



Tropical Fruit Club of Central Florida

Website: www.tropicalfruitclub.org

FEB. 2011 NEWSLETTER

Meetings

3rd Monday
7:00- 8:45 pm

Feb. 21st, Mar. 21st, Apr. 18th

Camelia Room at Leu Gardens
1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando

Officers

President

Pete Von Lersner

Vice-President

Christine Young

Treasurer

Lincoln Lai

Secretary

Jerry and Elisa Alfonso

Committees

Newsletter

Brian Rasmussen

Programs

Christine Young

Larry Shatzer

Abe White

Hayri Lawrence

Pam Flesher

Clyde Stephens

Library

Hayri Lawrence

Plant Sale Chairperson

Joann Maynard

Previous Event :

Monday, 17 January 2011 Norman "Topy" Feil. Topy spoke to us on a wide range of topics and left over 10 pages of notes for us to review. These will not be posted to the website but e-mailed to current members. Topics discussed at the meeting included dealing with fire ants using club soda, bees using a shop vac with a long PVC pipe, and personal safety. He also covered the art of finding queen fire ants and how to get low cost pot ash fertilizer from burnt wood. Topy's notes contain tips on growing more than 20 things that grow well on Merritt Island.

Upcoming Events :

Monday, 21 February 2011 Captain Ken Puckett. Captain Puckett will be giving us an overview of the Panama Canal. How it operates. And its impact on the import and export of fruits and vegetables from Central and South America through the canal to the U.S. and Europe. Please see his Bio at the end of this newsletter.

Monday, 21 February 2011 New Year membership drive.
Please contact Lincoln Lai to pay your 2011 membership dues.

Monday, 21 February 2011 Sign up to volunteer at the March plant sale. There will be a sign up list of times you can add your name to at the next club meeting.

Saturday & Sunday, 19 – 20 March 2011 Leu Gardens Plant Sale!
Setup: Friday 18 March 7:00 am to 6:30 pm.
Sale: Saturday 19 March 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
Sale: Sunday 20 March 9:00 am to 5 pm.
Breakdown Sunday 20 March after 5 pm

News update on preparations for our main fundraiser for the year:
Clyde Stephens and Abe White purchased 174 small Meristem banana plants from Agri-Start. Abe took 72 Ice Cream banana plants home for re-potting. Horace Thompson and Clyde re-potted 72 Gran Nain plants. Horace reports that the plants are developing well in his green house near Mount Dora and will be ready for the March plant sale.

Monday, 21 March 2011 Clyde Stephens will speak on the topic: A FRUITFUL PERSPECTIVE OF TUNISIA AND FRANCE. This horticulturally and geographically oriented talk promises to be more than a travel log of visits to friends and members of our club but relevant to fruits, vegetables, nuts, markets, and cultivations of these areas.

2011 Membership

\$15 Individual

\$20 Family

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Payable to: **Tropical Fruit Club of
Central Florida**

Renew at next meeting or send to:
Lincoln Lai

**688 Carnation Drive
Winter Park, FL 32792**

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Membership Applications

are available at club meetings and
on line at

<http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

Thanks to all members who have
paid their dues for the current year.

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Website:

Check out our website for past and
present Newsletters, posting of
most recent pictures, events,
activities, and links to other clubs
and extension services.

**A BIG thanks to those who are
bringing items for the tasting and
raffle tables. Please remember to
label these items so we can discuss
them and rave about them in
upcoming newsletters.**

There will be one sign in sheet for
the tasting tables and one sign up
sheet for the raffle tables. The sign
up sheets allow us to rave about the
people who bring the wonderfully
labeled tasting and raffle items and
ask them questions.

Please remember on meeting night
that we need to be out of the
building and off of the property by
9:00 p.m.

Any help you can give to expedite
cleanup will be much appreciated.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Meeting Minutes

Old Business:

1. Joann Maynard presented the dates and times for the Leu Garden Plant Sale 19 – 20 March 2011. A sign up list to volunteer in the sale was passed at that time.

New Business:

1. Pam Flesher brought up the idea of getting volunteers to help with the drinks for the tasting table for two month terms. A sign up sheet for this was passed around. The club reimburses expenses for this.
2. Review preparations and details needed for the upcoming plant sale **19 – 20 March 2011**.
3. New Year membership drive. Give dues to Lincoln Lai.

ITEMS DONATED TO THE RAFFLE TABLE

Turnips, Chinese cabbage, Collards, Swiss chard Romaine lettuce from Abe White. Jujubes from Pete. Satsuma Oranges from Carol Nichols. Note on the Satsuma Oranges: These were by far the sweetest and most delicious citrus the editor has ever tasted.

TASTING TABLE ITEMS AT LAST MEETING

Tropical Jello – Bob Burns. Green Papaya Desert – Phyllis Stephens, Crackers – Joann Maynard, Starfruit Jam & Triscuit – Lincoln & Daphne Lai. Persimmon Cake – Martha Von Lersner. Guacamole Tortilla Chips - Goldie Thompson. Tropical fruit Jello & Carambolas – Heidi Flinchbaugh. Carambola, Honebell's, and Murcott's – Toppay Feil. Black Beans & Rice – Mae Abbot.

WEAR YOUR CLUB PRIDE

Club wear will be sold at meetings. Reduced prices and nice items for members to wear at activities and trips. Now available at great discount prices are: polo shirts; various color baseball caps, hats & T-shirts; long and short sleeve button down denim shirts at specially reduced prices. There is a limited supply left so, get yours while they last. Additional items may be ordered.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

www.tradewindsfruit.com/fruitscommon.html

www.fruitlovers.com

www.echonet.org

www.tropicalfruitgrowers.com

www.tropicalfruit.com

Please e-mail any pictures to the Club newsletter editor you would like to share or have posted on the Club website.

Bio:

Captain Kenneth Puckett
Master Mariner – US Navy – US Army
Panama Canal Pilot and Port Captain – Retired.

In 1958, at age 17, Captain Puckett joined the US Navy and spent the next eight years on sea duty aboard submarines, destroyers, and an aircraft carrier. He rose quickly through the ranks and in 1968 was appointed to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. He subsequently transferred to the Watercraft/Maritime Division of the US Army Transportation Corps. During his twelve years with the Army Captain Puckett sailed as Master and Mate on board various military and cargo vessels. In 1970 he became a US Army certified Harbor Pilot. He then went on to serve as a Harbor Pilot in the ports of: Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam, Okinawa, Japan, and Busan Korea. During his time in the Army Captain Puckett also obtained several US Army and US Merchant maritime licenses.

In 1972 Captain Puckett took leave from the Army in order to complete his formal education. He graduated from New York State Maritime College in 1974 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Marine Transportation Management.

Captain Puckett completed 20 years of military service in 1978 and retired from the US Army. He then went to work in the maritime industry.

In 1981 Captain Puckett was selected by the Panama Canal Commission to join the elite corps of Panama Canal Pilots. He worked for 16 years in Panama as a Senior Canal Pilot and Port Captain. During that time he safely piloted over 1440 vessels through the Panama Canal.

Captain Puckett received the Panama Canal's Outstanding Employee of the Year Award on two occasions. And in 1992 was awarded the Panama Canal Commission's coveted Silver Medal for Community Service. He has also been honored by the Governor of Kentucky, Ken's Home State, and appointed an Honorary Kentucky Colonel.

Since leaving Panama Captain Puckett has enjoyed writing, teaching, and lecturing. He has been an Adjunct Professor of Marine Science at two community colleges and has lectured before various civic groups, travel clubs, military organizations and aboard the cruise ships Disney Magic, Coral Princess, and Yachts of Seabourn.

Captain Puckett's list of presentation topics include: History and Construction of the Panama Canal, Operation of the Panama Canal, Piloting a Ship through the Panama Canal, Marine Navigation, The Maritime Profession, Humor in Uniform, Celestial Navigation, Modern Ship Design, Mediterranean Ports, and the History of Pirates.

Captain Puckett currently lives with his wife Darlene in central Florida. He has four adult children and eight grandchildren.