



# San Diego Chapter Newsletter

March 2016



Wednesday, March 23rd 2016

## Food Forests with Josh Robinson Director of San Diego Sustainable Living Institute

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



Are you aware that we have the start of a food forest at the Bancroft Campus?

It will become an exciting place for the community to gather fresh fruit and growers to access scion wood for their grafting needs as well as conduct community education!

Come join us March 23rd as **Josh Robinson** of San Diego Sustainable Living Institute explains the thoughts behind food forests and all they can provide.

**Kevin Sweeney** of San Diego Youth Services, our community partner at the Bancroft Campus, will provide us with insight into his plans for the campus as well as the vision for our continued partnership.

### Speaker Bio:

Josh Robinson holds a Master's of Arts in Ecological Landscape Design and has been teaching topics on sustainable living since 2005 including courses for Northern Arizona University, Prescott College, Coconino Community College, and the Ecosa Institute. He has taught many more courses and workshops privately and given dozens of community presentations. Josh's teaching style has been well received with consistently positive student feedback. Josh currently lives and gardens at Higher Elevation Permaculture, a small urban permaculture demonstration site in Bay Park.

CRFG-San Diego is a fantastic and fascinating group of people but without mincing words, we need your help ... we need more volunteers. Within our fruit growing community, we have an incredible amount of wisdom and knowledge. As an organization, we have thrived for many years and now we have a challenge – we must continue to grow this community, spread the joys of fruit and of growing. In order to do this, we need everyone who loves this organization, who's passionate about what they grow and what they know to step up and help. Whether it's staffing the table at the San Diego County Fair, tending to sale plants, creating a workshop at the Bancroft Campus or hawking opportunity tickets at our meetings - you are our best ambassadors. You are our best voice and every single one of the events facing the public is an opportunity for you to show people why the San Diego Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers is the bee's knees!

Within our ranks we have a handful of committed individuals who answer the challenge, who regularly volunteer for nearly anything. Without your support they will burn out—many already have— and like the

untended grape, our organization will wither to a tangle of desiccated vines.

Below is a sampling of the upcoming opportunities for you to get involved. For specific event planning join our mailing list and during our meetings, approach a board member to find out where you can be the most help and let us know your ideas to make CRFG SD great!

Speaking of Volunteerism...

March 20th  
11am - Sunset

### San Diego Heirloom Seed Swap

Balboa Park, World Beat Center & Centro Cultural de la Raza

Our seed committee has grand plans to introduce a whole new audience to CRFG SD as well as grow their own gardens via this inaugural event.

Please volunteer to help staff our table and facilitate the exchange.

Sunday April 17th

10am-5pm

### **Earth Day Fair & Plant Sale**

Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Outdoor Patio

~Always a wonderful event to outreach to the community, sell some of our propagation committee's goods and enjoy the park with likeminded individuals!  
~Please volunteer to help staff our table or work with the propagation committee on materials to sell.

Saturday April 23rd

9am-3pm

### **Cuyamaca College Spring Garden Festival and Plant Sale**

900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon, Ca 92019

~Our friends at Cuyamaca College remain important community partners, let's show our support and get the good word out about CRFG SD.

~Please volunteer to help staff our table.

### **Exciting things are happening at our Bancroft Propagation Site!**

Come out to help us get our nursery in order for the upcoming sales, attend workshops and check out the burgeoning food forest!

Fourth Saturday of the month 9am-1pm

March 26th we'll be hosting a grafting demonstration!

Have skills you'd like to share? Get involved!

### Directions to Bancroft Campus Community Garden, CRFG SD Propagation Site and Food Forest:

3845 Spring Drive  
Spring Valley, Ca 91977

Hwy 94 east  
Exit Bancroft Drive  
Right on Bancroft Dr  
Immediate Right on Spring Place  
Left on Spring Drive  
Campus is to your left along Spring Dr  
Parking lot is at the end of Spring Dr  
You will see ball fields at the south end of the parking lot and a turnstile gate in the southeast corner to access the campus.

From there, walk east toward the playground and you will see the community garden and CRFG SD Propagation Site to your left against the east fence.

### **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.

### **Fruits in season this month**

loquat, blood orange, mandarin, avocado

To contribute what you're harvesting or buying in season, please email editor@crfgsandiego.org

### **Tasting and Refreshments Table**

last names beginning with **Q** or **R**

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!

### **Member Raffle**

At the March Meeting we will raffle off a subscription to Heirloom Gardener Magazine. It is a beautiful magazine from Baker Creek Seed Company.

Listen up at 7:10pm!!

Kelsey will call out the name of the winner. You must be a member and present to win.

### **Meeting Program**

1. Welcome
2. Guest Introductions
3. Announcements
4. Josh Robinson – Fruit Forests
5. Opportunity Drawing – 9pm
6. Meeting Concludes – 10pm

**Treasurer's report**

Income

2016 dues donated back to club	\$13.00
T-shirts	40.00
Tasting Jar	4.00
Opportunity Table	17.00
Amazon Commission	59.70
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$133.70</b>

Expenses

Office Supply	\$34.83
Ham for 2015 Holiday Party	22.21
Reimb. For FoF lunch	15.00
Reimb. Board for CRFG Inc. dues	175.00
2/24 Speaker Honorarium	150.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$397.04</b>

**February 3, 2016**

**CRFG San Diego  
Board Meeting Minutes**

Commence at 6:13 pm

Board Present: Benjamin Cossel, Greg Hansen, Kelsey Cossel, Kim Skinner, Laurie Wasserman, Priya Kanakha  
Attendees: Andy Fincham, Ben Kotnik, Stephanie Murphy  
Absent: Jennifer Fitzpatrick

Laurie and Stephanie spoke about reimbursing prepaid chapter membership dues for couple of members. Laurie agreed to follow up on what to do with the prepaid fees.

Laurie asked the January general meeting minutes to include a note about collecting CRFG Inc membership applications prior to the meeting.

Kim shared the current planned general meeting topics planned. February meeting will have Ben Kotnik's '12 Months of Fruit' as presentation. The grafting session to be scheduled as part of the Propagation Committee workshop. A variety of meeting topics like pruning in late Fall, apiary and fermentation of fruits, tours and nursery were discussed.

Kelsey met with Kevin Sweeney and Barbara Warner from Bancroft Community center, to plan the educational and irrigation requirements for the plant collection maintained by the chapter. The Propagation Committee plans to hold workshops fourth Saturday of the month in Bancroft Center.

The chapter has a large inventory of T-Shirts and ideas to reduce the inventory were discussed.

The Board agreed to maintain the Inc., and chapter membership fee reimbursement for Board members for another year. For 2016 there will be no chapter membership reimbursement for the Board.

The website content update schedule was discussed. It was also suggested the chapter website should maintain a more updated Nursery list for members use.

Ben C suggested starting the 2016 budget based on 2015 actuals.

The Finance Committee discussion will take place at a later meeting.

The Chapter 2016 budget was discussed and the following changes were made.

- Added Under Income:
  - Amazon Commission
- Additions/Removals Under Expenses:
  - Removed from Program Expenses
    - SOP&R Authorized
    - COGS - Specialty Fruit Tasting
    - Committee - Group Purchasing
    - Garden Tours
  - Additions
    - Specialty Fruit Tasting
  - Amended
    - "Picnic" is now Picnic/Volunteer Appreciation
  - Removed from General & Administrative
    - SDBGF Lifetime Membership
    - Bank Square Testing
  - Additions to General & Administrative
    - Tax Liability to CA

January Treasurer and Secretary minutes are to be approved electronically after the suggested revisions are in place.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 pm

**February 24, 2016  
CRFG San Diego  
General Meeting Minutes**

Commence at 7:25 pm

**Kelsey Cossel** welcomed everyone to the February 2016 general meeting. She spoke about the CRFG San Diego Chapter Special Meeting March 2nd featuring Taylor Walker's talk on 'Fruit Trees of Florida'. March 12th is the California Cherimoya Association meeting in Carpinteria, CA. March 20th is the Heirloom Seed Swap event at Worldbeat Cultural Center; CRFG volunteers are needed. April 17th is the EarthFair. April 23rd is Cuyamaca College Garden Sale, and volunteers are needed. The Propagation Committee will meet the 4th Saturday of the month 3pm-6pm at Bancroft site.

**Maddie Wichman** called for volunteers to help with Saturday propagation, and the La Jolla Secret Garden sale booth. Volunteers are needed to help with watering, propagation and irrigation.

**Jennifer Fitzpatrick** said Parafilm grafting tape is available for sale by the tables in the back of the room. She is also collecting names to batch order new nice looking Name Tags for members. The Name Tags cost \$15 each.

**Ben Kotnik** spoke about the tremendous contributions by **Jim Neitzel** over the years, and showcased the beautiful custom keychains created by **Jack Skeels** in honor of Jim. Jack made keychains for all the members and will hand them out after the presentation.

Ben Kotnik was the guest speaker for the night and shared his presentation about '12 Months of Fruits'. Here is a quick overview of the fruiting schedule typically true for San Diego region. January-December: Citrus, Avocados; December-March: Cherimoyas; April-June: Blueberries, Mulberries; mid-April-June: Loquats; May-Nov: White Sapotes; mid-May-mid-September: Stone Fruits; mid May-October: Figs; June-November: Apples; July-September: Grapes; mid-August - December: Mangoes; September-October: Jujubes; September-December: Persimmons; October-December: Pomegranates

The key to extending the fruit season for each variety is by picking different varieties to tier early-mid-late season fruiting. When space is limited the same can be achieved by multi-grafting trees, and stacking function with different varieties to fruit/flower a few weeks apart. To maintain a well balanced grafted tree select varieties with comparable growth vigor and/or chill hour requirements. This maintains each graft to grow uniformly.

The best time for pruning are when trees are young. Small cuts are better than larger cuts later in the growth cycle of the tree. The structure of the tree can be maintained by heading back, pinching leaves instead of large incisions.

**Jim Neitzel** mentioned Tropico the seedless tangerine (cross from Honey Marcott) is an excellent mid-season variety.

Following are some of the highlights from Ben's presentation:

Atemoya - Cuci Island; African Pride are common

Blueberries - leave them in pots to maintain acidic soil requirements. Home Depot in Lemon Grove has #2 pots for sale. Misty is prolific; Sharp Blue, South Moon other good varieties. Star - has less fruit and smallest. It is good to grow these in at least a 15 gallon pots

Loquats - hardier fruit. Sugar crisp, champagne, china doll, singular, early white sugar are some of the favorites

Mulberries - drought tolerant and take low water use.

Persian and Pakistani are 2-3 inch long fruits

Grapes - Thompson needs a lot of heat. To grow on pergolas, maintain 2-3 leaders and prune heavily each season.

Other varieties mentioned Suffolk red, Himrod, Niagara, Golden Muscat, blueberry grape. **Jim** mentioned Pierce California Concord ripens evenly.

White Sapotes - **Bob Chambers** has 35 varieties and anyone interested in maintaining a large selection for chapter's rootstock propagation efforts was asked to contact Ben Kotnik or other board members.

Stone Fruits - The first rule for pruning is maintaining the structural integrity. Thin fruits 1 fruit per 6 inches of branch.

Apples - Common rootstocks are M11 (15 ft), M7 (10-12 ft), BUD9 (4-6ft. Not very much vigor). Apples are easy to graft. Anna has a June harvest. Beanies (**Leo Manuel**), Ronnie (**Rolf**)

Mangoes - need a good amount of heat. Aloha (**Tom del Hotal**, 20-30 ft), Ataulfo, Gold Nugget, Manila, Kensington Pride, Rose Giant (**Jim Neitzel**), **Leo Manuel** has a large collection. Mangoes can take multiple grafting.

Figs - Yellow Green, Mark's Hungarian, Sierra, VDB. **Jon Verdick** has a large collection.

Pomegranates - Parfianka, Sweetheart, Fleishman's Avocados - Hass, Holiday, Reed, Sharwil, Choquette,

Aravaipa (cold hardy tastes like Fuerte). UCANR website has descriptions for each of the avocados.

Bananas - **Jon Verdick** has a large collection.

Stevia - air dry couple of days, and needs to be steeped to achieve the sweetness.

Meeting adjourned: 9:40 pm

### San Diego Heirloom Seed Swap

11am – sunset

Sunday, March 20 - Spring Equinox  
World Beat Center, Balboa Park

Seed swapping on a grand scale with live music, keynote speakers, great food & workshops for all ages. Kids will get birding kits, as the World Beat Center teaches ornithology to elementary school kids throughout San Diego.

There will be heirloom seeds of all kinds, edible rarities & garden obscurities. Bring your fruit and garden heirloom seed to share!

Joe Simcox will make a special appearance at 2:30 to talk about searching for seeds around the world.

During the seed swap from 3pm – 5pm seed stewards are needed to help pass out seeds and assist in the flow. Volunteers will receive a great gift bad – you can guess there will be seeds in it!

We will have a booth with fruit seeds and a great fruit display. Please sign up on sign up genius using this link. <http://goo.gl/57UiDs>  
It is free & open to the public.

### A Friendly Reminder to our Members

In California, supplies used to grow food are tax exempt. That means that when you are at a store or nursery, and you are purchasing food plants, fertilizers, and soil amendments, you should not be charged tax on those items. You may need to call this to the attention of the cashier. The theory is that you are using the fertilizer and soil amendments to grow food. Happy growing!

### Avocado Support Group

Saturday, April 2,

9 – 11am

The first meeting for the Avocado Support Group will be a hands on workshop on top working a mature tree. Our own Mark Balazs and Frank Habetler will be teaching the first of many workshops on this unique grafting technique.



This first class will be limited to 10 members. We currently have 16 members in the Support Group. If you are interested in grafting onto your mature avocado tree, this is the class for you. We have over 20 scion varieties in stock.

To sign up for the class, please go to the Sign Up Genius site. If you are new to the group – add your name. If you are already in the group, add a comment that you would like to attend this workshop.

<http://goo.gl/hd6ZAK>

The class is limited, but there will be another one soon. Remember, this is a members-only event.



**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: Benjamin Cossel**

Co-Chair@CRFGSanDiego.org  
307.274.0800

**Co-Chair: Kelsey Cossel**

Co-Chair@CRFGSanDiego.org  
503.313.8871

**Vice-Chair: Kim Skinner**

ViceChair@CRFGSanDiego.org

**Treasurer: Laurie Wasserman**

Treasurer@CRFGSanDiego.org

**Secretary: Priya Kanakha**

Secretary@CRFGSanDiego.org

**Former Co-Chairs: Jennifer Fitzpatrick**

**Gregg Hansen**

FormerChair@CRFGSanDiego.org

**Upcoming Events — At a Glance**

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

3/20 11am – sunset	San Diego Heirloom Seed Swap World Beat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Blvd
3/23 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter <b>Fruit Forests with Josh Robinson</b>
3/26 9am – 1pm	Grafting Demonstrations Bancroft Propagation Site
4/6 – 6pm	SD Board Meeting Balboa Park, Room 104
4/9 – 9am	San Diego Botanic Garden Volunteer Contact June Andersen
4/16 – 4/17 10am – 4pm	OC Green Scene at Fullerton Arboretum
4/17 10am – 5pm	Earth Day Fair & Plant Sale
4/23 9am – 3pm	Cuyamaca College Spring Garden Festival and Plant Sale
4/27 – 7pm	San Diego Chapter <b>TBD</b>



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