



NEWSLETTER

MAY 1982

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

MAILING ADDRESSES: NEWSLETTER - 3114 Troy Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803
CHAPTER BUSINESS - P.O. Box 16003, Tampa, FL 33687

NOTE: THE MAY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.
NORMALLY WE MEET ON THE SECOND SUNDAY AT 2:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING.....SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1982 AT 2:00 PM

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

PROGRAM....."FERTILIZERS AND NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCIES" by Gil Whitton.
Mr. Whitton is the former Director of the Pinellas County
Extension Service. Besides writing several weekly columns
for area newspapers and writing columns and articles in
trade publications, etc. he is also a local radio and TV
personality, having several weekly programs.

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DUES REMINDER

Jud Newcombe, Membership Chairman announced at the April meeting that 30 of our
members are delinquent. If you are among those 30, please note that this may be
the final newsletter that you will receive.

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NEW MEMBERS

Harold & Luella Owens, 3652 Elizabeth Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

David L. Rush, 3121 Ballast Point Blvd., Tampa 33611, Tel. 837-5931

REACTIVATED MEMBERSHIP

George Fulmer, 526-530 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater 33516, Tel. 441-2416

ADDRESS CHANGES

Luis & Luz Coton, 1905 W. Orient St., Tampa 33607, Tel. 870-1188

Jim & Kathy Mercer, R.R. 3, Box 330-A, Chiefland 32626

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WEST PALM BEACH FIELD TRIP, JUNE 18/19

At this point, 17 members have signed up for group transportation and 12 others
will be going in their own vehicles. There now not being enough to make a bus
practical, we shall most likely rent a couple of so-called 15- passenger vans.
They should be comfortable enough for our number plus baggage (please limit same)

and perhaps have room for a few potted plants if we stop at a nursery or two. The meeting spot for embarking on our trek will probably be the Ag Bldg. in Seffner, if the county has no objections. Departure time should be between 6:00 and 6:30 PM on Friday, June 18. Driving time to West Palm Beach should be about 4 hours and we expect to stay at the Days Inn motel there. Rates plus 5% tax were quoted as \$27 single, \$30 double and \$4 per additional person thereafter, all prices on a per room basis. After breakfast Saturday morning, we shall proceed to Gene Joyner's "Unbelievable Acres" for a 1½ to 2 hour visit and then on to the Learning Center behind the Mounts Bldg. Ag Center for the balance of the morning. After lunch we can visit a nursery or two before returning. There's still room for more. If interested, call Ray Thorndike at 646-2137 (Lakeland).

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RFCI PLANT SALES

The Palm Beach Chapter will hold their annual sale at the rear of the Mounts Bldg., 531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach on Saturday, May 15. Gates open 10:00 AM.

On the same date, the Rare Fruit and Vegetable Council of Broward County will hold their annual sale at the Broward County Ag Bldg., 3245 S.W. 70th Ave., Davie.

The Miami Council will hold their annual sale on Sunday, June 13. The location was not announced, but last year it was held at the Youth Fair Grounds.

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FLORIDA STATE HORTICULTURE SOCIETY

The FSHS has made its annual call for submission of papers (deadline: July 1) for the annual meeting, October 31 to November 3, 1982 at the Carillon Hotel, Miami Beach.

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APRIL MEETING - PLANT DRAWING RESULTS

| <u>PLANT</u> | <u>WINNER</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Loquat..... | Barry Getis |
| Loquat..... | Lorraine Ball |
| Grumichama..... | Tom Patterson |
| Jaboticaba..... | Dave Rush |
| Surinam Cherry..... | Barry Getis |
| Malpighia species..... | Bob Heath |
| Blackberry Jam Fruit... | ? |
| Pineapple..... | Harold Seekins |
| Banana..... | Lorraine Ball |
| Mint..... | Kay Netscher |
| Blueberry..... | Maje Byvoet |
| White Sapote..... | Arnold Stack |
| Lemon Grass..... | Walter Vines |
| Japanese Apricot..... | Pat Duke |

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 6, 1982

Following are excerpts of the Secretary's notes of the Board Meeting:

The Florida State Fair Booth was the subject of some discussion. The facts brought out that the booth has been quite costly and relatively unproductive. Approximately \$500 was appropriated for expenses of the booth and only two or three memberships resulted. About the same occurred last year. And it has been virtually impossible to get volunteers to fill all the hours of the booth schedule. The burden of set-up and tear-down plus filling in vacant time slots has been borne by less than a half dozen people. Therefore a motion to eliminate the 1983 booth was passed by a unanimous vote.

A motion was carried authorizing Betty Dickson to place an ad or ads in a local paper of her choice to publicize our organization. Hopefully this will attract potential Pinellas County members.

The functioning of the chapter's Library was discussed. A motion was passed directing Librarian Maja Byvoet to proceed with putting the Library into operation. Maja will generate a set of rules for the use of the Library by members.

The date and location of the 1982 Third Annual Plant Sale was discussed. The use of the Florida Living Center at the Fairgrounds is dependent on availability in the month of October. There will be a hardware convention there at that time. Additionally we must know the Tampa Bay Bucs home game schedule before finalizing on a particular Sunday for our sale. Irene Rubenstein is working on these details. A motion was passed to charge the public the \$1.00 parking fee.

Revisions to the Constitution were discussed. The fact was pointed out that at this point, now that we are chartered with the state and are filing with the IRS, we cannot change our charter. Only the bylaws may be revised. It was also brought out that we have been choosing our officers incorrectly. Under corporate regulations we must have our Board of Directors elected by the general membership, and, in turn, this Board will choose from among themselves the various officers. The Constitution Committee will continue to work on bylaw revisions.

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REPORT OF APRIL 18, 1982 MEETING

Our new President, Bob Heath, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. The first matter for discussion was the Beach Picnic at Fort De Soto Park to be held Sunday, May 2. A map was available for members to locate the site. Shelter #1-N will be used.

Ray Thorndike had a sign-up sheet for the June Field Trip to West Palm Beach. He explained the costs and gave the proposed itinerary.

Bob Heath then discussed the proposition of a demonstration planting of fruit trees at our Seffner meeting place. The county has given permission and will assign space. We will need some volunteers for this project. Pres. Heath also mentioned that next month there will be sign-up sheets for volunteers for various committees.

Bob Duke showed us the very nice T-shirts the Sarasota club has produced and is selling.

Irene Rubenstein announced that she is trying to obtain October 17 as the date of our Annual Plant Sale in the Florida Living Center Bldg. at the State Fairgrounds. Although there will be a hardware convention at that time, they may not need the building on that date. She will know in a week. There was then a discussion of charging the buying

public parking fees as our cost for parking at last year's sale was \$1150.

Three plaques were awarded to honor outstanding service to the club. One to Bill Lester as Immediate Past President, one to Ray Thorndike for the newsletter, and one to Paul Rubenstein as Plant Sale Chairman. Thanks go to Irene Rubenstein for getting the plaques.

Jud Newcombe, Membership Chairman, reminded us of dues still to be paid. As of 4/18/82, we have 46 renewals, 36 with time left, and 30 due.

Maja Byvoet announced the setting up of a club library. Details will be announced next month. Thanks go to Paul Rubenstein for donating a mobile box for storing books.

The meeting was adjourned and the plant drawing held.

Bill Ryland, Secretary

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PROGRAM: SAPINDACEAE

by Gene Joyner

The AKEE (*Blighia sapida*)

The fruits of the Akee are three to four inches long, about the size of a closed fist, triangular in cross section, with a thick, leathery, red shell. Upon ripening, the fruit opens into three separate sections, each containing a shiny black seed covered with a yellowish white fleshy aril, which is the edible part. The seeds and pods are considered poisonous. The arils are also poisonous when in the unripe state and also when over-ripe or rancid. Only newly opened fruit should be used.

The tree is grown extensively in Jamaica and also on many other Caribbean islands and to a very small extent in Florida. The fruit has a very bland taste and is used cooked as a vegetable, especially with eggs. The fruit can be forced to open with the use of heat and are sold thus by some unscrupulous vendors in latin countries. They are still poisonous, since they must be allowed to open naturally on the tree. When ripened naturally, they are safe to eat for about three days.

Young trees will freeze at about 30 F., older trees at 27 to 28 F. They do come back fast from the roots when frozen to the ground. They may flower at 5' to 6' in height, but usually taking the second or third year of flowering to set fruit. The tree seems to have no major disease or insect problems.

The LYCHEE (*Litchi chinensis*)

The Lychee is a beautiful, symmetrical, large ornamental tree, very good for the dooryard, and reaching 40' or more in height. Originally from China, there are a number of cultivars available here. The tree flowers usually in March, in panicles of small greenish blossoms, most of which are male. Late seasonal frosts are a danger. The average number of fruits per panicle is 6 to 10. The fruit ripen from mid-May to early July. They are quite colorful, appearing like big red strawberries, ranging from 1-3/4" to over 2" in diameter. The variety 'Sweet Cliff' is not as red as the more common 'Brewster'.

Although 'Sweet Cliff' is a bigger fruit and perhaps has better eating quality, 'Mauritius' is a more dependable bearer. 'Bengal' has big fruit but is not a dependable bearer.

The preferred method of propagation is air-layering. An air-layered tree should

bear fruit in its second year. A seedling will take from 7 to 10 years to fruit and will not come true to type. Grafting is possible, but is not as practical as air-layering because of the threat of freezes. An air-layered tree will recover from ground level, but a grafted tree will be lost, leaving only the rootstock. 'Sweet Cliff' and 'Brewster' have slightly better cold tolerance than other available varieties. Seed size varies among varieties, but it also varies from one fruit to another on the same tree.

Lychee fruit may be used fresh, dried, and frozen whole. Frozen fruit kept in a plastic bag or freezer bag will retain its quality for one to two years. Canned fruit is available in specialty and oriental markets.

The LONGAN (*Euphoria longana*)

Also from China, the Longan has blooms similar to the Lychee, but is more productive, having 60 to 100 fruit per panicle. Naturally this heavier bearing causes a smaller sized fruit than the Lychee. The fruit may be thinned in order to increase the size. The best known named variety is 'Kohala' from Hawaii, having a larger fruit - about the size of a Lychee, and with a small seed. Longans ripen in late July and early August, thus following the Lychee. The fruit may be used in the same ways as the Lychee, also freezing well. Most people consider the Longan fruit inferior to the Lychee, but it does have its own adherents. The 3/4" to 1-1/4" round, golden brown fruit is grape-like in looks, almost like a scuppernong. The flesh is slightly more translucent.

The tree is bigger than the Lychee, 50' or more in height. It will grow 4' to 5' per year. It is not as symmetrical, but more upright than the Lychee. It is good for a streetside planting. Young trees are as tender as the Lychee, but older trees will take slightly more cold. It has dark green foliage and makes a good shade tree. Neither Lychee or Longan require spraying. The worst pests are birds and squirrels. New, improved seedlings are now available in South Florida.

The RAMBUTAN (*Nephelium lappaceum*)

Called the "Hairy Cherry" in Costa Rica, the Rambutan bears a red, burnt-orange or yellow fruit covered with soft spines. The yellow fruit tend to be more acid and have a flat seed. The red fruit are sweeter with a more rounded seed. The 2" fruit is firmer and has juicier flesh than the Lychee - and also more flavor.

This tree is very cold sensitive, not surviving 32 F. without protection. Therefore, it will not grow north of the Keys. It is a fast growing tree, almost the same size as the Lychee. It takes 3 to 7 years or more to fruit when grown from seed.

The FIJIAN LONGAN OR DAWA (*Pometia pinnata*)

This is also a very cold sensitive tree, being grown approximately from Stuart south. It has very attractive foliage with reddish new growth. It will bear two to three crops per year, the fruit being borne like the Lychee. The fruit is 2" to 3" in diameter with flesh similar to the Lychee in appearance, sweet but lacking much flavor.

The Fijian Longan tree will grow to a height of 30' to 40'. There are no named varieties in Florida. Seedlings will bear in about the 4th or 5th year. Plants are not widely available because the fruit is inferior to the Lychee and Longan. However, due to bearing in the spring, fall and perhaps again in the winter, they are grown mainly for availability of fresh fruit in seasons when the Lychee and Longan are not bearing.

The SPANISH LIME, MAMONCILLO or GENIP (*Melicoccus bijugatus*)

The Spanish Lime is a medium size tree, 30' to 40', with very dense foliage. Because it is dioecious (having male and female trees), one must plant two or more or graft appropriate wood onto a lone tree. Named cultivars are available in the Miami area. Seedlings take four to six years for fruit production, while air-layered trees will bear in two to three years.

The fruit ripens from the summer months into early fall. It is the size and shape of a small lime. The white to orange-white pulp is attached to a large seed. To eat, pop the flesh into the mouth by squeezing the shell after cracking with the thumb nails. It is sucked on like candy, having a refreshing lemon/lime flavor. Some trees have much sweeter fruit than others. In the tropics, the fruit is often sold by the bunch like grapes.

The Spanish Lime tree grows about 5' per year and is very cold sensitive when young. Older trees (above 6' to 8') will withstand temperatures into the twenties. The tree has very few problems - occasionally an iron deficiency.

Some of the trees described here can be seen bearing fruit at Gene's "Unbelievable Acres" and at the Mounts Building "Learning Center" on our Field Trip to West Palm Beach in June.

Tender trees like these can be grown in colder regions like ours by means of tub culture or under glass (hothouse). The size of the tree obviously must be restricted to be grown under glass and tub culture will automatically stunt the tree. Trees will bear fruit in either case, but the owner must be satisfied with a drastic crop reduction compared to a full size tree in a warmer climate. Naturally, some fruit is better than none at all.

Girdling is practiced on Lychees and Longans in September and October to ensure bloom the following season. Do not remove any bark; simply ring the branch by sinking the knife blade in as far as the cambium layer. Do not girdle the main trunk, merely the lateral branches that you wish to bear fruit the following season. The purpose of this form of girdling is to stop growth. Should the branches continue having growth flushes into late fall and on into the winter, they would probably skip bloom. The growth flushes must be stopped no later than November to force a dormant period. Then the growth in the late winter (after the girdle has healed) should have blooms on it. New growth in late November and December will not be mature enough to bloom.

Girdling may be practiced on the Longan in other seasons to force blossoming and fruiting at different times of the year than normal.

A saw cut all around the limb can substitute for the use of a knife blade. This is not recommended, however, because the cut is wider and will take longer to heal. Also, there would be more danger of infection to the tree or fungus or borer insect introduction. It would be good practice to apply pruning paint to the wider cut.

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SOME FRUITS IN SEASON NOW IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Apple | Blackberry | Cherry of the Rio Grande | Chayote |
| Peach & Nectarine | Blueberry | Surinam Cherry | Banana |
| Plum | Mysore Raspberry | Grumichama | |
| Papaya | White Sapote | Jaboticaba | |



TAMPA BAY CHAPTER, RFCI

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER, RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

Third Annual Financial Report - April 1, 1981 to March 31, 1982

Balance in Operating Account April 1, 1981 \$ 4,713.28

Income During Fiscal Year

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Membership Dues | 1,678.00 | |
| Plant Sales | 20,645.75 | |
| Book Sales | 91.35 | |
| Citrus Park Bank Interest | 324.38 | |
| Intercapital Liquid Assets | | |
| Dividends | 676.92 | |
| Donation | 100.00 | |
| | | \$23,516.40 |
| | | \$28,229.68 |

Expenditures During Fiscal Year

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Postage & Printing - Newsletter | 1,325.67 | |
| Stationary & Supplies | 109.24 | |
| Long Distance Phone Calls | 193.81 | |
| Speaker (Program) Expenses | 500.00 | |
| Flowers for Ill Member | 25.67 | |
| P.O. Box Rental | 30.00 | |
| Books | 43.83 | |
| Cleaning Constantine House | 60.00 | |
| Bank Service Charge | 3.00 | |
| Refreshments | 50.41 | |
| Filing Corporate Papers(Legal) | 125.00 | |
| Application for Corporate Status | 48.00 | |
| Florida State Fair Booth: | | |
| Display Materials | 57.18 | |
| Travel & Manpower- Set-up & | | |
| Tear Down | 364.00 | |
| Plant Sale Expenses: | | |
| State Fair Florida Living | | |
| Center Rental | 412.00 | |
| Flyers | 20.00 | |
| Parking Fee & Electricity | 1,034.10 | |
| Merchandise & Supplies | 12,214.37** | \$16,616.28 |

Balance in Account as of March 31, 1982 11,613.40*
\$28,229.68

* Savings - \$10,709.06
 Checking - 904.34
\$11,613.40



TAMPA BAY CHAPTER, RFCI

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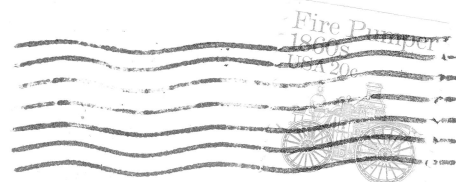
Third Annual Financial Report - April 1, 1981 to March 31, 1982 - (Continued)

**Breakdown of Merchandise & Supplies (Plant Sale Expenses):

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Books for Resale | \$ 729.10 |
| Trees & Fruit | 10,760.22 |
| Long Distance Calls | 91.23 |
| Supplies | 102.58 |
| Donation to Police Explorers Group | 100.00 |
| Tribune Display Advertising | 267.84 |
| Tribune Classified Ad | 44.40 |
| Car & Travel Expenses | 19.00 |
| Insurance | <u>100.00</u> |

\$12,214.37

Tampa Bay Chapter Newsletter
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