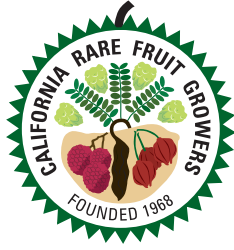


**California
Rare
Fruit
Growers**



September 2016
North San Diego County Chapter

Permaculture with Peter Ash

Friday September 16 7:00 PM

MiraCosta College Student Center, Aztlan Room A/B

Friday September Peter Ash is an organic farmer with over 40 years experience. Peter is a Certified Permaculture Designer, Master Composter, Environmental Educator, and a Trained Naturalist. After 35 years in commercial agriculture Peter became dedicated to sustainable and regenerative practices focusing on building healthy soil and returning all organics back to the environment. He studied microbiology under Dr. Elaine Ingham and studied and taught Biodynamics with the Biodynamic Association of India. Peter has designed and implemented commercial compost and recycling operations in India and Zanzibar and has an ongoing permaculture design project in Madagascar. From his work and research in India Peter has written several papers on bioremediation of toxic soils through the use of compost and natural planting systems. In 2002, Peter started StraightAsh Environmental Solutions, an international consulting firm on Permaculture Design, Sustainable Food Systems, Agroecology, and Integrated Waste Management. Peter continues to teach and consult internationally.



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

Cheers From The Chair

Mountain Meadow Mushrooms

On a very warm Saturday in late July, a dozen or so CRFG members were treated to a tour of the Mountain Meadow Mushrooms production facility in Escondido. David, our tour guide met us and gave us a quick rundown on the history of the operation as well as his personal association with Mountain Meadow Mushrooms.

We started our tour with a look at the raw materials that go into growing mushrooms. The main ingredient is bedding straw, and lots of it! They receive all the used horse bedding from the Del Mar racing season, were they re-bale and store it until needed. Racing season had just started when we were visiting and they were hard at work turning piles of loose straw into orderly bales. Added to the hay is cotton seed meal, crushed almond hulls and lime. One of the things that they are proud of is the fact that almost all of the material they use to grow their mushrooms is something that is being recycled rather than being sent to a landfill. I must applaud them for turning materials that could otherwise be waste into such a delicious food crop.

Growing mushrooms is not as easy as putting some straw in a dark room and letting the fungus do its thing. First they make compost, giant mounds of compost. They mix the straw with the other ingredients and wet it down in rows that are six feet high by six feet wide by at least 200 feet long (I cannot remember how long they said they were). They have a special machine that is used to turn the compost, like a giant roto-tiller in a box. It slowly drives from one end of the pile to the other rotating the material to help speed the decomposition. Another thing I was impressed by is that all water they used to make the compost is recycled and none of it ever leaves the property as run off. Another way they help to protect the environment.

To be continued...

I put this write up here to let you know that these are the kind of activities that we, as a group, would like to do more of. But we need your input! Are you interested in tours and trips? Where might you like to go, a date farm in Indio, an avocado orchard in Fallbrook? What about a specialty produce wholesaler? Let us know what interests you, and we will do are best to see it happen.

Cheers,
Richard

Any Artists or Designers in the Group?

We are looking for someone in the group who might be willing to design a logo for the North San Diego County CRFG. It does not need to be anything fancy, just something to put on the masthead of the Newsletter and on official correspondence.

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, October 8, 8:30 to 12:00

Refreshments:

If your birthday month is September, 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

We will be having a raffle this month. Plant sitters please bring the plants you are still holding from the summer plant sale to the meeting. All other members please bring anything garden related, plants, veggies, fruits, eggs, and decorator pots.

We need everyone's help.

Thanks to everyone who helped last month. We earned \$121.00 for the chapter. You get 1 free raffle ticket for your donation over \$3.00. Limit 1 free ticket per member. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.

Thanks for your support and thanks to all the plant sitters.

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

No new members

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 August 1 – August 31

by Art and Dottie Logan

INCOME

Raffle	\$121
Total Income	\$121

EXPENSES

None

Net Income

\$121

Chapter Contacts

Board Members

Richard Reid	Chairperson	619-857-7505	rtreid@me.com
Jill Lindsey	Vice-Chairperson	760-224-3350	walrussy@gmail.com
Art Logan	Co-Treasurer	760-806-6678	art.logan77@gmail.com
Dottie Logan	Co-Treasurer	760-806-6678	crfglogan777@gmail.com
Linda Mercurio	Secretary		sundanz91@gmail.com
Dawne Dickinson	Member at Large	760-522-3596	dawnegale@gmail.com
Chris Finley	Member at Large		crfgchris@gmail.com
Kathryn Blankinship	Past Chair	760-518-9922	kblankinship1@cox.net

Other Contacts

Membership	Dawne Dickinson	760-522-3596	dawnegale@gmail.com
Newsletter	Richard Reid	619-857-7505	rtreid@me.com



North San Diego County Chapter, CRFG
 Richard Reid
 11385 Fairwind Ct.
 San Diego, CA 92130

Calendar of Activities	
North San Diego County CRFG	Other Local Events
9/16 General chapter meeting – All about Dragonfruit 7:00 PM Miracosta Horticulture Bldg room 7001	9/28 San Diego Chapter Meeting - 7:00 Balboa Park
10/8 SD Botanic Garden Work Party 8:30-12:00 San Diego Botanic Gardens	9/23 – 9/25 Fall San Diego Home and Garden Fair. Del Mar Fairgrounds