

# RFCI

April 2019

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER of the  
RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL,  
INC.

<http://www.rarefruit.org>  
[Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com](mailto: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 ∞

**April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – USF Plant Sale!!!** No regular meeting in April.

Anyone wanting to volunteer helping set up of the Club's sale area on Friday afternoon, be at the USF Botanic Garden parking area at 2pm.

If you would like to help out during the sale days Saturday and Sunday, you must get a pass to get in free into the sale area. Please contact Cora or Jerry at 727-403-1756, or [JencoFarm@aol.com](mailto:JencoFarm@aol.com) to get your pass, and find out how you can help. Try to help out for 4 hour time blocks if possible. Help is also needed with the preparation of the juices during the sale.

This is a great opportunity to learn about fruits that grow in this area, and find that new addition for your garden. See you there!



## ∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Linda Brown	Land O' Lakes
Bryan Frink	Tampa
Eric Lien	Tampa
Stephanie Gibson	St. Petersburg
Kaitlyn Ranze Berrios	Gibsonton

President: Fred Engelbrecht; Vice Presidents: Cora Coronel and Kenny Ray; Secretary: Jager Mitchell;  
Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher

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## ∞ Mango Grafting ∞

with Walter Zill

At March's meeting, Walter Zill returned to demonstrate grafting techniques of Mangoes, something his family has been doing for generations on their family farm. (See June 2018's newsletter for part one of Walter's talk on mangoes.)

Using slides and live video of the grafts as they were being done, the audience could view the graftings as they were worked on living specimens.

Walter feels it is important for everyone to know how to propagate the best mango varieties by grafting. The scion (cutting that is grafted to the rootstock) will carry all the desired qualities of the variety of mango tree that it was cut from. Grafting is an excellent and inexpensive way to get the varieties you want.



Photo: George Campani



Photo: George Campani

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## ☞ Welcome Your New Board for 2019! ☜

At March's meeting the new board for 2019 was installed.

The new members of the board are:

Fred Engelbrecht – President  
 Cora Coronel and Kenny Gil as vice presidents  
 Jager Mitchell as secretary  
 Susan McAveety as treasurer  
 Additional members are Jerry Coronel, Paul Branesky,  
 Robert Latimer, and Scott Petersen.

Tom Schaefer enjoyed his last meeting in the capacity of Club President. Enjoy your time off, it's well earned!



Photo: George Campani

Any members interested in participating on the board or any committees are always welcome to sit in on the board meetings, which are held immediately following the meetings.

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## ☞ What's Happening ☜

by Paul Zmoda

Well, spring has sprung; only seven light frosts occurred here this past winter with no damage at all. So much going on: flowers, fruits, planting, maintenance, pollinating, tasting, and so much more.

Setting avocados are growing so fast. Delicious loquats have come and gone. All banana plants have been trimmed of dead leaves and the last persimmon trees have been pruned as they have begun to awaken. Grafting season has arrived – I not only did some carambolas, persimmons and pawpaws, but I was hired to give a grafting and air layering demonstration at the Rivers of Provision Church Spring festival in Tampa. I was also honored to be videotaped in a grape pruning session by Pete Kanaris who runs a wonderful business call Green Dreams. See the YouTube video at <https://www.greendreamsfl.com>

Our longan tree finally began to put out flowers – I was beginning to worry.

Our red passion flower – *Passiflora miniate* – is setting lots of fruits, thanks to hand pollinating every morning.



**☞ March 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	Cookies, mini cupcakes	Black	Apple pie
Yann	Brownies	Kibitlewski	Eggplant, fire roasted tomatoes
Koay	Broccoli salad	Zmoda	Sliced starfruit
Petersen	Crunchies and star apple	Premraj	Rice, chicken palao
Bowman	Homegrown carrots, starfruit	Lancaster	Juice
Payne	Deviled eggs	Rhodes	Tropical meat loaf
Soylu	Eggs	Donna Z.	Brownies
Ishrat S.	Vegetable putan	Coronel	Bibingka, pretzels
Hartzler	Mint cookies	Krotz	Guava cream puffs
Krotz	Crostini	Pillal	Pasta asparagus
Marie P.	Cookies	Clarke	Potatoes, turkey sausage
Clarke	Salad	Clarke	papaya



Photo: George Campani

Our wonderful buffet at each meeting, and the dedicated members that have it all set up and ready for you to enjoy.



## ☞ March 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
Brown sugar apple	Luba	Hartzell
Papaya	Black	
Chives	Brown	
Passionfruit	Brown	Rhodes
Loquat	Brown	Gibson
White sapote	Premraj	
Passion fruit	Vega	
Pepper	Vega	Terrell
Jackfruit – black gold	Vega	
Dragonfruit	Vega	Mitchell
Necklace pod seeds	Donna Z.	
Pineapple	Clarke	
Dragonfruit	Clarke	
Spearmint	Branesky	Clarke
Culentro	Branesky	
Peppermint	Branesky	Male
Basil	Branesky	Black
Tiny leave basil	Branesky	Soto
Rosemary	Branesky	
Pineberry	Gail	Brown
Aloe vera	Acorta	
Loquat	Provencher	Soto
Egyptian grass	Provencher	
Pink arrowhead	Provencher	
Vietnamese la-lot	Provencher	Mitchell
African mangosteen	Provencher	
Pindo palm	Provencher	Renze
Surinam spinach	Provencher	Mitchell
Yellow dragonfruit	Provencher	Renze
Ponytail palm	Provencher	Terrell
Samanea	Provencher	Mitchell
Mango “wise”	Provencher	Frink

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## The seed table at each meeting.



Photo: George Campani



Photo: George Campani

All members enjoy free seeds at each meeting. You never know what will be there; everything from the common favorites to the ultra-rare.

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## *In Zephyrhills*

*Denise Provencher*

This past winter was wonderful for the Zephyrhills area; abundant and regular rains, no harsh winds, and especially – NO FREEZES!!!! This is certainly news worth tooting about, as in the 13 winters since we have been at this location, we have never had a “no-freeze” winter. There were some light frosts, but no real damage to any plants. The neighborhoods are filled with abundant color, flower, and fragrance. Trees and shrubs are blooming that we’ve never seen blooming before. How did this remarkable winter weather affect our fruits?

Loquats are very heavy with fruit this year. Low-chill peaches and blueberries did not lose buds and forming fruits due to the late freezes we always have had. Mulberries flowered early and are now providing full crops. The olive is a full flush of tiny flowers. Bananas, another plant that always freezes easily, were able to retain growing hands of fruit. Citrus look and smell wonderful. Avocados are showing a very promising crop. The papaya is flowering heavily, another plant that is easily frozen and did not have any damage this winter.

There were several bell peppers, tomatoes, a Seminole squash vine, and a few bean plants that kept on producing a few fruits throughout the season. These plants are usually amongst the first to suffer cold damage, often as early as November or December. It has been a wonderful transition into a new growing season.

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## Time for Plant Sales!



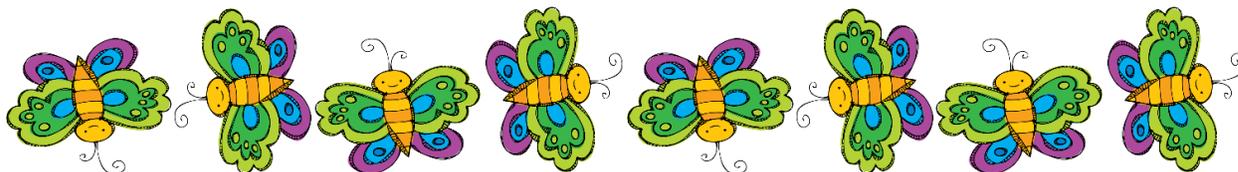
**Green Thumb Festival – April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> - 9am to 4pm –**  
 Walter Fuller Recreation Center – 7891 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. N, St. Petersburg.  
 Free. Plant auctions and sales. Free butterfly plants, exhibits,  
 arborist, tool sharpening, kids' programs, food, and more.  
<http://www.stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb/volunteers.html>

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## ∞ Club Notes ∞

Looking for a special plant? Got questions about a fruit? 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, etc. - please send them to [bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com) Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **April 22nd**.

Single pawpaw seeking a pollinator. Anyone with pawpaw seedlings, any variety, please contact [bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com)




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## ∞ 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.

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***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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Tampa Bay RFCI  
39320 North Ave.  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542