

**California
Rare
Fruit
Growers**



June 2017

**Composting and Growing sub-tropicals from seed
Friday, June 16 7:00 PM
MiraCosta College Student Center, Aztlan Room A/B**

Due to an unfortunate last minute change in our scheduling, we will be having a two-part program for you. It is like two meetings for the price of one!

We will be starting with an introductory program on composting, composting basics, how to get started and tricks to make it easier.

- Increases organic matter in your soil.
- Helps plants absorb nutrients already in your soil and provides some extra nutrients too.
- Makes clay soils more airy and helps them drain better.
- Makes clay and other soils more friable, which means they'll be easier to crumble and dig in.
- Helps sandy soils retain water that normally runs through.
- Helps balance the pH of your soil.
- Can extend the growing season by moderating soil temperature.
- Can even help control soil erosion!

Have you ever wanted to get into growing some of the more unusual tropical and sub-tropical fruits and plants? Many times, the only way to do this is to start from seed, and many times those seeds will be coming from a foreign country. We will talk about getting seeds, import permits, restrictions and rules. Once you have your seeds, what do you do? We will discuss different types of seed germination treatments, methods for germination and care for your new plantlets.

Cheers From The Chair

The ecstasy and the agony,

The weather has been a bit gloomy lately, it feels like we have had a bit more May gray and June gloom than we have had in the past few years. At least it helps keep the water bill down.

You might remember in my column last month that I have had a number of my subtropicals bloom for the first time this year. That trend has been continuing for the month of May. I am a bit obsessive about my plants, and will get quite excited every time I see a bit of growth on a plant that looks like it might be a flower bud and not vegetative growth. I will check on the plants daily, trying to determine if they will indeed flower and checking all my other plants for signs that they may bloom. My constant checking has paid off as I keep finding new plants that are flowering, aah the ecstasy!

And the agony? Well of all these plants, not a single one has set fruit. I know that is common for plants to not set fruit on their first blooms, but I still am hopeful that they will set and I can finally try the fruit of some of these plants that I have only been told of. The optimist in me keeps saying that a first flowering is a great sign and that next year I will more than likely get fruit, but on the other hand, maybe they will all be like my *Myrciaria strigipes*, which has bloomed every year for the past 4 years and has yet to set. Well it is all part of the adventure of growing rare and unusual fruits and it is what keeps me in this hobby!

On another note, there are still A LOT of volunteer slots available at the fair, especially during the last week of June and through the 5th of July. The club can really use your help here, you get a free admission to the fair, get to meet lots of new people, and it is a lot of fun. Give Carol Graham a call, her contact information can be found later in this newsletter.

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, July 8th, 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

Paula Colby Vista

Dean McCleary Oceanside

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 after 8:30 on days that the fair is open) or email me at 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.

Annual Pot Luck and Plant Sale July 15, 11:00 San Diego Botanic Garden

Our Picnic & Plant sale will again be at the beautiful San Diego Botanic Garden on Sat. July 15th from 11 AM to 3 PM

All volunteers please be there by 10:30 AM

Thanks to June Andersen for arranging this event at these gardens

Attending members must be members of our chapter's limited and also be members of our parent CRFG organization. We have, again, invited our friends from the San Diego City Chapter to join us. Let the Admission person from SDBG know you are there for the CRFG picnic and you will not be charged admission or parking. This is for Members & Family. You must have reservations. Please call Dottie at 760 806 6678 for reservations. Space is.

We will be in the patio area next to the Ecke Building, near the Undersea Succulent Garden. The picnic is from 11 AM-3 PM. This is a potluck. Please bring a ready-to-serve dish that will feed 8-10. Food should be on the table before noon.

All volunteers should be there by 10:30 to help price donated plants and other tasks as needed. The plant sale will be expanded this year. You may bring edible & non-edibles and also items that members can use in their yards. The last time we expanded the sale members brought fencing, wagons, near new tools, or left overs from yard projects. If your items do not sell, take them home.

If you have any questions, please call June Andersen ([760-729-3501](tel:760-729-3501)) or Dottie Logan ([760-806-6678](tel:760-806-6678)). You MUST RSVP for the picnic/potluck before July 12th at [760 806 6678](tel:760-806-6678) or you may sign up at the June meeting

We will have a tour of the sub-tropical garden about 1:30 – 2 PM. Please clean up tables and remove your plants and take them to your cars before the tour.

If you have reservations and cannot attend, please call so that someone else can take your place.

Refreshments:

If your birthday month is June, 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 website!

We have a website, the URL is nsdcfrg.wordpress.com. We are adding new information often, 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 keeping this going.

Member Matters

Membership

CHAPTER DUES FOR 2017 ARE WAY 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.

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.

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
Helen Driver	Co-Vice Chairperson	760-652-5011	driver.hl1975@gmail.com
Art Logan	Co-Vice Chairperson	760-806-6678	art.logan77@gmail.com
Dottie Logan	Co-Treasurer	760-806-6678	crfglogan777@gmail.com
Keri Brookshire	Co-Treasurer		keri.brookshire@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
6/16 General chapter meeting – Composting and plants from seed 7:00 PM Miracosta Student Center	6/28 San Diego Chapter Meeting – Tomato grafting with Paul Maschka 7:00 PM Casa del Prado Bldg. Balboa Park
7/8 SD Botanic Garden Work Party 8:30-12:00 San Diego Botanic Gardens	6/2 – 7/4 Del Mar Fair See the newsletter for more information