



# California Rare Fruit Growers

San Diego Chapter Newsletter - June 2009  
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## June Presentation: Surinam Cherries

Join us this month for a presentation by Ben Poirier on the Surinam Cherry and the Fruiting Myrtaceae Family on June 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in Balboa Park at Casa del Prado, Room 101.

## May Meeting Notes

The May General Meeting was chock full of information regarding the Diaprepes Root Weevil and the Asian Citrus Psyllid. Dr. Gary Bender painted a fairly bleak picture of the future of citrus, especially in Florida where he said the Huanglongbing disease had already decimated 60% of the state's citrus industry! Containment of that disease doesn't look promising. The Root Weevil, however, has a bright side. He spoke to us about the various techniques that the County is using to control the Diaprepes Root Weevil. One that seems particularly promising is using a specific type of nematode that likes to eat the larvae of the weevil. In addition to being an organic method of control, this measure has the promise to be even more effective than the very harsh pesticides used to date on the weevil.

Dr. Bender also had high hopes for blueberries in San Diego. He mentioned that there are several varieties that perform well in San Diego and due to San Diego's climate, there's a window of opportunity to produce blueberries before the rest of the country and capitalize on early-season, high-priced blueberries. Dr. Bender mentioned that with the advent of the Asian Citrus Psyllid and water limitations, our cash crops (citrus and avocados) do not have the same stability they have long enjoyed. He says that he often gets asked "What's

next for San Diego?" He mentioned that there's problems with olives since controlling maggots from eating the fruit can be very expensive. He mentioned that pomegranates hold a lot of promise for San Diego though there is no local packing facility for the fruit yet.

## May Board Meeting Minutes

The May Board Meeting spent much time discussing how to get the membership more involved in the chapter's operations. Driving people to sign up for our committees and consolidating some of the committees was one of the main goals of the group. There was also a lot of discussion regarding the tax exempt status of the San Diego Chapter. The board was informed that the parent organization had a single tax exempt status rather than a group exemption. The board will continue to investigate this matter and make recommendations to CRFG, Inc. if appropriate. The Board wants to ensure that we are in compliance with any IRS requirements so we can continue to raise funds, take donations, etc.

## Thanks to Volunteers!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be on one of the committees at the last meeting. This month, we'll have the same sign up sheet for people to volunteer and then the Board will work to contact everyone who signed up and make appointments soon after. If you haven't signed up for a committee, it's not too late!

## Quail Botanical Garden Work Party

This month's work party at QBG is special as it's the same day as the grand opening of the new Children's Garden. Come check out this exciting new addition to QBG, help maintain the fruit tree collection and get to know your North County members! Admission to the Quail Botanical Garden will be free on this day.

## Tour Meyer and Poirier Gardens

On Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, we have a field trip to tour Roger Meyer's garden at 11am and then Ben & Mary Poirier's garden at 1pm. See June if you're interested in attending. Please bring a bag lunch to this event as food will not be provided.

## Message from the Chair

### David Yetz, Chairman

Greetings CRFG members! We had another great meeting last month as Dr. Gary Bender of the San Diego County Farm Extension gave us an update on the many insect pests that can cause damage to our fruit trees. His very informative talk covered pests such as the Diaprepes Root Weevil, the Asian Citrus Psyllid, Huanglongbing Disease, the Olive fly maggot and other pests of San Diego County.



**Ein Shemer Apples**  
Photo by: David Yetz

Please join us this month, on June 24<sup>th</sup>, as Ben Poirier discusses fruits of Myrtaceae. Fruits of this family include Surinam Cherry, Jaboticaba, and Rose Apple, just to name a few. Ben has been a long time member of CRFG. He has a great selection of rare fruit trees at his property and nursery in Fallbrook, CA. This is definitely a meeting you will not want to miss. Hope to see you all there!

### More Help Needed at the County Fair

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to volunteer at the CRFG booth at the San Diego County Fair! We still have a number of open dates where volunteers are needed.

### Help needed on the following dates:

Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>: 1 morning, 1 afternoon  
Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>: 2 morning, 2 afternoon  
Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>: 2 afternoon  
Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>: 2 afternoon  
Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>: 2 afternoon  
Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>: 1 morning, 2 afternoon  
Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>: 2 afternoon  
Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>: 1 afternoon  
Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>: 2 afternoon  
Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>: 2 morning, 2 afternoon  
Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>: 1 morning, 2 afternoon

### We also need fruit for the table!

To volunteer, please call **Carol Graham at (760) 753-6757** (preferably in the evening).



**FlavorKing Pluots Beginning to Ripen**  
Photo by: David Yetz

### Potluck at Quail Botanical

Our North County brothers and sisters will be having a potluck on July 18<sup>th</sup> at Quail Botanical Gardens and they have extended an invitation to our chapter. If you wish to attend, please bring a dish and look to meet at the Ecke Building around 11am. After eating, the group will tour the Subtropical Fruit Gardens.

## CRFG, San Diego Chapter 2009 Calendar

Month	Meeting / Program / Speaker	Event / Field Trip / Activity
June	<b>June 17 – 7pm (Wed):</b> Board Meeting	<b>June 13 – 9am (Sat):</b> Quail Botanical Work Party <b>June 28 – 11am (Sun):</b> Tour Roger Meyer's and Ben Poirier's Gardens
	<b>June 24 – 7pm (Wed):</b> Ben Poirier – Surinam Cherry and the Fruiting Myrtaceae Family	
July	<b>July 15 – 7pm (Wed):</b> Board Meeting	<b>July 11 – 9am (Sat):</b> Quail Botanical Work Party <b>July 18 – 11am – 2pm (Sat):</b> North County CRFG potluck @ Quail Botanical Garden (Ecke Building)
	<b>July 22 – 7pm (Wed):</b> Kevin Hauser – Growing Apples in Southern California	
August	<b>August 19 – 7pm (Wed):</b> Board Meeting	<b>August 8 – 9am (Sat):</b> Quail Botanical Work Party
	<b>August 26 – 7pm (Wed):</b> Romero Lobo – Pitahaya	

