



RFCI

December 2015

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 ⌘



2015 Holiday Social



Please join us for the annual RFCI Holiday Social.

Sunday, December 13, 2015

1:00 P.M.

Please note the different start time.

Please bring a covered dish (salads, vegetables, desserts, etc.)

The Club will provide the turkeys, ham, tableware and drinks.

Please bring an item to donate to the free raffle (such as plants, small gifts - perhaps an item you received but can't use).

Several volunteers are needed to help set up.

If you are available to help, please arrive about 11:00 A.M.

You may bring your own place setting (plate, utensils, glassware). This effort will help reduce waste, and be sturdier than paper plates so you can really load that plate up!



President: Fred Engelbrecht; Program Manager: Tom Schaefer; Secretary: Ed Niklas, Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher; Photographs: Fred Engelbrecht

∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Celinda Evitt Tampa
Tracy Tippin Palm Harbor

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

I stopped by the fruit orchard in Lowry Park to give the trees their quarterly pruning session. This planting, one of several in Tampa Parks, has been installed and is maintained entirely by volunteers. I have been building down some specimens which were too tall and generally shaping and balancing others while removing dead and unnecessary growth. Members Tanja and Jared Vidovic spearheaded this project with the blessings of the City of Tampa. "Public fruit for Public Health" is what we call it; the ripe fruits are available to Park-goers passing by. A great idea which we hope will spread to more Parks.

We got a nice bunch of 'Bonanza' bananas here at Flatwoods Fruit Farm. Also known as FHIA#18, these are small, dense and very good.

At the USF fall sale, fellow member Rochan Premraj gifted me with an Atemoya from his tree. Pinkish-gray on the outside and weighing close to a pound, this Annona hybrid ripened perfectly in three days. This was 'Lisa' Atemoya, also known as 48-26, and one of the absolute best tasting fruits I've ever eaten. So soft and melting inside, the flavor was like canned fruit cocktail in heavy syrup to me - but fresher.

At the last meeting, some members and I got into a discussion as to its true identity. To settle it, I consulted with Mr. Har Mahdeem, who is one of the country's Annona experts. He assured me that it was indeed 'Lisa'. Now I've purchased one tree for myself.



Jerry Coronel demonstrating grafting technique at November's workshop



☞ *If it's not, then it's*! ☛

By Charles Novak

This list is from the many years I been growing plants in Florida:

If it's not the animals then it's the insects.
 If it's not the insects then it's the diseases.
 If it's not the diseases then it's too much rain.
 If it's not too much rain then it's too dry.
 If it's not too dry then it's too cold.
 If it's not too cold then it's too hot.
 If it's not too hot then it's the weeds.
 If it's not the weeds then it's the soil type.
 If it's not the soil type then it's too much sunlight.
 If it's not too much sunlight then it's too much shade.



If it's not too much shade then it's too much fertilizer.
 If it's not too much fertilizer then it's too little fertilizer.
 If it's not too little fertilizer then it's too root-bound.
 If it's not too root-bound then it's too little fruit.
 If it's not too little fruit then it's too much fruit.
 If it's not too much fruit then it's someone taking the fruit.
 If it's not someone taking the fruit then it's too much mulch.
 If it's not too much mulch then it's too little mulch.
 If it's not too little mulch then it's the incorrect mycorrhizal fungi.
 If it's not the incorrect mycorrhizal fungi then it's too sweet.



If it's not too sweet then it's too sour.
 If it's not too sour then it's the aftertaste.
 If it's not the aftertaste then it's bitter.
 If it's not bitter then it's the thorns.
 If it's not the thorns then it's too tall.
 If it's not too tall then it's an **uncontrollable vine**.
 If it's not an **uncontrollable vine** then it's **the root runners**.
 If it's not **the root runners** then it's **seeds sprouting** everywhere.
 If it's not **seeds sprouting** everywhere then it's the falling leaves.
 If it's not the falling leaves then it's the falling branches.

If it's not the falling branches then it's broken branches.
 If it's not the broken branches then it's the **pruning requirements**.
 If it's not the **pruning requirements** then it's **gardening injuries**.
 If it's not **gardening injuries** then it's **poisonous plants**.
 If it's not **poisonous plants** then it's **all the pollen**.
 If it's not the pollen then it's too many seedlings.
 If it's not too many seedlings then it's bad smelling flowers.
 If it's not bad smelling flowers then it's how to get rid of yard waste.
 If it's not how to get rid of yard waste then it's mowing around plants.
 If it's not mowing around plants then it's the price paid for gardens items.



If it's not the price paid for gardens items then it's broken gardening tools.
 If it's not broken gardening tools then it busted garden watering hoses.
 If it's not busted garden watering hoses then it kinks in the garden watering hoses.
 If it's not kinks garden watering hoses then it's a visit by USDA for buying seeds online.
 If it's not a visit by USDA for buying seeds online then it US customs confiscating your seeds order.
 If it's not US customs confiscating your seeds order then it's the seeds you purchase, did not germinate.
 If it's not the seeds you purchase, did not germinate then it's the seeds die after germination.
 If it's not the seeds die after germination then the product you use was discontinued by manufacturer.
 If it's not the product you use was discontinued by manufacturer then it's your spouse sprays your plants with herbicide.

If it's not your spouse sprays your plants with herbicide then it's your spouse pruning your plants.

If it's not your spouse pruning your plants then it is snakes.
 If it's not snakes then it is biting insects.
 If it's not biting insects then it is fingernail fungus.
 If it's not fingernail fungus then it's gnats getting in the eyes.
 If it's not gnats getting in the eyes then it is wind damage.
 If it's not wind damage then it is the preparation for storms.
 If it's not the preparation for storms then it is electric power outages.
 If it's not electric power outages then it is visitors keep work from being done.

It was nearly always too *dry* or too wet.
 There was always *too much rain* or *not* enough *rain*.

Charles Novak



☞ Member Questions ☜

Question: I recently moved to Florida from a zone 5 garden where we had a huge kiwi vine. I'd like to grow kiwi here if there are varieties available. Are there low chill kiwis for Florida?

Answer: Yes, there are! A variety called Vincent requires only 100 chill hours. That makes it suitable for almost all of Florida. Vincent, despite the name, is a female. You will need a pollinator male, such as Tomuri to get fruit set in the female. One male can accommodate 5 - 10 females. These beautiful vines require trellising, but Vincent is well behaved enough to be grown in a large container as long as she has a support to grow on. The fruit is egg sized and fuzzy skinned. One source for mail order is:

<http://www.justfruitsandexotics.com>

30 Saint Frances St. Crawfordville, Fl 32327 1-850-926-5644



Question: Can I graft several varieties of mango onto one rootstock and what rootstock is best for this purpose? I missed the grafting workshop.

Answer: Yes, mango is particularly suitable for grafting multiple varieties onto one plant. Usually mango plants grown from seed are used as the rootstock. When the seed-grown plant has a trunk 3/8" to 1" in diameter, (6 to 12 months old) it's mature enough for the scion of the desired variety to be grafted onto it. When grafting multiple scions onto the base plant, branch grafting is usually done on a larger seedling tree that has enough branches to hold multiple new scions. Creating your custom 'cocktail' mango tree will allow you to enjoy several varieties in a smaller space. Grafting is usually done in the warmer months of the year. There are many online videos to show how to do this as well as the Club's annual grafting workshop where you can see it live.

❧ November Tasting Table ❧



This is a sampling of the wonderful offerings at the buffet 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	Pasta chicken	Coronel	Fried rice
Black	Israeli couscous	Premraj	Chips and dip
Gary	Thai noodles	Branesky	Banana egg rolls
Lazano	Vegetable egg rolls	Clarke	Stuffing, baked chicken
Clarke	Pumpkin spice bars, cheesecake	Miriam	Salad, chips, cider
Hartzler	Key lime/citrus cookies	Krotz	Deviled eggs
Grossman	Meatballs	Newcombe	Carambola, yogurt
Ferreira	Jackfruit	Badger	Apple cranberry sauce
Boake	Poundcake - 3 kinds	Cutro	Apple pie, banana cream pie
Kischuk	Papaya coconut	Kischuk	pineapple



Notes of Interest

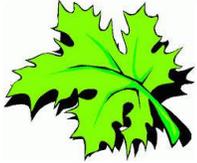


In a 1939 newspaper article, it was noted that growing strawberries in the wintertime in Florida was a profitable hobby. An acre of rich, black soil could be had for a mere \$150 to \$200 on the outskirts of Miami. Each acre could hold three thousand strawberry plants, which could yield 1500 quarts of berries per acre. Vacationing northerners would gladly pay 25 cents per quart. If shipped up north, the same quart could fetch a whole 50 cents per quart! That's a huge profit of \$375 for just the first year.

Florida's olive crop is getting news: Everyone said olives couldn't grow here - too hot, too humid, too rainy, not enough chill hours...well, the neysayers were wrong. Olives could be the next big crop in Florida. Americans consume 80 million gallons of olive oil annually, but only 2% of that is produced here, and the majority of that is in California. Arbequina is a variety showing great promise.



Tim Thompson of Arizona Rare Fruit Growers has developed a Mango variety called 'Antonio', reportedly hardy to mid-20's. This variety was developed by repeatedly exposing Indian varieties of Mangoes to cold temperatures and selecting surviving specimens for further development. Indian mangoes are genetically capable of handling cold temperatures better than those varieties from other locales. There are online sources for this tree if you search for Antonio Mango. The fruit has exceptional color, excellent flavor, and little fiber too!



☞ November Plant Exchange ☜



Here is sampling from the plant raffle table. Thank you to everyone who brought in plants to share at the raffle.

Plant	Donor	Winner
Basil	Vega	Sumner
Carambola	Vega	Hartzler
Pumpkin	Vega	Hartzler
Roma tomato	Vega	Peterson
Coffee	Zmoda	
Quenepa	Zmoda	Larson
Passionfruit	Black	
Dragonfruit	Gerstein	
Surinam spinach	Provencher	
Parmentaria edulis	Provencher	Ferreira
Texas ebony	Provencher	
Purple yam	Provencher	
Culantro	Porter	
Pineapple	Porter	Oliver
Pumpkin	Clarke	
Papaya	Wheeler	
White sapote	Ferreira	
Avocado	Ferreira	

☞ Club Notes ☜

We welcome your submissions for the newsletter, please send them to bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com
Submissions for the next newsletter due by: December 18th.





The objectives of The Tampa Bay Rare Fruit Council International:

To inform the public about the merits and uses of fruits common to this region and encourages the cultivation, collection, propagation and growth of fruits that are exotic or unusual to west central Florida. The club also encourages the development of new fruit varieties, cooperating with local and foreign agricultural agencies.

Tampa Bay RFCI
39320 North Ave.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542