



# COLLIER FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

**FEBRUARY 2018**



Steve Cucura will be the guest speaker at this month's meeting. Steve is the owner of Fruitscapes, the preeminent fruit tree nursery on Pine Inland and vendor for our semi-annual Fruit Tree Sales. His nursery is a compilation of fruit trees readily available in south Florida. With fruit, organic vegetables, and preserves under the chickee hut, a u-pick option and a well-maintained orchard, a trip to the nursery is highly recommended. There are often baked goods and freshly cooked food items available at the chickee hut. With prior permission, viable scion cuttings may be obtained for grafting. In preparation for our tree sale on Saturday, February 24th, Steve will summarize the warm weather fruit trees which are best suited for Southwest Florida. Steve will also be accepting pre-orders for selected fruit trees at the meeting, as no 'early-bird' sales will be permitted on the day of the February tree sale.

**The tasting table starts at 7:00 pm.  
Meeting starts at 7:30 pm.  
at the Tree of Life Church, Fellowship Hall, 2132 Shadowlawn Drive.**

**It is time to renew your Annual Membership or risk losing delivery of the monthly newsletter and other organizational privileges. Please use the attached renewal form and mail along with your \$15 check for 2018 to:  
Collier Fruit Growers, C/O R. Taylor  
at 1944 Piccadilly Circus, Naples FL 34112.**

## **BURDS' NEST OF INFORMATION THIS and THAT FOR FEBRUARY**



This month we decided to go back to basics, info for new members and a refresher for longtime members. The goal is to give encouragement for successful growing of fruit trees and tips from our hands on experience of dos and don'ts. The don'ts are actually more important than the dos!

Whilst we live in a sub-tropical area, we do have some obstacles that occasionally show up to make growing more difficult, BUT not impossible, e.g.: freeze, drought, flooding, and high winds. Despite these problems, we see many healthy fruit trees as we drive in the area.

When planning a fruit tree collection or even just 1 tree, it's best to know its growing history. When is the fruit ready to harvest? What is the best fertilizer to use? What is the lowest temp it can stand before being damaged?

### **POINTS TO PONDER BEFORE PLANTING**

Does the Home Owners association where I live allow me to plant fruit trees? Will I be in the here when the fruit ripens? Will the tree prosper where I plant it? Is the tree cold tender? Does the tree dislike standing water or wind? Young carambola trees really dislike wind and will struggle. Papayas and Avocados will die in standing water or suffer growth inhibition due to water from downspouts. Where should I plant the tree on my property?? They should not be planted under power lines, near the eaves or roofline of the house, overhanging my neighbor's yard, nor where sprinkler, phone, cables or electric lines are underground.

When planting a tree NEVER put fertilizer in the hole. Wait at least one month then lightly fertilize by the dripline and never close to the trunk. Try micro jets to water the trees, this is the best water conservation system and inexpensive to install. Knowing when NOT to fertilize is more important than when to fertilize. PERSIMMONS will abort the fruit if fertilized after the new leaves start to push in February/March.

**When in doubt ask questions - we want to grow wonderful fruit..**

Resist planting young trees until the end of February and check long range forecasts for frosts. There is still time early to mid- February to prune back the peaches, nectarines, grapes, and plums. Never use **liquid copper** to spray mango flowers. Safersoap is (ha ha) safer or Farm Soap will work.

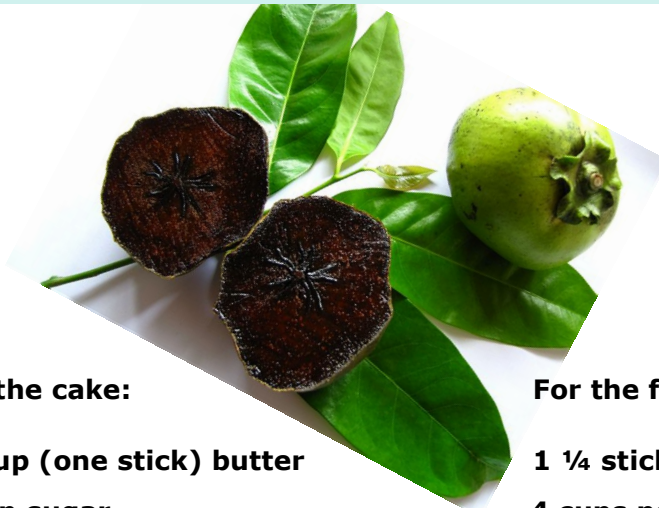
**RECIPE OF THE MONTH:**

The black sapote or "chocolate pudding fruit" is prized for its dark, creamy consistency and sweet taste. This recipe would be perfect to make for someone special on Valentine's Day. The frosting recipe was adapted from Tropical Fruit World, an Australian promoter of exotic fruits by Karen Hursh Graber at [www.mexconnect.com](http://www.mexconnect.com).



recipe:

**BLACK SAPOTE CAKE:  
PASTEL DE ZAPOTO NEGRO**

**For the cake:**

½ cup (one stick) butter  
 1 cup sugar  
 1 cup black sapote pulp, pureed  
 2 eggs  
 2 cups flour  
 1 ½ teaspoons baking soda

**For the frosting:**

1 ¼ sticks butter  
 4 cups powdered sugar  
 ½ cup black sapote puree  
 2 Tbsp. Kahlua  
 ½ tsp. vanilla

**Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Blend in the black sapote pulp. Beat in the eggs, one at a time. Beat in the flour and baking soda.**

**Spread batter in two 8" round pans, greased and floured. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the pans comes out clean. Cool in pans for 5 minutes before cooling on racks.**

**Frosting:**

**Cream butter and sugar together until fluffy. Add the fruit puree, Kahlua and vanilla. Frost cooled cake between layers and on top and sides.**

**Serves 8.**



# Nursery News



If anyone has potted mango seedlings, please bring them to the Cornerstone Nursery at 8200 Immokalee Road any Thursday. They will be utilized for practice in grafting classes starting in May, when we are still in the 'dry' season and night time temperatures remain consistently above 75 F.



Three 'Green Malayan', coconut palms trees have been planted along the rise, next to the lake at the Nursery.



We have been successful in propagating the goji 'Christmas,' berry, the 'African Blue' basil, and the 'Possum Red' passion fruit. More plants will be propagated in the next several months and will be available at the November Tree Sale.



The opportunity remains for members to obtain free hardwood mulch at the Nursery. Between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon on Thursdays. There may be assistance to help load the mulch into the bed of a pick-up truck or small open top trailer.



Please mark your calendars:

The Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club is sponsoring a bus trip to the Asian Culture Festival in Homestead on Saturday, March 3. The bus will leave the Walmart parking lot on Immokalee Road a 8:00 am sharp. Seating is limited so call 239-851-4448 early. Advance reservations are required. Cost is \$45 per person, which includes entrance to the Fruit and Spice Park



A related item: Dr. Jonathan Crane, at the Tropical Research and Center Education Center in Homestead, is seeking anyone growing a Cambuci (*Campomanesia phaea*) fruit tree. It is indigenous to Brazil, in the Myrtaceae family and is considered to have commercial potential. Dr. Crane knows a researcher who looking for the fruit. If you know of someone, please contact Rodger Taylor at [rtaylorrm@comcast.net](mailto:rtaylorrm@comcast.net).



**Please share verbally and through social media to your friends and family the information regarding the Fruit Tree Sale!**



**2018 CFG Membership Renewal Form Attached with Newsletter.**

**Collier Fruit Growers, Inc.**

**FRUIT TREE SALE**








**Saturday,  
February 24, 2018  
9:00am - 2:00pm**

**MANY VARIETIES, SIZES, AND  
PRICING TO MEET YOUR NEED  
AND BUDGET.**

**COME EARLY FOR THE BEST  
CHOICE BEFORE THE  
INVENTORY IS SOLD.**



Collier Fruit Growers, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corp.

**AT FREEDOM PARK**

**1515 GOLDEN GATE PARKWAY, NAPLES**



## February Calendar of Events

**Reoccurring every Thursday at Cornerstone Nursery and Grove  
8200 Immokalee Road –  
Volunteer and Grafting Workshop, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.**

Tuesday 6 - Monthly Meeting: Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange, 7:00 pm, Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Bldg., 2166 Virginia Ave., Fort Myers.

Tuesday 13 - Naples Botanical Garden Lecture and Workshop, 10:00 am to Noon: Tropical Fruit 101 – Canistel and Sapodilla with Dr. Steve Brady and Andrea Grace, CFG members \$5, NBG members \$15, non-members \$20.

Tuesday 13 - 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 20 - Monthly Meeting: Collier Fruit Growers, 7:00 pm Social, 7:30 pm Program: Tree of Life Church, Life Center, 2132 Shadowlawn Drive.

Wednesday 21 - Naples Botanical Garden Lecture, 10 am-noon: 'Gardening with Worms,' given by Deana Bess: CFG members \$5, NBG members \$15, non-members \$20.

**Saturday 24 - Fruit Tree Sale: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Freedom Park,  
1515 Golden Gate Pkwy.**

Tuesday 27 - Monthly Workshop: Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club, 6:45 pm: First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 27690 Shriver Ave., Bonita Springs.

Saturday & Sunday, March 3-4 - Asian Festival at the Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead, 10:00 am Saturday until 5:00 pm Sunday.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates: TUESDAYS,  
March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, and June 19<sup>th</sup>.**

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!**

### 2017 CFG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **DIRECTORS:**

President, Rodger Taylor - 239-384-9630  
Bonnie Hawkins, Vice President  
Melissa Parsons, Treasurer  
Jennifer Adriaanse, Secretary

#### **DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Crafton Cliff, Director  
David Etzel, Director  
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**VISIT US AT:  
[www.collierfruit.org](http://www.collierfruit.org)**

