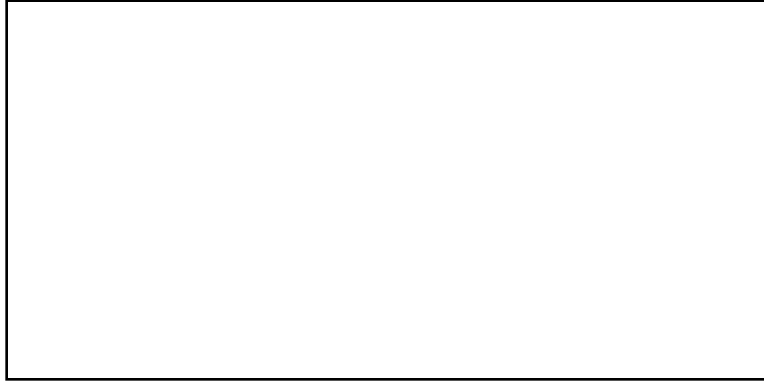
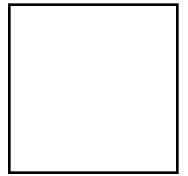




Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club Inc.
PO Box 367791
Bonita Springs, FL 34136



April 2014 - Mulberry



Who we are and what we do:

The Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club, Inc., is an educational not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to inform, educate and advise members and the public in the selection of plants and trees, to encourage their cultivation, and to provide a social forum where members can freely exchange plant material and information. The club cooperates with many organizations, and provides a basis for producing new cultivars. We function in any legal manner to further the above stated aims.

Meetings:

Regular membership meetings that include an educational program are held the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. Meetings begin promptly at 7 PM, at the First United Methodist Church, 27690 Shriver Avenue, Bonita Springs. The meetings are held in the "Freedom Hall" meeting room.

Workshops:

Workshops (monthly discussions) are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the Methodist Church, when practical. This open format encourages discussion and sharing of fruits and information. Bring in your fruits, plants, seeds, leaves, insects, photos, recipes, ect.. This is a great chance to get answers to specific questions, and there always seems to be a local expert on hand!

Tree sale:

Semi-annual tree sales in February and November at Riverside Park in downtown Bonita Springs raise revenue for educational programs for club members and other related purposes of the club.

Trips:

The club occasionally organizes trips and tours of other organizations that share our interests. The IFAS Experimental Station and the Fairchild Nursery Farm are examples of our recent excursions.

Membership:

Dues are \$20 per person for new members, and \$15 per person for renewals. Send checks to: PO Box 367791, Bonita Springs, FL 34136, or bring to any regularly scheduled meeting. Madeline Bohannon is our membership person. For information, call her at 239-851-4448.

Directions:

From the intersection of Old 41 Road and Bonita Beach Road SE, proceed north to Dean Street. Turn right on Dean St. and go two blocks to Shriver, then turn left on Shriver and go two blocks to the Methodist Church. Free parking on both sides of the street.

Newsletter:

This newsletter is available to anyone via email, and to paid members via Post office mail upon request. You may join our email communications group by emailing Berto Silva at BNS58@aol.com.

Officers and Board of Directors:

Madeline Bohannon - President - 239-851-4448 - madelinemay99@gmail.com

Rachel Stone - Vice President - 239-287-9185 - naplesbeachbum@hotmail.com

Trudy Moynihan - Secretary - 239-948-3702 - EmmetTrudy@aol.com

Gerda Gyori - Treasurer - 239-947-0491 - gergyori@gmail.com

Tom Betts - Director - 239-498-0003 - tibetts@comcast.net

Joe Busa - Director - 239-948-0987 - jojobusa@yahoo.com

Berto Silva - Director - 239-565-2976 - bsn58@aol.com

Guest Speaker:



BSTFC Speaker for the April 8th meeting will be David Southall, who will speak on "Origin of Florida's Common Fruit Trees". This man has incredible knowledge of world history, plant origins, and progress on a global basis.

You'll want to tape record what he has to say! This is a "don't miss" program - and listen closely - he has a great sense of humor.



Message from the President

After searching for several months for someone to do our newsletter, our club's newest member has offered to do it. And, not only that ... he'll be doing our new WEBSITE, as well! This man is VERY energetic and enthusiastic about fruit trees, and will be a very valuable member in no time flat!

He has wonderful ideas, and is open to all our suggestions. Please help me to make him welcome, and tell him any ideas you have, too.

Hope springs eternal, and spring is definitely here. Baby mangoes, baby avocados, baby macadamia nuts, and green flushes on all my citrus - along with the heavenly smell of citrus blossoms - would make anyone smile. I hope you love your yard as I do mine.

If you missed the last workshop ... you missed a lot! And let me reiterate just this ... NOW is a great time for gathering and grafting budwood, light pruning and shaping, and putting out as much mulch as possible.

See you soon, Madeline



Grafting - is a horticultural technique whereby tissues from one plant are inserted into those of another so that the two sets of vascular tissues may join together.

Budwood - a shoot of a plant bearing buds suitable for bud grafting.

Mulch - is a layer of material applied to the surface of an area of soil. Its purpose is to conserve moisture, improve the fertility and health of the soil, reduce weed growth, and enhance visual appeal.

Fruit of the Month - Mulberry

Scientific Name: *Morus spp.*

Family: *Moraceae*



Mulberry is fast growing, cold hardy, and drought tolerant - has red, black, green or white fruit. Easy to grow from a broken off branch, it offers an excellent alternative to blackberries - out-of-hand or used in baking. The stem of each berry needs to be cut off (scissors) or will break off easily if the fruit is frozen for a short time. Be careful ... the dark colored berries stain - clothes, shoes and driveways! Except for the ever-bearing variety, it has a short season - April.

Red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) is a native and has red or black fruit of good quality.

Black mulberry (*Morus nigra*) has a fruit of exceptional quality.

White mulberry (*Morus alba*) can bear black, purple, or white fruit. - (Invasive Exotic)

A number of excellent mulberry cultivars are well suited for cultivation in Florida.

Tice, Pakistan, Tehama, King White Pakistan, Shangre-La, Bachus Noir, Red Gelato, Black Persian, Illinois Everbearing, and White Dove all make the list.*

If you're interested in cultivating mulberries, there are members in the club with the needed experience and fruit bearing trees in their yard. Just ask a member for some advice.

We will be adding a plant database to the new website that will include more information on mulberry cultivation.



*Florida's Best Fruiting Plants by Charles R. Boning was used to compile the cultivar list and taxonomy of the mulberries mentioned above. It is an excellent reference text available from Pineapple Press, Inc.

Recipes

Easy Mulberry Buckle

- 1 Stick (4 oz.) butter
- 1 Cup self-rising flour
- 1 Cup sugar
- 1 Cup milk
- 2 Cups sweetened berries



Melt butter in a baking dish.
Mix flour, sugar and milk in a bowl.



Pour this onto melted butter.



Heat berries in a saucepan with 1 Tablespoon of
water and sweeten to taste.



When hot, spoon over mixture in pan and do not
stir.



Bake at 400 degrees for about 30 minutes, or
until golden brown.

Recipes

Mulberry Muffins - from the 1984 first edition CRFE - Favorite Tropical Recipes

1/4 cup butter
1/3 cup sugar
1 egg
1 cup milk
2 cup flour
3 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 cup mulberries, cut in half, dusted lightly with flour
2 Tbs. sugar
1 1/2 tsp. grated lemon rind

1. Cream butter and sugar - add egg - mix.
2. Mix flour, baking powder, and salt.
3. add step 2 mix and milk alternately to egg mixture created in step 1
4. Gently fold in dusted mulberries
5. Oil muffin rings - fill each 2/3 full
6. Mix 2 Tbs. sugar and lemon rind - sprinkle a small amount on each muffin
7. Bake at 425 F. for 20 minutes or until lightly browned.

Yields 12 large muffins.

