



San Diego Chapter Newsletter

March 2015



Wednesday, March 25th, 2015
All About Cherimoyas, Grafting & Tasting
 7:00 pm Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

Hello Fellow Fruit Growers,

Thanks to much needed rainstorms that we experienced recently I do hereby announce that Spring has arrived in San Diego County. I hope your gardens are doing as well as ours as it's exciting to finally see all the blossoms blooming, seeds sprouting and bees doing their pollinating duties. Our Grafting and Grow Box demonstrations held at the February meeting went very well and I would like to thank Jim Neitzel & Ben Kotnik for donating their skills in leading the grafting stations and educating the rest of us on the finer points of grafting. Also, I would like to thank Tom Del Hotal for his presentation on Grow Boxes and providing detailed instructions on caring for Fig and Grape Rootings that he spent a considerable amount of time preparing for 10 lucky members who were able to adopt one of the grow boxes to take home with them. In about a month the roots should start showing growth and after a couple of months will be ready to be repotted and ready for our future plant sales.

This month our feature presentation will be Cherimoya Grafting and Tasting. We will also have a slide show from Nino Cupaiuolo which shares the wisdom and expertise that he has learned from growing Cherimoyas. Nino is a former President of the California Cherimoya Association and has been developing superior varieties of Cherimoyas for many years. Please plan on bringing your rootstocks or seedlings to be grafted as scions will be available for .50 cents apiece. There will be a suggested donation of \$3.00 for the Cherimoya tastings as well. I hope you can join us for this fun and most popular fruit tasting event that we have during the year. I would like to extend many thanks to Stephanie Murphy for her volunteer efforts in sourcing the Cherimoyas for this event.

Later in the spring our chapter will be participating in the Earth Day event held at Balboa Park on April 17th-19th, the Garden Party of the Century held at Balboa Park on May 9th and the Cuyamaca College Spring Garden Festival on April 25th. These are wonderful events to volunteer and learn more about gardening, plants, trees and meet new people that share common gardening interests. Many other exciting events are coming up in

the next few months as well 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 for more information. Also, Marianne West continues to host Propagation Sundays every third Sunday of the month at her home in Lemon Grove.

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 seeing you at the next meeting. Live long and prosper.

Gregg Hansen/Co-Chair

Jennifer Fitzpatrick/Co-Chair

Meeting Program

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Guest Introductions
- 3) Announcements
- 4) Co-Chair Report
- 5) Cherimoya Grafting & Tasting
- 6) Fruit Tasting Table
- 7) Opportunity Drawing – 9pm
- 8) Meeting Concluded – 10pm

VOLUNTEER!

We are recruiting leaders for the Fruit Tasting Table at the monthly Chapter Meeting. If interested, please see any board member at the meeting.

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.

Treasurer's report by Stephanie Murphy**Please cash reimbursement checks promptly.**

There are a number of reimbursement checks from December and January that have not been cashed.

February Expenses

\$525.10 - Committee - Propagation (Mother trees, rootstock, soil)
 \$140.20 - COGS - Misc. (Grafting knives, parafilm, garden tape, pens, etc.)
 \$ 73.50 - Committee - Newsletter (printer toner and postage)
 \$ 14.08 - Fruit Tasting Table (Jackfruit)

February Festival of Fruit Expenses

\$136.08 - Committee - Propagation (soil for DW bare root raffle trees)
 \$888.96 - Total Expenses

February Income

\$742.00 - Membership
 \$181.00 - Sales - Plants/Seeds/Trees
 \$119.00 - Sales - Misc. (Grafting knives, parafilm, garden tape, pens, etc.)
 \$ 20.00 - T-shirt Sales
 \$ 12.00 - Fruit Tasting Jar
 \$ 10.00 - Opportunity Table

February Festival of Fruit Income

\$750.00 - Kellogg Garden Sponsorship
 \$1,834.00 - Total Income

February ending bank balance = \$14,887.27

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

**February 4, 2015
CRFG San Diego****Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Gregg Hansen, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Priya Kanakha, Stephanie Murphy

Absent: Ben Kotnik, Jim Neitzel

Others Present: None

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 7 pm

January 2015 Treasury report was approved

January 2015 Board and General meeting minutes were approved

Stephanie recommended conducting a 2014 fiscal year audit of the treasurer books. After brief discussion Board requested Stephanie to find a volunteer for auditing the Chapter financial records.

Board discussed DropBox website for sharing Chapter documents. Stephanie to check if a separate account can be created for the purpose.

The Board discussed and developed Chapter General meeting programming schedule for 2015.

Votes:

BM-#2/2015: Pending no additional charges the Board approved moving Festival of Fruit web server to be hosted by parent CRFG Inc..

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

**February 16, 2015
CRFG San Diego****Special Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Present: Gregg Hansen, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Jim Neitzel, Stephanie Murphy

Attendees: Ben Kotnik (ex-officio), Jose Gallego

Late Attendee: Priya Kanakha

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Festival of Fruit Venue and Budget Proposal. Stephanie and Jose shared a budget developed for FoF.

The Board unanimously agreed on making recommendation to FoF committee to pursue the Escondido Performing Arts Center for the 2015 Festival venue location.

The FoF speakers and associated fees were discussed in depth.

Votes:

BM-#3/2015: The Board made a motion, seconded and approved \$3,100.00 in speaker fees for keynote speaker #1 (\$1,000), keynote speaker #2 (\$500) and 16 honorarium speakers at \$100/each for total amount of \$3,100.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm

**February 25, 2015
CRFG San Diego****General Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:18 pm by Gregg Hansen (Co-Chair)

Gregg introduced new members and guests to the meeting. Gregg gave a quick update on the FoF venue, and stated Jacobs Center seems to be the strong candidate as the venue.

Co-Chair Jennifer Fitzpatrick spoke about the CRFG Member library book table. Jennifer encouraged members to peruse the collection of books available each month for members to take home until the next meeting. Old Fruit Gardener magazines are available at the library.

Marianne West spoke about the Propagation Committee and is looking for volunteers. Marianne spoke about the 120 bareroot fruit trees donated by Dave Wilson nursery for FoF Marketplace.

June Andersen spoke about the upcoming Home & Garden Show (March 6-8, 2015), and is looking for volunteers to work at the booth.

Jim Neitzel spoke about the Propagation Committee move

from the Southwestern College to Spring Valley Youth Coalition, located at Bancroft and 94. Volunteers Linda, Lillia, Patrick Schilling, Kathleen, and Dave Sohn are recognized for their generous help with the labor intensive move to the Education center on February 21st.

Tom Del Hotal spoke about Festival of Fruit, and said speakers have been identified for 4 tracks of interesting conference sessions, with a possibility of a 5th track. The keynote topics are about 'Fruits of Dry Regions of the World', and 'Business of Agrosclaping Fruits in Urban Landscape'. Other topics include Feijjoa's and pomegranates.

Tom gave a brief presentation on 'Propagation by Cuttings'. The cuttings from fig, berries, etc. can be wrapped in moist towel, placed in a ziplock and left in a cool place (not refrigerator) for rooting. After a few weeks these cuttings form a thick callus which begin to form a good root system. When well-developed, plant these cuttings in a good mix of soil(60%) and perlite (40%).

Tom also showed an ingenious perlite + transparent storage box growing system that doubles as a self contained greenhouse for easy propagation of the cuttings.

After the presentations members studied different grafting techniques demonstrated by Ben Kotnik and Jim Neitzel. Tom Del Hotal brought 10 storage box growing systems for volunteers to take home and help with the FoF Marketplace propagation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm

Propagation Committee Notes by Jim Neitzel

Thanks to a handful of hard-working volunteers, the plant material that we maintained at the Southwestern College Botanical Garden for some years has been transferred to a new and closer – for some of us – site in Spring Valley. Formerly an old primary school, it is now a Community Center serving Spring Valley East. It's just off of Hwy. 94 & Bancroft St.



A person doesn't realize the amount of potted plants involved until my pick-up, and Patrick Schilling's, were overflowing! Several prunus rootstocks and the loquats had again rooted into the ground. Fortunately, Roger Pollard had gone over and watered the day before so we could salvage most roots. Those pots we heeled in some potted soil piles. Later we extracted such trees, added some soil and repotted these. Lots of hard work!

The week before, Marianne West, Linda Espino, Lillia Espino, Kathleen, Carl Steffens, David Sohn, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Patrick Schilling and I grouped and arranged the first two loads that Marianne and I had dropped off.

Wednesday, March 4th, however was the big push to finalize the project. The afternoon before, Roger and Elizabeth Pollard and I met at Guillermo Castro's in Chula Vista where we have been storing the pots and bags of topsoil that Richard Frost donated. Guillermo loaded up our trucks with his "Bob Cat" and we added a bunch of 5 gallon containers on top.

We had heard that the Dave

Wilson Nursery donation might be arriving the afternoon of March 4th. Maddie Wichman has been securing donations for the Festival of Fruit and Tom Spellman generously selected and donated over 100 fruit trees for the event.

Roger and I unloaded that heavier topsoil the next morning so we could combine and mix it into the light mix and thereby have enough for both the repotting and the Dave Wilson Nursery donation.

Patrick Schilling, Paul Robinson, Roger and Elizabeth and I worked like beavers and had just finished repotting when the Dave Wilson Nursery truck arrived around 2:30. The plants were not bare rooted! Growing in one quart 4" x 4" x 10" sleeves, or pots packed in 12 pack boxes, came 3 or 4 different pomegranate cultivars, figs, raspberries, blackberries, gogis, dwarf black mulberries, blueberries, etc. These were knocked out of their pots and repotted in 5 gallon containers. Elizabeth busily operated the shovel as Paul, Roger and I readied the plants. We finished before dark. I watered everything in and dashed off to a board meeting in Balboa Park.

Now we need a sign-up of volunteers to periodically water everything until an irrigation system is set up. This Community Site is very easy to get to. Take Hwy 94 west to Bancroft. Go right and take an immediate right. Go one block, then left on Spring Rd.

Call me (619) 262-8959 or Marianne, (619) 261-2327 if you can help watering.



Meanwhile, the fig, grape and pomegranate cuttings that we've been potting at Marianne West's place are budding out! Some members have offered to "babysit" some of this material till the FoF. Would you please re-contact me or Marianne, as I have misplaced some of this info.

We continue potting and grafting things many Tuesday and the 3rd Sunday afternoons. Check with us if you have some free time.

I wish to acknowledge the great appreciation our club owes Marianne West for her generous time and many contributions. She has volunteered her home and yard as a distribution center for propagation, as well as negotiated and secured the Bancroft Street Community Center as the Chapter's new nursery site.

Hopefully this months chapter meeting will include some tasting and grafting of the cherimoya. We should have scion pieces of leading cultivars available. By March or April cherimoyas molt and as they leaf back, out that "energy" goes into the growth of the new scion grafts. Their wood is soft and easy to graft!

Neighborhood Garden Groups

Jennifer Fitzpatrick

Jim Neitzel has great ideas! Jim is looking for experienced members to be mentors in their neighborhood – to assist others who enjoy eating and growing fruit. The entire chapter will benefit from matching new members with experienced members – and by neighborhood – it is so easy.

Last year I greatly benefited from this idea. Jim introduced me to experienced members Cielo & Kevin Foth and their amazing garden - just a stone's throw from my garden. They have shared their yard through garden tours, fruit tasting afternoons with mangos from a convention in Florida and pitahaya tasting with burgers in their back yard, introducing me to many other fruit lovers.

Quite a few trees have moved from the Foths' yard to mine, and fruit is exchanged back and forth regularly. Sometimes fruit is abundant, other times it is one black sapote. Pairing experienced rare fruit growers with new growers is Jim's wish – improving the knowledge of fruit one person at a time.

Jim has a listing of members by zip code and wants to form neighborhood groups of 6 - 10 or so members. You can sign up at the monthly meeting.

CRFG San Diego Board Meeting

1st Wednesday of the Month at 6:00 pm

The monthly meeting will be held at Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101.



jack fruit, pitahaya, langsat, and a prunus



indoor fruit stand with fruits from Asia

**New Member Orientation & Exotic Fruit Tasting
Saturday, March 28th 10am**

If you are a new member in the last 3 years, please attend this Exotic Fruit Tasting Event to experience some very tasty, and not so common, types of fruits. This small shop smells so fragrant once you walk in.

At the Fruit Shop in Kearney Mesa, Loan, the juicer, will juice fresh sugar cane stalks adding a squeeze of kumquat juice for starters. Don, the owner, sets us up with fruits such as mango, jackfruit, dragon fruit, guavas, rambutan and tamarinds to taste.

They also carry durian for the strong willed and, possibly, they will have the queen of all fruit – the mangosteen. The staff at this shop describe how and where the fruit is grown, in addition to describing fruit quality comparisons. Please join in this Fruit Tasting and expand your knowledge and experience with exotic fruits.

RSVP required to JenniferFitzpatrick@CRFGSanDiego.org



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
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.

Share Your Seeds

Thanks to Baker Seed Company our chapter has received over 80 varieties of heirloom seeds, which were distributed to the membership at the last two Chapter Meetings. Since it is the time of year to plan our gardens, this is a good time to share extra seeds.

If you love to grow from seed, or have the desire to start, we are setting up a seed bank at the monthly Chapter Meetings. If you have found wonderful varieties that are hard to find, or you have loads of them, share your extras at the meeting. Please bring heirloom, heritage or open-pollinated seeds. The purpose is to save our bio-diversity of plants and share them among CRFG members. Should you have extra seedlings growing, please bring them in for the opportunity table with the variety listed. For each seed type, please include the type of plant (example 'tomato') and the specific cultivar (example Black Mauri).

To take home seeds, bring a little zip lock baggie to the meeting. Think of seeds like scions – if there are 30 seeds, just take 5 or 6. We also ask that if you do accept a variety of seed that you please grow them and save the seeds. Then you can bring in the seeds next year or share them as you wish.

The first seed bank will be offered at the March 25th Chapter Meeting.



Davina's Valentine pummelo



Citrus Budwood Order

Davina Keddo (619-808-9995) is organizing another citrus budwood order for the March meeting. Members will be able to obtain certified disease-free citrus budwood to graft new varieties onto their own rootstock or existing citrus trees. To do so, they will need to shop from the screenhouse budwood list (through the link: <http://www.ccpp.ucr.edu/admin/exportPDFScreenhouseOrder.php>) and then list their choices on The ORDER CITRUS BUDWOOD2 order form.

The photo above is from Davina's grafting efforts 3 years ago. Here are her other citrus grafts in her words:

I was successful in grafting Palestinian lime, Vainiglia, and Bouquetier de Nice. From last summer's budding effort, bud grafts of Buddha's Hand, Bream Tarocco, Oro blanco, and Pixie look green and appear to be taking. I am hoping third time will be the charm as I will order AGAIN from previous failures Kishu, Australian Finger Lime, and Cocktail Grapefruit.

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

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

See website for details <http://crfgsandiego.org/events.htm>

3/15 – 1pm	Propagation Sunday
3/18 – 6:30pm	Festival of Fruit meeting
3/20 – 7pm	North San Diego Chapter Garcinias with Richard Reid
3/25 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter All about Cherimoyas! Grafting & Tasting
3/28 – 10am	New Member Orientation
4/11 – 8:30am	Volunteer at San Diego Botanic Garden(Quail Garden)
4/15 – 6:30pm	Festival of Fruit meeting
4/17 – 7pm	North San Diego Chapter Good Guys & Bad Guys in the Garden with James Bethke
4/19 – 10am	Earth Day Plant Sale at Balboa Park
4/22 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter Festival of Fruit in Hawaii with Fang Liu and Bob Holzinger
4/25 – 9am	Spring Festival & Plant Sale at Cuyamaca College
5/9 – 10am	Garden Party of the Century at Balboa Park



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED