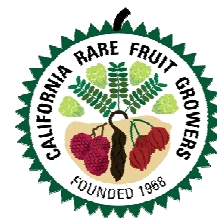


YEAR OF THE AVOCADO

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

March 2008 Volume XI Issue2



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

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March Meeting

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2008

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91316

Program: "Adventures in Apricots" will be the theme of this month's presentation by, **David Karp.** The apricot is one of **David's** favorite fruits, and he's spent 15 years tracking down rare and extraordinary varieties around California. In this presentation he'll discuss and show photos about a new commercial planting of Central Asian apricots in the San Joaquin Valley, including glabrous (hairless) types; the attempts to introduce, breed and commercialize white apricots in California; Craig Ledbetter of the USDA's program to hybridize California and Hunza apricots; the best Moorpark and Hemskirk varieties; the newly planted Bunyard orchard of rare stone fruit in Morgan Hill. Don't miss this opportunity to hear such a wonderful and dynamic speaker.

April Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 26, 2008

Time: 10 am

Place: Les and Linda Warren's garden/ Potluck at Botanical Gardens
1902 Ramada Dr., Camarillo, CA

Program: Although the lot size is approximately two-thirds of an acre, an effort was made to plant most every tropical/subtropical fruit-bearing species which will survive in *Sunset Western Garden Book's* climate zone 21. Rather than planting in an orchard-style, many of the fruit-bearing plants have been incorporated into the landscape. The plant list includes the usual players such as guavas, cherimoyas, white sapote, citrus, pomegranates, jujubes, pitanga, mangos, etc. A few others which have fruited here include: jelly palm, kei apple, acerola cherry, goumi, macadamia, medlar, jaboticaba, lucuma, Chilean guava, and the Australian midyim berries. Also, there are a number of edible California natives scattered about, including a So. Calif. black walnut, blue elderberry, holly-leaved cherry, and manzanitas. Planting began in ~ 1993 and continues to this day. Sounds like a wonderful day. Don't miss this tour!!

Directions: From the San Fernando Valley take the 101 N. Exit at Santa Rosa RD (exit 52 toward Pleasant Valley Rd.) Turn right onto Santa Rosa Rd., go for ~ 2 mi (north of the freeway). Hang a left at the Upland Rd. signal; take 2nd left at Paseo Noche, then the next immediate left at Cervato, then the next immediate right at San Onofre, then the next right at La Ramada (two lefts, then two rights off Upland). Arrive at **1902 Ramada Dr.**, third house on right.

Following the tour, we will proceed to the **Conejo Valley Botanical Gardens** for a Potluck lunch. We will provide sandwiches and drinks. **Please bring salads, appetizers and desserts to share.**

Directions from the Warren's home to the Botanical Gardens: Go south on La Ramada Dr toward La Senda Ct. and make a right onto San Onofre Dr. Turn left onto Via Latina Dr. Turn right onto Santa Rosa Rd. Merge onto 101 freeway toward Los Angeles. Take Lynn Rd. exit. Turn left onto Lynn Rd. Turn right onto W. Gainsborough Rd. The address of the **Botanical Gardens** is: **350 W. Gainsborough Rd. Thousand Oaks**



LEMON GUAVA

By Alfredo Chiri

LEMON GUAVA - *Psidium cattleianum* x *lucidum* -
Myrtaceae

Donated by: CRFG/Daniel and planted in 1983 (r.f.-09)

Common names: Cattley guava, Araza, Guayaba peruana,
Yellow strawberry guava, Waiawi, aracá da praia, Cas dulce,
Guayaba japonesa, Calcutta guava, purple guava.

This native guava from the lowlands of Brazil is one of the possible 100 species of evergreen shrubs or trees grown in America. In their native Brazil they grow near the coast. Their cultivation is limited to a certain extent to some areas of South America, southern and central Florida and Southern California. In some tropical areas the cattley guava has become naturalized to moist areas, forming dense stands, and is being considered as a "weed tree." In the area of La Mesa, California, this plant has been producing heavily for the last 50 years. *Cattleianum* is *P. littorale* var *longipes*, while *Lucidum* is *P. Littorale* var *littorale*, indicating that this variety could be a hybrid species.

This type of guava shrub or small tree is fairly slow-growing, ranging from 2-4 meters (6 -12 ft) tall, but some of the yellow-fruited types may attain 40 feet. They have smooth bark, and are rather loosely branched. The fragrant flowers are white with prominent stamens and are borne in groups of 3's in the leaf axils. The fruit is sulfur-yellow with white flesh somewhat translucent and with many seeds. It is acid when ripe.

The tree is good for reforestation and is adaptable to tropic and subtropics areas. In California it produces fruit in late summer, and this is primarily canned, preserved, made into jam, relish, and chutney. Its greatest commercial use is for jelly. On a good soil and under irrigation a tree would produce up to 300 pounds. It reproduces from seeds easily; the seeds are sown in flats or pans of lightly sandy soil and kept there until permanent planting. It also can be propagated from budding, grafting or cutting, but this technique is not too common because of its thin bark.

This type of guava is hardier than the common guava and can survive temperatures as low as 22° F. it can

easily survive wherever citrus is grown without artificial heating.

The cattley guava does well in limestone and poor soils. It is shallow-rooted but is fairly drought tolerant and is able to endure flooding for short periods.

The cattley guava is considered as disease- and pest-free. In California, there are occasional infestations of the greenhouse thrips.

Guava Cheesecake

For the crust:

1/2 C melted butter
Graham cracker crumbs

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Pour melted butter over Graham crumbs and press into a buttered 9" springform pan. Bake 5-7 minutes, until lightly brown.

For the filling:

2 lbs cream cheese, at room temperature
3 eggs
1 C sour cream
1 C sugar
2 T lemon zest
1 t vanilla

Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add sugar and beat 2-3 minutes. Then add eggs one at a time, then sour cream. Beat until smooth and add lemon and vanilla. Pour the mixture over the crust and bake at 325° for 1.5 hours until center is firm (test by lightly shaking pan.) Let the cake cool in oven with door ajar for an additional hour. This gradual cooling will prevent cracking. Let the cake continue cooling at room temperature and then finally in the fridge. Once the cake is thoroughly chilled you can remove it from the pan by running a wet knife around the outside.

For the topping:

Take 12 oz of Guava paste and puree in a food processor with the juice from 1 lemon. Spread over cake and chill or serve. Slice the cheesecake with a wet knife for smooth cuts.



Shelley Smith, Publicity Chairman

Shelley was born in Montana, in the depths of the Great Depression and an orange was a strange, wonderful and exotic fruit. When they moved to California, and purchased a home in Granada Hills, in 1963, she was too busy finishing school at UCLA and CSUN to get involved in any fruits. However, she always looked forward to having her very own orange tree. Now **Shelley** not only has that, but can brag about her first bananas, when she writes to her family in Montana. She just mailed off some lemons and key limes last month. After teaching Social Studies for Los Angeles Unified at Patrick Henry Jr. High for ten years she went on to J.F.Kennedy High School. .

One of **Shelley's** students at Kennedy, told her about the **Papaya Tree Nursery** on El Oro Way, almost directly across Balboa Blvd. from our home. Naturally she and her husband decided to check it out. **Alex's** dad, **David Silber** and his wife, **Tina**, were running the business then and she was given a complete tour, including a taste of cherimoya. David told them about **CRFG**, and they joined in the 80's and now have over 40 different kinds of plants, trees, shrubs, vines, etc. plus a swimming pool on their 1/3 acre. When she retired in 1989, she had more time to help in the yard, but **Harvey** still does most of the pruning while she is in charge of the marmalade, jelly, and quite a bit (but not all) of the weeding and feeding.

Our Chapter is very happy to have this vibrant and hard working lady as a member and now as Publicity Chairman on our Board!

Tips for Conserving Water

1. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slows down evaporation. **Saves 750 to 1,500 gallons** a month.
2. If you have a pool, use a pool cover to cut down on evaporation. It will also keep your pool cleaner and reduce the need to add chemicals. **Saves 1,000 gallons** a month.

3. Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus. **Saves 300 gallons.**
4. Don't water the lawn on windy days. There's too much evaporation. **Can waste up to 300 gallons** in one watering.
5. Cut down watering on cool and overcast days and don't water in the rain. Adjust or deactivate automatic sprinklers. **Can save up to 300 gallons** each time.
6. Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation. **Saves 500 to 1,500 gallons** each month.
7. Have an evaporative air conditioner? Direct the water drain line to a flower bed, tree base, or lawn.
8. Drive your car onto a lawn to wash it. Rinse water can help water the grass.
9. Tell your children not to play with the garden hose. **Saves 10 gallons** a minute.
10. If you allow your children to play in the sprinklers, make sure it's only when you're watering the yard--if it's not too cool at that time of day.
11. Xeriscape--replace your lawn and high-water-using trees and plants with less thirsty ones. But do this only in wet years. Even drought resistant plantings take extra water to get them going. That'll **save 750 to 1,500 gallons** a month.
12. When taking your car to a car wash--a good idea for saving water--be sure it's one of the many that recycles its wash water.
13. Dispose of hazardous materials properly! One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water, effectively eliminating that much water from our water supply. Contact your city or county for [proper waste disposal options](#). And [don't flush prescription medications](#)!

Just a little reminder: **Anita Drapkin**, as you know is our Hospitality Chairman. One of her duties is to send get well or sympathy cards to our members. So please let her know if there is any illness or personal grief in the family. You will find her email and phone number on page one of our Newsletter with the list of the KLA Chapter Officers.

RITES OF SPRING- THE CARLSBAD FLOWER FIELD

This would be a wonderful way to spend a weekend!

This year, **The Flower Fields will be open to the public, from March 3 to May 13.** Flowers bloom through late May.

Do they charge admission?

\$9 for adults; \$8 for seniors 60 and older; \$5 for children 3-10, and free for children 2 and younger. If you think that's too much, consider this: The Flower Fields is really a bulb farm. Most of those 50 acres are allowed to mature past full bloom, turn brown and die — except for a fraction of flowers that is cut and sold

What's new this year?

Sweet Pea Maze: Explore a living maze of fragrant red, white and blue sweet peas and more than a mile of walking paths in this patriotic color display. Free admission.

Sand Sculpture Display: Enjoy a special sand art delight of epic proportions especially created for The Flower Fields by world-renowned sand sculptor Gerry Kirk.

Historical Poinsettia Display: Stroll through a 1500-square-foot greenhouse filled with world famous Ecke poinsettias and take a walk down memory lane with more than 50 years of poinsettia breeding history on display as well.

American Flag of Flowers: See the red, white and blue in full bloom in this 300-by-170-foot arrangement of anemone flowers, strategically planted to pay tribute to the Stars and Stripes.

What do you do there?

Look. Walk. Breathe deeply, gaze at the ocean and soak up the sun. Stop to smell the roses along the Walk of Fame, which includes All-American Rose winners since 1940.

On select weekends, there are special activities for kids and community groups, but on most days, your main goal is to enjoy nature.

Wear comfortable old shoes and clothing (like what you'd wear to a pumpkin patch) since you'll be walking around a working farm.

When are they open?

From **March 3 to May 13.** Admission gates are open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The fields remain open one hour after admission gates close. If it's raining — it can happen — the fields will remain open as long as it is safe for visitors to walk along the pathways.

Is there food available at The Flower Fields?

Yes and vending machines are also onsite. You can pack a picnic and spread out anywhere on the grass or in picnic areas. There are also several restaurants nearby, including a T.G.I. Friday's in the building with the big windmill (the former Andersen's Inn and Pea Soup Andersen's restaurant).

How do I get there?

The Flower Fields, at 5704 Paseo Del Norte, cover the hillside near the Pacific Coast about halfway between Orange County and San Diego. Take Interstate 5 either north or south to the Palomar Airport Road exit in Carlsbad. Go east two blocks and turn left on Paseo Del Norte. Look for the big windmill, and you're there. Parking is free. The Flower Fields are about 60 miles south of Anaheim and 30 miles north of downtown San Diego.

PIERCE COLLEGE ANNUAL FARMWALK

Mark this date on your calendar. As in the past our **LA Chapter** will have a booth there to demonstrate grafting, and to promote an interest in our organization.

Date/Time: Sunday, MAY 4th , / 9:30 am to 4:00

Place: Pierce College, 6201 Winnetka Av,
Woodland Hills 91371 Victory /Mason Entrance
(Free Parking)

Cost: \$5.00 Donation Requested Per Adult /
Children under 12 PLAY FREE

Activities: Tons of animals / Sheep Shearing / Wool Spinning* Live Music * / Cow Milking / A Petting Zoo Cow Chip Bingo- Exotic Animal Shows / Horse Activities / Hands on activities/ Fire Fighters with their Fire Engines/Fire Dept. & Forestry Div. / CA Women for Ag & AG in the Classroom/ Large Farm & Plant Equipment

BBQ @ reasonable prices

Thank you so much for all the wonderful treats that you shared with us at the last meeting. It is unbelievable what wonderful goodies show up at our tasting table! If your last name begins with **A-N** it is your turn to bring something to our March meeting.