



CRFG San Diego Chapter Newsletter

December 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

December 16th, 2011 General Meeting: Holiday Potluck Dinner

Friday – 6:30 pm

Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

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Season's Greetings to all of our CRFG members and **BEST WISHES** to you and your families.

This month's meeting will be our Holiday Potluck Celebration. This is a highlight for our Chapter and is an event we look forward to each December. This year our celebration and potluck event will be on Friday night December 16, 2011. The event begins at 6:30 P.M. We would love to have you come join in our festivities, good food and good company and hope you can make this wonderful celebration of the season. The Chapter will be providing roast turkey and baked ham for the celebration. **We still need two cooks** to help cook one turkey and one ham for the party. Please contact me at 619 454-2628 if you would be willing to help cook. (**Thank You** to Dave Sohn, Andrea Fincham, Roger Pollard, Erik Collins and Jan Tish who have already offered to cook for this event.) Members who attend are asked to bring a dish of your choice of side dishes, desserts or beverages for all to share. Please bring a note card with your dish describing what you brought, and if you would like to share your recipe with the Chapter, that would be Great! We could post the recipes to the Chapter website on our forums, or perhaps make a Chapter recipe book at some time in the future.

Traditionally some of our members have participated in a gift exchange during this celebration and we would like to encourage anyone who would like to participate. This is entirely optional and anyone who brings a gift will also take home a gift of their choosing as they are selected at random during the gift exchange. If you choose to participate, the item you bring is entirely up to you. It could be an item that you bought, made, or grew. It could be an item you might use in the house or garden, a bowl of fruit, something that you cooked such as jam, jellies, cookies, or ??? The gift you bring is your choice; the spirit is in the action of giving, not in the item or the dollars it cost.

We had a **few** members sign up last meeting to help with the Holiday Party. (**Thank you** to June Anderson, Zhenxing Fu, Brett Cool, Elizabeth and Roger Pollard, Chuck Schroeder, Sue Lynn Steiner, Toan Humphrey and Frank Vaplon.) We could use some extra help with both the set-up and tear-down for this meeting. If anyone would be willing to come early (the event starts at 6:30) or could stay to help clean-up (we have to be out of the room no later than **10:00 sharp**), we would greatly appreciate your help! Please make this meeting enjoyable for everyone by pitching in and lending a helping hand. **We will be having a short planning meeting on Saturday Dec. 10 at Elizabeth and Roger Pollard's house for decorators and set-up volunteers. Anyone who is willing to help with the party is invited to come. The meeting will be at 5:30 P.M. at 455 Broadview, Spring Valley 91911. Their phone # is 619 470-6688. Light refreshments will be served by Elizabeth and Roger so please RSVP.**

The San Diego CRFG Chapter T-shirts **are ready** to distribute and will be available to pick up at the December Holiday Party. We have ordered a FEW extra shirts in various colors and sizes and we will have these available at the meetings for sale to anyone who did not get to order a shirt until they run out. SD Chapter member price will still be \$6.00 each and price to non-members will be \$11.00.

For those members who were unable to attend last month's meeting, we have a new secretary - Fang Liu, and a new vice chair - Ben Kotnik - who will be coming on board as new Board officers for the 2012 year. Our treasurer, Erik Collins, will be remaining as our Chapter treasurer again this year. Congratulations and **Thank You** for volunteering to take on these important positions. A **very big Thank You** to Mark Bendixen who held the secretary position during the 2011 term, to Jim Neitzel who served as our vice chair for the past TWO years and David Yetz who has served on our Board as our ex-officio also for the past TWO years! We **ALL** appreciate the hard work, time and effort they put into these positions. We had no one run as Chapter Chair and I am very concerned as how this will affect our Chapter. After working very hard for the past two years to bring about a lot of good things for our Chapter and having a lot of very

difficult issues in my personal life, I am saddened to see that no other members have been willing to step up to volunteer for this position. I will continue to fill in as long as I can, however my personal life needs MUCH attention and I NEED help from our membership. I hope you will all participate more in Chapter projects and/or events and that someone will be willing to take on the leadership position as Chapter Chair.

I would like to also give a HUGE THANK YOU to ALL the Committee Chairs who have done so much for our Chapter! Erik Collins - Community Outreach, Gustavo Reynoso - Opportunity Table, David Long - Paul Thomson Endowment Committee, Karen Lakomy - Membership, Jim Neitzel and Ben Kotnik - Propagation, David Yetz - Botanical Garden Development and Librarian, Jose Gallego - Publicity and Webmaster, Elizabeth Pollard - Refreshments, David Sohn - Greeter and Fang Liu - Newsletter Editor. You have ALL gone above and beyond for our Chapter and we could not have come to where we are without your help. THANK YOU to all the volunteers who have helped our Chapter on events, projects and meetings...I SINCERELY APPRECIATE all of you giving your time and energy to our Chapter!

Pruning and dormant spraying season is soon to arrive. Do not prune too early as this may stimulate new growth. Begin about mid-December and try to complete your pruning on deciduous fruit trees by the end of February. I have several presentations and articles on our Chapter website on pruning deciduous fruit trees. Visit our website to view these for helpful information. Dormant spray stone fruit 2-3 times about 2 weeks apart using a fungicide (lime-sulfur, daconil, or copper based fungicide) to help control peach leaf curl, shot hole fungus and brown rot. Combine with an oil (volk oil) to help reduce overwintering insect populations. Apples and pears also benefit from dormant sprays. Remember to save your cuttings and scions for the January scion exchange and for the Propagation Committee. (See attached article on how to save your scions if you are unsure how to save them until the Jan. meeting.) We are not allowed to propagate patented fruit tree varieties, so please **do not** bring any patented varieties to Jan. meeting.

Lastly, anyone who ordered bare root fruit trees from David Yetz by participating in the Dave Wilson SOFT program, we will need to receive payment ASAP. Prices for your trees will remain the same as they were last year. The prices are posted in the September 2010 San Diego Chapter CRFG newsletter which is available on our Chapter's website at www.crfgsandiego.org. **Please calculate your amount due from this price list and if necessary**, contact David if you are unsure of the total amount due for the trees you ordered. Send payment made out to CRFG San Diego Chapter directly to Dave. Dave's address and phone number are: 2994 Wind Creek Rd., Alpine, CA. 91901. (619) 659-8788.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the December Holiday meeting. Happy Holidays to ALL!

Sincerely, Tom Del Hotal

Fruit Tree Pruning Short Course

I will again be teaching a 7 week course at Southwestern College on fruit tree pruning in 2012 (Jan. 12 - Feb. 25 Thurs. night 6:15-8 P.M. and Sat. afternoon 3:30-5:15). You can enroll at the Southwestern College website at www.swccd.edu or by calling SW College at (619) 421-6700.

Next Board Meeting NOTE CHANGE IN DATE AND LOCATION!

Wednesday January 4th 6:30 P.M. Location: Ben and Sally Kotnik's home, (Thank you Ben). 7177 Lynridge Ct. San Diego, 92120. (619) 997-7440.

Incoming Vice Chair's Notes by Ben Kotnik

Our growing space at Southwestern College is over capacity. Please contact Ben Kotnik, Jim Neitzel, or Dave Yetz if you are willing and able to "tree-sit" a few plants. We plan to use many of these for grafting events and plant sales in 2012 and if you want to help the club and help yourself to a new variety of fruit tree we have a win-win proposition for you!

Thank you to those members who have shared their feedback regarding our lineup of 2012 General Meeting topics and presenters. If you have an idea for a general meeting you'd like to share please send it to Ben Kotnik.

Members: We are looking to have some garden tours during 2012. If you would be willing to host members for a garden tour please let Ben Kotnik know your preferred time of year and any pertinent information about your garden. FYI, As a club event, CRFG Inc. provides some general liability coverage.

Vice Chair's Notes by Jim Neitzel

Being blessed with around 3 inches of rain in November was a glorious surprise! I finally got caught up on my watering! The new "crop" of pocket gophers revealed themselves (after estivating all summer) and have been eliminated via Macabee traps. My water-stressed loquats revived and have been blooming profusely – promising an abundant crop this spring when there's not much else fruiting. If you got your winter garden in, it should be doing great. I've been enjoying the 'Satsuma' mandarins – seedless deliciousness from November to February!

Pruning, collecting scion wood and cuttings for the January scion exchange can be done as soon as things drop their leaves. Most grapes go dormant in December and some start to break dormancy in January! Some low-chill fruit trees also have a short dormant period in which to be pruned and sprayed. I like grape cuttings to have 4-5 nodes so a couple can be planted below the soil. Figs, mulberries and pomegranates also propagate well by cuttings. Store all in plastic bags with some moist toweling. Place in the crisper of your fridge to store. Cuttings can be potted as soon as you wish, but grafting can wait until the first signs of bud break in the rootstock.

Our February meeting usually treats grafting techniques and some weekend workshops afford hands-on practice. Some apple and prunus rootstocks will probably be available for purchase or practice (whereby trees for future plant sales can result). In addition to the semi-dwarfing MMIII apple rootstock, I'd like a supply of M-7 apple. Erik Collins has some lovely, compact apple trees on M-7. Two or three trees could grow nicely in the space of one regular one. Multiple-grafted trees are often hard to keep balanced. Prunus 'Saint Julian X' rootstocks are similarly dwarfing for various stone fruits.

Note: Label all scions and cuttings carefully, as "unknowns" are worse than "nothings". Some masking tape on the distal end works well.

The cherimoya association will meet in March, says Jim Bathgate. On the mid-month weekend some members will help prune the trees at the South Coast Field Station. We'll again gather some cherimoya fruit and scions for our regular meeting in March.

Something Rare at a Bonus Meeting November 30

Joe Simcox, a plant explorer extraordinaire, had given a short photo presentation at the tail end of a North County meeting a few months ago. This amazing friend of member Ron Hurov and Steve Facciola (author of the "Cornucopia: A Source Book of Edible Plants") happened to be passing through San Diego, so Ron took him to the North County CRFG meeting. Joe's short presentation enthralled the lucky stragglers who hadn't left already.

Consequently, when Ron Hurov called me to inform me that Joe Simcox would be available for three days, beginning November 30, I was very excited, but in a quandary as to a venue. Fortunately, I managed to reserve the Majorca room for the 30th! Then I asked Karen Lakomy and Cory Krell to help get the word out.

I'm sorry that a lot of our members may have missed out on Joe's incredible sojourn around the botanical world, but with such short notice, we did quite well. Ron counted around 100 attendees. Editor Fang Liu taped the presentation [available at http://www.crfg.org/g2/main.php?g2_itemId=8800]. Since Joe's photos and commentary could be almost limitless, the audience was still hungry for more when we had to stop at 9:30.

Follow up:

Ron Hurov commented that Joe Simcox normally doesn't give presentations, but during a following phone conversation with Joe I mentioned that his was the most provocative program I'd ever enjoyed and that it would be fantastic if he'd be the keynote presenter at a future Festival of Fruit. If the logistics work out, he would like to oblige. There are so many edible possibilities mankind should avail themselves of.

Joe also offered to help us acquire seeds, etc., to put more "RARE" in our CRFG chapters. Steve Facciola, a local botanical guru and friend, will work with Ron and others. We could start by enriching our seed bank offerings. Maybe we could organize a Botanical Exploration Committee. Among our members are representatives of various ethnic groups with potentially a wealth of possible introductions. Let's inject something new.

Hopefully, Joe's presentation will lead for a lust to travel. I went on four or five excursions that Peggy Winter organized some decades ago. One of the most memorable excursions included Borneo and Indonesia. Joe covered some of the same fruits, places and personages that we became acquainted with back then. A tour with like-minded plant "nuts" and contacts is so special. Chris Rollins of the Florida Fruit and Spice Park has periodically organized similar tours. Various CRFG members have taken in the annual Mango (and subtropical fruit) Festival put on the 2nd weekend of July. Start with that!

Finally, I sincerely want to thank Frank Vaplon for providing various citrus, bags of chips, and a great container filled with some super guacamole for everyone's enjoyment! Davina Keddo, Karen Lakomy and others supplied other goodies for the short break. The Snows' limes were squeezed for my lime-ade. Frank Habetler brought in sapotes. Elizabeth brought cups and paper plates plus set everything up. Thanks for your considerate support. Don't forget December 16!

Treasurer Report by Erik Collins

I'll be publishing the 2011 Financial Report, and the Board approved 2012 Original Budget, in the January, 2012 newsletter.

The CRFG T-Shirts have arrived, and I'll be distributing them at the Xmas Party on Dec 16th. We ordered 18 extra T-Shirts, which will also be available on 12/16.

Committee Reports

Membership & Hospitality Committee by Karen Lakomy

Welcome to New Members Jade Hylton (La Mesa 91942) and Javier Benitez (Chula Vista 91914).

For questions regarding membership or notification of address, phone and email changes, contact Karen at 619-579-6366 or karencrfg@pacbell.net.



Steve Facciola, Jim Neitzel, Tom Del Hotal, Cory Krell, Joseph Simcox, Fang Liu, Ron Hurov, Irena,

Saving and Storing Scions by Tom Del Hotal

It is CRITICAL that all scions (cuttings) are completely dormant when they are collected and stored. In this context, dormancy means that the buds which will break open to produce next season's growth (flowers, leaves, and stems) are not growing and are completely encased in bud scales. If these buds have broken open and new growth is occurring, the scion cannot be used or saved! Where some buds are open, yet others are still dormant, the portion of the branch or scion with open buds can be cut off and the remaining dormant scion can still be stored and used. If leaves are still present from 2011 growth, these leaves can simply be stripped away prior to storing the collected scion. It is not the presence of last season's leaves that determine if the scion is dormant, but rather if the buds have broken dormancy and have begun growing. Because some very low chill fruit varieties begin growing very early in January, you may want to collect and store your scions before the first couple of weeks in January.

1. Cuttings should be about the size of a pencil (6"-8" long and 1/8" to 3/4" in diameter).
2. Make a slanted cut at the top of your scions; this will point "up" in the growth direction. Make a straight cut at the bottom of your scions.
3. Properly label each of your bundled cuttings.
4. Do not allow your cuttings to dry out, store them in damp paper towels (or damp newspaper) in plastic bags in the refrigerator.
5. Check your scions every few weeks. Remove and throw away any scions or cuttings that have begun to sprout as these will produce ethylene gas and will cause any still dormant scions to grow.

Don't bring patented scion wood

Please respect the work of fruit breeders by not bringing varieties that are currently under patent. Go to <http://patft.uspto.gov/> to find out whether your tree is under patent. Patents expire 17 years after granted or 20 years after application filing, whichever is later.

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 and Helen 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

12/11 – 11:30am	North SD County Chapter Holiday Party Potluck at Alta Vista Gardens
12/16 – 6:30pm	San Diego Chapter Holiday Potluck Dinner and Gift Exchange Installation of Officers
----- 2012 -----	
1/4 – 6:30pm	Board Meeting. Location: Ben's home
1/14 – 8:30am	Work Party at SD Botanic Garden
1/20 – 7pm	North SD County Chapter Meeting
1/25 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter Meeting: Annual Scion wood Exchange

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED