” Q&A panel. Many thanks to donations from AJ, David & Karen, Eve, Art, Candace, Jane, Charles, Deborah, Dawn, and others. The sale had quite a lot to offer!



Seeds: Wax Jambu, Paprika “Papri-Mild,” Raisin tree, Curry Leaf plant, Pitanga.

Seedlings: Jacaranda, Rose apple, Jaboticaba, Miracle fruit, Pickering Mango, Sapote, Pregnant Onion (not edible).

Plants: Longevity Spinach, Ti tree, Silver Dollar hoyo, Sugar Cane, Aechmea Bromeliad, Sensitive Plant, Coffee, Dinner plate dahlia, Perfume roses, Palm tree, Kalanchoe, Chalk sticks succulents, Dragonfruit cuttings.

There was also a fruit drink sampling, courtesy of member Art Fitzsimmons, who shared some

homemade drinks with unique flavors such as Jalapeno and Pomelo.

Charles Portney started the meeting off by describing all the plants for sale, including interesting stories and bits of history. For instance, certain large bromeliads can contain entire ecosystems inside of their clustered leaves as they trap water and provide a home for insects. Charles was also our local "expert" and answered everyone's questions, occasionally assisted by other members. Here are some of the questions:

- **How to propagate Wax Jambu seeds?** Scarify and plant them. Or soak 24-48 hours to soften and then plant. "Scarify" = rub on concrete or use a file to break through the hard outer coating. Wax Jambu seeds take 6-8 months to germinate.
- **How to stop weevils on oranges?** Use a dormant spray. (On the coast, use copper spray with sticky oil. Inland, use lime/sulfur sprays.) More is not better; use the correct amount. Use dormant spray to treat leaf curl. Dormant spray also helps against aphids and scale.
- **Say a squirrel takes a bit from a piece of fruit. Should we leave the damaged fruit on the tree so the squirrels leave the rest alone?** Definitely remove any chewed fruit off the ground. It might be possible to leave damaged, hanging fruit as an attractor so varmints attack that tree and leave other trees alone. But it's no guarantee.
- **Is it ok to add moldy fruit to compost?** Yes. Cover it with other materials to keep critters out.
- **Any advice on growing pawpaws?** What we call "pawpaws" are known as "papaya" in New Zealand and the UK. They have a BIG taproot and are deciduous. Hand pollinate the flowers with a cheap paint brush every few days to get fruit.
- **How to control ants on artichoke plants?** Use a sharp stream of water to push them off. Diluted soap and water works best on "hard" plants, not so well on tender ones. You can also use Neem oil. (Insects do not become resistant to this.)
- **When should you graft avocado?** Grafting to

in-ground trees is less successful than grafting to seedlings. Bill Brandt suggests grafting when the tree is not yet flowering but beginning to produce new growth. Remove all of the rootstock foliage when grafting, to encourage the graft itself to grow. No, you can't graft other fruits onto avocado.

- **Can you grow avocados in pots and get fruit?** Yes, if they're 40 gallon minimum. You should be able to grow fruit. Use a car slider dolly instead of a furniture dolly to move the pot around - it's much more sturdy. Use potting soil, NOT composted dirt, or the tree will run out of food.
- **What's the latest Black Fig Fly news?** They're still a major problem. There is some helpful information on these CRFG websites: <https://crfg.org/category/black-fig-fruit-fly/> and <https://wla.crfg.org/2021/07/10/black-fig-fruit-fly-redux/>. If you suspect BFF, pick up fallen figs quickly. Do not compost them, but double or triple-bag them and throw them in the BLACK (not garden cuttings) trash can. Watch for weepy figs and "ugly" interiors.
- **How to root Babaco papaya cuttings?** The Babaco variety is reasonably frost resistant. They are a natural hybrid in Ecuador. Grown from cuttings, they can live 5-10 years. Cut the trunk into 1 to 1.5-foot long sections, and plant them directly in the ground. They don't need compost, and the soil should not be heavily organic. Above all, DO NOT OVERWATER - it will rot the trunk! Babacos do not need much shade.
- **I just purchased a tree online. It is rootbound. What should I do?** Uncurl the roots and spread them out if possible. It's OK to trim them a little bit but leave the young energetic roots for future growth.

Suddenly, the room PA took over with a very loud whine and would not shut off. (This equipment belongs to the Sepulveda Gardens personnel and the controls for the speakers were locked in an inaccessible room.) Q&A pretty much ended at that point, with Charles's comment, "Sounds like being at a bad dentist."

After learning so much we were hungry! Fortunately, there was a fabulous lunch: Cuban, Asian, and American dishes, lots of persimmons, and plenty of desserts. (In addition to Art's special drinks.) Even more fortunately, the high-pitched whine finally shut off and we could hear each other again.

Let's end this story with an intriguing thought that Charles gave us that day: "Trees are fooling around underground, teasing each other with their roots."

December 10 - Holiday Party!!

Our last event of the year was beautifully decorated, delightful, delicious, and very laid back. Unfortunately, our chapter's holiday event coincided with the West LA chapter's holiday event, so we were missing some people. About two dozen people attended our last meeting of 2022. The event started with awards presented to Chapter Chair Anwar Hachache, and Member-At-Large Kathleen Doran.



They

received lovely Certificates of Appreciation for all their hard work over the past year. Eve Guth and Ed Livingston were traveling at the time so they will receive their Certificates of Appreciation at the next CRFG-LA meeting.



We had a small plant and book sale, and a chance to once again sample specially prepared fruit drinks provided by Art Fitzsimmons. Our own Marcia Melcombe was talked into singing us a holiday song,

with her daughter harmonizing along. And there was a small White Elephant gift exchange. The best part was ending the year with good friends, good food, and good memories. Here's to a good year in 2023!

WANT ADS

WANTED: proper scion preparation

- Scions are small cuttings which can be grafted onto another tree or rooted to become their own plant.
- Scions should be 1/4" – 3/8" diameter (pencil size) and contain several growth buds (2 -3 minimum).
- The buds should be closed. If the leaves are starting to open already, it's energy will go into the leaves instead of the graft.
- Scions can be prepared and stored up to several weeks ahead of time, but please try to harvest as close to the event as possible. Freshly cut wood is better for successful grafting.
- Wrap cuttings in a damp (not soggy) paper towel(s) and place in a ziplock-type bag, leaving a slight opening in the bag for the wood to breathe.
- If necessary, store the scion bag in the vegetable bin of your refrigerator until the morning of the exchange. Be careful not to let the scion wood freeze!
- LABEL each bag with fruit variety, as well as any additional information you feel is pertinent (i.e. minimum chilling hours; pollinator needs; vigor; where successfully grown, etc).
- When labeling figs, please specify if they are OPEN or CLOSED eye varieties. (Open eye varieties are susceptible to the insidious Black Fig Fly.)
- Bundle by variety.
- Please include your name on the scion bags, in case people have questions.
- At the event, please wait to make your selections until directed.
- Please limit your selections to two of any variety, until everyone has had an opportunity. Then you can take more.

WANTED: Chapter Program Chair

Our chapter is currently looking for a dynamic, imaginative person to find new speakers and help arrange field trips. That volunteer and new Chapter Board Member will have an easy first year, as we already have several excellent events planned. But we still need a few more, and with your help 2023 is going to be amazing!