

California Rare Fruit Growers



March 2017

Persimmons with Greg Rager

Friday, March 17 7:00 PM

MiraCosta College Student Center, Aztlan Room A/B

Greg is a 10-year member of California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG-OC) and UCCE Master Gardener (Class of 2011) with over 3300 volunteer hours. He is an active volunteer at Irvine's South Coast Research & Extension Center (SCREC) in the persimmon, avocado, citrus, pluot, high-chill apple trial, and cherimoya fields. He grew up in the Mid-West and enjoyed such 'exotic and rare fruits' as Native North American Paw Paws and Virginia persimmons thinking everyone else enjoyed them.

Greg's favorite gardening tool is the Urban Chicken, who helps daily in the garden by eating leftovers, are eco-friendly Integrated Pest Managers, efficient at Compost Turning & Soil Aeration, very efficient Applicators of Nitrogen Fertilizer Bombs, and delicious Egg Producers - they are also experts at 'reorganizing' the plant name-tags/stakes and harvesting blueberries.

He lives in Temecula on 6.5 acres of whole-lotta-work-with-little-progress, is the official chocolate-sample taste tester for his wife's 5-star hotel 'turn-down' chocolate business, and they host AirBnB guests from around the world. They have a small-farm-mostly-mini-animal rescue, currently containing 60 chickens, 36 quail, 3 turkeys, 7 ducks, 2 Sebastopol geese, 4 micro-mini ponies, 2 mini-sheep, 3 (very spoiled) runt dwarf Nigerian goats, 2 mini-pigs, 2 donkeys, a mini-steer, an alpaca, and a zebra.

Greg has 40 years of fine-art & commercial photography experience, 30 years' experience as a Community College instructor at Cypress, Santa Ana, and Mount San Antonio Colleges, and 25 years as a collector, practitioner, lecturer, and subject matter expert on the 'Care, Identification, and Age-Dating 19th Century Photographic Processes'. His personal photographic work uses film cameras up to 100 years old and prints the 'old-school' negatives using 19th Century photographic processes.

He is retired Systems Analyst from Xerox Corporation, where he worked with commercial-level color digital printers and the related computer applications for 20 years. Greg holds a Master's Degree from CSULB and a California Community College Lifetime Teaching Credential.

Cheers From The Chair

Watching the plants wake up.

It sure feels like spring is here, with the warm days recently, a respite from the rain and the switch to Daylight Savings this weekend. It is always an exciting time, and I find myself spending more time in the yard as the days get longer. Since I have so many young subtropical plants at my relatively new home, I am constantly searching for signs that some plant or another might be fruiting for the first time. Many of the plants I put in when I first moved in are now six and seven years old, and should be getting close to maturity by now. I am hoping that maybe I will be getting my first blooms on some of my Garcinias, Eugenias and Jaboticabas this year. They might be a little young yet, but I feel that all gardeners, myself included, are optimists by nature, and we are always looking for and hoping that this will be the year that all those precious charges that we have been caring for will finally reward us with a flower, fruit or whatever we are growing it for.

It is also encouraging to see healthy new growth on some of the plants I am attempting to grow after all the stress of hard water salt build up in my soil. I am experimenting with the genus *Campomanesia*, a group of fruiting plants from South America related to guavas, and they do not like our hard water one bit. For the last few years, they will push out nice healthy growth in the spring after the rains, then those leaves and branch tips will slowly turn brown over the course of the summer as they are forced to survive on our hard water. While I am hoping that they adapt, and as I said earlier, I am the eternal optimist in my garden, sometimes the plants we experiment with are just not destined to grow where you live. But I will keep trying and experimenting, because that is a large part of the fun of gardening for me.

How about you? Are there any plants you are experimenting with? Please share your successes and failures with the group by writing about them and sharing it in the newsletter. I am sure the entire club would like to hear about it, and we can all learn something new.

Cheers,
Richard

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, March 11th, 8:30 to 12:00

2017 DEL MAR FAIR

The Del Mar Fair is from June 2nd thru July 4th.
Closed the first 4 Mondays and first 3 Tuesdays
The contracts are already executed.

We will be next to the O'Brien Bldg.
There will be 2 shifts per day and we need 2 people per each shift.
Carol Graham will be signing up members soon,

Just say YES when asked.
You will get in free for the whole day

BUDGET and RESERVES

The Budget and Reserve expenditures were prepared by the treasurers and were approved by the board in January.

The February newsletter included the budget, which was approved by the membership.

We also explained that MiraCosta College needed \$1500.00 for a summer intern. CRFG, Inc said they would send \$1000.00 from the earnings from the Thomson scholarship fund setup by our chapter.

CRFG, Inc did not send any money last year.

When they send the \$1000.00, we will send \$500.00 from our reserve.

This was approved by our membership

RAFFLE

We will have a raffle again this month.

The success of our raffles depends on the generosity of our members.

Please bring anything loosely related to gardening.

Any fruit, veggie, or herb plants, decorative containers, or vases, fruit wines (sealed), jams & jellies, gloves, tools, fertilizers, seeds, horticulture books, or other related items the members want.

You will get one free raffle ticket if the value of your donation is \$3.00 or more. Limit one per member.

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

We can use a volunteer to help with the raffle.

Please see Dottie.

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.

Refreshments:

If your birthday month is March, 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.

EARTH DAY PLANT SALE

Earth Day Plant Sale

Plant Sale co-chairs Richard Reid & Dottie Logan

The Plant Sale is at Alta Vista Botanical Gardens on Saturday, April 15th.

We need helpers (sales people) from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

We will also be setting up from 2 – 4 PM on Friday April 14th.

No other outside vendors will be setting up at this time.

Dottie will have a signup sheet at the March meeting.

Starting in March you can buy a 6 pack of veggies, Plant 3 for your self, and put each of the leftovers in a 1 gal size pot for the plant sale.

Please bring your plants on Friday, April 14th from 2-4 PM or bring them to Art & Dottie's home sometime during the week before April 14th.

We will sell leftover plants at ½ price on April 21st.

We will need plant sitters for less than one week.

Please help us have a successful plant sale.

Dottie

New Members

by Dawne Dickinson

Please Welcome
Gina Pei, Poway
Bie-hwa Ma, Poway
David Gaytan, Oceanside
Dave Rose, San Diego

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.

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
Art Logan	Co-Treasurer	760-806-6678	art.logan77@gmail.com
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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
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Chapter Website:	nc.crfgsandiego.org	Webmaster Open	



North San Diego County Chapter, CRFG
 Richard Reid
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Calendar of Activities	
North San Diego County CRFG	Other Local Events
3/17 General chapter meeting – Greg Rager on presimmons 7:00 PM Miracosta Student Center	3/22 San Diego Chapter Meeting - Pat Nolan, Citrus Diseases. 7:00 PM Casa del Prado Bldg. Balboa Park
4/08 SD Botanic Garden Work Party 8:30-12:00 San Diego Botanic Gardens	4/15 Earth Day Fair, Alta Vista Gardens
4/15 Chapter Plant Sale - Alta Vista Gardens	4/23 Earth Day Fair – Balboa Park