



# RFCI

June 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 ∞

**June 9, 2:00pm, Dr. Mary Keith** is back by popular demand! She will speak on **Food Preservation and Canning**, emphasizing known safe methods of preserving tropical and subtropical fruits.

She received the Epsilon Sigma Phi 2014 Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of her leadership and excellence in providing Extension services for Hillsborough County.

Her information should be VERY helpful for when you are trying to figure out what to do with a bumper crop of that fruit that you wish you could have available all year. YOU CAN!



## ∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Jesse Nobles	Tampa
Angela Rodriguez- Diaz	Tampa
Jose Sanjurjo	Tampa
Eda Hogan	Tampa

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

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## Fruits of the Genus *Artocarpus*

with Will Wright



May's speaker was Will Wright from "Tropical & Rare Fruit Trees, LLC". He spoke about the genus *Artocarpus*, part of the mulberry family *Moraceae*. *Artocarpus* includes jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) and breadfruit (*Artocarpus altilis*), both of which are widely cultivated in tropical areas of the world.

Some interesting facts about *Artocarpus*:

- \*There are about 60 species of *Artocarpus*, 16 of which produce edible fruits.
- \*They grow naturally in areas of Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
- \*The seedlings start out as an understory tree, preferring the shady, moist, extremely rich soil.
- \**Artocarpus* loves moisture, coming from natural environments where there is 100+ inches of rain per year.
- \*The plant will produce faster and have better quality fruit when grown from seed, rather than from a graft, a unique characteristic in pomology. The plants are actually very difficult to graft due to the latex they produce.

\*Jackfruit is the largest tree borne fruit, and the tree is an engineering marvel. A tree in fruit must be able to handle up to 4+ tons of extra weight, and is well designed to do so. Starting with a very strongly developed root system, and incredibly strong wood in the limbs, jackfruit is built to carry its load. The limbs are built with interlocked growth layers that changing direction each year, making it incredibly strong, as strong as concrete.

\**Artocarpus* will grow in zones 10-11 without protection, but will tolerate zone 9 with some protection from freeze.

\*Jackfruit has 16 cultivars in South Florida.

\*Kwai Muk can handle upper 20's, and hails from central China where temperatures are a little cooler.

\*Cheena is a natural hybrid of jackfruit and chempedak. The fruits are much smaller.

\*Marana from the Philippines is extremely cold sensitive and considered ultra-tropical.

\*Chempedak is from India.

\*Breadfruit is from the west Pacific and was moved eastward through the tropical world by explorers. There is some success growing breadfruit in Florida in greenhouses with misters. The fruit is quite pungent, similar to the Durian.

\*The Durian is not a member of the *Artocarpus* genus, although the appearance of the fruit is similar. Durian, the foul smelling, but esteemed fruit of the tropics is actually a member of the *Durio* genus.

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## ∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

We are enjoying a month of May which can be harshly dry, but so far has provided adequate rainfall. Our grapes are really sizing up pest-free and healthy. Brazos blackberries are about done; we would have had a bigger crop but I ran out of sulfur-based fungicide, so lots of flowers failed to make fruit. The fungicide is no longer carried locally so we ordered it online.

Our 'Glenn' mangoes have begun to ripen – so good – sweet and fiberless.

I've been tending to grafting more fruit trees – persimmons, pawpaws and carambolas. I've also potted up dozens of rooted grapes, and some blackberry shoots.

Passionfruits are beginning to drop. These are not picked – they fall when ripe and continue to ripen afterwards.



Maybe one of the best things to happen is flowers on our Vanilla orchid!! Apparently, this is not a common occurrence, even if you are able to grow this tropical vine. Our late friend, Modesto Arencibia, had one growing on the west facing wall of his house, so that's where I planted mine – not in blasting full afternoon sun, but behind the protection of Allspice trees. The Vanilla flowers are only open for one day and must be pollinated in the morning. That's what I tried to do.

New plantings: fig, grape, pawpaws, persimmons, tropical raspberry, and vegetables.

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## The RFCI Fruit Photo Contest is back!!

Time to get those cameras and head for the garden! The Club is having another photography contest!!



### The following are the rules for the fruit photo contest:

1. Any and all members of the Tampa Bay RFCI may enter.
2. There is no purchase required.
3. All entries become Tampa Bay RFCI property and will not be returned.
4. Only color prints will be accepted for this contest. No digital images will be accepted.
5. By submitting each entry, the entrant warrants that he/she is the creator of the image and grants to Tampa Bay RFCI the right to reproduce the image on our website and elsewhere with credit to the originator. The Tampa Bay RFCI will duly consider each image for the prizes listed hereunder, and if it is judged a winner, will award the prize to the entrant.

### Judging Guidelines:

Judges will look for images emphasizing composition, design, and color esthetic images, as opposed to those that merely document or convey information. People, hands, rulers, or other extraneous objects are undesirable unless they add esthetic value.

Pictures of fruit, flowers, or foliage attached to a live plant are preferable, rather than cut and displayed artificially.

The photo should be in sharp focus to show detail.

Fruits, buds, flowers or roots of any vegetative plant are suitable, but all plants or plant parts displayed should be recognizable as a source of produce edible by humans.

Pictures of plants grown strictly as ornamentals or for aroma, wood, animal feed, soil conservation, or general landscaping are inappropriate.

### Print Rules:

1. Only color prints will be accepted and will not be returned, limit of 5 prints per person.
2. Include your name and a brief description with each photo (identification of the subject).
3. Please do not write on the front or the back of the photo. Use self-stick labels.
4. All entries must be received by August 31<sup>st</sup>, and should be hand delivered or mailed to  
Fred Engelbrecht 494 Westgate Rd, Tarpon Springs, Fl 34688 Attn. photo contest  
Or to Tom Schaefer 2212 Woodberry Rd., Brandon, Fl 33510 Attn. photo contest

### Prizes:

First Prize – Hand embroidered RFCI polo shirt

Second Prize – One year membership in Tampa Bay RFCI

Questions should be addressed to [fhekte@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fhekte@tampabay.rr.com)



Preparing jackfruit!



Getting the buffet table ready!



## ☞ 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	
Sapodilla	Vega	Alhoha
Hot peppers	Vega	Brown
Dragon fruit	Vega	
Aloe	Vega	
Sugar apple	Luba	James
Purple haze dragonfruit	Gil	
Jackfruit seeds	Putnam	Terrell
White marsaille fig	Clemons	Michelle
Burgundy okra	Clemons	
Goji berry	Clemons	
Manihot	Clemons	
Jasmine	mcCane	Brown
Green plantains	Zmoda	
White sapote	Kirby	
Peanut butter tree	Provencher	Brown
African mangosteen	Provencher	Clemons
Ponytail palm	Provencher	Reznec
Jamaican ackee	Provencher	Alhoha
Mango	Provencher	Male
Cuban mangosteen	Provencher	Grauer
Cherimoya	Provencher	Zmoda
Green sugar apple	Provencher	Terrell
Passion fruit	Ugur	
Sugar apple	Ugur	Grauer
Pineapple	Clarke	Rose
Yellow tomato	Chinnery	
Dragon fruit	McAveety	Christopher
Manila tamarind	Mitchell	
Mexican calabash	Mitchell	
Dragon fruit	Grauer	James



## ☞ 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
Putnam	Pound cake	Campani	Pico de guyo & chips
Luba	Pineapple	Coronel	Bibingka, fried rice
Shenoi	Salad	D. K.	Mini Cubans
Zmoda	Spiced plantains	Sahasrabudhe	Quinoa
Quincy	Choc-oatmeal-p. butter cookies	Zaida	Pizza
Kirby	Codfish salad	Miller	Jasmine rice, asparagus, mushrooms
Kibitlowski	Deviled eggs	Clarke	Eggplant casserole, banana pudding
Latimer	Cheese	Bayless	Pie
Male	Pie	Grace	Hummus, chips

## ☞ 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: **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.*

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Tampa Bay RFCI  
39320 North Ave.  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542