

# California Rare Fruit Growers San Diego Chapter Newsletter

**April 27, 2006**

**General Meeting: 7:00 – 7:20 pm**

**Program: 7:20 pm – 8:20 pm**

**Loquat: Presentation & Discussion**

**Citrus Budding Workshop**

**Fruit Tasting/Break: 8:20 – 8:50 pm**

**Opportunity Drawing: 8:50 pm**

Website: [crfgsandiego.org](http://crfgsandiego.org)

Voicemail: 619/866-0575

Meeting Place: Rm. 101,  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

**Chair: David Silverstein**

[chair@crfgsandiego.org](mailto:chair@crfgsandiego.org)

**Facilities Team:**

**Barry Resetco** 858/278-3732

**Jack Skeels** 619/465-3312

**Greeter: Irene Sias**

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[Greeter@CRFGSanDiego.org](mailto:Greeter@CRFGSanDiego.org)

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**Newsletter Editor: Cielo Foth**

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**Program and Event Coordinators**

**Jim Neitzel,** 619/262-8959

**Mike McCright** 619/384-1989

[eventscoordinator@crfgsandiego.org](mailto:eventscoordinator@crfgsandiego.org)

**Secretary: WANTED!!!**

**Vice-Chair: Paul Fisher**

Membership and Treasurer

619/ 440 2213

[vicechair@crfgsandiego.org](mailto:vicechair@crfgsandiego.org)

**Webmaster: Jose Gallego**

Director of National Affairs

619/697-4417

[webmaster@crfgsandiego.org](mailto:webmaster@crfgsandiego.org)

**For membership, please mail  
your application and check to**

CRFG, San Diego Chapter

C/O Paul Fisher

1266 Vista Del Monte Dr..

El Cajon, CA 92020

## The view from the chair

Below is a picture of a coin from the coastal city of Side (like See – deh or day) in the ancient Greek colony of Pamphylia, located in modern day Turkey. This silver coin with a pomegranate and lion on one side and an image of the goddess Athena on the other, dates to sometime during the century of 400 to 500 B.C. “Side” means “pomegranate” in the ancient Anatolian language spoken in Pamphylia before the Greeks got there and maybe before the Hittite’s got there 1200 years before that. I have read that the region was famous for a long time yet, before that for its pomegranates. And Side is a goddess identified with the pomegranate well into Roman times.

This is nowhere near the oldest piece of material culture depicting the pomegranate. But it is a mass produced thing made of a durable material, so a number of them have survived. That means I was able to afford to buy one, and hold it in my hands and feel the connection to the people that made it and the hands it passed through over time. It is a strangely satisfying feeling, because it highlights the mix of fleeting transience and relative permanence that is this life we live in this universe where we find ourselves.



It is part of fruit growing that you plant a tree that may be enjoyed by generations of people who have never even heard of you. This is why fruit growing has a way of unifying humanity over time. The ancient artifact unifies us with past generations and the living tree with future ones.

It also unifies us culturally and geographically. Fruit is one of those gifts that humanity grew up with. Everyone from every culture can enjoy it the same way, so it helps us all see that we are really all the same. On that note I would like to end with an adaptation of an oddly hopeful Jewish fable:

*The Moslem and Jewish quarters in the town of Djerba in Tunisia were right next to one another, but might as well have been on separate planets. Each community kept to itself sunk in its prejudice and spiritual smugness, until one day when the Almighty smiled on them.*

*It happened in this way. A grieving Moslem neighbor of the rabbi of the Jewish community was moved to come to him with a tearful story.*

*"My beloved wife," he said, "insisted on paying a visit to her father's home against my wishes. He is a miserable man whom I cannot abide. I do not like her to spend time under his influence, and I tried to prevail upon her not to go. Alas, I couldn't budge her but I demanded that the visit be a very brief one. If she would not be back home before I finished eating the pomegranate I had just started, I warned her, she would be divorced. This apparently upset her and she intentionally came back much later. According to Moslem law, she is no longer my wife and the truth is that I want her back."*

*The rabbi thought deeply on the matter, before offering solution.*

*"It is well known," he said at length, "that when one eats a pomegranate some of the pieces which make up its fruit fall to the floor. Go back home and search the floor under your table to see if there are any pieces there. If so, you did not complete eating that pomegranate and your divorce declaration is not binding."*

*The neighbor followed these instructions and indeed found some of the pomegranate seeds on the floor. The local Moslem kadi, upon learning of this, absolved him of his vow to divorce his wife and publicly praised the resourcefulness of the rabbi. Soon the story spread throughout the region and ushered in an era of peace and mutual respect. And so the two communities lived happily after for a long long time.*

Take care. I'll see you all on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

*David Silverstein, Chair*

**Wanted: Chapter Secretary  
/Note taker**

**Wanted: Chapter Newsletter  
Editor (This is cielo's last issue)**

## April Garden Tips

With spring in the air and the days getting warmer (well at least this week.) April is when your trees should start to look their best and ready for you to brag about them.



**Please let us know if you are going to open your garden to our members next month** and we will place the announcements starting with our next issue.

- **Continue to fertilize your citrus and avocados.**
- **Start fertilizing all other fruit trees**, just for the month of April use a fertilizer high in nitrogen to promote leaves development.
- **Remove weeds.**
- **Check the color of leaves of each tree for iron or zinc deficiency** and add the necessary amendments.
- **Start adding high nitrogen amendments to your bananas.**
- **Spray down aphids and mites with soapy water.**
- **Plant citrus or any other fruit tree.**
- **Start thinning your deciduous fruit trees** -- if you want quality and not quantity
- **Control crab grass** by this time, if not, well you know... pull, dig, pull...
- **Control snails and slugs**, you should have a minimum problem at this point, if not, well you know, pull, crunch, pull...

Remember to carefully think before adding pesticides to your fruit trees; you may be eating it later on.

## Festival of Fruit - 2006

September 5 – 9, 2006

Every year, the CRFG has an annual meeting we call a "Festival of Fruit." The Central Coast Chapter has agreed to host the meeting in September of 2006 and we will invite participants/members from all of the CRFG chapters in the state and beyond!! We are expecting about 400 people to attend in addition to our chapter!!

**Festival of Fruit 2006 (continued)**

Please save the dates, **September 5 - 9, 2006** and help us make this Festival a memorable and fun event for all. Please contact Pat Daniels or Joe Sabol (805/544-1056) or Bob Tullock or Art DeKleine if you have suggestions, ideas, speakers, or questions!!!! Please make your lodging arrangements early!!!

**Very Tentative Program - Draft ...****Tues., Sept. 5 through Thurs. Sept. 7: TOURS****(Bob Tullock and Carol Scott)**

- Home garden/orchard tours
- Commercial orchards and nursery tours
- Wine tasting tours
- Grape harvesting operations... going full steam in early September!!

**Thurs. Afternoon Sept. 7: Registration**

3 to 6 pm: Hospitality at The Sands Motel and Conference Center

- All Central Coast Chapter Members will be at the Sands Motel helping Sandy Ahearn
- Farmers Market Fun - On your own for dinner, ride the trolley from the Sands.

**Fri. Morning, Sept. 8: Tours continue but all are on or near campus, Conservatory too!!**

- Cal Poly tours - Avocados, orchards, compost, CSA Farm, Mark Gaskill's blueberries, etc.
- Registration continues all morning, with Cal Poly "student plant" sales.
- 8 am to 11 am: CRFG Board, Bill Grimes presiding. Location TBA

**Fri. Noon, Sept. 8: Lunch on your own**, prior to the Opening Session, no formal lunch plans.

- 1:00 p.m. Opening session in Chumash Auditorium, Cal Poly
- Keynote speaker, A.G. Kawamura, Secretary of Agriculture, CA.
- Nutrition break in afternoon, Chumash Auditorium, one wing.
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. John DeVincenzo - "Healthy Fruit - Healthy People"
- Formal Conference speakers, panels, tasting, etc. continues until 5 p.m.
- No plant sales today other than Cal Poly plants in the morning.

**Friday evening, Sept. 8: BBO at the Cal Poly Arboretum at 6 p.m.** Dinner tickets required

- Special surprise speaker after dinner in the Arboretum.
- Dan Ray, Crops Club and CFFA to BBQ for us

**Sat., Sept. 9: Most activities/workshops, Cal Poly State University, Bldg. 10.**

- Workshops and speakers all day, rotating, 10 rooms. 20 speakers!!
- Special Chapter Chairs and Board Members lunch, 008-123
- Lunch on lawn and 10-220. Lunch is free to paid registration folk.
- CFFA, Crops Club and Latinos in Ag Clubs to provide the lunch
- Photos by Chapter, new event... See Larry Hollis for details
- Commercial exhibits indoors and out - See Norm Beard, Coordinator
- Plant sales all day in parking lots H-11 and Bldg. 10 all on the campus,
- Grape tasting all day- See Dorothy Seelos
- Fruit Tasting - Tom Spellman with Dave Wilson Nursery (Fri. or Saturday)
- Surprise: Free plant gift for all participants at 4:30 p.m. Bob Tullock
- Nutrition breaks... a.m. and p.m. in Bldg. 10 - Free to paid registration folk.
- Conference center in Room 100, Registration continues here on Saturday

**Sat., Sept. 9: Conference ends at 5 p.m.** ....No formal evening activities Saturday night

**Sun., Sept. 10: No formal activities.** Participants encouraged to visit local attractions on Sunday

If you plan to attend, make your hotel reservation early! There will be other events going on around town, and it is highly recommended that you make plans for your own accommodations. **The Sands Suite & Motel below is offering Fruit Festival attendee a 10% discount.**

**The Sands Suites & Motel**

Phone: (800) 441-4657

www.sandsuites.com

1930 Monterey Street

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

## An Appeal for Nut Experts

**From:** William A. Grimes  
**To:** all-chapters@crfg.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2006 12:18 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: History Channel Documentary

OK, CRFG'ers, it's time to brag about what we grow. I would guess that macadamias would count as rare (although I would think the same about chestnuts that are American grown) but what about some other more unusual nuts?

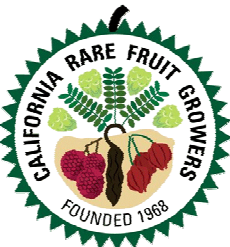
Bill Grimes

I am the producer of a **History Channel documentary on 'Nuts'** to be featured in their long-running series *MODERN MARVELS*. While a large portion of the show will be devoted to more traditional nuts – walnuts, chestnuts etc. – we would like to do a segment on exotic and rare nuts. We are looking for growers and/or experts in this field. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Philip Kruener  
 Producer  
 310-293-9170  
 maosung@earthlink.net

**CRFG San Diego Chapter**  
**Cielo Foth, Newsletter Editor**  
 c/o 4722 Coronado Ave.  
 San Diego CA 92107



\*\*\*We are soliciting articles for our upcoming Newsletter issue. Articles must be received **no later than the 10<sup>th</sup>** of the month. Articles are subject to review for content and maybe edited for brevity.  
 \*\*\***Save a tree and sign up for the Early Edition & Paperless Newsletter** by email. Send your request to editor@crfgsandiego.org

## Calendar of Events

### Master Gardeners Hotline

**Monday through Friday 9 am to 3 pm**, The Master Gardener "Hotline" will answer your questions on home gardening and pest control. FREE! ☎ **Info: 858/694-2860 or [www.mastergardenersandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenersandiego.org)**

### San Diego Horticultural Society

**May 8, 7 pm, "Handkerchief Gardens"** by Sharon Lovejoy Creating Small Space Magic. Sharon will share a medley of innovative, classic, and whimsical design ideas that will add drama, texture, color, and life to even the tiniest garden. \$15 for members and \$18 for non-members, available at the door at 6 p.m. Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar ☎ **Info 760/730-3268 or [www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org)**

### Free Home Composting Workshops

**May 6, 8 to 10 am at the San Diego Zoo.** Learn how to turn organic material into valuable soil amendments! Must register in advance. ☎ **Info: Cindy Davenport at the Solana Center for Environmental Innovation 760/436-7986 ext. 216, or e-mail [Cindy@solanacenter.org](mailto:Cindy@solanacenter.org)**



**Avocado Tree Grafting**  
 Mira Mesa - 15-20' tall avocado tree, grown from a seed, needs grafting help to bear fruits. Serious only, contact **Aimee Morris 858/695-6983.**

Address Correction Requested



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