



RFCI

June 2018

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 ∞



June 10th - 2:00PM - Q & A with Club experts. Got a question about a particular fruit? Bring all your questions about fruits to this meeting where our Club "experts" will answer your inquiries. Some of our long time members will be on a question and answer panel, and will take your questions on growing, fertilizing, harvesting, grafting, or whatever you're wondering about, or want to learn about. So bring those questions!

Don't forget, this meeting will be held in the Martha Center, on the 2nd floor, where we have had a few previous meetings. The church sanctuary is undergoing construction currently and church services are being held in the McLaughlin Center. Therefore members need to heed our social media notices about our next meeting locations. Work will continue through December.

July 8th, 2pm - Annual Fruit Tasting - This event is always a favorite. It's a great opportunity to taste a great selection of mango varieties, and other tropical and unusual fruits in season. Try something new! Bring a dish for the buffet, and a plant for the raffle.

This year, due to Church renovations, the event will take place outdoors in the Church's open air Pavilion behind the McLoughlin Center.

∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Daniel Anderssan	Berlin Germany
Ken Gil	Tampa
Joshua Starry	Sarasota
Peggy Putnam	Pinellas Park
Katrina Thorpe	Wimauma

President: Tom Schaefer; VP and Secretary: Cora Coronel; Treasurer: Susan McAveety,
Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher

∞ Mangoes!!!!!! with Walter Zill ∞

Walter Zill spoke at May's meeting about mangoes and the interesting history behind the development of the family mango business.

Walter credits his great grandmother Sophie for her part in the mango experience for the family. She passed away before Walter was born, so all that he knows of her is what his father has told him, and the information from her autobiography. She came from Germany in America in 1882, married too hastily, and escaped to Florida in 1901 with her 5 surviving children. Through the kindness of a Mr. Adolf Hofman and his wife Anna, Sophie was given a home to rent and land to cultivate. She was later able to purchase the land. She became involved in mangoes when the USDA made available some high quality varieties. Sophie purchased some and hired Mr. Hofman, a farmer very skilled in grafting, to work the trees.

One of Sophie's daughters, Carrie, married William G. Zill, and from their union was born Lawrence Henry Zill, in 1913, in the city now known as Delray Beach. Lawrence grew up loving mangoes, and as an observant teenager who was thinking of how to provide income for the family, developed a better, more efficient way of grafting them. Bottle grafting at that time was the traditional way of grafting, where a bottle is tied to a tree limb, serving as a vase to hold water in which a small branch was kept hydrated while the branch was held in place until it could grow and attach to the limb of the tree being top-worked.

Lawrence thought there could be a way learned to use only a single eye to grow upon a young seedling thereby making many more plants of a chosen variety than is possible with using an entire twig. Lawrence now set out to experiment with new grafting methods. Sophie had a "Julie" tree that fruited and he admitted it was his favorite mango. He knew when to pick it, and the stage of ripeness when it tasted best to him. A seed of Julie was planted and grew north of Carrie's house. It matured bearing fruit abundantly and was so well liked by the family that they called it the "Sophie Frey" mango to honor the family matriarch.

When Lawrence began experimenting to get a single bud of a mango plant to live and grow in a seedling he used seeds of the Sophie Frey mango because they were plentiful and right at hand. At first Lawrence used field grown seedlings. One of those seedlings eventually grew and fruited, having larger fruit than the Sophie, and apparently was preferred above the Sophie. That became known as the Carrie mango variety.

Lawrence succeeded after three years of effort to produce budded mango plants. He also learned that mango plants do not take well to being transplanted from field grown, so the procedure soon involved growing seedlings in containers, budding them therein, and selling them. In those years they sold for \$1.00 in a #10 metal can.

Hence, the family business was born, and the more efficient way of grafting allowed for more trees to be produced, and more varieties to be developed.

For more information, view the following:

Ken's Mango List - from Walter Zill - ask for a copy at the next meeting for those of you who do not receive email attachments. Quantity limited.

<https://www.facebook.com/Zills-Mangos-254252198116068/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gda1_KalwNA Walter Zill on the Early Days of Florida Commercial Mangos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp_QOOLRTcI Walter Zill on Veneer Grafting

For sources for mango trees:

<https://toptropicals.com/>

They carry over 100 varieties of mango, and will ship. Retail outlet is located in Fort Myers.

For everything mango, check out the following website, recipes, research, blog, etc.

<https://www.mango.org/mango-facts/>

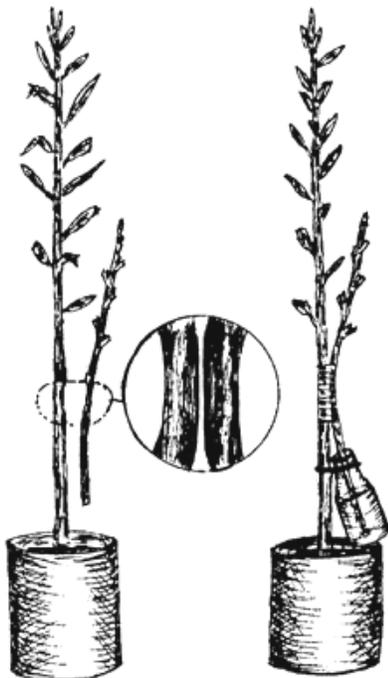
Mango facts: There are at least 3000 named varieties.

Mangoes are believed to have originated in India and have been grown there for 5,000 years.

More fresh mangoes are eaten around the world every day than any other fruit.

Mangoes are related to cashews and pistachios.

Below are pictures of the old bottle grafting method. The illustration shows the process clearly, the photo shows an actual graft.





Pictures of veneer grafting, first picture shows a single graft, the second picture shows four grafts on one plant.

☞ What's Happening ☜

by Paul Zmoda

After thirty four years, I sold my first home in Tampa along with four tenths of an acre filled with all kinds of well-established fruit trees.

Our grape crop is looking great so far. Some vines are so loaded that I must thin the clusters to promote proper ripening. Wine making is planned this summer.



We got an excellent yield of 'Brazos' blackberries this year - over eight pounds from two plants. I made yummy jam with some, and the rest were eaten fresh.

One of the things I do each morning is collect pollen from Annona flowers (such as Ilama lately), and use it to pollinate receptive blooms. I made some airlayers on grafted mayhaws, longan, and the hybrid plum 'Guthrie', which is providing ripe fruit now.

New plantings: two grafted pawpaws, a pink guava, all kinds of hot weather vegetables and a 'Duke' avocado, grafted and gifted by our generous members, Cora and Jerry Coronel. Thank you.

From the Seed Chairman

The seed inventory for the Club is quite extensive. At May's meeting there was an abundance of seeds available from the enormous inventory of seeds for members. More seeds will be sorted through and brought to the next several meetings in hopes of reducing this inventory. There are all kinds of seeds: tropical fruits, natives, vegetable seeds for summer and winter, flowers, herbs, rare and exotic species, donations from many of our members, seeds from auctions, and so much more. All these seeds need homes where they can sprout and grow, so all members are invited to take seeds home and plant them. Don't worry, if you grow extra plants, just bring them on in for the plant raffle table to share with other members.



From the President Tom Schaefer

It appears that we need a larger room for our meetings! Attendance of 122 was taken for our Mother's Day program. I apologize to all who had difficulty hearing our speaker, Walter Zill. We asked for all phones to be silenced. Please advise anyone using a phone during the speaker presentation to stop. Noisy persons in attendance must respect our presenter. Please help in any manner possible. We will review the sound system in that room also. Thank you!

Walter Zill gave an emotional and educational talk in May. Many members talked with him afterward and learned some valuable information about growing and grafting mangoes. I'm sure he has much more to share.

I am saddened to inform you of the passing of one of our members. Kinuyo, wife of Fred Engelbrecht who is a previous president of our club, passed away May 16th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Fred and his family.

Our next topic of discussion is Questions and Answers by a panel of our more experienced members. Bring your questions in writing. Everyone has questions about how to grow, or what's wrong with their plants. Thanks to everyone who donated food items to our tasting table!

Special Note: Our meetings are still relocated on campus due to construction work on the church sanctuary. We will be meeting in the Mary Martha Center, second floor (there is an elevator present) until further notice. Unless we find another temporary location, the meetings will be here. Please bear with us during this period as other meeting changes may occur. Check our Website and Facebook information regularly. We are scheduling our Annual Fruit Tasting Event in the open air pavilion behind the McLaughlin Center in July. Our church coordinator is checking to make sure the Mary Martha Center is available for other meetings. If not, we may need to meet elsewhere. Your indulgence is appreciated. Please help in finding a suitable location for our December Holiday Social. Many whom we have contacted are too costly. We need a facility for 150 people, with kitchen and adequate parking. Contact me if you know of a resource for us.



The Mother's Day Cake enjoyed by all at May's meeting.



☞ 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
Tamarind	Coronel	Tyler
Fig cutting	Coronel	Aguero
Malabar chestnut	Zmoda	Tyler
Ackee	Provencher	Aguero
Edible cactus	Provencher	Hunt
Orangeberry	Provencher	Putnam
Green sugar apple	Provencher	Putnam
Israel loquat	Stark	Tyler
Mamoncillo	Stark	Aguero
Cherimoya	Stark	Luba
Red dragon	Soylu	
Passion fruits	Soylu	
Everglades tomatoes	Davies	Hunt
Okra	Branesky	
Plumeria	Hartzler	Tyler
Bell pepper	Krotz	
Jaboticaba	Williams	Gil
Pepper	Clarke	Payne
Okra	Clarke	Whitfield
Tomato	Clarke	

☞ 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
Lubo	Pineapple juice	Branesky	Turkey ham fried rice
Vega	Chicken	Branesky	Fruity oat bars
Sweet	Blackberry apple pie	Sweet	Pulled pork
Hampton	Pretzels and hummus	Coronel	Fried rice
Pablo	Chicken	Bowman	Sweet potatoes, brownies
Trangas	Baked beans	Clarke	Pork, okra, tomatoes
Clarke	Green bean casserole	Clarke	Biscuits, banana pudding
Male	Cake	Kirby	Sweet potato stuffing
Soto	Cake	Zmoda	Blackberries
Tyler	Broccoli salad, chicken wings	Vong	Salsa
Jacobs	Cake	Dickey	Surinam cherry pie
Putnam	Blueberry cake	Kischuk	Deviled eggs

☞ Club Notes ☞

Member Jan Elliott, who now lives in Atlanta Georgia writes that "retirement is for the birds"! She really misses the RFCI meetings, and the friendships that she developed through the Club. She will be visiting the area and hopes to get another kumquat and another miracle fruit. She lost them both during last winter, and would like replacements. In the meantime, she is enjoying her herb garden and the plants she grows in Georgia.

Send in 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: **June 22nd.**

☞ 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.

Tampa Bay RFCI
39320 North Ave.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542