



San Diego Chapter Newsletter

May 2016



Wednesday, May 25th 2016

All about Cherries

Presented by Steven Alan Murray, Jr.

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



Steven Alan Murray Jr. is a fifth generation California young farmer who grew up on his family's cherry farm Murray Family Farms located near Arvin, in the southern end of California's Central Valley. His research facility is filled to the brim with over 400 species of 2,000 varieties of rare fruit varieties and is growing rapidly. His lifelong desire is to experience rare fruits in exotic lands. He has traveled to over 45 different countries and in addition to his native tongue English, he speaks Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, & Portuguese and can get by in a couple others. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Plant Science with minors in both Agronomy and Chinese Language from California Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Steven is active in CRFG, Vice Prez of Kern Chapter, on the Board of the North American Fruit Explorers, and has received scholarships from the CRFG Orange County Chapter and from the CRFG, Inc. in 2012.

Five years of drought across California means statewide water supply conditions continue to be among the most challenging in decades. As rare fruit growers, we are acutely aware of how valuable water is and the potential devastation to our beloved collections when supply is short. According to the University of California Backyard Orchard site, water use for a medium sized semi-dwarf fruit tree is between 16 and 19 gallons of water per day on a hot summer day in California.

Down at the Bancroft Propagation Site, restrictions enacted by the Otay Water District remain in affect, limiting the times our volunteers can spend watering the propagation committee's endeavors. But with a little bit of effort and investment we don't have to be limited by municipal water systems...

"Did you know that you can harvest 600 gallons of rainwater off a 1000 square foot roof in only 1" of rain?! It rains, on average, 10" in San Diego each year. But most of that rain falls between November and March so we need to catch and store as much as we can when we can!" Brook Sarson, <http://www.h2o-me.com>.

CRFGSD propagation committee has some exciting ideas of partnering with Brook (who some of you may know from her presentation at last year's Festival of Fruit) and our friends at the Bancroft Campus to install rainwater

catchment at the Bancroft Propagation Site! When these aspirations become reality we will let you all know of the opportunity to volunteer on the installation and learn from Brook all about the process and benefits.

Benefits you can feel at home as well. The SoCal Water\$mart program provides financial incentives to encourage customers to collect and re-use rainwater by purchasing rain barrels or a cistern. Rain barrels and cisterns collect water from gutters and downspouts for use on your landscape while reducing the amount of water flowing into storm drains.

Homeowners can get rebates of up to \$75 each on residential rain barrels (up to 4 per home) OR up to \$300 on one cistern 200 gallons or larger. Visit SoCal Water\$mart for more information on rebates from the Metropolitan Water District.

<http://www.watersmartsd.org/outdoor-incentives>

If you are a City of San Diego customer, you may be eligible to participate in their Residential Rainwater Harvesting (Rain Barrel) Rebate Pilot Program. You must be a City of San Diego water utility customer to participate. If you're not a City of San Diego water customer, check with your local water authority, many have similar offerings for their customers.

We encourage you all to look into the many ways you can

lessen your water use, collect available water, make your systems more efficient and help to be sure there is water to keep our rare fruits bearing for generations to come. Look forward to seeing everyone at our regular May Meeting!

Benjamin and Kelsey

White Sapote Scions

Bob Holzinger will have scion wood from 10 cultivars of white sapote available at the meeting for sale for \$0.50 each.

Meeting Program

- 1 . Welcome
 - 2 . Guest Introductions
 - 3 . Announcements
 - 4 . Steven Murray – All about Cherries
 - 5 . Opportunity Drawing – 9pm
 - 6 . Meeting Concludes – 10pm
- Next month – TBD

Fruits in season this month

cherry, blueberry, surinam cherry, mulberry, loquat, 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 **S** or **T**

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!

Propagation Meeting

The Bancroft Propagation Meeting will hold its regular monthly meeting, Saturday, May 28 (the fourth Saturday of the Month) at the Bancroft Site, 3845 Spring Dr, Spring Valley, CA 91977 beginning at 9 a.m.

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 April 2016

Expenses

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Speaker Honorariums | 450.00 |
| Hospitality Committee | 6.00 |
| Cuyamaca College Scholarship | 3,000.00 |
| P.O.Box Rental | 86.00 |
| Cash Bank for Earth Day | 200.00 |
| CRFG Inc. Scholarship Fund | 100.00 |
| Office Supply | 14.99 |
| Community Outreach(fruit) | 17.25 |
| Total | \$3,874.24 |

Income

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Earth Day T-shirts | 40.00 |
| Earth Day Plants | 170.00 |
| Opportunity Table | 27.00 |
| Tasting Jar | 2.00 |
| T-shirts | 20.00 |
| Amazon Commission | 13.63 |
| Total | \$272.63 |

2016 Summer Picnic with North County

The North County Picnic at the San Diego Botanic Garden will be on Saturday, July 16. An RSVP is required due to limited space. Please sign up using the following link: goo.gl/3G4Jjr

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: Benjamin Cossel

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307.274.0800

Co-Chair: Kelsey Cossel

Co-Chair@CRFGSanDiego.org
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Vice-Chair: Vacant

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>

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 5/20 – 7pm | North San Diego County Chapter Olive Oil with Thom Curry |
| 5/25 – 7pm | San Diego Chapter All about Cherries with Steven Murray |
| 5/28 9am – 1pm | Propagation meeting Bancroft Site |
| 6/1 – 6pm | SD Board Meeting Balboa Park, Room 104 |
| 6/3 – 7/4 | SD County Fair See attachment for volunteer info. |
| 6/11 – 9am | San Diego Botanic Garden Volunteer Contact June Andersen |
| 6/17 – 7pm | North San Diego County Chapter Avocados with Julie Frink and Denny Luby |
| 6/22 – 7pm | San Diego Chapter TBD |
| 6/29 – 6pm | SD Board Meeting Balboa Park, Room 104 |



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San Diego Chapter
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED