



CRFG San Diego Chapter Newsletter

September 2011

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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

September 28th, 2011 General Meeting: Fruit preservation techniques

Wednesday – 7 pm

Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

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Happy Autumn Equinox and 1st day of Autumn to Everyone,

The Equinox on Sept. 23rd marks the beginning of autumn and brings with it a change in our weather and in our gardening activities. Fall is the best time of the year for planting many plants in our gardens and root development is often most rapid during the autumn months. This is also the best time to fertilize one last time before winter sets in and fertilizing now with a fertilizer that contains phosphorous can significantly improve spring flowering and fruit set on many fruit trees.

This month our Chapter meeting will feature ways of preserving our fruit crops through the winter months when fresh fruit is often in short supply. Jim Neitzel is organizing speakers who will share their tips and techniques on fruit preservation. Fang Liu will also be showing some highlights of the 2011 Pitaya Festival. Please join us for this great meeting on Wed. Sept. 28, 2011.

The Chapter picnic last month and Green Scene event were fun and successful events for the Chapter and for the members who participated. **THANK YOU** to All of you who helped in these events! Congratulations to the winners of the 5 gift certificates to D.Z. Akins and of the 3 - 15 gallon Valencia orange trees. The Chapter plant sale at the Green Scene was well received. Thank you to those who donated plants and helped at our Community Outreach booth during this event.

Member participation in the Chapter picnic was less than hoped for and I would like to ask for feedback from our members to let us know if this event is worth organizing in the future. It takes a lot of time and effort to develop these events and time might be better spent on other projects that would be of greater interest to more of our members. Please let us know your opinion and how we might increase participation in Chapter events.

Chapter elections will be coming up soon and we will need a nominating committee to help find candidates for this year's elections. Jim Neitzel is in charge of initiating this committee, so if you would be willing to help in this important task, please contact Jim at (619) 262-8959. We will also need candidates to run for office for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Please consider running and let the Nominating Committee know your interest for the October ballot. In addition to the Board officers, our Chapter will need members to Chair or volunteer on Committees. Erik Collins who has done a FANTASTIC job as chair of the Community Outreach Committee for the past 1 1/2 years will be stepping down at the end of the year. Several Committees have very few members and we desperately need greater participation from the membership to keep these committees healthy and to keep from "burning out" the few members who work so hard for our Chapter. Please volunteer and help our Chapter continue to make the great progress we have seen during the past few years.

Thank you to Dave Yetz and to Ben Kotnick for installing an irrigation system for our Chapter's trees at Southwestern College. The available space for our containerized trees at Southwestern College is filled to capacity and we are hoping that some of our members would be willing to bring some of these trees and plants to their homes to care for them. It would be extremely helpful if members could "babysit" some of these trees until the Chapter needs them at future plant sales or workshops. If you could help, please contact David Yetz at (619) 981-3397.

As the year's end is approaching, we are trying to plan for the remaining events for this year and for the beginning of the year events for 2012. We are planning to organize a group bare root fruit tree purchase with Dave Wilson Nursery

again and are hoping to organize tastings of white sapote, pomegranates and/or figs before the end of the year. The Paul Thomson Endowment Committee is working on another fruit tree purchase and giveaway as well as on other ideas and proposals and has only one meeting left for 2011. This meeting will be the third Wed. in October at 6:30 pm. We would really appreciate help from anyone who can come to the meeting, mark your calendars. Last year we had a Wonderful Holiday party and I could really use help from anyone willing to give me a hand this year to make our 2011 party equally enjoyable. Please contact me at (619) 454-2628 if you would be willing to help on this year's Holiday party. To plan for the meeting topics for the start of 2012, we could REALLY use your input and would like to know what YOU would like. Please give us your ideas and help us help plan for the beginning of 2012. Please place any ideas, suggestions and comments in the "Suggestion Tree" at the monthly meetings or mail them to the Chapter's P.O. Box.

We have seen some really great events and accomplishments during the past year and I am sure that with the help of all of you, there will be many more to come! I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming meetings, see you soon!

Sincerely, Tom Del Hotal

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday October 4th 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 Sev to Yet..., please bring goodies for members to share. Elizabeth Pollard has volunteered to organize and coordinate the refreshment area so please come early or remain after the meeting to help her set up and put away the supplies for the refreshment table. If you bring fruit, please have it washed and cut and ready to place on the table for members to enjoy. Please label your goodies with your name and the name of what you bring so that everyone knows what they are enjoying.

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. Cleanup is quick and easy when many work together.



Vice Chair Notes by Jim Neitzel

The August 20 potluck/picnic had lots of activities before and after we indulged ourselves. From 9:00 – 12:00 a load of 15 gal Valencia orange trees that Ben Kotnik transported from José's house were unloaded, pitahayas cuttings were potted. Another crew (Carde Kumlin, and Shahnaz and Eddie Yazdani) weeded the plantings of pitahayas, blueberries and pomegranates so Bob Holzinger could cover those beds with mulch. Bob earlier fertilized the banana patch and mulched it. All look great!

A big THANK YOU to the aforementioned members and to Ben Kotnik, David Long, David Yetz, David Sohn, Fang Liu, Rich and Frida Oswald, Mark Balazs, Roger and Elizabeth Pollard, Tom D. and Karen Lakomy. Matt Jurlina had help manning the barbie this year. He and David Sohn prepared all the hotdogs, burgers and veggie burgers we guests could hold! A special thanks to them and Elizabeth for their generous service.

After eating, Ben Kotnik and I gave some propagation workshops and Tom Del Hotal ended the day with top-working instruction. Tom had to work that Saturday so I fear he had to instruct on an empty stomach.

The rest of us had our fill of barbecued items and pot-luck goodies. The board had planned for possibly 50 attendees, so Fang Liu and I had purchased hotdogs, burgers and buns for that number. Unfortunately only around 25 members made it to this fine event. Tom, the board and others had really striven to design demos, instruction, and directions to complement this fine picnic. "Whasup?" ¿Qué pasa?

Maybe at our September 27 meeting we can get some feedback from the membership.

The August 24 chapter meeting on drought-tolerant fruiting trees and plants was very informative. David Yetz, our accomplished presenter, wisely began his program with instruction on installing basic low-pressure irrigation systems. Such effective irrigation plus grey water use and rain harvesting are going to be increasingly necessary for us plant growers.

David's presentation next shifted to a visual enumeration and discussion of a dozen or more choices requiring minimal water. As I recall, he cited figs, pomegranates, opuntia (prickly pear), pitahayas, kei apple, jujube, olives, cereus peruvianus, goji berries, silver-berry, carob, myrtillocactus, jojoba, and Arbutus unedo. David's pictures and descriptions of many of the new pomegranate varieties from the Wolfskill collection Davis was very helpful. Hopefully we'll have some pome devotees (David Silverstein, David Yetz, Jon Verdick) go up for the annual tasting and manage some boxes of their favorite varieties so we can supply another pomegranate taste-off for part of our October meeting program.

The Green Scene at Southwestern College seemed to draw fewer people this year. Nevertheless our CRFG booth did quite well, according to Gustavo Reynoso. When I arrived at 9:30 he and David Yetz were working with the public like beavers. Erik had apparently arrived early to set up the booth. David Yetz had brought in some of the peach, nectarine and apple trees that the classes we taught had grafted. David also brought lots of gallon mulberry trees and figs he'd grown from cuttings. Nevin Kleege brought down several special avocado varieties and other unusual exotics. Nevin has a long history such generous support! An especially big thanks to him and to Gustavo and David who spent their whole day of the job!

The Saturday, September 3 Field Trip featuring Leo Manuel's mango planting was apparently a ball for all. Leo had generously agreed to have visitors from both North County and S.D. Chapters tour his plantings if I would guide the groups. Leo's Rancho Peñasquitos yard includes the largest, most impressive collection of mango specimens, seedlings and grafted varieties in California as far as I know. He also has a similarly wide collection of pitahayas. We viewed various other fruit trees and some grafted trees were available for purchase. A nice group arrived for the morning tour. After a mid-day break, several members arrived for the afternoon tour also. We can be very appreciative of Leo's generous hospitality.

The program for September 27 will address the preservation strategies whereby we can enjoy more of our production – more and longer. Lots of fruit goes to waste. David Sohn, Roxanne Kelley and Dennis Exline are putting together a very helpful program and are planning to have samples to share, recipes, equipment recommendations, etc. Anyone wishing to participate on their panel or provide any contributions thereon, please contact them. Hopefully, time will also permit a DVD showing shoots of recent Pitahaya Festival prepared by Fang Liu and a friend.

The plans for our October 26 meeting may need to be expanded to fruits beyond the pomegranate varieties taste testing. The Wolfskill germplasm orchard reportedly has a much reduced crop due to this summer's low temperatures etc. Anyone aware of other sources of different varieties please let me know. Fortunately, there are several subtropicals that mature in the autumn. We could title the program: **Pomegranates and other fruits of October's bounty**. Members could collect feijoas, strawberry guavas, sapotes, jujubes, passion fruits, tunas, pitahayas, etc., and serve on a panel discussion and answer any questions.

Election Committee

A few more volunteers are needed to help craft a slate of candidates for the November elections. Tom and I are completing our two year stints. Erik and Mark will not be running for office next year. The committee will seek interested reliable candidates, prepare a ballot and run the November elections. Let me know if you're willing to help out.



Secretary's Report by Mark Bendixen

Requesting pots (liners) from citrus seedling and crates (2), pots: 72 outstanding.
PLEASE RETURN TO THE NEXT MEETING. Thank you to all that have already returned them.



Treasurer's Report by Erik Collins

As of August 31, 2011 we have \$9,109.26 in the operating account, and \$38,671.34 in the endowment account. I'm forecasting net income of \$3,000 for 2011, versus the 2011 Original Budget that shows zero net income.

The Green Scene plant sale grossed \$450. This fell short of our \$600 budget, but this has been a great year for plant sales. On a YTD basis, plant sales (net of cost of goods sold) were budgeted at \$1,517. The actual plant sales have been \$4,196, minus a couple of small invoices that I have not yet received.

Community Outreach & Education Committee by Erik Collins

Thanks to all the volunteers at the Southwestern College Green Scene on Saturday, August 27: Gustavo Reynoso, Jim Neitzel, David Sohn, and David Yetz.

Now that we are into September, my second and final year with the Community Outreach & Education Committee is winding down and we need to find a new Chair. This committee is a great way to meet new people and learn about rare fruits. I was brand-new to the club when I joined this committee, and no experience is necessary.

This committee is responsible for finding volunteers to staff the Community Outreach Booth at various gardening events in the San Diego area. The San Diego Chapter coordinates with the North County Chapter for events at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. This committee has also evolved into the de facto lead for the Chapter's occasional plant sales; there are some marketing and logistical tasks required for successful sales.

Committee Chairs are appointed by the Board, so please contact Erik Collins – or any Board member – if you are interested in this position. I can be reached at sonicpig@hotmail.com or 619.303.5353.

Membership & Hospitality Committee by Karen Lakomy

Voting - Interested in voting in the upcoming chapter elections in November? You cannot vote unless you are a current member of both the state CRFG and the local chapter. Did you recently receive the September issue of *Fruit Gardener* magazine? If not, you probably are not a current state member. It is not too late! You can join or renew your state CRFG membership on line using PayPal, or pick up an application and envelope at the membership table. Memberships start at \$25.00/year. Check it out at www.crfg.org.

Welcome New Members – Welcome to new members Wu Ying and Jack Zhao (San Diego 92129).

Many Thanks – To Andrea Fincham for her usual help at the membership table. If you are still looking for a way to contribute to the chapter, just ask me! We have many opportunities.

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 \$94.00 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.

Also, if you have multiple trees that you would like to donate to the opportunity table or future plant sales please call me or email me and we can coordinate a time for me to pick up the trees.

Paul Thomson Endowment Committee by David Long

It is time to start thinking and planning for next year already. What are we going to do and how are we going to accomplish them?

First we are going to be continuing with the bare root fruit tree give-away program. It was very successful last year and we are starting to plan for this year. We have already contacted the nursery who donated trees last year and they are happy to continue the same arrangement.

What we need to do now is re-establish the fund for 2012 by a vote from the membership. This money must be approved by the board and membership every year. Last year we were able to accomplish a lot for about 1500 dollars (230 bare root trees, 80 Valencia orange trees and more) and it is time to rejuvenate the funding. The total amount for this program in 2012 will be 3000 dollars. (Money voted on this month will not be added to the money left over from last year to increase the original amount.) I am including the proposal for your review.

Other items we are working on right now is preparing for working the Cuyamaca propagation class next January, finishing the negotiations for an intern at a College, working with the Master Gardeners to inspire kids with raising plants, plaques, display panels, and more. We will bring these up as they get closer to completion.

The last item is that the Valencia Orange tree giveaway was a major success with the schools and groups that participated. The 80 trees are being planted now and will provide beautiful landscaping for the schools and fruit for the students to eat. José Gallegos worked hard to distribute the trees and make sure all the people who ordered were able to get what they requested.

Thank you José from all of us.

David Long

The Annual Balboa Plant Sale

It is time to start thinking about is next spring's annual plant sale. We were very successful last year with our first sale and the limited plants we had available. This year we can be much better if you start thinking about what you can grow and donate for this event. The money we raise is how our chapter is able to organize events, speakers for our club, and be able to subsidize trips or transportation to events like UC Riverside Citrus collection and others. Your plant donations and volunteering at the sale will allow our chapter to grow and prosper. A little bit of planning now can do great things.

David Long

Free Garden Lecture Series – Sunshine Care Assisted Living Homes

Saturday, October 1st at 10:30 a.m.

Healthy Recipes Incorporating Fresh Produce (Includes Demo. Using Organic Produce from our Fields)

Janice Shigehara, RD, CDE, Dietitian and Professor

Janice Shigehara has been a dietitian with Scripps since 1988. Janice is also Program Director and on faculty with the Department of Dietetics at San Diego Mesa College and she teaches cooking classes at the Whittier Institute for Diabetes in La Jolla. During this lecture she will do a cooking demonstration teaching us all some fabulous quick and easy, healthful recipes to try at home while giving us some practical tips on adding fresh produce to our meals. She can also answer questions relating to dining out, shopping and label reading.

Saturday, October 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Fall and Winter Crops

Roy Wilburn Director of Horticulture, Sunshine Care Homes

Come learn the ins and outs of preparing to plant for the winter time in San Diego. We'll talk about winding down summer crops (tomatoes, bell peppers, zucchinis and cucumbers) and starting and tending fall/winter crops (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and lettuce). This will be part lecture, part walking tour and field demonstration.

12695 Monte Vista Road. Powav. CA 92064 **RSVP/More Details:** 858/752-8197

Free Workshops in Urban Forestry

Sept 22, 2011 - 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Planting Fall Trees for Spring Vigor

Join local **ISA Certified Arborist, Leah Rottke**, on Thursday evening, Oct. 13, 2011 for an in-depth presentation about how to plant trees. Detailed information about properly situating a tree to allow mature size, choosing the best tree species for the site, how to select quality nursery stock, and how to properly plant a new tree will be presented. Proper maintenance of newly planted trees, including watering, pruning, staking and fertilization will also be covered.

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

Information on the 2012 Master Gardener Training Course

Do you have...

1. A history of volunteer participation?
2. Daytime availability for training and volunteer activities?
3. A demonstrated interest in gardening?

An orientation meeting will be held the morning of Thursday, October 6, in the War Memorial Building auditorium in Balboa Park. Space is limited and an RSVP is requested.

<http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/2012class>

Proposal #3 - Acquiring Plants and Trees for Schools and Community Gardens

The Paul Thomson Endowment Committee requests an annual allocation of up to \$3000 dollars from the Paul Thomson Endowment Fund for the purpose of purchasing bare root and planted fruiting stock from nurseries and growers to assist with local school programs, local community gardens, and nonprofit organizations.

Purpose

Many schools and community gardens have contacted the Endowment Committee requesting fruiting plant material to enhance the school grounds, add to gardens, and provide teaching and fruit for their communities. The Endowment Committee will acquire or purchase plant material and fruiting stock from nurseries and supply houses. The main purpose is for these plants to be given to qualified local schools, non-profits and community gardens to enhance the availability of fruit to a large group of people.

The plants and trees will be used for the benefit of schools, communities and non-profit organizations only. These plants and trees will not be available for individual benefit or for plant sales.

Benefits:

- Provide fruiting plants and trees to qualified local schools, communities and non-profit organizations for beautifying the properties and providing sustainable food.
- Education within the school system to a large number of students from hands on experience of planting and caring of the trees.
- Provide a positive impact with sustainable gardening that can lead to personal desire to learn more and grow fruit.
- Provides a food source to people within community gardens and at the schools who may not easily afford or acquire fresh fruits.
- Promotion of CRFG San Diego within the community and to a new group of people of all ages.

Impact:

- Engages a large number of students and adults in educational opportunities related to growing fruiting plants in SD County.
- Helps to promote sustainable gardens and the growing of fresh food by allowing children and adults be involved with the care and harvesting of fruit trees and plants.
- Helps to promote community gardens and cooperation within groups of people involved with the growing of food.
- Promotes interest in learning more about the growing of fruiting plants to youths and adults.
- Long term help with hunger and nutrition within communities by providing a source of food.
- Brings increased interest to the San Diego CRFG chapter by increasing public exposure.

This proposition will be reviewed by the executive board and voted on by the chapter membership annually for renewal. The executive board shall review and approve any purchases prior to completion of sale.



Southwestern College picnic



feijoa



pomegranates



Bob Holzinger's White passiflora



pitahaya



Elizabeth Pollard

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

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 9/28 – 7pm | San Diego Chapter Meeting: Fruit preservation techniques |
| 10/2 – 8:30am to 4pm | Master Gardener fall seminar, <i>The Informed Home Gardener</i> at Marina Village |
| 10/4 – 6:30pm | Board Meeting at WC Garden |
| 10/8 – 10am to 2pm | "Sustain La Mesa" Environmental Festival at Harry Griffen Park |
| 10/8 – 8:30am | Work Party at SD Botanic Garden |
| 10/19 – 6:30pm | Endowment Meeting at Casa del Prado 104 |
| 10/21 – 7pm | North SD County Chapter Meeting: Organic growing techniques with Dan Kinnard |
| 10/26 – 7pm | San Diego Chapter Meeting: Year of the Pomegranate – Varieties and Tastings |

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED