



CRFG San Diego Chapter Newsletter

July 2011



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

July 27th, 2011 General Meeting: Mango Fandango: Panel on Mango Varieties, Grafting and Culture

Wednesday – 7 pm
Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

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Good tidings to all,

I apologize to everyone for missing last month's meeting and I wanted to thank EVERYONE for stepping up and filling in during my absence. I wanted to especially thank Jim Neitzel for organizing and running the meeting, Mary Matava of Agri Service Inc. for her presentation on soils, Dave Yetz and Mark Bendixen for all the work they did to make the citrus budwood and rootstock group buy successful, to everyone who participated in or contributed to the opportunity table or the refreshment table, and to all the members who worked so hard to make the meetings enjoyable. Last meeting I was with my mother who entered a coma that evening. She passed away on June 28th.

I also wanted to give special mention and thanks to Carol Graham for organizing and managing our organization's participation in the San Diego County Fair. GREAT JOB Carol!!! Also Thank You to Erik Collins for coordinating our society day at the fair and to David Sohn and Jim Neitzel for loaning their plants to our exhibit at the fair. Lastly thank you to all the volunteers who staffed the CRFG booth or provided support for our organization during the fair.

This month we will again be enjoying our annual 'Mango Fandango' event. This is a meeting you won't want to miss if you enjoy eating fresh mangos and vanilla ice cream! Jim Neitzel is organizing a panel of members who will share their experiences and insights on mango growing in San Diego. There will be plenty of mangos and ice cream for all to enjoy and we could really use a few volunteers who would be willing to help cut fruit or serve ice cream. This event is a fundraising event for our Chapter so please donate a few \$\$ to this event if you enjoy the refreshments.

In addition to the great picnic events we have seen this month, there is a picnic, workshop day, and work party event being planned for Saturday August 20, 2011 at Southwestern College. This event will occur the week before The SouthBay GreenScene at Southwestern College (August 27, 2011) and we would like to use part of this day to prepare our fruit trees and fruit tree plantings for viewing. We are also planning to have a plant sale for our Chapter at this Greenscene event and would appreciate any donation of fruiting plants that members would be willing to contribute to the sale. We are also planning some workshops that will be held on this day that would be valuable to anyone interested in plant propagation. Mark these two Saturdays on your calendar and plan on attending this picnic and Greenscene at Southwestern College.

Stay cool during the upcoming dog days of summer. We hope to see you at the July General Meeting.

Sincerely, Tom Del Hotal

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday August 2nd 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 Hah to Mar..., 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.

Vice Chair Notes by Jim Neitzel

Agronomist Mary Matava, our June 22 speaker, commented that healthy soils are so important, as they support healthy plants. Good soils should be friable, with good tilth, organic matter, nutrients and moisture and granular enough to assure porosity for sufficient drainage and leaching of the alkaline salts that build up from irrigation with the water that is typically available. [Note, however, the beautiful green avocado leaves that replace old tip-burned leaves each spring after the winter rains have leached away salts and lowered the pH] Proper soil structure and pH solve most soil difficulties, she stated, by enhancing nutrient uptake and lowering pathogen problems. Mulching and adding soil sulfur, micronutrients, or gypsum may be advisable. Learn to read the color of your plants' leaves. Gathering several soil samples for a soil test can be most helpful. Take soil cores from about 20 spots of your planting area, mix, then get a lab analysis of a representative portion.

Mary Matava is the owner of Agri Service, Inc. and has been operating El Corazon, the Oceanside green-waste recycling facility, since 1995. Her website is www.agrerviceinc.com

The June 25th citrus-budding workshop drew over 30 individuals to Jon Verdick's banana, fig, etc. jungle tour and budding classes. Many members first practiced T-budding on some branches that Jon trimmed off the tops of some of his trees. I then demonstrated budding on a few members' little rootstocks, and soon Fang, Ben and David were helping coach various members in their efforts also. Now everyone needs to remember to remove the plastic tape after 3 weeks. If the shield bud is still green, it has "taken" and the top should be bent and tied down to help shift the apical dominance to the implanted bud so it can pop into growth. If the T-bud is brown, repot the seedling in a larger container and try again later. If the bark slips (lifts easily) get a fresh budstick from a desired tree and try inserting a couple buds.

It's been gratifying to see the many members ready to pitch in and help when needed. First David Yetz, who – with several timely volunteers – had to divide up and apportion the rootstocks and budwood in the backroom during Mary Matava's June 22 presentation. A big Thank You to Jon Verdick for graciously hosting one more workshop! Thanks, also to Cory Krell (North County Chair) and Lena for supplying a big box of doughnuts.

On Sunday, July 10, over 40 members of the San Diego and North County Chapters spent a lovely day picnicking and touring Pat Russell's and Linda's Moon Dance Ranch N.E. of Lake Wohlford. Everyone seemed very pleased and full. Pat and Linda were fantastic hosts and welcomed us back. In November we'll schedule a persimmon U-pick event. I thank Karen Lakomy for her E-mailing members and helping with shopping for supplies. Kathryn Blankinship helped coordinate things up north and Fang Liu took various pictures.

Our annual Mango Fandango and ice cream social (plus panel) takes place at our regular July 27 meeting. Hopefully we'll have a variety of fruits to sample, too.

Secretary's Report by Mark Bendixen

June minutes approved with some spelling corrections.

30 to 40 attended the budding workshop for the citrus.

Requesting all liners (seedling pots) and crates be returned to the July meeting so I can return them to the nursery.

Thank You, Mark Bendixen

Treasurer's Report by Erik Collins

As of June 30, 2011 we have \$8,035.95 in the operating account and \$38,721.37 in the endowment account. I'm forecasting net income of \$3,870.57 for 2011, versus the 2011 Original Budget that shows zero net income.

**Committee Reports****Community Outreach & Education Committee** by Erik Collins

The San Diego Chapter hosted a "Society Day" at the Del Mar Fair on June 29th. Dave Archer and Dave Yetz were speakers at the Flower and Garden Show Stage. Thanks to both for speaking! The audience received a lot of great information.

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 this weekend, so we are looking for two volunteers.

Membership & Hospitality Committee by Karen Lakomy**Welcome New Member** Shahnaz Yazdani (San Diego 92122)**Opportunity Table Committee** by Gustavo Reynoso

Thank you to everyone who donated plants/trees to the opportunity table. It was a huge success. Just a few things I would like to mention. If you do bring a plant/tree please do not forget to put on a piece of paper or tag the name of the plant/tree and the variety, if known. A question I often get from new members and guests is that they want information on the plant/tree that is in front of them, so if possible a quick description would be appreciated. If you know in advance what you will be donating to the opportunity table, and do not have time or the means to print out information on the plant/tree, please send me an email with the plant/tree you are bringing and I will attempt to print out information along with a picture of the fruit. I think this will generate additional interest in the opportunity table. If you have spare gardening tools that you no longer use, feel free to bring them to the opportunity table as well.

Also, please continue to bring in your fruit trees and gardening tools. We had a great variety of plants/trees and garden tools at the last meeting. We generated a total of \$126.00 in opportunity table tickets. Please do not forget to sign in at the opportunity table if you brought in something to donate, so you can get credit for it. Thank You

Propagation Committee by Jim Neitzel

On Sat, May 21st, Toan and John Humphrey again helped replot the remaining gallon plants while Gustavo Reynoso and I cleaned up and stepped up and moved all remaining larger plants. Ben, Gustavo and I plan to alternate watering duties until David Yetz and Ben can install the drip system. On the 25th I grafted about a dozen of the Cherimoyas to 'Honey-Hart' and watered various things.

On our next work party we'll need to mulch and fertilize the bananas and blueberries and replot the remaining plants.

**Free Workshops by ATAC for Urban Forestry**

August 10, 2011 – 5:30 to 7:30 pm **New Tools To Measure the Value of San Diego's Urban Forest**

For landscape architects – this workshop introduces urban forestry sustainability and compelling tools for improving stewardship.

Integrating complexities of art and science in their respective careers: our expert panel mingles landscape architecture with arboriculture, horticulture, landscape contracting, metrics and ecology.

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

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**

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Webmaster@CRFGSanDiego.org

The following committees need volunteers to lead them:

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

T-budding steps

Photos by Fang Liu and Cory Krell



Cut a 'T' and lift the shoulders of the bark



Cut a bud off the bud stick



Push the bud between the bark and the wood using the back of the knife.



Push until the top of the T is flush with the top of the bud.



Wrap with grafting tape.



Bend the tip down to encourage bud growth after it takes.



Enjoy a jelly-filled doughnut while waiting patiently for the next 3 weeks.



San Diego Botanic Garden Potluck Picnic 7/16



Interesting passionfruit



Moondance Ranch Potluck Picnic 7/10



Pat discusses nectarine cultivars with members



Hummingbird nest on a fruit tree

In The Spotlight

By Frank Rauscher

It's funny how many of the individuals that volunteer their valuable time, energy and talents to a worthy cause have so much going on in their lives, and so many talents. Take José Gallego for instance; José first joined the California Rare Fruit Growers Chapter in 1994. He then managed to find the time to perform the duties of the Vice Chairman for the organization as early as 1995. Obviously he's not afraid to roll up his sleeves, and the CRFG San Diego is so very fortunate to have had so much excellent assistance from him.

Professionally, José has over 30 years of professional experience in Science (Chemistry, Physics, Production Engineering, Lasers and Agriculture) and is Associate Chemist (Supervising Chemist), at the Industrial Waste Laboratory for the City of San Diego, and has been for the past 20 years. Though now retired he continues to work and add his experience, talent and energies to our City. Additionally, Mr. Gallego has authored three computer books, two patents and published several articles in scientific and research journals. Check out his own website: www.LosGallego.com, which includes the Los Gallego Weather Station at Warmwell Drive; www.Weather.LosGallego.com used for its excellent information by local TV stations. You'll enjoy it!



José also has a super family. Of which he is very proud. His wife Leticia creates a wonderful home for the family and is currently studying to become a Medical Office Assistant. Like José, it seems energy and commitment run throughout the family. His daughters Kimberly, Stephanie and Sabrina live at home and Sabrina just recently graduated into high school. José's family enjoys spending Saturday or Sunday evenings together watching movies on their twelve foot screen Home Theater, but it doesn't stop there. True to being a Fruit Grower, each member of the family has their own fruit tree (or more). Sabrina has her Pomegranate collection, Stephanie has Jujubes and Mulberries while Kimberly has chosen the Citrus and her favorite is the Gold Nugget Mandarin. Nice family traditions - huh?

The CRFG State Festival of Fruit has benefitted from the work José did back in 2007. Scientist that he is, José took notes and carefully documented what things went right in the 1998 festival that he organized and laid out a guideline for future festivals. Now, the other CRFG Chapters don't have to reinvent a festival from the ground up, but can spend their energies on what's different and use the standard structure provided by his work to help make it successful. Of course, José points out, there are many individual efforts provided for each festival, and without all the people who volunteer and the creative help they provide there could not be a Festival of Fruit.

José Gallego was the San Diego Chapter Chairman from 1997 to 2001 and again from 2007 to 2008. He has been the webmaster for the CRFG's San Diego website <http://www.crfgsandiego.org> since 1996, when the site was constructed. Building and maintaining a website is no small feat or effort. It takes time and patient work to make the many facets of each page work properly. Currently José is doing the organizational work for another large donation of Valencia orange trees from the local CRFG Chapter that will go to local schools and community gardens. Wow!

José's favorite fruits are the Durian (*Durio* spp.) and Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*). Not everyone appreciates the unusual Durian, but of course our friend José does! There is plenty of science in gardening and that's likely why José loves it so much. In the "What Else Can I do?" category, José designs and builds lasers, and has been doing this since 1973. That's right "Lasers", and he's even able to produce holograms with them. He is currently doing research on fluorescence of iodine gas induced by high power lasers (built, of course, by him!). We will let you know when he creates a wormhole (who knows?).

The bottom line is that José Gallego gives his all to work and still finds plenty to give his help and energy to others. The CRFG is grateful for these efforts and accomplishments as we also are of the many volunteers that we intend to celebrate in the future.

Be a Volunteer and Make a Difference!

Thank You José Gallego – You are truly someone special.

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

7/27 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter Meeting: Mango Fandango: Panel on Mango Varieties, Grafting and Culture Mangoes and Ice Cream Social
8/2 – 6:30pm	Board Meeting
8/13 – 8:30am	Work Party at SD Botanic Garden
8/20 – 9am Picnic at noon	Picnic, workshops, and work party at Southwestern College
8/27 – 9am	South Bay Green Scene
9/16 – 7pm	North SD County Chapter Meeting: Drought Tolerant Fruit with Roger Meyer Jujube tasting

California Rare Fruit Growers

San Diego Chapter

P.O. Box 152943

San Diego, CA 92195

USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED