



COLLIER FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018



The monthly meeting (starting January 16) will be held on the third Tuesday at the Tree of Life Church, Fellowship Hall, 2132 Shadowlawn Drive, located between Davis Blvd. and the East Trail (Route 41).

Danny Blank will be the guest speaker. He is the former Farm Manager at ECHO, located in north Fort Myers. Danny has an advance college degree in Sustainable Agriculture and has taught at Warner College and FGCU. Danny uses organic methods on his twenty-acre farm in Olga that is known as '12 Seasons Farm.' Danny grows over twenty varieties of citrus, plus many other 'Warm Weather' Fruit trees to provide year around production of various fruits, including the following examples:

January:	Carambola	July:	Longan
February:	Avocado	August:	Jakfruit
March:	Chocolate Persimmon	September:	Sugar Apple
April:	Mulberry	October:	Atemoya
May:	Lychee	November:	Persimmon
June:	Mango	December:	Pummelo

Danny will describe the damage to his farm cause by hurricane Irma and his recovery efforts, the latest on the continual battle to contain Citrus Greening, and the current activities to improve and expand fruit production at 12 Seasons Farm.

**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.**

BURDS' NEST OF INFORMATION THIS and THAT FOR JANUARY



MANGOS - Mangos are blooming, yea ! yea! Now is the time to fertilize with **0-0-22** (available at Helena in Immokalee). Using a - eg - citrus fertilizer 6-4-6 sends a message to the mango tree to grow - which would mean leaves and not fruit.

The tip on how to hang a water bottle in the mango tree will be explained at the January meeting.

COLD PROTECTION - Be prepared, if you don't need it, wonderful, **BUT** if a really cold night is forecast, watering at the highest temp of the day, 20 minutes is enough, will help, covering the trees if you can. This is especially necessary for those trees that suffer at **40F. NEVER USE PLASTIC TO PROTECT FROM COLD.** If there is a strong 'noreaster', check for salt on the leaves, especially on Lychees, Jaboticabas & Jak Fruit. A short time with the garden hose will remove that salt residue.

PRUNING It's TIME to prune GRAPES, PEACHES, and NECTARINES. Each has a very particular way to be pruned. Check reliable information on how it should be done.

POST IRMA Damage Fruit trees battered by IRMA may not flower this year. Fertilize at the appropriate times anyway and also keep an eye on the new growth on citrus (brand new starting to push leaves) for the psyllid, that causes GREENING. Spray with a good organic soap eg SAFERSOAP. and Minor Element. Remember less is better than more!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

After the holidays, we are all looking to eat lighter and healthier. This recipe fits the bill. It is light yet filling. Feel free to adjust the recipe to your liking by add more avocado or corn or black beans. You may want to use less garlic and/or seed the jalapenos if you prefer a milder flavor. Be sure to toast the tortilla strips or they will become soggy. This popular Mexican favorite was found at www.allrecipes.com. Enjoy!

recipe:

AVOCADO SOUP WITH CHICKEN AND LIME



4 6-inch corn tortillas, julienned
1 quart chicken broth
1 ½ Tbsp olive oil
¼ cup fresh lime juice
1 white onion, thinly sliced
1 tomato, seeded and diced
8 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
salt and pepper, to taste
4 fresh jalapeno peppers, sliced
1 avocado, peeled, pitted and diced
8 oz. skinless, boneless chicken breasts,
¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro
cut into thin strips

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Arrange tortilla strips on a baking sheet and bake in preheated oven until lightly browned, 3 to 5 minutes.

In a large saucepan over medium heat, cook onion, garlic, and jalapenos in olive oil until lightly browned, 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in chicken, chicken broth, lime juice, tomato, salt and pepper. Gently simmer until chicken is cooked, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in avocado and cilantro and heat through. Adjust seasonings. Ladle soup into bowls and sprinkle with tortilla strips to serve.



Nursery News



Seven avocado trees [two Brogdon, two Nishikawa, Monroe, Russell, Simmonds] were planted to replace ones that died because of the excess rain fall and ensuing flooding to the grove that occurred in August 2017. The new trees are all located on the western berm to prevent them from being subject to standing water. Scions of the "Oasis" variety have been grafted onto all the available nursery avocado rootstocks in December. It is reportedly the 'best' month to do this grafting.



Crafton distributed budwood of an unusual variety of soursop (*Annona diversifolia*) known as 'Miami' (found by Julian Lara of Lara Nursery, in Homestead) for grafting onto established Soursop and Mountain Soursop trees during the trees' winter dormancy period. Reportedly, the Miami variety is well adapted to Florida's climate and is 'better' tasting than the fruit from the Mountain Soursop. Both veneer and cleft (vee) grafts were attempted. We will know in early spring if any of the grafts were successful.



Cuttings of the 'Possum Red' variety of passion fruit and a native variety of goji berry known as 'Christmas Berry' are being propagated for possible distribution.



'African Blue' basil is also being propagated for distribution to owners of smaller properties where bee hives cannot be placed. The continuous blooms and aroma of the plant attract honey bees to help in the pollination of nearby fruit trees.



Repairs to the Nursery's irrigation system have now been completed. An uprooted tree broke a line which needed to be replaced. The two inlet screens needed to be cleaned and refloated to prevent excess silt on the bottom of the retention basin from clogging the downstream pump and filters. After replacing a faulty control module, the entire system was placed back into automatic watering mode.



Rick Chasse agreed to store the CFG trailer on his property and to move the trailer to Freedom Park for the upcoming February Fruit Tree Sale. Rick has also made repairs to the rear tailgate and electrical system.



'Tis the season for weeds, therefore people are encouraged to come out on Thursdays (between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm) to help and also listen to Crafton's stories.



The opportunity remains for persons to obtain hardwood mulch at the Cornerstone 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.



Next CFG Fruit Tree Sale
Saturday, February 24, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm: Fruit Tree Sale Freedom Park, 1515 Golden Gate Parkway.

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

Annual Membership Dues of \$15.00 are required to be paid in January

January Calendar of Events

- Reoccurring every Thursday - Cornerstone Nursery and Grove – Volunteer and Grafting Workshop, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm: 8200 Immokalee Road.
- Saturday 6 - Open 'Gardening Talk' Discussion with Deana Bess, 2 to 4:00 pm: Food and Thought, 2132 Tamiami Trail North, 34102.
- 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.
- Saturday 13 - Pineapple Festival: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Marco Inland Historical Museum/Collier County Library.
- Tuesday 16 - Monthly Meeting: Collier Fruit Growers, 7:00 pm Social, 7:30 pm Program: Tree of Life Church, Fellowship Hall, 2132 Shadowlawn Drive.
- Thursday 18 - Naples Botanical Garden Lecture and Workshop, 10:00 am to Noon: Tropical Fruit 101 – Coconuts with Dr. Steve Brady and Andrea Grace, NBG members \$15, non-members \$20.
- Friday 19 - Naples Botanical Garden Lecture, 2 to 3:00 pm: The Origin of the Coconut and Getting to Know Its Closest Relatives, with Larry Noblick, \$15 for NBG members, \$20 for non-members
- Wednesday 24 Naples Botanical Garden Lecture, 2 to 3:00 pm: Botanical Travels to Brazil with Dr. Steve Brady, NBG members \$15, non-members \$20.
- Saturday 27 - Fruit Tree Sale benefiting the Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Riverside Park, Old Route 41, Bonita Springs.
- Saturday 27 - Organic Farm Tour with Deana Bess, 9 to 11:00 am: Oakes Organic Farm, 7455 Sanctuary Road.
- Wednesday 31 - Naples Botanical Garden Lecture, 10:am to Noon: Vegetable Gardening in Containers with Deana Bess, NBG members 415, non-members 20.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates: TUESDAYS,
February 20th and March 20th.**

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!

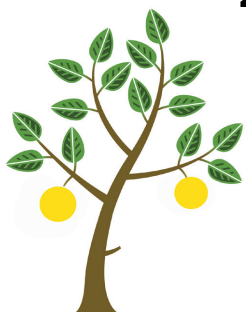
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VISIT US AT:
www.collierfruit.org

