



California Rare Fruit Growers

San Diego Chapter Newsletter - April 2009
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This Month's Presentation: Guavas

Join us this month for a presentation on Guavas on April 22, at 7pm in Balboa Park at Casa del Prado, Room 101.

March Meeting Notes

Nino Cupiolo gave a great presentation on cherimoyas last month. He covered everything from hand pollination techniques to grafting. He told us about how hand pollination has really helped him to produce more fruit. Nino said that in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador where cherimoyas originated, there's a beetle that does the job of pollination, but no such pollinator exists here in the US.



Guest Speaker Nino

Photo by: David Yetz

Nino gave us a great amount of detail in his pollination ritual including when he harvests the flowers, how and when he collects the pollen and how he applies the pollen to the female flowers.

Nino said that he harvests about 150 flowers to pollinate

175 female flowers (though he says he probably over pollinates). He mentioned that when selecting flowers to harvest for pollen, one should consider the potential location of the fruit. Be sure to pick flowers that would reduce crowding and reduce strain on the branch. You want fruit to develop on more sturdy parts of the branch.

At the end of the presentation, Nino and Jim Neitzel both demonstrated grafting to cherimoyas.



Jim Neitzel Grafts a Cherimoya

Photo by: David Yetz

Board Meeting Minutes

The Executive Board met on March 18th in Room 104 at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park at 7pm. The board discussed the need for more volunteers and committees to help divide up the many tasks that need attention. The board also reviewed the upcoming speakers and decided to post the schedule on the website. Aaron St. John presented an update to the board on his special committee's review of the SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures). This committee is close to having a revised set of rules and will make a proposal to the board to have them ratified soon.

CRFG Needs YOU!

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the Board of Executives has spent a lot of time discussing how to get people involved in this chapter. We have a lot of work that needs attention and few people to attend to it. In order to address this need, we have decided to ask people to join committees. The committees will be:

- Membership
- Field Trip
- Marketing

- Budget & Finance
- Propagation
- Philanthropy & Education
- Quail Botanical Garden

David Yetz will address the membership with descriptions about each of these committees at the next meeting and there will be an opportunity to sign up for each of these committees..

Message from the Chair

David Yetz, Chairman

Greetings CRFG members. We had another great meeting in March. Nino Cupiolo gave a very informative presentation on Cherimoyas. Immediately after the presentation, he demonstrated various techniques of grafting the Cherimoya with the help of Jim Neitzel.



Stark Saturn Peach

Photo by: David Yetz

Several members have asked me about the omega grafting tool that Nino recommended. I found it to be available at the following websites: growersupply.com,

gardenersedge.com and raintreenursery.com. Be sure to join us for this month's meeting featuring Randy Permpoon also known "The Guava King". Randy is the former owner of a guava nursery in Vista, CA and he is in the process of reopening his nursery in Ramona, CA. He is an expert on all types of guavas. Hope to see you all there!



Rosamia Pomegranate

Photo by: David Yetz

Cultivating Food Justice Conference

For anyone interested, San Diego Food Not Lawns will be hosting a conference at City College on May 1st and 2nd which will include many workshops on rainwater harvesting, medicinal herb gardening, bee husbandry, etc. Visit <http://sdfnl.org/> for more info and to register.

Newsletter Submission Deadline

In an effort to get the newsletter out in a more timely fashion, we would like to ask that all submissions for the newsletter be made by the second Wednesday of the month. This should give the newsletter editor enough time to draft a newsletter before the board meeting on the third Wednesday.

CRFG, San Diego Chapter 2009 Calendar

Month	Meeting / Program / Speaker	Event / Field Trip / Activity
April	April 22 – 7pm (Wed): Randy Permpoon – Growing Guavas	April 25 – 9am (Sat): Cuyamaca College Spring Garden Festival April 17 – 9am (Fri): Volunteer Orientation at Quail Botanical Garden
May	May 20 – 7pm (Wed): Board Meeting May 27 – 7pm (Wed): Dr. Gary Bender – Citrus, Mulching and Psyllid Update	May 16 – 9am (Sat): Quail Botanical Work Party
June	June 17 – 7pm (Wed): Board Meeting June 24 – 7pm (Wed): Ben Poirer – Surinam Cherry and the Fruiting Myrtaceae Family	June 13 – 9am (Sat): Quail Botanical Work Party