



# Tropical Fruit Club Newsletter

## MAY 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, Librarian:** Shirley Silvasy **Roster:** Heidi Flinchbaugh

**Next meeting:** Monday night, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Leu Garden, 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando. Bring your items for the tasting and raffle tables; don't forget to list your item & name on the sign-in sheet. If you would like to share your recipe please send to Silvasy@aol.com

**Program for May** Clyde Stephens will share his extensive knowledge on bananas.

### **Minutes from our April Meeting Submitted by Pete von Lersner**

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

**Old Business:** Minutes from the last 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. Leu Gardens Plant Sale went well, Pam reported on the setup and plans for the Central Florida Fair display.

**New Business:** Shirley Silvasy will be doing the newsletter.

### **TFC at the Central Florida Fair April 2008**

This year's booth at the Fair was another hit. We sold plants, talked about growing tropical fruit, talked about the club, answered questions, and handed out flyers. Many people stopped by to look at our display of fruit and to taste samples. I think we may have some new Carambola and Jaboticaba fans out there.

\*Thank you to the following people who helped set up and tear down the booth: George Scura, Jerry Okeefe, Pam Flesher, Steve Flesher (Pam's brother), Jim McDermont, and Ben Shaddrick.

\*Thank you to the following people who helped at the booth during the Fair:  
Lincoln & Daphne Lai, Barry & Pari Hakimian, Dwight Thornton, Kathy & Judy Anderson, George & Glenda Scura, Steve Flesher, Pam Flesher, Hayri Lawrence, Jean House, and Vinana Rey Palmer.

\*Thank you to the following people who donated plants and fruit for the Fair: Lincoln & Daphne Lai, Rong-Tsai Wu, Abe & Frances White, Doyle & Mae Abbott and Hayri Lawrence.

\*Thank you to Doyle & Mae Abbott for donating plants and fruit for the Leu Garden plant sale and all of their help.

**April Program** The quarterly Question & Answer Session was very lively with lots of good questions and answers. If you have questions, write them on a note card to be answered at upcoming meetings or in the newsletter. One question: New to Tropical Fruit, What can I grow, where do I start?

Most important detail *cultivar*, which variety grows locally and has the best fruit.

Ask yourself, what would I like to eat. The following are easy to grow, low maintenance & fruit within two years  
Papayas

Pineapples - New plants grow from top of purchased fruit. Many plant them in pots.

Bananas? Clyde will tell you all about them at May's meeting.

Blueberries Not exactly tropical, but a good shrub with tasty fruit

Most trees take several years to fruit {avocado, citrus, mango, longon, lychee, carambola (starfruit), persimmon....}  
Many do not produce from the seeds even though the seed sprouts and grows a tree. Avocados are a good example since the majority of the fruit at the market are South American cultivars.

Write your questions on a note card, email them to [silvasy@aol.com](mailto:silvasy@aol.com). We will try to answer them at an upcoming meetings, in the newsletter, or direct you to someone who may have the answer .

**More items were on the tasting & raffle tables than listed on the sign-in sheet,** if you brought something & do not see your name here....*thank you* and *Thank you* to the following members:

#### **April Tasting Table**

Doyle & Mae Abbott: Jaboticabas; Tropical Fruit Club: Pineapple & Bananas; Barry & Pari Hakimian: Spicy Snack from India; Bob Burns: Tropical Jell-o; Phyllis & Clyde Stephens: Blueberry cake, Jaboticabas; Daphne Lai: Sliced Oranges; Ador & Veronica Cabrera: Papaya Juice;  
Mart & Luzmin Garcia: Cantaloupe Drink

#### **April Raffle Table**

Abe White: Collards, Onions, Eggplant, Jalopenos, Leeks, Bell Peppers  
Pete Von Lersner: Ventura Fig Mart & Luzmin Garcia: Fresh Eggs  
Hayri Lawrence: Loquat, Surinam Cherry; Jean House: Red Sugar Cane  
Clyde & Phyllis Stephens: Pepper plants, Flowers, Datura Calamondin

#### **Roberta Witherspoon asks: BUDWOOD?**

If you would bring Tangerine, Thin Skin Lemon or Lime, Juice Orange Budwood Stick [with variety name] to the meeting, I would appreciate it. From what I read best size is the length and thickness of a pencil with leaf stem still on, leaves removed, and in a piece of damp paper towel. I have small seedy tangerine, variegated pink lemon, and Navel Orange, to graft on to. Thanks Roberta "Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly."

## Up Coming Events

### May 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday Grafting Presentation by Peter Von Lersner

7p Camellia Room, Leu Gardens Sponsored by the Organic Growers of Simple Living Institute, Inc.  
www.simplelivinginstitute.org

### 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 present programs to participants from Florida, California & Hawaii. The conference includes 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Schedule of Events: Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 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

### Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> 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

### October 16, 2008 (Thursday) 6:00pm-7:00pm

#### **Orange County Ag Ext~~~Tropical Fruit for Central Florida**

**Location:** Extension Education Center – Magnolia Room **Description:** Tropical and subtropical fruit crops may be good alternatives for planting in the home landscapes with the recent diseases affecting citrus.

Free - PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED 6021 South Conway Road Orlando, FL 32812-3604 (407) 254-9200

## Useful links for information on tropical fruits

- \***Central Florida Tropical Fruit Club** <http://tropicalfruitclub.org> {links, past newsletters, contact info}
- \***Agricultural Extension Agencies** <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/index.html>
- \***Orange County Ag Extension** <http://ocextension.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- \***UF Institute of Food & Ag Sciences** <http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/fruitscapes//>
- \***UF/IFAS Publications – EDIS Electronic Data Info Source** <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
- \* **Brevard Rare Fruit** <http://Brevardrarefruit.org> {pictures & info on tropical fruits}
- \***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
- \* **Florida Gardening Magazine** [www.floridagardening.com/html](http://www.floridagardening.com/html)
  
- \***Gene Joyner's Articles** <http://www.quisqualis.com/joyart00.html> (extensive info on tropical fruit plants) *Gene is also a noted plant collector and has one of the largest collections of variegated tropical plants, fruit and citrus of any private individual in Florida. His botanical garden Unbelievable Acres in West Palm Beach is open for private tours by appointment! If your travels in South East Florida, USA take you nearby make it one of your stops. (561) 655-7116 for information Thanks to Hayri Lawrence for this link.*

**Note from the Editor:** Special Appreciation to Pam Flescher for the wonderful newsletter she has put together for the Tropical Fruit Club, and for all the other programs to which she contributes her time and know-how. Would you like to put something in the newsletter? please email [silvasy@aol.com](mailto:silvasy@aol.com), or call me at 407-482-0042. I welcome your suggestions, Shirley Silvasy



**Tropical Fruit Club**  
**10001 Creekwater Blvd**  
**Orlando FL 32825-7759**

