



# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1982

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

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 2:00 PM ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. NOTE THAT APRIL, MAY AND POSSIBLY JULY ARE EXCEPTIONS.

NEXT MEETING.....SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1982 AT 2:00 PM

MEETING PLACE.....HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER  
5339 STATE ROAD 579, SEFFNER  
TAKE EXIT 8 SOUTH OFF I-4

PROGRAM.....Major Harold N. "Nick" Acrivos from the Melbourne Rare Fruit and Vegetable Council. Nick has given us a number of programs, dating back to our earliest days. He is an avid and very knowledgeable grower and a frequent traveler to the tropics. He and his wife have just returned from the Phillipines and thus his topic: "THE NEW PHILLIPINES - CULTURE AND AGRICULTURE".

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## PROGRAM CALENDAR FOR 1982

- MARCH 14: Chapter Member A.E. Hendry  
Topic: Travels in the Far East and the South Pacific.
- APRIL 18: Gene Joyner, Palm Beach County Extension Agent  
Topic: To be announced. - Note the meeting date. -
- MAY 16: Gil Whitton, Pinellas County Extension Service Director  
Topic: "Fertilizers and Nutritional Deficiencies".  
Meeting Place: Pinellas County Extension Building, Largo.  
- Note this meeting date, also. -
- JUNE 13: Dr. A.H. Krezdorn from Gainesville  
Topic: To be announced
- JULY: Field Trip and/or Picnic and/or regular meeting.  
Dates and events to be discussed at upcoming meetings.
- AUGUST 8: Field Trip to Tom and Margaret Hughes' Vineyard and Nursery, Dover.
- SEPTEMBER 12: Field Trip to Ken and Mildred Palmer's Nursery, St. Petersburg.
- OCTOBER 10: Regular meeting, no guest speaker due to Plant Sale preparations.

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## NEW MEMBERS

Tom Fairfield Brown, 12208 N. Armenia Ave., Tampa 33612, Tel. 935-9259

George & Marie Keith, 14260 - 110th Terrace, N., Largo 33540

NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Leland Terrell, 215 S. Grady, Tampa 33609, Tel. 876-3548

John & Jan Owen, 5145 - 21st Ave., N., St. Petersburg 33710, Tel. 321-9686

## Reinstatement:

Emet Krozier, 1169 N. Mobley Road, Odessa 33556, Tel. 920-6167

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IN MEMORIAM: It is with much regret that we must note the passing of one of our members, Margaret (Mrs. W.D.) Clarke. We extend our sincere sympathies to her family.

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FLORIDA STATE FAIR - FEBRUARY 3 TO 14RFCI FAIR BOOTH DUTY ROSTER

DAY	DATE	10 AM TO 2 PM	2 PM TO 6 PM	6 PM TO 10 PM
TUE	FEB 2	FAIR BOOTH SETUP - Elizabeth MacManus, Chairwoman; Betty Dickson		
WED	FEB 3	Maja Byvoet	Herb Hill	Tom Hughes Margaret Hughes
THU	FEB 4	Ray Thorndike	Ray Thorndike	
FRI	FEB 5	Dan Thornton Leland Terrell		Al Hambly
SAT	FEB 6	Jim Calhoun Grace Calhoun	Erwin Fellows Eugenie Fellows	
SUN	FEB 7	Penny Rose Lorraine Ball	Jud Newcombe	Bob Heath
MON	FEB 8	Harold Seekins Beatrice Seekins	Kay Netscher	Bill Lester
TUE	FEB 9	Elizabeth MacManus	Ray Thorndike	Tom Hughes Margaret Hughes
WED	FEB 10	Maja Byvoet	Frank Tayntor Joan Tayntor	
THU	FEB 11	Paul Rubenstein	Irene Rubenstein	Bill Lester
FRI	FEB 12	Joe Olszewski Regina Olszewski		Bob Heath
SAT	FEB 13	Bill Lester	Jud Newcombe Bill Ryland	Joe Fonte
SUN	FEB 14	The Seekins	Tony & Sharon Gricius	

FLORIDA STATE FAIR BOOTH

Obviously more help is needed. Several shifts are still vacant and those with only one volunteer could use help. It can get hectic when several groups of people are expecting your attention all at once. Also, the booth should not be unattended when one is forced to leave temporarily. Please volunteer your services to Bill Lester at 988-8451 or to Paul Rubenstein at 920-6256. Elizabeth MacManus' number is 949-4352. People on the morning shift please remember to water all the plants. Some plants died last year for lack of water. A pail and tin can should be available in the booth. Spigots are located in various spots throughout the building. This is the same building that we held our plant sale in.

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OCTOBER 1981 PLANT SALE KUDOS

More very belated thanks to people who donated their time, labor and materials to our successful sale last fall. Your Editor is indebted to Irene Rubenstein for the following information. Our special appreciation to...

"Dave Schwaderer, who got up out of a sick bed to put in hours of heavy-duty work helping to unload the trailerload of trees and arrange them for sale.

"Joe and Phala Fonte and Family, who supplied us with much needed hand trucks and other conveyances to haul all the trees around; who loaded cars and gave complete all-around assistance.

"Betty Dickson and Fran Stevens who did a bang-up job selling books and taking in new memberships. Betty's husband and Louise Andrews, who manned the cash registers at the check-out counters with outstanding efficiency.

"Kay Netscher, who sold an abundance of fresh fruits at a well-stocked 'fruit market.'

"Elizabeth MacManus, who shared her vast knowledge with the tree buyers at the fine fruit display booth.

"And all the ever-faithful regulars - Bob & Theresa Heath, Joe & Jane Constantine, Ray Thorndike, Bill & Nancy Lester, Tom & Margaret Hughes and Tom, Jr., etc., etc., etc. THANK YOU ALL."

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COSTA RICA/PANAMA BOTANICAL ADVENTURE

Botanical Tours, Box 450662, Miami, FL 33145 (Tom Economou, Tour Leader)  
Departure Dates: March 11 to 21 and April 8 to 18.

Betty Dickson and her husband are planning to go on one of these dates and they would like to have the company of some other members. Our February speaker, Nick Acrivos, will be assisting Tom Economou in leading these trips. Aside from the scenic tours, they will be visiting gardens and nurseries to see rare fruits in growth and provide opportunities for bringing back seeds and plants of your choice. Costa Rica and Panama are not beset with the troubles presently tearing El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua apart. No cause for worry on that account. And several of us have taken Tom's tours and can recommend them to all.

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EXOTIC WOODS - WANTED.

Harold Seekins, 608 Fair Oaks Drive, Tarpon Springs 33589, Tel. (813) 937-6062

"My hobby is wood collecting. I need your cuttings from exotic fruit trees, shrubs and vines of at least 1 (one) inch diameter by length increments of 7 (seven) inches. The ideal diameter is 4 inches or larger. Finished specimens are  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" x 6". Please bring to the meetings."

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PLANTING AND GRAFTING BY THE MOON AND STARS:

Best dates for success - February 1, 2, 5, 6, 24, 25, 28.

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FIELD TRIPS

Ice Cream Festival at Gene Joyner's "Unbelievable Acres", West Palm Beach:

In September Gene invited us to come down for this annual event and there seemed to be strong interest among those members present at that meeting. Plans ought to be made in the next month or two to follow through on this. A chartered bus will cost in the neighborhood of \$700 for a 39 passenger vehicle. As the saying goes, that's an expensive neighborhood, like roughly \$20/person, providing we can get around 35 people to sign up. The alternative is to find some members with vans or station wagons willing to drive with expenses shared. Please indicate your interest on a sign-up sheet at the next meeting(s), or contact Ray Thorndike, Program Chairman. I forgot to mention that the date will probably be a Saturday in July.

Picnic at Fort De Soto Park, St. Petersburg:

Betty Dickson has suggested this idea. This could be in lieu of our regular meeting in July or in addition to it. Or, it could be held in another month, April or preferably May for the best and most reliable weather. The Park has tables and beach facilities. The picnic could be for all day or just from noon on and would be held on either Saturday or Sunday. This could be a very beneficial function to allow our members to get to know each other a little better. The regular meetings do not permit much time for fraternizing. Again, note your interests on a sign-up sheet at the next meeting(s).

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership renewal time is approaching and Membership Chairman Jud Newcombe is trying to have everyone renew on our Chapter official New Year of April 1st. This greatly simplifies a job which is difficult and tedious at best. Those who joined during the year are asked to pay \$1 per month needed to bring them in conformity with this common renewal date. See Jud at the meetings or mail to P.O. Box 16003, Tampa 33687. A list of those whose anniversaries are out of step (paid thru April 30, and should pay \$1 less this time ):

Lorraine Ball	Harold Haftel	Al & Suzanne Snapp
Gerard & Linda Carroll	Ron & Louise Hamilton	Walter & Ruth Sudbury
Buck Fuller	Carl Keeler	James & Ruth Webb
Tony Gricius	Rosalie Obregon	

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 10, 1982:Current Membership Strength

Joint or family memberships.....	56
Single memberships.....	55
Total.....	111

## Expired memberships since

Chapter beginning in 1979..... 33

(This represents a renewal rate approaching 80% - Ed.)

Geographical Breakdown of Active Memberships

Hillsborough County.....	60
Pinellas County.....	22
Polk County.....	9
Pasco County.....	6
Other (Florida).....	13
Out of State.....	1 (California)

Jud Newcombe, Membership Chairman

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TREASURER'S REPORTDate: January 10, 1982CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance Brought Forward.....	\$ 1,165.19
Receipts: Dues.....	\$120.00
Book & Plant Sales.....	77.35
NOW Interest.....	53.65
Total Deposits.....	251.00

Disbursements: Newsletter.....	\$150.00
Program.....	25.00
Bank Service Charge..	3.00
Refreshments.....	29.50
Total Disbursements.....	207.50

Checking Account Balance.....	1,208.69
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SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Balance Brought Forward.....	\$10,256.30
I.L.A. Dividends.....	128.02
Savings Balance.....	\$10,384.32

Irene Rubenstein, Treasurer

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PLANT DRAWING - FEBRUARY MEETING

After the February meeting, the following plants shall be distributed:

Miracle Fruit (2 Each)	Blueberry	Jaboticaba
"Abace" Pineapple	Orangeberry	Grumichama
"Orient" Pear	Blackberry	Surinam Cherry

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REPORT OF JANUARY 10, 1982 MEETING

President Bill Lester called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Betty Dickson, in charge of book sales, reported that the books ordered from NAFEX, "PERSIMMONS FOR EVERYONE" by Eugene & Mary E. Griffith, had arrived and were available for resale. Jud Newcombe, Membership Chairman, gave his report (summarized on the preceding page - Ed.). Bob Heath, Seed & Plant Exchange Chairman, explained the drawing for plants to be held at the conclusion of the meeting. New members and guests were introduced and made welcome by President Lester, who then opened the discussion of the Chapter's Florida State Fair booth preparations. The duty roster was explained and members were requested to sign up for shifts of their choice. Ray Thorndike reminded members to donate fruit specimens for the booth display. He also suggested a designated 10 minute period at each meeting for questions from the floor on fruit culture and general interest matters. He also repeated his invitation to members to submit such questions to the monthly newsletter. Walter Vines announced that after the meeting he would demonstrate a method of cold protection for fruit trees using wood chips and shavings for insulation. President Lester then turned the meeting over to Ray Thorndike, Program Chairman, to introduce the guest speaker, Dr. Timothy Crocker of the Fruit Crops Dept., University of Florida, Gainesville. Dr. Crocker gave a most interesting and appropriate slide illustrated lecture on the hardy fruits grown in Central Florida. Following the program, the plant drawing was held.

PROGRAM: FRUITS AND NUTS FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA

by Dr. Timothy Crocker

Dr. Crocker opened by recommending that the members refer to the Fruit Crops Fact Sheet, FC-23, "Dooryard Fruit Varieties", of which he had brought copies for distribution. Most of the fruits practical for growing in Central Florida are listed in this bulletin, along with many variety recommendations. It is available through any county Extension Service office.

Deciduous fruits may be grown for their ornamental value as well as their harvests. Some, like sweet cherries, tart cherries and some walnuts, do not succeed in Central Florida because of the lack of sufficient chilling. Plants should be matched to that climatic zone providing proper chilling. The Tampa area generally has 200 to 250 hours of winter chilling, which is defined as temperatures below 45 F. (7 C.). Sweet and tart cherries require 1400 to 1600 hours of chilling and just will not perform this far south. Peach varieties designated for North Florida, when planted here, will bloom later in the season, grow weakly, and usually die in two or three years. If South Florida varieties are planted here, which are satisfied with 50 to 100 hours of chilling, they will bloom too early and be frosted out. In cold winters, as this has been, the 200 to 300 hour plants, like Anna and Golden Dorsett apples, will have already broken dormancy in Gainesville by this time of year. They are in full bloom and are susceptible to frost damage.

Consider the micro-climates on your land. With our cold weather arriving from the northwest, if you locate your tender plants on the southeast side of your house, you will gain 5 to 7 degrees F. in temperature due to the heat loss of your house. The winter sun being in the Southern Hemisphere, the south side of your house is also the warmest in the daytime.

Deciduous fruits may require spraying and should be located where this would not be inconvenient.

Consider, also, the soil profile: apples, peaches and plums want well drained soil, while blueberries and blackberries grow better in low, poorly drained soil. Peaches planted in a low area will probably be lost to foot rot. Deciduous plants like apples, peaches and plums should not be planted in a low area because cold air drains into it. These plants bloom early and the blossoms would be lost due to this cold air. Therefore, they are preferably planted on a hill.

#### GRAPES (Bunch)

Stover is one of the better varieties grown here, since it is resistant to Pierce's disease. The vinifera (California) and Concord (northern) types cannot be grown commercially here as they all will eventually succumb to the disease. Stover is good for fresh fruit and also makes good wines. All bunch grapes are self-fertile.

#### GRAPES (Muscadine)

The rotundifolia or muscadine grape produces fruit in clusters, not bunches or "hands", and has a different leaf. Muscadines are more resistant to insects and diseases than bunch grapes and their annual pruning is not as difficult, either. Muscadines are either female or self-fertile, a female vine thus requiring a self-fertile vine for pollination. The grape is one of man's oldest domesticated plants and is very versatile. Even an apartment dweller can grow a vine. Vines may be trained to run up a chimney or over a trellis above a patio. There are now two wineries in operation in the state of Florida, one in DeFuniak Springs and the other in Ocala.

#### PEACHES AND NECTARINES

Spraying is a must because the peach has been domesticated for so long that it is susceptible to many insect and disease problems. The nectarine is actually a fuzzless peach. Culturally the peach and nectarine are treated the same, except that the nectarine is a bit more susceptible to brown rot. Peaches grown in Florida are primarily "short cycle" varieties, meaning that they are harvested approximately 100 to 110 days after bloom and giving them a market advantage. In Florida, the harvest must be in before the rainy season as there is then no way to protect against brown rot. Peaches have an enormous fruit set and must be thinned out. Thin so that the fruit are spaced approximately six inches apart. Without thinning, the fruit will be mostly pits and not much flesh. Prune the tree to an open base form, thus opening up the center of the tree, since the fruit does not color well without adequate sunlight. It is best to prune the tree to a manageable height, such as eight feet or so, for ease of harvest. And it is good practice to prune during flowering, as this aids in the thinning process.

#### BLUEBERRIES

There are two types of blueberries recommended for Central Florida: tetraploids and hexaploids. Tetraploids, such as Sharpblue and Flordablue, are well suited to the Tampa area, having low chilling requirements. Here they bloom in February and ripen fruit in April. They are self-fertile, but by being early, may be stripped by the Cedar Waxwings migrating north at harvest time.

Hexaploids are better known as rabbiteyes, this name arising from the pink appearance of the fruit when it begins to ripen. This is a species native to Florida, and now that it is cultivated, it bears fruit the size of a dime or larger. Alice Blue and Becky Blue are the recommended varieties for Central Florida and both must be planted for pollination, as the rabbiteyes are self-unfruitful. The rabbiteye is a much more vigorous grower than the tetraploids, reaching as much as 18 feet, and must be pruned back (to 5 feet for U-Pick operations.)

Blueberries make an excellent hedge plant if well mulched on a very acid soil (pH of 5.0 or less required.) Use them as a barrier screen or prune as desired. The plant turns beautiful shades of red in the winter, giving an added ornamental effect.

(To be concluded.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

On the night of January 11/12, 1982 we were once again (third year in a row) reminded of our vulnerability to blasts of arctic air which make this area unsuitable for truly tropical fruits. Even plants with some degree of hardiness to cold must be protected at such times. I recorded over 13 hours of sub-freezing temperatures with a minimum of 22 F. and that is in one of the warmest spots inside Lakeland's city limits. As usual, I tried to save everything, filling up the living-room with potted lychees, miracle fruit, pineapples, seed flats, etc. Outside, papayas, annonas, etc. were bagged up with cloth and paper sheets. The avocado bearing popcorn bloom and the white sapote with flowers and small fruit were fired by grove heaters. Some measures worked, some didn't. I may finally have to give up on a Costa Rican guava (Cas), now flattened for the third time. But, we are still eating papaya and hope to enjoy the avocados and sapotes. Two new ideas were tried, both successful. All night, strong light was beamed on a black sapote and a mamey sapote, both potted in tubs and located on the open carport. They did receive some benefit from one of the heaters, but surely stood at least 25 or 26 F. and show no significant damage. The light method was suggested by one of our past speakers, Laymond Hardy. The other trick was suggested by member Syd Goheen, which was to put excess potted plants inside my automobile, which functioned as an unheated greenhouse. Very successful.

Blank copies of the Freeze Damage Report form shall be available at the meeting for members willing to help us compile hardiness data on fruit plants being grown in Central Florida.

Ray Thorndike, Editor

Tampa Bay Chapter Newsletter  
Rare Fruit Council International, Inc.  
3114 Troy Avenue  
Lakeland, Florida 33803

FEBRUARY 1982 NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 14, 1982

MEETING PLACE: SEFFNER

BRING FRUIT, BRING SEEDS

P. Judson Newcombe  
3114 Deer Park  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617