



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1982

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

MAILING ADDRESSES: NEWSLETTER - 3114 Troy Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803
OTHER BUSINESS - P.O. Box 16003, Tampa, FL 33687-6003

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 2:00 PM ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. EXCEPTIONS
THIS YEAR ARE APRIL 18 AND MAY 16

NEXT MEETING:.....SUNDAY, MARCH 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.....Chapter Member Al Hendry - Topic: 'Fruits of the
Far East and the South Pacific'. Al spent several
months in these regions this past year.

1982 CALENDAR

APRIL 18.....Gene Joyner, Palm Beach County Extension Agent
Topic: Fruits of the Sapindaceae Family - The Lychee, Longan, etc.

MAY 2.....Fort De Soto Park Picnic. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Picnic Bldg. 1-N
All-day outing, bring the family & your own refreshments. Covered
picnic facilities, beach area, etc. Our first real chance to get
acquainted. The weather & water should be ideal. More details later.

MAY 16.....Gil Whitton, Pinellas County Extension Service Director
Topic: Fertilizers and Nutritional Deficiencies. Place: Largo

JUNE 13.....Dr. A.H. Krezdorn from Gainesville
Topic: To be announced

JUNE 19.....West Palm Beach Field Trip. Gene Joyner shall be our guide and
host for the day while we visit the Fruit Park (2 acres of fruit
trees) behind the Mounts Bldg. (county extension bldg.) and Gene's
own 'Unbelievable Acres' (2½ acres of rare fruits). Perhaps there
will be time to visit a nursery carrying rare fruits, also.

JULY 11.....Open

AUGUST 8.....Open-air meeting at Tom & Margaret Hughes' Vineyard & Nursery, Dover.

SEPTEMBER 12..Field Trip to Ken & Mildred Palmer's Nursery, St. Petersburg.

OCTOBER 10....Regular meeting, Seffner. No program due to Plant Sale.

OCTOBER 17....THIRD ANNUAL PLANT SALE, Fla. State Fairgrounds, Tampa. (Date tentative)

NOVEMBER 14...Tom Economou from Miami
Topic: 'Tropical Fruit Fiesta' - Tropical fruits of tropical America.

DECEMBER 12...Open

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas W. Patterson, 4432 Varn Avenue, Tampa 33618, Tel. 837-8808

Barry L. Getis, 306 Waterbury Circle, Lutz 33549, Tel. 949-1244

Day W. Boddorff, 4920 S.W. Archer Road, Gainesville 32608, Tel. (904) 377-1476

Arnold & Lillian Stark, 5215 Parade Street, Temple Terrace 33617, Tel. 988-6767

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1982 DUES will be delinquent on April 1st. See Jud Newcombe, Membership Chairman, at the meetings or mail your check for \$13.00 (made out to Tampa Bay Chapter, RFCI) c/o Membership, P.O. Box 16003, Tampa 33687.

RIDES NEEDED. Transportation to the meetings is desperately needed by the following members: Both in the Town & Country area, Vicky Giallanza, 7024 W. Pocahontas Dr., Tampa (Tel. 884-9627) and Helen Wilson, 4727 Ridge Point Dr., Tampa (Tel. 961-1036). In Clearwater, Wes & Xantha Wilkinson of 115 S. Saturn (Tel. 446-0019). Please help, as we do not want to lose these people. We work hard to attract members, let's keep them.

SPEAKER NEEDED. The Suncoast Botanical Garden which meets monthly at its Garden House at 10410 - 125th St. North in Seminole has scheduled a speaker from our Chapter for their March 28th meeting. (2:00 PM). We need a volunteer (or volunteers) and material for illustrating the talk. Please contact Bill Lester at 988-8451.

They are also requesting us to man a table promoting our Chapter at their Special Fund Raising Event on April 3 & 4 in St. Petersburg. This will be even more difficult to comply with on such short notice. Since we shall be their guests in September, it would be nice to help them in these events if possible. We need to prepare a standard program with colored slides to be given to area organizations. This could do us as much good as the Fla. State Fair booth.

Fort De Soto PICNIC. Good support was shown for the picnic and beach outing proposal. Forty-two people signed-up as interested and indicated May as the preferred month. May 2nd has been chosen and a reservation made with the park administration. We hope that all members will try to show up for part or all of the day. The weather should be ideal for swimming, sunning and relaxing. We shall have use of covered facilities for picnicing, etc. Maybe this will develop into an annual function to permit us to get to know each other better and swap growing know-how. There is never enough time before or after the regular meetings to meet new people. More details on the picnic in next month's newsletter. See the calendar on page 17.

West Palm Beach Field Trip. Forty people indicated an interest in this trip. The date has been arranged with Gene Joyner for Saturday, June 19th. The annual 'Ice Cream Festival' put on by the Palm Beach Chapter has not been planned as yet and will likely occur in August this year due to certain key people being away in July. Instead, Gene will give us his undivided attention for the day (June 19) guiding us around the rare fruit plantings on the county extension service property (2 acres) and then around his own 2½ acres of rare fruit trees which he calls 'Unbelievable Acres'. Time permitting, we may stop at one of the local rare fruit grower's nurseries. More planning is necessary and Joe Constantine is investigating transportation for the outing. This will probably involve an overnight stay, departure being the evening of Friday, June 18. See the next two newsletters.

BOTANICAL TOURS with Tom Economou. Botanical Tours is now part of Pathfinder Tours, Inc., 42 N.W. 27th Ave., Miami 33125. In Miami call 377-0047, elsewhere in Fla. call

BOTANICAL TOURS, continued.

1-800-432-7503, outside Fla. call 1-800-327-4250, both toll free. Tom has two trips to Costa Rica and Panama, the first group led by Nick Acrivos and Tom departing on March 27 and the second group to be led by Gene Joyner and Tom departing on July 3. Tom will soon announce tours to Peru, to the Galapagos and to the Peruvian Amazon. As a result of the merger with Pathfinder, tour costs have decreased (from over \$600 to around \$400 for the land portion of the Costa Rica/Panama trip, for example).

FRUIT & SPICE PARK, 24801 S.W. 187th Ave., Homestead 33031, Tel. (305)247-5727.

Reservations required, fee shown in parentheses.

Saturday, 3/13/82, 1-4 PM (\$3) - Winemaking with Florida Fruits

Saturday, 3/20/82, 1-3 PM (\$2) - Herbs for South Florida

Saturday, 3/27/82, 1-3 PM (\$2) - University of Florida - Homestead Tour

Saturday, 4/3/82, 9:30-11:30 AM (\$2) - Tropical Orchard Tour of the Redlands

Saturday, 4/10/82, 1-3 PM (\$2) - Tropical Fruit Fiesta

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual election will take place at the March meeting. The Nominating Committee, Bob Heath, Chairman, will present a slate of candidates to the members present and voting. See the back page of this newsletter for the list. Committee chairmen will in most cases continue for '82-'83.

BEST PROPAGATION AND ABOVE-GROUND CROP PLANTING DATES FOR MARCH & APRIL

March 5, 6, 28, 29, April 24, 25, 28, 29

MARCH MEETING PLANT DRAWING

Plants to be offered at the March drawing will include the following (if you have plants to donate, call Bob Heath or bring them to the meeting):

Pineapple Fig (purple fr.) Grumichama

Blueberry Colombian Pepper Jaboticaba

Blackberry Surinam Cherry Papaya

(I shall bring more seed potatoes of 'Georgia Red' for free distribution - Ed.)

POTS & TUBS

Please do not ever throw away your excess pots or plant tubs (lerio cans, etc.). Bring them to the meetings, instead. I personally am always short of one and two gallon sizes. I have used up more than 300 one gallon pots in the past three years, mostly for the benefit of the club (exchanges and plant sales) and they are very expensive to replace. Kay Netscher has asked if the Chapter could purchase wholesale quantities (at wholesale prices, of course) of pots and seed flats for resale to individual members. Several of us would be interested in obtaining some of the Speedling trays exhibited by Dr. Marlowe at the December meeting.

SEED EXCHANGE

While planting seeds recently received in the mail, it occurred to me that we could share more than just our rare fruit plant seeds. Seed packets commonly contain many more seeds than needed when the plant is a specialty item, as, for instance, melons, squash, etc. After all, how many squash or melon vines will fit into a small city lot? Bring your excess seed to our Seed Exchange - to Bob Heath, Plant & Seed Chairman.

WHITE SAPOTE EXPORT

I finally got a shipment of scionwood in the mail to Australia as requested by David C. Higham of Ravenshoe, Queensland. I sent cuttings of 'Dade' from my tree. He has also requested 'Golden' and 'SES 2'. Crafton Clift in Homestead will furnish the SES 2, but we have no source for 'Golden' at present. Anyone who can help, please get in touch with me, Ray Thorndike.

FLORIDA STATE FAIR BOOTH

Another great job done by those who set up and manned our 1982 booth. The fruit obtained from Possum Trot Nursery in Miami drew a lot of attention. Unfortunately, much of it didn't last the full term. The baggies used to display the fruit were a good idea except for the fact that they hastened the ripening process. Any suggestions for next year? Perhaps we can get two shipments several days apart. The two items which drew the most attention were the macadamias and carambolas. There were perhaps too many truly tropical fruits shown which cannot be grown in Central Florida. Plants exhibited in the booth were:

Cereus peruvianus	Sea Grape	Imbe	Barbados Cherry
Tamarind	Carambola	White Sapote	Coffee
Mango	Papaya	So. Amer. Sapote	Allspice
Mysore raspberry	Sapodilla	Key Lime	Longan
Surinam cherry	Grumichama	Tangerine	
Cattley Guava	Guava	Lychee	

MACADAMIA NUTCRACKERS made especially for these tough-shelled nuts are available from the Gold Crown Macadamia Nut Association, a growers' co-op. Order from Kitty Scholes, Gold Crown Macadamia Nut Association, P.O. Box 235, Fallbrook, CA 92028. The Cropper, a table model with serrated edges, sells for \$25, while the Mac Reversible, a hand-held model with cutting edges to pry the nut open, sells for \$7.25. It helps immensely to prepare the nuts before cracking. First, remove the husks and place the nuts on a large screen to air-dry. Provide adequate air circulation and protect the nuts from sun and rain. After four (4) weeks, bake the nuts at 115-130 degrees F. for about twelve (12) hours. A recipe book, The Macadamia Nut in Cooking, describing main dishes, salads, candy, cookies and desserts, is available from the California Macadamia Nut Society, P.O. Box 666, Fallbrook, CA 92028 for \$2.50.

FEBRUARY PLANT DRAWING RESULTS

<u>DRAW</u>	<u>PLANT</u>	<u>WINNER</u>	<u>DRAW</u>	<u>PLANT</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
1	Miracle Fruit	Day Boddorff	6	Malanga	Ray Douglas
2	Miracle Fruit	Frank Tayntor	7	Pomegranate	Margaret Hughes
3	Jaboticaba	Viola Acrivos	8	Orangeberry	Nancy Lester
	Pineapple	" "	9	Malanga	Terry Heath
	Blueberry	" "	10	Surinam Cherry	Bea Seekins
4	'Orient' Pear	Arnold Stark	11	Malanga	Walter Vines
5	Grumichama	Armando Mendez	12	Blackberry	Bill MacDonald

CRFE, FORT MYERS. Phil Scofield, a member of the Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange, Inc., Ft. Myers stopped by the Fair booth to chat. The CRFE is a sister organization and meets the first Tuesday of the month at Terry Park, 3406 Palm Beach Blvd. (S.R.80), Ft. Myers. Hopefully, we shall exchange newsletters with them.

* * * * *

'AFRICAN PRIDE' ATEMOYA
(Annona hybrid)

A small, fast growing tree bearing fruit at an early age if grafted. Subtropical, its parentage is not certain. It was introduced from Australia where it was originally called 'African Pride Custard Apple'. It does not resemble our custard apple (*A. reticulata*). The fruit is heart shaped, from 2" to 4" in diameter, and has been known to weigh more than 2½ lbs. The custard-like flesh is delightfully sweet. The black seeds are about the size of a navy bean and are not as numerous as they are in the more familiar Sugar Apple.

(December 1968 Miami Newsletter)

REPORT OF FEBRUARY 14, 1982 MEETING

President Bill Lester called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and thanked everyone who worked diligently 'disseminating wisdom and stuff' to make our booth at the Florida State Fair a big success. Seven persons at the meeting for the first time came because of our booth at the Fair.

President Lester announced that two of our members who live in the Town and Country area of Hillsborough and another member residing in Clearwater need transportation to the meetings. (See announcements, page 18)

Jud Newcombe, Auditing Chairman, reported that he examined the Treasurer's books for 1981 and found them to be in good order.

President Lester appointed Bob Heath Chairman of the Nominating Committee in order to have a slate of officers prepared for the next official year beginning April 1, 1982. Bob will appoint the remainder of the committee. Elections will be held at the March meeting.

Membership Chairman Jud Newcombe announced that membership dues are now payable for the upcoming year and will be delinquent on April 1st.

Good interest was shown and a lively discussion was had about the proposed trip to West Palm Beach. A motion by Joe Constantine was passed to have him investigate hiring a bus for an overnight trip. He and Ray Thorndike were appointed to make arrangements for the trip and report their findings at the next meeting.

Small papaya plants were brought by Eric Golby to be given to those present. There were also fig cuttings, sweet potatoes and papaya seed donated by other members for the group's pleasure. (Eric's papayas were the Hawaiian commercial variety 'Sunrise')

Nick Acrivos presented an excellent program on the Philippines, illustrated by slides. He recently returned from a trip to these islands and also had slides he made there some years ago showing the changes which had occurred in the meantime.

Following the meeting, Jane and Joe Constantine served delightful 'finger food' along with orange and grapefruit juices.

Willard Sarrett, Secretary

PROGRAM: THE NEW PHILIPPINES - CULTURE AND AGRICULTURE

by Nick Acrivos

At the invitation of friends in the Philippines, Nick took his wife and daughter and spent three weeks over the recent Christmas/New Years period visiting Manila and the northern regions of the island of Luzon.

The Philippines is comprised of 7084 islands covering approximately 154,000 square miles. The culture has basically a Spanish heritage. Some Moslem influences are now appearing in Manila, but the large Moslem population is mostly concentrated in the southern islands, as they do not mix at all well with the Catholic population.

In Manila the Acrivoses stayed first at the five-star Grand Hotel, once MacArthur's headquarters. The city of Manila is quite modern, spotlessly clean and generally free of street crime due to the efforts of Mrs. Marcos, wife of the President. The unemployed are hired by the city to clean the streets. Parks and cultural centers are prominent, being more of Mrs. Marcos' work. Shown was the University where the

Acrivoses also stayed. It has 55,000 students, many supported by the government. One of the principal exports of the Philippines is people and many of the graduates are hired by other Asian nations and also by European countries.

Vehicular traffic in Manila is notable with its myriad of World War II jeep jitneys and motorcycle/sidecar taxis. The jitneys are all uniquely decorated and highly colorful. They are kept in running condition by much ingenuity and locally made parts.

Luzon has good roads and we were shown the countryside as the party progressed north and into higher elevations. We saw the very steep 2000 year old rice terraces. 'Wet' rice is grown there (short grain variety). Here in the U.S. we grow the long grain variety, or 'dry' rice, which is somewhat inferior in flavor.

The Philippines is sadly lacking in fruit crops, having fewer than we have. Most fruits in the markets are imported from Hong Kong and Singapore. \$1.50 would buy one ponkan tangerine, one pound of grapes or one apple. A pummelo might cost \$1.00 to \$1.80.

Pummelos and Calamondins are grown commercially, the Calamondin being popularly used as we use lime or lemon. All citrus is on Calamondin rootstock, making smaller trees. It is good for heavy soils, salt tolerant and resistant to citrus nematodes. The Bilimbi (Averrhoa bilimbi), a close relative of the Carambola, is grown for pickles.

One of the largest agricultural businesses is fish farming, concentrated on raising the saltwater 'milkfish'. Freshwater Tilapia are also farmed. Fish being a dietary staple of the Philippines, the sea catch is now inadequate, giving rise to this large industry.

So, in spite of the favorable climate, our rare fruits are not grown commercially in the Philippines and may only be found as occasional dooryard specimens.

* * * * *

FEIJOA SELLOWIANA (Pineapple Guava)

The Feijoa is a strictly subtropical fruit originating in Uruguay and Southern Brazil, still occurring in the wilds there. It is closely related to the ordinary Guava, hence the name. It differs from the Guava in several respects, however, nature having given us this fruit in a highly developed state. The seeds are so small as to be almost unnoticeable and the plant is much hardier than the common Guava. They will survive winters into Georgia with temperatures down close to zero (F.). Even at temperatures of -5 F. in Alabama they froze to the ground but quickly re-sprouted from the roots.

Fruit set is a problem with some cultivars in some areas. Normally requiring cross-pollination, birds are said to do the job in their native habitat while feeding on the sweet fleshy petals of the flowers. This is another pleasant feature of this plant, the flower petals being more appetizing to some people than the fruit. Mockingbirds are very fond of the petals, especially after they drop. Planting several different cultivars will usually solve the fruit set problem, but at least one variety seems to be self-fertile, namely, 'Coolidge', originating in California. Propagation may be by graft or cuttings rooted under mist.

In the past, in Florida, the Feijoa was mainly carried by nurseries as an ornamental and even used in hedges. The dark green leaves have grayish-white undersides for contrast and with multiple-trunk growth form the plant makes a very suitable and

attractive border planting.

The fruit size varies greatly from plant to plant and even on the same plant. It is oval, egg-shaped, and varies from under an inch in length to the size of a healthy pullet egg in Florida. There is no color change to indicate ripeness, the fruit being a dark grayish-green all over. When fully ripe, the fruit drops, usually from late August to early October in Central Florida.

The main problem is the Caribbean Fruit Fly, for which there is now no control. Frequent application of Malathion prior to harvest (observe the label cautions for last spray before harvest) may help a little. A soil drench after harvest may reduce future populations of the fly.

* * * * *

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

by Bob Heath

Having lived in Tampa all my life, I was introduced early to a great variety of fruit, both exotic and common, without realizing that any were rare. However, it was not until about 1975, when I met a member of the RFCI who had recently moved from Miami to Tampa, that my interest was finally piqued. I immediately joined the RFCI and began to search for exotic fruit trees. Mostly, I bought the wrong things. My Tamarind froze to the ground and died. My Lula Avocado, Black Sapote, Egg Fruit, Longan, Mango and Sea Grape have all frozen to the ground, but have come back. I have become aware that if you are to grow these kinds of tender plants, you must expect extensive damage every two or three years.

As a concession to our weather, I am now concentrating on more cold-hardy fruit trees. My 'Young' Avocado is possibly the most cold hardy variety available. Last year's (January 12/13, 1981) cold snap didn't brown a leaf. It bears every year. The fruit are small but delicious. My figs, peaches, pears, persimmons, feijoas, pecans, Chinese chestnuts, pomegranates, loquats and Cherry-of-the-Rio Grande will probably take our cold without too much bother.

My largest Feijoa produced fruit for the first time this last summer without benefit of a cross-pollinator. It probably had not heard that it was necessary. It is a seedling tree, but the fruit are the same as the parent trees and very good.

My Orient pear has bloomed for several years without fruiting. A couple of years ago, I found out that it, too, needs a pollinator. Last year my Hood pear also bloomed and the Orient held several fruit, so I'm satisfied that problem is solved.

My peach tree is a Flordawon. It produces lots of small peaches of good flavor. However, I must spray regularly with oil plus Malathion to control the white peach scale. So far, 'knock on wood', the plum curculio nor the Carib fly have been a problem.

I am growing two Muntingia trees (Panama Berry or Strawberry Tree) in containers. They are very fast growing and I'm afraid they will soon be root bound, but they produced well all last summer. The fruit are small ($\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter) but delicious.

My grape arbor is pretty, shady (in summer) and produces an abundance of Muscadine grapes, Southland, Fry and Higgins. The birds and rats have been a real challenge. This past summer we were able to eat most of the grapes ourselves, which couldn't be said the previous three years. We controlled the rats with poison and the birds with a net over the top of the arbor and extended almost to the ground.

The freeze of last January, 1981, seemed to do only minor leaf damage to my Jaboticaba. However, the entire tree seemed to suffer from die-back all through this last summer, never budding out as profusely as it should in the spring and losing small branches throughout the year. I attribute this to 'thermal shock' which caused more damage than was originally apparent. The tree seems to be recovering but I believe the Jaboticaba is more cold sensitive than is generally believed.

* * * * *

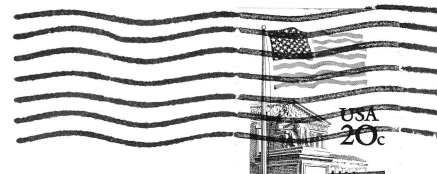
SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1982 - 1983

President..... ?
Vice President.....Paul Rubenstein
Secretary.....Bill Ryland
Treasurer.....Irene Rubenstein

I held the presses as long as I could, but we unfortunately have no takers for the job of president. If nothing happens in the meantime, a candidate will have to be nominated from the floor at the March meeting. Naturally, nominations from the floor are welcomed for all the offices on the slate. As in most clubs, we are suffering from a lack of volunteers to do the necessary work. Moreover, we are basically a group of strangers with a common interest and thus do not know who among us have what talents. At this point, shyness is not a desirable trait.

Ray Thorndike, Editor

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



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