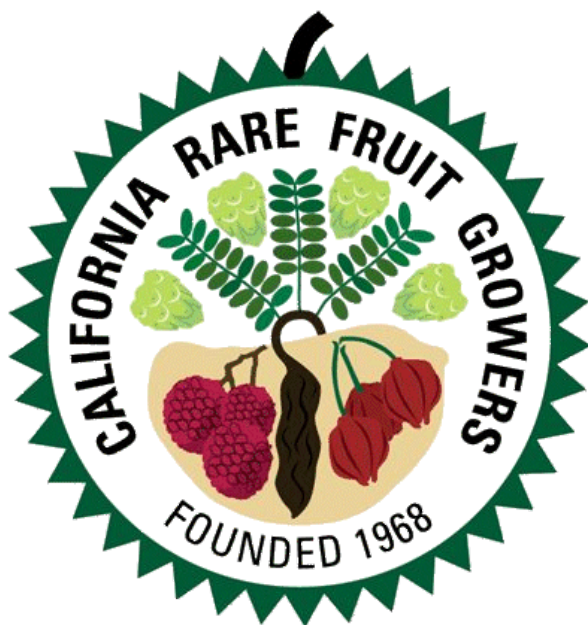


# CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

### DECEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER



*NEXT MEETING is **DECEMBER 16***

## **THE HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND GIFT EXCHANGE WILL BE ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 16, 2005.**

Please bring a dish to share. Last names with letter beginning a through g bring appetizer and salad type things; h to p bring side dishes; rest of alphabet bring desert. This is not a rigid rule. If your last name begins with an "a" and you make terrific deserts, don't hesitate to do what you do best. The general rule is to bring an amount that would feed you, if that was all you were eating.

The gift exchange works like this: bring a gift worth less than ten dollars and put it on the opportunity table. You will get an opportunity ticket. Then the drawing will work just like the usual opportunity drawing. First number drawn gets first choice of gift. We won't have the usual opportunity table. But if you have any good plant to donate, we will auction it.

In other news, the parent organization is no longer able to carry the insurance burden. They have passed it on to the local chapters. As a result, our annual membership fee will go up to 13 dollars,

effective January first. If you know anyone who is dithering around about joining, they might consider getting a move on it.

One way to offset the increase in membership fees would be to opt for an electronic membership in the parent organization. This is a new thing with the parent organization. You can pay 20 dollars per year if you only get the Fruit Gardener Magazine in electronic form. If you opt for this, then even with the increase in the local membership fee, you will still save five dollars per year over all. State/local membership will drop from 38 to 33 dollars per year.

Elections will be held at the December meeting. It is assumed that all currently serving officers intend to stand as incumbents. However, I encourage anyone who wants to serve to let any current Board member know. We need some energetic new blood on the Board. A new position that is being considered is Social Director. This person will be charge of organizing events such as barbecues and garden tours.

The annual spring home gardening seminar sponsored by the Master Gardener Association and the UC Cooperative Extension will be held on Saturday March 11, 2006 from 8 to 4:30 at the University of San Diego. You will be able to choose from 33 classes taught by horticultural experts and purchase bargain plants at the Plaza Plant Sale. Go to [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org) for complete information, or call 858 694 2860 or email [help@mastergardenerssandiego.org](mailto:help@mastergardenerssandiego.org).

The San Diego Horticultural Society has just announced a free pruning workshop on January 28th. Also, to help you get right to the meat of it: On Saturday, January 28, 2006, due to popular demand, landscape designer Pamela Homfelt will hold a FREE mini-workshop on proper pruning techniques. "The Art of Pruning" workshop will be held on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9:30am to 11:30am at the City of San Diego Environmental Services "Green Building," 9601 Ridgehaven Court, Kearny Mesa. Pamela will demonstrate pruning of various

types of shrubs, small trees and perennials throughout the low water use demonstration garden. Proper pruning will create healthy plant growth and textural interest, and promote a longer and more prolific bloom season.

Presented by the San Diego Horticultural Society, this workshop is open to all interested gardeners. No reservations are required; a forecast of rain cancels the event.

*DAVID SILVERSTEIN*

***THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR***

Hi, Everyone. It has been another wonderful year filled with learning about our favorite subject. I'm looking forward to our annual holiday party. As the year winds down I continue to work with Richard Ashton, a CRFG member from Texas and a fellow pomegranate enthusiast to try to find the optimal publishing deal for the definitive work on the pomegranate, the manuscript by Dr. G. Levin, former administrator of the Turkmenistan Experiment Station. The latest snag was that the translator dropped out of the project, leaving us with the last 20 pages of the book still not translated from Russian. Fortunately, I have an aunt, Miriam R. Bensman of Baton Rouge Louisiana, who thanks to the fortunes of war speaks Russian. She graciously not only agreed to translate the rest, but has already completed the work. Special thanks to Miriam.

There are a few interesting rumblings coming from the germplasm repository at Davis. A few new Japanese loquat cultivars will be entering the collection soon, and from their collection they will soon make their way to our collections. Rumor has it that one of the varieties is seedless. I'll believe that when I see it.

We will have pomegranate cuttings this year for all the varieties tasted at the pomegranate tasting in October, except for Medovyi Vhasha. I did not request it because I am pretty sure that we have some established trees around here. I have a small one. If anyone needs this variety, let me know, I can take a few cuttings.

I also learned that some of the good varieties from the germplasm repository are being marketed by Raintree nursery via mail order. Pink Ice is being sold as Pink Satin, a rather lame name. Sour is being sold as Kashmir. And Elf is being sold as Red Silk. I wish they would not rename these things. It will just create confusion later.

In closing, let me propose a Sunday Morning Board Meeting at Mr. Paul Fisher's House, Board members. 9:30 okay? See you at the holiday get together.

*David Silverstein*

David Silverstein -- Chair (619) 523 8565 <a href="mailto:chair@crfgsandiego.org">chair@crfgsandiego.org</a>	Paul Fisher --Vice-Chair, Membership Manager and Treasurer (619) 440 2213 <a href="mailto:vicechair@crfgsandiego.org">vicechair@crfgsandiego.org</a>
Barry Resetco (858) 278-3732 and Jack Skeels (619) 465-3312 – Facilities Team	Zhenxing Fu -- Newsletter Editor (858) 587-2723 <a href="mailto:editor@crfgsandiego.org">editor@crfgsandiego.org</a>
Linnea Lamar, Secretary, 619 392-9815 <a href="mailto:theearthwalker@cox.net">theearthwalker@cox.net</a>	Jim Neitzel (619) 262-8959 and Mike McCright 619-384-1989, Program and Event Coordinators <a href="mailto:eventscoordinator@crfgsandiego.org">eventscoordinator@crfgsandiego.org</a>
Jose Gallego – Webmaster and Director of National Affairs (619) 697-4417 <a href="mailto:webmaster@crfgsandiego.org">webmaster@crfgsandiego.org</a>	Irene Sias – Greeter (619) 482-0938 <a href="mailto:Greeter@CRFGSanDiego.org">Greeter@CRFGSanDiego.org</a>
Oscar Butler – Librarian, 858-458-3533 <a href="mailto:mbutlr@pacbell.net">mbutlr@pacbell.net</a>	

Kniffings Nursery is offering CRFG members 10 per cent off on trees. 14940 Oak Creek Rd. El Cajon, CA 92021 (619) 561-0611  
 Meritt Mountain Discount Nursery (Paul Fisher) is offering 20 % off on all trees. 1266 Vista del Monte, El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 322-4141

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

**NEXT Meeting:**

WHERE: Casa del Prado Building Room 101, Balboa Park  
WHEN: December 16, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.  
MEETING TOPIC: HOLIDAY PARTY.

*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

**CALENDAR == YEAR OF THE APPLE**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Meeting Topic</b>	<b>Event(s) For the Month</b>
<b>FRIDAY December 16</b> Casa del Prado 101	Holiday Dinner, Elections and Gift Exchange	