



# CRFG San Diego Chapter Newsletter

March 2010

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## 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: [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org)

## March Meeting: 3/24/2010

A Panel Discussion on Cherimoya & Atemoya,  
Propagation by Grafting

Special Varietal Tasting: Members \$1, Guests \$3

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

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## Greetings From the Chair:

Salutations to all San Diego C.R.F.G. members, and a special welcome to our new and returning members.

Spring is always a busy and exciting time for all of us and our club. We have a lot of fun and exciting events planned for this month and for the upcoming season and I hope that all of you get a chance to participate. I want to thank all of the organizers and volunteers who took part in the Spring Home & Garden Show for their involvement. Community outreach is part of our clubs mission and many thanks to all of you for your time and hard work.

Most of our clubs new committees are underway and I want to thank all of you for volunteering in advance. Any members who have not signed up for a committee and would like to participate either as a committee member or just on a single aspect of the committee or single event, please contact the committee chairperson who is listed both in the newsletter and on our chapters website. Participation is always welcome and invited and we are thankful to all of you who spend your precious time and energy for the good of the club!

This month's meeting will see some much anticipated events. As well as having a panel of experts to discuss and answer questions on cherimoya, atemoya and other Annonas, we will have cherimoya fruit to sample and enjoy, and will have an auction for some multi-grafted cherimoya trees. These trees commonly sell for \$100.00 or more. This auction will give anyone interested a chance to get a great tree at a great price. Please come prepared to bid as all proceeds from the auction will go to the club.

We will be having a cherimoya tasting and judging contest this meeting. (Yum, yum!!!) If you have cherimoya that you are willing to share of named varieties, please let Jim Neitzel know. Please make sure they are picked about one week before the meeting so they have time to ripen. We will have a prize for the owner of the top scoring fruit. Also, if you have excess fruit to sell, please contact Jim with that information ASAP.

Anyone interested in donating plants to the club for planting in the botanical gardens at this upcoming planting day at the South Bay Botanical Garden on March 20th or at future plantings at either of the two botanical gardens, please contact Andy Siekkinen (page 4) - chair for the Botanical Garden Committee. These plants will not only help to expose our club to the public and help to educate them about the fruit that we grow, but will also become propagation material for our club to produce more plants for our members at the opportunity table or at the plant sales as well as give us valuable information on variety trials and growing data.

As a new addition to our monthly meetings we are hoping to have a few vendors at this and future meetings offering items for sale at the meetings. This will both save our members time and gas as well as help generate some additional money for the club. There are still a few fine points to work out on the details, but hopefully you will see some vendors at this month's meeting. If you are a vendor, or would like to see specific items or vendors at our meetings, please contact Paul Fisher - chair for the Ways and Means Committee.

Lastly, a personal thank you to all who brought goodies for us to enjoy and/or items for the opportunity drawing last month. Everyone, please continue to participate and be generous to the club as we all enjoy these contributions to our meeting. Thank you everyone! I am looking forward to seeing all of you at this month's meeting.

Sincerely, Tom Del Hotal

Secretary's Report by Cielo Foth

At the February 24th General Meeting  
Business Meeting: Chairman Tom Del Hotal called the meeting at 7:10 pm. Tom welcomed members (50), and asked guests (21) to introduce themselves. Tom gave an overview of the program on different grafting methods. The Committee Volunteer Kickoff meeting was held at the Water Conservation Garden on Sat. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. Each committee chair was introduced and gave a brief statement about each respective committee. The complete list of committees and their mission & responsibilities are already posted on our website; the chairs and their contact information will also be posted soon.

Program: There was a short power point presentation by Jim Neitzel on different methods of grafting. Three grafting demonstration groups were formed and led by Jim, Jon Verdick and Tom. Members and guests observed as each group demonstrated several grafting techniques.

Highlights of the Board Meeting Minutes of February 3rd

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. Group Purchase of Rootstocks: The club will be purchasing rootstocks for prunus and apples. The propagation committee will work on getting these plants planted, then grafted. Once mature, some will be donated to opportunity table and for plant sale to raise funds for the club
3. November & December 2010 meetings: The November meeting has been approved for Tues. Nov. 16. The December 2010 meeting request for either Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> is still pending. Reservations for 2011 and 2012 have been requested to the San Diego Park & Recreation.
4. Website: A motion passed to retain Jose Gallego as club's webmaster.
5. Ways & Means Committee: The following are potential sources of revenues for our club: advertising page in newsletter, and having vendors at our general meetings. Advertising rates need to be developed and need clarification of sale rules from the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 7th at 6:30 pm. All members welcome.  
 Copies of full Board Meeting Minutes are 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.

Treasurer's Report  
 by Joy Bladykas

Checking Account Balance (3/1/2010)	\$6,873.39
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<u>CD account (Paul Thomson's donation)</u>	
principal amount	\$39,700.00
interest to date	\$306.01
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$ 40,006.01</b>

2009 Year End Report

<u>Income</u>	
Membership	\$ 3,004.00
Badges	\$ 47.50
Opportunity Table	\$ 562.00
Plant Sale (Auction)	\$ 57.00
San Diego County Award	\$ 100.00
Website (cost share from North County )	\$ 60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,830.50</b>

<u>Expenses</u>	
CRFG Inc. Membership	\$ 1,540.00
Badges	\$ 138.28
Website	\$ 119.88
Newsletter	\$ 394.19
SD Botanical Gardens Foundation Membership	\$ 75.00
SD Floral Assn. Membership	\$ 35.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$ 61.00
Ice Cream Social	\$ 162.86
Holiday Party	\$ 166.78
Honorariums/Speakers	\$ 949.00
Books for Library	\$ 47.00
Plants	\$ 310.00
Parking (Home & Garden, SD Co. Fair)	\$ 46.00
Office Supplies	\$ 15.48
Refreshment (fruit/food)	\$ 115.53
Refreshment supplies	\$ 8.85
Advertising (CRFG Promotion)	\$ 59.00
Office Supplies	\$ 20.11
Opportunity Table supplies for resale	\$ 11.91
Gift (outgoing board)	\$ 150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,425.87</b>

Profit or <Loss>	<595.37>
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Committee Reports**Membership & Hospitality Committee** by Cielo Foth

Welcome New Members: Barbara French-Lee, Laura Parker and Ari Tenenbaum. Thanks to Karen Lakomy and Ramona Valencia for staffing our membership table, and to Dave Sohn, our greeter, at the February meeting.

Members Check in: There are still some of you who forget to check in at the membership table. When you check in, you can find out when your memberships for both CRFG and SD Chapter are due for renewal. If you have any membership change, i.e., phone number, email, etc. please submit it to the membership table and not in the "Suggestion Tree Box". Thanks!

Name Badge Drawing: Members who check in wearing their name badge will receive one complimentary Opportunity Ticket, which will be drawn BEFORE the program begins. We hope that's incentive enough to check in wearing your name badge.

Name Badge Order: We will have information at the general meeting on ordering name badges for those interested in ordering new or replacement badges. The cost may be between \$8 to \$10.

Have membership questions? Contact: [Membership@crfgsandiego.org](mailto:Membership@crfgsandiego.org) or call (619) 818.0093

**Community Outreach & Education Committee** by Eric Collins

The Community Outreach is a joint effort with our chapter and the North County chapter. Our first event this year was the San Diego Spring Home & Garden Show held from March 5 to 7 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Thanks to the following volunteers for staffing our CRFG booth: Joy Bladykas, Erik Collins, Andrea Fincham, Cielo & Kevin Foth, Carol Graham, Fang Liu, Frank Habetler, Ed Hamilton, Keith Harold, Jim Neitzel, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ulrich, and Valerie Wagner Becket. We would have been rained on if it weren't for David Yetz' loaning us a canopy. There would not have been any fruit display if these members didn't offer us their bounty: Tom Del Hotal, Kevin Foth, Jim Neitzel, Jack & Helen Skeels, and Dick & Alice Snow. See our planned events listed in the "Upcoming March & April Events" (page 4). If you would like to volunteer for any of our scheduled events listed in the "Upcoming March & April Events", please contact Erik by email [sonicpig@hotmail.com](mailto:sonicpig@hotmail.com) or phone 619.303.5353.

**Propagation Committee** by Jim Neitzel

The bare-root shipment of M-111 apple, Nemaguard peach and Marianna plum ordered from Raintree Nursery has just arrived. They will be potted up for future grafting, budding, demonstrations and sales. Some larger rootstocks may still be graftable this spring. Plant donations that Gustavo Reynoso and I finally picked up from Paul Phillip will be cared for at Gustavo's garden. Some of them are destined for the Opportunity Table and others for plant sale events.

**Opportunity Table/Drawing** by Gustavo Reynoso

The Opportunity Table Committee would like to thank the following members Kevin Foth, Tom Del Hotal, Gustavo Reynoso, Adolfo Castillo, Alice Snow, William Chow, Lys Severtson, Zhenxing Fu, Tynan Wyatt, and Frank Habetler. and guests Mark Lee and Steve Price for donating plants/trees to the opportunity table. Please continue to bring your plants, trees, and gardening equipment for the opportunity table. It is one of our main sources to raise funds for our local chapter. Last meeting we sold \$83.00 worth of tickets. Thank you, Gustavo

**Refreshment Committee** by Kevin Foth

For the March meeting, I request our members with last names that begin with F thru J, to bring your ripe backyard fruits or if they aren't ready for picking just yet, your favorite fruit to share on the Refreshment Table (already cut up preferred). We had a great table of goodies for everyone this past month. For March, let's make it even better! I would like to thank all the members who contributed to the February table; Joy Bladykas, Andrea Fincham, Paul Fisher, Cielo Foth, E B Glover, Tom Del Hotal, Chuck Schroeder, Jack Skeels, and David Yetz. I would also like to thank Adolfo and Eddie for all your help for preparation and clean up of the refreshment table. Your help is very much appreciated!

Special Varietal Tasting of Cherimoya

Members \$1, Guests \$3.

Please see the Refreshment Committee for tickets.



### Upcoming March & April Events

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

This event is for members only --- SOLD OUT --- Members who are confirmed should have already received their final confirmation by either email or phone call by March 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a rain or shine event. If there is any last minute cancellation, please let me know ASAP, so that members on the waiting list can be notified immediately. Any last minute questions, please email [cielo92106@yahoo.com](mailto:cielo92106@yahoo.com) or call (619) 818.0093

#### Planting Day at the South Bay Botanic Garden: Sat., 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. We are first focusing on getting named varieties of pitahayas to honor CRFG co-founder Paul Thomson as well as starting a collection of Power Fruits like pomegranates, blueberries, and other dark berries. If you have named varieties that you would like to donate, bring them with you on planting day, which is also the First of Spring! 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista, CA 91910. Follow signs to Horticultural site once on Southwestern College campus. For more information, please contact Andy Siekkinen by email at [siekkinenar@gmail.com](mailto:siekkinenar@gmail.com) or phone 425-444-5233 (yes, that's the right area code!)

#### CRFG booth at the Water Conservation Garden Water Smart "Plant Fair": Sat., March 20th 9 am to 3 pm

We are looking for three volunteers to staff our booth at the Water Conservation Gardens, adjacent to Cuyamaca College in El Cajon. We need 1 volunteer for the 9am to 12 pm shift, and two volunteers for the 12 pm to 3 pm shift. To sign up, please contact Erik Collins at 619.303.5353, or email at [sonicpig@hotmail.com](mailto:sonicpig@hotmail.com).

#### 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 March 24<sup>th</sup> general meeting or send email to [cielo92106@yahoo.com](mailto:cielo92106@yahoo.com) or call (619) 818.0093

#### Member's Garden Tour in Rancho Bernardo: Sat., April 10<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 12 pm

This event is for members only. A guided garden tour then on your own hiking (10-acre property west of Rancho Bernardo). This garden burned in the Oct. 2007 wildfires, and several fruit trees have since been planted. The view from this hillside property at this time of year is spectacular. Rainharvesting system at work are two man-made ponds and use of 55-gallon drums. Members who are confirmed to attend will receive the address to this private garden by April 3rd. To sign up: Sign up at the Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> general meeting or send email to [cielo92106@yahoo.com](mailto:cielo92106@yahoo.com) or call (619) 818.0093.

#### CRFG booth at the Ramona Garden Tour: Sat. April 10th – 9 am to 3:30 pm

We are looking for two volunteers to staff our booth at the Ramona Garden Tour, in Ramona. We need 1 volunteer for the 9am to 12:30pm shift, and 1 volunteer for the 12:30pm to 3:30pm shift. To sign up, please contact Erik Collins at 619.303.5353, or email at [sonicpig@hotmail.com](mailto:sonicpig@hotmail.com).

#### CRFG booth at the Cuyamaca College "Spring Festival": Sat. April 24th 9 am to 4 pm

We are looking for three volunteers to staff our booth at the Cuyamaca College Spring Festival in El Cajon. We need 1 volunteer for the 9 am to 12:30 pm shift, and two volunteers for the 12:30pm to 4 pm shift. To sign up, please contact Erik Collins at 619.303.5353, or email at [sonicpig@hotmail.com](mailto:sonicpig@hotmail.com).

  
Suggestion Tree Q & 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 comment was received at the February meeting with answer provided.

Q: A new member would like to add club's link on to his website, and vice-versa.

A: The club at this time does not have a written policy about advertising or reciprocating in kind with member and/or vendor. The Ways & Means Committee will look into setting up a written policy, advertising rates for newsletter, etc. with oversight from the Board.

Here's what you need to set up your own rain harvesting system:

<http://www.gardeners.com/rainbarrel+howto>

1. Gutters and a downspout. If you don't already have rain gutters on your house, this one-time investment is the biggest cost you'll face. High quality gutters can be rather expensive, but even the least-expensive gutter system will suffice. At my house, we have installed a very inexpensive rain gutter on just one side of the house: the east-facing roof. Being plastic, this gutter won't stand up to Vermont 's winter snow and ice, so it gets removed in the fall and put back up in the spring. That's all it takes to keep my 60-gallon rain barrel full to the brim almost all summer long.
2. Storage Tank. In arid parts of the country, rainwater cisterns are becoming more and more commonplace. Usually made of either plastic or concrete, they can hold hundreds or even thousands of gallons of water. If you want to start small and keep it simple, consider a wood or plastic rain barrel, which will typically hold from 40 to 80 gallons of water. If you have the space, several barrels can be set up in tandem. Prices vary, but most quality barrels are about \$100 each.
3. Debris Screen and Lid. A Flexible Downspout makes it easy to direct rainwater right into your storage tank. But before the water goes into your tank or rain barrel, you'll want to use some kind of debris screen to filter out leaves, pine needles and other debris. If you don't filter out this debris, it will accumulate at the bottom of the tank and may clog up the outflow. A removable wire mesh screen is all you really need, either mounted on top of the rain barrel or attached to the end of your downspout.  
  
A well-fitting lid is also important to protect children and prevent mosquitoes from breeding in the water.
4. Distribution Device. For a rain barrel, you need nothing more than a standard spigot or short length of hose installed near the bottom of the barrel, with an on/off valve. Then you let gravity do the work. You can attach a longer hose to reach your garden, or just use the spigot to fill watering cans.

In many parts of the world, rainwater collection and containment systems supply all or at least a significant part of the water needs for both house and garden. If your primary motivation is to collect rainwater for your garden, you don't need to worry about capturing every inch of rain that falls on your roof. But consider this. If you get about 10-inches of rain over the course of the spring and summer, an average, 1,360-square-foot roof would yield 8,160 gallons of rain water. You have to admit that whether you're in a drought situation or not, it's hard to pass up that much of a free thing!

**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 & 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

**Newsletter Editor:**

Dawn Martin

Upcoming Events – at a Glance	
3/13 830am-1pm	San Diego Botanic Garden Work Party (formerly Quail Gardens)
3/19 8am-4pm	UC Riverside Citrus Field Trip
3/20 8am-12pm	South Bay Botanic Garden Planting Day
3/20 9am-3pm	Water Conservation Garden "Plant Fair"
3/24 7pm	SD-CRFG Meeting: Cherimoya & Atemoya
3/27 10am – 12pm	Avocado & Loquat Grafting Workshop
4/10 10am – 12 pm	Member's Garden Tour – Rancho Bernardo Area (Members Only)
4/10 9 am – 330 pm	Ramona Garden Tour
4/24 9 am – 4 pm	Cuyamaca College "Spring Festival"

**California Rare Fruit Growers  
San Diego Chapter**  
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San Diego, CA 92195  
USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED