



# San Diego Chapter Newsletter

February 2015



## Wednesday, February 25th, 2015 Deciduous Grafting & Rooting by Cuttings

7:00 pm Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

Hello Fellow Fruit Growers,

Our Scion exchange held last month went very well and in a much organized fashion. I would like to acknowledge my Co-Chair Jennifer Fitzpatrick for bringing the table signs that contributed greatly to the overall organization of the event as well as the format of staggering the flow of participants. I would also like to give many thanks to those who participated and brought the various scion materials too.

This month we will have grafting demonstrations as well as presentations on different grafting techniques with apple rootstocks and scion wood. It can be difficult to find opportunities to learn grafting skills and CRFG is fortunate to have many experienced grafters amongst our ranks. I hope anyone interested in learning or in improving their grafting skills (this includes me) will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Several exciting events are coming up in the next few months and I hope that you are able to participate in some if not all of these fun activities. Please check the newsletter calendar for updates or the chapter website at [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org) for more information. Also, Marianne West continues to host Propagation Sundays every third Sunday of the month at her home in Lemon Grove. Later in the spring our chapter will be participating in the Earth Day event held at Balboa Park on April 17th-19th and the Garden Party of the Century held at Balboa Park on May 9th. These are wonderful events to volunteer and learn more about gardening, plants, trees and all the things that we share together in common interests.

Please remember to bring fruit from your garden to share with the tasting table or donation for the opportunity table drawing and you will receive one free ticket per item. Jennifer & I look forward to an exciting year and we will see you at the next meeting. Take care.

Gregg Hansen/Co-Chair

Jennifer Fitzpatrick/Co-Chair

**SPECIAL GIFT for first 40 members:** Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds has generously given our chapter dozens of free seed packets. So the first 40 members to sign in at the February meeting will receive a free packet of Heirloom seeds.



### Meeting Program

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Guest Introductions
- 3) Announcements
- 4) Co-Chair Report
- 5) Grafting & Rooting Demonstrations
- 6) Grow Box Presentation by Tom Del Hotal
- 7) Fruit Tasting Table
- 8) Opportunity Drawing – 9pm
- 9) Meeting Concluded – 10pm

**Treasurer's report** by Stephanie Murphy**January 2015 Expenses**

\$131.46 - Holiday Party (Ham, Turkey, Decorations)  
 \$124.48 - Committee - Propagation (Propagation Box Kits)  
 \$ 60.46 - Committee - Membership (Receipt Book and Name Tags)  
 \$ 23.57 - Gifts - Outgoing Board Members  
 \$339.97 - Total Expenses

**January 2015 Income**

\$398.26 - Membership  
 \$ 68.00 - Opportunity Table  
 \$ 31.00 - T-Shirt Sales  
 \$ 2.00 - Fruit Tasting Jar  
 \$499.26 - Total Income

January's ending income/expense balance = \$13,177.03

If you have any questions please send an email to Treasurer@CRFGSanDiego.org

**January 2, 2015**  
**CRFG San Diego**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

Commence at 6:30 pm

Board Present: Gregg Hansen, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Jim Neitzel, Priya Kanakha, Stephanie Murphy  
 Attendees: Ben Kotnik (ex-officio), Britt Cool, Tom Del Hotal

Treasurer's Report: 2014 report and December revenues were reviewed, along with Festival of Fruit expenses. The 2015 budget proposal was discussed. Stephanie will prepare a 2015 budget for membership approval, after Festival of Fruits planning meetings.

Tom discussed the FoF development plans, and will have Grossmont College venue logistics after January 15, 2015.

January General meeting will be for Scion Exchange. Jim will provide a short presentation about Scions, for beginner gardening enthusiasts to become familiar with the propagation process. Tom suggested a hands-on plant box construction to grow figs, blueberry, blackberry to support Plant sales via the Chapter's booth in FoF Marketplace. The goal is to have about 10 volunteers take home the propagation plant boxes and help with growing the plants for FoF Marketplace.

**Votes:**

BM-#1/2015: Jim Neitzel was elected as Vice Chair for 2015 Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm

**January 28, 2015**  
**CRFG San Diego**  
**General Meeting Minutes**

Officiator: Gregg Hansen

Commence at: 7:10 pm

Gregg commenced the first meeting for the year with 2015 Board introductions, followed by new chapter member introductions. Christina Matchett took over the fun Opportunity Table activity from Gregg for the evening.

Gregg presented the 2015 Chapter budget for member approval. After the budget approval, members who brought scions for the exchange event got first opportunity to explore and pick their desired scions. This year the scion tables were neatly labelled and arranged thanks to the beautiful name/place holders created by Jennifer Fitzpatrick and her father.

Jim Neitzel offered a helpful scion/cutting propagation presentation for new and experienced gardeners looking to expand their backyard fruit varieties.

Did you know figs, grapes, pithaya, pomegranate and strawberries can be propagated from cuttings? Here are some interesting facts to remember about propagation via cuttings. (Thanks much to Jim's detailed slides)

- Pomegranate suckers may be from the rootstock. It is preferable to gather cuttings from dormant branches.
- For Grape cuttings, plan to keep 2 or 3 nodes below and above the ground. Take special care to keep the scar below the bud when planting, and cut the bottom at an angle to expose more cambium.
- Pithaya, dry them 2 to 3 weeks before planting in soil to prevent rot.

Jim recommended simulating winter dormancy for the the stone fruit scions until ready for grafting in spring. Speaking about grafting, watch out for grafting session and rootstock purchase announcements in the newsletter.

After the scion presentation, the scion exchange was open for all members.

The scion tables were filled with fig, mulberry, stone fruits, pomegranate, grapes, and avocado scions. The avocado scions were brought in by Cory Krell and Lena Shiroma from Orange County scion exchange. At the end of the meeting Marianne West collected leftover scions for Festival of Fruits Propagation efforts.

**Votes:**

GM-#1/2015: San Diego Chapter 2015 Budget was presented by Gregg Hansen (Co-Chair), and unanimously approved by the Chapter members.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 pm



### Membership & Hospitality Committee by Andrea Fincham

Hi Members! We need to update the membership roster soon and there are some emails that don't work. If you haven't been receiving newsletters, eblasts or have moved or changed your phone number please stop by the membership table to make the correction. You can also email me with the update at [afincham@san.rr.com](mailto:afincham@san.rr.com)

Questions – For questions regarding membership or notification of address, phone and email changes, feel free to contact me at [afincham@san.rr.com](mailto:afincham@san.rr.com)

### Propagation Committee Notes by Jim Neitzel

Wow! Record breaking warm weather in the middle of February! Seems like winter only lasted 2 months. My Tropic Snow peach, Spice-z-nectaplum and some peach and nectarine seedlings are in full bloom – as are the evergreen flowering pear trees around town. The chill hours provided by December and January cold weather and rains was sufficient for them. Hopefully, more rain will come this spring!

I've been sampling many new cultivars of apples recently. Ambrosia, Honeycrisp, Jonagold, Gala and Braeburn have been widely accepted as superior fruit, but lately some new names have earned the consumers attention. Some are bud-sports of the lovely 'Pink Lady'. Pinata, Jazz, Sundowner and Lady Alice are very nice varieties that I've purchased at Sprouts.

The propagation project at Marianne West's has potted up hundreds of cuttings of grapes, pomegranates, pitahayas, and figs – plus some strawberries and herbs. This Sunday, February 15, we are planning a grafting workshop from 1 – 4pm. There will be pruning scraps to practice the different types of unions. Then supplies like parafilm grafting tape, rootstocks and scions available for a modest fee.

The February Chapter meeting will entail further opportunities to practice grafting. Avocados, apples and prunus come first. Cherimoyas should be molting by March or April. Mangoes graft best when the weather warms (May – July). Loquats graft at different times when branch tips show signs of new bud swelling. I prefer plastic bagging these evergreen types with some moist toweling – then covering with a perforated paper lunch bag to shade same.

Next, we have ordered seeds of outstanding tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, squashes, etc. to have for sale – or jazz up the opportunity table offerings. We could offer six-packs with six superior varieties! A hothouse would speed up growth. If interested in such a project, please step up and let us know! Also, if you have a topic or a speaker you'd like, let me know.

### Grafting and Propagation Items for Sale

Propagation Sunday on February 15 and the February Chapter Meeting will have hands on opportunities for members to graft fruit trees.

The supplies necessary will be available for sale. Please bring exact change to Marianne's and the February meeting if you would like to purchase grafting supplies.

These supplies are offered to members at cost.

Parafilm tape 90'x 1/2 inch,	\$3.00 per roll
Metal Tree Tags 25 for	\$3.00
Grafting Knife	\$1.00
White Nursery Pot Marker	\$4.00
Apple Rootstock	\$2.00
Apple Grafting Kit (Rootstock, scion, pot, soil)	\$4.00

### Propagation Notes by Sarah Lebidine

Many things are happening with the Propagation Committee this month! After our much anticipated scion wood exchange, we packed up the remaining treasures and brought them to Marianne's house! For the next two days, everyone potted and labeled numerous types of figs, pomegranates, and grapes! Now we cross our fingers that they all take root!!!

February 15 we did apple grafting! Join us at next month's meeting on March 15th from 1-4pm.

We always like to share refreshments and snacks, so bring anything you'd like to enjoy! You are also more than welcome to share seeds, cuttings, homegrown produce, etc! We look forward to seeing you all there!



### **Moving Day!! February 21, 9am – 1pm**

Southwestern College has been generous to CRFG over the years. We greatly appreciate their interaction with our members and both organizations have benefited from years of collaboration at their orchard.

We will be moving our plants from Southwestern College to a new location at the former Spring Valley Elementary Site. Now named the Spring Valley Youth Coalition, located at Bancroft and 94, it is freeway close and is one of five City of San Diego Regional Garden Education Centers.

Barbara Warner, collaborative coordinator for the Spring Valley Youth & Family Coalition, has been one of the projects chief organizers. She has secured grant funding for the Garden Center – building a food forest around the soccer field and building sprinklers and raised beds in the Center. We are grateful for their generosity for a secure space with water provided. The center has many programs daily, keeping it an active campus.

The large space offers us the opportunity to have our workshops, propagation material and develop community outreach programs within this Community Center. Jim is already talking about school growing projects.

It is exciting to move to this new space.

Moving day is Saturday, February 21. Please meet up at 9am at Southwestern College to move the plant material in your truck or car. There are 75 – 100 pots, which will easily ride in 5 or 6 trucks – with one trip. Once they are loaded up, we will move them to Spring Valley and set up their drip irrigation system. An open house type catered picnic will keep us energized while we settle in to the new digs. This is such an opportunity for us to be in an active and vibrant community center.

### **10 Curious Gardeners Wanted**

Tom Del Hotal has assembled 10 mini greenhouses with see through containers to grow figs. The fig cuttings, planted in perlite, have no green growth or roots yet, but after 4 weeks of your care, you can watch the roots grow in the clear cups.

Please adopt a mini “greenhouse” and grow figs for the chapter plant sale at the Festival of Fruit. These 10 mini greenhouses will be available for you to take home at the February meeting.

Once you get it home, place it in partial sunlight with the lid propped open an inch or two for air circulation. In about 2 months, when the fig plants show good root growth, wrapping the roots around the inside of the cup, it is time to repot. Tom will provide more details at the February chapter meeting.

### **Balboa Park Garden Party of the Century May 9th**

The City of San Diego has invited CRFG San Diego to join the Garden Party of the Century. This will be the signature event for Balboa Park this spring. The park festivities kick off at 9am with a Floral Parade and the day will be filled with events and activities. We will have a booth along El Prado.

The City wants to provide visitors an opportunity to either rediscover or discover for the first time all the botanic organizations in Balboa Park. As one of many botanic booths along El Prado, CRFG can showcase growing rare fruits in San Diego. They have asked each botanic organization to provide educational information, activities and demonstrations. Lets come up with something exciting.

All of the botanical organizations will be participating, the city will provide the pop-up tent, tables and chairs.

Sarah Lebidine has enthusiastically volunteered to be the CRFG San Diego Member at Large. As the liaison between the Chapter and the San Diego Botanic Foundation, she will be coordinating the event. Please e-mail Sarah at [MudPiesandButterflies@hotmail.com](mailto:MudPiesandButterflies@hotmail.com) to volunteer for this historic day in the park!

### **Send in your ballots!**

Please send in your signed ballots for directors of CRFG Inc. Return them at the meeting or mail them in.

See the Fruit Gardener or newsletter attachment for ballot. One vote per member.





Committee	Leader
Membership & Hospitality Committee	Andrea Fincham
Greeting Committee	David Sohn
Refreshment/Tasting Table Committee	
Opportunity Table Committee	
Field Trip/Events Committee	
Botanical Gardens Committee	June Andersen
Fair Committee	Carol Graham
Website Committee	Jose Gallego
Scion Wood Committee	
Festival of Fruit Committee	Tom Del Hotal Jose Gallego
Member at Large	Sarah Lebidine
Newsletter Editor	Fang Liu
Community Outreach & Education Committee	
Propagation Committee	Jim Neitzel Marianne West

Please consider one of the opportunities available to lead a Committee.

**Carrot Souffle**  
Sharon Stanfield

1 lb carrots  
3 eggs  
1/3 cp sugar  
3 tbs flour  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 stick butter  
dash of nutmeg

Peel and cook fresh carrots in unsalted water until fork tender.  
Put carrots and eggs in blender.  
Blend, then add rest of ingredients.  
After blending, pour into a 1 1/2 quart baking dish.  
Bake at 350 for 40 minutes.

Topping  
1/2 cp crushed pecans  
3 tbs brown sugar  
2 tsp softened butter

Mix together and spread on top of the baked souffle and bake another 10 min.

Serves 6



**Suggested Garden Chores for February & March**  
(From the 2008 Newsletter)

- Do your grafting
- Continue to fertilize your citrus and avocados
- Check to see if your bananas are starting to rot, because of excess water from rain (you wish)
- Continue to control snails
- Take out those weeds, if you allow them to flower, you will pay later with more weeds
- Screen your compost
- Heavy pruning for citrus.
- Check trees for iron and zinc deficiencies
- One last chance to do light pruning to your deciduous trees, be careful

Time to add mulch or compost to your trees, the more mulch, the happier your trees will be.  
Remember, the City of San Diego offers 2 cubic yards of free mulch to city residents.

# 2015 CRFG Events

Event	Date	Location	Topic	Notes
<b>San Diego Botanic Garden Volunteer</b> 2nd Saturday of every month	February 14, Saturday, 8:30am	SD Botanic Fruit Garden, 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas		Contact: June Andersen
<b>Propagation Sunday at Marianne's House</b> 3rd Sunday of every month	February 15, Sunday, 1:00 - 3pm	7144 San Miguel Rd. Lemon Grove	Apple tree grafting. Materials will be provided for a small fee	Just show up. Bring refreshments to share.
<b>Festival of Fruit</b> Planning Meeting for all Members	February 18, Wednesday, 6:30pm	Balboa Park, Room 101, Casa del Prado		
<b>Southwest College Picnic &amp; Plant Moving</b>	February 21, Saturday, 9:00 am	Southwest College	Mexican Lunch provided for our workshop!!	Show up & learn. Bring gloves, clippers and water. RSVP please to Jennifer
<b>CRFG February Meeting</b> 4th Wednesday of every month	February 25, Wednesday, 7:00pm	Balboa Park, Room 101, Casa del Prado	Grafting & Propagation with Jim	
<b>Ethnic Market Tour</b> Last Saturday of every month	February 28, Saturday, 10:00am - 12	Vine Ripe, La Mesa	Just show up & get your grocery shopping done!	Meet at the front door of the market. Optional lunch after
<b>City of SD Water Department Tour</b>	March 14, Saturday 10:00am	Kearny Mesa	Guided Tour at the Advanced Water Purification Facility	RSVP required to Jennifer Fitzpatrick
<b>San Diego Botanic Garden Volunteer</b> 2nd Saturday of every month	March 14, Saturday, 8:30am	SD Botanic Fruit Garden, 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas		Contact: June Andersen
<b>Propagation Sunday</b> 3rd Sunday of every month	March 15, Sunday, 1:00 - 3pm	7144 San Miguel Rd. Lemon Grove	Learn & practice propagation techniques.	Just show up. Bring refreshments to share.
<b>Festival of Fruit</b> Planning Meeting for all Members	March 18, Wednesday, 6:30pm	Balboa Park, Room 101, Casa del Prado		
<b>CRFG March Meeting</b> 4th Wednesday of every month	March 25, Wednesday, 7:00pm	Balboa Park, Room 101, Casa del Prado	All about Cherimoyas! Grafting & Tasting	
<b>New Member Orientation</b> At the Fruit Shop in Kearney Mesa	March 28, Saturday, 10:00 - 11am	The Fruit Shop	A great opportunity to learn about rare fruits & taste them too.	Open for New Members who joined in the last 3 years. RSVP to Jennifer Fitzpatrick



Fruit art from January meeting



Cherimoyas from January's tasting in Irvine

## 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)

**Board Contact Info:****Co-Chair: Gregg Hansen**

Co-Chair@CRFGSanDiego.org  
619-277-8526

**Co-Chair: Jennifer Fitzpatrick**

JenniferFitzpatrick@CRFGSanDiego.org  
619-857-4066

**Vice-Chair: Jim Neitzel**

619-262-8959 (Available 7-9 am & after dark)

**Treasurer: Stephanie Murphy**

Treasurer@CRFGSanDiego.org

**Secretary: Priya Kanakha**

Secretary@CRFGSanDiego.org

**Former Chair: Ben Kotnik**

FormerChair@CRFGSanDiego.org  
(619) 997-7440

**Upcoming Events — At a Glance**

2/18 – 6:30pm	Festival of Fruit meeting at Room 104, Casa del Prado
2/20 – 7pm	North San Diego Chapter <b>Panel discussion with Paul Bingham, Ben Peirce and Ronnie McCord</b>
2/21 – 9am	SWC Picnic & Pruning Workshop RSVP to Jennifer
2/25 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter <b>Grafting &amp; Propagation with Jim</b>
3/14 – 8:30am	Volunteer at San Diego Botanic Garden (Quail Garden)
3/15 – 1pm	Propagation Sunday at 7144 San Miguel Rd. Lemon Grove
3/18 – 6:30pm	Festival of Fruit meeting at Room 104, Casa del Prado
3/20 – 7pm	North San Diego Chapter <b>Garcinias with Richard Reid</b>
3/25 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter <b>All about Cherimoyas! Grafting &amp; Tasting</b>



**California Rare Fruit Growers**  
**San Diego Chapter**  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED