

MANATEE RARE FRUIT NEWS

Manatee Rare Fruit Council

October 2007

Bleeps from the “Veep” (Abe Epstein):

We have talked about a number of issues concerning plant disease - now, a few words about control chemicals need to be said. Most bactericides and fungicides are basically of a protective nature - that is, these materials (in both dry and wet formulations) must be in place prior to the arrival of the pathogenic organism's inoculum (spores, hyphal fragments, cells - whatever initiates the infection). We have had a few systemic materials such as Benlate (DuPont). However, this chemical's effectiveness was soon defeated when its effectiveness was widely publicized and growers began to use it intensively because it was systemic (could enter and move through plant tissue), and thus could stop an established infection.

For a while I was able to demonstrate it as an effective preventative for Dutch Elm Disease by injecting it into the xylem of symptomatic elms. Unfortunately that was a short-lived victory. The peanut growers hailed Benlate as the “New Age Miracle”, but this too, was short lived. Benlate (Benomyl) is still around, and effective on a few diseases on a few crops, but its glory has faded. Because it is systemic in the plant avoid using it on anything for which it is not expressly cleared. It was cleared on a food crop like peanut because it's movement is upward with the plants transpiration stream so it accumulates in the tops of the plant - not in the roots or seed pods, which in peanut, are also underground.

The weak link in Benlate's armor was the fact that it's activity was limited to inhibiting a single metabolic pathway of the causal agent's physiology, and any biotype of the fungus that possessed an alternative pathway was very effectively selected for. This new form soon produced new, predominant populations that are now “resistant” to Benomyl. There were several other similar compounds - most of which, were soon relegated to the scrap heap. However, they did give us a few good years. The effectiveness of these single-mode of-action materials could have been prolonged had people listened to the “experts” recommendation that these be applied in combinations, or in succession with materials possessing broad ranges of action pathways. To use it alone repeatedly, and exclusively, led to its early failure.

Many of the fungicides with broad spectrums of action have been around for along time, and we have seen no reduction in their effectiveness. For instance, Sulphur was first mentioned in Roman times (Pliny) - people observed that wheat fields in the vicinity of Mount Vesuvius stayed free of Rust infection.- they also noted the pungent odor of this stuff coming from the volcano. Back in the mid 1800s various forms of copper were found to be effective in the prevention of “mildews of grape by French vintners. Copper in its elemental or ionic form, also could be very phytotoxic when used in its elemental form. Then a man by the name of Millardet got the idea of reacting copper sulfate with slaked lime, and Voila! - Bordeaux Mixture was born. This mixture held the copper in a copper -lime hydroxide complex form, and released it very slowly as the complex weathered and broke down- enough to control the foliar pathogens, but kept it below levels that injured the plants. Note also t hat fresh applications of these when temperatures exceed 90° F can result in severe phytotoxicity. To be continued next time

Abe

This and That

Hello all Manatee Rare Fruit Club Members:

At the September meeting our speaker was Richard Campbell who spoke about mangoes of the world. It was a very entertaining and educational talk. Richard spoke about mangoes from different regions of the world as well as new mango varieties that will be appearing at a Rare Fruit Sale near you. Thanks Richard for bringing us up to speed on mangoes.

The new T-Shirts and hats will be available at the next meeting. Also please remember to bring a food dish and a couple of plants to the October meeting. Our speaker at this month's meeting will be our own Vice –President Abe Epstein who will discuss “Plant Anatomy”. We had a great turnout last month with many new faces.

As we head in to fall and winter there will be many plant & garden shows, festival and much more. See our community calendar for some of the events available. Get a group of fellow members together, car pool and make a day of it. When was the last time you saw a snake or reptile show? If you are not so adventurous maybe a nice relaxing day in beautiful downtown Mt. Dora strolling through a plant sale in a park is the thing for you? Florida is beautiful and often best enjoyed in our fall and winter time.

ECHO's 6th Annual Fall Super is on Saturday October 6, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in going please email me (dwallace@ewol.com) or call me at (756-2276) and maybe we can get a group of cars to caravan down together. If you have never seen ECHO's facility I highly recommend attending. I attended the Spring Super Saturday and had a great time. They had inside educational classes and tours of their farm. They also will have plants for sale. ECHO is a great organization and for more information about them see their web site at <http://www.echonet.org>.

As always your input is still requested... This newsletter, just like the club, is at its best when all the members get involved. If you have suggestions or have found a gardening product, web site, etc., that you think will be of interest to other Club Members, or know of an appropriate community event, please feel free to contact me for its inclusion in the newsletter. Please have all information to me no later than the 20th of the preceding month. The best way to reach me is through my email at dwallace@ewol.com, but I can also be reached at 756-2276.

Dale

September Plant Raffle

Donor

Jon Goings
Birgette Runge-Goings
Pete Ray
Susan & Ed Pillsbury
Pete Kearns
Kim Begm
Cely Doriot
Norma Troy
Norma Troy
Norma Troy
Norma Troy
Michael Haley
Dale Wallace
Dale Wallace
Sally Lee
Sally Lee
Sally Lee

Plant

Tropical Almonds
Pineapple
Lychee seedling
Mango Jam (Kent)
Suriname Cherry
Apple Custard Fruit
Glo????
Hawaiian Papaya
Hawaiian Papaya
Sweet Basil
Chinese Jade Plant
Chinese Melon Vine
Yellow Passion Fruit Vine
Yellow Passion Fruit Vine
Muscadine Grape
Muscadine Grape
Muscadine Grape

Winner

George Kramer
?
?
Sandy Engel
Mike Jaster
Cass Robertson
Pete & Cass Robertson
Cely Doriot
Ed Pillsbury
Birgette Runge-Goings
Birgette Runge-Goings
?
Sandy Engel
?
Birgette Runge-Goings
?
?

MRFC Calendar	
Monday, October 8, 2007 6:30 p.m.	Board meeting at the County Fairgrounds in Palmetto.
Monday, October 8, 2007 7:00 p.m.	Our regular monthly meeting at the County Fairgrounds in Palmetto. Our speaker for October will be Abe Epstein, our vice-president. His subject will be "plant anatomy". He is very knowledgeable in this subject and it promises to be a very interesting lecture.
Monday, November 12, 2007 6:30 p.m.	Board meeting at the County Fairgrounds in Palmetto.
Monday November 12, 2007 7:00 p.m.	Our regular monthly meeting at the County Fairgrounds in Palmetto.

Community Calendar	
Saturday October 6, 2007 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	ECHO – 6th Annual Fall Super Saturday. Come join them in the nursery for a free day of mini-workshops highlighting topics such as Hurricane-proof landscaping, Freeze protection, Fall Fruit Tree Management and Winter-bearing fruits and Herbs. Costs is FREE ECHO is located at 17430 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33917
Saturday, October 13, 2007 10 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.& Sunday, October 14, 2007 10 a.m. To 3:00 p.m.	USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival . You won't want to miss this BIG event at the USF Botanical Gardens! Join them and over 70 vendors for this end of the season fund and fund raiser to support the USFBG. Lots of plants - everything you could want and the people to answer all of your growing questions will be on hand
Saturday, October 20, 2007 9 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.& Sunday, October 21, 2007 11 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.	41st Annual San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival. There will be a snake show, reptile show, gopher race, live entertainment, a wide variety of food including their famous barbecue chicken & beef and arts and crafts. Festival at San Antonio City Park in San Antonio Florida. Call (352) 588-4444 or visit http://www.rattlesnakefestival.com .
Saturday & Sunday, October 20 & 21, 2007	Palma Sola Botanical Park Plant & Antique Sale. There will be plants, garden accessories, crafts, lectures, & entertainment. The festival will be at 9800 17 th Avenue NW, Bradenton. Call (941) 761-2866 for information.
Saturday & Sunday, October 27 & 28, 2007	SW Florida Yard and Garden Show. There will be educational seminars, wide variety of vendors, Certified Master Gardeners available for advice, raffle prizes and tours of the Learning Gardens. The show is at the Collier County Extension Office located at 14700 Immokalee Rd., Naples, FL 34120. Call 239-353-7127. http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/SWFlaYardGardenShow.shtml
Saturday October 27, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Munn Park Garden Extravaganza by The Garden Club of Lakeland (downtown Lakeland). For information call (863) 683-4743. Expert advice, talks, music, entertainment, crafts and much more.
Saturday, November 17 & Sunday, November 18, 2007	Fairchild Gardens 67th Annual Ramble. South Florida's most loved garden party, the Ramble has everything from exotic plants to antiques, farmer's market place, kids activities, music, food and more...The ramble is at 10901 Old Cutler Road Coral Gables, FL 33156. For information call (305) 667-1651 http://www.fairchildgarden.org/index.cfm?page=events&date=11-2007 .
Saturday, November 4 & Sunday, November 5, 2007 9:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m.	The 12th Annual Mount Dora Plant & Garden Fair. The fair will be at Simpson Cove in downtown Mt. Dora. There will plants, garden antiques, accessories and much more. For more information call (352) 357-4116

MRFC September 10th 2007 Meeting

Those Present: 53 plus 2 guests.
Called to Order: 7:05 PM
Secretary Report: Minutes from last meeting were accepted as printed
Treasurer report: The statement balance was \$13,904.80 including the registration dues for the 2008 Manatee County Fair

OLD BUSINESS:

The T-Shirt sales program was discussed and approved for the purchase and resale of 143 shirts of various sizes and types at an estimated cost of \$1,122.

The reimbursement of \$400 to the County for one half of the cost of the irrigations system at the Palma Sola Botanical Park, was approved.

The MRFC Scholarship Program for 2008 was approved after the distribution of the details of the program.

A sign-up sheet was distributed for the purchase of the MRFC fertilizer.

It is planned to investigate the purchase for resale of iron-on MRFC logos.

NEW BUSINESS:

The ECHO 6th Annual Fall Super Saturday will be held from 9 AM to 1 PM.

SPEAKERS:

Ray Jones introduced Dr. Richard Campbell, Sr. Curator of Tropical Fruits of the Fairchild Tropical Gardens who presented a very informative discussion on the mangoes of the world.

ADJOURNMENT:

We adjourned to the Tasting Table at 8:30 PM.

Hot Off the Press.... Read all about it....New T-Shirt at Next Meeting

The new shirts will be available at the next meeting. Sandy and Ken will be picking them up at the end of September. They will bring in an assortment of them to the October meeting. If you want a specific size and color please call Ken at 776-2195 between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. All shirts are now \$ 12 and the hats will be \$ 10 each. Sandy also has 11 tote bags for sale and they are \$ 13.00 each.

The Internet Adventure:

The Clubs web site: <http://www.mrfc.org/>

Echo Nursery Workshops: <http://www.echonet.org/nursery.htm#workshops>

Author and Radio personality Tom MacCubbin: <http://betterlawns.com> & Downloadable MP3 files of his last few shows: <http://www.frondemand.com/frondemand/blgaudio.asp>

IFAS's Tropical Fruit Virtual Field Laboratory Video Clip Bank:
<http://tfphotos.ifas.ufl.edu/VFLrealfiles.htm>

What's Growing & Blooming in Our Yards?

Summer is winding down and so are most of my plants. Mangoes are a distant memory and so are my guavas. My grumichama bloomed and fruited to beat the band but when I went out to pick them the tree was bare. Where did they go?.... Squirrels, birds, bears (probably not) or human intervention. I'm going with the squirrel theory. They also cleaned out my Barbados Cherry tree... twice. Maybe I should take up raising predatory birds as a hobby? !!!

On to what's blooming. My passion fruit are still flowering and fruiting as well as the above mentioned Barbados Cheery tree. My loquat tree is blooming for the first time. I am waiting for the remaining sugar apples to ripen before I pick them. My citrus looks terrible thanks to Citrus Leaf Miners but my pummelo, grapefruit and tangelos are maturing nicely. My Persian Lime tree is keeping limes in my Coronas and we still have plenty to make our mojito mix. Oh yea, also to make sweet limeade! We have a Meyers lemon tree that is still giving us lemons.

The raspberries and blackberries are giving us their last fruits of the season and should be ready for yearly pruning next month. My muscadine grapes didn't bloom well this year. Maybe I should have sprayed them with a fungicide or something in the spring or early summer.

I have cleaned out some my jungle areas and hopefully some day I can have yard visit with out fear of losing people. Our yard is only a quarter acre but I have already lost tools, bottles of beer and even a wheel borrow once.

Many of my plants are young and all I can do is sit and dream of the day my jaboticaba, lychees, macadamia nut and atemoyas have fruit. Patience is a virtue and one I struggle with daily.

In December Gene Joyner is retiring from the extension service and will not be writing the Monthly Garden Calendar and the featured fruit of the month. If anybody is interested in writing an article to help fill this void please let me know. Gene's replacement should be in place by next summer but they may or may not decide to continue with Gene's columns.

If you are interested in writing October's "What's Growing & Blooming in Our Yards" please contact me at 756-2276, or email dwallace@ewol.com or speak to me at the meeting.

September Tasting Table

Donor

Peter Ray
Ken Engel
Sandy Engel
Bud & Mary Connett
Pete & Cass Robertson
Verma Dooley
Larry Atkins
Betty Kearns
Betty Kearns
Ed Pillsbury
George & Chelly Kramer
Ruth Kent
Sally Lee
Mary Lohn
Michael Haley

Food Item Donated

Dried Mango
Pomegranate/Blueberry Juice
Peach Cobbler
Banana Bread
Citrus Cake with Key Lime Glaze
Tamarind Juice
Graham Mango
Pound Cake with passion fruit sauce
Juice
Mango Ice Cream
Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Chips & Mango/Avocado/Black bean Salsa
Muscadine Grapes
Chips & Salsa
Miracle Fruit

The Carambola

By Gene Joyner, Extension Agent - Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service

The carambola (*Averrhoa carambola*) is a medium size evergreen tree native to southeast Asia which has become very popular in Florida home landscapes, as well as planted in limited commercial quantities, particularly in extreme southern Florida. Carambolas are native to southeast Asia over a broad area and here in Florida make trees up to 35 to 40 feet at maturity.

Leaves are dark green and attractive and trees have a weeping habit of growth with branches often extending down to touch the ground unless pruned. Small pinkish flowers are produced in abundance throughout the tree canopy in late spring and again during late fall. Fruits mature quickly into familiar five ribbed light yellow to dark orange fruits up to 6 or 7 inches in length.

The fruits when cut in cross section have a familiar star shaped pattern because of the prominent ribbing. Fruits can be used in a variety of ways either as fresh fruit or made into juice, jellies, jams, pies, fruit leathers, or even wines. Flavor of the fruit is acid to sweet depending on the type and sweet varieties are generally preferred by most people.

Fruit crops often times weigh branches down to the point of breaking them and up to 400 pounds of fruit can be produced in a single season by well grown trees. Commercial plantings are found in Miami-Dade County in particular and the fruits are sold throughout the United States. Other counties also have limited production areas, and the principal variety grown commercially is Arkin.

There are many cultivars or varieties of carambolas available for dooryard plantings though that are much superior in flavor to the Arkin and such favorites include Fwangtung, Bell, Kary, Maha, B-10 and many others. Some 30 varieties of carambolas are available if you look hard enough at local producers of tropical fruits trees.

Trees prefer well drained sites and do poorly where they are flooded or have prolonged wet soil. Trees although they will get 35 feet should be kept managed to 15 feet or less in the home landscape to allow for easier harvesting of the fruit. This means at least annual pruning since trees often will grow 6 to 8 feet in a single growing season. They make great container plants also and even in a limited size container will produce adequate quantities of fruit.

Fruits can be used for propagation, but seed production is very slow with trees often taking 3 to 4 years or longer to start producing fruit. Most trees are best produced by grafting or budding and they can also be air layered.

Trees are not salt tolerant so in coastal areas protect from dune front or ocean front planting if possible, or shield them with other more salt tolerant trees.

Most carambolas will withstand winter conditions well and mature trees can take temperatures down in to the mid 20's without being killed. Young trees should be protected from temperatures below 32.

Pest and disease problems are minimal with this tree and other than occasional birds or animals attacking maturing fruit there are few problems that warrant a spray program or control program.

October's Garden Calendar

By Gene Joyner, Extension Agent - Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service

This month is the time for the fall feeding of all tropical fruit trees in the landscape to get them in good condition for the upcoming winter season. Also make sure that trees that need pruning are trimmed and gotten prepared for the upcoming winter season. Pruning too late in the fall often will result in tender growth which could be damaged if we get early cold weather.

This is still a good time for all forms of propagation such as budding, grafting, air layering, or planting seeds. If you have container trees, put them out in the landscape in their permanent locations as soon as possible so they can become firmly established before the onset of cool temperatures in late December, January and February.

Remember, too, that this month officially begins our dry season and you may have to watch watering practices a little more carefully to insure that trees get adequate irrigation.

Weeds can be a continuing problem year round in most landscapes so keep trees weed free and wherever practical use heavy mulch layers 3 to 4 inches deep to keep weeds from competing with your valuable fruit trees or ornamentals.

If you have questions about maintenance practices this time of year, check with fellow members at monthly meetings or call your local county Extension office for valuable free advice.

Board & Committee Chair 2007

President	Jon Goings (941-723-9795) email: j.jonbirgittegoings@verizon.net
Vice President	Abe Epstein (941-798-8806) email: ahepstein10@aol.com
Secretary	Bud Connett (941-798-8935) email: buddymar@juno.com
Treasurer	Mary Gayle Martin (941-350-8599) email: mgtt@netzero.net
Speaker Chairman	Ray Jones (941-729-5985) email: raycat2@verizon.net
Tree Sale Chairman	Betty Kearns (941-723-9879) email: BKearns644@aol.com
Plant Raffle	Spencer Salsar (813-634-8253) email: palm.man@verizon.net
Membership	Larry Rued (941-722-9550) email: presby1368z@yahoo.com
Tasting Table	Mike McCallister email: mikey2810_2000@yahoo.com (941-720-2288) and Farrell Baker
T-Shirt Sales	Sandy Engel (914-776-2195) email: KENGEL4@tampabay.rr.com
Newsletter	Dale Wallace (941-756-2276) email: dwallace@ewol.com
Seed Bank	George Anderson (727-392-8822) email: none

Transsexual Trees By Peter Ray

If your tree collection includes an atemoya, ilama, sugar apple or other members of the Annona family, there are certain things going on in your yard of which you should be aware. Notwithstanding that we try to keep this publication suitable for the whole family, I have to tell you that I am referring to sex change. That's right, every evening as the sun sinks in the West, some of the flowers on your Annonas change from female to male in the blink of an eye.

First an atemoya flowers in the female condition, with its three petals demurely held together. Then the same flower changes to a male, with its petals spread wide, exposing the ring of pollen within. After the change takes place, the pollen falls freely if the bloom is disturbed, so that it can be carried easily by insects, or by you, to the female flowers. By the next morning, the petals fall, and if the flower was pollinated while female, the tiny fruit can be seen.

Why should you be interested in such a kinky sexual tale? Annonas tend to produce larger crops and more regularly shaped fruit when pollinated by hand rather than by insects. This is best done in the evening, between about 6:30 and 7:30 PM, after the sex changes are complete. You need a small artist's brush, with which the pollen from the now-male flowers can be collected, and brushed into the female flowers. The sex change occurs on the last day the flowers are open, so the newer flowers will still be female. The flowers that change sex tonight will, you hope, have been pollinated in their earlier life as a female.

If you don't have an atemoya or other Annona in your collection, you should get one. The fruit is delicious, and they are fun to watch.

MANATEE COUNTY CHAPTER OF RFCI STATED OBJECT OF ORGANIZATION:

To be an active, non-profit organization dedicated to the following objectives:

To introduce, propagate, and distribute the many rare tropical and sub-tropical fruits grown throughout the world; to educate its members and the public as to the merits of these plants; to encourage and extend their cultivation.

The Manatee Rare Fruit Council meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., usually at the Harlee Auditorium in the Manatee County Fairgrounds next to the Agricultural Extension Office on 17th Street, Palmetto. Most months feature a knowledgeable speaker. Visitors and guests are welcome and encouraged. Membership is \$15 annually per family.

E.C.C.O.

*Commercial All Purpose
Colloidal Cleaner*

Safe for you... safe for your plants

\$15/Quart

941-966-4377

Debra Sims

\$35/Gallon

crux@comcast.net

Nokomis

Donna & Dennis Gretton

D & D Growers

*Herbs, Butterfly Plants,
Perennials, Ornamentals, Grasses*

P.O. Box 951

Lithia, FL 33547

813-716-5038

E-Mail danddg@att.net

Brian Clooney has resigned as the "Fertilizer" chairman. If any one is interested in taking this position please speak up at the October meeting.

Palma Sola Fall Fair - Come out on October 20th and 21st to see the Palma Sola Park and enjoy a celebration of "Plants and Antiques". There will be over 30 vendors including our own Dennis and Donna Gretton of D & D Growers with their herbs and such.

To get to the Park take Manatee Ave. West toward the beaches to 75th Street West. At 75th Street turn right and head north, on 75th Street. Take 75th to 17th Avenue N.W and left turn. You will be heading west and this will take you to the Palma Sola Botanical Park at the end of 17th Ave. N.W. at 99th ST N.W. Our club will have a display so please try to have some fruit for our display.

First Class Mail



Manatee County Chapter
P.O. Box 1656
Bradenton, FL 34206-1656