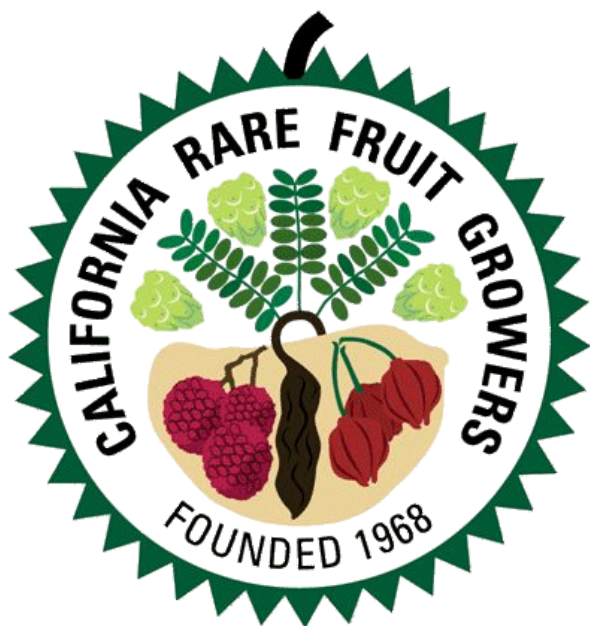


CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

MARCH 2005 NEWSLETTER



NEXT MEETING is MARCH 24.

Cherimoya growing / tasting / yum!

Meeting minutes for February: The trip to the Durling Nursery, planned for March, was cancelled. It is now scheduled for Saturday April 2, 2005. You can meet us out the the nursery at 10:00 a.m., or at the traditional carpool meeting area by the War Memorial at 8:00 a.m.

The Home and Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds was discussed. The chapter will reimburse you if you paid to park there while working the CRFG space. It will be interesting to find out how much revenue the plant sales out there produced..

We decided that viewing the Cherimoyas Association's lectures on CD would be acceptable in the event that we are unable to have the association's lecturers show up in person at our meetings. Fortunately though, as it happens, Nino Cupaiuolo, president of the California Cherimoya Association, will speak to our next meeting and bring us some nice Cherimoya fruit to taste.

The topic of the evening was grafting, with an excellent presentation by our own Jim Neitzel. Jim demonstrated the whip graft, whip and tongue, , the wedge (or cleft) graft, the saddle graft, and the side graft. We have an excellent handout on these methods, although I must admit that nothing compares to Jim's live presentation. Here are a few pointers that I gleaned from this year's grafting lesson: (1) Pruning shears that cut on both sides are best for grafting purposes. (2) When cutting with a pruning or other sharp knife, rock the blade gently back and forth in the wood to make the incision. This method (Jim calls the "wiggle method") helps to prevent accidents. (3) Finally, when sticking the cut scion branch to the cut root stock, it helps to wet the incision with saliva. This method (Jim calls the "lick and stick method) creates a more moist environment for the woods to adhere. As you can see, Jim brings out the fun in grafting; however, if you missed his delightful demonstration, I'll be glad to give you a copy of the handout explaining grafting techniques.

The tasting table included some wonderful varieties of citrus, bananas, and cherimoyas. And the opportunity table was rich with lovely plants I have no room for (but will probably plant anyway). Many thanks to our most generous growers, and to everyone for a great meeting. See you March 24th.

Linnea Lamar

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

The official investigation into the plant sale goes on...and on ... and on. But it is pretty clear at this point that it is not going to kill the plant sale, just harass me. And I'm used to it. The 2005 Plant Sale is on the calendar. And I just reserved the room for the 2006 Plant Sale.

The Cherimoya Association put on a great meeting. It was great fun and very informative. They gave away quit a few grafted avocado, citrus, and cherimoya trees in their raffle. The tour through the cherimoya collection showed a lot of very tall trees in need of pruning. But all of the old favorites were there including Sabor and Big Sister. The tour included the spectacle of the tourists running around grabbing baby seedling trees, gathering fallen fruit, and chopping off lengths of bud wood. If Dr. Bender, the curator, had not been there, I'd have said that maybe people were little out of hand. But I got my length of Pierce bud wood and a diverse bunch of Cherimoyas to bring home and sample.

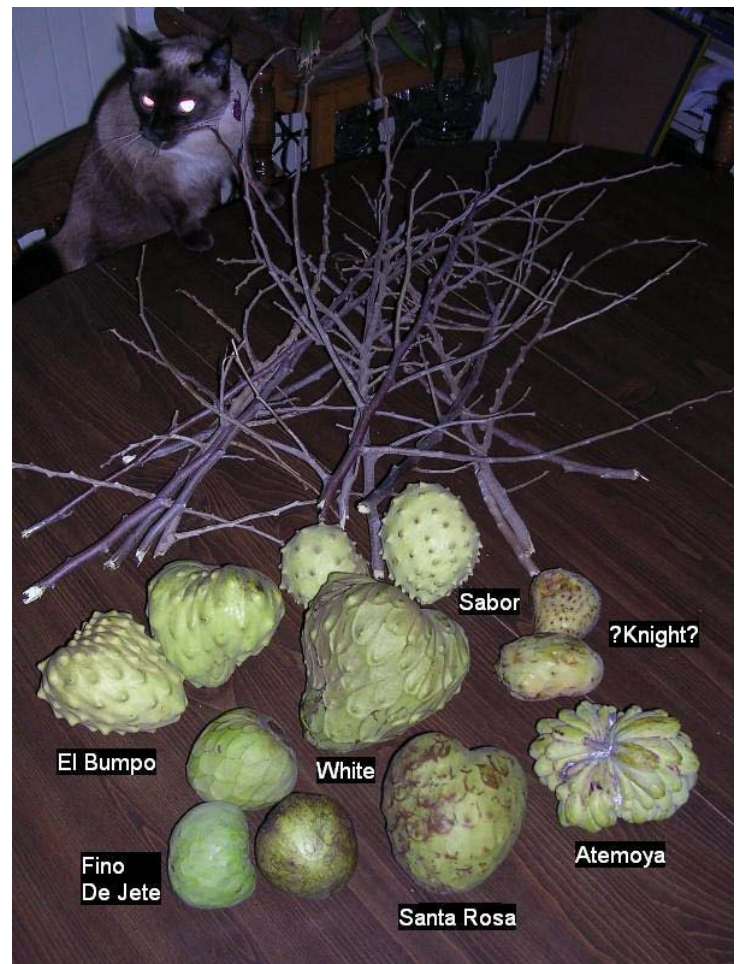
The most interesting thing that I learned came from Dr. Gary Bender. Apparently it is possible to root Cherimoya cuttings. He will send me a copy of the paper that has all the details. But the general outline is this: the cuttings need to retain their leaves, but the leaves need to be cut down to a half of their size to reduce transpiration. The cuttings need to be kept in a humid environment with fine mister or fogger. IBA rooting hormone had no effect. Under these conditions nearly all cuttings took root. This has implications for propagation of clonal rootstocks so as to standardize cherimoya rootstocks and find types specialized for different conditions. More details will be made available when I get the original papers to review. I'm also getting an interesting paper on the genetics of loquats including a dendrogram showing the genetic relationships between a number of the popular varieties.

The Cherimoya Association meeting was so good that I've asked their president to be our speaker at the next meeting. I think that you will find a very informative presentation with an opportunity for question and answer. There will also be a wide variety of Cherimoya fruit to taste. And while your tasting Cherimoyas, why not save a few seeds? If

everyone grew six seeds, then we could have 5 seedlings on the Opportunity table every meeting for a year, and still have as many as 100 grafted trees ready for the fall sale in '06. Think about it. And if you do that every year, you are doing a lot. If everyone did five of something else, then the sale and the opportunity table could benefit similarly. If all of us work together by each doing a little, then we can really do a lot.

Note also that Dr. Gary Bender will give a short presentation on the Avocado Lace Bug at the April meeting. We'll also be discussing some organic controls.

Take care, and enjoy the meeting. I will probably not be able to attend as I will most likely be out of town. It will be pretty well promoted, so there should be a lot of new folks with high interest in cherimoya. Treat them nice and make them feel welcome.



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 (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
OSCAR BUTLER – Librarian, 858-458-3533 mbutlr@pacbell.net	

Announcements:

IF YOU HAVE SOME NICE FRUIT / FRUIT TREE PICTURES, LET DAVID SILVERSTEIN KNOW. OUR NEWS PAPER ARTICLE WILL NEED A FEW GOOD PICTURES.

DURLING NURSERY TOUR IS BACK ON FOR APRIL 2, 2005. 10:00 A.M. AT THE NURSERY OR MEET AT THE WAR MEMORIAL CAR POOL AREA AT 8:00 A.M.

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

NEXT Meeting:

WHERE: Casa del Prado Building Room 101, Balboa Park
WHEN: March 24, 2005

MEETING TOPIC: Cherimoya culture and tasting, with Nino Cupaiuolo, president of the California Cherimoya Association.

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

San Diego Chapter 2005 Calendar

Year of the Apple

Month	Meeting Topic	Event(s) For the Month
January 27, 2005 Casa del Prado 101	Annual Scion and Cutting Exchange.	Orange County Chapter Scion Wood Exchange 10 am to Noon, but OC/CRFG members will be allowed access to scion wood from 9:30. Millennium Barn, Orange County Fair Grounds.
February 24 Casa del Prado 101	Propagating fruit trees by Grafting and Budding. Hands-on practice. Bring plants and scion wood to graft on site. Root stocks will be available for some species.	Durling Nursery Tour HAS BEEN MOVED TO APRIL 2, 2005 10:00 A.M.
March 24 Casa del Prado 101	Cherimoyas. Nino Cupaiuolo, Cherimoya Association President will make a presentation and lead a discussion. Cherimoyas to taste afterwards.	
April 28 Casa del Prado 101	Budding and propagation of subtropicals. Dominic Crescenti will then discuss some organic supplements and pesticides availabl 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	

