

RFCI

November 2014

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

<http://www.rarefruit.org>
Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com
<http://www.facebook.com/TampaBayChapterRareFruitCouncilIntlInc>

Meetings are held the second Sunday, 2:00 P.M.
at the Christ the King Church, 821 S. Dale Mabry,
Tampa

∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞

November 9th: Frost protection by Charles Novak - remember, meet at the new location.

2014/15 Winter Outlook will be colder and rainier than normal. An active jet stream is expected to throw in a few severe weather events in January and February in Florida and Texas. At the November RFCI Meeting Learn How to Protect Your Tender Plants.



December 14th: Holiday Social - remember, meeting will be at the new location.

∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Nick and June Cutro
Julie Emerson
Juanita Naranjo
Eugene Ross
Heather Davidson
Kevin Vondruska
Nessier Johnson
Gregory Morgan
Danielle Sanon

Mark Rowell
Joseph Boisen
Keiko Torres
Jeff Tomalo
Andrea & Ioan Fernandez
James Schwartz
Ken Roll
Aurora Kersey

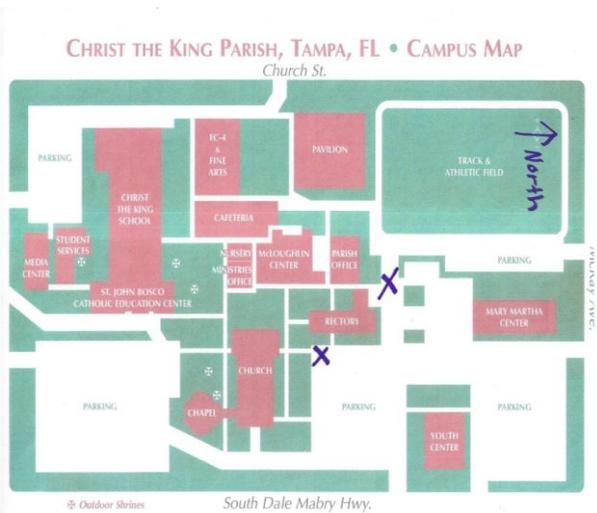
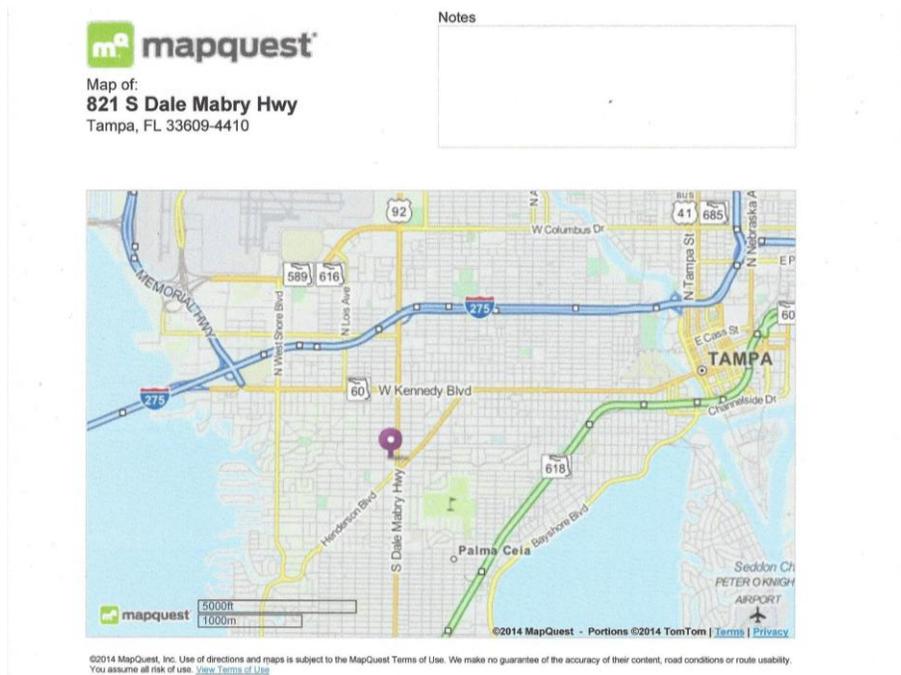
Monthly meeting location will change starting with the November meeting! Please be advised of the new location for meetings. SEE MAPS BELOW.

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

Reminder on the new meeting location:

**Christ the King Catholic Church
821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy
Tampa, FL 33609**

Map of local highways - purple marker on S Dale Mabry Hwy is the Church location.



Map of the Church campus. Please note: We will meet in the Mcloughlin Center - located in the center of the campus map. The two black X areas are spots for loading/unloading of plants. Parking areas are labeled.

From member Charles Novak:

Some of the fruits Charles Novak picked from his yard for displaying at the USF Fall Plant Festival:

Wild Guava (Araza) - *Eugenia stipitata*
 Indian Plum (Rukam) - *Flacourtia rukam*
 Tropical Apricot - *Dovyalis abyssinica* - hybrid
 Ylang-Ylang vine - *Artabotrys hexapetalus* (Chanel # 5)
 Lilly Pilly - *Acmena smithii* (*Eugenia smithii*)
 Miracle Fruit - *Synsepalum dulcificum*
 Orangeberry - *Glycosmis pentaphylla*
 Rose Myrtle (Downy Myrtle) - *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*
 Passion Fruit - *Passiflora edulis*
 Kaffir Lime - *Citrus hystrix*
 Key Lime - *Citrus aurantiifolia*
 Finger Lime – *Citrus australasica*
 Lipstick Tree - *Bixa orellana*
 Red Spanish Pineapple - *Ananas comosus*
 Dunstan Chestnuts - *Castanea* hybrid

Charles enjoys growing varieties of *Annona*. Here is some information on the Custard Apple.

Rollinia deliciosa (also known as the custard apple of the Amazon). Annonaceae family.

The ripe fruit is very soft and cannot be stored for long periods of time. The fruit is yellow when ripe; with soft spines that turn black when fully ripe. The flesh is whitish, aromatic; with a nice balance between sweet and sour. The flavor is described as similar to lemon meringue pie or apple custard. It is usually eaten fresh but could be used for juice, ice cream and wines. The fruit contain on average 60 to 90 seeds; similar to other *Annona* fruit. Seeds were sent to Florida in the early 1900s. Trees are fast growing to about 20 feet and can flower in 18 months to 2 years. My tree took about 4 years to fruit and this year, first fruit weighed 2 pounds and 5 ounces. I have 12 more fruit on the tree. *Rollinia deliciosa* may be found in most tropical locations and is becoming a favorite of tropical fruit lovers.

Photos by Charles Novak



Photo of the RFCI scarecrow Linda and Charles Novak put up at the USF Fall Plant Festival:



The Great Makers of Delectable Fruit Juices L to R: Debbie Campani, Maryann Branesky and Cora Coronel



∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

Nuts to you! Or, rather me! We're getting a nice crop of 'Hershel' chestnuts now. I pick up the burrs each morning and then carefully remove the nuts while wearing heavy, leather gloves. The spines are very sharp.



I'm getting a small crop of 'Teardrop' macadamia nuts also. These I pick off the tree and then immediately carve the nuts free of the green husk with a paring knife.

Our 'Moreland' pecan is almost ready to drop its modest crop. Pecan husks split open on their own, and the nut is then easily obtained.

All these nuts are not only delicious, but nutritious as well, providing carbohydrates, proteins, fats, and various minerals, such as zinc, manganese, and magnesium in substantial amounts.

How am I getting ripe nuts with all the squirrels around, you may be asking? The answer is that I fanatically control squirrels every chance I get - a daily mission, every day of every year.

What a wet September we had! Approximately fourteen inches here at Flatwood Fruit Farm. One result is lots of different wild mushrooms are popping up all over. I study the ones which interest me, and have eaten some when I'm absolutely sure of the identification.

"Brogden" avocados gave up a big crop of delicious fruits this year. Deep purple - almost black - they could easily be mistaken for eggplants.

New plantings: various vegetables.

From member Steve Lohn:

Steve enjoys an intensive method of growing a lush and productive garden. Rainforest growing is a method of growing temperature sensitive trees outside their native land. The idea is to grow your trees so close that their branches overlap each other. This way only the tops are affected by cool weather. It also allows you to grow more trees in a smaller space. Steve has provided photos of some of his recent crops.....

Photos by Steve Lohn



∞ The Best Thing You May Grow is a Gardener ∞

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/parent/primer/2>

What Turns Kids On and Off to Gardening



Most adults who garden began this hobby as children. And more than one old-timer has sworn off gardening because he hated it as a kid. Here's the secret to the difference.

If you want your child to love gardening, the best things you can do, in order of importance, are the following.

1. Show them how much you love gardening just by reveling in your own garden every day.
2. Surround them with great gardens. That doesn't mean a show place. It may mean a messy, riotously colored cottage garden; decorative little getaway; or profuse pots full. (Remember that everything is bigger through kids' eyes.)
3. Give them good gardening experiences. These will be great memories in years to come.

Kids have so much competing for their attention: television, computers, sports, and a bazillion "planned" activities from library hours to birthday parties, from sleepovers to dances -- at as young an age as five. So gardening has to stand on its own.

Rooting cuttings in water doesn't cut it. But what does?

Experts disagree on whether to include gardening among children's required chores or to take advantage of their interest on planting and harvest days and do the work yourself the other 120 days.

I'm somewhere in the middle. I'd never say, "an hour of weeding and you can go swimming." But I'd enlist kids of all ages to weed as much as their capabilities and attention span will allow. Then I'd finish the job alone. Some kids love being the super hero who wrestles burdock's three-foot taproot out of the ground and onto the heap.

The balance is to teach respect and enjoyment of the family gardens and make sure there's a garden a kid can call his or her own. Here dirt and water are the stuff of magic, and surprises lurk between rows.

Anyone can succeed under the sun. "I did it myself" is a powerful thing. A few tips for motivating young gardeners:

- Recognize that kids' gardening priorities are different, well, practically opposite of adults'.
 - Let kids choose what to plant. Offer guidance and make sure there are some sure-success plants among their picks. But if they want beets, roses, and petunias, why not?
 - Relax your standards. Crooked rows or weeds as pets are fine.
 - Transplanting is fun, even if your child plays with plants the way they move action figures or Barbies about. But remind them that plants' roots need some time to grow in one place.
 - Leave room for good old-fashioned digging. Holes are a highly popular landscape feature. Look for worms. Add water, and frogs appear.
 - Model the message that some insects are beneficial, and even destructive bugs are highly interesting.
 - Do behind-the-scenes maintenance of kids' gardens, keeping them edged and weeded. Don't expect kids to do all the watering and pest patrol.
 - You decide: when it comes to impending doom (no pumpkins appeared on vines; the daisy is uprooted and sunning on the deck) do you add a pumpkin from the farm stand? Replace the daisy? Some parents use loss as a lesson; others smooth things over for success.
 - Remember: one of the best things you ever grow may be a gardener.
-

☞ Member Questions ☜



Photo Drexel Jackson

A member provided the following picture of damage to a mango tree, and asked for help determining a cause and treatment.

Our club experts responded that some considerations on the cause could be a poor grafting connection if the damage is at the graft, freeze damage, an injury caused by something falling and damaging the bark, or a limb torn from the main trunk. How long the injury has been present, insect activity, or animals in the area, are all additional questions.

Because this area is now weak, it is now important to support the tree properly. Replace the bamboo with a sturdy metal stake, and use support tape above and below the damaged area. A horticultural stretch film, such as Parafilm[®], around the area will help keep out disease.

Parafilm[®] Grafting Tape is an economical, fast and easy-to-use product that makes plant grafting and budding efforts a breeze for nursery workers, landscapers and gardeners. Apply the tape over the usual grafting rubber or tape normally used to hold the union secure until the graft takes hold. And, it may be enough alone to hold the scion of some soft-stemmed species in place. It's also perfect for this situation.

☞ Local Events ☜

November 8, 10 am - 12 Walk in Monica Brandies' Garden. Autographed books, plants, and pumello fruit for sale. Free admission and cuttings. 1508 Burning Tree Lane, Brandon. 813-654-1969 www.gardensflorida.com

While you're there, stop at Neem Tree Farms, open 10 - 2pm. Tour the greenhouse, free milkweed plants for the butterflies, neem samples and products. www.neemtreefarms.com



Notes

This is your newsletter! It's about our members and what they are doing concerning fruits. If you would like to share photographs, recipes, experiences with fruits you are growing, or anything fruit related, or ask a Club expert a question, submit material to the editor at bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com. When space is available, items will be put into the newsletter.



Plant Raffle Table Photo by Steve Lohn

Tampa Bay RFCI
39320 North Ave.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542