

# California Rare Fruit Growers



May 2017

**Bee Aware: Keeping bees in San Diego County.**  
**Jaime Garza, San Diego County Dept. of Agriculture**  
**Friday, May 19 7:00 PM**  
**MiraCosta College Student Center, Aztlan Room A/B**

Mr. Garza will discuss beekeeper management practices, pests and diseases of bee colonies, and the revisions made to the San Diego County Bee Ordinance that allowed more beekeepers the opportunity to keep bee colonies legally in the unincorporated areas of the county. He will also have a short presentation about nursery licensing and the shipping/receiving of plant material.

My bio: I am an Apiary/Agricultural Standards Inspector for the County of San Diego Agriculture, Weights & Measures Department. I have worked for the County as an Inspector for six years. My previous experience includes working for another County Agriculture Department in Central California conducting bee colony inspections and bee colony strength assessments for two seasons. I was born and raised in Sanger, CA a small farming community southeast of Fresno, CA and went to college at Cal Poly-SLO where I received a B.S. in Agricultural Business.



## Cheers From The Chair

What has been happening in your yard?

Now that spring is on the wane, I thought I would present an update on my garden.

First off, it has been a really strange spring around here. We had a final count of 130 chill hours for the season. Not a lot, but a bit more than average for my location. Strangely, my deciduous fruits seem to be the most off this year. The peaches bloomed a bit late, but not too far off their usual time. My Cherries (Minnie Royal, Royal Lee and Cristoballina did not break dormancy until early April! Usually they are the first of my trees to bloom. My pluots bloomed before my plums, which has never happened before, and the last of those was my Sweet Treat Pluerry, usually one of my earliest bloomers. Overall, it has been a very odd year for the stone fruits. I do not know if it was the large amount of rain in January and February, or what, but it sure has been strange.

The Dragonfruit are also a bit off. Usually by this time I am seeing a spring growth flush, but the plants are not growing at all. I have some flower buds on my Arizona Purple (S-8) but there is nothing happening on any of my other plants. I would have thought that with the warm March and April, they would be growing like crazy, but they are just sitting there. Maybe they will start growing in May. It might be because of all the disease problems I had this winter. Fungus and soft rot was everywhere on my DF, I was very happy when it warmed up and the plants started to look healthier.

The tropicals and subtropicals on the other hand have done quite well over the winter and they all started to put out new growth earlier than usual this year. I think they really appreciated the rains we had and the leaching of all the salts out of the soil after the past few years of little rainfall. I have flowers (and hopefully fruit) on a number of my plants for the first time this year, so I hope I will be able to share some unusual new fruits this summer.

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, June 10th, 8:30 to 12:00

## Raffle

We will have a raffle this month.

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, or other related items the members want.

Please bring plants you are plant sitting from Earth Day.

We need everyone's help.

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.

## New Members

by Dawne Dickinson

Please Welcome

Jordan Bowman Escondido

Richard Mang Vista

# CRFG EXHIBIT

San Diego County Fair 2017

Friday June 2 - Tuesday July 4

but closed all Mondays except open July 3

& closed the first three Tuesdays (closed June 6, 13 & 20)

& on Friday June 2 not opening until 4PM

by Carol Frye Graham

**THANK YOU** to all who have already volunteered. I hope that the following information will be useful to you and that it may encourage others to volunteer. **We will again have an exhibit space outside the Pat O'Brien Building. This year our space will be southeast of this building close to the Master Gardener exhibit.** Yes, we are still in the Flower & Garden Show area (very nice). The Fair is kindly providing a shade canopy but I always feel it is a good idea to take your own sun hat. Fair entrance passes for CRFG members staffing our exhibit will again be distributed through WILL CALL (see below). CRFG is endeavoring to have multiple members at our exhibit every full day of this Fair so numerous staffers are needed. **This year, the Fair gates are scheduled to open at 11AM on most weekdays (remember closed on June 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 & 26) and 10AM on Saturdays and Sundays and July 4. We are hoping to have members staff our exhibit from 11AM-2PM and 2-5PM on most weekdays and 10AM-1PM and 1-4PM on Saturdays and Sundays and July 4.** This is a VERY BIG undertaking and your support is always appreciated! **To volunteer, please call me at (760) 7536757 (recommend evenings) or email me at [navanax@AOL.com](mailto:navanax@AOL.com).**

**GETTING TO THE FAIR & PARKING** (NOTE DIRECTIONS TO FREE PARKING LOT) The Fair will again be charging for parking in its main parking lot (at least \$13 per vehicle, yes the parking fee increased from last year) and this will cause traffic congestion. No one expects you to pay for parking so that you can staff the exhibit, so please use the free parking at Horsepark (same as last year). From Interstate-5 drive approximately 1 mile east on Via de la Valle. At the traffic light, turn south (right) onto El Camino Real and start looking to the west (right) for the entrance to Horsepark's large unpaved parking lot. Taking a few seconds to note where you parked can save several minutes when returning to your vehicle. From one hour before the Fair opens to closing time, a free shuttle will travel between Horsepark and the Fairgrounds four times an hour (shuttle does not leave at precise times). I recommend staying on this shuttle until it stops at the O'Brien Gate (Fair's main entrance), about a 15 minute ride through the back of the Fairgrounds to the O'Brien Gate. This shuttle service

will run everyday that the Fair is open.

**Warning - Read the next paragraph only if you want to go to the Fair on a Saturday or Sunday or July 4**

If you are going to the Fair on a weekend or July 4 (I need to emphasize that the following information applies only to these specific dates) you may find one of two alternate free remote parking and shuttle services more convenient. If you are driving south to the Fair, you may exit Interstate-5 at Manchester Avenue in Encinitas, go east for approximately 3/4 of a mile and turn north (left) into Mira Costa College, San Elijo Campus (the traffic light makes it simple to find the only vehicular entrance into this small campus). I have used this site for weekend access to the Fair and have always found it most convenient. If you are driving north to the Fair, you may exit Interstate-5 at Del Mar Heights Road, go east for approximately 1 mile and turn north (left) into Torrey Pines High School. The parking and shuttle services from both Mira Costa College (San Elijo Campus) and Torrey Pines High School are free and leave at approximately 15 minute intervals, starting an hour before the Fair opens.

**WILL CALL** Before you enter the Fairgrounds, you need to pick up an entrance pass (credential) at WILL CALL, a small booth immediately south of the O'Brien Gate. Identify yourself as staffing the California Rare Fruit Growers Exhibit and give your name. You will be asked to initial next to your name on the staffing calendar. REMEMBER: Go to WILL CALL (not the Ticket Sales Booth) to pick up your pass. WILL CALL will be open at least an hour before the Fairgrounds are scheduled to open to the public.

**EXHIBIT AREA** The O'Brien Building (first large building left of the main entrance) and the Flower & Garden Show area will open to the public simultaneously with the opening of the main gate of the Fairgrounds. As an exhibit staffer you will be permitted entrance before the onslaught of the public (it would be very nice if the first shift of each day would be at our exhibit and ready to smile at our first visitors at 11AM or 10AM respectively). Please wear your CRFG name tag or CRFG shirt if you have one. **Our exhibit is outside and southeast of the O'Brien Building, under a shade canopy close to the Master Gardener exhibit.** Bringing a jacket in case of cool or windy weather is recommended (remember the Fair's proximity to the beach frequently subjects it to cooling influences, sometimes even fog). On many days, heat and not coolness may be of greater concern for personal comfort so dress accordingly. Also recommended is bringing your own cooler with lunch or snacks (but no glass containers) to avoid the high cost of refreshments at the Fair and minimize temporary absences from our exhibit. Please do not leave our exhibit while your partner is also temporarily away. If you have unusual fruit, please bring it for display during your shift (you need not give out samples). In case anyone wants to give out samples, I will try to leave a knife at our exhibit for cutting up fruit but remember no knives will be permitted to come through the admission gates once the

Fair has opened due to security concerns. Three chairs will be provided at our exhibit for your comfort. A broom, dustpan, dusting cloth, and trash bucket will be provided to help keep our exhibit looking its best. Please take your Fair mementos, programs, newspapers, etc. with you when you leave for the day.

Before your shift starts, please spend a few minutes familiarizing yourself with the exhibit and the CRFG binder. When a person appears interested in membership, invite them to our next meeting and offer them our small leaflet giving details of our two county chapters' meetings and websites. Inform them that **joining the CRFG state organization does not automatically place them on the mailing list of their local chapter and that membership in our state organization is required to join any chapter.**

To help answer questions about fruit, you will find copies of HP's Citrus, HP's Western Fruit, Berries and Nuts, Ortho's All About Citrus and Subtropical Fruits (updated 2008 edition) and, most importantly, a binder containing CRFG's numerous "Fruit Facts". If you find that any of the "Fruit Facts" are missing (unfortunately this has happened in the past), please leave a dated note identifying which "Fruit Fact" needs replacing. If you are the last person to staff our exhibit for the day, store the books and the binder discreetly out of the public's view under the counter. If you are asked a question concerning fruit that you cannot answer, please direct the inquirer to our list of "Fruit Specialists" (in the binder with our "Fruit Facts"). If the inquirer intends to write to a fruit specialist, please remind them to enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with their question. The binder will also contain a list of CRFG Member Nurseries and Certified Farmers' Markets in San Diego County. Visitors' questions concerning where they can buy fruiting plants or unusual fruits clearly demonstrate that the exhibit is stimulating interest. If you bring personal literature, make sure people are aware that it is your own and not a handout.

If leaflets from other organizations are left on our counter (this has frequently happened), please remove them immediately. We want the public to quickly identify us as the California Rare Fruit Growers and not be confused. Please remember that the main purpose of our participation at the Fair is to encourage the growing of rare fruits and thereby stimulate CRFG membership. All sales from educational exhibits are prohibited by Fair regulations. **If emergency medical assistance is ever needed, remember the Fair security guards carry walkie talkies.**

**ENJOY THE FAIR** a Either before or after your shift, please take the opportunity to enjoy looking at the educational and garden exhibits. If you leave the Fair and want to return later that day for your personal entertainment, remember to have your hand stamped when exiting (your pass is good for only single entrance). If you have a problem while staffing, please call Carol (760) 753--6757.

## Earth Day Plant Sale

Plant Sale co-chairs Richard Reid & Dottie Logan

The Earth Day Plant Sale was very slow this year.

We sold \$201.00 at AVBG and \$115.00 at our meeting.

Having a plant sale the day before Easter was not a good idea.

We could not compete with the Easter Bunny.

We also only had about ½ the number of plants that we normally have to sell.

Maybe we can change all that at our July picnic and plant sale (July 15<sup>th</sup>).

We need these fundraisers to keep the dues down and to help get good speakers.

The following members volunteered or brought plants. Most did both.

Paul Bingham, Kathryn Blankinship, Keri Brookshire, Wendy Czech, Dawne Dickinson, Chris Finley & Sara Johnson, Cory Krell, Lena Shiroma, Art & Dottie Logan, Bob Meyers, Richard Reid.

Thanks for everyone's help.

## Refreshments:

**If your birthday month is May, 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.

## Check out the new website!

We have a new website, the URL is [nsdcfrfg.wordpress.com](http://nsdcfrfg.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.

## Member Matters

### Membership

#### CHAPTER DUES FOR 2017 ARE PAST 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](mailto: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.

## Now on Facebook!

North San Diego County Chapter now has a Facebook Page. Please check us out at [www.facebook.com/groups/northsandiegocrfg/](http://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.

### Chapter Contacts

#### Board Members

Richard Reid	Chairperson	619-857-7505	<a href="mailto:rtreid@me.com">rtreid@me.com</a>
Helen Driver	Co-Vice Chairperson	760-652-5011	<a href="mailto:driver.hl1975@gmail.com">driver.hl1975@gmail.com</a>
Art Logan	Co-Vice Chairperson	760-806-6678	<a href="mailto:art.logan77@gmail.com">art.logan77@gmail.com</a>
Dottie Logan	Co-Treasurer	760-806-6678	<a href="mailto:crfglogan777@gmail.com">crfglogan777@gmail.com</a>
Keri Brookshire	Co-Treasurer		
Linda Mercurio	Secretary		<a href="mailto:sundanz91@gmail.com">sundanz91@gmail.com</a>
Dawne Dickinson	Member at Large	760-522-3596	<a href="mailto:dawnegale@gmail.com">dawnegale@gmail.com</a>
Chris Finley	Member at Large		<a href="mailto:crfgchris@gmail.com">crfgchris@gmail.com</a>
Kathryn Blankinship	Past Chair	760-518-9922	<a href="mailto:kblankinship1@cox.net">kblankinship1@cox.net</a>

#### Other Contacts

Membership	Dawne Dickinson	760-522-3596	<a href="mailto:dawnegale@gmail.com">dawnegale@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Richard Reid	619-857-7505	<a href="mailto:rtreid@me.com">rtreid@me.com</a>



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
5/19 General chapter meeting – Jaime Garza – Bee keeping in San Diego 7:00 PM Miracosta Student Center	5/24 San Diego Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM Casa del Prado Bldg. Balboa Park
6/10 SD Botanic Garden Work Party 8:30-12:00 San Diego Botanic Gardens	5/27 Tropical Plant Sale – San Diego Botanic Gardens 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
	6/2 – 7/4 Del Mar Fair See the newsletter for more information