



# CRFG San Diego Chapter Newsletter

February 2010



## Mission Statement

"To encourage and foster public and scientific interest, research, education in and the preservation of rare fruit plants that have edible seeds, fruits, leaves, stems or roots and are not commonly grown commercially. The furtherance and encouragement of these activities shall be for the benefit of the public rather than commercial interests."

From: <http://www.crfgsandiego.org/faq.htm>

## February Meeting 2/24/10

Deciduous Grafting & Rooting by Cuttings

Location: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101 @ 7 PM

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Greetings to all our members,

We are off to a wonderful spring season with warm weather and rain! Although our deciduous fruit trees may suffer from a lack of chill hours, it will be a good chance to see how low chill those low chill fruit trees really are. Unfortunately, insect pests will love the warm weather too, so be on the lookout for increasing pest problems and control them before they get too established.

The scion exchange was once again a fun event for all who joined us last month. I would like to thank Jon Verdick for his presentation and insights on propagating figs and to Jim Neitzel for organizing the meeting. Also, thank you to all members who brought scions to exchange as well as goodies for the refreshment table and items for the opportunity table. Please participate by bringing goodies or items to donate whenever possible, these help make our club meetings a fun event.

This month we will have grafting demonstrations as well as a presentation on different grafting techniques. It is often difficult to find opportunities to learn grafting skills and we are fortunate to have many experienced grafters as members of our chapter. I hope anyone interested in learning or in improving their grafting skills will take advantage of this opportunity.

Several exciting events are coming up in the next month or two and I hope you all get a chance to participate in some of these events. Please take note of the events calendar and visit our website at [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org) often to see updates as they are added to the calendar.

Our chapter counts on the participation and involvement of all our members to realize its full potential. If you receive this newsletter before Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, I hope some of you have a chance to attend the committee kick off meeting on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, and thank you to David Yetz for hosting this at the Water Conservation Garden and for his tour of the garden. Those of you who were not able to attend or who have not yet signed up to participate on a committee; please consider joining a committee at the upcoming meeting. We will have updates on committee projects as they develop.

Our "Suggestion Tree" received its 1<sup>st</sup> cards at the last meeting. Thank you to those who made suggestions. Please see responses to your suggestions in this newsletter and to all of our members, we welcome any of your suggestions!

We are organizing our first planting day on March 20<sup>th</sup> and a real beginning to the CRFG fruit tree collection at the South Bay Botanical Garden at Southwestern College. We are planning a dragon fruit area as a tribute to Paul Thomson as well as a "powerhouse" fruit area among other plantings. To participate, see Page 4 for more information on this event.

Lastly, thank you to our board (especially to Cielo for ALL of your time and hard work) and to ALL of our member volunteers for your work to make our club a great organization. I am looking forward to an exciting year for our chapter and will see you at the next and upcoming meetings.

Sincerely, Tom Del Hotal

## Vegetative Propagation Strategies by Jim Neitzel

There are numerous ways of achieving identical replications of a desired plant cultivar. The most obvious method includes ground layering, air layering (marcotting), rooting of cuttings, and stooling. Tissue culture of meristem tissue (cloning) requires sterile lab-like conditions.

Grafting and budding are marvelous ways of changing a seedling, a branch, or a stump or a rootstock over to one or multiple selected cultivar. Man has concocted several grafting strategies or methods for uniting cambium tissues. Among these grafting strategies, which can be easily researched online, are cleft, splice or whip, saddle, approach, crown, side, rind or bark, bark inlay, saw-kerf, topworking, stumping, forkert and veneer grafting. Try out these grafting methods, start practicing and get creative on your own fruit trees. You can take a cutting from your own tree, and use any of the grafting techniques and practice. You'll find that the more you practice, the better you can get at it.

Secretary's Report  
by Cielo Foth

At the January 27<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

**Business Meeting:** Chairman Tom Del Hotal called the meeting at 7:10 pm. Tom welcomed members, and asked visitors to introduce themselves. There were 54 members and 35 guests, a record number of people that it was almost standing room only. Tom introduced the Suggestion Tree Box, where members can drop in their suggestions/comments. Responses to all comments/suggestions will be posted in the newsletter. The SD Chapter website has been updated. Tom thanked Jose Gallego and Cielo for collaborating effort in getting it done. The upcoming field trip to UC Riverside Citrus Variety Collection was announced. Due to budgetary cuts, this field trip is limited to 20 members. Tom talked about the "Fruit Connection." Tom thanked members who donated to the Opportunity Table, Fruit Table and scion exchange.

**Program:** Jon Verdick, a long time member and owner of Encanto Farms Nursery, grows about 500 varieties of figs. Jon talked about the method he uses to root his cuttings: pre-rooting in a bag, and transplanting to a clear plastic cup with specific media in it. Jon said "Controlling moisture is everything." Providing a warm environment can be as simple as placing your cuttings in a bag on top of the refrigerator. The scions are wrapped in lightly damp paper towels or newspaper, then place in a warm place. When rooting begins, then he transfers them from the bags to 40 oz clear plastic cups. He prefers coarse vermiculite over potting soil. See more of Jon's growing tips at [www.figs4fun.com](http://www.figs4fun.com).

**Scion Exchange:** The January meeting was our greatly anticipated scion exchange. There were 6 tables filled with scion wood. Cuttings that can be propagated by rooting were on separate tables. There were more than enough scionwood for everyone in the room. Thanks to the following members for their donations: June Andersen, Mark Balazs, Joy Bladykas, Frank Borkat, Oscar Butler, Eddie Cresencia, Peruzan Dadbeh, Tom Del Hotal, Rolf Dethlefsen, Andrea Fincham, Cielo & Kevin Foth, David Long, Ed Hamilton, Jim Neitzel, Steve Pruyn, Gustavo Reynoso, Jack Skeels, Aaron St. John, Judy Tadlock, Ramona Valencia and David Yetz. The left over scionwood were picked up by the propagation committee for grafting projects.

Summary of the Board Meeting Minutes of 1/6/2010

1. Board Meeting time and location: The monthly board meeting is on the first Wednesday monthly at 6:30 pm in Rm. 104, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park.
2. Committees: Nineteen members signed up at the December meeting. The kick-off meeting for volunteer committee members will be scheduled in February. (For the list of proposed committees, please refer to the Dec. 2009 Newsletter and/or <http://www.crfgsandiego.org/committees.HTM>)
3. Group Purchase of Rootstocks: The club is looking into group purchase of rootstocks for prunus and apples.
4. Turnover of Materials to new board: P.O. Box keys: (1) Joy Bladykas and (1) David Yetz; Kevin Foth (1) Room 101 locker

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. All members welcome.

A copy of the full Board Meeting Minutes will be available at the monthly general meetings. Any member interested in a copy can send his/her request to [secretary@crfgsandiego.org](mailto:secretary@crfgsandiego.org) or by calling 619.818.0093.

## Committee Reports

**Membership & Hospitality Committee** by Cielo Foth

Welcome new members: David Eshbaugh, Karen Lakomy, Bruce Ritchings and Lindy Schermerhorn. Welcome back returning members: Billie English, Steve Pruyne, Charles Schroeder and Rupert Wilson. To date, we have 111 members: 78 individual, 15 household (2 voting members per household) and 3 lifetime members. Thanks to Lew Rishel and Ruth Sewell for staffing our membership table, and to Dave Sohn, our greeter, at the January meeting.

Members who receive their newsletters electronically will receive renewal reminders 30 to 60 days prior to their renewal date. Members who receive theirs by postal mail should check their address label.

Please help us keep our membership list current by checking in at the membership table at general meetings. When you bring guests, have them sign the Guests List. We send our guests a complementary e-newsletter if they include their email address. For questions regarding your CRFG Inc. or SD Chapter membership or to process your change of email address, phone number, etc., send email to [cielo92106@yahoo.com](mailto:cielo92106@yahoo.com) or call (619) 818.0093.

**Opportunity Table/Drawing** by Gustavo Reynoso

Your participation in providing plants has been outstanding! Please continue to select plants that you would be pleased to receive yourselves. It's been suggested from the last meeting that we limit the donations to edibles (fruiting plants, veggies, herbs) or gardening supplies.

You should receive opportunity tickets in exchange for your contributions. The funds generated from the raffle tickets at the opportunity table are greatly appreciated. Thanks to the following members for their donations: June Andersen, Adolfo Castillo, William Chow, Paul Phillips, Gustavo Reynoso, Aaron St. John and Jon Verdick, our guest speaker. Your donations raised \$28.80 for our chapter!

**Refreshment Committee** by Kevin Foth

As you know, the Fruit Tasting table is a great place to try some of the rare fruits that we discuss at our chapter meetings and grow in our backyards. So, please continue to bring your favorite donations for the table. In addition to those who bring without request and to ensure everyone can enjoy the fruits of our labors and share the responsibility for bringing fruits to taste, we will be asking a group of members each month, based on first letter of last name, to bring edibles (preferably already cut up) to donate to the Fruit Tasting table.

For the February general meeting, those members whose last name starts with A thru E, we request that you bring your favorite fruit, baked goods, etc. to share and make sure you sign the Donor's form so that we can properly thank you for your efforts.

We would like to thank those who contributed to the January Fruit Tasting table; David Archer, Billie English, Linda Espino, Matt Jurlina, Fang Liu, Leo Manuel, Etta McNeil, and Rupert Wilson.



## Suggestion Tree Q &amp; A

The Suggestion Tree is for members to write their questions, comments and/or feedback on index cards. Tom will distribute the cards to appropriate committees for responses which will be published in the newsletter. The following questions/comments were received at the January meeting with answers provided.

1. Q: Do not allow patented budwood! A: We hear you! We'll make sure this doesn't happen again.
2. Q: Would like tours of garden/trees maybe every other month; also let's have talks on pruning trees. A: Visit our website at [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org) to see our "Calendar of Events" which lists scheduled garden tours and summer pruning.
3. Q: Name & phone number of club experts willing to answer questions about various fruit trees; eg. loquat: Jim Neitzel. A: Visit our website link <http://www.crfgsandiego.org/contacts.htm> lists our experts per specific fruits.
4. Q: Can we have the various fruit tree list on the website? A: It is already on our website link <http://www.crfgsandiego.org/service.htm> where we have articles that would be of interest to our members.
5. Q: We should limit what is placed on the Opportunity Table. I feel not enough tickets are being sold because of what is there. A: We have a dedicated chairman to our "Opportunity Table/Drawing Committee." In his Committee Report, he is requesting edibles (fruiting plants, veggies, herbs) and/or gardening supplies. In addition, the club will also donate some books from our library collection.
6. Q: Great meeting. I will come back. Judy Tadlock. A: Thanks, Judy. We like to hear the positives, too. It's a great motivator for all of us!

### The Fruit Connection

If you have excess fruit to give away free, barter or sell, contact Josh Peet at 619.606.3533 or email to [sdpeet@cox.net](mailto:sdpeet@cox.net). Fruit Connection is a not-for-profit group that connects people to share their excess harvests. Nothing goes to waste.

### Upcoming February & March Events:

#### Olives & Olive Oil: Production & Marketing Strategies for SoCal. Sat. Feb. 27: 8 am-4pm

The University Of California Cooperative Extension, San Diego County Farm & Home Advisor's Office with collaboration with Slow Food Urban San Diego present a short course by internationally known olive and olive oil expert Paul Vossen. The course will be held from 8 am to 4 pm at the Center for Applied Horticultural Research in Vista. For more information and to register for this course, contact Barbara Henderson at (760) 752-4724 or visit <http://ucanr.org/oliveshortcourse>

The registration fee is \$ 50.00 if postmarked or submitted online by February 19, 2010. \$60.00 after that date or at the door. Lunch not guaranteed for walk in registrations!

To register by mail you may download and print the announcement in [PDF format](#) and following the registration and mailing instructions provided. You may also register online and pay with a credit card at: <http://ucanr.org/oliveshortcourse>

#### Spring Home & Garden Show: Friday to Sunday, March 5 – 7

The San Diego and the North County Chapters will have a booth at this event. If you can donate some fruits for our display, please contact Cielo at [cielo92106@yahoo.com](mailto:cielo92106@yahoo.com) or 619.818.0093. Come by our booth and say hello or to give our volunteers a break. The show runs at Del Mar Fairgrounds from Friday, March 5, 11am-6pm; Saturday, March 6, 10am-6pm; and Sunday, March 7, 10am-5pm. Admission: \$8.00; children under 12 are free. Seniors: only \$1 on Friday. After 3 pm daily, all tickets \$5.00. Discount tickets on the website are \$6.00. For more information visit: [www.sandiegohomegardenshows.com](http://www.sandiegohomegardenshows.com).

#### UC Riverside Citrus Variety Collection Field Trip: Friday, March 19th 8 am to 4 pm

This event is for members only & limited to the first 20 members who sign up. There are only 5 spots left! Fifteen members have already signed up the January meeting. Tracy Kahn, the Citrus Collection Curator, will take us on a tour of the citrus grove with a talk on its history, their research work, new varieties and update on pests that are threatening the industry. There are over 1,000 citrus varieties, and we'll sample a few of them and some favorites along our tour. If there is enough interest, we will rent a van/bus with an estimated charge of \$10 to \$15 per member. If the list gets filled up, we will have a Waiting List in an event a member cancels. Confirmation will be sent by March 5<sup>th</sup> to all participants. To sign up: send email to [cielo92106@yahoo.com](mailto:cielo92106@yahoo.com) or call (619) 818.0093

#### Planting Day at the South Bay Botanic Garden: Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 8 am to 12 pm

Looking for volunteers to plant fruit trees at the Subtropical Garden of the South Bay Botanic Garden located at Southwestern College. If you have fruit trees you would like to donate, bring them with you on planting day, which is also the First of Spring! 900 Otay Water Lakes, Chula Vista CA 91910. For more information visit <http://southbaybotanicgarden.org> or call Bill Homyak at 619-421-6700 ext 5371

#### Avocado & Loquat Grafting Workshop: Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 12 pm

This event is for members only. This grafting workshop will be held at a member's garden in Mt. Helix area. Our master grafter Jim Neitzel will make it look so easy even a caveman can do it. Members who are confirmed to attend will receive the address to this private garden on the 25<sup>th</sup>. To sign up: Sign up at the February 24<sup>th</sup> general meeting or send email to [cielo92106@yahoo.com](mailto:cielo92106@yahoo.com) or call (619) 818.0093

Rainwater Harvesting and Greywater Field Trip Report By David Yetz

On Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, members of CRFG, San Diego visited a local garden that effectively uses rainwater and greywater to irrigate the fruit trees, vegetables and plants. The tour was led by educator and water reuse expert Brook Sarson. During the recent rains, Brook has captured over 1000 gallons (or a 3-4 months supply) of pure, clean and free rainwater for her urban farm. The water is also much better for plants than city water. It contains no chemicals such as chlorine or hard water salts. "It's pure rainwater without the chemicals", she says. In her rain harvesting system, as rain falls on the roof, it flows into rain gutters on the eaves, is channeled into a downspout and runs into a large round plastic tank. The water remains in the tank until it is needed during dry periods- she just opens the garden hose and it flows out by gravity. Although it may be a large investment cost up front, it does pay off over time. And you get better quality water and it is better for the environment.

According to Brook, using greywater is another way to save money. She estimates that an average homeowner can reduce their water bill by 60 % by harvesting rainwater and reusing greywater. She showed us how the water from the washing machine and sinks can be diverted directly into the garden as needed. With greywater, storage tanks are not needed - so the initial investment cost is very low. She recommended making basins around the plants so the greywater will soak in and not run off. Since the average washing machine uses about 30 gallons per load, over time this amounts to a lot of water being saved and reused.

Brook also had lots of handouts and free information for our group as well as coffee and delicious snacks. She has a web site with additional info at: [www.H2O-ME.com](http://www.H2O-ME.com)

Thank you, Brook for the very enjoyable and informative tour of your garden! CRFG members who attended this field trip included: Adolfo C., Eddie C., Marrienne and Walter E., Andrea F., Cielo F., Frank H., Joan H. , Fang L., Dawn M., Jim N., Gustavo R., and Dave Y.



Our hostess, Brook Sarson, standing next to the 1000+ Bushman rainwater tank  
Photo by Dawn Martin



An example of what can be done with a down-spout; route the water into a planted basin, in this case, a young fig tree.  
Photo by Fang Lui



Products that are currently considered safe for Greywater use and some that are not.  
Photo by Fang Lui

**San Diego CRFG Board Contact Info:****Chair: Tom Del Hotal**[Chair@CRFGSanDiego.org](mailto:Chair@CRFGSanDiego.org)

(619) 454-2628

**Vice-Chair: Jim Neitzel**

(619) 262-8959

(generally from 7-9 am &amp; after dark)

**Treasurer: Joy Bladykas**[Treasurer@CRFGSanDiego.org](mailto:Treasurer@CRFGSanDiego.org)

(619) 488-4442

**Secretary: Cielo Foth**[Secretary@CRFGSanDiego.org](mailto:Secretary@CRFGSanDiego.org)

(619) 818-0093

**Upcoming Events – at a Glance**

2/27 8am-4pm	Olives & Olive Oil Production at the UC Coop Extension
2/28 thru 3/2	California Small Farm Conference
3/3 6:30pm	Board Meeting
3/5 thru 3/7	Spring Home Garden Show
3/13 830am-1pm	San Diego Botanic Garden Work Party
3/19 8am-4pm	UC Riverside Citrus Field Trip
3/20 8am-12pm	South Bay Botanic Garden – Planting Day
3/27 10am – 12pm	Avocado & Loquat Grafting Workshop

**Newsletter Editor:**

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USA

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