

**California
Rare
Fruit
Growers**



January 2017
North San Diego County Chapter

Annual Scion Exchange
Friday, January 20 7:00 PM
MiraCosta College Student Center, Aztlan Room A/B

Join us for the most anticipated event of the year, our annual scion exchange! This is a great time to add new varieties of stone fruit to your trees, giving you different fruits and extending your harvest times. For those of us with small yards (and even those of you with acreage) a single plum, peach, apricot or most any other tree too often gives far too much fruit in too short a time window to get optimal enjoyment from our labors. With a multi-grafted tree, you can have three or four or as many as you like, smaller crops spaced out throughout the spring and summer.

A few suggestions and rules. First, please do not bring any patented varieties to the exchange. If you are unsure if a particular variety is patented, we will have a list of patent protected fruits at the exchange. Second, please **do not bring any citrus**. With the citrus psyllid and citrus greening disease getting a foothold in Southern California, we do not want to do anything that could inadvertently help spread the disease.

As far as scion wood goes, bring what ever you have! What you might think is a common fruit might be just the thing that someone else is looking for to round out their collection. Scions should ideally be about the length and thickness of a pencil. A bit larger is ok, but anything less than one eighth inch in diameter gets difficult to graft. A flat cut at the bottom and a diagonal cut at the top is nice as it helps the recipient of the wood quickly know which end is up. After cutting your scions, store them in a plastic bag with a slightly damp paper towel in the vegetable bin of your refrigerator. Also remember to label your scions, so that we all know what everyone is supplying.

Finally, remember to bring bags, labeling tape and a marker to mark what you brought home!

Cheers From The Chair

Happy New Year!

Well, it has been a wet few weeks! For me, the rain has been a blessing and curse. While all my trees and in ground plants are enjoying the soaking and the chance to get all of the accumulated salts leached out of the soil, I have lost a large number of seedlings and small plants to “wet feet” and root rot. I know that I should have brought them under some cover for the winter, but there comes a point where you just need to throw them out there and see how they survive.

I was having a discussion with some of the members and a fellow board member at the Holiday Party, and we were brainstorming for ideas of activities for our chapter meetings (or in the newsletter). I thought I would put some of these ideas we came up with out to the general membership to gauge the level of interest in some or all of these activities. They would all be short five to ten minute segments just before our scheduled speaker, and if there is an interest in all of them they could be rotated throughout the year. The first would be a presentation on what members have done with the fruit that they harvested that month. Do you can or dry it, make preserves, wine or anything else? This would be a time for members to share ideas about what to do with our bounty. Unique and unusual uses would be especially interesting to hear about. Second would be a “Bug of the Month” session where we will discuss a particular garden pest or disease and share how we deal with it. If you have any environmentally benign ways of pest or disease control to share with your fellow members that would be great! Third would be the “Photo Op.” Want to show off your yard but concerned about the stress of having an organized tour? Have a problem area where you can't seem to get anything to grow? Question about a particular tree or bush in your yard? This is the program for you! Give us some photos and we will display them at the meeting where you can discuss it and the group can either shower you with praise for a beautiful yard, give suggestions for your problem or both, depending on what you brought to show.

Let us know what you think about these ideas, or any others that you might like to see in the future. Also let us know if you would like to see things like this in the newsletter. For instance, if we have an overflow of submissions, we could have one at the meeting and some in the newsletter. This is your club, and we are looking for ways to make it more enjoyable for you.

Cheers,
Richard

FUN FILLED HOLIDAY PARTY

On Dec 4th many members met at the San Marcos Mobile Home Estates clubhouse for a fun sociable party with great food for all of the long time members and newcomers.

Some members we only see a couple times a year.

Thanks to Helen Driver for the great ham. Helen was ill but a friend brought the delicious ham.

Kathryn Blankinship and Richard Reid brought the scrumptious turkeys.

Everyone else brought in their favorite dishes

Many thanks to Marlene Walder for securing this venue.

With Marlene's help and all of our volunteers who helped setup and cleanup we were not charged a cleanup fee because we left it better than we found it.

Thanks to Cory Krell & Lena Shiroma, Skip & Linda Vint, John & Sally Sanderson, Bill & Bonnie DiAngelo, Richard Reid, Chris Finley, Keri Brookshire, Katheryn Blankinship, Jill Lindsey, Marlene Walder, and Art & Dottie Logan.

We appreciate all who helped.

Thanks to Sally & John, Cory & Lena, and Art & Dottie for the door prizes and Keri Brookshire for managing the sign in and door prizes.

The gift exchange was fun for all of the good natured members

Our next big party will be on July 15th (Picnic at SD Botanic Gardens) that has been reserved for us by June Andersen. Thanks June

EARTH DAY

Earth Day is April 15th at Alta Vista Botanical Gardens.

We will be selling your donated edible plants.

Any left-over plants will be sold at our regular meeting on April 21st.

We will need volunteers to man our booth - Save the date.

More info to come

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, January 14th, 8:30 to 12:00

Refreshments:

If your birthday month is January, 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 FOR 2017 ARE DUE!

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.

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
1/20 General chapter meeting – Annual Scion Exchange 7:00 PM Miracosta Student Center	1/25 San Diego Chapter Meeting - Annual Scion Exchange 7:00 PM Casa del Prado Bldg. Balboa Park
1/14 SD Botanic Garden Work Party 8:30-12:00 San Diego Botanic Gardens	