



Tropical Fruit Club of Central Florida Newsletter

February 2010

Officers: President: Pete von Lersner Vice-President: Christine Young
Treasurer: Lincoln Lai Secretary: Bill Saravanja

Committees: Newsletter: Cathy Saravanja Programs: Christine Young, Larry Shatzer, Abe White, Hayri Lawrence, Pam Flesher Library: Jay and Rajani Vaidya
Plant Sale Chairperson: Joann Maynard

2010 Membership Drive: \$15 individual \$20 Family payable to Tropical Fruit Club

Renew at next meeting or send to Lincoln Lai at 688 Carnation Dr., Winter Park, FL 32792
Membership Applications available at club meetings and on line at <http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

Meetings: 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.; Feb. 15th, March 15th and April 19th at
Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando

TFC newsletters available on our website

<http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

Please bring items for the tasting and raffle tables; be sure to label items and
complete the sign up sheet

Minutes:

Pete von Lersner call the meeting to order and welcomed guests and new members.

Old Business:

Lincoln Lai gave the treasurer's report which was accepted as were the December minutes.

Clyde Stephens announced that he had purchased 144 Abiputies cultures and 144 Gran Nain cultures to start banana plants for the upcoming spring plant sale, the cost of the cultures was \$305.28. Hayri suggested that these be started in one gallon pots as they will market for a better price. Abe White will start potting this weekend, volunteers are welcomed.

Joann Maynard requested a list of the plants that will be available so she can make labels that identify the name and species of each plant. Volunteers will be needed for the initial set-up at 8:00 AM at Leu Gardens on March 19th, and then additional volunteers for the two

sale days - Saturday and Sunday, the Sunday group will need to help dismantle the tent and tables. For those interested in volunteering, please contact Jo Ann at Tel. 352-735-0646 or by email joannm@cableelectric.com , if you have any suggestions for the plant sale, let these be known to Joann. The spring plant sale is the largest income event for our club which funds speakers and activities for the benefit of everyone, your participation, no matter how small or large, is very much appreciated.

Club wear will be sold at meetings by Eliza Alfonzo. Available are: polo shirts; various color baseball caps, hats & t-shirts; long and short sleeve button down denim shirts. Additional items may be ordered

New Business:

Clyde Stephens suggested Jim Ford from Casselberry be invited for a talk on tropical fruit trees.

Larry Shatzer described how citrus grower Burt Roper has taken an abandoned movie theater and converted it into a state-of-the-art hydroponic green house. Disney's hydroponics expert Tim Blane designed the entire system, a chart showing the various growing tanks and column stands was displayed by Larry Shatzer's son, Blake, who works at Green Sky Growers and provided substantial information on this project, Larry suggested that the club invite Tim Roper to speak at the club and also organize a field trip to this interesting facility.

Pete von Lersner mentioned the upcoming Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival which takes place March 3rd thru May 16th . The event includes an outdoor celebration of gardens and gardening, world class horticulture displays, interactive how to gardens, garden and activities for kids and families, national known gardening experts and "Flower Power" concert series with well-known artists from the 60's and 70's. Please contact Pete at pete.vonlersner@us.gambo.com if you wish to attend the event. Two members may attend on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays throughout the Festival.

A few highlights: backstage Epcot clearance and parking, inside open-air facility, skirted table and chairs, One-Day On-Park Magic Your Way Ticket for each participant. Hours: 10 a.m. To 3 p.m.

Upcoming Program :

A presentation by Dana Venrick, Commercial Horticulture Agent for Volusia County.

Past Program:

Guest speaker Dawn Gates, Master Herbalist and Aromatherapist, gave an interesting presentation on a variety of herbs and their healing capabilities, the simplicity of using these herbs and the amazing availability of their existence in our natural surroundings.

Leu Garden 2010 plant sale - Saturday March 20th and 21st 9 am to 5 pm, set up on Friday March 19th . Time to start your cuttings and repot plants to donate to the sale, our main fundraiser for the year. Please bring extra 1 and 2 gallon pots to the meeting.

On Saturday January 23, most of the banana plants were re-potted, a special thanks to Ervin Janssen for obtaining the extra pots - donated by the Lincoln and Daphne Lai - needed to finish the job that day. I would also like to thank Francis White for the lovely picnic lunch provided to the volunteers.

***Special Request by Abe White – volunteers are needed to take some of the re-potted banana plants to take care of until the plant sale in March. He does not have enough room in his greenhouse for all the pots. Please call Abe at 407-629-1984 or email him at awhite115@cfl.rr.com**

Pictures contributed by Ervin Janssen.



Abe sharing a few of his delicious oranges



Daphne and Lincoln sharing their citrus.

Tasting Table Donations

Jean House – Guacamole dip and crackers; Mae Abbott -Black bean soup-rice and onions; Phyllis Stephens – Green Papaya Pie; Goldie Thompson-Cheesy Buffalo Snack Mix; TFC-Mango Peach Salsa and Chips; Lincoln and Daphne Lai-Sorrel Drink; Byran and Melinda Cummings – homemade garden salsa; Pari and Barry Hakimian; Rice Pudding; Bob Burns – Guava bread, Key Lime pudding Heidi Flinchbaugh-carambolas

Raffle Table Donations

Hayri Lawrence- Grapefruit and oranges; Cathy Saravanja- Naval oranges; Abe White – turnips, kale, collards, bok choy, romaine lettuce; Eliza and Jerry Alfonso – Pomelos; Blake Shatzer- citrus fruits; Larry Shatzer-two orchid plants

If you didn't sign in, thank you for your contribution.

To share your comments and suggestions please email me at: wsaravanja@gmail.com or tel: 407-365-8875.

Interested in links to other clubs or to extension services, check our website <http://tropicalfruitclub.org> or some older newsletter issues on the website.