

# 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Mango Melee

## The Drought Edition

### July 12, 2015



The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Mango Melee proved to be a fun-filled day for the whole family. Residents and visitors alike came out in droves and many participated in the various mango-related activities. Other featured fruits were the drought-resistant coconut and Egg fruit.

This year farmers were given the opportunity to showcase a variety of produce in their harvest. Also the farmers had a chance to interact with the community.

There was local food, crafts, mango displays, dunk tank, mango eating contests, workshops, entertainment, and much more. Entertainment was provided by DJ Swain, D. J. Superfly, King Derby & Calypso, Inc., We Deh Yah Cultural Dancers, and the Taratibu Youth Association.

Workshops held placed emphasis on climate change and the ongoing drought. The workshops included: Nancy Dash with “Uses for Mature Coconuts (including making Coconut Flour)”; Steve Jarvis with “Manufacturing and Uses for Coconut Oil”; and Rudy O’Reilly with “Conservation Practices for Climate Change”. These workshops were very informative and well attended. We want to thank the speakers for their time and valuable information shared with us.



The Mango Dis Mango Dat Cooking Competition showed what excellent and creative cooks we have on island. There was no shortage of entries and competition was tough. In the end, Wanda Wright got First-Place Sips with her Mango Honey-Meade and Second-Place Sips went to Sejah Farms for Mango Coconut Breadfruit. First-Place Sweets went to Lisa Spery for Mango Berry Trifle and Second-Place Sweets went to DeVante Thomas for Mango Mousse. First-Place Salsa went to Susan Baike for Mango Roast Corn Black Bean Salsa and Second-Place Salsa went to John Biestan for Mango Chutney. First-Place Stuff went to William John for spiced Mango Shrimp and Second-Place Stuff went to Kiejon Washington for Mango Wantons. Samples of each dish were available after the judging was completed. Thank you for competing and providing many wonderful treats!



The Dunk Tank was again fun for both dunkers and dunkees. Of course, the dunkees got a little wet! Shown here is brave Garry Anthony who was one of the volunteers to sit in the tank and, yes, he did get dunked several times. He said the water was cold but refreshing. Other volunteers included business owners and politicians.

Participants paid \$5 for three throws and it was amazing how many people hit the target in less than three throws. Good going! See you next year.

### **Mango Eating Contest - Children 12 and under**

The Mango Eating Contest finished off the day. First were the junior participants. They had to eat seven mangoes and could use both hands. The winner was Phijah Merchant. He devoured a platter full of seven mangos faster than his eight competitors and won \$50 in prize money.



Phijah Merchant



### **Mango Eating Contest – Adults**

The adults had to eat six mangos but could only use one hand. It is amazing how fast a person can eat a mango! The winner was Hector Gordon who ate his six mangos in record time, while his closest competitor had not even finished half of his mangos. He is a three-time winner. I think next year we need to give him some heavy competition.



Hector Gordon



We want to thank all the people who made this event a success including the people who attended, the vendors, farmers, and volunteers. Without all of you, this event would not be possible. We can not begin to tell you how much your support means to The St. George Village Botanical Garden of St. Croix. Remember, it is your garden.

See you in 2016.