



CRFG San Diego Chapter Newsletter

May 2011



1 of 8

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

May 25th, 2011 General Meeting: Citrus Varieties

Wednesday – 7 pm

Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

In This Issue:

Greetings From The Chair – page 1
Vice Chair's Report – page 3
Secretary's Report – page 4
Treasurer's Report – page 4
Committee Reports – page 4
San Diego CRFG Contact Info – page 7
Upcoming Events-At a Glance – page 8

Happy May Days and Good Growing to All!

The April Chapter plant sale was a GREAT success! On behalf of the entire Board, all of the Chapter members, and myself, I would like to thank **ALL** the people who participated before, during and after this event to make it happen! **THANK YOU!!!!**

I hope many of you attended last month's meeting and were inspired by Bob Holzinger's presentation on his trip to Hawaii. Bob has a second presentation prepared for our Chapter on the homes of several past members of our San Diego Chapter who have moved to the islands and have taken advantage of the garden paradise to grow all types of wonderful fruiting and ornamental plants. We hope to have Bob share this with us later this year. Thank You Bob for taking the time to create these presentations to share with our Chapter. Also thank you Fang for purchasing the wonderful Jackfruit, Durian Chips and other wonderful "goodies" for the refreshment table.

Speaking of the Refreshment Table, we have a new member who has volunteered to take the lead on being responsible for making sure the refreshment table is set up for the monthly meetings. A Very Special THANK YOU to Elizabeth Pollard for stepping up to help the Chapter and taking this on. **ALL members PLEASE** pitch in to help Elizabeth at the monthly meetings by giving a hand in setting up and tearing down the refreshment table as well as by putting away the Chapter's materials into our lockers at the end of the meetings. We all enjoy this aspect of our meetings, so PLEASE help all of us to make this "job" quick and easy. We of course need everyone's participation to bring in goodies and refreshments to share at the meetings. Please bring in something to share whenever possible.

I have one more request to make to our entire Chapter, this is regarding the Opportunity Table. During the past few meetings, the selection of items on this table have been very few and only a few members have contributed items for the Opportunity Drawing. This drawing is an exciting aspect of our meetings for many members and visitors and is a great way to get some fun plants or items for a very small cost. All funds generated by this drawing go to the Chapter and can enhance meetings with excellent speakers, excellent refreshments, or some exciting opportunities or events. Please grow and donate some fruiting plants for the Opportunity Drawings or bring in items that can be used in the growing of fruiting plants for the drawing. Gustavo Reynoso can always use donations or a helping hand, and if you find something "too good to pass up" that may enhance this drawing, please contact Gustavo to let him know of a good opportunity.

A **BIG Thank You** goes out to David Long, David Yetz and the people at the Cuyamaca College Horticulture Department for an exciting plant give away that occurred this month. Several hundred vegetable plants were purchased at cost from the Cuyamaca College nursery and were given away to schools and school groups as well as at the Garden Event at the San Diego Zoo. Also **Thank You** to Erik Collins and ALL the volunteers who represented our Chapter at the Community Outreach events at the San Diego Zoo and Mission Hills Nursery this past month. GREAT JOB guys!!!

The San Diego County Fair is FAST approaching and we need volunteers to help staff our CRFG booth. There are two shifts each day and we need members to be present at each shift every day. There are many dates and shifts still open. Please contact Carol Graham to volunteer and remember all volunteers will receive free entrance to the Fair. Call Carol at: (760) 753-6757. Evenings are best!

We are hoping to have some specimen trees at our CRFG booth to add interest to our booth. If you have a good looking fruiting plant that you would be willing to loan to the exhibit (15 gallon would be best) please contact any Board Member. Also let us know if you could deliver your tree to the Fair. We will also need some extra posters, pictures or display items to dress up the booth as well as fresh fruit specimens each day for the display booth. If you could help out our Chapter with any of these items it would be MUCH appreciated!

I am happy to announce that Ben Kotnick has volunteered to Co-Chair the Propagation Committee along with Jim Neitzel. Ben is taking the propagation class at Southwestern College and has some fun projects and events planned that will educate and give hands-on experience to interested members and help to start plants for our Chapter. If you enjoy plant propagation, would like to learn tips, techniques and skills for starting plants or would just like to give Ben, Jim and the Chapter a hand on this Committee, contact Ben at: (619) 697-7440.

For those of you who have been waiting for grafted mangos to arrive at the Lemon Grove Home Depot, they are in! We now have grafted Nam Doc Mai, Valencia Pride, Timotayo, and Glenn mangos in 5 gallon for \$49.98 each. If interested, get them right away, but call first to make sure there are some still remaining (619) 589-2999, ask for the nursery (garden dept.)

This month's May General meeting on Wed. May 25th will feature an exciting program on some of the more interesting, new or noteworthy varieties of citrus fruit that are available through the University of California's Citrus Clonal Protection Program. David Yetz and I will be discussing some of the varieties that are available as budwood during their distribution periods. The next opportunity to purchase budwood through this program has a closing deadline of June 9, 2011. We are inviting any members who are interested in participating in a group purchase of budwood through this program to join by making their purchase on or before this month's meeting on May 25th. We need to order a minimum of 12 buds for each variety of citrus ordered. Payment for this budwood must be made in advance and is refundable only if budwood ordered is not available. Many of these unique varieties are not available through any nursery as trees, so budding your own trees may be the only way to obtain these great citrus varieties. We will also be making citrus rootstock trees available for purchase by members for those of you who need rootstock on which to graft your budwood. Plan on ordering and paying for these rootstocks on or before the May meeting. Budwood and trees will be available for pick up in mid to late June. We will also be having a workshop to teach citrus budding when the budwood and trees arrive and may be able to offer a custom budding service for a nominal fee per tree. For a full list of budwood available, go to <http://www.ccpp.ucr.edu/budwood/budwood.php>. David will also have some budwood lists available to review at the May meeting.

Last month I introduced an idea for a monthly column in the newsletter called "In the Spotlight". I am happy to announce that two members have offered to help me with this idea. THANK YOU Frank Rauscher and Rich Oswald for offering to make this idea become a reality. Look for this column to begin in the June newsletter and if you would like to offer suggestions for this column, please contact Frank at email: fjrauscher@hotmail.com. Anyone who has other ideas for the newsletter is always invited to submit articles, recipes, tips or suggestions to Fang Liu at email: Editor@CRFGSanDiego.org. Submissions for the newsletter must be received by Fang no later than the 2nd Wednesday of each month to be included in that month's newsletter.

Lastly, a personal message. As some of you know, I am responsible for caring for my 88 yr old mother who has dementia. During this last month, she has had a stroke and had emergency surgery to have her gallbladder removed. She is recovering from the surgery my but responsibilities to her is taking a huge amount of my time. Thank you to everyone who has expressed their support and who has pitched in to help the Chapter during this period. I apologize to anyone who I may not have gotten back to as quickly as possible or to anyone where I may have forgotten to include something in this message. TAKE CARE EVERYONE and hope to see you all at the May 25th meeting.

Sincerely Tom Del Hotal

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday June 7th, 6:30 P.M. Location: The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
Everyone is welcome and invited to join us!

Refreshment Table

This month's meeting: If your last name falls between the letters of Alv... to Dad..., please bring goodies for members to share and please come early or remain after the meeting to help set up and put away the supplies for the refreshment table.

Members, PLEASE help set up or stay after the meeting to help clean up and put away items back into our Chapter's storage locker. Clean up is quick and easy when many work together.

Thank you!

Vice Chair Notes by Jim Neitzel

May started with a brief but jarring heat wave. This sudden switch made me long for our typical "May gray" weather! However, the early hot spell did trigger growth spurts in tomatoes and some sleepy subtropicals. My seedling mangoes ceased all growth about last November, but now they have started to push some pretty new leaves. My 'Nam Doc Mai' mango tree is in full bloom. (I have to spray all flower clusters and new leaves pronto with a fungicide or mildew is apt to ravage them.) The remaining loquats are ripening fast. The Swiss chard plants have bolted into 5 feet bloom stalks. The earliest blackberry fruits absorb the hot sunshine and are wont to "cook" and new primo canes wilt if not given extra watering.

My 'Minnie Lee' and 'Royal Lee' cherry crop was coloring up nicely in late April. I was going to net them and sample a few darker ones on May 2. However, they had been "disappeared". A stitch in time... saves cherries from the birds. Well, next year I'll outwit such bandits!

I want to thank Bob Holzinger for his April 27 presentation during which he shared his Hawaiian trip experiences. I'm sure that some of us mango fanatics will seek to acquire the luscious 'Rapoza' cultivar and the disease-resistant 'San Felipe'. CRFG members attending the annual Florida Mango Festival in July can check these fruits out – and many, many others! Please take notes and pictures to share at our July 27 Mango Fandango featuring lovely 'Kent' fruits and ice cream!

The April loquat taste-off gave mixed results. This may be due to varying preferences on our palates. Some esteem sweetness most, while others value a balanced sugar/acidulousness. Dennis Sharmand's 'Crystalline' brix reading was over 17. Unbelievable sugar! Judging by the handful of cards turned in to me, my 'Early Orange' rated best. Others liked the "Pizzazz" of some white-fleshed types. Hopefully next year more members can bring in their choices for a wider tasting. Loquats cropped very irregularly this year. A matching degree of ripeness is hard to achieve on a given date.

The calendar: a principal duty of the vice chair is formulating a calendar of topics, speakers, panels or audio visual presentations for each month's program. In the January newsletter, I presented the suggested topics and dates for this year's programs. Sometimes changes may happen. The topic for May 25 was switched to Citrus Varieties – not rain water harvesting, grey water usage and irrigating systems as planned. Some board members felt that the topic didn't relate much to growing fruit trees. Five of our members have installed such systems and any interested parties can consult with them. Grad Lancaster authored a great book on this topic.

For June 22 I've asked Mary Matava, an Agronomist and owner of Agri Service, Inc., to speak on healthy soils and soil nutrition. North County CRFG enjoyed her presentation. June is such a heavy month with the need to staff our booth at the Del Mar Fair most of the month. Having a visiting speaker will give all members a well-earned break.

On July 27 we'll enjoy our annual Mango Fandango and a panel.

The deciduous fruit round-up and taste-off originally scheduled for our June program will hopefully become a July 10 joint-Chapter event at a beautiful ranch near Lake Wohlford. They grow most of the Dave Wilson

Nursery cultivars. All participants can also share the bounty of their own gardens. How about a potluck? Tables, a barbecue pit and horseshoe pits are available. Sounds like fun?

Finally, I feel compelled to try to right a regrettable wrong. In the chair's "happy spring" greetings to all members (page 1 of the April 2011 newsletter) he ends his message with a misinformed and damaging last paragraph. For some reason some board members wanted Cielo's binder containing her copies of the 2010 board meeting minutes. They declared it chapter property. Tom asked me to pick it up.

Cielo explained to me that all 2010 board members received these minutes via E-mail prior to each monthly board meeting for approval, etc. (Cielo always provided me a hard copy each month since I don't have internet access.) Highlights and summaries were also provided in the monthly newsletters thru 2010.

In addition Cielo provided her own copies in a binder and made it available for perusal by anyone interested at each general meeting. Our bylaws require such of any sitting secretary. To my knowledge no secretary had kept and passed on such a collection to an incoming secretary. Some board members believed otherwise. Barbara Alvarez and Ian miller can verify.

Accusing someone of absconding with chapter property over such a meaningless issue seems unwise. Past discords should be allowed to fade away. Due to last year's election machinations Cielo and Kevin decided to take a sabbatical from our chapter, anyhow. Let's strive to appreciate and keep all of our dedicated volunteers and plant aficionados.

<http://www.hawaiifruit.net/>

<http://www.agriserviceinc.com/>

Secretary's Report by Mark Bendixen

June 6th is the last day to order budwood from CCPP.UCR.EDU. This will be shipped to weeks later; we plan to have a grafting workshop and pick on Saturday June 25th if the budwood makes it here on time, location and time to be announced.

Carol Graham will have the signup sheet for Del Mar Fair.

Next month will be on deciduous fruits.

July meeting will be a mango and ice cream social.

Treasurer's Report by Erik Collins

I have not closed the books for April, yet. However, it is safe to say that our budget is performing much better than we forecast in the original 2011 Budget. The plant sales and cherimoya tasting event were much more successful than we anticipated.

Our budgeted revenue for 2011 was \$4,117 and we are at about \$4,000 as of April 30. The rest of the year is 'gravy'. Our operating account has a balance of nearly \$8,000.

Thanks to the many plant sale volunteers for making the Treasurer's job so easy this year!



Committee Reports

Community Outreach & Education Committee by Erik Collins

We've just wrapped up our 4 day event at the San Diego Zoo. Thanks to Lys Severtson and Bob Holzinger for volunteering on opening day. Thanks to Twan Humphrey and Peruzan Dadbeh for volunteering on the weekend. The Zoo had a great display of edible foods, and I am glad we were able to participate.

Our next event is the Del Mar Fair. Carol Graham of the North County Chapter will be coordinating volunteers. Carol can be reached at 760.753.6757.

We will also be hosting a Society Day on Wednesday, June 29th. CRFG will feature 3 speakers at the Flower and Garden Show Stage:

1:00PM: Tom Del Hotal will speak on 'Summer and Fall Fruit Tree Care'.

2:30PM: Dave Yetz will be speaking about Superfoods.

4:00PM: Dave Archer will be speaking about 'New Varieties of Deciduous and Subtropical Fruits'.

Following the Fair, the final two events (for 2011) hosted by the San Diego Chapter will be:

August 27, 2011: Green Scene at Southwestern College from 9am-3pm.

October 8, 2011: Sustain La Mesa Environmental Festival from 10am-2pm. I will be unavailable to attend this event, so we are looking for two volunteers.

Propagation Committee by Jim Neitzel

The air layers some members placed on Patrick Schillings' allspice and guava trees last fall still show no roots. This should change with warmer weather.

Ben Kotnik has been trying to water the remaining plants we are storing at Southwestern College. Gustavo Reynoso and I are planning to alternate with him to keep them from drying out. The board has voted to install a drip system and then possibly a shade cloth structure.

David Yetz and I did a grafting presentation and workshop for instructor Lou Diaz's propagation class at Southwestern. Ben is taking this class and helped set things up. On May 7 Ben also helped me give a big subtropicals grafting workshop for North County at the home of Harry Nickerson, their secretary. Among the thirty-some attendees about seven of our chapter members participated. Thanks for all the help, Ben.

Gustavo and I discussed ways to breathe new life into our "opportunity table" program. This should be a team endeavor. Maybe every 10th draw could allow the lucky individuals a chance to choose from a special table with high-value items like garden tools or grafted tree offerings such as 5 gal. 'Valentine' pomelo, available from Durling this fall. Multi-grafted trees could be readied. Let's work on improving this feature – or drop it. Gustavo would like some help!

On Friday May 13th, I pruned and weeded our plant holding area at southwestern college for around 3 hours. Then on the 14th Ben and I were joined by David Sohn, Toan and John Humphreys, and Fang Liu. We repotted or stepped up about 2/3 of the plants and Ben put down weed cloth, covered it with wood chips, and organized the returned plant into neat groups and rows. Looks great!

On May 21st, David Yetz and Ben plan to install a drip irrigation system while other volunteers could finish repotting and relocate a remaining portion of plants. A few of us worked all day Saturday the 14th, but a new team should be able to finish in a few hours.

Sometime we will need to expand and mulch the basins of the banana patch and mulch and adjust the blueberry area irrigation system. The same goes for the eugenia area near the inga tree.

Paul Thomson Endowment Committee by David Long

Tomato Blast

It seems like new opportunities happen every week. Cuyamaca College had grown thousands of tomatoes and peppers as part of their propagation class we participated in last spring. Most had been sold but there were still 300 tomatoes and 100 peppers taking up space in the green house that needed to get out. The nursery was planning on pulling the plants from the pots and disposing of them in the compost. We were able to buy them for 30 cents each (mostly the cost of soil, pots, and water) and distribute them to San Diego schools and community gardens within two days. Again, it was the Master Gardeners network that helped find the schools and pick up the plants. Cuyamaca College also donated and many flats of other mature vegetables to this good cause.

I would like to thank:

- **Erik Collins** and **April Bright** for negotiating with Cuyamaca College and set up the purchase
- **David Yetz** for working with the College and picking up the extra material
- **Cuyamaca College** for providing the plants and donating extra material

- The **Master Gardeners Judy Crall, Judy Jacoby, Mindy Swanson**, and all the rest who were able to pick up and distribute these plants

Internship Update

I met with the acting director of the Cuyamaca Horticulture Department and we discussed the requirements for an intern at their College. There are still details to be worked out and the Cuyamaca Board members need to review our proposal but we are closer to an agreement. I will keep you updated on our progress.

David Long
Paul Thomson Endowment Chair



NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to returning member Mary Lou Bednasek (La Mesa 91941) and to Frank Vaplon (Poway 92064 - who is also a North County chapter member)!

Webmaster's Wish List from José Gallego

I am looking for old Chapter newsletters, pre-2003 to post on our website. I also have copies from October 1985 through December 1993, which I am in the process of OCRing them. If anyone can lend them to me, I will scan them and return them at our next meeting, or I can mail them back.

Free Classes by ATAC for Urban Forestry

June 2: 5:30-7:30pm **Sustainable Fruit Trees: Best Practices for Homes and Schools** by Tom Del Hotal

This presentation will provide an overview of what fruit trees do best in our region and some tips on getting the best results from your choices.

Register at www.energycenter.org/forestry or Contact Robin Rivet: 858.634.4741
robin.rivet@energycenter.org

On April 30th, Jim Neitzel and Dave Yetz presented an informative grafting workshop for the Plant Propagation class at Southwestern College. Twenty students learned about fruit trees and grafting through a lecture presentation from Dave, Jim, and course instructor Lou Diaz. Additionally, many students were able to practice grafting techniques under Jim's supervision. CRFG donated three grafted Cherimoya trees to the college, two of which were grafted by students Hector Rios and Salvador Ceja who executed beautiful whip-and-tongue grafts. The students appreciated having such knowledgeable, experienced, and accomplished guests for this special topic. CRFG looks forward to partnering with Southwestern College's Landscape and Nursery Technology Department more in the future. They are offering several courses that may be of interest to our club over the summer and next fall.

On Saturday May 7th, SD CRFG members Jim Neitzel, Fang Liu, Ben Kotnik, Kathryn Blankinship and others assisted the north county chapter with a great grafting workshop. Participants grafted a variety of trees including Cherimoya, Avocado, Mango, Loquat, and Macadamia. Be on the lookout for similar events for the SD Chapter, including our June citrus budding meeting. If you'd like to help with future grafting workshops or other propagation activities, contact Jim Neitzel or Ben Kotnik.

To participate or volunteer in any of committees, or for more information about the committees or committee projects contact:

Botanical Garden Development Committee (Joint w/N County)

David Yetz FormerChair@CRFGSanDiego.org

Chapter Bylaws / SOP Review & Revision Committee

Community Outreach & Education Committee (Joint w/N County)

Erik Collins 619-303-5353 Sonicpig@hotmail.com

Library Committee

David Yetz 619-981-3397 Librarian@CRFGSanDiego.org

Membership & Hospitality Committee

Karen Lakomy 619-579-6366 Membership@CRFGSanDiego.org

Newsletter Committee

Fang Liu 858-866-9674 Editor@CRFGSanDiego.org

Opportunity Table/Drawing Committee

Gustavo Reynoso 619-861-7821
OpportunityTable@CRFGSanDiego.org

Paul Thomson Endowment Committee

David Long 858-748-2398
ThomsonEndowment@CRFGSanDiego.org

Propagation Committee

Jim Neitzel 619-262-8959 Available 7-9 am & after dark

Publicity Committee

David Silverstein 619-226-6469 bentleye@cox.net

José Gallego 619-261-3610

Webmaster@CRFGSanDiego.org

Refreshment Committee

Special Events Committee

Vendor's Contact

Ways & Means Committee

Website Committee

José Gallego 619-261-3610

Webmaster@CRFGSanDiego.org

The following committees need volunteers to lead them:

Refreshment Committee – Special Events Committee – Vendor's Contact – Ways & Means Committee

Save a Tree! Go Paperless! If you're still receiving your newsletter by postal mail and you have an email address, please consider receiving it electronically. In addition to receiving it a lot earlier than postal delivery, you will also receive time-sensitive information on special events that is usually too late to post in the newsletter. Past issues of the newsletters are also posted on our website. Let the membership committee know if you would like to try it. Thanks to those members who have decided to go paperless.

San Diego CRFG Board Contact Info:

Chair: Tom Del Hotal
Chair@CRFGSanDiego.org
 (619) 454-2628

Vice-Chair: Jim Neitzel
 (619) 262-8959
 (generally from 7-9 am & after dark)

Treasurer: Erik Collins
Treasurer@CRFGSanDiego.org
 (619) 303-5353

Secretary: Mark Bendixen
Secretary@CRFGSanDiego.org

Former Chair: David Yetz
FormerChair@CRFGSanDiego.org
 (619) 981-3397

Upcoming Events – at a Glance	
5/20 – 7pm	North County General Meeting: Pest Management
5/25 – 7pm	General Meeting: Citrus Varieties
6/7 – 6:30pm	Board meeting
6/10 to 7/5 10am – 5pm	See our CRFG booth at the San Diego County Fair
6/11 – 8:30am	SD Botanic Work Party
6/22 – 7pm	Deciduous Fruits Round-up and taste-off

**California Rare Fruit Growers
 San Diego Chapter**
 P.O. Box 152943
 San Diego, CA 92195
 USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED