



Tropical Fruit Club Newsletter

July 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: 3rd Monday 7p.m. to 9p.m. Jul 20th Aug 17th Sept 21st Oct 19th Nov 16th Dec 21st
Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando

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

Minutes (54 attendees) Pete von Lersner called the meeting to order & welcomed guests. **Old Business:** Lincoln gave the treasurers report which was accepted as were the June minutes. Hayri Lawrence reported the scheduled July 18th U-Pick trip to Dover has been cancelled due to crop issues. May be rescheduled next year. **New Business:** Members are invited to a Lychee Harvest at Doyle Abbott's home on Saturday June 27th, info below.

Upcoming Program Monday July 20th SOILS or PLANT CYCLES Nick Francisco of Blodgett Gardens & Nursery, Inc. 3821 Edgewater Dr Orlando, Florida 32804 will present two programs, one in July and one in September: 1) SOILS: what is required for optimal fruit quality and quantity
or 2) PLANT CYCLES: 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?

Past Program June 15th Bark Grafting Pete von Lersner presented pictures of a grafting technique called bark grafting similar to air layering that is fairly easy & pretty successful. Pete worked with loquats, encircling the plant to remove the bark with the desired bud and slipping it back onto a the prepared matching area on a rootstock host plant. Pete likes Big Jim, a late variety fruit of good quality and size. Grafting results in an crop in fewer years and improved varieties. His presentation was well organized, detailed, complex, yet easy to follow. **Christine Young** brought an assortment of picture highlighting her plants, harvests, and jams. Especially impressive is the Morenga or Horseradish tree, the dried leaves are used for nourishment in developing nations and is very high in is essential nutrients. Her well tended garden is a tribute to her expertise and effort. Pineapples, bananas, pommelo, olives, papaya (fruit shielded with paper bags), beans, squash, tomatoes, peppers, kale, cucumbers The list goes on.

Upcoming Club Events

Sat June 27th Lychee Harvest Founding fruit club members Doyle & Mae Abbott have invited interested club members to join them to assist in harvesting Lychees from the trees on their property. The Lychee crop is bountiful this year and all those interested will be sure to come away with several pounds of delicious fruit plus all you can eat during the day.

In order to spread-out the influx of cars in this residential area, we are inviting members to attend in three waves. The first wave, at 9:30 AM is already quite full based on sign-ups during our recent meeting. We ask that anyone interested - who was unable to sign-up during the meeting - please plan on arriving for one of the later waves at 11:00 AM or 12:30 PM. Rest assured there will be more than enough fruit to go around.

Here's what to expect:

- We ask that everyone contribute at least one hour of "sweat equity" in helping to pick, glean, sort and bundle fruit.
- Please bring plastic grocery bags for you to take your fruit home. Also garden shears, baskets or buckets might come in handy.
- The club will weigh-out fruit and is asking for a \$1 donation per pound. Considering outlets like www.lycheesonline.com is selling Brewster Lychees for \$10 per pound, this is a real bargain.
- Bring any food or water you might need during your visit. Additional water will also be available to refill your empty bottles.

Location: 4400 Down Point Lane, Windermere, FL

Directions: From I-4 take Conroy Road West approx. 5.1 miles. Down Point Lane is the second right after crossing Apopka-Vineland Rd.

Sat July 25th 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/>

Monday 7p August 17th Dawn Gates an herbalist, a nurse, will be speaking about using plants for health benefits, especially focusing on using tropical fruits and plant parts.

Monday 7p September 21st: Nick Francisco of Blodgett Gardens & Nursery, Inc. SOILS or PLANT CYCLES

Tasting & Raffle Tables

Tasting *Bob Burns:* Haupia Hawaiian Coconut Pudding; *Wolf von Lersner:* Butterfly Cookies;
Goldie Thompson: Spicy Carrot Bread; *Jim Ford:* Sweet Lemons;
Maria Orlando: Fudge Cookies; *Lincoln & Daphne Lai:* Brownies
Elisa & Jerry Alfonso: peanut butter & honey with apples & carrots;
TFC: juice & cookies thanks to *Pam Flesher*

Raffle *Pam Flesher:* Banana Plant *Adam Shafron:* Jaboticaba, tomato, passion fruit;
Robert Wu: Papaya; *Sousan Orlando:* Avocado Tree; *the Zelezniks,* many banana plants;
Lincoln & Daphne Lai: Roselle, Red Lady Papaya, sweet & cubanella peppers;
Jose & Cheryl DaMota: Coral Plants; *Winston Lowe,* Banana Plants
Shirley Silvasy: Cottonseed Meal; *Heide Manns:* Mulberry; *Pamela Shirley:* Tomato Plants;
Pete Von Lersner: Grafted Loquat; *Barry Hakimian:* Sugar canes

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

Special appreciation to Radomir Stec and Heidi Manns for clearing up after the meeting.

Abe White volunteered to clear up in July; Viviana Rey-Palmer to set up in August.

Two or three helpers are needed to set up each meeting, no one signed to set up in July. No one has volunteered to clear up in August

Of Interest

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

The Carriage Museum~~so nice & so near. *Clyde Stephens shares:* This is a nice museum for anybody but I am not sure it is relative to the fruits and nuts club. No fruit to see but the landscape is rural and so nice.

Most people never heard of the Carriage Museum between Lady Lake and Weirsdale. I visited it and wanted to share the fact that this is a major and unusual museum in Central Florida that few people know about. It will be on my list to take visitors in the future. There are over 160 carriages from Europe, America and even China. Displays are not only carriages pulled by animals, but items and illustrations related to those times of vehicles pulled by horses. There is even a carriage with an engine under the bottom. Displays are beautifully presented and described in a giant series of classical air conditioned halls and rooms. Outside, there are horses and horse shows on the huge private estate of the founder. The landscape is live oaks and rolling pasture by lakes.

Entrance is \$11 and well worth it. See www.fcmr.org for a preview. Get driving instructions to: 3000 Marion County Road, Weirsdale FL 32195. Very rural and pastoral. A hidden treasure.

Share your comments & suggestions: Shirley Silvasy silvasy@aol.com 321-228-4310