



The Fruit Growers of Southwest Florida

APRIL 2019

The speaker at the April 16 Collier Fruit Grower Membership Meeting will be Dr. Richard Campbell. Richard is one of the 'Mango Men of Homestead' and was the Senior Curator of Tropical Fruit at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables for many years. He is a native of South Florida who grew up among tropical fruit. Richard draws on his many year of travel and experience collecting and researching tropical fruit in Asia and the Americas to provide the latest information, quality trees and tropical fruit tastes to the public. Dr. Campbell has authored over a hundred scientific and popular articles and YouTube videos on fruit culture. As well as several books, including "Mangos: A Guide to Mango in Florida" and 'Tropical Mangos: How to Grow the World's Most Delicious Fruit,' among others. Richard also appeared in the documentary film "The Fruit Hunters."



**Collier Fruit Growers Meeting: TUESDAY, April 16th.
The tasting table starts at 7:00 pm. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm
at the Tree of Life Church, Life Center,
2132 Shadowlawn Dr., Naples, FL**



The Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club Speaker on April 9 will be Alex Nikesch. Alex is a permaculture designer, consultant, educator, and community organizer. Permaculture is a design system for regenerative human habitats. Alex currently teaches permaculture design and forest gardening at Florida Gulf Coast University, organizes for the Southwest Florida Permaculture Guild, and does consulting and design work for homesteads, organizations, and farms in Southwest Florida. In his talk with us, Alex will explain permaculture design principles and methods which will be of value to anyone interested in employing permaculture or more sustainable practices on their property and community.

Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club, Inc. would like to invite you to our next meeting here in Bonita Springs, **at the First United Methodist Church at 6:15/7:00 pm at 27690 Shriver Ave, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.**
Meetings are held every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

Mulberries are increasingly being grown in SWFL. They can be used in any recipe that calls for blackberries. This recipe was found on www.suwaneerose.com and is reminiscent of those old fashioned desserts we all used to enjoy.



recipe:

Mulberry Skillet Cake with Warm Vanilla Sauce

**Cake Ingredients:**

2 cups flour
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup unsweetened yogurt
1 teaspoon vanilla

1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk
1/4 cup melted butter
2 cups mulberries

Cake Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Butter the cast iron skillet and put it in the oven. In a large mixing bowl, sift the first four ingredients. In a separate bowl, beat eggs and add the milk, yogurt, butter and vanilla. Add the wet ingredients to the dry. Fold in the mulberries. Pour the batter in the skillet and bake it for 30 minutes. Make the vanilla sauce while it bakes.

Vanilla Sauce Ingredients:

1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup white sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
pinch of salt

2 cups milk
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1-2 tablespoons butter

Vanilla Sauce Directions:

In a medium saucepan, whisk sugars, salt and cornstarch. Turn on the heat to medium. Slowly whisk in the milk. Keep stirring until the milk just starts to bubble, but not boil. Take it off the heat and stir in the vanilla and butter. Spoon it over individual slices of cake.

Fordlandia, Henry Ford's 'Utopia'

The production of rubber in the 1920's was controlled by England/East India Company. Years before, seedlings had been taken from Brazil and vast rubber plantations were established in Southeast Asia. To combat this monopoly, Henry Ford, against the advice of company executives and experts, bought 2.4 million acres of ground in 1928 from the Brazilian Government to establish his own rubber plantation. As often seen from history, the signs of an impending disaster are seeded in the exhibition of arrogance. Ford disliked experts and went ahead with detailed plans and execution of Fordlandia on the Tapajós River (a tributary of the Amazon River) without any real scientific and ultimately business considerations. Heavy earth moving equipment was brought in by ship to clear-cut the vegetation. Even a floating saw mill was imported from Japan to harvest the exotic trees as the clearing took place. With all the vegetation removed, flooding and soil erosion became a problem.



Ford did not seek the advice of a botanist until 1934. His trees withered, plagued by blight (spread through the contact of the adjacent canopies of the 'mono-culture' trees), other diseases and insect infestations. Due to the blight, it was found that the trees had to be replanted every seven years, well before the trees yielded their full potential of rubber. [Crafton Clift: There is no major crop that has performed best in its country of origin. Once citrus

or



Troubled by an alien culture, the workers rebelled, culminating in a revolt that had to be 'squashed' with the help of Brazilian army in 1930. The result was that Fordlandia was a disaster and today is an abandoned landscape. The experiment was well-intentioned but a pointless waste of human energy and resources, both natural and financial. This would later cost Ford's grandson Henry Ford II, a total loss of 20 million dollars (approx. \$500 million today) in 1945 on its sale back to the Brazilian government.

Henry Ford had rigid ideas of what his 'utopia' was to be. Being a quintessential American, that meant eating American food, living in American-style houses, attending poetry sessions and engaging in regular square dances where only English songs were played. He began to impose these imported ideas of food and lifestyle on the populace working there —things they were not accustomed to. The most irksome of his rules was the prohibition of alcohol, tobacco and even wives and families. Denied of these simple pleasures, Fordlandians would often sneak away to a nearby settlement that they called 'Island of Innocence', which was filled with nightclubs, bars and brothels.



Built with the vision to last, Fordlandia had all the amenities of a modern North American town including a golf course, a full-fledged hospital, a large powerhouse, a hotel and employee housing. One can now visit the crumbling structures which still stand as monuments to failure.



A Recent Photograph of the Abandoned Water Tower and Machine Shop.

After his failures, Ford tried relocating downstream, but the entire operation was made irrelevant with the commercialized production of synthetic rubber by 1945. Henry Ford never visited what was intended to be his version of 'utopia,' and no rubber was ever exported from Fordlandia to the Ford Motor Company plants of America.

[Recommended reading: 'Fordlandia, The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City,' by Greg Grandin 2009]

Repellant Could Keep Dangerous Beetles Away From Avocado Trees

Date: February 23, 2017

Source: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Summary: Florida avocados bring a \$100 million-a-year impact to Florida's economy, economists say. They grow almost entirely in southern Miami-Dade County, but growers have battled the laurel wilt fungus, which can kill redbay and avocado trees, since it arrived in Georgia in 2003.

FULL STORY: [NOTE: This article has been reprinted in its entirety.]



When they're infected with the laurel wilt fungus, redbay trees – a close cousin to the avocado -- emit methyl salicylate to repel redbay ambrosia beetles -- seen here -- the very beetles that gave the trees the fungus in the first place, UF/IFAS scientists say in a newly published study.

Credit: UF/IFAS

Using some pleasant-smelling chemicals, avocado growers may soon be able to repel beetles that inject a potentially deadly fungus into their trees, saving fruit and money, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences researchers say. When they're infected with the laurel wilt fungus, redbay trees -- a close cousin to the avocado -- emit methyl salicylate to repel redbay ambrosia beetles, the very beetles that gave the trees the fungus in the first place, scientists say in a newly published study.

Florida avocados bring a \$100 million-a-year impact to Florida's economy, UF/IFAS economists say. They grow almost entirely in southern Miami-Dade County, but growers have battled the laurel wilt fungus, which can kill redbay and avocado trees, since it arrived in Georgia in 2003.

Because avocado growers have few viable options to combat laurel wilt, UF/IFAS researchers looked for solutions. For the study, scientists compared the number of beetles captured on sticky traps disposed on redbay tree logs. After 10 weeks, they also looked at the holes dug by the beetles into the logs because that's when the beetles transmit the fungus.

Scientists then tested three different blends of repellent and found verbenone and verbenone plus methyl salicylate -- produced by the infected redbay tree -- were the most efficient. When scientists applied these repellents on redbay logs, they reduced the number of beetles captured on sticky traps by 95 percent and the number for boring holes by 90 percent.

"We believe that these repellents could be used in a larger context, if associated with bug lures to have a push-pull system," said Marc Hughes, a former postdoctoral researcher in the Forest Pathology Laboratory in UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation. The repellents push the beetles away, while the lures -- or "attractants," as scientists call them -- pull them toward traps, where they are killed. "Attractants would be placed outside the avocado groves, while avocado trees will be treated with repellent."

In addition to the fact that the repellent -- methyl salicylate -- seems to work, it is about 80 percent less expensive than verbenone, Hughes said.

The repellent discovery comes as good news for avocado growers. Some fungicides are available, but they are expensive, said co-author Xavier Martini. Insecticides are not very efficient because beetles spend most of their time within the wood. These repellents are insecticide-free, which is a sustainable way to protect trees, said Martini, an assistant professor of entomology at the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy, Florida.

Other co-authors of the study include Jason Smith, associate professor at the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and Lukasz Stelinski, associate professor at the UF/IFAS Citrus REC.

The new study is published in the *Journal of Applied Entomology*.

Story Source:

Materials provided by University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Original written by Brad Buck. *Note: Content may be edited for style and length.*

Journal Reference:

M. A. Hughes, X. Martini, E. Kuhns, J. Colee, A. Mafra-Neto, L. L. Stelinski, J. A. Smith. Evaluation of repellents for the redbay ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus*, vector of the laurel wilt pathogen. *Journal of Applied Entomology*, 2017; DOI: [10.1111/jen.12387](https://doi.org/10.1111/jen.12387)

Cite This Page: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. "Repellent could keep dangerous beetles away from avocado trees." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 23 February 2017. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/02/170223102556.htm>.



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Collier Fruit Growers Garden News



The February Fruit Tree Sale was very successful. This was the first time three cashers were used to keep up with tree sales. Thanks to all persons who came out in support and helped with the sale.



Eric Bina has successfully grafted annual eggplant scions onto **perennial 'Turkey Berry' eggplant** (*Solanum Torvum*). Results have been very encouraging and in several cases the scions have bloomed shortly after being grafted. Annual eggplants, like tomatoes, are extremely susceptible to nematodes and other parasites in the South Florida soils, to which the perennial eggplants are less affected.



Vanilla Orchids (*Vanilla planifolia* and *Tahitian vanilla*) were the topic of an article by Dr. Noris Ledesma, published in the CFG November Newsletter. Recently, University of Florida scientists at Gainesville have sequenced the genome of Vanilla, which will help them select the best types for breeding new varieties of the popular plant to grow in Florida. In the new research published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, Alan Chambers and Elias Bassil (a UF/IFAS assistant professor of plant stress physiology) led the group of researchers that established a Vanilla collection of 112 potentially unique individuals. For the complete Blog on the subject go to: http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/news/2019/03/05/uf-scientists-sequence-vanilla-genome-could-support-domesticindustry/?fbclid=IwAR1mEKvrq3IVUOKqg2W9OW6dr1eKXBxN8J_9r9gYIMSPYRX7Oizq1WGTtvw



Crafton Clift and three other persons grafted approximately twenty-four **Black Sapote** (*Diospyos nigra*) scions of the Masonatta variety onto young rootstocks only three to four inches high, when the first two leaves developed. Crafton is hopeful that some of the grafts will be successful and take.



Mango grafting will be undertaken in late May, early June at the Cornerstone Nursery. Persons who are willing to donation at least ten scions of each unusual variety of mangoes to this club's grafting endeavor, for future fruit tree sales, please email: rtaylorrm@comcast.net

Annona graphing onto **Pond Apple** (*Annona glabra*) seedling rootstock will be attempted later this summer, as pond apples are resistant to flooding during our wet season.

Grafting of Common Fig (*Ficus carica*) scions will finally be attempted this summer onto related **Sycamore Fig** (*Ficus sycomorus*) trees in the attempt to increase harvest yields in South Florida.



Lethal Bronzing Palm Disease



Scott D. Krueger, Environmental Specialist, Division of Plant Industry for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, has reported that:

"Several new landscape installations in Collier and Lee counties using *Phoenix sylvestris* palms have tested infected with Lethal bronzing palm disease. Be careful buying host palms. The disease started in Florida about 10 years ago near the Bradenton/Sarasota area and is spreading through the native cabbage palms to adjacent counties.

We are trying to keep nurseries 'clean' but, the disease is hard to detect in palms that are newly infected.

Educate landscape architects and designers about this disease. They might choose alternate plant selections."

Info, pics and a map at this link: https://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/39924/868718/TPPD_Update_Texas_Phoenix_Palm_Decline.pdf

[Note: *Phoenix sylvestris*, also known as silver date palm, Indian date, sugar date palm or wild date palm, is a species in the palm family native to southern Pakistan, most of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma and Bangladesh. This palm species is used to make wine and jelly. The sap is tapped and drunk fresh or fermented into a 'toddy'.]



Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club



Who We Are & What We Do

The Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club, Inc., is an educational not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to inform, educate and advise members and the public in the selection of plants and trees, to encourage their cultivation, and to provide a social forum where members can freely exchange plant material and information. The club cooperates with many organizations, and provides a basis for producing new cultivars. We function in any legal manner to further the above stated aims.

General Meetings:

General meetings, that include an educational program, are held the *second Tuesday* of each month. General meetings begin at **6:15 pm for social time**, and the **speakers begin promptly at 7 pm.**, at the First United Methodist Church, **27690 Shriver Avenue**, Bonita Springs. The meetings are held in the "Freedom Hall" meeting room.

Workshops:

Workshops (monthly discussions) are held on the *fourth Tuesday* of each month at **7 PM** at the Methodist Church, when practical. This open format encourages discussion and sharing of fruits and information. Bring in your fruits, plants, seeds, leaves, insects, photos, recipes, ect.. This is a great chance to get answers to specific questions, and there always seems to be a local expert on hand!

Tree Sales:

Semi-annual tree sales in March and November, in the Bonita Springs area, raise revenue for educational programs for club members and other related purposes of the club.

Trips:

The club occasionally organizes trips and tours of other organizations that share our interests. The IFAS Experimental Station and the Fairchild Nursery Farm are examples of our recent excursions.

Membership:

Dues are \$15 per person for new members, and \$25 per household. Name tags are 6 each. Send checks to: PO Box 367791, Bonita Springs, FL 34136, or bring to any regularly scheduled meeting.

Directions to Meeting Location:

From the intersection of Old 41 Road and Bonita Beach Road SE, proceed north to Dean Street. Turn right on Dean St. and go two blocks to Shriver, then turn left on Shriver and go two blocks to the Methodist Church. Free parking on both sides of the street.

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Monday 1 USDA Rural Development deadline for applications for the **Rural Energy for America Program** as it may be of interest to fruit producers. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2019 however, applications are accepted applications year-round. Please feel free to contact Yashira Mendez at 561-792-2727 x5 with any questions or concerns.



Tuesday 2 Monthly Meeting: **Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange**, 7:00 PM, Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Bldg., 2166 Virginia Ave., Fort Myers.



Weekly Workshops: Every Thursday **year around**, 9:00 AM until at least 1:00 PM, **Cornerstone Nursery**, 8200 Immokalee Road, North Naples – Learn about fruit trees, volunteer in the nursery, or just come and listen to Crafton's stories.



Saturday 6, Sunday 7 & Sat. 13 Spring Plant Sale: **Rare Fruit and Vegetable Council of Broward County**, 9:30 – 4:00 Sat. 10:00 – 3:00 Sun. 5105 SW 208 Lane, SW Ranges, Broward County 33332



Tuesday 9 Monthly Meeting: **Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club**, 6:45 PM Tasting Table, 7:15 PM Program: First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 27690 Shriver Ave., Bonita Springs.



Tuesday 16 Monthly Meeting: **Collier Fruit Growers**, 7:00 PM Social, 7:30 PM Program: Tree of Life Church, Life Center, 2132 Shadowlawn Drive, Naples. Dr. Stephen Brady with speaker on varieties of the Annona genus which are suitable for Southwest Florida.



Tuesday 23 Monthly Workshop: **Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club**, 6:45 PM: First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 27690 Shriver Ave., Bonita Springs.



Fruits which Ripen in April:



Fruits which Ripen in April

Avocado, banana, Barbados cherry, black sapote, canistel, coconut, custard apple (end of season), guava, jacobinaba (early), mulberry, miracle fruit, strawberry tree, papaya, pineapple (early), sapodilla (early), soursop (limited area of cultivation), Surinam cherry, strawberries, and other annual fruits.



Costa Rica 2019

Costa Rica Tropical Fruit Tour July 27 -August 3



Costa Rica 2019

Now is the very last chance to register for this fascinating custom Natural History and Fruit Tour to Costa Rica, organized by Charlie Strader of 'Explorations. Designed specifically for tropical fruit enthusiasts, gardeners, and nature lovers the tour highlights the beauty of Costa Rica's botanical diversity. The tour will be escorted by a local English-speaking guide and the use of private transportation allowing for short stop and flexibility in the schedule. Interested persons should view the detailed itinerary on the Collier Fruit Growers website [CollierFruit.org] or contact Charlie at: Charlie@GoExploring.com

This tour is a great opportunity for education, we will have private tours and workshops at four preeminent botanical facilities; EARTH Univ., CATIE Tropical Agriculture Center, Lankester Gardens, and the Atlantic Rainforest Ariel Tram.

The group size is limited to the first 20 people to reserve and there are currently spaces left. Besides being a fun and educational experience, the tour is also a fundraising opportunity for your choice of nonprofit organization as a portion of the trip price includes a donation. There is only a very limited number of places remaining.

Starting and ending in San Jose, Costa Rica, the trip cost is \$1,800 per person in double occupancy. A single supplement is an additional \$450.

A Combined Newsletter of the Collier Fruit Growers and the Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club

Collier Fruit Growers Upcoming Meeting Date: **TUESDAY,**
May 21st (Stephen Brady), June 18th, and July 16th

The Collier Fruit Growers Inc. (CFG) is an active organization dedicated to inform, educate and advise its members as well as the public, as to the propagation of the many varieties of fruits that can be grown in Collier County. The CFG is also actively engaged in the distribution of the many commonly grown fruits, as well as the rare tropical and subtropical fruits grown throughout the world. CFG encourages its members to extend their cultivation by providing a basis for researching and producing new cultivars and hybrids, whenever possible. CFG functions without regard to race, color or national origin.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

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VISIT US AT:

www.collierfruit.org



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Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club



Feel free to join BSTFC on **our facebook group**, where you can post pictures of your plants, ask advice, and find out about upcoming events!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BSTFC/>

Link to the **next meeting**: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BSTFC/events/>
Meetup Link (events/meetings sync with the calendar on your phone!):

<https://www.meetup.com/Bonita-Springs-Tropical-Fruit-Club/>

Our **Website** (and newsletters with tons of info):

<https://www.BonitaSpringsTropicalFruitClub.com/>

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