



MAY 2010

HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORNER— MONTVERDE GRAPES

Grape planting started in Montverde in 1925. By 1930, over a thousand acres had been planted. In a couple more years there were two thousand acres. The Florida Beacon and Carman were the more popular varieties. Grafting was done with European grape woodstock, which produced three other varieties- Casaba, Ribier and a light green grape.

Most growers joined together in cooperative picking, packing and marketing. Several packing houses were located in Montverde, and there was one in the vineyards. Since grape packing started about the end of the school year, it was popular for the girls to look for packing jobs and the boys to pick grapes; or haul them to the packing house with trucks. Those who worked with the grapes generally had a shopping spree in Orlando to buy new clothes for the school term in the fall, while others used their extra money for trips to the beach.



The varieties of grapes grown in Montverde ripened early; so it was possible to get them to market before other sections of the country. This gave Montverde a good sales market. The grapes were packed in flats, stacked in railroad cars and then iced. The grapes were then transported via the Montverde Railway Station. If you have or know of any pictures of the vineyards please contact Town Hall at 407.469.2681 or email townhall@mymontverde.com.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BOTTLED WATER

People have a variety of reasons for purchasing bottled water, whether it is preferred tasted or the convenience it brings to an on-the-go lifestyle. The truth is bottle water may come from several sources- it can originate from a public water source or naturally from the earth. There are 3 main types of bottle water as labeled by the US Food and Drug Administration and it is important to be aware of these differences.



Purified water is essentially tap water that has been purified through a distillation deionization, or reverse-osmosis process. Purified water may also be referred to as demineralized water.

Spring water is water that flows naturally from the earth and is collected directly from its natural source.

Mineral water is spring water that contains dissolved minerals and other trace elements (at least 250 parts per million) that come directly from the source.

According to the Clean Air Council, Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour. It is therefore important to also be aware that most people can safely (and inexpensively) drink water straight from the tap. If you want to improve the taste of your water, you can simply purchase a water-filtration pitcher which will reduce the amount of fluoride and chlorine in the tap water. You can also invest in using a reusable water bottle made of polycarbonate or aluminum, which are both environmentally friendly and will help to cut down on plastic bottle waste. (Source Dr. Agatston/ South Beach Diet)

THE MORNING AFTER A STORM STRIKES...TREE CARE

1. Assess the Damage- Can These Trees Be Saved?

Other than the storm damage, is the tree basically healthy? If so, and if it did not suffer major structural damage, it will usually recover.

Are major limbs broken? The larger a broken limb, the harder it will be for the tree to recover from damage.

Has the leader (main upward-trending branch) been lost? The tree may live without its leader, but that best could be stunted or deformed.

Are at least 50 percent of the branches and leaves still intact? A tree with less than half its branches remaining may not produce enough foliage to nourish the tree another season.

How large are the wounds? The larger the wound in relation to the size of the limb, the less likely it is to heal, leaving the tree vulnerable to diseases and pests.

Can't the remaining branches form a new branch structure? The remaining limbs will grow more vigorously as the tree tries to replace its missing foliage. Look to see if the branches still left can eventually fill out the tree's appearance.

Is the tree a desirable one for its location? If the tree is in poor location (potentially tall beneath power lines, etc) or one with messy fruit, it may be best to remove it.

2. Make Decisions About Your Trees

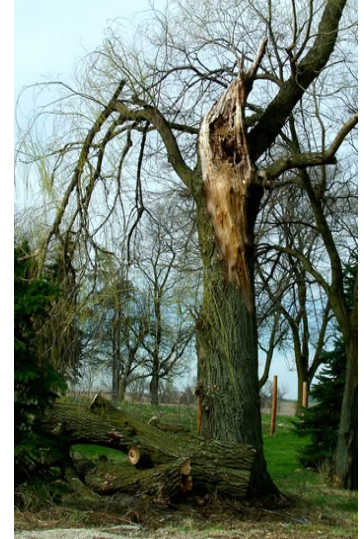
It's a Keeper...If damage is relatively slight, prune any broken branches, repair torn bark or rough edges around wounds, and let the tree begin the process of wound repair.

Wait and See...If a valuable tree appears to be a borderline case, resist the temptation to simply cut it down. In such a case, it is best to stand back for a while and give the tree a chance. Remember that time is on your side. After careful pruning of broken branches, give the tree some time to recover. A final decision can be made later.

Say Goodbye...Some trees simply can't be saved or are not worth saving. If the tree has already been weakened by disease, the trunk is split, or more than 50 percent of the crown is gone, the tree has lost its survival edge.

3. Provide Tree First Aid After a Storm

In the aftermath of a major storm, the initial impulse of property owners is generally along the lines of "let's get this mess cleaned up." But hasty decisions can result in removing trees that could be saved. Doing the right things after trees have been damaged can make the difference between giving your trees a good chance of survival and losing them unnecessarily. (Source Tree City USA Bulletin, Vol. 2)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTVERDE'S MISSION FOR HAITI

First Baptist Church of Montverde will be holding an "On Mission" Day, Sunday, May 2, 2010 from 4-7 p.m., during which they will be working together with other local churches and groups to pack 30,000 meal packets for Haiti. With these meals they will also be purchasing a water purification system to ensure that the meals are not mixed with contaminants. The church is asking anyone who has an hour of their time to donate to help them achieve this worthy goal. The church is also accepting financial donations that will go toward the reserved supplies. If you are interested in helping FBC with their mission please contact Jonathan Winningham at 407.9283719.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Town is looking for someone with excellent note taking abilities and attention to detail who would be interested in typing up the minutes from Town Council meetings each month. Town Council meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at Town Hall. For more information contact Town Hall at (407) 469-2681.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

All Town residents must use Waste Pro when ordering a dumpster for any purpose. Contact Waste Pro at (407) 774-0800.