

Southwest Florida Tropical Fruit News

—covering Naples and Bonita Springs, FL

May 2009

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Collier Fruit Growers

www.collierfruit.org

The next meeting is Monday, May 18th. This month's program will feature Har Mahdeem, horticulturist and aquatic manager at Sundry House in Delray Beach, will be talking about rollinias and pawpaws.

The club meets on the third Monday of the month at 7pm for socializing and enjoying the tasting table, 7:30pm for the program.

Meetings are held at the Golden Gate Community Center, 4701 Golden Gate Parkway (corner of Sunshine Blvd.), Naples.

Fruit for the tasting table. Please cut up fruit to make it easier to sample.

Membership and change of address. Yearly membership is \$25; renewals before February 1, \$15. Send checks and change of address information to CFG, c/o Mary Fehr, 137 Debron Dr., Naples FL 34112.

Next month's speaker. Gabrielle Berryer of Gaby's Farm, maker of tropical fruit ice cream and sorbet

Upcoming dates. Yard tour May 16th; field trip June 4th to sample lychees at Going Bananas Nursery in Homestead (see calendar).

Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 12th. Doug Caldwell, will discuss insects in your yard. Doug is Ph.D., is the commercial landscape horticulture extension educator and landscape entomologist with the University of Florida Collier County Extension Service

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month except July and August when only the workshop discussion meets the 4th Tuesday at 7pm.

Meetings begin at 7pm with a brief business discussion; the program runs from 7:30 till 8:30pm; socializing and refreshments until 9pm.

Meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church, 27690 Shriver Ave., Bonita Springs (from Old 41, turn east on Crockett and left on Shriver).

Bimonthly workshop. May 26th at 7pm. The board of directors meets at 6pm.

Membership. Dues are \$15. Send checks to Tom Betts, 25071 Pennyroyal Lane, Bonita Springs, FL 34134.

Upcoming date. Yard tour at Frank DeNardis's June 6; see page 5 for details.

Fruit calendar

May 12. Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club monthly meeting. 7pm. First United Methodist Church, 27690 Shriver Ave., Bonita Springs. 992-4664.

May 16. Yard tour at John and Karen Dwyer, 15937 Delasol Lane, North Naples. 9am-noon. For more information, call 594-5754.

May 18. Collier Fruit Growers monthly meeting. 7pm. Golden Gate Community Center, 4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples. 643-7275.

May 26. BSTFC discussion group. 7pm. First United Methodist Church, Bonita Springs. 992-4664.

June 6. Yard tour at Frank DeNardis's. 9am-noon. 108 Viking Way, Naples. For information, call 597-8359.

What's Ripe in May?

banana	loquat	plum
blackberry	mango	pomegranate
canistel	miracle fruit	raspberry
coconut	mulberry	Rio Grande cherry
fig	monstera	sapodilla
grumichama	muntingia	sapote, white
guava	natal plum	star apple
jaboticaba	nectarine	Surinam cherry
jackfruit	papaya	tamarind
	passion fruit	
	peach	
	pineapple	

Field trip June 4th

Thanks again to Madeline Bohannan's efforts, club members have the opportunity for another adventure. This time Collier Fruit Growers is sponsoring the trip, which is going to Going Bananas in Homestead to sample the lychee harvest and tour the banana nursery. There will be a mid-day stop for light refreshments and buying fruit at Robert is Here. Plan

on packing a lunch. The last stop will be Pine Island Nursery, which sells a wide variety of fruit trees (see the list at tropicalfruitnursery.com).

Those interested should sign up at the May meetings or call Madeline directly at 851-4448. The cost is \$20 and must be prepaid. Bus pickup will be at locations near I75. Details will be announced at upcoming club meetings.



Collier Fruit Growers

Collier Fruit Growers is an active non-profit organization dedicated to introducing, propagating and

distributing the many rare tropical and subtropical fruits grown throughout the world, as well as offering education in these areas and encouragement to extend their cultivation. CFG functions without regard to race, color or national origin.

Officers

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May in SW Florida

It's truly sad to have lost Bob Murray. He and Vivian's Treehouse Nursery have been the backbone of local fruit-tree sales for many years. He was a fountain of information on fruit trees, willing to share his knowledge at talks to club meetings and at fruit-tree sales when he was always patient with our endless questions. Condolences can be sent to Vivian Murray, Treehouse Nursery, P.O. Box 124, Bokeelia, FL 33922.

Collier member Frank Dieffenwieth called me recently and would like his friends to know he's at Lely Palms Manor Care in Naples. If you want to chat with him his number is 455-2437.

Gordon Skrede tells me his blackberries are ripe and it's a great harvest since he's switched to liquid fertilizer. Call him at 353-4543 for availability. We'll have to wait until late August or early September for his muscadine harvest. At that time he's promised us a yard tour.

Cardboard for weed control? This isn't hi-tech but it sure works. It's great

to put under mulch and eventually decomposes. If you need a source of cardboard, contact Brian Housewert in Naples at 537-1261.

If you only fertilize once a year, this is the time. Some experts say the old rule of three times a rule is wasteful and pollutes the land; once lightly in spring may be all that's needed.

The temperate vegetable-growing season is drawing to a close. I am very pleased with my harvest—tomatoes, eggplant, squash, peppers, and basil—from my first organic garden. A few of us are experimenting with summer tropical vegetables. More about that later.

Bring your questions to club meetings or check with the University of Florida's Collier Extension at 353-2872 or Lee at 461-7505.—*Linda Coyner, horticulturist and freelance writer*

Vegetables to plant in May

Beans

Cantaloupe

Corn

Eggplant

Okra

Peas, black-eyed

Peas, cow

Pepper

Pumpkin

Radish

Squash

Sunflower

Turnips

Watermelon

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Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club

The purpose is to introduce and distribute the many rare and tropical and subtropical fruits grown throughout the world; to inform, educate and advise members and the public in the selection of these valuable tree crops, so as to encourage their cultivation. Where possible, the organization will produce a basis for researching and producing new cultivars and hybrids.

Collier Club helps students plant fruit trees to celebrate Arbor Day

By Katherine Albers; originally published in the Naples Daily News Sunday, April 27, 2009

Ashleigh Schoolcraft, 10, plunges her spade into the loose dirt outside Calusa Park Elementary School classrooms. “I love gardening,” she said. “I love the smell of the flowers. ...My grandma makes me garden with her.”

Calusa Park Elementary School in East Naples celebrated Arbor Day on Friday by planting four trees with the Collier Fruit Growers Council. The organization has previously raised funds and donated time to help the school put in an organic fruit garden.

“We’ve brought a strawberry fruit tree, a bottle brush, a red lady papaya and a guava,” said John Puig, a member of the Collier Fruit Growers. “With the smoke, we thought we might have to cancel, but the wind shifted giving us an opening to work with the kids.”

Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. The holiday, which was founded by J. Sterling Morton in 1872, is celebrated on the last Friday in April.

Before the planting, the fourth grade class at Calusa Park sang songs and listened to poems about trees written and read by fourth-graders Noah Stellar and Max Leon.

After the presentation, Puig stepped in front of the students and told them what they would be planting. He got gasps and excited murmurs when he got to the strawberry fruit tree.

Fourth grade teacher Christen Krembs said her students use the gardens at Calusa Park for observations in science. She said she likes to walk her student by the garden during the day.

“I am glad Janice (Rosenthal, an exceptional student education teacher who heads the gardening

program at Calusa Park) asked us to do this. It’s good for the students,” she said. “This is something they are going to watch grow and look after. It is a way for fourth grade to be a part of the gardens.”

Mya Deleon, 10, said she enjoys the garden. “It started out as just some plants,” she said. “But sometimes when we walk by, we see butterflies.”

As some students planted, members of the Collier Fruit Growers Council spoke to students about different plants. Crafton Clift told some students that the leaves of a yucca plant, which grows the yucca from its roots, provide 29 percent of a person’s daily protein.

“It’s all in these delicate leaves,” he said, running his fingers along them.

Three students gathered around a jatropha tree Friday afternoon in the butterfly garden. Each teacher chose fourth-graders to help dig, plant and water the trees that were planted.

“In my class, the teacher picked the person who had the most caught ya points,” said Kyle Garcia, 10. “We get ‘caught yas’ if we are caught being good.”

As he turned the dirt at his feet, Alexander Ramos, 10, said he helps his grandmother in her garden. He said he thinks the work he does with his classmates in the gardens at Calusa Park is very important.

“(We do it) so we live a better life and help so we don’t pollute the planet,” he said.

Highlights of Steve Brady’s presentation at Collier Club

- fertilize very little now or not at all
- pruning—look at structure. Call Steve's in late July through late August if interested in a pruning demonstration at 417-9191.
- no hope for citrus; citrus greening is wiping it out.
- 3 substitutes for citrus recommended: bignay (male and female; *Antidesma bunius*), riberry (*Syzygium luehmannii*), and davidson plum (*Davidsonia jerseyana*)

Bob Murray, a good friend to fruit clubs, remembered

Pine Island Eagle, April 28, 2009

Robert Dean Murray, 71, of Bokeelia, passed away on Wednesday, April 22. He was born in Stuart, FL, to Dewitt and Ethel Murray. He moved to the area in 1972 from Miami. As a young boy he spent many summers fishing in Jensen Beach. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force serving as an Air Traffic Controller and then continued for 22 years after his time in the Air Force. He enjoyed flying and working on his airplane. He was an avid fisherman which he enjoyed with his grandson. He and his wife are owners of Tree House Nursery in Bokeelia. He was an accomplished lecturer and participated in many presentations to garden clubs throughout the state. He was a generous man helping countless people affected by the hurricanes. His family said he was a "helping hand to a neighbor in need".

He is survived by his loving family including his wife of 51 years, Vivian; daughters, Lianne A. Murray and Robin R. White; grandchildren, Allisyn Ramirez, Daniel Murray, Trisha Evans; four great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Rose Kellish; brothers, Lewis Dewitt Murray and Donald Murray.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, April 25. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Church of God of Prophecy, 15146 Stringfellow Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922

Yard tours May 16 & June 6

Yard tour May 16th, 9am till noon. The Dwyers have two and a half acres heavily planted in native plants as well as an assortment of herb, vegetable, flower, butterfly, hanging, and water gardens and also a fruit orchard. We have something of an aviary with various feeders and bird baths and bird houses that attract everything from painting buntings to pileated woodpeckers to great horned owls. Pet peacocks provide us with a source of natural fertilizer and we've just started up some beehives and a worm bin.

The address is 15937 Delasol Lane. It's close to Immokolee Rd. off Livingston Rd. If you need more information, call Karen or John or at 594-5754.

Yard tour June 6th, 9am till noon. Frank and Mary DeNardis are opening their garden to celebrate their best ever mango harvest. Frank's trees are covered with fruit this year. As most of you know, Frank and Mary have a residential lot on a canal in the Palm River section of North Naples that has an amazing collection of tropical fruit trees. Fruit trees are Frank's passion. Over the years, the couple have welcomed classes and clubs to see their trees and share the bounty of fruit. Frank also has a fruit tree nursery specializing in large trees.

The address is 108 Viking Rd. in North Naples. For more information, call Frank or Mary at 597-8359.

Mark your calendars: Upcoming speakers & events

Bonita Club

(Note: in addition to regular meetings, workshops are held the 4th Tuesday of each month)

June 6 Yard tour at Frank DeNardis (see calendar)

June 9: Mango festival

July 28 workshop

August 25 workshop

September 8: TBD

October 13: Brian Housewert on organic gardening

November 10: Jenny Burd and Pat Johnson (Not confirmed)

November 14 Fall tree sale,

December 8 Holiday potluck and election

Collier Club

May 16 Yard tour at Dwyers (see calendar)

June 4 Field trip to Going Bananas for lychees

June 15 Gabrielle Berryer of Gaby's Farm, maker of tropical fruit ice cream and sorbet

July 20 Ice cream social & mango fest

August 17 Jacquie Jammin' on preserving fruit

August (Date TBD) Class at Jacquie's kitchen

September 21 Irrigation how-to by Dave Brawley

October 19 Ian Orlikoff on sustainable fruit and vegetable growing

November 16 TBD

December 21 Holiday potluck and election

Got Questions about Growing Tropical Fruit? We're got Answers

Check out our website www.collierfruit.org

Our clubs have a lot of experienced backyard and professional growers. Bring your fruity questions to the next meeting or have them posted in the newsletter (fruitnflowers@gmail.com). You can also call the Collier Extension Service plant clinic at 353-2872, M/W/F 9am-noon and 1-4pm. The Lee County Extension horticulture desk can be reached during those hours at 461-7504.

Don't overlook online resources about tropical fruits. For instance, you can access the full text of Julia Morton's [Fruit of Warm Climates](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/index.html) at www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/index.html.

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