



RFCI

July 2017

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, McLoughlin Center,
821 S. Dale Mabry, Tampa

⌘ Upcoming Programs and Events ⌘

July 9th - The Club's great annual fruit tasting event!!! Don't miss out on tasting a plethora of flavorful, delightful, in season fruits from Florida. Bushels of mangoes of so many varieties, and other tropical fruits make this tasty event a must. Bring food for the buffet! There will be a plant raffle, and plants and fruit for sale.

Helpers are also needed to prepare for this event, cutting the fruits, and prepping the tables.

Please arrive early, 11:30am, if you are helping out.

Otherwise, remember this event starts one hour early at 1pm. So don't forget to be there early!



August 13th - Bananas - Did you know there are 1000 varieties of edible bananas? Listen to a regional expert, Celeste Welch of Sulcata Grove in Sarasota, talk about one of the world's most popular fruits. Get informed about this wonderful and easy to grow fruit, and learn about the many varieties.

⌘ In Memory ⌘

Modesto Arencibia - member since 1990

⌘ Welcome New Members ⌘

Oscar Westerfield	Tampa
John McMichael	Tampa
Joe Strakonsky	Tampa
Maria & Stanley Te	Port Richey
David Wood	Tampa
Joyce & Larry Satmary	Dover
Diane & David Goosey	Plant City



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

∞ Organic Gardening Practices ∞



At June's meeting, a full meeting room of members learned about organic gardening practices. Christine, program manager for Sweetwater Organic Community Farm, located in Tampa, was the speaker.

Sweetwater Farm was established in 1995, as a community supported, nonprofit, urban organic farm and educational center. The Farm is certified organic, and provides a wide variety of community based programs and educational opportunities to learn about organic methods of growing. Christine spoke about a variety of options for insect control, natural fertilizers, improving your soil, and growing your best fruits and vegetables ever without using chemicals.

The Farm is a community of CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) members and non-members. CSA's are a direct partnership between the farmers and consumers. This allows members to share in the risks and rewards of farming, while enjoying the responsibility of appropriate land stewardship.

Organic refers to specific methods of growing and processing food, being defined as produce grown, packaged, and stored without the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, or irradiation. Organic farmers work with nature, and a blend of old technology, and scientific research to balance the natural ecosystem.

To be "certified organic" under Federal Regulations, products must meet the following standards:

- No harmful chemicals have been applied to the land for at least three years.
- Farmers and processors are inspected annually.
- Detailed records are kept of all practices.
- Farmers must maintain a written organic management plan.

Contact information:

Sweetwater Organic Farm
6942 West Comanche Ave.
Tampa, Fl. 33634
813-887-4066

info@sweetwater-organic.org

For more information on the CSA program, educational workshops and children's' camps, volunteering, future farming training programs, recipes, market, and other events, check the website.

<http://sweetwater-organic.org/>

Volunteers are very important at the Farm, and they get hands on learning assisting with a variety of farm tasks. There are non-farming chores too! Volunteering is a perfect opportunity to learn new skills.

Next Event at the Farm:

July 22nd, Saturday, from 10am -12pm, go on a free walking tour of the farm! See what's growing now, learn how the farm operates, and all about organic agriculture.

Please email programs@sweetwater-organic.org to RSVP.

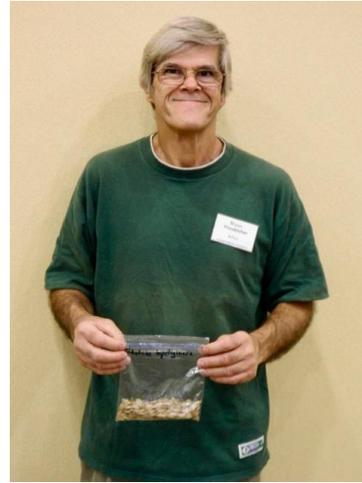


Large crowd in attendance at June's organic gardening practices meeting. Photo Steve Lohn

Meet some of your Club's members
Photos by Steve Lohn



Tom Schaefer - President - looking way too serious!



Bryon Provencher - seed chairman



Denise Provencher - membership and newsletter



Sandra Kischuk - secretary- handing out raffle tickets



Susan McAveety - treasurer

☞ What's Happening ☞

by Paul Zmoda

It was an unexpected surprise, at our June meeting, to be recognized for writing this column for over twenty five years. I couldn't have done it without the help of support personnel and our fine editors.

With our rainy season easing the drought, I was able to apply various fertilizers and minor elements. The sudden shift from parched to sodden has turned on the flowers of our Grumichama, or Brazilian Cherry (*Eugenia brasiliensis*). Although this shrub is around 15 years old and ten feet tall, it has never provided fruit, so I am hopeful this is the year.

Four Ilama fruits have set as well as sugar apples, atemoya, another soursop, and a big jackfruit that is so high up in the tree.

Dragonfruit cacti have begun to bloom and a second wave of Ruby supreme guavas are halfway sized up.

New plantings: moringa, fig, Barbie pink guava, and more okra.



☞ 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
Vega	Chicken pasta and fruits	Coronel	Fried peach cobbler
Galang	Fruit	Guterrez	Cake
Sweet	Key lime pie	Lohn	Chocolate chip cookies
McAveety	Salsa	Kirby	Cucumber salad
Kirby	Red plums	Trangas	Baked beans
Dickey	Melons, oatmeal bars	Premraj	Baked chicken
Bowman	Dates, almonds, olives on platter	Frase	Chips
Conradt	Baked beans	Branesky	Salad
Krotz	Grape salad	Hartzler	Deviled eggs
Morgan	Chocolate cake rolls	Tyler	Broccoli salad
Clarke	Turkey meat balls	Aguire	Shepard's pie
Lavalette	Jelly pudding		



☞ 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
Natal plum	Schaefer	
Surinam spinach	Vega	Wood
Chaya	Vega	Kirby
Pepper	Vega	
Cuban oregano	Vega	
Jalapeño	Vega	Kirby
Jackfruit	Lita	
Cucumber		Lohn
Passionfruit	Soylu	Lohn
Guava	Guterres	Pruitt
Sugar palm	Provencher	
Winged bean	Provencher	Kirby
Kopsia	Provencher	Te
Kopsia	Provencher	
Cuban mangosteen	Provencher	Kirby
Moringa		
Everglade tomato	Premraj	
Guava	Premraj	Vargas
Cucumbers	Branesky	
Mint	Branesky	Goosey
Cranberry hibiscus	Clarke	
Black sapote	Jent	
Cattley guava	Sumner	
Guiana chestnut	Satmary	

∞ 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, recipes, or questions about growing fruits - please send them to bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **July 22nd**.

If you are missing your member badge, please let someone at the membership table know, and we'll be sure to get one made for you. Please wear them at the meetings. It helps other members to get to know who you are.

3 inch pots - lots of them - perfect for starting your plants. Charles at charles.novak@gmail.com

Upcoming events at USF

Mark Your Calendars

Don't miss these upcoming workshops and events:

August 26:	Bromeliad Bash	10 am - 2 pm
September 2:	Cactus & Succulent Sale	10 am - 2 pm
September 9:	Gesneriad Sale	10 am - 2 pm
September 23:	Taste of Honey	10 am - 2 pm
October 14 & 15:	Fall Plant Festival	(Sat 10 am - 4 pm; Sun 10 am - 3 pm)

LIKE us on [Facebook](#) to see the latest updates on Gardens events & great info!

∞ Membership information ∞

NEW MEMBERS

Download and fill out a membership application from: <https://rarefruit.org/membership/>, and send with check or money order for \$20 made out to Tampa Bay RFCI to: Tampa Bay RFCI, 39320 North Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542.

RENEWING MEMBERS

Send check or money order for \$20 made out to Tampa Bay RFCI and mail to: Tampa Bay RFCI, 39320 North Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542.



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.

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