



Tropical Fruit Club of Central Florida Newsletter

JUNE 2010

Meetings: 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.; June 21st ; July 19th and August 16th
at Leu Gardens in the Camelia Room, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando

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>
Thanks to all the members who have paid their dues for the current year. Please remember to pay your dues if you have not done so for 2010.

A warm welcome to our new 2010 members: James and Carol Nichols from DeLand, Adam Shafran and Audrey Jones from Winter Park and Angela and Brian Woods from Oviedo. It is nice to see each and everyone of you at the meetings.

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

Thank you, Bob Burns, for taking the minutes at the May meeting. Good Job!

Minutes:

Pete von Lersner opened the meeting at 7:05 PM

Pete asked if there were any guests visiting and there were several who introduced themselves.

Lincoln provided his Treasurer's report to everyone.

The minutes of the April meeting were voted on and accepted.

Tasting Table – Yummy!

Plant Raffle – Too Much Fun!

We ended on time, at 9:00 PM too.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Clyde Stephens announced that there will be blueberry picking get-together for field trip this Saturday (5/22/2010) at 10:00 AM at Blue Bayou Farms in Yalaha, FL (in Lake County). Blue Bayou Farms (<http://www.bluebayoufarms.com/>) is next to Yalaha Bakery. A mass emailing about this field trip will be made this week. However, for those without web access, Clyde handed out hard-copy information about the field trip at the meeting.

Daphne Lai asked for members to bring in pots to share in order to facilitate the planting of more items for next year's Leu Gardens Plant sale, given that this event is the major club fund raising event each year.

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

All members please remember on meeting night that we need to be out of the building and off the property by 9:00 pm according to our contract with Leu Gardens. Do your part and help with the clean up and putting away of supplies. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Upcoming Program : Noel Ramos – Tropical Horticulture
Following write up contributed by TFC Member Clyde Stephens.

When Noel Ramos was studying in Puerto Rico, he became interested in tropical horticulture when he worked on his grandfather's coffee farm during breaks from school. Later, he moved to South Florida and completed his business degree at Florida Atlantic University. For the last 22 years, Noel has been growing tropical fruit in Broward County. He has written over a dozen publications and book reviews that appeared in California Fruit Gardener, the Rare Fruit Council magazine and other periodicals. His botanical photographs have appeared in the New York Times, the Miami SlowFood websites and other publications.

Noel has traveled extensively to private farms, botanical gardens and agricultural research stations throughout the USA, Europe, the Caribbean and Central America. At

his home in Coral Springs, he grows mangos, coffee, cacao, sapotes, jakfruit, annonas and other tropical fruits.

Noel previously presented a program on zapotes to our club. It is a pleasure to have him again.

Past Program:

Speaker and Program:

Jeff Fuller from Eco-Friendly Products & Services (<http://ecofriendlyonline.com/>) made a presentation entitled "Above and Below Ground – Getting the Best Results from Your Growing Program". He focused on how we can create healthy soil, and how we can also utilize micro-nutrients and foliar feeding to increase our plant and tree growing success organically.

Jeff also fielded a number of questions. His company's TurfPro USA products were offered for sale to interested club members.

Tasting Table Donations

Jean House – Chocolate Cookies; Cheryl and Joe DaMota – Three Bean Salad; Bob Burns – Crazy Coconut Pie; Glenda Haskell – Jaboticabas; Lincoln and Daphne Lai – Brownies; TFC – Pita Chips and Hummus; Dolores- Cookies; Adam Shafran - Yellow Jaboticaba fruits; Pam Flesher – Pop Corn; Debbie McDowell – Pineapple; R. Witherspoon – Jaboticaba; Carol Nichols – Fresh Orange Juice; Wolf VonLersner – Mandarin Cake; Phyllis Stephens – Jaboticaba Coffee Cake – Phyllis Stephens; Elaine Dove – Jaboticaba pie; Benny Cambare – Wafers; Lloyd and Susan Orlando – Black Mulberry

Raffle Table Donations

Jean House – Achillea Milifolium; Hayri Lawrence – Black Sapote; Abe White; Bananas, cabbage, kale, onions; Martha Merrit – Mulberry cuttings; Cheryl and Joe DaMota – Four O'Clocks and Holly Hocks; Lincoln and Daphne Lai – South Home Grape, Papayas, Canistel, Alma Fig, Mint, Chives, Sorrel/Roselle, Oregano, Spider Plants, Society Garlic; Adam Shafran – Yellow Jaboticaba (Myrciaria glazionana); Pam Flesher – Homemade Hot Sauce; Pete von Lersner - Sapote, Meyer Lemon; Jim Ford – Red Grapefruit, Sweetlemon, Fresh Bay Leaves

Note: During the raffle, please be mindful to the people who are helping with the raffle. Listen for your number and pick out your prize quickly. And don't forget to turn off your cell phone as a courtesy to others. Please print your full name and items contributed in order to be recognized for your contribution. Let's make our club fun and enjoyable for everyone one. Thanks for your cooperation.

If you didn't sign in, thank you for your contributions for the tasting table and raffle table.

Information on upcoming activities and events you may wish to attend contributed by Pam Flesher are as follows:

Mark Your Calendars

June 19 & 20 Redland Summer Fruit Festival at the Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, FL 33031 Phone: 305-247-5727 or fsp@miamidade.gov Hours both days: 10am to 5pm Admission \$8; (Children under 11 are free) This annual event showcases local agriculture and tropical fruit plants. Vendor booths featuring local wines, yummy foods, and rare fruit samplings. Sponsored by the Fruit and Spice Park.

July 10 & 11 14th Annual Mango Mania Tropical Fruit Festival at the German American Social Club, 2101 Pine Island Rd., Cape Coral, FL Saturday 10am -7pm Sunday 10am-5pm Admission: \$6 Adults or \$5 advanced purchase. Children under age 10 free. Mango Mania is a Summer Festival and Celebration of Pine Island's Mangos and other tropical fruits. Two days of mangos, music, arts & crafts, food, contests, children's activities, plant sales and more. www.mangomaniafl.com

July 10 & 11 18th Annual International Mango Festival at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156 Phone: 305-667-1651 www.fairchildgarden.org Admission: Adults \$20 Seniors (65 and over): \$15 Children 6-17 \$10 Children 5 and under: Free Fairchild members : Free Fairchild's 18th Annual International Mango Festival will celebrate **The Mangos of India**. Visit the festival to buy your hand selected Mango trees and fruit, enjoy Mango lectures and smoothies, view the world's largest display of Mangos, take part in the world's only Mango auction and buy mango merchandise and botanical art. There will also be mango culinary demonstrations and an International Fruit market. Dr. Richard J. Campbell, and Noris Ledesma the Curators of Tropical Fruit, have carefully selected mango cultivars for the plant sale that are well-suited to contemporary conditions. These cultivars represent a new generation of mangos with superior horticultural traits. They remain small in stature, yet produce top quality fruit. Trees are approximately 3 ft. in height, growing in a 2 gallon plastic pot. For your convenience, a tree holding area is available on Saturday, July 11. (Sorry, we cannot pre-sell, hold or ship trees.).

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.

