



RFCI

July 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 ☜

July 10th: 1:00pm The Club's Annual Fruit Tasting!!!! Come taste a wide variety of fruits, try something new, and learn about the many different varieties of fruit. There is no speaker, but after the fruit tasting, there will be the plant raffle, buffet, and plants and fruit for sale. So bring your food for the buffet, and plants for the raffle. You don't want to miss this event.

Help is needed preparing all the fruits for serving! If you would like to help out with the preparations, please arrive around 11am. Tasting will begin at 1pm. **(Note the time!!)**



August 14: Speaker and topic to be announced.

☞ Welcome New Members ☜

Fernando and Lita Galang Seminole

Ralph Acampora Safety Harbor

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

∞ Water Conservation and Irrigation ∞

Sheila Monahan and Paula Staples provided Club members with a discussion about conserving water, and proper irrigation techniques at June's meeting.

Club members received free rain gauges and the "Guide to Microirrigation for West-Central Florida Landscapes", a 65 page book describing the many various aspects to consider when installing or upgrading your irrigation system. Also, given away at the Raffle table were four copies of Sustainable Gardening for Florida Gardeners.

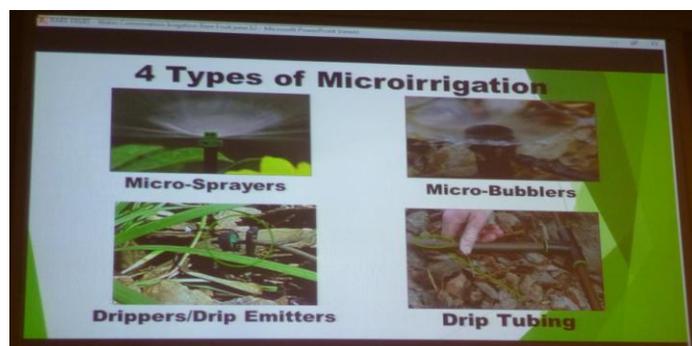
Sheila is currently the Water Wise water conservation coordinator for the Hillsborough County Extension Office in Seffner. She is also a Water Star accredited Irrigation Professional.

Paula is the Public Education Program Coordinator, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County - Florida friendly Landscaping. She conducts irrigation system evaluations of high water users, and enjoys educating the public on water conservation and maintaining irrigation systems.



Water usage is a very, very serious matter. Water is the most precious resource we have. Florida's population has grown 550% since 1950, and with 1,120,000,000 gallons being used just for irrigation **daily**, one can realize the stress placed on our precious 1700 rivers and streams. In the Tampa Bay region, at least 70% of single family homes have inground irrigation systems.

Even if you have an irrigation system in place, the technology has changed so much over the past 25 years that such systems are now much more advanced and efficient. You can even program them through your Smart phone.



In 2001, Florida Legislature declared Florida Friendly Landscape installation and maintenance practices to be an essential element in conserving water. The law was even revised to prevent deed restrictions or covenants from prohibiting Florida friendly and water efficient landscapes.

Microirrigation, sometimes called drip or low-volume irrigation refers to a very water efficient way of watering that has first been used in very arid regions such as Israel, and in the United Kingdom after World War II, to increase crop production. Such systems are now becoming popular here as well. Microirrigation uses emitters that have a maximum flow rate of 30 gallons per hour, or .50 gallons per minute. This is in contrast to a traditional spray or rotor sprinkler that will deliver over 3 gallons per minute! A huge savings in water.



There are many benefits of microirrigation, including:

- 💧 Decreased water loss from evaporation, wind and runoff, as well minimizing erosion.
- 💧 Flexibility to meet the water needs of new transplants as well as more mature plants.
- 💧 They are easy to connect to a regular hose or spigot.
- 💧 Older sprinkler systems can be updated and retrofitted with microirrigation equipment.
- 💧 Less wetness on the leaves means less diseases and pests.
- 💧 Microirrigation systems comply with local water conservation codes and ordinances.

For Classes in Florida-Friendly Landscaping, microirrigation systems, and water-wise, & rain barrel workshops contact your county's US/IFAS Extension Service

Hillsborough 813-744-5519 www.hillsborough.ifas.ufl.edu

Pasco 352-518-0156 www.pasco.ifas.ufl.edu

Pinellas 727-582-2100 www.pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu

Resources

Tampa Bay Water 727-796-2355 www.tampabaywater.org

Sunshine (call 48 hours before digging) 811 or www.sunshine811.com

Southwest Florida Water Management District 1-800-423-1476 www.WaterMatters.org

Florida Irrigation Society 813-274-8121 www.fisstate.org

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

June brought the storm Colin and then heat and humidity so our tropicals are happy. Each morning, I tend to the Ilama tree flowers. First, I collect the dry pollen and then apply some to female-stage flowers. There are at least ten small fruits now.

I finally figured out how to get the caper bush (*capparis spinosa*) to set fruit. Pollen must be applied the day before the flowers are due to open. I carefully pry open the fat bud (which is the edible caper) and hand pollinate. Soon I hope to have seeds.



Bananas are growing well and fiving us fruits: Dwarf Brazilian, Gran Nan, Goldfinger, and Bonanza.

Plums have finished and we got our first 'Glenn' mango.

Jackfruits are getting huge. I top-grafted a carambola and set up Gac, tea, and caper cuttings in a rooting box.

New planting: 'Brazos' Blackberry

LOCAL EVENTS

July 9th 9am to 1030am - Growing Tropical Fruits in your Backyard - 352-518-0156
At Land-O-Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Boulevard US. Highway 41
 Land O' Lakes, FL 34639 Pasco County Extension FREE

July 16th and 17th - 10am to 4pm. Jene's Tropicals, 21st Annual Tropical Fruit Tasting. Free, fun, educational weekend. Taste fruit from all over the world. Also, homemade desserts, chutneys, sauces, and honey. This year's theme "Fruits of Cuba". 6831 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, 727-344-1668

July 30th 9am - 3:30pm - The first annual Tampa Bay Cottage Industry Expo will highlight finer aspects of marketing and regulations of growing fruits and vegetables, also hydroponics, animal products such as eggs, milk, etc. Entrepreneurs and industry experts, and Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Sciences experts will answer questions, and share their experiences. Food trucks for lunch and snacks. \$30 per person. <http://pasco.ifas.ufl.edu> Register and purchase tickets at www.eventbrite.com Held at Wiregrass Ranch HS, Wesley Chapel

∞ June 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
Campani	Brownies	Coronel	Palitam, and wax jambu fruit
Premraj	Chow mein	Black	Watermelon
Kirby	Friend plantain balls	Payne	Pasta shrimp salad
Davies	Salad	Conradt	Bean salad
Hartzler	Rhubarb napoleons	Soto	Yellow rice
Krotz	Grape salad	Sweet	Farro & edemame
Dickey	Bread pudding	Ferreira	Sweet potato casserole
Ferreira	White sapote	Ferreira	Jackfruit
Hoekstra	Turkey and rice casserole	Evitt	Cucumbers
Strain	Muffins	Clarke	Banana cheesecake
Clarke	Potato salad	Lavallette	Fried rice
Male	Mixed vegetables	Branesky	Yuca root , dessert

∞ Club Notes ∞

The Club is planning a bus trip to the internationally known ECHO farm and educational facility in Fort Myers on November 5th. This excursion includes a tour of ECHO, a garden nursery visit, and possibly dinner plans afterward. Cost for members is \$25, cost for non-members is \$45 (includes a one year membership to the Tampa Bay RFCI. Signup sheet and more information will be at the next meeting. Please sign up so we know how many buses are needed. If you cannot attend July's meeting, just let a board member know you wish to attend.

At the welcome table at the meeting, there was a new signup sheet for garden visits. If you would like to have members contact you to arrange to come visit your garden and give them a tour, please sign up as a host. If you would like to visit our members' gardens, please sign up as a visitor. Garden visits are one of the best and most inspirational ways to learn about what others are growing, and how they succeed. This signup sheet will be at the next meeting too. Please sign up, and let us know what you would like to see.

Fran Grossman and Paul Branesky have been working the Tampa Farmers Market. The Market 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 Club has also been the Temple Terrace Market. Farmers Markets are 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

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: July 22nd.



🌿 June 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
Avocado - Joey	Coronel	Krotz
Tomato planter	Coronel	
Cuban oregano	Vega	Ferreira
Culantro	Vega	
Dragon fruit	Vega	Dickey
Branesky	Loquat	
Curry plant	Kincaid	
Malva sylvestris	Stomes	
Cranberry hibiscus	Black	Hoekstra
Sugar palm	Provencher	
Apple cactus	Provencher	
Purple yam	Provencher	Niklas
Plumeria	Payne	
White sapote	Payne	
Shefflera	Evitt	Provencher
Huernia	Hartzler	
Epithyllum	Krotz	
Blackberry	Sweet	Hartzler
Red sugar apple	Sweet	
Dwarf Cavendish banana	Sweet	
Pepper	Clarke	
Peas	Clarke	
White sapote	Premraj	Hoekstra
Guava	Premraj	
Cantaloupe	Branesky	

Fruit

A	I	L	T	O	C	I	R	P	A	C	A
Z	P	W	P	L	U	M	Z	E	H	Y	P
T	M	P	I	Z	O	A	N	E	A	E	K
E	A	G	L	K	L	I	R	P	A	P	K
E	R	N	E	E	R	R	A	C	D	E	W
N	P	W	G	A	Y	P	H	N	E	A	A
U	B	Q	T	E	B	O	L	I	B	R	P
R	I	C	L	G	R	A	R	E	W	B	W
P	E	L	R	L	B	I	N	A	M	N	A
N	U	A	I	F	C	C	N	A	N	O	P
K	P	M	V	O	L	R	F	E	N	G	N
E	E	A	V	O	C	A	D	O	D	A	E

APPLE	KIWI	PAWPAW
APRICOT	LEMON	PEACH
AVOCADO	LIME	PEAR
BANANA	NECTARINE	PLUM
CHERRY	ORANGE	PRUNE
GRAPE	PAPAYA	TANGERINE



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
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Zephyrhills, FL 33542