

**California
Rare
Fruit
Growers**



**November 2018
North San Diego
County Chapter**

Cherimoyas with Ben Kotnik

Friday, November 16 7:00 PM

MiraCosta College Student Center Aztlan room A/B

Come learn how to care for this easy-to-grow tree that thrives in our region. Ben will cover all aspects of Cherimoyas including propagation, cultivars, pollination, and more.

Ben Kotnik is a native San Diegan, gardener, educator, and outdoorsman. San Diego is home to several important Fruity Folks. I gravitated towards the California Rare Fruit Growers, founded in San Diego in 1968. I gleaned knowledge from Tom del Hotal, Jim Neitzel, Dave Yetz, Bob Holzinger, Bill Roley, and other life-long growers. Learning from our elders is a great way to accelerate one's own success! It was fun connecting the dots from my background in Math, IT, and Project Management to Nature and our food system. I am a firm believer in local food production, and growing at least a portion of our own food for peak flavor and nutrition!

I served CRFG-SD as the Vice-Chairman and then Chairman. While a board member, we donated nearly 700 trees to local community groups and schools, and funded scholarships and internships. Serendipitously, I began teaching Ecologic Design / Permaculture at Foothills School in El Cajon, CA. Soon after I became the Soils instructor at Cuyamaca College. I'm biased, and feel Soil is the most important horticulture topic one can study...Next, I became the instructor for Organic Fruit Trees at City College and the Edible Landscaping instructor at Cuyamaca.

Along the way, I consulted/designed/built with hundreds of homeowners and businesses. I grafted thousands of trees, preserving the important varieties developed by my mentors, and the heritage trees of the Palomar Mountain State Park. My small nursery became not-so-small for a time...My early interest in propagation spurred much experimentation and study, leading me to become familiar with many of the fruiting plants that grow well in San Diego, in my own yard and in the extended network of properties I work with throughout southern California. He can be reached at <http://suburbanfoodfarm.com/about.html>

Cheers from the Chair

By Kathryn Blankinship

I'll start this message with a thank you for the gracious gift of seeds from our co-treasurer, Helen Driver. Helen brought fava bean seeds to our last meeting to share with members. She saved the seeds from last year to plant this November. If you didn't attend our meeting or missed getting seeds, be sure

to pick up some seeds and get planting! Fava beans can be planted from Sept. to Nov. and take about five months from planting to harvest.

I have read that for various reasons we will probably have a warm winter this year.

That may mean less rain and with warmer nights so waiting a little longer to plant fruit trees might be a good idea. For the ones you already have, keeping a good mulch layer around fruits is always a good idea to help hold water. Without much rain deep watering is recommended for citrus, pomegranate, guavas, figs, and grapes.

While it doesn't appear that much is happening with these plants at this time of year, they are still forming the buds that will

show up next spring and become next year's fruit. It is also good to note that chill requirements are very low for persimmon, jujube, pomegranates, quinces and many grapes

On another note, critters are abounding in my yard. How about yours? This year Halloween at my house started with a creepy foggy before dawn dog barking, I gazed at my fence and saw three raccoons struggling to get off the fence. I reached for my phone to take a picture and shot a rather funny video. Unfortunately, I only photographed two of the beasts trying to get down from the fence. Due to nocturnal raccoon visits, I have lost avocados and persimmons. I have had to replant and fix the mulch scattered by their grub hunting. How's your garden fairing and what do you do to thwart nighttime



Holiday Party

Our Holiday Party will be at Alta Vista Botanical Gardens

The party will be on Sunday, December 9th from 11AM to 3 PM
This is a potluck so bring a dish to feed 8 – 10 people.

Limited seating, the reservation list is half filled.

To attend the party you must be a member of our No. SD County Chapter and our parent organization (CRFG, Inc.) and RSVP to Dottie Logan 760 806 6678
crfglogan777@gmail.com before Dec 1st

We will also have door prizes that are furnished by the members.

The door prizes do not have to be garden related

After the door prizes we will have a raffle style gift exchange. If you want to participate please bring one plant with a value of \$10 or more, or a wrapped garden related gift with a value of \$10 or more. Gift should be wrapped unless it is a plant.

You will be given a raffle ticket. When your number is called, you may choose a gift from the exchange table and open it, or take another member's gift (if it is not frozen).

A gift is frozen when it is taken by a 3rd member. The member you take it from cannot immediately take it back from you but must take something from the exchange table or someone else before He/she can take back the gift from you. This is a fun game as long as you ****don't get too attached**** to the gift you draw. You don't have to participate but you may watch others play

Please no peeking, lifting, squeezing, or shaking but HAVE FUN

If you have questions, please ask Dottie. Call Dottie at 760 806 6678

We need volunteers to help setup, clean up, vacuum, sweep up, clean up the kitchen and take out the trash.

Sign up now so we know that everything is covered.

We need donations for the door prizes.

Thanks for all your help and don't forget to call Dottie at 760 806 6678. Space is limited so once we are filled up we start a waiting list. (We usually find room for everyone).

If you sign up early and find you can't make the party please call and we will give the space to someone else.

Hope to see you there.

Dottie

Raffle

NO RAFFLE UNTIL FEB 2019

November Meeting

Since we were not having a raffle this month, members may use this space to sell or trade one plant per member. Please bring your plant marked with your name, plant variety, and price so that others will know who to contact. Just put your plant on the raffle table.

October Meeting

We used the empty raffle table to collect non-perishable food for the student pantry.

Claire Ehrlinger said that the students appreciated the food donation and she gave a BIG "Thank You" to everyone who donated.

Website Skills?

The club is currently looking for someone with website skills to assist with the maintenance and updating of our website. If you have experience, or would like to learn please contact Helen Driver

Check out the website!

We have a website, the URL is nsdcfrfg.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 Helen for all your hard work in keeping this going.

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

Refreshments:

If your birthday month is November, 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.

Member Matters Membership

2019 Chapter dues are now 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;

Helen Withers

PO Box 1383

Escondido, CA 92033

Please contact our Membership Committee Chair Helen Withers if you have any questions.

New Members

by Helen Withers

Richard Boynton Campo

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.

Chapter Contacts

Board Members

Kathryn Blankinship	Chairperson	760-518-9922	kblankinship1@cox.net
Dawne Dickinson	Vice Chairperson	760-522-3596	dawnegale@gmail.com
Ellen Maisen	Co-Secretary	818-462-3222	msmaisen@gmail.com
Kate Palmiere	Co-Secretary	760-943-7002	katepalmiere@roadrunner.com
Helen Driver	Co-Treasurer	760-652-5011	driver.hl1975@gmail.com
Dottie Logan	Co-Treasurer	760-806-6678	crfglogan777@gmail.com
Helen Withers	Member at Large	760-745-2035	helenwithers2014@gmail.com
Art Logan	Member at Large	760-806-6678	art.logan77@gmail.com
Richard Reid	Past Chair	619-857-7505	rtreid@me.com

Other Contacts

Membership	Helen Withers	760-745-2035	helenwithers2014@gmail.com
Newsletter	Richard Reid	619-857-7505	rtreid@me.com

Chapter Website: nsdcrfg.wordpress.com

Webmaster Open



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