



California Rare Fruit Growers

San Diego Chapter Newsletter - March 2009



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This Month's Presentation: Cherimoyas

Join us this month for a presentation on Cherimoyas on March 25, at 7pm in Balboa Park at Casa del Prado, Room 101.

February Meeting Notes

Tom del Hotal gave a great presentation last month. He covered all the popular types of grafting including whip, saddle and bark. Tom showed details of how to make an appropriate cut for the scion for each type of graft highlighting the closed oval to look for when doing a whip graft vs. an open oval when making a cut for a saddle (aka wedge) graft. Tom mentioned that bark grafting was common on avocados. Bark grafting is used on any large diameter rootstock as it allows for multiple scions to be grafted to a single rootstock cut.

One pointer that Tom gave was that when cutting the rootstock to receive a scion, it's easy to slice too deeply or off-center. In order to get a clean, even cut down the middle of the rootstock, Tom suggested to gently rock your grafting knife back and forth while applying a little pressure to guide it down the middle of the rootstock, rather than applying a lot of pressure and slipping too far down the rootstock.

Tom mentioned that you don't need to spend a bunch of money on a grafting knife. The key is that it be extremely sharp and thin so you can make a clean, smooth cut without too much effort.

Tom made a good point after the presentation: If you're whip or saddle grafting to a mature rootstock that has several branches, make sure to graft close to the trunk. If you graft to the very end of a branch, the scion wood will always remain recessive and small. By grafting closer to the trunk, the scion receives more sap flow and thus can grow larger and be more dominant.

After the presentation, Jim Neitzel gave a demonstration to show exactly how to pair a scion to a rootstock, looking for matching wood diameter, making the cuts, joining the wood and wrapping it, and sealing it with wax.

Message from the Chair

David Yetz, Chairman

Good news! Cuttings from UC Davis Germplasm Repository have arrived. The cuttings will be distributed at the March Meeting. Fig, Mulberry, Grape and Pomegranate will be available. Since UC Davis is a scientific facility, it is important to keep accurate data and labeling of the cuttings as you grow them.

This month's program will focus on growing Cherimoyas. We are honored to have Nino Cupiolo share his expertise. Nino is former President of California Cherimoya Society and has been developing superior varieties of Cherimoya. Please join us on March 25, 2009, 7:00pm when we discuss growing this wonderful fruit in San Diego County. See you all there!

Message from the Vice Chair

June Anderson, Vice Chair

Our CRFG booth was very popular at the Home and Garden Show in Del Mar! It was a great opportunity to promote the club. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort with this event, including: Ed H., Steve A., Cory K., Lena S., Jack S., Barbara B., Carol G., Valerie W., Kathryn B., Luis M., Frank H., Sabrina G., Jose G. and David Y. Thanks to Nevin K. for bringing in many fruits including the dwarf Cavendish bananas. They were delicious!



Home and Garden Show 2009

Photo by: Jose Gallego

The Quail Botanical Garden work party this month was very successful! Much was accomplished by our five industrious members: Steve A., Cory K., Lena S., Fang L., and Jim N. All are welcomed to the next work party on April 11th at 9am. Hope to see you there!

Happy Birthday, Jack!

Happy 85th birthday wishes go to our longtime member and one of the hardest workers in the chapter: Jack Skeels!

Remember to wear your badges!

Please remember to wear your CRFG Membership badges. Each member wearing their CRFG badge at the meeting will receive one *blue* ticket upon signing in at the front table. There will be a special drawing following the presentation with one winner who will receive a prize. For those members that do not yet have a CRFG badge, please see Jack S. for details on how to purchase one.

Irene Sias farewell

It is with deepest regrets we inform you of the passing of our beloved Irene Sias on Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

Irene had a long period of difficult days with cancer. She would never let on what she was going through. Irene loved the activities of the California Rare Fruit Growers, and expressed it in so many ways, including her beautiful smile, greeting us as we came through the door to the meeting hall.

Thanks go to the memory of Irene for her good works; we loved her and will miss her deeply.

- Jack Skeels

CALIFORNIA CHERIMOYA ASSOCIATION FIELD TRIP

Saturday, April 4, 2009

10 am to 1pm

Collecting Scions at the Cherimoya Collection in Irvine, CA

You must RSVP for this event to the CCA- Please contact Lynn Maxson at Imaxson@pacbell.net or 805 527-3912 for details.

CRFG, San Diego Chapter 2009 Calendar

Month	Meeting / Program / Speaker	Event / Field Trip / Activity
March	March 25 – 7pm (Wed): Nino Cupiolo – Cherimoyas	
April	April 22 – 7pm (Wed): Randy Pompoon – Guavas	April 4 – 10am (Sat): Cherimoya Scion Collection in Irvine, CA April 11 – 9am (Sat): Quail Botanical Work Party April 25 – 9am (Sat): Cuyamaca College Spring Garden Festival
May	May 27 – 7pm (Wed): Dr. Gary Bender – Citrus, Mulching and Psyllid Update	May 9 – 9am (Sat): Quail Botanical Work Party

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