



# *Tropical Fruit Club Newsletter*

May 2009

**Officers:** Pres: Pete von Lersner VicePres: Christine Young,

Treasurer: Lincoln Lai, Secretary: Shirley Silvasy

**Program Committee:** Abe White, Hayri Lawrence, Pam Flesher, Clyde Stephens

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:00p.m. to 8:45p.m. May 18<sup>th</sup>, Jun 15<sup>th</sup>, Jul 15<sup>th</sup> Leu Garden, 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando.

**Membership: \$15 individual; \$20 family application is available on the website,** payable to Tropical Fruit Club at meetings or send to Lincoln Lai at 688 Carnation Dr., Winter Park 32792.

The newsletter is also online at <http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

**Minutes** Pete von Lersner called the meeting to order. There were 62 attendees including more than a dozen guests. **Old Business:** The treasurers report which was accepted by the membership as were the April minutes. The club gave a rousing appreciation to Hayri Lawrence and all the helpers for the successful Plant Sale. **New Business:** Christine Young brought in a metallic strip of tanglefoot to deter squirrels.

**Program Monday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 7pm** Central Florida horticulturist, **Mr. Charles Motley**, grows & landscapes with tropical fruit in the Orlando area. He is also the developer of an ecotourism program in Northern Peru. Just before leaving for Peru, he will talk to us about tropical plants of Peru. A dynamic entrepreneur and environmentalist, he very interesting & knowledgeable. Check out his website! <http://www.kuelap.org>

**Program Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Tom MacCubbins**, local horticulturist, tv host, & writer, presented **Challenges of Florida Gardening** with an overview of important factors for successful harvests in Central Florida. Beginning with a plant trivia, Tom asked what is the most popular vegetable in home gardens (tomatoes)? What is an alligator pear (avocado)? Is the potato a root, shoot, or tuber (shoot – causes it has growth buds)? Sweet Potato (root capable of advantageous budding)? Oldest named grapefruit (Duncan in 1832)? Official soil of Florida (Myakka sand)?

Tom encouraged every gardener to grow sweet potatoes; stressed the importance of measuring pH; stated Florida soil is highly resistant to pH amending. Tom noted the extreme varieties of microclimates by the inconsistent cold damage recently experienced. Tune in Saturday mornings between 7 & 9 am 540am to hear Tom and Joani's talk show; Check out their websites: [www.betterlawns.com](http://www.betterlawns.com) & [www.hisandhersgardening.com](http://www.hisandhersgardening.com) Read Tom's articles every Saturday in the Orlando Sentinel and blogs at [www.OrlandoSentinel.com/tomdigs](http://www.OrlandoSentinel.com/tomdigs) He welcomes your emails at [TomMac1996@aol.com](mailto:TomMac1996@aol.com)

**Thank you to the following members:**



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**Tasting** *Bob Burns*: Mango Bread; *Lincoln & Daphne Lai*: Brownies; *Joann Maynard*: Gardettas Snack;

*Jean House*: Fruit Salad; *Mauricio & Luzmin Garia*: Bread & homemade coconut jam;

*Dolores Ferlauto*: Grapes; *Heinz Wutscher*: Dried Fruit; *Alicia Thornton*: Pretzels;

*Phyllis Stephens*; Brownies; *Sousan Orlando*: Mulberries;

*TFC*: juice, coconut cookies, fruit salads & plantain chips thanks to *Pam Flesher*;

*Anonymous*: ginger stuffed kumquats

**Raffle** *Adrian & Cecilia Novenari*: Eggplants; *Clyde Stephens*: Calamondins clusters; *Myrtie Dumford*:

White Sapote; *Robert Wu*: Grape Tomatoes, corragreen; *Lincoln & Daphne Lai*: Brownies; *Ben Shaddrick*:

Ornamental Pineapple; *Pam Flesher*: Limes; *Pete Von Lersner*: Jackfruit Seedlings;

*Anonymous*: Orchid, Coffee plants, Rose

*If you didn't sign in, thank you for your contribution.*

~Identify your donations to the tasting & raffle tables ~

**Thanks to Adrian & Cecilia Novenario + Mauricio & Luzmin Garcia for set up;  
Cathy & Ben Saravanja + Abe White for closing up.**

*Thank you Bob Burns for offering to set up in May. If you can, come a few minutes early to help him!  
Thanks also to Wolf Von Lersner for agreeing to after meeting chores, don't be shy, pitch in a helping hand*

*More volunteers are needed to help Ervin Janssen set up & Olive Mackey close up in June, no volunteers signed up yet for the rest of the year. The volunteer sheet is on the welcome table.*

### Upcoming Events

**Sun May 17<sup>th</sup>** Manatee Rare Fruit Council Annual Plant Sale, Bradenton <http://www.mrfc.org/>

**Sat May 30<sup>th</sup>** **FIELD TRIP ~Valley View Vineyards, Lake County** begins 9AM or before.

Peaches, possibly figs & hopefully some grapes will be ready. Good views, examples of fruits and tasty samples make this U-Pick farm a pleasant and informative visit.

~**Blue Bayou Farms** is nearby with **U-Pick blueberries** at \$4/lb, plus lots of fruits and vegetables to enjoy. They also sell blueberry and blackberry plants. Adjacent to the same parking lot is

~**Yalaha Bakery**, famous German goods that will make you break all of your dietary rules. The German chef Kurt also serves hot meals, like *Wiener Schnitzel mit sauerbraten*. You can eat inside or outside.

**Driving routes:** From the Orlando area, it takes about one hour northwest to the center of Lake County. Approaches to **VALLEY VIEW VINEYARDS, 22310 COUNTY ROAD 455, Howey in the Hills FL 34737**, are from the north, east, south and west, so get your map out and find County Road 455, a few miles south of Astatula and Howey in the Hills. The farm is on the top of a high hill 1.7 miles west of the crossroads of 455 and 561. If you are coming from Florida Turnpike exit 285 and US 27, get on 19 north, go a mile or so, turn right/easterly on the Montverde road 455. After a mile, the Vineyard is on the north side. Park along the road at the gate.

At 11 AM or before, crank your engines, drive west on 455 a mile, turn right/north on 19 to Howey in the Hills. **OBSERVE SPEED LIMITS.** At the blinking light at the bottom of the hill, turn left/west on West Central AV that converts to Number Two Road, a pastoral and scenic country road. Turn right on 48, go 1.3 miles and turn right to **BLUE BAYOU FARMS**, outside the far corner of the Yalaha Bakery parking lot. U-Pick blueberries at \$4/lb will be a treat. The owner will reserve us a special row when I call in the head count. After you have stuffed yourself on blueberries, walk or drive to the **German Yalaha Bakery** and indulge. To return home, ask Clyde Stephens. *Auf weidersehen.*



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**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 Univ of FL. *More details next month.*

**Sat July 25<sup>th</sup> Brevard Rare Fruit Council MultiClub Event, Melbourne**, followed by a tour of Topy's and other orchards on Merritt Island. Topy grows mangos, carambola, longans, and other tropicals. *More details next month.*

*Useful links are included in the Central Florida Tropical Fruit Club website* <http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

Horace Thompson recommends [http://www.tropicalfruitnursery.com/fruitproducts\\_ab.htm](http://www.tropicalfruitnursery.com/fruitproducts_ab.htm) an attractive information source by Pine Island Nursery near Miami. Also has an extensive list of plants available as well as a plant list. [pineislandnursery@msn.com](mailto:pineislandnursery@msn.com).

**~membership applications, useful links, & photo gallery available at** <http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

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

~~~ **Tropical Fruit Club Library** A selection of books, videos & pamphlets will be put out at the beginning of each meeting. The items are available to review and borrow. Members may sign out up to two books for a month. Please fill in the sign-out booklet with your name, phone, and book title.~~~

The Sarasota Fruit & Nut Society [www.sfns.net](http://www.sfns.net) & Manatee Rare Fruit Council sent their newsletters. Compared to my two page summary, their newsletters are replete with pictures, information, and interesting material. If you have better publishing skills and more involvement in tropical fruits and the local scene, perhaps you could be willing to put out an improved newsletter.

Please let me know, Shirley