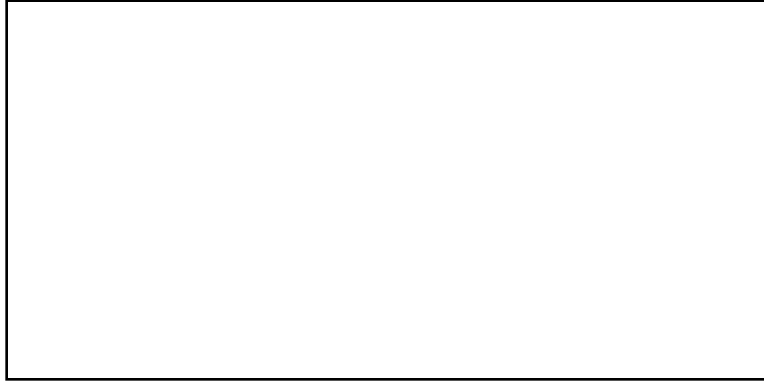
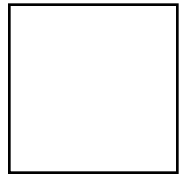




Bonita Springs Tropical Fruit Club Inc.
PO Box 367791
Bonita Springs, FL 34136



May 2015 - White Sapote



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 "Fellowship 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

Rachel Stone - Vice President

Denise Houghtaling/Adrienne Diaz - Secretary

Joe Busa - Treasurer

Tom Betts - Director

Gerda Gyori - Director

Berto Silva - Director

Guest Speaker:



The guest speaker on Tuesday the 12th will be Master Gardener Adrienne Diaz. Adrienne is one of our new board members and will be speaking on Citrus Replacements.



Bus Trip

Sat. - June 13, 2015. To the Redland Summer Fruit Festival in Homestead. Free water and snacks on the bus. A Stop at "Robert is Here" - famous for ice cream fruit shakes and all rare fruit in season for sale. BSTFC members are \$20 per person, and non-members are \$28 per person - park admissions included.

Bus departs Ft. Myers Walmart parking lot at Colonial & Six Mile Cypress at 7:15 AM. Bus departs Bonita/Naples parking lot on Imokalee Road by I-75 at 8 AM. Bus returns about 6 PM.

Sign up at club meetings and/or call Madeline at 239-851-4448.

This and That for May - from David & Jenny Burd

Mangos - Now that the mango season is commencing, **Late mangos** should be selectively pruned, so as to have fruit again next year. Yes, there will be fruit on the tree. We selectively prune, so we do not lose all of the fruit. If late mangos are pruned after the fruit is harvested eg late September or October, it raises the % chance of no fruit the next year.

Late mangos are Keitt, Neelum, Palmer, Beverly, Wise, Cryder & Zillate
Early mangos – Rosigold, Lemon Saigon, Glen,
Manilita & Florigon, to name just a few !

When the fruit has been harvested - fertilize with 0-0-18. This is recommended because of the minors in the formulae. Fertilizing with nitrogen will cause 'jelly seed' and poor quality fruit.

Spray with micro nutrients just before the new growth has hardened off.

Calendar of Events

- 5/6 Wed. - Edible Landscaping Seminar 6:30 PM
Call 239-332-1188 to sign up for this FREE class at MW Horticulture
Location - MW Horticulture 6250 Thomas Rd., Ft. Myers
- 5/9 Fri. - MW Horticulture 2nd Year Anniversary Party 11 AM to 2 PM
Call 239-332-1188
Location - MW Horticulture 6250 Thomas Rd., Ft. Myers
- 5/12 Tue. - General Meeting - Adrienne Diaz on "Citrus Replacements"
Meeting starts promptly at 7 PM - PLEASE
- 5/26 Tue. - Workshop - 7 PM - 8 PM

Fruit of the Month - White Sapote

Scientific Name: Casimiroa edulis

Family: Rutaceae



Message from the President - I have two White Sapote trees, both in fruit again this year. One has already started dropping its' fruit ... beautiful, sweet, creamy and delicious. The thin skin on the outside is no more unappealing or bitter than the skin on any apple I've eaten, and the greatest nutrition of almost every fruit in, or closest to its' skin. This is nature's way of getting the most nutrition to the eater ... human, birds, critters, or whatever. The flesh tastes like vanilla custard.

Because of it being in the citrus family, it can withstand cooler growing areas than many of the other tropical fruits, making it a good choice for people in all of south and most of central Florida. Great for growing in LaBelle, Lehigh, Alva, Immokalee, etc.

IMPORTANT - these trees, even though they are in the citrus family, show no signs, whatsoever, of being affected by Greening!

The tree with ripe fruit now has fruit about 3 inches diameter, and almost every fruit on the tree is now about this size. Nature is our best refrigerator ... and dispenses (drops) fruit only a few each day. The fruit that falls has its' stem intact (about 1/2 inch long). and this ripens a few days after I pick it up each time. The stem pulls easily out when it's ripe (softened, slightly).

My other White Sapote tree still has all of its' fruit, still unripe. It is a different variety and has fruit of all sizes PLUS blossoms, promising a long season of fruit. This will all ripen through the summer, when fruit from the first tree is long gone.

Please consider planting not one, but two of these trees. - Madeline

