

**California
Rare
Fruit
Growers**



October 2016
North San Diego County Chapter

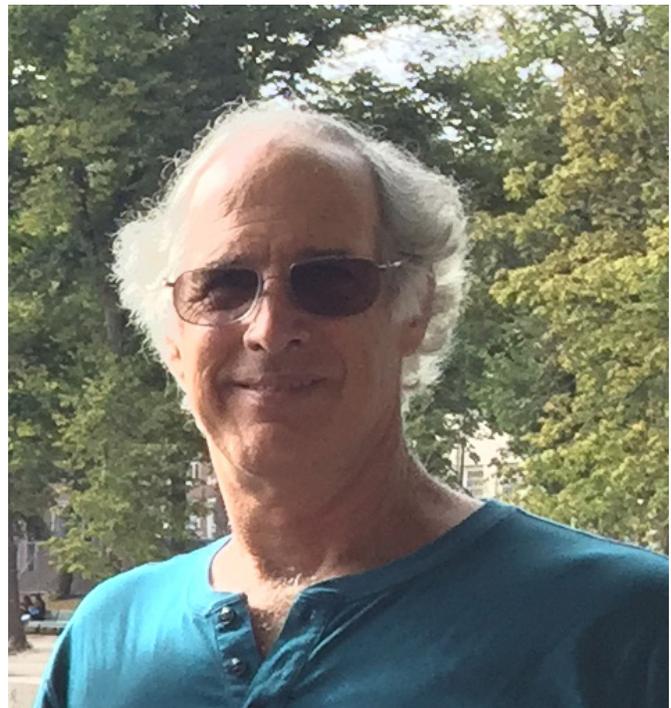
Passiflora with Bob Holzinger

Friday, October 21 7:00 PM

MiraCosta College Student Center, Aztlan Room A/B

Bob joined CRFG in 1984 as a member of the San Diego Chapter. Immediately he began to search for an area of speciality, which

lead him to meet Patrick Worley, a renowned grower and hybridizer of passifloras. Without the space to plant lots of passifloras at his house, Bob spent many weekends at Patrick's greenhouses learning about passifloras and taking pictures of the many flowers open during the visits. When Bob moved to Ventura in 1994 he acquired a property with an extensive fence line, and in two years the chain link surrounding the yard was completely covered by over twenty species and hybrids of passiflora. At his new house in Carlsbad Bob has again tried to create a green fence line covered by passifloras, growing the vines for both the fruit and the beautiful flowers.



Remember- We are back in our usual meeting spot!,

Cheers From The Chair

You win some, you lose some...

In this hobby, it is always a crapshoot when you add new plants to your collection. Many times they might be seedlings that may or may not grow up to be the quality of their parents, if you even know who their parents are. Other times they could be some rare plant that has never been grown in our area, and it is an experiment just to see if it can be kept alive. They could even be a relatively common variety of fruit that may or may not be happy in your particular microclimate. This is a story in this vein, and it could be called the good, the bad and the ugly (or to be more precise, the really good, the pretty good and the not so good).

Three plants fruited for me for the first time in the past month, my *Psidium eugeniaefolia*, a *Psidium guineense* and a *Hylocereus* of an unknown species. The two *Psidium*s were grown from seeds obtained from fellow collectors in South America, and the *Hylocereus* sp. was mislabeled as the dragon fruit species *Hylocereus trigonus*. I have been growing all three for about three or four years now, and all seem to be very happy in my yard. I was quite excited to see the first appearance of flower buds on all of them this spring and was anxiously awaiting the opportunity to sample the fruits. I had visions of tasting these delicious tropical delights right from my own back yard. Sweet and luscious, a duly earned reward for all the love and care I have given these plants, from seedlings to the healthy plants they are today.

Well, as the title says, you win some and you lose some. The first to ripen was the *P. eugeniaefolia*. I picked the first one and with eager anticipation popped it into my mouth then immediately spit it right back out! It was awful. Admittedly it was not quite ripe when I tried it, but it was just tannic and sour. After my first experience, I let them more fully ripen on the tree then picked some and let them sit on the kitchen counter for a few days to soften up. With this treatment, they were edible, and possibly even good. The flavor was there, and since it is such prolific plant I think that I will try to make a juice or ice cream out of the fruit next year.

The second fruit I was able to sample was the dragon fruit. When I received this cutting it was small, weak and obviously grown in deep shade by someone who is not a real serious *Hylocereus* collector. About six months after potting it up I was

able to determine that this particular plant was not *Hylocereus trigonus*, although I could not determine if it was *Hylocereus undatus*, the common white fleshed fruit, or something else. Since I was unsure what it was I decided to keep it around for a while. Boy am I glad I did! Since the plant has grown out, I now know that it is not an *H. undatus* and it does not fit any of the published descriptions of other *Hylocereus* species, so for now it is just *Hylocereus* sp.. Anyway, it bloomed for the first time this year, and after pollinating it with everything under the sun, I waited to see what might develop. I was rewarded about six weeks later with a healthy good sized dragon fruit (probably about 1½ pounds) with a beautiful pink skin and long green scales. With eager anticipation, I cut into the fruit and was a bit disappointed to see the white flesh inside. Disappointment soon turned to joy when I tasted the fruit. Finally a white fleshed fruit with flavor! It was sweet, with the grape and kiwi flavors you usually get in the pink fruits, but had some cherry flavor as well. I would put this fruit up against any other dragon fruit in a taste test. This plant is a real winner, and if it is self fertile (I hope to find out next year) it will be quite an addition to the varieties available for the home grower.

The third fruit, *Psidium guineense*, finally ripened a few weeks ago. I was really happy to finally get this plant to fruit, as I really struggled with this one as a seedling. It would lose its leaves and die back, looking like it was about to expire, then put out a small flush of growth, only to have that die off. After about a year of this, it finally was able to establish itself last summer, and has been growing wonderfully ever since. From a horticultural standpoint, I feel that this plant was quite a success for me. It bloomed profusely this summer, with those typical guava flower clusters, and after about three months I had my first fruits to try. They are yellow and about the size of a strawberry guava, but in my opinion they are better tasting. Not quite up to the quality of a good standard guava, but tasty none the less. This is definitely a plant that has earned a space in my yard.

I apologize for the long post, but I wanted to share some of my fruit stories from the past month. What about you? Have you grown or sampled anything interesting lately? If you have I am sure we would all love to hear about it, so consider writing up your experiences for the newsletter. You'll be glad you did.

Cheers,
Richard

Check out the new website!

We have a new website, the URL is nsdcrfg.wordpress.com. We are still rolling it out, so please take a look and let us know what you would like to see there. Thank you Linda and Helen for all your hard work in getting this set up.

San Diego Botanic Garden Volunteer Opportunities and Work Party

Join the over 300 volunteers who contribute time to the San Diego Botanic Garden. Join others for a volunteer orientation and discover the many varied opportunities available. A short tour of the garden is included. In order to participate in the CRFG sub-tropical garden work parties you must attend an orientation. To receive more information and the dates for the upcoming orientations call 760-436-3036 x 206

Next work party, November 12, 8:30 to 12:00

Refreshments:

If your birthday month is October, please bring some refreshments to the meeting this month.

Home grown fruits and vegetables are the best. However, other munchies are also greatly appreciated. Please be sure they are ready to serve.

Now on Facebook!

North San Diego County Chapter now has a Facebook Page. Please check us out at www.facebook.com/groups/northsandiegocrfg/. This is a closed group and is for our members only, so you will need to ask the administrator to join.

Raffle

There will be no raffle this month. They will resume in February

Member Matters Membership

Chapter dues with E-MAIL newsletters are \$10.00 for one member plus \$5.00 for each additional household member. Chapter dues with USPS newsletters are \$15.00 for one member plus \$5.00 for each additional household member. USPS is only for those without E-mail. You must also be a member of our parent organization, [CRFG, Inc.](#). To renew, please fill out a **NEW APPLICATION** online or bring it to our next meeting. Make check out to NC CRFG and send it to;

Dawne Dickinson
7923 Calle San Felipe
Carlsbad CA 92009

Please contact our Membership Committee Chair Dawne Dickinson if you have any questions.

New Members

by Dawne Dickinson

Please Welcome
Robert and Happy Moore

Name Tags

Please keep your name tags after each meeting and bring them back with you for the next. We are hoping to have everyone be responsible for their own name tags to make things a bit easier on those who have had to keep track of them all this time. If you are interested in a more professional looking name tag, you can purchase them from the CRFG Inc. for \$11 by calling 805-543-9455 or email market@crfg.org. You must be a member of our parent organization (CRFG, Inc.) to order name tags from CRFG. To make it easier you can pay using PayPal.

**North San Diego County Chapter
Financial Report September 1 – September 30
by Art and Dottie Logan**

INCOME

Raffle	\$92
Total Income	\$92

EXPENSES

Speaker Fee	\$100
Fair Supplies	\$29.76
Refund from website	<\$40.00>
Total Expenses	\$89.76

Net Income **\$2.24**

Chapter Contacts

Board Members

Richard Reid	Chairperson	619-857-7505	rtreid@me.com
Jill Lindsey	Vice-Chairperson	760-224-3350	walrussy@gmail.com
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Other Contacts

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 Richard Reid
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Calendar of Activities	
North San Diego County CRFG	Other Local Events
10/21 General chapter meeting – Passiflora with Bob Holzinger 7:00 PM Miracosta Student Center	10/26 San Diego Chapter Meeting - 7:00 Balboa Park The topic is pomegranates
11/ 12 SD Botanic Garden Work Party 8:30-12:00 San Diego Botanic Gardens	11/5 MiraCosta Horticulture Society Dragonfruit with Linda Nickerson MiraCosta College Student Center 1:00 PM