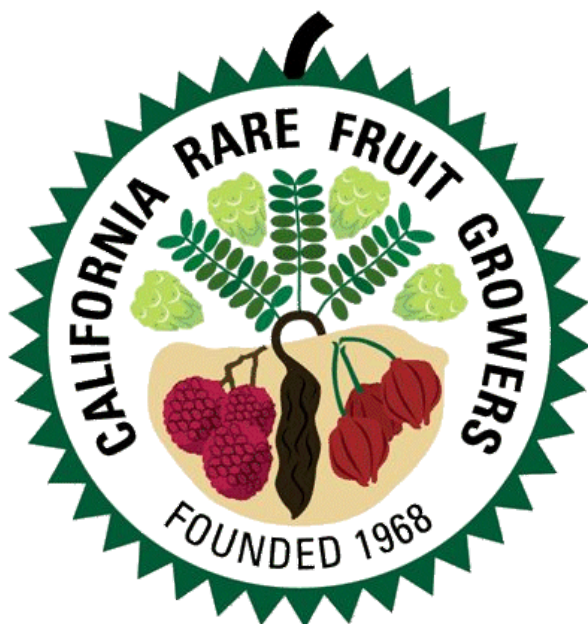


# CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

MAY 2004 NEWSLETTER



*Minutes for the April 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting*

\*Pikake Garden Picnic -- June 5, see inside

We began the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting with a discussion of the upcoming plant sale. Finding a balance between the objective to attract sellers and the need to make money ourselves is not an easy task. However, we became a little closer to making a decision. Most members liked the idea of charging a flat rate for a space to sell plants. Jose floated the idea of charging a small flat fee and a modest percentage. Also, volunteers are needed for the Del Mar Fair June 11<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Delhotal's fascinating presentation on propagation through air layering followed the business discussion. I must confess my ignorance about this topic, since I envisioned a layer of air being pumped into the soil—perhaps loosening it for seedlings to pop up more easily. My image was pretty far off. Air layering applies to the encouragement of roots to form on branches and not in the soil below at all! Air layering is a useful technique since it can foster the propagation of all sorts of trees, and anyone can do it because it

doesn't call for special tools. Moreover, it is particularly useful for hard-to-otherwise propagate trees such as lychees.

This is how it works: an independent tree with its own roots can be formed by interrupting the tree's cycle of nutrients to the branch or branches you wish to air layer. You may effect the necessary "interruption" by first removing a section of bark and the underlying green layer on the selected branch. (The green layer of tissue transfers carbohydrates made by the leaves down to the roots.) This leaves an interval of bare wood with a thin layer of nearly invisible cambium over it. This cambium is the living layer that produces the green layer above and the wood layer below. It must be scraped off the wood to prevent the green layer from regrowing in the gap. But don't scrape too deep, or you will interrupt the water-carrying layer of the wood. Water and nitrogen and other chemicals dissolved in it still need to be able to travel up to your selected branch. After this, secure a plastic bag with moist soil-like matter covering the scraped wood and the undisturbed areas adjacent to it. Nutrients traveling back toward the tree's roots through the green layer under the bark of the selected branch are stopped at the scraped area. They can only feed the cambium of the area above the scraped area. After awhile, the cambium up here starts to produce undifferentiated tissues called callus and, ideally, root form inside the plastic bag. In this way the upper section of the "interrupted" branch becomes an independent tree with its roots inside the plastic bag. I think it's wonderful to be able to propagate a species so easily. We need not provide soft music, moonlight shimmering on the water, or a bottle of vintage wine—just a plastic bag full of peat moss and perlite, sphagnum moss, coconut coir, or even manure.

Other highlights of the meeting included the opportunity to sample Jim Neitzel's loquats. Some

memorable varieties included the Onezies-Twozies, an excellent variety he developed (and my personal favorite); Early White Sugar, a sweet variety; and the Oro Blanco, known for its pizzazz. The rest of the feast was divine and included a fantastic banana

flavored cherimoya developed by Paul Fisher. Thanks to everyone for making it another great meeting and see you all next time.

*Linnea Lamar*

## **THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR**

Greetings to all of you. Thank you all for contributing many great ideas to the discussion at the April meeting on the planned Labor Day Weekend Sale. I look forward to refining our plan with you at the next meeting. I went into the last meeting advocating a high minimum donation. But I came out appreciating that we are starting from nowhere and we need to have a means of attracting vendors so that we can make this a success. For purposes of discussion, I'd propose the following. We will charge non-member vendors a modest fee to sell, say 25 dollars per 60 square foot increment of space. Members in good standing (that means paid up locally and statewide) would have the fee waived. Everyone would then pay the club at least 15 per cent of gross sales. And they would certainly be encouraged to give more than 15 per cent. We could run it with a central register that all sales pass through so we could best keep track of it. But we could also run it simply as a venue like a brick and mortar ebay. We would ask vendors to keep records and to pay us at least the minimum fee. In that case, we would ask to see their sales records, but basically we'd just trust them.

Of course none of this will work if we don't pull together on it. It's not my sale. It's our sale. If we have a central cash register, we need at least five volunteers to run the sale per shift. Three at the central cash register and two doing security at the door. This allows for breaks etc. If we ran from ten to four, with three hours of set up and two hours of break down, we would probably want two shifts. That means we need a minimum of ten people to do six hour shifts and work pretty hard. If we do the ebay approach, we can get by with six people -- two shifts of three. Plus I would think that our vendors and some other members would help out too. When I talk about six or ten people, I am talking about a minimum core group that will really make the sale happen. I also think that at least three people need to help with recruiting vendors and with promotion. These could be from the same core group. Or, if someone has expertise in that area, it would be great if they'd sign on even if they want to limit their contribution to only promotion. Others who wanted to limit their input to planning or propagation could do that too. But without the six to ten people that would actually run the sale, we do not have a viable structure to launch a worthwhile sale this year. We could call the whole group the plant sale committee. Or maybe something more catchy. Anyone interested in participating should give me a call. Really. I like to talk to you and get your perspectives. I'd like to hear you commit to do this thing. I'd like the committee to be up and running by mid June. The sooner, the better.

If we can constitute this group, we can begin to build a phenomenal sale with its own momentum. It can become an event that will accomplish fund raising, membership, and public education. It will help us to fulfill our mission. If we can't get the minimum committee up and running by mid June, all is not lost. A smaller group could certainly be effective in maximizing chapter participation in existing plant sales, and in building momentum for next year. The thing that we can't have is a committee with three or four dedicated members to do all the work. I have no desire to put out some kind of heroic effort for this, or to ask any other member to do it. I look forward to discussing this matter with you in the very near future.

Before I sign off here, I also want to acknowledge that the addition of elements of personal gain into the life of our club is repugnant to some members. We can't ignore this. It helps our chapter remember who we are and what our purpose is. Our purpose is not to help people enrich themselves. We enter this arena out of the belief that allowing members to recover some of the costs that they incur in their plant hobby will cause them to produce more plant material. This will benefit the club by making more material available to the club and it will further the mission of the chapter by getting more material out into the community to expand the genetic base of door yard fruit plants and expand the appreciation of rare varieties. Allowing some personal gain will also attract nurseries to

participate in events. They will make a little money, but in the process they will acquire a stake in publicizing our organization and its mission. Ultimately the club will be enriched in members and in funds. This furthers our mission and helps to ensure the future of the CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS and its San Diego Chapter.

*David Silverstein*

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## Announcements:

1) **Come one come all to the Pikake Garden Picnic on June 5!** This will probably be our last chance to visit this lovely place with its great variety of plants. Unfortunately it will be closing soon. Try to let us know if you will be coming so we know what food to bring. We'll be grilling burgers and dogs, and enjoying ice cold water melon and whatever else is in season. It should be a great picnic. Email Paul or call him if you are going. Also let him know if you will be driving or you will need a ride. More info is available from the web site of Pikake Garden <http://members.cox.net/pikakegardens/>.

2) **Interested in cheap plant containers?** Let Dave Silverstein know. If we buy in quantity, trade size one gallons are about 25 cents each, full gallons are about 45 cents, 3 gallons are about 55 cents, 5 gallons – 90 cents, and 7 gallons 1.70. Larger containers are also available. These prices are estimates that include shipping.

3) **Got supersweet blackberries?** Call Barbara Banks at 760 471 7868. She is interested in acquiring some plants, particularly thornless types.

**Don't forget to check our website at [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org).**

## May Meeting:

WHERE: Casa del Prado Building Room 101, Balboa Park  
 WHEN: May 27 at 7 pm  
 MEETING TOPIC: Organic soil amendments -- Kelp and Worm Castings.

*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 92020

# GARDEN TOUR

## PIKAKE GARDENS

**Saturday, June 5, 10:30-3:00**

Come and enjoy the works of Clyde and Connie Childress. They have built up an 11 acre **private botanical garden**. You will see a stream with **ponds** and **waterfalls**, a tropical garden with **many tropical fruiting trees**, a rose garden, a protea garden, an English garden, a Mediterranean garden, an Asian garden and a prayer garden.

The place is pretty spectacular, you won't want to miss this tour.

The plan is to meet in the morning, self-tour the gardens, have a picnic around 12:30 and take off after a leisurely lunch and conversation. Bring along your own food and enough to share with others, potluck style.

Directions: Pikake gardens are in Valley Center off Cole Grade Road. No address is given because all the web finders bring you to the wrong place.

From I-15, exit Valley Parkway East. Go through town, up the grade into Valley Center, go through most of Valley Center and turn LEFT on Cole Grade Road  
RIGHT on Fruit Vale 1.7 miles and turn  
LEFT on Mac Tan for .8 miles and turn  
LEFT on Villa Sierra, bear LEFT to Sierra Grande and follow sign to PIKAKE GARDENS. follow left along the chain link fence and when road turns to left take a RIGHT through the gate and park on the right side of road or as directed. Parking is limited to a dozen cars.

If you get lost, you can call Clyde at (760) 749-4819 or his cell phone at (760) 822-4819.

**Please car pool as parking is limited**

**CRFG San Diego**

4808 Tula CT

San Diego, CA 92122

**San Diego Chpter 2004 Caledar**

## *Year of the Berry*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Meeting Topic</b>	<b>Event(s) For the Month</b>
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 July 10, starting about 11:30 a.m.
August 26 Casa del Prado 101	Banana Growing and Pup Exchange & Ice Cream social -- Exotic Fruits. <a href="#">Jon Verdick and Paul Fisher will form the panel of expertise for Q &amp; A.</a>	
September 23 Casa del Prado 104	Pest Control in the Fruit Garden - <a href="#">Ron Hobbgood of County pest control will be our speaker for the control of vertebrate pest control.</a>	<b>ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2004.</b> 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	