



Tropical Fruit Club Newsletter

April 2009

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

Treasurer: Lincoln Lai, **Secretary:** Shirley Silvasy

Programs: Abe White, Hayri Lawrence, Pam Flesher, Clyde Stephens

Meetings: 3rd Monday 7:00p.m. to 8:45p.m. Apr 20th, May 18th, Jun 15th Leu Garden, 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando.

2009 membership Drive: \$15 individual; \$20 family payable to Tropical Fruit Club at meetings or send to Lincoln Lai at 688 Carnation Dr., Winter Park 32792. Effective May 1st the Newsletter will only be sent to current members.

The newsletter is still available to anyone to view on the website <http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

Minutes Pete vonLersner called the meeting to order. There were 52 attendees. **Old Business:** Lincoln gave the treasurers report which was accepted by the membership as were the March minutes. Hayri Lawrence reviewed procedures for the upcoming Plant Sale. The Volunteer sheet was recirculated for Set Up and Break Down helpers (This sheet will be at the front table~stop by and commit to 20 minutes before or after the meeting.)

Program Apr 20th Tom MacCubbins, local horticulturist, tv host, & writer, presents **Challenges of Florida Gardening**

Program March 16th BLUEBERRIES Gary K. England, Regional Specialized Ext Agent II - Commercial Horticulture gave a very informative powerpoint presentation about blueberry cultivation. Several cultivars were discussed, along with soil, water, and freeze protection. Pictures of some commercial fields and Gary England's home orchard were shared. Blueberries are an important commercial crop in Florida and represents the early market share. A minimum of 2 cultivars are recommended for cross pollination, and at least 6 plants to attract the bees necessary for pollination. Pine bark mulch is the recommended medium for container growing. A flyer with blueberry facts and recipes is available from the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services website www.Florida-Agriculture.com

2009 PLANT SALE *Leu Gardens*

Thank-you to those members who donated plants especially to Doyle and May Abbott , also to those members that volunteered time and effort to make 2009 plant sale a success. Pictures of the event are available in the photo gallery of our website <http://tropicalfruitclub.org> and will be available to view at the meeting. Hayri

The Plant Sale usually draws a lot of visitors to our April meeting, please consider bringing extra items for the tasting and raffle tables, especially tropical fruits.

Thanks to Susan Wilson for setting up; special Oregon guest Sandy Patton along with Elisa & Jerry Alfonso for closing up. Adrian & Cecilia Novenario have volunteered to set up in April and Cathy & Ben Saravanja will break down.

Thank you also to the following members:

Tasting Bob Burns: Tropical Jello; Benny & Carmen Cambare: Shrimp Chips; Cathy Saravanja: Chocolate Banana Bread; Rhonda Nelson: Coconut Cakes; Hayri Lawrence: Organic Eggs; Adrian & Cecilia Novenario: Chicken Nuggets; Carmen Smith: Carnie; Lincoln & Daphne Lai: Brownies & Starfruit; Mauricio & Luzmin Garia: Purple Yam Dessert; TFC: juice thanks to Pam Flesher

Raffle Gary England: Blueberry plants; Hayri Lawrence: Organic Eggs Clyde Stephens: Calamodin clusters Abe White: turnips, collards, kale, mustarad,carrots, African greens, Ben Shaddrick: Starfruit; Jean House: Garlic Chives; Roberta Witherspoon: Ground Orchids for plant sale; Pete Von Lersner: Grafting Bags; Myrtie Dumford: Cardomon Plant; Elisa & Jerry Alfonso: Pomelos; Anonymous: Tropical Fruit News, Oct. '98
If you didn't sign in, thank you for your contribution.

~Identify your donations to the tasting & raffle tables ~

~~A volunteer wanted to buy tropical fruits for the tasting table to show what is available and what it tastes like~~

~~~An assortment of books is available before each meeting in the Tropical Fruit Club library, they may be signed out for one month, please fill in the sign-out booklet with your name, phone, and book title.~~~

The Sarasota Fruit & Nut Society forwarded their newsletter to us, their website is [www.sfns.net](http://www.sfns.net).

The Manatee Rare Fruit Council also forwarded an impressive newsletter with nice pictures of January's visit to the Palma Solo Gardens along with freeze effects.

### Upcoming Events

**Sat. April 25<sup>th</sup> 9a-5p Brevard Rare Fruit Council Annual Plant Sale, Melbourne.** Brevard Rare Fruit Council has a new website address: <http://www.brevardrarefruitcouncil.org/>

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

**Mon. May 18, 2009**, TFC program 7p **Mr. Charles Motley**, developer of an ecotourism program in Northern Peru, grows & landscapes with tropical fruit in the Orlando area. Just before leaving for Peru, he will talk to us about tropical plants of Peru. Very interesting and knowledgeable. Check out his website! <http://www.kuelap.org>

**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, longons, and other tropicals. *More details next month.*

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

Chris Marshall is looking for a source for *Solanum Torvum* - Turkey berry. Maybe it's a weed in South Florida but frosts would keep it in check up here. I like the idea of a tree bearing pea sized egg plants you can throw whole into a curry or stew. Thanks!  
Chris Email: <[vaiaata@earthlink.net](mailto:vaiaata@earthlink.net)> Web: <[www.vaiaata.com](http://www.vaiaata.com)>

**Reminders, ~RENEW your membership, ~Sign up to set up or break down at meetings~Check out the photo gallery on our website**

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



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