



Tropical Fruit Club Newsletter

April 2008

Do not be afraid to go out on a limb ... That's where the fruit is.

Officers: **President:** Ervin Janssen **Vice President:** Abe White **Treasurer:** Lincoln Lai
Secretary: Pete von Lersner

Committees: **Newsletter:** Pam Flesher **Mailing:** Shirley Silvasy **Roster:** Heidi Flinchbaugh
Librarian: Shirley Silvasy

Next meeting: Monday night, April 21st from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Leu Garden, 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando. We will probably have visitors from the Leu Garden Sale so please bring in extra items for the tasting table and raffle table.

Program for April This month will be our open forum for questions and answers about growing tropical fruit.

Minutes from our March Meeting Submitted by Pete von Lersner

Meeting called to order by Ervin Janssen at 7:00 p.m.

Recognition of Guests: Vivian Palmer, Judy Redepenning, Tony (no last name given).

Old Business: Minutes from the alst meeting were approved. Treasurers report was read and approved. Still looking for a few members to pay their dues although it is unknown whether they intend to renew.

New Business: We will have a booth at the Central Florida Fair, April 17-27. Looking for volunteers to staff the booth. Also need donations of fruit and plants for display and sale.

There was a general discussion of the Leu gardens plant sale logistics.

Speaker: Debra Taylor, Seminole County Jail Agriculture Program. Topic: Use of beneficial insects and banker plants as part of the total pest management approach used in the Seminole County Jail Ag. Program.

Thank you to the following members:

March Tasting Table I did not get the sign up sheet for the tasting table. Thank you to those members who brought fruit and food. Your support is appreciated.

March Raffle Table

Abe White	Turnips, Collards, Onions, Leeks, Brussel Sprouts, Romaine Lettuce		
Bob Burns	Ruby Red Grapefruit	Pete von Lersner	Grafting CD
Benny Cambre	5 Bags of Oranges	Heinz Wutscher	Flame Grapefruit
Rong-tsai Wu	Banana Tree	Joann Maynard	White Grapefruit

Leu Garden Plant Sale

We had a good sale this year. Leu Garden put us in our same vendor spot in the back under the Oak Trees. We worked hard and had a lot of fun being together doing what we like best...talking about and sharing tropical fruit. The weather was nice, a little warm but still better than being rained out. Saturday morning was busy and kept us hopping. We sold out of most of the plants, which is a good thing.

Thank you to the members who donated plants for the sale, to the members who made baked goods, and the members who brought in fruit. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the sale a success: Nancy & Frank Zeleznik, Yolanda Curtis, Lincoln & Daphne Lai, Jim Ford, Pam Flesher, Glenda Haskell, Pari & Barry Hakimian, Ervin Janssen, Dolores Taylor, Abe & Frances White, Dwight & Alicia Thornton, Adrian & Cecilia Novenario, Mauricio & Luzmin Garcia, Clyde & Phyllis Stephens, Gary Hendrickson, Joann Maynard, Hyrie Lawrence. If you did not see your name here and you helped at the sale....thank you (we just didn't get your name on the volunteer list).

Useful links for information on tropical fruits

*<http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/fruitscapes//>

***UF/IFAS Publications - EDIS** <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

***California Rare Fruit Growers** <http://www.crfg.org/>

***Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden** <http://www.ftg.org/>

***Rare Fruit Council International** <http://www.tropicalfruitnews.com/>

***Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers** <http://www.hawaiitropicalfruitgrowers.org/index.html>

***Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida** <http://tropicalfruitgrowers.com/>

***Tropical Research & Education Center**, 18905 SW 280 Street, Homestead, FL 33031 Phone: 305-246-7000

Up Coming Events

April 26 & 27 Apopka Foliage Festival

A great festival every year. A plantaholic must! Hundreds of plants for sale, arts and crafts, and a free bus tour to see local nurseries. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location: Kit Land Nelson Park, which is just north of downtown Apopka on Park Ave. For your convenience and a small fee to benefit the Apopka Women's Club, there is a plant sitter you can leave your plants with while you walk around the festival or tour the nurseries. Free admission to festival.

June 21 & 22 Redland Summer Fruit Festival

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission \$6; (Children under 12 are free) This annual event showcases local agriculture, and tropical fruit plants. Over 50 vendor booths featuring local wines, yummy foods, and rare fruit samplings. Co-Sponsors: Fruit and Spice Park, and Southern Florida Tropical Growers, Inc.

Fruit & Spice Park 24801 S.W. 187th Ave., Homestead, FL 33031 Phone: 305-247-5727

July 10, 11, 12 & 13 Rare Fruit Conference

Local and international tropical fruit experts will present programs to participants from Florida, California & Hawaii. The conference will include tours of gardens, farms, packing houses, a winery and government research stations. The conference will be conducted by the Friends of the Fruit & Spice Park and is open to all. Contact the Park for information and reservations. Fruit & Spice Park 24801 S.W. 187th Ave., Homestead, FL 33031 Phone: 305-247-5727

July 12 & 13 16th Annual International Mango Festival at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156 • Phone: 305-667-1651 Admission: Adults: \$20, Senior Citizens (65 and older): \$15 Children 6-17 Non-member: \$10, Fairchild Members: Free, Children 5 and under: Free Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, one of the world's preeminent botanic gardens has extensive collections of rare tropical plants. Established in 1938, the 83-acre garden is among the region's most popular visitor attractions and offers a variety of programs in environmental education, conservation and horticulture. An international leader in tropical plant research, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden plays an important part in preserving the biodiversity of the tropical environment. The living genetic collection contains the world's largest mango collection, with nearly 400 mango cultivars, and has given the Tropical Fruit Program its greatest impact in the realm of fruits. They hope to further expand in number the diversity of their mango cultivars in order to encompass the widest possible diversity of cultivars and wild mango relatives. This collection's entirety serves an international audience of home gardeners and commercial producers.

The Mango Festival this year will spotlight Mangos from Africa. The mango came to Africa from Goa by way of the Portuguese traders. It is a staple of life in sub-Saharan households and a source of hard currency from export to Europe. From the green and yellow-skinned varieties of the land of the Pharaohs, the mango-shaded streets of Accra, and the modern selections of South Africa, the mango has boldly shed its light on the Dark Continent.

Highlights of the Festival: Mangos of the World. Fairchild Tropical Garden's living genetic bank is the heart of activities. Nowhere will one experience this array of mango cultivars, harvested at their peak to create an eyestopping educational display. Africa-Florida-The Indian Subcontinent-Southeast Asia and the Pacific-The Americas-Israel encompasses the origins, but all fruit were grown at Fairchild Tropical Garden.

Curator's Choice Mango Trees Mangos of Africa. See the variety of mango trees for sale on the Fairchild website.

Mango Evaluations The public taste evaluations using the highest quality mangos, harvested fresh from the Fairchild collections, ripened to perfection and cut fresh that day. This is the proving ground for a mango, which must have it all - flavor, color and texture.

Mango Workshops. The times are changing for the mango. Come and learn from the mango experts.

Mango Brunch. This culinary journey features a complete mango-inspired menu prepared by talented and flamboyant Chefs. Brunch guests will be a part of exclusive taste evaluations and events where the palate comes first. Call for reservations.

Mango Auction. Come join mango auctioneer Jimmy Howell and the Senior Curator on a journey through the world of mango lore and modern-day ethnobotany. Our rarest, heirloom fruit will be available, along with assortments hand-chosen by the Curator.

Schedule of Events: Saturday, July 12th 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Garden House: Mangos of the World Cultivar Display, Mango culinary product sampling, Mango Medics, Fairchild Tropical Garden Membership.

Corbin Building: Cultivar Evaluation Room, Cooking Demonstrations.

Outside on The Lawn: Mango Kids, International Fruit Market, Curator's Choice Tree sales, Specialty cultivar mango fruit sales, Mango smoothies, Mangoville, featuring mango products, art, etc.

International Mango Festival Workshops Garden House: 1:00PM Mangos of Africa, 2:00PM Organic Mangos, 2:30PM Three New Mangos for Estate Growing 3:00PM Pest Control in Mango, 3:30PM Major Diseases of Mango, 4:00PM Pruning Management 4:30PM Questions and Answers

Schedule of Mango Events continued: Sunday, July 13 th 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Lawn: Mango Kids, Limited edition cultivar tasting, International Fruit Market, Curator's Choice Tree sales, Specialty cultivar mango fruit sales, Mango smoothies, Mangoville, featuring mango products, art, etc.

The Gallery: Cooking Demonstrations, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Mango Brunch Garden House, Chef creations and demos; Cutting edge cultivar discussion and sampling.

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m Mango Auction Garden House, Auction of Mangos of the World display fruit, specialty assortments and selected trees.

International Mango Festival Workshops: Corbin Building

9:30AM Mango Grafting, 10:30AM Mango in the African Kitchen, 1:00PM The Perfect Mango Tree,
2:00PM Mango Wines

Note from the Editor: Thank you for letting me be your newsletter editor for the past year. I have really enjoyed this position. We have a great club with a lot of fun people. Shirley Silvasy will be your new editor starting with the May issue. I hope you will be able to go to some of the events coming up in the next few months. I have been to the Mango Festival twice and have had a lot of fun both times. I plan to go again this year. Pam



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