



# Tropical Fruit Club Newsletter

## February 2008

Thought is the blossom, language the bud, action the fruit behind.  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

**Committees:** **Newsletter:** Pam Flesher **Mailing:** Shirley Silvasy **Roster:** Heidi Flinchbaugh  
**Refreshments:** Yolanda Curtis **Librarian:** Shirley Silvasy **Leu Garden Plant Sale:** need Chairperson

**Next meeting:** Monday night, February 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Leu Garden, 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando. Please bring something for the raffle and/or tasting table.

**Program for February** **Cooking with tropical fruits by Joel Olson.** Joel Olson, executive chef of Hemmachef, brings his unique flair to culinary instruction, offering dynamic cooking classes and manners/etiquette classes to adults and children in residential, school and professional settings. Olson's years of training and expertise have demonstrated his ability to provide a solid culinary foundation in which students can enjoy the social event of preparing and sharing food. An honors graduate of L'Academie de Cuisine in Bethesda, Maryland, Chef Olson also holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is currently an instructor at L'Academie de Cuisine in Bethesda and the executive chef of the McLean Community Center in McLean, Virginia. In addition, he teaches at other schools in the Washington metropolitan area and at culinary schools throughout the nation. Chef Olson's community service includes serving as an active volunteer chef for Operation Frontline and volunteering in numerous capacities for Share Our Strength, an organization leading the fight against hunger. He resides in Madison with his wife Laura, daughter Charlotte and black Lab, Joi.

### **Minutes from our January meeting Submitted by Pete von Lersner**

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

Guests: Walter & Sue Hamer, Jay Sockriter.

Old Business: Last meeting minutes were approved.

New Business: Ervin read a newspaper article on "gleaning" citrus for the needy. Gleaning is the practice of making left over crops available for those in need. Contact phone number was on the back table. Always looking for gleaning volunteers and fruit donations.

Epcot Food and Flower Festival is looking for volunteers during March and June. Great way to get behind the scenes look.

Speaker: Noel Ramos Topic: Sapotes of the World

**Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection Central District** 3319 Maguire Blvd. Suite232, Orlando 32803  
Phone: 407-894-7555 or [www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)

## **Websites of Interest**

www.koolbamboo.com.....	Bamboo products
http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/.....	Florida Automated Weather Network
www.athens.com/.....	Greek Inspired Recipes / Free Recipe Books!
http://www.atasteofthai.com.....	Thai recipes, appetizers, desserts, rice and pasta dishes,
http://www.rockcitygardens.com.....	Landscape Nursery in Vero Beach
http://www.coaps.fsu.edu/climate_center/...	Florida Climate Center
http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/.....	Featured Creatures
http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/.....	Florida Wildlife Extension
http://ifasbooks.ufl.edu/.....	IFAS Extension Bookstore
www.freshmangos.com.....	World's largest on line mango recipe guide.

IFAS or ifas is the abbreviation for Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (University of Florida)

## **Thank you to the following members:**

### **January Tasting Table**

Cecilia & Adrian Novenario: Pineapple	Veronica & Dom Cabrera: Papaya Juice
Mae Abbott: Her Famous Black Bean Soup & Rice	Mort & Luzmin Garcia: Fried Plantains
Doyle Abbott: Jabotacabas	David & Heidi Flinchbaugh: Avocados & Carambolas
Sousan Orlando: Sour Cherry Chicken Rice	
Pari & Barry Hakimian: Indian Spicy Dish of Alvi leaves and Chickpeas	

### **January Raffle Table**

Bob Burns: Ruby Red Grapefruit	Kathy Anderson: Key Limes
Heinz Wutscher: Flame Grapefruit	Wolf von Lersner: Myer Lemons
Pete von Lersner: Grafting CD	Jean House : Cuban Oregano

**A BIG THANK YOU** to member, Virgil Morrar. Virgil, a wood turner, made 2 writing pens from Pine Cones collected by Pam Flesher on Pilot Mountain in North Carolina. The pens were given as a token of appreciation to our September speakers, Patrick Mintel and Tony Owen, from the Sunniland Corporation. Thank you, Virgil.

### **Looking for Tropical Fruit**

Colonial Farmer's Market, 6249 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL (NE corner of Colonial Drive and Powers Road)  
Specializing in: West Indian Vegetables, Fruits & groceries and Chinese, Spanish & American Fruits and Vegetables.

### **Up Coming Events**

**March 5 Master Gardeners Sale** Hours: 8:00 a.m. to Noon at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3100 E. New York Ave., Deland (just off I-4 on the south side at the Deland exit)

### **March 8 & 9 Selby Gardens Annual Plant and Garden Festival**

This collector's choice plant fair will offer thousands of unique tropical plants from numerous vendors, as well as select Selby Gardens' exquisite plants for purchase. Explore great finds in the Garden Shop and Banyan Treasures. Enjoy the tropical beauty of the Gardens as you observe unique horticulture displays and demonstrations on how to transplant and care for your plants. Last year's festival was a huge success, and we are excitedly planning for an even better event this year. Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. Admission: Half price Garden fare. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 South Palm Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236 [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org)

**March 13-16 Everybody's Flower Show** at the Ocean Center, 101 N. Atlantic Avenue (A1A), Daytona Beach, FL  
Hours: Thursday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m Admission: \$5.00, Children under 12 free.

## **Upcoming Events continued:**

### **March 29 & 30 Annual Leu Garden Plant Sale/ Tropical Fruit Club Sale**

Enjoy the garden while shopping for plants and garden accessories. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Garden members can enter at 8:00 a.m.) Free Admission to Garden both days. TFC will have a booth with plants for sale. Volunteers are needed.

### **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

**Volunteer Positions:** Helpers are needed to set up and clean up the tasting table each month. Helpers can rotate every 3 months making it easier on everyone. A sign up sheet will be passed around at the next meeting.

**Newsletter Editor Needed:** Pam is looking for someone to take over the newsletter. Please let her know if you are interested.

## **Williams Grove Genetic Resource Center : A Scientific and Outreach Facility for South Florida**

14885 SW 248 St., Homestead FL, 33032 Tel: 305-258-0464 Fax: 305-258-0157

In 2003 Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (FTBG) received a donation of 20 acres in the agricultural district of Miami-Dade County from Mr. Frank Williams. The property had approximately 19 acres of commercial avocados, consisting of modern varieties with current commercial potential. A preliminary master plan is under development for the property.

The property will be divided into a commercial avocado orchard of approximately 16 acres and a 4-acre public outreach facility. The commercial component will be maintained according to standard agricultural practices for Miami-Dade County. The proceeds of the commercial farm will be used to help offset the costs of the overall project.

The public outreach and research center will house the living genetic bank for avocado, mango, jackfruit, mamey sapote, sapodilla, canistel, abrico (*Mammea americana*), caimito, spanish lime (*Melicoccus bijugatus*) and tamarind. Each crop has its own scientific focus for development and use.

A public education facility will be developed with a point of purchase outlet for specialty fruit, products and outreach materials. A teaching and research building will be constructed to house staff of the Tropical Fruit Program of FTBG, a classroom and a synoptic teaching collection. Williams Grove will serve as a valuable fruit genetic resource and outreach facility for Florida and Tropical America. The fruit produced from the living collections is now available to the general public.

Williams Grove provides the unique opportunity for FTBG to promote specialty tropical fruit. The sale of these unique fruit cultivars and products are based on education.

An outreach program will be built around the use of tropical fruit and tropical fruit products, with workshops, classes and intern programs presented by FTBG staff and volunteers. The goal is to sow an appreciation for tropical fruit in the general public. The fruit, products and information presented at the fruit market and outreach center will be unique to Williams Grove.

## **Florida Keys Tropical Fruit Fiesta**

This FREE event is for all tropical fruit tree enthusiasts who wish to plant tropical fruit trees in their home landscape. There will be hundreds of container-grown tropical fruit trees for sale, free lectures from University of Florida and Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden tropical fruit experts, a bilingual plant clinic, a homegrown fruit contest, fruit tasting, "Plant a Piney" for the kids, and a fast-paced fruit auction. This year's Fiesta is scheduled for Saturday, June 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Marathon Garden Club, 5270 Overseas Highway, MM 50, Bayside, Marathon, FL 33050. For more information on the Tropical Fruit Fiesta, contact: UF/IFAS/Monroe County Extension 1100 Simonton Street, #2-260, Key West, FL 33040 Tel: 305-292-4501 E-mail: Monroe@ifas.ufl.edu

Last year's Florida Keys Tropical Fruit Fiesta held on June 30 in Bayview Park, Key West, was another great success! Approximately 1,500 people attended the event. On a hot sunny day, people flocked to buy fruit trees, taste delicious tropical fruit, and walked around looking at what the 20+ vendors had for sale. Some came to attend the lectures given by Monroe County Extension Agent Kim Gabel, who talked about water conservation (How to Make a Rain barrel). Tropical fruit experts, Dr. Richard Campbell of Fairchild Tropical Gardens spoke about "Tough Love for Better Mangoes" and Dr. Jonathan Crane of UF/TREC spoke about "Preparing your Tropical Fruit Trees to Weather the Hurricane Season". Others came to enter their fruit in the Homegrown Fruit Contest. There were fruit trees for sale from Hopkins Nursery, Going Bananas, and Pine Island Nursery. A bilingual plant clinic was conducted by Dr. Carlos Balerdi. The fruit tasting took place at the Truman Nutrition Site and was very popular with over 600 Fiesta goers. For the kids, there was the ever popular "Plant a Piney" led by Master Gardener volunteers. The Fruit Auction drew a large crowd and included fast-paced bidding. Also available was an information tent with books for sale and free Extension publications. Everyone had tons of fun!

Eleven people registered for the Homegrown Fruit Contest. In the Single Fruit category, the Grand Prize went to Sherry Popham of Duck Key for her pineapple; First Place went to Christine Patterson of Cudjoe Key for her pineapple; and Second Place went to Patricia Rogers of Key West for her papaya. First Place for Clustering Fruit was won by Carol Buchholtz of Key West for her bananas; Second Place went to Patricia Rogers of Key West for her tamarind; and Third Place went to the Key West Garden Club for their strawberry tree. Grand Prize for the Homegrown Fruit Contest was a charm bracelet designed and donated by Neil Goldberg of Sunlion Jewelry



**Tropical Fruit Club**

**P. O. Box 37**

**Windermere, FL 34786**