



RFCI

June 2016

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 ∞



June 12th: Water Conservation and Micro Irrigation...Sheila Monihan, UF/IFAS Learn how to water wisely and conserve all your garden plants. Learn about micro irrigation systems, and how to update your old irrigation equipment.

July 10th: The Club's annual Fruit Tasting!!!! Come taste a wide variety of fruits, try something new, and learn about fruit. You don't want to miss this event.

∞ New Members ∞

Michelle and Michal Combs Land-o-Lakes

Joel Leon Tampa

∞ In Memory ∞



Long time Rare Fruit Club member, Ed Musgrave passed away on April 28, 2016. He was 78. He was known for his hobbies such as capturing bee hives, making lots of honey, and being very knowledgeable with fruit trees. He enjoyed talking about fruits, and teaching others how to grow and propagate them. He was a member of the Tampa RFCI since January of 1990. His funeral was held on Monday, May 2nd, 2016 at Apostles Lutheran Church in Brandon. Tampa Bay Chapter President Sandra Kischuk, and program manager, Tom Schaefer, attended. A sympathy card and yellow mum plant were donated on behalf of the Club. We all will miss you Ed.

President: Sandra Kischuk; Program Manager: Tom Schaefer; Secretary: Joe Porter, Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher; Photographs: Fred Engelbrecht

∞ History of the Tampa Bay RFCI ∞

By Tom Schaefer



May's speaker was the Club's very own historian, Tom Schaefer. Tom has been spending countless hours sorting through and scanning Club documentation, and organizing the history of the Club, right from its very beginning, so that it can be shared with other members. His presentation included many articles, pictures, and other documents that brought back many pleasant memories for some of our long time members. Tom thanked many individuals for their numerous contributions to the Club. Here are some highlights from his talk.

The Rare Fruit Council International (RFCI) was founded in 1955, and is headquartered in Miami, Florida. It is the premier organization dedicated to the education, introduction, and promotion of rare tropical fruits.

December 3rd, 1978, a group of 14 individuals met to discuss a new chapter, the West Central Florida chapter. On May 8, 1979, official recognition was granted as the 3rd chapter of the RFCI, (the Palm Beach Chapter was 2nd). On July 26, 1982, the Chapter was approved for Non-profit status. Other chapters and off-shoots followed throughout Florida, and

even the world.

Members include amateurs, professionals, novices, long-time gardeners, young and not so young, and of course transplants from "north of Lutz". Members learn from each other, sharing their experiences, knowledge, and enthusiasm for growing rare and exotic edibles.

Locations where meetings were held changed dramatically through the years to accommodate growing membership; from member's homes, to the Savings and Loan Association Bldg in Temple Terrace, to the Tampa Garden Club, and now the Christ King Church.

Today the Tampa RFCI has a newsletter, website, and a Facebook page. The newsletter has been a monthly publication of the Chapter for all members, and has included features such as Paul Zmoda's article "What's Happening" since 1992. The website was designed by Charles Novak in January of 2000. The Facebook page was started by Susan McAveety in August of 2012.

There is also a cookbook of recipes provided by members that is an excellent source of inspiration on how to use and prepare various fruits.

Onward and Upward for the Club!

"We stand on the shoulders of those before us. Among our goals, we seek to inform the public about the merits of fruit common to this region. We are educators to those who love fruiting plants.

The achievements that we've had to date: our plant sales at USF and other places, horticulture exhibits, the Citrus Celebration at the State Fair, and workshops, are exemplary. The speakers at our meetings share so much of their vast knowledge with us. The comradery within our Club, the interactions with other Clubs, teaching our members how to grow plants, and forming new friendships, is exciting.

But it doesn't stop here today. It will continue into the future. New members will join and learn to share their time and knowledge with the Tampa Rare Fruit Council. They will become the future educators. Today they might not know the difference between a Surinam and a Barbados Cherry, or a Lula and a Fantastic Avocado, but they have the potential to learn. Their enthusiasm can become infectious in a good way, unlike Citrus Greening!"



Pomology - a branch of science concerning the study and practice of the cultivation of fruit.

What makes a fruit rare?

- 1 It is not normally grown in a particular area. For example, jaboticaba is a rare tree here in Tampa, but not in its native Brazil.
 - 2 The plant is scarce or about to be extinct.
 - 3 The plant has unusual properties, such as the miracle fruit, which changes the sense of taste after consuming one of the fruits.
 - 4 A new species that has recently been discovered, or introduced.
 - 5 A species that has not been grown commercially.
- Backyard fruits often have more unique characteristics, or specific varieties of interest.



Jerry Amyot showing air potato dug from his garden. This is the winged yam. Jerry dug these massive tubers from his yard. They are delicious to eat. The vine needs plenty of room to grow.



Here is Verna Dickey receiving a retirement gift for many years of doing the juice sales preparation. The hanging basket was presented by Cora Coronel & Sandra Kischuk.



In celebration of Mother's Day, a Trader Joe colorful shopping bag was won by one of the members who brought food, and Amaryllis flowers were presented to both the youngest mother and the oldest mothers present at the meeting.

Check out this link to the VA, showing the RFCI table with Fran Grossman and Paul Branesky working the first Farmers Market in March. Fran served as a liaison to the VA to gain our space at the Market, which is scheduled from 10am to 1pm on the 4th Friday of each month. Paul and Fran have been joined by other RFCI members including Bill Vega, Susan McAveety, and Sandra Kischuk. The booth is a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about growing rare fruit, to sell your extra plants and fruit (the proceeds go to the selling members, not the Club), and to tell people about our Club. Contact Fran or Sandra if you would like to help out, or if you would like to do a 30 minute talk about rare fruit.

http://www.tampa.va.gov/TAMPA/features/Healthy_shopping_support_healthy_eating.asp

☞ What's Happening ☜

by Paul Zmoda

The weather has been really heating up and so has the fruit scene. Rio Grande cherries made a tasty appearance and so were Brazos blackberries, thanks to mostly conquering a fungus by spraying with Bonide orchard spray. It is sulfur and pyrethrins. Copper sprays did not help one bit.



Five persimmons that I grafted in April are now in the ground. I top-worked three different white sapote scions onto our big tree using mostly inverted tee bud grafts.

The ice cream beans filled out nicely. One split, so I tasted the arils within the pod. It has no real flavor, but is super sweet.

I set up two longan and two Guthrie plum air layers. These trees I've done before, but not on mayhaw where I put an air propagator device on two grafted, basal shoots.

New plantings: 7 tea shrubs, 7 assorted figs, 3 eight foot dragonfruit posts, 4 grafted plums, 5 grapes, and an ever-bearing mulberry.

☞ May 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
Branesky	Noodles and fried rice	Shenoi	Hot fresh cauliflower/carrot pickles
Coronel	Fried rice pasta	Coronel	Maja blanca mais
Bigelow	Pancit	Dexter	Potatoes
Male	Cake	Evitt	Pineapple wedges
Kirby	Pumpkin fritters	Gary	Baked beans
Sweet	Deviled eggs	Dickey	Zucchini pineapple bread
Oliver	Chicken w/lemon and cilantro	Conradt	5 bean salad
Grossman	Mac and cheese	Aguire	Chili
Hartzler	Deviled eggs	Newcombe	salad

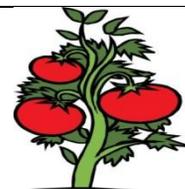
☞ Club Notes ☞

We welcome your submissions for the newsletter, pictures, notes of interest, events in your area, tips you've tried or learned that you would like to share with others, or questions about growing fruits - please send them to bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com
 Submissions for the next newsletter due by: June 20th.



☞ May Plant Raffle ☞

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



Plant	Donor	Winner
Miracle fruit	Schaefer	Mitchell
Cherry tomato	Vega	Mcaveety
Basil	Vega	Saceda-Bigelow
Banana pisang raja	Coronel	Stark
Moringa cuttings	Coronel	Provencher
Jelly palm	Zmoda	Carter
Ylang-ylang	Zmoda	Black
Passionfruit	Drakes	
Ornamental banana	Stark	
Annato	Stark	Provencher
Plumerias	Duncan	
Garden perennials	Celinda	
Cranberry hibiscus	Provencher	
Mango	Kirby	Mcaveety
Dragon fruit	Grieg	Vaccaro
Coconut orchid	Hartzler	
Giant potato tree	Provencher	
Kopsia	Provencher	Drake
Sugar palm	Provencher	Krotz



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