

Tropical Fruit Club Newsletter

January 2008

Welcome to 2008... May it be a very Fruitful New Year!

Our new officers for 2008: President: Ervin Janssen, Vice President: Abe White, Treasurer: Lincoln Lai
Secretary: Pete von Lersner

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

Next meeting: Monday night, January 21 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 January: Noel Ramos will speak on: **SAPOTES OF THE NEW WORLD.**

During his early college years at the Catholic University in Puerto Rico, Noel worked on his grandfathers coffee farm during his school breaks which helped sparked his enthusiasm for tropical agriculture. Afterwards, he relocated to South Florida and completed his business degree at FAU in Boca Raton. For the past 20 years he has been growing tropical fruit in Broward County and has written over a dozen fruit related articles and book reviews which have appeared in several periodicals including the California Fruit Gardener and the Rare Fruit Council magazines. In addition, Noel's botanical photographs have also been widely published, most recently in the New York Times and Miami Slow Food websites. He has also traveled extensively to private farms, botanical gardens and agricultural research stations throughout the U.S, Europe, the Caribbean and Central America. Currently at his property in Coral Springs he is growing and fruiting many species of rare tropical fruits including Annonas, Sapotes, Jakfruit, Mangos, Coffee and Cacao.

Minutes from our December meeting Submitted by Joann Maynard

It was our annual "Holiday Feast". As always the Holiday Season is a time to share with family and friends. We shared this evening with many friends and our families.

A brief meeting was called to order by President Ervin Janssen. Lincoln Lai gave the treasurers report which was approved as read. Lincoln reminded members to pay your dues for 2008. These are due in January.

The following officers for 2008 were announced. President: Ervin Janssen, Vice President: Abe White, Treasurer: Lincoln Lai, Secretary: Peter Von Lersner.

Doyle Abbot mentioned the diversity and uniqueness of our group. We are an awesome group of people. He asked that we all take a moment of silence.

Tara and Tori Nelson entertained us with such beautiful music. "Thank you".

Thanks to all who helped set up and all that provided everyone with such a wonderful and delicious dinner.

Signing off for 2007,

Joann Maynard, Secretary

Leu Garden Plant Sale March 29 & 30

Mark your calendar. March will be here before we know it. The club needs a Chairperson to organize the sale, volunteers to help assist, tables, fruit trees to donate, Banana Bread, fruit, and other goodies for the tasting table.

Please, label all plants you are donating and make sure they are clean, no weeds or insects. The club prefers fruit or vegetable plants but other plants can be donated as long as they are not on the invasive specie list.

See one of the officers if you would like to help and/or donate. They should have a sign up sheet at the next meeting.

TFC Membership Form

2008 Membership dues are now due.

***Please fill out this form when you pay your dues so we can make sure we have your correct address, telephone and email for the roster and newsletter. ***

Dues: Single \$15.00 Family: \$20.00 Dues are collected by the club treasurer, Lincoln Lai. You may pay at the meeting or mail check and this form to: Tropical Fruit Club of Central Florida, c/o Lincoln Lai, 688 Carnation Dr., Winter Park, FL 32792
Make checks payable to: Tropical Fruit Club of Central Florida.

PLEASE PRINT Check one: New member:___ Renewal:___

Date:_____

Name:_____

Family members:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:___ Zip:_____

Telephone: Home_____ Cell_____

Email:_____

Check one: I would like to receive my newsletter ___by mail ___by email

For treasurer's use

Date paid:_____ Cash:_____ Check:_____

Upcoming Classes at the Orange County Extension Auditorium

Pre-Registration is required along with the non-refundable class FEE (if applicable). Most classes are free.

Registration DEADLINE: Friday before program starts. All classes are held at the Orange County Extension Auditorium unless otherwise stated. 6021 South Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32812-3604 Phone (407) 254-9200

Registration on line: http://ocextension.ifas.ufl.edu/Res_Hort/res_hort_classes.html **Note:** Seating for programs and workshops is limited, the first people who make reservations will be in the program or workshop.

For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations, call the Extension Office at (407)254-9200 **at least five working days prior** to the program or workshop so that proper consideration may be given to the request.

Vegetable Gardening - Spring Fee: Free Saturday, February 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Location: Extension Education Center – Auditorium Description: Learn the basics of warm season vegetable gardening including soil preparation, adjusting soil pH, fertilizing, irrigation, pests and diseases.

Landscape Design Fee: \$25 per household Send non-refundable fee with pre-registration (make checks payable to: "Orange County Extension Horticulture Fund") February 21, 28, March 6, 13, (Thursdays) from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. (4-night workshop) Seating is limited to 20 families -- register early Location: Extension Education Center - Azalea Room Description: Learn how to design your own yard, utilizing the right plants for the different areas including shade, full sun, wet areas, etc.

Spring Lawn Care Tune Up Fee: Free Thursday, March 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Extension Education Center - Magnolia Room Description: As the temperatures begin to rise, it is the perfect time to start repairing the damage to your lawn caused by winter pests (insects and weeds).

The pictures below were taken by Hayri Lawrence when the Tropical Fruit Club went on a field trip to the home of members Richard and Ronita Smith for a Jungle Tour and luncheon. Everyone had a great time! Many Thanks again to Richard and Ronita!



Fruit & Spice Park 24801 S.W. 187th Ave., Homestead, FL 33031 Phone: 305-247-5727

The Fruit & Spice Park is the only tropical botanical garden of its kind in the United States. The unique 35-acre public facility is owned and operated by the Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department. Located in South Florida. The Park's tropical climate can be found nowhere else in the continental U.S. and hosts over 500 varieties of fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs, and nuts, and other commercially important plant specimens from around the world. The Park showcases 125 varieties of mango, 75 varieties of bananas, 70 bamboo varieties, and numerous other exotic edibles. Visitors are invited to munch at our tasting counter inside our Park Store.

Up Coming Events at the Fruit & Spice Park <http://www.fruitandspicepark.org/friends/>

March 1 & 2 19th Annual Asian Culture Festival

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Admission: \$7 (Children under 12 are free) In its 19th year, this annual festival features Asian crafts, art, and exotic music and dance, highlighted by a tasty selection of authentic Far Eastern cuisine. Children can participate in the Asian passport activity, and receive a special gift upon completion. Sponsors: Thai-American Association, and the Fruit & Spice Park.

April 19 & 20 Heliconia, Palm and Flower Show

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$6 (Children under 12 are free). Large exhibit of Heliconia blossoms on display and a multitude of Heliconia plants for sale. Palm trees, shrubs, and orchids are also available

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.

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.

Tropical Fruit Club

P. O. Box 37

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Happy New Year!