



# COLLIER FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

**FEBRUARY 2017**



Our February 13th speaker is Har Mahdeem who will give a presentation on "Sapotaceae : The Sapote Family" which includes Sapodilla, Mamey-Sapote, Canistel (Egg Fruit), Choch, Lucma and Miracle Fruit.

In the early 1970's, Har was the orchard supervisor at an agricultural secondary school in lowland-equatorial rain-forest in the Brazilian state of Amazonas.

From the late 1970's he has worked with tropical and subtropical fruit trees, vegetables, and ornamentals in southeastern Florida, including twenty years as plant propagator and Annona breeder at Zill Nursery and Zill High Performance Plants (wholesale only). Perks there included

being sent on 15 collecting trips to Guatemala, Mexico, and Brazil. Photographs and experiences from those trips became articles for Rare Fruit societies' publications, such as the Tropical Fruit News, and about ten slide shows, which he has presented to twenty organizations.

**The tasting table starts at 7:00 pm. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm.  
at the Community Center,  
4701 Golden Gate Parkway in Golden Gate City.**

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



There is still time early to mid February to prune back the peaches, nectarines, grapes and plums. The classic pruning for peaches and nectarines resembles an OPEN UPSIDE DOWN umbrella. Try to trim out the center to allow sunlight. That will create more evenly sized fruit.

**MANGOS:** Don't worry, mangos are still working on pushing flowers, flowering can happen as late as the end of March. You can fertilize now, even without the flowers. It won't hurt and probably will help.

0-0-18 is recommended, same amount as your other fruit trees however less is better than more, though, potash can't burn the leaves. Feather the fertilizer starting from half way OUT from the trunk, out to and even a wee bit beyond the tripline. NEVER THROW FERTIZER AGAINST THE TRUNK of any tree.

**CITRUS:** Citrus trees are pushing new growth. The Asian citrus phyllid calls this PARTY TIME. Let's be party poopers and eliminate them by spraying with a mixture of Farm Soap: 1oz per gallon together with minor elements (vitamins for the tree). Follow directions on the bottle. **Spray early in the morning or late afternoon. Ten days to 2 weeks later, spray again, EXCEPT 1/2 oz per gallon of the Farm Soap and same amount of the Minor Elements. Safer Soap is OK if you don't have the Farm Soap.**

Why is this done? It is done to repel the phyllids and feed the tree through the leaves. Think about fertilizing the citrus. 8-2-8 or 10-2-10 is what we like to use. Many of the citrus trees are already in flower. Again, don't fertilize heavily, too much nitrogen will burn the leaves.

\*\*\* 0-0-18 does not lose its potency once the bag is opened, BUT, 8-2-8 or 10-2-10 does deteriorate - close the bag well, if you have had an open bag for more than a year, put that fertilizer on your bananas and buy a new bag for the citrus etc. Avocados - peaches, nectarines plums and grapes use the same citrus fertilizer.

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH:**

Longans are brown smooth-skinned fruits that when peeled have the appearance and texture of grapes. They are sweet with a hint of vanilla. The main season for longans is mid-summer but if you are like me, you probably have some on hand in the freezer. This recipe was found on [www.tfgsf.com](http://www.tfgsf.com), always a good resource if you are searching for tropical fruit recipes.



recipe: **STIR-FRY CHICKEN WITH LONGANS**



10 oz. chicken breast, cut into pieces  
1 red bell pepper, diced  
1 lb. longans, peeled and chopped  
Marinade  
2 tsp. soy sauce  
1 tsp. corn starch  
1/4 tsp. salt  
Sauce  
2 tsp. soy sauce  
4 tbsp. water  
2 tbsp. sugar  
1 tbsp. white vinegar  
1/2 tsp. corn starch

Mix chicken with marinade. Let chicken sit while pepper is chopped, longans are halved, and sauce is made.

Stir-fry chicken in 2 Tbsp. oil until cooked through. Add red bell pepper, longan and sauce.

Stir well for about 1 minute until sauce thickens.

Serve over rice.

## CLUB NOTES



**Photos taken at the January 13 tour at Dr. Steve Brady's property in Naples. Well attended and well appreciated.**



### **Events in February:**

**Field Trip to Pine Island**, Fruitscapes Nursery tour with Steve Cucura, Saturday, February 4, meet at 8:30 AM at 8200 Immokalee Road Nursery to car pool.

**Lecture: For the Love of Mangos** with Dr. Noris Ledesma - Tuesday, February 7, 6 to 7 PM; Naples Botanical Garden, \$15 members, \$20 non-members.

**Lecture; Collecting Tropical Fruit in the Tropics** with Chris Rollins - Thursday, February 9, 6 -7 PM, Naples Botanical Garden, \$15 members, \$20 non-members.

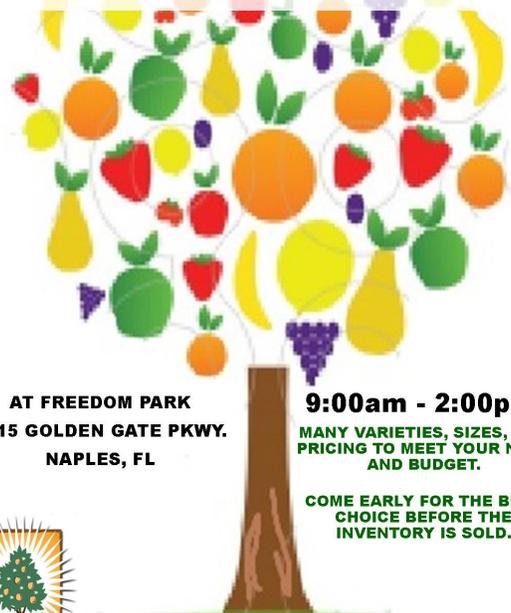
**Fruit Tree Sale** by Collier Fruit Growers - Saturday, February 18, 9 to 2 PM, Freedom Park, 1501 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples.

**Tour Oakes Organic Farm** on February 25, 9-11 am at 7455 Sanctuary Road. Tour with Deana Bess their five acre field and fruit forest, green house, propagation area, and worm composting system.

**Lecture and Workshop; Tropical Fruit 101: Bananas** with Dr. Steve Brady and Andrea Grace - Monday, February 27; 1 - 3 PM, NBG, \$15 members, \$20 non-members

## **Collier Fruit Growers, Inc. FRUIT TREE SALE**

**Saturday, February 18, 2017**



**AT FREEDOM PARK  
1515 GOLDEN GATE PKWY.  
NAPLES, FL**

**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 501c3 corporation

---

Collier Fruit Growers Inc.  
c/o Jan-Marie Etzel  
8768 Ibis Cove Circle  
Naples, FL 34119

## **FEBRUARY 2017**

### **FRUIT NEWS**

**Upcoming Meeting Dates: March 20th, April 17th, and May 15th.**

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**



**VISIT US AT:**  
[www.collierfruit.org](http://www.collierfruit.org)

#### **DIRECTORS:**

President, David Etzel — 269-7340  
Rodger Taylor, Vice President  
Melissa Parsons, Treasurer  
Jan Etzel, Secretary

#### **DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Thamarra Pamankada, Director  
Jorge Sanchez, Director  
John Norman, Director

