



Tropical Fruit Club of Central Florida Newsletter

May 2010

Meetings: 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.; May 17th ,, June 21st and July 19 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: Wm. Dewayne Booker, James Phelps, Toni and Billy Byrd, Bryan and Melinda Cummings, Freida Ellis, Andrew Landis. And Dr. Don Tillery, Sr. and his wife Sarah Tillery. 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

Minutes:

Christine Young called the meeting to order and welcomed guests Tony and Bill Byrd, Chelsa and David Salley, Dino Brucato, Dan and Elaine Dove, Dwane Booker, and Judy Redepenning

Lincoln Lai treasurer's report was accepted as were the March minutes.

Old Business:

Appreciation was expressed by Lincoln Lai to those who participated in the Leu Gardens Plant Sale.

New Business:

Clyde Stephens gave a quick review of a trip he took with Phyllis to south Florida Homestead area, they visited Don Chapman, the "Going Bananas" promoter of a variety of bananas and also visited the Fairchild Gardens, they are currently harvesting the "mamei" fruit, definitely a worthwhile trip to take if you enjoy the variety of tropical fruits available for growing.

Hayri Lawrence introduced guest speaker Dennis Gray of the University of Florida Research and Education Center who gave an interesting talk and slide presentation focused on the variety of grapes. Mr. Gray was hired by the University of Florida to improve grape vines and his work led him to become a grape culture specialist that trended in to genetic engineering in an effort to develop grape vines resistant to Piersons Disease, originally discovered by Professor Don Hopkins, who figured out how to control it with bio-engineering.

Florida is the second largest grape consumer in the U.S., however wine varieties do not survive in Florida. Grapes evolved out of the Florida area, the Muscadine and Blunc-du-Bois varieties were developed by Dr. John Mortenson. Like all plants, grapes fall prey to Piersons disease, the methods of cisgenics – the use of genes from other plants, animals, and microbes- has been applied for transgenic technology for providing a longer growing cycle for grapes. If you are interested in growing grapes, a good place to search for information is the Florida Grape Growers Association website, go to: www.fgga.org.

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

Upcoming Program :

Jeff Fuller will give a very interesting presentation at the May meeting - entitled, "Above and Below Ground- Getting the Best Results from Your Growing Program". It will cover healthy soil, micro-nutrients and the foliar feeding of plants.

Past Program:

Dr. Denise Gray gave a presentation on Muscadine grapes and muscadine grapes research.

Tasting Table Donations

Strawberry Jello – Jean House; Frances White – Pineapple Custard Cake; Goldie Thompson – Salsa, Stone Ground Corn Strips and Lime Tortilla Chips; Tropical Fruit Club – Pita Chips and Hummus; Bob Burns- Tropical Jello; Benny Cambari- Peanuts; Barry and Pari Hakimian – Salad Olivier; Debbie McDowell – Watermelon; Phyllis Stephens-Tamarind

Raffle Table Donations

Horace Thompson-Roma Tomato; Jean House – Beefsteak & Fediali Paste Plants; Clyde Stephens-Mamey, Coco, Calamondin; Jose DeMota – Fig Tree; Lincoln and Daphne Lai- Toma Tomato, Herbs; Rong-Tsai Wu – Tomato plants (beef steak and grape tomato); Jim Ford – Oranges, Sweet Lemon; Hayri Lawrence – Black Zapote; Abe White – Collards, Kale, Cabbage, Onions, Bush beans, Winston Lowe – Sorrel Seed

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



Gardening Tip: REUSE OLD TV ANTENNAS – With thousands of TV antennas hitting the landfill, this green idea may appeal to some gardeners.

“When fastened to an unobtrusive thin steel post, an old TV antenna makes the perfect trellis to support a rambling rose or other sprawling flower. The protruding aluminum elements will be appreciated by native songbirds.” Article in *Mother Earth News*: April/Map 2010 Edition.

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.