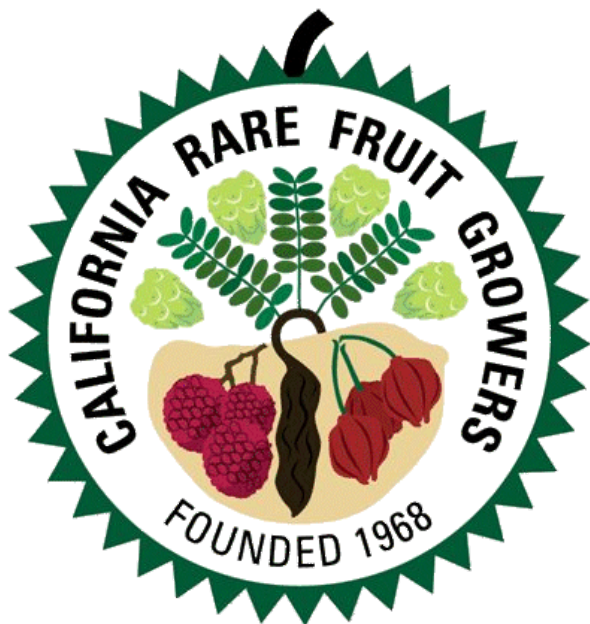


CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

May 2005 NEWSLETTER



NEXT MEETING is May 26th

Meeting minutes for April: Our business meeting included the new rules for the plant sale. We will now have a central register for all vendors--club members and outside nurseries alike. To keep in sync with policies regarding plant sales and the use of the facilities, we are looking for persons who represent club sentiments to volunteer on the board of the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation. This association decides on general policies regarding club use of Balboa Park facilities. With one or more of CRFG's members on this board, we will have direct influence on the park's policies that affect us. Also during the business meeting, we were reminded of need to keep our memberships current. If your membership has expired and you need to renew, please see Paul Fisher. Paul has a list of all members and their current status.

The evening's speaker was Dr. Gary Bender, Farm Advisor for the University of California Extension service. Dr. Bender shared his research on avocado trees. Of particular interest to us San Diegans, he shared that infestations of the avocado

lace bug (a bug known in Florida but new to the West Coast), have been found south of Interstate 8. Lace bugs are 1/16 of an inch long with a yellow stripe and lacy white wings. Their activities cause brown spots to form on leaves and anthracnose fungi to spread. Affected trees may look defoliated and the leaves may look salt-burned at first glance. (But remember, salt burn affects the tip ends of the leaves.) Lace bugs can be controlled with common pesticides; however, one's crops may benefit more from the use of insecticides that do not kill other insects along with the pests. Such insecticides include horticultural soaps and oils and products such as Success and Entrust. Another problem with avocado trees is root rot. Ways of helping to prevent root rot include the placement of worm castings, wood chip mulch, and gypsum around the base of the tree. Also, Phosguard (0-28-25) at the rate of one ounce per gallon is helpful applied every two to six weeks foliarly during the growing season. Additionally, phosphoric acid may be injected into the tree's trunk. Of course, this may cause young trees to cry and ask for a sucker afterwards, but the end result is still better than root rot. (Did I miss April Fool's Day?) Many thanks to Dr. Bender for his informative talk and to everyone for their contributions to the tasting table and opportunity table. See you May 26th.

Linnea Lamar

YOU'VE GOT DISCOUNTS!

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 92122 (619) 322-4141

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

I am very happy to report that our club was well represented at the recent San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation meeting. Judith Abeles, Barb Alvarez, Joy Bladykas, Alva Whetton, and Ed Hamilton all attended. Not only that, but Alva, Joy and Ed are now the foundation's nominating committee. I'm not sure what that means exactly, but I think that it means that they will select the nominees for the upcoming elections to the SDBGF Board. The elections are this summer for a slate of officers that will serve for two years. Thanks to the efforts of these members, we have never been so well-placed to enter into the foundation's decision process. If you think that you want to serve on the Botanical Foundation Board, you let any of the nominating committee members know. If you have any questions, you can also ask me. Or go to the next meeting and all will be explained. I think that in the next year or so, we'll be able to get a rule change to allow us to run our sale as we ran the last one.

In the meantime, like it or not, we will comply with rules as written and as understood by the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation's Board. To do this we will have to define some new procedures. As in the past, I will do this in excruciating detail in the Newsletter and at the meetings. Here is the system I propose.

1. Three cashiers. Two shifts. Total = six volunteers needed.
2. Two plant sitters. = Two people needed.
3. Two security people. Two shifts. = Four people needed. **The total people needed are 12.** But some of our vendors, who are members, may want to fulfill some roles.
4. Vendors no longer need to be members, because they are not going to handle money.
5. Vendors will set up as before. They will do everything but take money. Vendors will be issued numbered triplicate receipt forms and a colored marker of a unique shade. They will write up each sale on the form and keep the bottom copy and mark the top with their symbol of choice in their unique color.
6. Customers will proceed to the register with the now duplicate form. Cashiers will take the money and top copy of the now duplicate form and mark the bottom copy "Paid." The top copy will be spiked or otherwise secured.
7. Customers will then proceed to exit with their copy (marked "Paid") as a receipt that the security person can check.
8. During lulls, cashiers can sort receipts and keep a running total for each vendor.
9. Afterwards, vendors will see their totals as calculated by us and will get their cash minus their pre-agreed percentage of the total. (They will have their own copy of their receipts they can use to check our total.)

This is just a proposal for discussion and decision. I think we can tweak it and finalize it at our next meeting in a relatively short time. Once we have it settled more or less, I can contact our vendors and give them the details. If a critical mass is still willing to participate, then we'll get going with the promotions.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting. It should be a good one.

David Silverstein

A FEW DETAILS ON THE SDBGF ELECTION -- To be clarified by Alva

+ The open positions are: Pres., 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Recording Sec., Correspondence Sec., & Treasurer

+ The elections will take place at the July SDBGF meeting (2nd Thurs) which will start at 6PM and include a Chinese dinner. (Club Presidents are encouraged to attend this dinner, but there is a \$10 FEE)

+Any botanical club member may be considered for any SDBGF board position at large so please notify the nominating committee. All nominated candidates must be present at the July meeting to run and win. To represent our club, our club has to designate you as its representative.

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 (858) 587-2723 editor@crfgsandiego.org
Linnea Lamar, Secretary, 619 392-9815 theearthwalker@cox.net	Jim Neitzel (619) 262-8959 and Mike McCright 619-384-1989, Program and Event Coordinators eventscoordinator@crfgsandiego.org
Jose Gallego – Webmaster and Director of National Affairs (619) 697-4417 webmaster@crfgsandiego.org	Irene Sias – Greeter (619) 482-0938 Greeter@CRFGSanDiego.org
Oscar Butler – Librarian, 858-458-3533 mbutlr@pacbell.net	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* The Bonsai club is displacing our 9/22/05 meeting with preparation for their show. It seems like an ungodly amount of preparation. But think about whether to move our meeting to Wednesday night the 21st, or to a week later on the 29th. I'm going to talk to Bonsai and see what they are thinking and if there is any way around this business. It seems to me that they could stage some stuff in the room, and even work quietly in the back while our meeting is going on. Anyway think about your preference in case it comes to that. We'll decide at the next meeting.

Don't forget to check our website at www.crfgsandiego.org.

NEXT Meeting:

WHERE: Casa del Prado Building Room 101, Balboa Park
 WHEN: May 26, 2005
 MEETING TOPIC: Mr. John Noble, owner of Coastal Sage Gardening and former president of the San Diego Floral Association will discuss Organic fertilizers and Soil amendments, as well as answer general landscape questions.

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

Month	Meeting Topic	Event(s) For the Month
April 28 Casa del Prado 101	Dominic Crescenti will then discuss some organic supplements and pesticides available from J&H Biotech. Dr. Gary Bender will tell us about the newest Avocado Pest in the County, the Avocado Lace Bug.	Green Scene, Fullerton Arboretum. Date Saturday, 23 April 2005.
May 26 Casa del Prado 101	Organic Fertilizers	Member Garden Tours
June 23 Casa del Prado 101	Lychee and Longan. Presentation and Discussion.	Del Mar Fair
July 28 Casa del Prado 101	Bananas. Two local experts, Jon Verdick and Paul Fisher will lead the discussion.	Quail Garden Picnic.
August 25 Casa del Prado 101	Figs. Steve Spangler and John Verdick	
September 22 Casa del Prado 104	Paw Paws. How to find and grow them. What are the best varieties?	ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2005. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:00 a.m. until it's over.
October 27 Casa del Prado 101	Mangos. Perry Coles will present and lead the discussion. Pomegranate tasting.	
November 17 Casa del Prado 103	Back by popular demand, Terry Salmon will present Vertebrate Pest Control II, focusing this time on rats and gophers. Also, workable bird management techniques.	
December 15 Casa del Prado 101	Holiday Dinner, Elections and Gift Exchange	