



# Tropical Fruit Club Newsletter

## June 2009

**Officers:** **President:** Pete von Lersner **VicePresident:** Christine Young,  
**Treasurer:** Lincoln Lai, **Secretary:** Shirley Silvasy  
**Programs:** Abe White, Hayri Lawrence, Pam Flesher, Clyde Stephens

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:00p.m. to 8:45p.m. Jun 15<sup>th</sup> Jul 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Leu Garden, 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando.

The newsletters are available on our website <http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

**Minutes** Pete von Lersner called the meeting to order with 68 in attendance. Guests were welcomed. **Old Business:** Lincoln gave the treasurers report which was accepted by the membership as were the May minutes. Clyde Stephens presented information on the upcoming U-Pick trip and Shirley Silvasy read the Brevard Rare Fruit Council invitation to a multiclub picnic and tour scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> on Merritt Island

**Upcoming Program June 20<sup>th</sup> Q&A; Bark Grafting** Pete von Lersner has a number of pictures of a grafting technique called bark grafting that is fairly easy & pretty successful. If you attended Pete's grafting program last year, prepare to be impressed. His presentation is well organized, detailed, complex yet easy to follow.

**Christine Young** is planning on bringing in a number of gardening related photos. A general question and answer period will follow. Please share your successes and challenges.

**Past Program May 18<sup>th</sup>** Larry Shatzer introduced **Mr. Charles Motley**, developer of an ecotourism program in Northern Peru. Mr. Motley grows & landscapes with tropical fruit in the Orlando area and presented slides of his home in Belle Isle with numerous well established tropical fruits along with some interesting stone work. He also showed slides of Peru and shared his accomplishments in developing sustainable ecotourism in a remote mountainous region with an original Inca road and Gocta Waterfall, the world's 4<sup>th</sup> highest. He has opportunities for travelers to visit and share in the efforts. Volunteers are needed to help the community build an infrastructure in this remote location. Very interesting and inspiring. Check out his website! <http://www.kuelap.org>

### Upcoming Club Events

**Sat. July 18<sup>th</sup> TFC Field Trip to Lee's Vineyard**, a u-pick farm in Dover, FL, Lee grows all sorts of tropical: avocados, lychees, longans, mangoes, persimmons, seasonal fruits, muscadine grapes. Grapes will be ready to pick & purchase by the pound. There will also be a lecture on propagation that he gives to Master gardeners for the University of Florida.

**Mon July 20<sup>th</sup>** Our speaker for July to be announced.

**Sat July 25<sup>th</sup> 11:00am to 4:00pm Brevard Rare Fruit Council** is hosting a MultiClub picnic! Pearl Morice wrote: you are enthusiastically invited and welcome to fellowship with us at our annual fun filled and food feast picnic at **Kiwanis Island Park Community Center. 951 Kiwanis Island Park Road, Merritt Island, 32952.** The members of Brevard's chapter are excitedly anticipating meeting and socializing with the members and their families from various chapters within the state. Picnic will be followed by a tour of nearby mango orchards. <http://www.brevardrarefruitcouncil.org/>

**Mon. Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Dawn Gates** an herbalist, a nurse, will be speaking about using plants for health benefits, especially focusing on using tropical fruits and plant parts.

**Fall Program Topics:** Nick Francisco of Blodgett Gardens & Nursery, Inc. may be covering one or more of the following topics during fall meetings.

- 1)soils what is required for optimal fruit quality and quantity
- 2)how to help your plants switch from vegetative growth to reproductive growth with a synopsis of a plants cycles. This is very important with tropical fruits as we think of them as growing all year long so when do they have time to reproduce?
- 3)compost or compost teas, making them and uses for them as well

## **Tasting & Raffle Tables**

<p><b><u>Tasting</u></b>     <i>Bob Burns:</i> Tropical Jello; <i>Joann Maynard:</i> Banana Bread; <i>Clyde &amp; Phyllis Stephens:</i> Calamondin Cake <i>M. von Lersner:</i> Mandarin Cake; <i>Hayri Lawrence:</i> Nectarines; <i>Myrtie Dumford:</i> Melon Bowl Fruit; <i>Carmen Smith:</i> Sweet Potato Dessert; <i>Lincoln &amp; Daphne Lai:</i> Chips <i>Roberta Witherspoon:</i> local plums; <i>Dwight &amp; Alicia Thorton:</i> chocolate Chip Cookies; <i>TFC:</i> juice thanks to <i>Pam Flesher</i></p>
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<p><b><u>Raffle</u></b>     <i>Abe White:</i> onion sets, banana blossom; <i>Jean House:</i> Ginger; <i>Robert Wu:</i> Papaya, Basil &amp; Collard Greens; <i>Lincoln &amp; Daphne Lai:</i> Roselle, Stevia, cubanella peppers; <i>Hayri Lawrence:</i> June Plum, Blackberry; <i>Jose &amp; Cherly DaMota:</i> Key Lime; <i>Winston Lowe,</i> Maple <i>Roberta Witherspoon:</i> Planting trays &amp; flats; <i>Heide Manns:</i> Mulberry <i>If you didn't sign in, thank you for your contribution.</i></p>
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**Thanks to Delores Thomas for setting up; and Wolf von Lersner & Bob Burns for closing up.**  
*Olive Mackay and Ervin Janssen volunteered for June.*

**Upcoming Fruitful Events thanks to Manatee Rare Fruit Council Bradenton** <http://www.mrfc.org/>  
**Sat June 13, 10a-1p Cost \$35.** Homestead *Chris Rollins* will host **Mango Mania:** Everything you want to know about mangoes. How to grow them. insect & disease issues. Sample varieties and recipes. Cost \$35 Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187 Ave, Homestead, 33031 305-247-5727  
**Sat June 20, 10a-1p Cost \$25** Homestead **Lychee & Longans** hosted by *Chris Rollins*  
How to grow and use. Held during the Redland Summer Fruit Festival. Trees & Fruit available for purchase Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187 Ave, Homestead, 33031 305-247-5727  
Sat July 11 & Sun July 12, 9am-4pm Cape Coral **MANGOMANIA** – Tropical Fruit Festival  
German American Social Club, 2101 Pine Island Rd, Cape Coral, FL 33910 call 239-283-4842  
or go to [www.mangomaniafl.com](http://www.mangomaniafl.com)

**Share your comments & suggestions** [Silvasy@aol.com](mailto:Silvasy@aol.com) 321-228-4310