



RFCI

April 2014

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER of the
RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL,
INC.

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<http://www.facebook.com/TampaBayChapterRareFruitCouncilIntlInc>

Meetings are held the second Sunday, 2:00 P.M.
at the Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Blvd.

œ Upcoming Programs and Events œ

April: No regular Club meeting. See you at the USF Plant Festival!

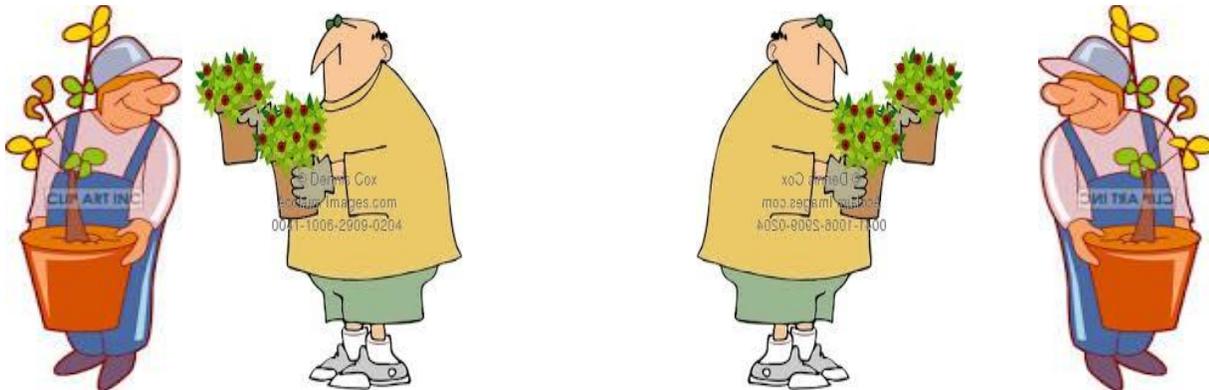
April 12 - 13: USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival.

We will need club members to help with this event. It is an important fundraiser for the club. Members are invited to attend, help with set up on Friday, to assist in the sale on Saturday and Sunday, to donate or sell fruiting plants, to enjoy the comradery and to visit other exhibits.

See additional information on the next page.

May 11th - Vicky Parson will speak on the many wonderful attributes of the Neem tree.

June 7th - Manatee chapter will host the multi-group Rare Fruit Club meeting at the beautiful Palma Sola Botanic gardens in Bradenton. More details to come!!!



œ Welcome New Members œ

Evelyn Barry Lakeland

Yolanda and David Worthy Valrico

Mary Helan and Simon Zopfi Lutz

**President: Thom Scott; Editor: Denise Provencher; Photographs: Fred Engelbrecht
Membership: Bryon Provencher; Production/Distribution: Denise Provencher**

More information about the plant sale: Things get pretty busy at the Sale! Here are some guidelines to help keep things running smoothly:

- 1) Basic snacks and water will be provided to working members. You may also bring your own.
- 2) Members who work a full day or a total of 8 hours over the 3 days receive a Rare Fruit T-shirt.
- 3) Members who work a total of 8 hours over the three day festival event will be entitled to a discount on plants brought in by Ray Green.
 - Ray Green plants may be tagged for your purchase **after** 2:30pm on Sunday. The tagged plants must be left in place until all the remaining plants are loaded, then the member may show Sally the plants and pay for them. Please do not move the plants before paying Sally, as this will cause errors in the inventory.
 - If a member wishes to buy a Ray Green plant **before** 2:30 Sunday, then the listed price will apply.
- 4) If you plan to sell plants, please note that members cannot sell citrus, non-fruiting plants or herbs.
 - Members can only bring plants they have raised themselves - not ones purchased from another source.
 - It is also helpful to inform buyers whether the plant you are selling is a grafted named variety or if you raised it from a seedling.
- 5) Members selling plants must submit a manifest listing their plants, quantity, and prices. Plants must have a label with the name of the plant, the price and the seller's initials.
 - A member cannot change the price or give away plants until AFTER the manifest has been completed and checked by a board member.

If you have questions: Jimmy & Sally Lee (813) 982-9359.
 USF Botanical Garden website: <http://gardens.usf.edu/>

Board of Directors Election:

The following members have been selected as the next Board of Directors:

President: Tom Scott Vice President: Jerry Amyot
 Vice President and speaker chairman: James Lee
 Treasurer: Susan McAveety
 Secretary and Club Photographer: Fred Engelbrecht
 Raffle, Plant Sale inventory and board Nominator: Sally Lee
 Meeting set up and Miscellaneous Inventory manager: William Vega
 Newsletter: Denise Provencher
 Web: Andrew Hendrickson
 Also: Mike Sweet, Paul Branesky and Mark Foltarz, Joe Porter
 Non board members holding jobs:
 Membership and Seed Chairman: Bryon Provencher
 Tasting Table: Cora Coronel, Mary Ann Branesky, and Liz Vega

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

Spring has sprung! Thanks to our forgiving winter with its mild temperatures and adequate rainfall, we are seeing a nice display of blooming going on here. Plums, jaboticaba, citrus, pawpaw, avocado, white sapote (again), macadamia, and my very rare Thai olive - *eleocarpus sylvestris*, are just as happy as I am to see warmer weather.

My various tomato seedlings are being planted out. These include ugli, Principe borghese, Atkinson, and one from Syria.

I'm getting "Pruner's elbow" from all the prunings still under way.

The bunch grape vines are waking up - should be a great year for grapes. Loquats are holding lots of nice fruit, and the crows have noticed them too. They see me guarding the tree and get very upset. Too bad for them.

I finished trimming up my grape arbor: selected cordons have been tied up to the top of the greenhouse roof. This is expected to provide a nice, shady place underneath.

I was happy to see the article on mayhaws in the last newsletter. I learned that they need another tree to pollinate to make fruit. Who knew? That explains why my grafted *Crataegus aestivalis*, flowering for three years, never made fruit. I hurriedly googled nurseries to obtain more trees. "sold out, sold out, sold out" was all I found. They certainly are in great demand. Finally I located a source and after three days, I had two nice, three foot seedlings.

New plantings: vegetables, mayhaws, a passionfruit vine from Puerto Rico.



A display of ribbons won for displays the Rare Fruit Club has had at the Florida State Fair over the years was on display at March's Club meeting.

∞ The Kampong ∞ by Larry Schokman

For our speaker in March, Club members enjoyed Larry Schokman speak about the Kampong gardens in Coconut Grove, near Miami. Larry was hired as the Director for the Kampong in 1973, retiring in 2007, and has spent his career there dedicated to helping people become familiar with and knowledgeable about the plants at the Kampong. Kampong is from the Malay word *kampung*, meaning village or cluster of dwellings.



The Kampong was originally the home of David Fairchild, an avid horticulturist whose exciting work traveling the globe searching for plants to grow here in the United States helped the agricultural development of new crops here. The Fairchilds lived at the Kampong from 1916 to 1954 when he passed away, and 1962, when his wife, Marian passed away. During his life, Fairchild introduced about 30,000 different plant species and variations to the US, and his garden was filled with plant treasures from his travels.

The land was then purchased by Catherine Hauberg Sweeney, also a botanist, and she maintained Fairchild's gardens, and also secured the property's listing as a National Historic Place.

In 1984, Sweeney donated the 11 acre property to the Pacific Tropical botanical Garden (now the National Tropical Botanical Garden) .

Today, the Kampong serves as a campus for the NTBG's educational courses, and is used as a living classroom by universities and colleges for the study of botany and horticulture. The NTBG also has five gardens in the Hawaiian Islands for a total of 2,000 open air acres of tropical growing.

Larry had a detailed slideshow of plants and trees in the Kampong, and also the unique architecture and history of the property. For example, some of the buildings are made of oolite, the type of limestone in the Miami area formed by deposition when shallow seas covered that area in between periods of glaciers. The marine life rich material consolidated and later was exposed when sea levels were lowered.

Larry noted many of the plants at the Kampong are from Southeast Asia, and Central and South America, but can be grown here due to the individual microclimates that every garden has. Even if your neighbor doesn't have luck growing a plant, maybe your microclimate is different, and you may have better luck. Remember, in Florida, a difference of 1 or 2 degrees is a matter of life or death.

Keep mangoes wider than taller when you prune them. It makes harvest easier. In Sri Lanka, mango growers train young branches using rock weights to keep branches growing laterally, rather than upright.

Always add organic matter to Florida's sandy soil.

Maximize space in your garden. Today's gardener usually doesn't have the space our forefathers did, and we need to make the most of the space we have. If you're looking for shade, consider a tree that will do double duty and provide fruit.

There is a difference between moisture and overwatering. Some plants are particular to too much moisture. Be alert for too much moisture, such as pooling or stagnant water.

If you have a question about whether something is edible, Larry says if it's not poisonous, it's edible. The real question might be if you *want* to eat it.

For those lucky enough to purchase a personally signed copy of Larry's massive ring bound book, *Plants of the Kampong*, there is much information on tropical plants for your purusal. Larry said it took over 7 years to research and compile the text, and he was aiming towards the home grower audience. The book is technical enough to be seriously helpful, but not difficult to read. It is illustrated with drawings and photographs, with descriptions of countless plants of medicinal, economic and ornamental value. (Remember, the seed table at each meeting has seeds of many of these plants; keep check for availability.)



The entrance to the Kampong.



Fruit trees in the orchard.



Bignay fruit is native to Southeast Asia.
Fairchild developed this variety, which bears his name.



Ripe coffee beans in the garden.

The Kampong <http://www.ntbg.org/gardens/kampong.php>

Other gardens to visit in the Miami area:

Vizcaya Museum and Garden www.vizcayamuseum.org

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden www.fairchildgarden.org

Miami Beach Botanical Garden www.mbgarden.org

Pinecrest Gardens www.pinecrest-fl.gov

Crandon Gardens www.key-biscayne.com

∞ Local Events ∞

Loquat Festival: Saturday, April 5, 2014, 11:00am - 6241 Lincoln St., New Port Richey, FL 34652

Discover a classic Florida fruit at this inaugural festival that celebrates the loquat; with jams, jellies, preserves and more to sample and for sale, demonstrations on how to eat loquats, how to cultivate loquat trees (with trees for sale) and how to use the fruit in recipes. The Market offers loquat-infused sweets, treats and specialties for sale 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and the festival, with music is from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Price: **Free admission.** Phone: **(727) 849-1626**



Manatee Rare Fruit Council Tree Sale Sunday, May 18th

Thousands of unusual fruiting plants and trees at reasonable prices, from 10 AM to 4 PM at Bradenton Area Convention Center, One Haben Blvd, Palmetto, FL 34219. **Free admission, parking** and expert advice. See our Fruiting Plant and Tree Exhibit at Palma Sola Botanical Park, funded by this Sale, and make your wish list. www.mrfc.org, or call Pete Ray, **(941) 776-0222**.

∞ March Tasting Table ∞



Thank you to the following folks for their tasty offerings and to all those who did not sign the sheet. Members who donate food receive a ticket for the plant raffle.



Name	Item	Name	Item
Vega	Chicken and rice	Coronel	Palitao and cookies
Champagne	Chocolate brownies	Scott	Starfruit
Sweet	Key lime pie	Lee	Strawberry and coconut cake
Whitfield	Salad	Dexter	Mashed potatoes and chives
Golden	Fruit salad	Shigemura	Chicken and yellow rice
Sawada	Mango and kiwi fruit salad	Bigelow	Chicken rice curry
Oliver	Cookies, peanut butter chocolate	Newcombe	Salad
Stark	Papaya cake	Gamboni	Snicker doodles
Payne	Strawberry dessert and salad	Lavalette	Fried rice noodles
Davies	Cole slaw	Levesque	Donut bagels
Johansson	Tortillas	Clarke	Chicken, bread pudding, coconut cake



☞ March Plant Exchange ☜



If you win a plant in the raffle, please remember to sign the sheet when picking up your plants.

Plant	Donor	Winner
Passionfruit	Novak	Gamboni
Starfruit	Scott	
Surinam cherry	Novak	
Chayote squash	Zmoda	
Dragon fruit	Zmoda	
Tea plant	Zmoda	
Banana	Smith	
Yellow passionfruit	Clarke	Newcombe
Vicks plant	Clarke	
White hibiscus	Clarke	Gamboni
White sapote	Lohn	Kischuk
Pineapple	Lohn	Payne
White pineapple	Duncan	
Jakfruit	Gerstein	
Starfruit	Musgrave	
Banana	Porter	Lohn
Red lime	Davies	Payne
Loquat	Levesque	
Cabbage	Payne	Whitfield
Tree basil	Stark	



For sale: Max Tapener - plant tying device, quickly tapes plants to stakes, wires, etc. Used one season - like new. Comes with extra tape, staples, blades, \$90 value, asking \$60 or BO. Paul 813-677-5985 or Flatwoodsfarm@aol.com

LEASE or SALE: All or part of 65+ acres at NE corner of US 41 & Sunset Lane, Lutz. Some timber, some Cypress, oaks, diversity of vegetation. Many ferns and native plants. Terms negotiable. Call 813/988-1772. Water available. Excellent nursery/growing area. Being sold by a RFCI member.

Notes

Please remember to wear your badge at all meetings! Thank you.

If you have changed your address or email address, don't forget to let us know! We are getting a few returned emailed copies and mailed copies. Please update your information.



Important: Check your Newsletter address label for your membership renewal date. Membership is \$20 per year.

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