



San Diego Chapter Newsletter

October 2015



Wednesday, October 28th 2015

Guest Speaker

Isabel and Jon Barkman on Persimmons

7:00 pm Room **102** Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

Hello Fellow Fruit Growers,

I hope you all enjoyed last month's meeting program with David Akin who is the City of San Diego Consumer Advocate for the San Diego Pure Water Program. It was quite interesting to hear about the different sources and options we have in San Diego for acquiring and using water and we also learned some water saving tips so hopefully we can continue watering our backyard fruit tree orchards and vegetable gardens. Speaking of water hasn't it been great to get that unexpected fall blast of rain we had earlier this month. I know my garden really appreciated it as I just recently finished planting the last of my fruit tree acquisitions from the Festival of Fruit and also fertilized and laid down mulch, so the rain could not have been timelier. Many nurseries offer huge discounts on deciduous fruit trees before winter arrives, so now is a good time to start looking for great deals. I recently saw 5 gallon Wonderful Pomegranate trees at Home Depot for \$10.00, and at first glance almost purchased one until I realized I had two at home still waiting to be planted.

Last month we were temporarily moved from our usual room 101 to room 102 due to a renovation project on the elevator system in the Casa Del Prado building. This caused the Park management to move one of the other groups from the second floor to the first floor room 101 since the elevator was out of commission. We will also be meeting in this temporary room 102 for the October meeting, so please be aware of the room change. The Balboa Park management has indicated that we will have our regular room 101 back by the November meeting on the 20th, so thank you for your patience as it has been a little challenging trying to hold our meetings in a smaller room without a PA system or kitchen access.

This month, Grace & I had the pleasure of attending the Kearny Mesa Fruit Shop tour with approximately 15 other CRFG members arranged by our very own Co-Chair/Tour Director Jennifer Fitzpatrick. We all had the

chance to sample Mangosteens, Golden Kiwis, Water Apples, Guavas, Sugar Cane juice and Jackfruit which was by far my overall favorite. We purchased some of the Jackfruit and brought it home only to be finished by the next day. I now hold Jackfruit along with Cherimoya as my most cherished fruit. If you haven't already, please plan on attending one of the local chapter tours as you will enjoy it immensely.

Now that fall is approaching it's time to start thinking about end-of-year business such as becoming a board member for 2016. Many great events take place within a non-profit group such as CRFG and you will tend to have a better experience and learn more too when you are more involved on the board level. We have sign-up genius links for all the board member and committee positions which gives a detailed description of all the specific job duties. More information on this can be found in this newsletter and at the chapter meetings, so if you think you would be interested in volunteering on the board be sure to let one of us know.

Our club bylaws or (SOP&R) states in Section 1.A the following: Regular membership in the chapter shall be open to anyone upon payment of the annual dues and Regular membership requires membership in the parent organization, CRFG, Inc. So in light of this the board is proposing in January that everyone pay only the State Inc. dues and then to help offset the difference we are considering waiving all 2016 member dues for the entire chapter membership. The Festival of Fruit event this year helped out a lot in building back our relationship with Inc. and fortunately our chapter raised approximately \$13,000 in net proceeds. Since we both support the same common goals, we feel this gesture would go to great lengths to continue fostering that relationship. It is our hope that Inc. will continue to improve their website features, Fruit Gardner magazine, Seed Bank and possibly speakers and scholarships as well. This subject will be brought up for

discussion at the October meeting, so please plan to attending as we would welcome your input.

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 Isabel and Jon Barkman.

Gregg Hansen/Co-Chair

Jennifer Fitzpatrick/Co-Chair

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.

Tasting Table

last names beginning with **H, I or J**

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!

Meeting Program

1. Welcome
2. Guest Introductions
3. Announcements
4. Isabel & Jon Barkman – Persimmons
5. Opportunity Drawing – 9pm
6. Meeting Concluded – 10pm

Next Month – Avocados with Gary Bender

Treasurer's report by Stephanie Murphy

September Expenses

\$ 100.00 - Honorarium - David Akin (City of San Diego Pure Water Program)

\$ 35.00 - Mango Fandango (Mangoes - July)

\$ 32.40 - Office Supplies (copies of chapter events calendar/committee openings)

\$ 14.40 - Tasting table (red and green prickly pear, guavas, coffee)

September Festival of Fruit Expenses

\$ 13.80 - Postage (thank you letters)

\$195.60 - Total Expenses

September Income

\$ 100.00 - Honorarium donated back to club - thank you David Akin!

\$ 63.50 - Home and Garden Show

\$ 43.00 - Opportunity Table

\$ 34.61 - Membership

\$ 20.00 - T-shirt sales

\$ 1.00 - Fruit Tasting Jar

\$ 262.11 - Total Income

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

September 2, 2015

CRFG San Diego

Board Meeting Minutes

Commence at 6:12 pm

Board Present: Ben Kotnik, Gregg Hansen, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Jim Neitzel, Priya Kanakha, Stephanie Murphy
Attendees: Roger Pollard

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

Stephanie presented the preliminary treasurer report for the Festival of Fruit, and was approved. The FoF was a revenue generator for the chapter, and it was suggested that a financial committee be set up to gather ideas on how to allocate funds to benefit the organization and members.

The FoF Volunteer appreciation was discussed, and the actual date to be finalized after Tom, Maddie and the Board members return from their vacation.

The chapter general meeting topics were discussed with the possibility of Ben Kotnik presenting in the

February or March meeting. October meeting will be about Persimmons, November meeting is scheduled for Friday November 20, 2015 and the annual holiday potluck planned for Friday December 11, 2015.

Jim suggested a committee to explore educational activities, and to encourage members meeting and exploring their neighborhood gardens.

The watering schedule and irrigation needs at the Bancroft center was discussed, and Roger, Jennifer and Jim were planning to attend a Bancroft meeting to present long term (say 2 year) goals to benefit both the organizations. Few of the planned activities include grafting some of the Bancroft trees as the master tree for future propagation and tree diversity; planting some sweet vietnamese banana pups.

The need to increase the chapter's social media presence was discussed.

Finally the community outreach during the San Diego Home garden show was discussed.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10 pm

September 23, 2015

CRFG San Diego General Meeting Minutes

Commence at 7:25 pm

The general meeting was temporarily moved to Room 102 due to the ongoing renovations in the building.

Gregg Hansen started the meeting with new member introductions. Gregg announced preliminary FoF revenues were about 8,000 and the plant sales were about 5000. He then called for any volunteers who might be interested in forming a financial committee to develop a proposal on how to spend the FoF revenues for the member and organization outreach programs. The FoF volunteer appreciation party is planned for an October weekend, and after a quick show of hands the food will be catered for the party. Gregg asked for members to volunteer for the 2016 board, and asked everyone to review the individual Board member responsibilities in the handout/signup sheet distributed during the meeting. The chapter's Amazon affiliate program is active and Gregg encouraged everyone to link through the chapter website Amazon affiliate link for any purchases. A percentage of each sale through the affiliate link goes to the chapter.

Jennifer Fitzpatrick and **Jim Neitzel** spoke about Dave Wilson SOFT program and the order deadline is

early November. The SOFT program allows the general public to purchase unique varieties and inter specific hybrids which are generally not available to the public. The Festival of Fruit handout had a brochure relating to the SOFT program details.

Jennifer spoke about the chapter seed library and presented a colorful slideshow from her road trip to The Heirloom Expo held at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds September 13-15 2015. Did you know there is a dedicated seed library in Los Angeles?

Roger Pollard showcased the Little Free Library he built for the Bancroft center. The LFL is registered with the organization and is a replica of the Bancroft center with its very own rain harvesting mechanism. **Jennifer** encouraged members to donate any books suitable for kids and young adults that can be part of the revolving library of books.

The First Propagation Saturday is scheduled for September 26th, and **David Sohn** will conduct a tool sharpening workshop. **Tim Cass** will teach a class in propagating Opuntia.

David Sohn spoke about his road trip to visit Dr. Maxine Thompson's Haskap breeding research center in Oregon. David has picked up few different cultivars from the research center, and has shared with several of his family members with the intent to observe the growing habits of Haskap in different climate zones in the US.

Marianne West announced an upcoming permaculture talk by Toby Hemenway on October 4th at the World Beat Center.

David F. Akin was the main speaker for the meeting. His topic was 'Public Utilities Customer Services Overview'. David works at the City of San Diego office for the Municipal Water and Wastewater group. In his talk David shared ideas on water conservation, and how to reduce the water bills charges. The residential water bill consists of two components, the Water Services and Sewer/Storm Drain Services charges. The annual Sewer/Storm drain charges are based on the water usage during the winter billing cycle. By reducing water consumption from December to April billing cycles the sewer rates can be proportionately reduced for the following year. The sewer rates are reset every year based on water consumption. David suggested it is essential to install and maintain a properly working water pressure regulator in the house. A 60-80 psi is a good pressure to maintain within the house. Maintaining good pressure helps in extending the longevity of the plumbing lines and fixtures in the house, and helps avoid water

leaks. In the case of high water bills due to hidden water leaks from underground/walls it might be possible to obtain a leak adjustment by contacting the water department. The leak adjustment program is available for only documented instances of severe water leak, and does not include toilets, leaky fixtures that are typically visible.

David shared details of the Waste No Water App available for the mobile devices, to help report any runoff and wasted water around the city. The water department is currently offering rebate programs for rain harvesting systems. There might be possible rebate program for Greywater systems in the future, and at this time no permit is necessary to install a laundry greywater system.

David also spoke about the Pure Water Project in San Diego, and encouraged everyone to attend one of the free public tours offered at the facility. **Jennifer** has a sign up sheet for anyone interested in attending the Pure Water Project facility tour.

Meeting adjourned: 9:50 pm

Tim Thompson Mango Tree Order

A few of the Board members received inquiries regarding the delivery of the Tim Thompson mango trees ordered some time ago.

All of the mango trees for the CRFG group order that Jerry Tuler organized have been delivered and, as we understand it, are looking very healthy at around 5' tall!

We believe that, perhaps, a few people ordered trees directly from Tim (not through Jerry's group order) so do not have information regarding those orders.

While Jerry's order on behalf of our Chapter has been fulfilled, he has been kind enough to offer his assistance tracking down any outstanding orders placed directly with Tim. If you placed an order with Tim directly, and need assistance regarding outstanding orders, please contact Jerry at jrtuler@netscape.net.

Thank you!

California Rare Fruit Growers 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 fulfilling this dream of Jim's. He has a vision of small neighborhood groups sharing skills, fruit and plant material and so much more. Members are encouraged to join in their neighborhood group.

The Beach Area Garden Group (BAGG?) met on September 20 for lunch and a garden tour at Jennifer's garden. Cielo & Kevin Foth are hosting the October BAG group. Two members of CRFG have come out to the lunch that have not make it to the meetings because they no longer drive at night. That was an added bonus.

Please consider hosting a garden group in your neighborhood in October or November. Always invite Jim to your Group! He is ready for the invitations to roll in.

To see who is in your area, check out the sign up genius : <http://goo.gl/jnEsPp>

If you would like assistance setting up your group or have any questions, please contact Jennifer Fitzpatrick at JenniferFitzpatrick@CRFGSanDiego.org

New Rare Seed Committee

Sarah Lebidine has volunteered to lead the Seed Committee and is looking for additional members who are into seeds to join! Getting back to our roots, this newly formed Committee will be seeking seeds for distribution at the chapter meeting. The heirloom Seed Festival was such an inspiration. Can this chapter collect and share a variety of tomatoes like the picture from the festival? Sarah wants to try!! She will bring some of her amazing seed collection for viewing at the October meeting. Our goal is to have free seeds available at each meeting. To make that possible, remember to harvest your seeds and bring them to the next meeting. <http://goo.gl/R6MQ02>

Propagation Saturday was a Success at the Bancroft Street Nursery in September.

The first Propagation Saturday meeting at Bancroft Street Nursery was on September 26th . With 2 pop-up canopies, a dozen chairs and 2 tables for all the treats, we were somewhat comfortable at the Bancroft Street Nursery for the first Propagation Sunday at that location. I must say, it was definitely not the luxury location at Marianne West's home and garden. Sharing her yard, the big tree with lots of shade, and outdoor kitchen made Propagation Saturday a must attend regular event during the first half of this year, when all the plant material was being propagated for the Plant Sale at the Festival of Fruit. When the 100's of plants moved out to the plant sale in August, Marianne got her yard back for her own enjoyment. We are appreciative of her generous hospitality.

It was a hot day – but the refreshments brought by all the members were extraordinary. Prickly pear cactus, cookies with passion fruit glaze and dragon fruit tasting to mention a few.

Propagating Opuntia Robusta

Tim Cass brought many cuttings and examples of prickly pear cactus. His lesson focused on *Opuntia ficus indica* and *Opuntia robusta*. Tim showed us how easily the cuttings are to start and we learned the enemies of the cactus – rabbits and squirrels. We all received cuttings to take home and pot up in our gardens. Thank you Tim.

Tool Sharpening

David Sohn shared his knowledge of sharpening stones and his formidable skills sharpening garden tools. We brought our clippers, loppers, and shovels and David demonstrated how to sharpen each. As promised, he brought a variety of sharpening tools and had them available for purchase. Fantastic stones for \$3 – \$4. each. It never occurred to me to sharpen a shovel – I just figured I had to jump harder. The world of sharpening is complicated, yet David made it simple with just a few key tips. It comes down to the sharpening stone you use. Thank you David.



October is the Nomination Meeting

Our elections are coming up in November
The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteer
Candidates

This chapter elects officers at the 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. Jim as Vice Chair, Stephanie as Treasurer and Priya as Secretary will all be stepping down. This leaves great opportunities.

All 4 openings are available for nominations at the October meeting.

Please review the description of each one to determine which suits you the best.

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 regular 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 for 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/DRzkVM>
or call Jim Neitzel at 619-262-8959
or raise your hand at the meeting.

The 2 co-chairs stay on the board for 1 year as ex-officio's – assisting the new board members.

Festival of Fruit Volunteer Appreciation Event

Sunday evening, November 1st

We would like to thank each of you who volunteered to make the 2015 Festival of Fruit weekend such an awesome success by inviting you to a delicious buffet dinner at a lovely east county venue.

Anyone who volunteered any amount of time, made an in-kind or financial donation or hosted visitors for home tours, is cordially invited to attend an appreciation dinner on Sunday, November 1st. Please click this link before October 28th to RSVP for the event

<http://goo.gl/forms/rsE86tyOAn>

RSVPs are required. One non-volunteer guest is invited and details will be emailed (by October 30th) to those who RSVP.

Thank you!

Tom, Maddie and the San Diego Chapter Board

For those of you who requested an updated PowerPoint of Justin Rohner's Festival of Fruit presentation, you may find it at this link

<https://app.box.com/Agriscaping-RFG-FoF2015>

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>

10/28 – 7pm Room 102	San Diego Chapter Isabel Barkman on Persimmons
10/31 3– 6pm	Propagation Saturday
11/1 4–8pm	FoF Volunteer Appreciation Event
11/4 – 6pm	Board of Directors Meeting
11/14 – 8:30am	Volunteer at San Diego Botanic Garden (Quail Garden)
11/20 – 7pm Friday	San Diego Chapter Gary Bender on Avocados
11/20 – 7pm	North San Diego Chapter Dadla Ponizil - Utilizing Greywater for home gardening
11/21 3– 6pm	Propagation Saturday
12/11 – 7pm Friday	San Diego Chapter Holiday Party!!



California Rare Fruit Growers
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