



Tropical Fruit Club

Newsletter

December 2009

Officers: **President:** *Pete von Lersner* **VicePresident:** *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*

Meetings: 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.; Dec. 21st, Jan 18th, Feb. 15th at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando

TFC newsletters & photos available on our website <http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

Bring items for the tasting and raffle tables; please label items and complete the sign in sheet.

Minutes

Pete von Lersner called the meeting to order & welcomed guests and new members.

Old Business: *Lincoln Lai* gave the treasurers report which was accepted as were the October minutes.

TROPICAL FRUIT CLUB OFFICER NOMINEES FOR 2010 accepted as submitted by your humble servant, *Clyde Stephens*, October 19, 2009, and the nominating committee (2009 program committee).

A special thanks to *Hayri Lawrence* for organizing the Nov. 14th Sleuth's Mystery Dinner Theatre group visit. It was lots of fun and everyone who went had a great time.

New Business: The December meeting will be a dinner celebrating the Christmas season. A sign up sheet was distributed for contributions to the Festive Holiday Table. The club will provide turkey and ham, drinks & tableware, members are asked to bring a starch, vegetable or dessert dish to serve 12 people. Please bring an index card with ingredient list and a serving utensil. Help will be needed early to set up and after to clean up.

Club wear will be sold at meetings by Eliza Alfonzo. On hand 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 : Christmas Dinner celebration on December 21st at 7 p.m. at Lew Gardens with the University High School Chorus performing.

Past Program: Pete von Lersner presented information on Starfruit/Carambola detailing interesting information on fruit production and Christine Young gave a presentation on cold weather protection for trees, gardens and plants - along with a question & answer session. The presentation is below

Enhancing Carambola Fruit-Set

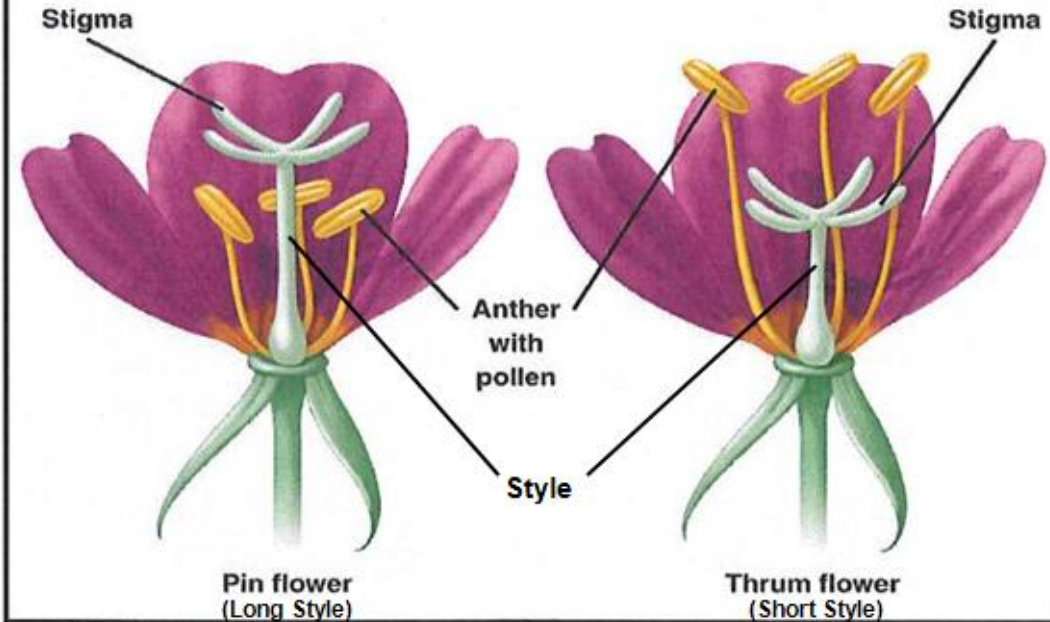


Carambola Pollination

- Carambola flowers are heterostylic (next slide) - Plants have either short or long styles. Heterostylic flowers are "designed" to encourage pollination with the other style type
- As a rule of thumb, Long-styled cultivars have greater fruit-set in isolation or homogeneous blocks than do Short-styled. Long-styled Carambola fruit set is often adequate without cross pollination
- There are individual exceptions to this rule of thumb, like short-styled trees in isolation with adequate fruit set. This may be due to the individual cultivar or types and numbers of local pollinators.
- **Bottom Line:** Fruit-set for both is significantly greater when cross-pollinated with the opposite style type:
Short x Long or Long x Short.

Illustration of Heterostyly

(Flowers from two different Plants)





Significant Sri Kembangan (Short Style) fruit set with Cross-Pollination from Kary (Long Style)



Sri Kembangan (Short Style) Fruit with limited set after Kary (Long Style) no longer in bloom




Kary grafted onto Sri Kembangan in May – Graft has taken and was producing leaves/shoots



**Graft Follow-up on November 14 :
Kary graft was in bloom, setting fruit on itself and,
again, enhancing fruit set on the rest of the tree!**

Carambolas Cultivar Flower Styles

Short Style	Long Style
B-2	B-1
B-4	B-6
B-8	B-11
B-10	B-16
B-17	Star King
Fwang Tung	Maha
Lu Tho	Arkin
Wheeler	Kary
Sri Kembangan	
Pat Chun	
Kara	

 Most commonly found cultivars

Donations

Tasting Table:

Jean House - Low Fat Wheat Thins, **Hayri Lawrence** - Wild Persimmons, **Phyllis Stephens** - Chocolate Cake, **Goldie Thompson** - home made Guava Jam with cheese crackers, **Bob Burns** - Tropical Fusion Jello, **Abe White** - Pummelo, TFC -salsa and chips, **Lincoln and Daphne Lai** - Brownies, Monstera Delicious, mint, **Jim Ford**- Bananas and Carambola, **Pete von Lersner** - Chocolate Cookies, **Rafael and Betsy Flores** - Cheese Tray, **Marie Orlando**- Sour Dough Nugget, **Pam Flesher** - Avocado Salad, Pummelo, Red Papaya

Raffle Table:

Clyde Stephens - calamondin, papayas, **Jean House** - native plant, **Kathy Anderson** - key limes, **Winston Lowe** - mango, **Cathy Saravanja** - sweet basil plants, **Doyle Abbot** - Miracle Fruit, **Cheryl and Jose DeMota** - avocado, and yellow flower tree, **Abe White** - pummelo, cranberry hibiscus, bok choi, Chinese cabbage, peppers, onions, **Eliza and Jerry Alfonso**- squash, **Lincoln and Daphne Lai** - aloe vera plant, monstera fruit, **Bob Burns** - large pineapple plant in pot, **Jim Ford** - pineapple plants, banana plants, arrowroot roselle, rootbeer plant, sweet lemons, **Robert Wu** - Dragon Fruit, **Shirley Silvasy** - cottonseed meal, **Adam Shafran** - cabeludinha mercurial glazioviana, **Ben Shaddrick** - avocado

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

Editor's Note: I would like to express my appreciation to Shirley Silvasy for all her help with this edition of the newsletter, meeting with Bill and I in order to make the transition to our new positions a whole lot easier than it would have been otherwise. Thank you, Shirley.

Share your comments and suggestions wsaravanja@gmail.com 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 in the library boxes or on the website.