

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

APRIL 2004 NEWSLETTER

Meeting **March 25, 2004**

First, David announced that anyone interested in purchasing a grafting knife should contact him, since the club has the opportunity to buy some of the best grafting tools available for an excellent price. We need three people to order at one time, however, to get the special price. This year's Festival of Fruit is on June 18th, 19th and 20th in Riverside. Since Saturday is the biggest day of the festival, the club is considering either hiring a bus or making a car pool arrangement for that day.

Labor Day weekend, Saturday, will be the date for the annual plant sale. We discussed what minimum percentage of proceeds should be donated to the club. Should sellers donate 15%, 20%, or more? The club wants to encourage sellers to participate, but because the club provides sellers with a forum for the sales, the club should receive a fair amount of the profit. The club reached no decision.

David undertook to chat with some other clubs to see what they do, and then set out a proposal in this newsletter. If you have views about this, please read the proposal and come ready to discuss this important topic at our next meeting.

This year we have decided to have two ice cream socials. One will be in the summer, since the best mangos ripen then, and we want to enjoy them with the ice cream. The other one will be in October, and for it, we will serve delicious exotic fruit ice cream from Mexico. Perhaps we should pass a resolution to the effect that a person can never have too much ice cream.

CRFG is looking for people to set up quarantine areas in their backyards. This is a relatively simple process, and people who participate will be permitted to grow imported fruit trees. Remember though, the foreign material must be kept in the quarantine area for two years and must be accessible to inspectors from the State Department of Food and Agriculture. Details are in last month's newsletter.

A birthday celebration for Jim Neitzel followed. He is a dearly-valued long time member who has shared his trees, work, and knowledge with us for many years. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to him. We presented him with a cake and a certificate for a computer system -- plus all the tutoring he wants to help him get started.

Here are a few bits of knowledge I picked up from the discussion of Cherimoyas: They should be pruned this month or next. A cross between the Sugar Apple, or "Sweet Sop", and the Cherimoya is called an "Atemoya". All are in the Anona family. June is the best time to begin hand pollination. Jim Neitzel added that he has let his cherimoyas grow high and close together so as to form an effective

“mini-ecosystem.” This creates a better environment for pollination by nature. Don’t give cherimoyas too much nitrogen, for this causes more leafy growth than flowers and fruit. See you all next month!

Linnea Lamar

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

A lot to write about this month and a lot to think about. I went to my first (I’m ashamed to say) Quail Garden work Party, and I must say that I wish I had done it sooner. First of all, Quail Garden is a lovely place as it is, but when you are one of the first people to walk through the gates on a beautiful sunny morning, it is spectacular. You have the place to yourself. The birds are active and singing, butterflies float lazily by, and lizards are sunning on the paths. Then it is very satisfying to work closely with the trees there -- weeding, grubbing out suckers, pruning, cleaning out dead limbs and vines. You really don't see a tree until you look at its branch structure and relation to its neighbors to evaluate how to prune. And with a bunch of people working, we make a great amount of progress in a few hours. Then of course there were loquats and bananas to taste, and a pleasant time working and chatting with our friends. And cuttings. I now have Long Yellow, Tena, and Black Madeira Fig cuttings rooting, for myself, the opportunity table and the plant sale. I also have several rooted Black Mulberry starts. And a lot of pruned material just went to waste. I think in the future we might try just sticking lots of cuttings into the ground in an irrigated spot out there. We can retrieve trees, as we need them. Special thanks to Barbara Wolden, Jim Neitzel, Barry Resetco, Jack Skeels, and Frank Hamilton, for coming out and working.

For me, the day was especially fun, because I brought my six year old son. He helped out and he played and was not bored for a minute. When we were done, we looked around the Gardens together and played for a while on the excellent playground they have out there. Then we met the rest of the family for a big meal at a restaurant Carlsbad. I know my son enjoyed it all. His suggestion for the next day was to get up early and work in the garden, then go out for a big meal.

And the Happy news is that we will do it again April 17. There will be more cleanup and weeding, maybe some pruning on stuff that we didn't get to last time. The Banana Garden could use some pruning away of dead leaves and perhaps thinning of pups. THINNING OF PUPS? Yes. Perhaps a few might find their way to members' gardens. And more will find themselves in pots adjusting to the idea of being sold at the Labor Day Weekend Sale. (All this pending coordination with North County) So come on, and bring the family. More hands mean we accomplish more faster. And it is really fun and educational for everyone.

Speaking of The Labor Day Sale, we kind of reached a dilemma at the last meeting. For those that missed it, the dilemma is this. What is the least amount that a vendor should pay, as a percentage of sales, from his or her sale proceeds at the Labor Day Sale? I promised that I'd talk to a few other clubs and then I'd make a proposal.

Here is my proposal. I encourage you to donate plants for sale. We are not a professional trade organization dedicated to assisting businesses. Take a look at the purpose statement set out at the CRFG website -- <http://www.crfg.org/about/index.html>. I believe also that donated plants are tax-deductible donations, but I still need to check on that. So, if you grow out club purchased plants, then the club should get all proceeds of sale minus your documented expenses. You should be entitled to recover those, or claim them on your tax returns for the year.

If you donated your own plants, then you can keep part of the proceeds of sale, to offset your expenses and even make a profit. Note that you might still want to keep track of your expenses to minimize the amount of “income”, for tax purposes. As to sale of your own plants, the minimum portion that you must donate to the club is twenty five per cent (25%). That minimum percentage is the same as the one that we have set for sales conducted at our meetings. It is also firmly in line with what other clubs are doing. Note also that other clubs have to pay sales tax. We have an advantage. Food, plants grown to produce food products, their seeds and propagative materials, and fertilizers for them are all exempt from sales tax.

Remember, my proposal is a proposal. If you have a different view, be ready to discuss it at the April meeting, so that we can decide the issue. I talked to people from the Epiphyllum Society, Orchid Society, Bamboo Society, and Cactus and Succulent Society. Here's what I found.

Epiphyllum society relies on donated plants. At one time they allowed vendors to come in and sell under individual agreements. At that time, in addition to sales tax, vendors paid 15 to 40 per cent of sales to the

club. However, when vendors started to insist on 15 per cent, the club decided to do without vendors. A 15 per cent margin just was not worthwhile for the club in light of the fact that the vendor plants often out competed the member's home-propagated stuff.

The Bamboo Society does their sale twice a year out at Quail Garden. It is a major event. The next one will be the 17th of April, same as our next work party. The Bamboo vendors pay out about 32 per cent of their proceeds. The 25 per cent is divided between the club and Quail Garden, 15% / 10%. Sales tax is included in their prices, so another 7...per cent goes to the government.

For the Orchid Society, I was able to talk with Lynn Ford. She told me about the orchid conservation program which she specializes in. The conservation group sells donated plants. At the last show, the conservation booth took in seven thousand dollars.

The Cactus and Succulent Society has very vigorous sales before its meetings and at special events. They take a minimum of 25 per cent from plant sales and 10 per cent from equipment etc.

Anyway that is what I found so far.

I would also propose that we use a similar system to the Cactus Succulent Group. Each vendor labels its plants tags showing variety and price. The variety tag should be relatively sturdy. It stays with the plant. The price tag is detachable and has a unique vendor code on it, and perhaps some other data which we can discuss. The plants are paid out at a common register. They receive a handwritten receipt, which is checked at the door against plants leaving. We stamp the tags "paid". The tags are used to account for who gets what. While some volunteers are making sales, others can sort and enter tag data in the columns of the various vendors on a ledger sheet or some such thing, so there is not a big job at the end. The tags can be kept to provide an audit trail and data about what sold well and what did not. Hopefully some genius can provide an Excel format so that we can just computerize relevant data.

And one last thing. Per a suggestion of Irene, we need to have by laws where these rules can be kept after we agree on them. If someone has a copy of our bylaws they should come forward with them. Up to now, all that I have seen is our general Charter from the Parent Organization.

That's all for now. I'll see you out at Quail Garden on the 17th.

David Silverstein

| | |
|--|---|
| David Silverstein -- Chair (619) 523 8565 chair@crfgsandiego.org | Paul Fisher --Vice-Chair, Membership Manager and Treasurer (619) 440 2213 vicechair@crfgsandiego.org |
| Barry Resetco (858) 278-3732 and Jack Skeels (619) 465-3312 Facilities Team | Zhenxing Fu -- Newsletter Editor and Librarian (858) 587-2723 editor@crfgsandiego.org |
| Linnea Lamar, Secretary, (619) 424-3594 theearthwalker@cox.net | |
| eventscoordinator@crfgsandiego.org Program and Event Coordinators | Jim Neitzel (619) 262-8959 and Mike 619-384-1989 |
| Jose Gallego Webmaster and Director of National Affairs (619) 697-4417 webmaster@crfgsandiego.org | Irene Sias Greeter (619) 482-0938 |

Announcement:

- 1) A note from Jon Verdick: Please check my homepage for Banana, figs and fruits at Encanto Farms: <http://members.cox.net/jonv1/encantofarms> and Banana specific site at we be Banana at <http://members.cox.net/jonv1/encantofarms>
- 2) A note from David Silverstein: Phil Peck of the Epiphyllum Society was one of the

helpful folks who let me pick their brains about plant sales. Phil expressed a wish for an Acerola tree. If someone is in a position to grant his wish by giving or selling him a tree, contact me or Irene. If no one has one ready, we should air layer up a few for the fall sale if possible and I'll pass that information back to Phil.

**Don't forget to check our website at www.crfgsandiego.org.
March Meeting:**

WHERE: Casa del Prado Building Room 104, Balboa Park
WHEN: March 25 at 7 pm
MEETING TOPIC: Propagating Subtropical Fruit Trees Focus on Citrus and Mango.

For membership, please mail your application form and check to

CRFG, San Diego Chapter
C/O Paul Fisher
1266 Vista Del Monte Dr.
El Cajon, CA 92122

San Diego Chapter 2004 Calendar
Year of the Berry

| Month | Meeting Topic | Event(s) For the Month |
|---|--|---|
| April 22 | | |
| Casa del Prado 104 | Propagation of Citrus, Mango and other Subtropicals by air layering, budding and grafting. | Work Party -- Quail Botanical Garden. Saturday April 17 |
| Green Scene, Fullerton Arboretum. April 24 & 25 | | |
| May 27 | | |
| Casa del Prado 101 | Organic Soil Amendments -- Worm Castings -- Kelp Products etc. | Pikake Garden Tour. June 5. |
| June 24 | | |
| Casa del Prado 101 | Tips on Growing the Subtropical Fruit Trees. Lecture and Discussion with Professor Greg Partida, Cal Poly Pomona | Del Mar Fair -- June 11 to July 5 |
| Festival of Fruit -- June 18 to 20, Pomona. | | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| July 22 | | |
| Casa del Prado 101 | New Deciduous Tree Varieties -- Summer Fruit Taste Off. | |
| & | | |
| Ice Cream Social -- Home Made Toppings and Fresh Fruits | Picnic with North County Chapter at Quail Botanical Garden | |
| August 26 | | |
| Casa del Prado 101 | Banana Growing and Pup Exchange & | |
| Ice Cream social - - Exotic Fruits | | |
| September 23 | | |
| Casa del Prado 104 | Pest Control in the Fruit Garden | ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2004. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:00 a.m. until it's over. |
| October 28 | | |
| Casa del Prado 101 | Nut Trees -- Pecans, Macadamias, Almonds etc. | |
| Ice Cream social -- Exotic Fruits | | |
| November 18 | | |
| Casa del Prado 103 | Winter Pruning | |
| December 16 | | |
| Casa del Prado 101 | Holiday Dinner, Elections and Gift Exchange | |