



Tropical Fruit Club Newsletter

March 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. Mar 16th, Apr 20th, May 18th Leu Garden, 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando.

2009 membership Drive: \$15 individual; \$20 family

payable to Tropical Fruit Club at next meeting or send to Lincoln Lai at 688 Carnation Dr., Winter Park 32792.

Minutes Pete vonLersner called the meeting to order. There were 41 attendees. **Old Business:** Lincoln gave the treasurers report which was accepted by the membership as were the February minutes. Hayri Lawrence outlined procedures for the upcoming Plant Sale. A Volunteer sheet was circulated to sign up Set Up and Break Down helpers. This sheet will be at the front table so stop by and commit to an extra 20 minutes before or after the meeting. **Break Down helpers are needed for the March meeting & Set Up helpers for the April meeting.** New Business: Christine Young attended Bill Frederickson's Beekeeper class, informed us that European smaller bees swarm by the thousands and that a good way to determine whether if the bee is the aggressive African. Pam Flesher shared impressions of her trip to the Kumquat festival in St. Joseph's, www.kumquatgrowers.com. Epcot Flower Festival invited plant clubs to present a weekend booth.

Program March 16th BLUEBERRIES presented by *Gary K. England*, Regional Specialized Ext Agent II - Commercial Horticulture

Program February 16th Tiare Meer spoke on Spring Gardening. President of *Simple Living Institute, Inc & Homegrown Delights, LLC*, Tia grew up working on her grandparents organic farm in Pittsburgh, PA; graduated **UCF** with a *Liberal Studies Degree in Botany, Wellness, & Environment* and a *Certificate in Non-Profit Management*. She also completed *Biointensive Workshops with Ecology Action*, Willits, CA. Tia spent a year in Hawaii working with the **Lyons Arboretum**. With the **Kokua Foundation** she developed gardens & classes for public schools. On her **Econ Farm** in East Orlando, she demonstrates permaculture & biointensive mini-farm techniques, sustainability, and simple living. Tia has been featured in local media: *Orlando Sentinel*, *Orlando Weekly*, & *East Orlando Sun*; & in January's "**O**" Magazine article "**Back to Basics.**"

2009 PLANT SALE Leu Gardens March 21 – 22, 2009 9:00am – 5:00pm

This year's annual Leu Gardens Plant Sale will be on March 21 and 22 from 9:00am until 4:00pm each day. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact this year's organizer Hayri Lawrence by email at gardenreb@earthlink.net or by phone at (407) 656-5848.

For those of you wishing to drop off or donate plants, you can bring them along to our booth at Leu Gardens on the set-up day, Friday, March 20. If you are unable to make it on that day because of work or other commitments, you can bring them along to the monthly meeting on March 16. Those plants that are brought to the meeting will be taken home by volunteer members who will look after them and then bring them to the booth on the Friday before the sale for set-up.

If you will be bringing any plants to the meeting on the 16th, please let me know in advance what types of plants you will be bringing and how many so that we are able to organize the volunteers. You can contact Hayri Lawrence with the details, her contact information is below.

Please ensure that you do not bring any invasive plants. We will try to have a list of invasive plants available at the meeting on the 16th.

We will also be setting up a fruit display basket, so if you have any fruit that you will be donating for the display, please let Hayri know to make sure that we do not buy the same type.

When we sell plants, we will be putting them into plastic shopping bags, so if you have any bags at home, please bring them along to the meeting on the 16th.

For those volunteering to help us at the sale, thank you very much! Please remember: bring your name tags & wear your tropical fruit club shirts. If you are going to be there during the lunchtime, please remember to bring your lunch. The club will provide drinks (non-alcoholic!)

Even if you are not working at the booth, please come along to the Plant Sale and buy some plants from our booth. This supports our club and it is our main fund raiser for the year. The funds received go towards paying for our speakers and for the meeting room we rent from Leu Gardens every month.

For any questions or for more information please contact **Hayri Lawrence** gardenreb@earthlink.net (407) 656-5848

If you didn't sign in, thank you for your contribution. Thank you to the following members:

Tasting

Bob Burns: Tropical Jello; Benny & Carmen Cambare: Tostados Picante Sausa; Wolf VonLersner: Palmiero Cookies; Jean House: Red Velvet Cakes; Hayri Lawrence: Organic Eggs; Adrian & Cecilia Novenario: Plantain Strips; Carmen Smith: Tostadas & Refried Beans; Lincoln & Daphne Lai: Brownies & Starfruit; Mauricio & Luzmin Garia: Boiled Peanuts; TFC: juice

Raffle

Tia Silvasy: Simple Living Tote; Hayri Lawrence: Cooking for Slimmers Book; Abe White: Turnips, Mustard, Kale, Collards, Cowhorn Peppers; Anonymous: Organic Growers Magazines

~Identify your donations to the tasting & raffle tables ~

~~A special Thank you to Dann McKee who donated ECHO Tropical Fruit Videos to our library~~

Upcoming Events

Sat. & Sun. March 21st & 22nd 9a-5p Leu Garden 2009 plant sale. .

Mon. April 20, 2009, TFC program 7p **Tom MacCubbins**, horticulturist and writer, presents **Challenges of Florida Gardening**

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

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

Reminders, ~RENEW your membership, ~Sign up for Mar 21, 22 Plant Sale;

~Help!! 2 to set up & 2 to break down each meeting = 4 volunteers each meeting x 9 months=36 volunteers, we have 8.

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



**Shirley Silvasy
Tropical Fruit Club
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Orlando FL 32825-7759**