



San Diego Chapter Newsletter

September 2015



Wednesday, September 23rd 2015

Guest Speaker

DAVID AKIN, CITY OF SAN DIEGO CONSUMER ADVOCATE

"City of San Diego Pure Water Program"

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

Hello Fellow Fruit Growers,

I hope you all enjoyed last month's meeting program with Margaret Frane from CRFG Inc. and the wonderful slide show Jim Neitzel showed us from a recent tour of Paul Fisher's Home Orchard here in East County where Jackfruit, among many other interesting fruit trees, are thriving and producing all kinds of interesting fruits. Our main speaker Margaret told us a brief history of how CRFG was founded in the late 1960's by Paul Thompson, John Riley and Jim Neitzel from a small group of 29 members to an organization that now has over 3000 members worldwide. This was the biggest revelation I learned when I found out members of CRFG Inc. are from 48 US states and 32 different countries. I also learned that many of our chapter members were not aware of the CRFG Inc. parent organization or how to sign-up for their membership. Plans are currently being discussed to help simplify the membership renewal process to include paying the State Inc. membership at the same time as chapter members renew and pay their chapter dues. Being a member of both will allow members to be covered by the State Inc. Insurance liability coverage for events such as meetings, tours, workshops, propagation events, etc. Also, being a member of CRFG Inc. connects you with the broader community of other CRFG fruit enthusiasts and gains access to the Fruit Gardner magazine that they publish Bi-monthly. All of these benefits are a great value versus the cost of the dues and I'm sure you will find it very beneficial to be part of the State organization too.

This month's Chapter meeting we invited David Akin who is the City of San Diego Consumer Advocate for the San Diego Pure Water Program. Considering the recent heat wave and current drought situation in California I think you will find the information David has to provide to be a very timely topic as we all need to think of alternate ways to water our landscapes and vegetation along with

the Agricultural community that so much of our economy is dependent upon. I hope you are able to attend and learn some water saving tips so we can all continue to water our backyard fruit tree orchards and vegetable gardens.

Have you had a chance to purchase anything yet on the Amazon Associate program? I mentioned previously that I signed up our chapter website with the Amazon Associates program that pays the chapter a 4% commission on any online Amazon purchases originating from our chapter website link and all you have to do is first click the Amazon link from our site and then start shopping. The most difficult part is remembering to start at our chapter link first, as I find that I too have to keep reminding Grace and myself until it becomes habit.

Now that fall is approaching it's time to start thinking about end-of-year business such as becoming a board member for 2016. We have sign-up genius links for all the board member and committee positions which gives a detailed description of the job duties. More information on this can be found in this newsletter, so if you think you would be interested in volunteering on the board please let one of us know.

Please remember to bring some fruits or other goodies for the tasting table. Also if you can, bring any viable plants, trees or garden supplies for the opportunity table as each member may receive one free ticket per meeting for any plant material donation. Label your plants and let Laura know that you donated an item so she can give you your ticket or sell you more if interested in buying additional tickets. If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact myself or any one of the other Board members as we would love to hear from you. Jennifer and I look forward to seeing you all at this month's Chapter Meeting with David Akin.

Gregg Hansen/Co-Chair

Jennifer Fitzpatrick/Co-Chair

Meeting Program

1. Welcome
 2. Guest Introductions
 3. Announcements
 4. David Akin – City of San Diego Consumer Advocate
 5. Opportunity Drawing – 9pm
 6. Meeting Concluded – 10pm
- Next Month – Persimmons with Isabel & Jon Barkman

Board of Directors Meeting

1st Wednesday of every month
Balboa Park, Room 104
6pm-9pm
This meeting is open to all members to attend and participate.

Treasurer's report by Stephanie Murphy

August Expenses

- \$ 254.92 - Mango Fandango (July)
- \$ 89.16 - Committee - Website (website expense May 15 - November 14, 2015)
- \$ 65.88 - Picnic with North County
- \$ 30.41 - Committee - Community Outreach (Fair 1/4 sheet flyers)
- \$ 27.22 - Office Supplies (copies of chapter events calendar)
- August Festival of Fruit Expenses
- \$14,146.33 - Jacobs Center (remaining venue rental/food balance)
- \$ 3,800.00 - Speaker fees, honorariums, hotel
- \$ 780.00 - +20 hour Volunteer Registration Reimbursement
- \$ 336.08 - Registration Packets (inserts/badges)
- \$ 269.54 - Signs
- \$ 119.80 - Registration database program fee (Wufoo - 4 months)
- \$ 59.36 - Office supplies (printer paper/toner)
- \$ 6.19 - Water for plant sales volunteers

\$19,984.89 - Total Expenses

August Income

- \$5,161.85 - Plant Sales at FoF (less Square Reader fees)
- \$ 74.69 - Membership
- \$ 59.00 - Opportunity Table
- \$ 50.00 - T-shirt sales
- \$ 2.00 - Fruit Tasting Jar

August Festival of Fruit Income

- \$ 5,084.32 - Registration, Meals, FoF T-Shirts/Totes (less PayPal fees)

- \$ 1,820.00 - Raffles
- \$ 756.00 - Credit for defective FoF T-shirts (applied to Chapter T-shirt printing)
- \$ 593.00 - Vendor booth rental
- \$ 500.00 - Donation (Netafim)
- \$ 100.00 - Speaker Honorarium (Jim Verner - donated back to club - thank you!)

\$13,444.86 - Total Income

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

August 5, 2015

CRFG San Diego Board Meeting Minutes

Commence at 6:40 pm

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

Treasurer's Report: July report was reviewed and approved.

Secretary Report: July Board and General meeting minutes were approved.

The Festival of Fruit late and ala-carte registration logistics were discussed. The attendee list for each Speaker sessions and Home garden tour visits were previewed. The final set of FoF attendee and Speaker badges were collated and sorted for the Registration Table.

The post FoF processes relating to Thank you letters and volunteer appreciation were discussed.

Switching to chapter level activities, the chapter membership roster concerns were discussed. Jennifer plans to follow up as to who will continue to be responsible for chapter membership management.

The monthly chapter newsletter email list will be updated for active membership roster for continued delivery. During the general meeting Gregg to poll attendees for any paid members who did not receive their latest newsletters.

Due to Festival of Fruit activities the modified deadline for the newsletter articles will be August 16, 2015.

The next topic of discussion related to Chapter and CRFG Inc memberships. The plan is to consolidate the two membership subscriptions into a single application form.

Final chapter related activity was the ongoing plans to manage the Opportunity Table. Due to regulations it is not possible to provide cash for purchasing Opportunity Table items.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm.

August 26, 2015
CRFG San Diego
General Meeting Minutes

Commence at 7:20 pm

Gregg Hansen started the meeting with his thoughts on the Festival of Fruit weekend. He shared some comments he heard from other festival attendees. The general impression was the festival was well liked and any concerns that arose were quickly addressed.

Gregg said the San Diego Chapter's Amazon Affiliate Membership program has been approved, and requested all members to use the Chapter's affiliate link to shop at amazon.com. The chapter receives a small percentage of the completed purchase as a benefit. The affiliate link can be found at the crfgsandiego.org website.

Gregg concluded by saying the hottest fire sale event of the evening was Festival of Fruit T-Shirt and Tote bag combo for \$5.

After the quick new member introductions the meeting was open for other members to make any announcements.

Patrick Schumann would like help from anyone with a large trailer to transport water storage tanks from Temecula. Patrick also requested if any members had upcoming fishing trips to invite Jim Neitzel and him on their boat trip.

Bob Holzinger is starting a Passiflora Interest Group, and would like to speak with interested members.

Stephanie Murphy requested members to submit any outstanding FoF receipts for reimbursement asap to close the festival account books.

Roger Pollard is looking for help spreading the mulch at Bancroft. Roger estimates 70-80 yards of mulch to be spread to about 8" coverage. Roger is available Monday/Wednesday/Friday evenings.

Luis Monge asked members to donate their excess fruits to local food banks and community organizations. He also suggested to pick all dropped fruits from the ground to avoid bugs.

Jennifer Fitzpatrick spoke about the new calendar with upcoming scheduled events for the rest of the year. The next new member orientation to rare fruits will take place October 3rd at The Fruit Shop in Kearny Mesa.

One of **Jim Neitzel's** passion is to introduce members within their community to meet and share plant growing experiences in their local gardens outside of the regular meetings. Jennifer created a sign-up sheet for anyone to participate in these neighborhood groups close to their

homes. Jennifer also had details about the Seed exchange program at the chapter level, and encouraged members to check the desk at the back of the room for signup and available seeds.

Jim Neitzel gave a colorful photo slideshow from the recent visit to **Paul Fisher's** home garden. **Kelsey** and **Benjamin Cossel** were helpful in taking the beautiful pictures. Paul's garden highlighted a vast collection of exotic fruits in the mature garden setting. Some of the photo highlights included Chandler Pomelo seedling, Sapodilla, Barbados Cherry, Pitaya, N5 jackfruit, and Jujubes. During the slideshow Jim shared several helpful fruit growing tips - pitaya's grow well on the south side and the simplest planting approach is to cut off the bottom of the 15g pot and plant the pitayas at the final spot (close to trellis or fence). Pineapples grow better in tubs than soil, and to trigger the fruiting cycle place a couple of ripe apples (to release ethylene gas) which initiates flowering. Hood pears are low chill variety and are quite suitable for our region. Jim shared an interesting way to catch fig beetles - 1) make a hole at the bottom of a milk carton and insert a funnel. 2) place the tupperware upside down with some perishable fruits and vegetables. 3) this attracts the fig beetles who are able to get through the funnel to the food, but can't get out 4) once captured throw away the food/beetles and repeat as necessary.

Margaret Frane, the current CRFG Inc. President was the main speaker for the evening. Margaret joined her local LA CRFG chapter in 1986, after reading an article about CRFG in the Sunset magazine. In 1987 she became a lifetime CRFG member. She started the conversation with a brief history about how the non-profit CRFG organization was founded by Paul Thompson and John Riley in 1970 along with Jim Neitzel. Riley and Thompson split the activities between Northern and Southern California. The first general meeting was held in San Diego to include activities beyond the home garden tours initially conducted. In less than 3 years the membership grew from 29 to 345 members. In 1978, CRFG decided to form a corporation with a 13-member governing board. The purpose of CRFG Inc. is to educate and share experiences growing rare fruits.

The CRFG board has 13-elected members for a 3 year term. These members are nominated from each chapter. The current board has 12 directors representing 11 chapters, and these members are not paid for their volunteer efforts. Ron Couch is the Fruit Gardener Magazine editor, and is a paid position. Bill Grimes is the website administrator and membership coordinator. Bill receives \$5,000.

All past CRFG president's are non-voting members. David Payton is the new Treasurer. The CRFG Inc. board meets once a year at the Festival of Fruit, and regularly communicate by email and teleconference. Besides the Board there are several sub-committees formed to manage relevant activities e.g. finance, website, scholarships, review CRFG tax returns. The board works hard to maintain non-profit status of the organization along with helping resolve any issues within existing chapters and to develop new chapters. Currently there are 21 geographic chapters; 18 in CA, 2 in AZ and 1 in TX. The current membership roll is approximately 3000 members with about 180 international members. Members are from 48 states in US and 32 countries.

Margaret also spoke about the Fruit Gardener Magazine and plans to improve the corporate website. There are plans to redevelop the website for Member only forums and informational centers. The plan is to also help establish a Wikipedia style Fruit Facts sections where accurate up-to-date details can be maintained. Another keen area of interest is to make the Seed Exchange program more timely and direct between the members. Margaret asked members to share any ideas to improve the member activities. She was also interested in hearing about topics on how CRFG Inc. can get involved in.

Few suggestions provided by San Diego Chapter members include 1) developing and maintaining a Germplasm repository for the fast disappearing cultivars around the world. Such a germplasm emphasis should revolve around Rare fruits and it was also suggested that the organization should shift back to be relevant about Rare fruits. 2) Videos and Tutorials on different rare fruit topics.

Margaret concluded her talk with the emphasis that though the parent organization has an annual loss of about \$20,000 it is strongly invested in keeping and growing its membership base, along with nurturing and expanding community outreach with programs like student scholarships. She welcomes any feedback in improving growing the efforts and the original mission of CRFG founders.

June Andersen made an announcement about the San Diego Home Garden Show at the San Diego Fair grounds September 11-13, 2015, and is looking for volunteers. Any fruit donations for the stall Fruit display is much appreciated.

Meeting adjourned: 9:45 pm

Two new pests in California

from Gevork Arakelian, PhD.

Surinam cockroaches (*Pycnoscelus surinamensis*) were discovered in two locations in El Segundo (outdoor plants) and also in South Gate (around potted plants in the school cafeteria). Some damage on succulents and flowering ornamentals and large numbers accumulated in water (irrigation) boxes were observed.

African fig fly (*Zaprionus indianus*) was found in backyard figs in Downey. It is a generalist Drosophilid that breeds on fallen fruit and fruit on the tree. It is known to infest fruits of 70+ species of plants and can possibly become a problematic pest for our fig industry.

See attachments for more information on the pests.

Tasting Table

last names beginning with **E, F or G**

Please bring fruit or other items already cut into to serving size pieces and labeled with variety. Please label the container with your name and remember to pick up your container at the end of the meeting. Also, if you can help with Tasting Table set up before (or clean up after) the meeting it is very much appreciated. Thank you!

Request for donation:

Do you have any extra paper plates, napkins or coffee cups laying around? Even just a few mismatched "scraps" here and there? Would you like to donate them to our Tasting Table? If so, please bring them to the next meeting and place on the counter behind the Tasting Table. We are also in need of an extension cord for the Chapter coffee pot. Thanks!

New Member Orientation & Fruit Tasting

Saturday, October 3, 2015 10am-11:15am

Come on out to the Fruit Shop for a tropical and sub-tropical fruit tasting to try new fruits and discuss what sub-tropical trees can be grown in San Diego. (And which ones will fruit).

This event is for new members who have joined in the last 3 years.

RSVP required – sign up on the Sign up Genius website. <http://goo.gl/E4R88Z>

It's Election Season!

Our elections are coming up in November

The Nominating Committee is gathering Potential Candidates

We elect officers at our November meeting. Last year "Co-Chairs" were tried and it was a great success. Gregg and Jennifer shared the leadership role – this could work again for other candidates.

The Board of Directors brainstorm for the monthly meeting topics, workshops to share and improve the skills of members and community events to strive for our mission statement. We also have a newsletter that goes to most members by email and to the rest by U.S. Mail.

There are 4 important seats available this year. Please read the description of each one to determine which suits you the best. Share the load and suggest a Co-position too. Then talk to Jim Neitzel on the Election Nominations Committee. (619-262-8959). Also, if you miss Jim, show your interest through the sign up genius and sign up for a seat. These descriptions are from our Standard Operating Procedures.

Chair or Co-Chairs

The chair shall serve as the Executive Director of the Chapter. The Chair presides at all regularly scheduled meetings, special meetings and Executive Committee Meetings. The Chair informs the membership of the time and place of General meetings.

Vice Chair (Potentially Co-Vice Chairs)

The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair and assume duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence. The Vice Chair shall be the Program and Events Coordinator, responsible for developing the upcoming year's regularly schedule of topics, speakers, field trips, etc.

Secretary

The secretary shall keep an accurate record of the minutes and all votes taken at the regular meeting, Executive Committee Meeting and any special meetings. A brief summary of these minutes are provided to the newsletter.

Treasurer

The treasurer shall have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all the funds and securities of the Chapter and shall deposit all such funds in the bank. The treasurer will keep account of the Chapter's business transactions.

To volunteer to run for a seat.....go to the Sign Up Genius at: <http://goo.gl/iyUqdF>

Propagate your own Opuntia Robusta

At Propagation Saturday, September 26, 2pm-3pm
4th Saturday each month

Tim Cass will teach a class in propagating Opuntia ficus indica and Opuntia robusta. He will provide cuttings enough for people to take home in pots or plant in ground. Super easy to propagate, this lesson will focus on edible prickly-pear cactus.

Opuntia robusta is prickly pear cactus species native to the Sierra Madre mountains of northern Mexico. It is different from the Opuntia ficus indica commonly grown here in coastal San Diego County. Opuntia robusta grows a large fruit that produces a dark purple flesh and juice with very good flavor and color. Tim grows this cactus at 3,800 feet elevation in southeast San Diego County where it can freeze to below 20 F in the winter and hot dry summer days occasionally to over 100 F. Opuntia robusta does exceptionally well in this environment and is naturally pest free due to the environmental conditions.

If you missed his juice tasting tour at the Festival of Fruit, you can learn how to propagate your own cutting. This is a member only event.

Location:

Bancroft Street Nursery
8949 Spring Place, Spring Valley.

From Hwy 94 going east from San Diego take the Bancroft Dr. exit turning right (south). Then take the first right on Spring Place, then left on Spring Drive to the parking area at the end of the street.

Tool Sharpening Workshop

At Propagation Saturday, September 26, 3-6pm
4th Saturday each month

David Sohn will share his skills sharpening garden tools. Bring in your tools – clippers, loppers, shovels – you name it – he will teach you how to sharpen it.

David has a source to purchase sharpening tools and has offered to put together a sharpening kit with multiple sharpening instruments. He anticipates the cost will be \$20. If you would like to order this kit – please make a note when you sign up on the sign up genius.

This workshop will be the kickoff to Propagation Saturday at the Bancroft Street Nursery. We will have a pot luck after. Please bring something to share.

This is a member only event and each attendee may select a free plant at the nursery from a special area designated by Jim and Marianne. Pitahaya section, here I come! <http://goo.gl/pSVpYD>

Sign Up Genius

Most of you have heard "Sign up Genius" in the meetings and newsletter. In the past, we have been organizing events, tours and volunteer opportunities using the old fashioned paper sign up page in the meeting.

We are converting to the Sign up Genius to manage the whole enchilada. This service allows us to use a simple wizard to build unlimited, free sign ups. When you enter your name to sign up, there is a comment field for custom responses. It is a great time saver – and keeps us from letting members slip through the cracks.

Soon, you will receive an e-invitation to sign up for the following groups. You may also use these links and sign up now.

CRFG San Diego Committee Opportunities

The volunteer opportunities at CRFG San Diego are vast – this sign up has detailed descriptions of every committee and the board member duties. See what sounds interesting. Then sign up!

The general idea is to have at least 3 people on each committee, so the responsibility is shared among friends. Lets have fun while we learn about rare fruits grown in our region. Click this link to view the list.

<http://goo.gl/DRzkVM>

Neighborhood Garden Groups

Thank you all for the overwhelming response signing up for the small regional groups. 22 members signed up to begin this dream of Jim's for skill sharing, fruit and plant material exchanges and so much more. More

members are encouraged to join in their neighborhood group. The Beach Area Neighborhood Group is meeting September 20. Please consider hosting a garden group in your neighborhood in September or October. Always invite Jim to your Group! He is ready for the invitations to roll in. <http://goo.gl/jnEsPp>

New Rare Seed Committee

Getting back to our roots, this newly formed Committee will be seeking seeds for our chapter meeting. As you can see by the sign up – One Co-Chair spot is filled. There is another one open for you. There should be some great stuff coming back from the Heirloom Seed Festival. <http://goo.gl/wBrKuJ>

Future Events will be coordinated through the Sign Up Genius. 2 upcoming events include Propagation Saturday Double Header

Prickly Pear Propagation & Tool Sharpening Workshop
Saturday, September 26, 2-6pm
Bancroft Street Nursery
3845 Spring Drive, Spring Valley
<http://goo.gl/pSVpYD>

New Member Orientation and Fruit Tasting

Saturday, October 3, 10-11:15
The Fruit Shop
<http://goo.gl/E4R88Z>

Thank you for participating in this efficient and easy method for our membership.

Calendar of Events

Check out the new calendar of events on our website. This lists shows the schedule for the rest of 2015. Where has the time gone?

<http://crfgsandiego.org/events.htm>

Growing our Farm Legs...

Member, community leader, and City Farmers Nursery owner Bill Tall is undergoing treatment for liver cancer. In his latest newsletter, he writes about the changes in his life and support he received from his family in running the nursery.

<http://goo.gl/na4z5h>

Other Events

Spring Valley Fiesta 10th Annual Community Fair

September 19, Saturday, 1-4pm
Spring Valley Branch Library
836 Kempton Street, Spring Valley

UCANR Urban Landscape and Garden Education Expo

September 26, 2015 9am-2pm
A FREE Event hosted by the UC ANR South Coast Research and Extension Center
7601 Irvine Blvd. Irvine 92618
<http://goo.gl/Z72If0>

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>

9/18 – 7pm	North San Diego Chapter Girl Next Door Honey
9/23 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter David Akin - City of San Diego Pure Water Program
9/26 2 – 6pm	Propagation Saturday Propagating Opuntia Robusta with Tim Cass Tool Sharpening Workshop with David Sohn
10/3 – 10am	New Member Orientation & Exotic Fruit Tasting
10/7 – 6pm	Board of Directors Meeting
10/10 – 8:30am	Volunteer at San Diego Botanic Garden (Quail Garden)
10/16 – 7pm	North San Diego Chapter Alan Haghghi of California Fruit Wine, Co.
10/28 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter Isabel Barkman on Persimmons
10/31 3– 6pm	Propagation Saturday



California Rare Fruit Growers
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED