



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1983

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

EDITOR: RAY THORNDIKE, NEWSLETTER MAIL ADDRESS: 3114 TROY AVE., LAKELAND 33803
PRESIDENT: PAUL RUBENSTEIN, CHAPTER MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 260363, TAMPA 33685

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 2:00 PM ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (1:00 LUNCH THIS MONTH.)

NEXT MEETING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1983 AT 1:00 PM

MEETING PLACE THE HOME OF JANET CONARD,
919 WEST HENRY AVENUE,
TAMPA. Phone 239-9246.

Note: Janet can accommodate more than 50 people, but she does not have that many chairs. If you have portable folding chairs, please bring them.

You will find Janet's home on the north side of Henry Ave., between Kenneth Ave. and the river, nine blocks west of Florida Ave. and four blocks north of Hillsborough Ave. Take I-75/275 to the Hillsborough Ave. Exit and go west to Florida, Highland or Ola and then north to Henry Ave. Then west on Henry to Janet's.

PROGRAM POT-LUCK (COVERED-DISH) LUNCHEON AT 1:00 PM.
No formal program. Business meeting will follow the luncheon. Final details and assignments will be discussed for the Fourth Annual Plant Sale on October 9th. The monthly Plant Drawing will be held following the meeting and will include the quality plants listed elsewhere in this issue.

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NEW MEMBER

Lev Klempner, 13904 Wolcott Drive, Tampa 33624, Tel. 963-0384

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COSTA RICA TRIP - SEPTEMBER 17 - 24. Reservations still available. \$510 land & air. Call Tom Economou at Pathfinder Tours, Inc., Miami toll-free 1-800-432-7503.

CITRUS WORKSHOP FOR SERIOUS BACKYARD GROWERS. NOVEMBER 29/30. Winter Haven, Haines City and Lake Alfred. Registration fee: \$20.00. Tours of Citrus Arboretum, Winter Haven, Adams Citrus Nursery, Haines City, and lectures at Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred. For reservations call or write Chris B. Rollins, Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 S.W. 187th Ave., Homestead, FL 33031, Telephone 1-305-247-5727. Participants may also attend an EPCOT TOUR, DECEMBER 1, ALL DAY, fee to be announced, lunch included. A behind-the-scenes tour of the EPCOT nursery & greenhouse operation.

AUGUST MEETING: Our thanks to Tom and Margaret Hughes and Tom, Jr. for hosting a successful meeting and thanks also to Christine Prodanas for bringing refreshments. We especially had a very successful Plant Drawing featuring a "Triumph" grape donated by Tom Hughes. As noted below, we shall have another "Triumph" grape at the September drawing purchased by the club from Tom. Also note the "Fwang-Tang" Carambola and "Winter Mexican" avocado which will be offered along with the "Triumph." We hope that these higher quality plants will draw more people to the meeting, which is an especially important one and should be a good social get-together also. Remember that this is a covered-dish luncheon and begins an hour earlier than our usual meeting time. If you can't make the lunch, please come to the business meeting afterward. And, if you don't cook, you can participate in the luncheon anyway by bringing a bought item or items like in the dessert or soft drink categories. Pickles, olives, etc are other possibilities. Don't forget FRUIT, if you've got it

AUGUST PLANT DRAWING

<u>PLANT</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Pineapple	Bob Heath	Frank da Costa
Chaya (Spinach Plant)	" "	L.P. Daniel
Seedling Mexican Guava	Arnold & Lillian Stark	L.P. Daniel
Seedling Etrog Citron	" " "	Kay Netscher
Orinoco Banana	Tom Patterson	Al Roberts
Seedling Loquat	" "	John Wells
Triumph Grape	Tom Hughes	L.P. Daniel
Seedling Mango	Ray Thorndike	Betty Dickson
Seedling Carambola	" "	Rudy Kapudja
Dade White Sapote	" "	R. Olszewski
Grumichama	" "	Ann Davis
Celeste Fig	Armando Mendez	L.P. Daniel
Plantain	" "	L.P. Daniel
Guatemala Papaya	" "	?
Spanish Lime	" "	Frank Galatocky
Guatemala Papaya	Martha Kapudja	Henry Stuart
Guatemala Papaya	" "	Kay Netscher
Guatemala Papaya	" "	?

SEPTEMBER PLANT DRAWING - PLANTS PLEDGED BY THE CHAPTER

"Triumph" Muscadine Grape, in 3-gallon container
 "Fwang-Tang" Carambola , in 3-gallon container
 "Winter Mexican" Avocado , in 3-gallon container

Please bring your plant donations to the meeting, also.

1983 FOURTH ANNUAL PLANT SALE - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 AT 1:00 PM, FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS, TAMPA

Spread the word and be sure to get as many flyers as you can use and put them up in your place of business, billboards and storefronts. All supermarkets let you put them in the front window, as far as I know. Ask the manager first, though. Also try garden stores and nurseries and any other business window that you can think of.

Membership Cards - these are necessary for obtaining your club discount on any purchases at the sale. Pick them up at the meeting from Armando Mendez, Membership Chairman. Or pick them up at the Fairgrounds on Saturday or Sunday, October 8 & 9.

Membership Badge - workers at the sale need badges to get in without having to pay admission. The badges will be available at the guard booth at the Orient Road entrance on Saturday and Sunday, October 8 & 9.

PAPAYA RELATIVES (Concluded)

by Ray Thorndike

BABACO

The papaya relative stirring the most interest today is the "Babaco", Carica pentagona (Syn. C. heilbornii), described by Heilborn, which is yet little known outside of Ecuador, its native habitat. Its scarcity is due to its relative lack of seed production, necessitating vegetative propagation. Trunk segments 30 cm (1 foot) long from a mature "tree" are used for rooting. These softwood cuttings, weighing 1 to 3 pounds each, bruise easily and, despite the best of precautions, suffer high losses in shipping. C. candamarcensis performs well as a rootstock for propagation by grafting. In New Zealand, nursery prices have been quoted in the \$30 to \$50 range per plant.

The average Babaco fruit is 30 cm (12") long by 10 to 12.5 cm (4" to 5") in diameter, 5-angled and gently tapered to a soft point at the apex and weighs 1 kg (2.2 pounds). Yellow when ripe, the skin is smooth, thin and edible. The white pulp is 1.0 to 1.5 cm (roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ ") thick and very soft and juicy. The central cavity contains a quantity of a cottony substance, edible, and customarily seedless. Thus, seedless fruits have the distinction of being 100% edible. When cross-pollinated by another Carica species, a few, usually sterile, seeds may form. In the Northern Hemisphere, harvest time is probably from April to June, since it is October to December in New Zealand. This coincides with a short dormant period for the tree.

Relished either fresh or prepared, the pulp of the Babaco is very aromatic and varies in flavor, according to different reporters, from very acid to very mild, neither sweet nor sour. No sweet forms are described. The addition of sugar does enhance the unique flavor, described as a blend of strawberry, pineapple and papaya when fully ripe. Sliced or sectioned, the raw fruit may be served chilled or added to a salad. Some like it best in a syrup as a preserve. The juice is popular in Ecuador and, when mixed with passionfruit juice (Passiflora species), a delicious combination, is given the name "maracuya."

This fruit seems to enjoy considerable popularity where it is known and established commercially as in Ecuador and now in New Zealand. The fruit ships well and has excellent keeping quality with a shelf-life of 4 weeks. It will keep even longer with optimum cooling (+6 C. = 43 F.) Ripe fruits require careful handling, however. In other words, it may be harvested before fully ripe and allowed to ripen in the home.

Babaco trees are quite productive, averaging 30 fruits per year. Planted with a 5 foot spacing, 3000 trees to the hectare, projected yield is 45 tons per hectare. (1 hectare equals 2.47 acres.) Fruits ought to bring \$1.00 to \$2.00 each at retail, perhaps more, considering the prices that the puny little Hawaiian papayas bring (up to \$2.29 each here in Florida supermarkets.) Export possibilities are good, especially with the excellent keeping quality of the fruit. So, it is obvious that large returns are possible for the adventurous grower should this species be adaptable to his location.

The Babaco tree is shorter than all other species considered here except C. gracilis, usually 6', but occasionally reaching 9'. The stem is slender and the flowers and fruits are borne directly upon it, forming only on new growth. After harvest, trunks are cut back to a short stump to allow a new shoot to grow and bear. This practice is followed because, fruit only occurring on new growth, the higher up the fruit the smaller its mature size. Also, taller trees are top-heavy when in fruit and have a tendency to blow down in strong winds. Windbreaks are recommended.

A plant which thrives in a cool, subtropical climate, free of severe frosts, the Babaco should be tried in Central Florida. Cultivated in Ecuador between 5400' and 9000', it nevertheless has adapted to sea level conditions in northern coastal New Zealand, which is encouraging.

SEFFNER PLANTING

Calamondin (2)	Chinese Chestnut	Date Palm	Jelly Palm
Jaboticaba (2)	Fig (4 varieties)	Satsuma	Temple Tangor
Meyer Lemon	Pummelo	Oval Kumquat	Round Kumquat
Blueberries:	Imbe	Macadamia (2)	Chinese Jujube (2)
Flordablue	Carob (?) (2 - M&F)	Rose Apple	Japanese Persimmon (3)
Sharpblue	Carambola (2)	Kei Apple	Silverthorn
Aliceblue	Raspberries:	Guavas (3-5)	Bananas & Plantains
Carissas (3 Spp.)	Mysore	Black Mulberry	Red Mulberry
Quince (True) (?)	Heritage	Peach (3 ?)	Plum (Methley & Excelsior)
Japanese Quince	Dormanred	Apple (4) (?)	Pear (Flordahome & Pineapple)
Chinese Quince	Red Cattley Guava (8)	Yellow Cattley Guava (4)	Gainesville Avocado

Others: 7 ea. Windbreak Trees (Australian Pine ?), Dogwood, Redbud, Azaleas (many), Jacaranda (2 ?), Magnolia, and any other showy flowering tree.

Above is a list of plants and trees needed for the demonstration planting at the Seffner Ag Center which we are working on. Other species not listed are on hand and waiting in the wings to go into the ground as soon as the irrigation system is installed. Chairman Bob Heath announced at the August meeting that the layout design was complete and that the county was soliciting the donation of the irrigation system. With luck, we may be ready to begin planting by October. If you can help with the above list, please contact Bob Heath or Ray Thorndike.

TISSUE CULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Tissue Culture Committee has made substantial progress. However, the real progress will start pretty soon now as our members will be returning from vacations and prior commitments. We are pretty well prepared to handle Stage III plantlets and in some cases Stage II. First they will be set in Speedling Trays (#150) in a sterile medium and kept for two weeks or more under intermittent mist or some other form of humidity control. Second, they will be turned over to other members to be hardened off and potted upward into larger Speedlings or other containers or they could go straight to the ground, according to the species, the weather or the wishes of the Council. Third, although it is proper that we use some of this material in money-raising ventures to help support this non-profit organization, some percentage of these sterile, fast-growing, disease-free plants should be carried through to fruiting by the members with records kept for the Council and for the laboratory that furnishes the cultures as part of our cooperation with the plant industry.

Most of the tissue culturists that I have talked with have been very helpful and encouraging. They all seemed to know about the RFCI. They now also know about the Tampa Bay Chapter. We have assured them of the Council's desire to cooperate with plant materials or whatever. Most of the agricultural people I have talked with have high praise for the RFCI and what we are doing for the plant world.

Walter Vines, Chairman

Researchers working with fruit crops can be proud of the remarkable progress that has occurred since Tukey's first successful embryo cultures in 1933. There appears to be no fruit crop that cannot be grown in tissue culture provided the researcher has sufficient patience and resources. The key to successful cultures of difficult-to-propagate plants may lie with the correct combination of medium components, environmental conditions and explant source. The future is bright for fruit crops in tissue culture and advances related to propagation, genetics, differentiation and plant-medium interactions are inevitable.



TAMPA BAY CHAPTER, RFCI

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER, RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

Rules For Plant Sales To Members At The Annual Plant Sale.

These rules were adopted by the Board of Directors at its monthly meeting on 17 April, 1983. They are intended to be distributed to all members before the plant sale. The purposes for establishing these rules are:

- A. To encourage members to volunteer to help at the annual plant sale.
 - B. To insure that new members be aware of the privlidges of membership
 - C. To provide for a uniform sale policy that cashiers can follow.
 - D. To correct problems that developed in previous plant sales.
1. All members shall receive a 25 % discount on all plants purchased Sunday, from 2 hours before the sale opens to the public, until 4:30 PM.
 2. Each club member, and each member of their family who work at the plant sale are entitled to a \$12.00 credit towards plants purchased at the sale, for each full day worked (including work done prior to the sale). Plants may be tagged and set aside anytime.
 3. A record will be kept for each worker, and marked as to the days worked. This will be the basis for credits issued.
 4. All members shall be allowed a 50% discount on purchases from REMAINING STOCK, after 4:30 PM on Sunday.
 5. Plants which are selected and put aside for members before or during the day must be purchased at the 25% discount rate off list price, EVEN IF PAID FOR AFTER 4:30 PM. It is specifically forbidden to apply the "after-sale 50% discount" to plants that have been reserved earlier in the day.
 6. All plant sales to members & workers must be taken to the one SPECIAL sales cashier that handles member discounts & credits.
 7. Your membership card shall be the sole source of identification which the special cashier may use in order to credit you with membership discounts or credits.
 8. Unusual problems shall be resolved by the decision of Annual Plant Sale Co-Chairmen.
 9. Mathematically, it makes a difference how and when you apply discounts and work credits. We apply discount first, and then work credits; this offers the maximum price reduction.
 10. Work credits earned at one annual plant sale must be used up at this same plant sale; (they cannot be carried over for next year).
 11. Work credits apply as plant sale rebates only; they cannot be redeemed for cash.

* End *

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Form # RFCI-04 (B - June 83)

83-58

To: Members, Tampa Bay Chapter, RFCI *Tom Goldworthy* Friday August 83
From: Bob Heath & Tom Goldworthy, Plant Sale Co-Chairmen
Re: 4th Annual Plant Sale Progress & Planning Report # 05

25. Countdown. After the September Meeting, the next event is our Fourth Annual Plant Sale on Sunday, 9 October, 1983 at the Florida State Fairgrounds !
26. Experience the Joy of Involvement. There are basically three kinds of people: 1. The ones who MAKE things happen. 2. The ones who WATCH things happen. 3. The ones who WONDER what happened !! Which kind of a person are you ? Why not become involved in HELPING MAKE THINGS HAPPEN ! You really never get to know the other club members unless you work with them on a project.
27. Elsewhere in this Sept. issue you will find a copy of the "Rules For Plant Sales To Members At Annual Plant Sale" (form RFCI-04) which was revised and approved at the June 83 Board meeting.

TV PUBLICITY - Betty Dickson is scheduled to appear on the noontime show, Pulse Plus, Channel 13, Friday, October 7. If you have fruit that she can use for display, please contact her.

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



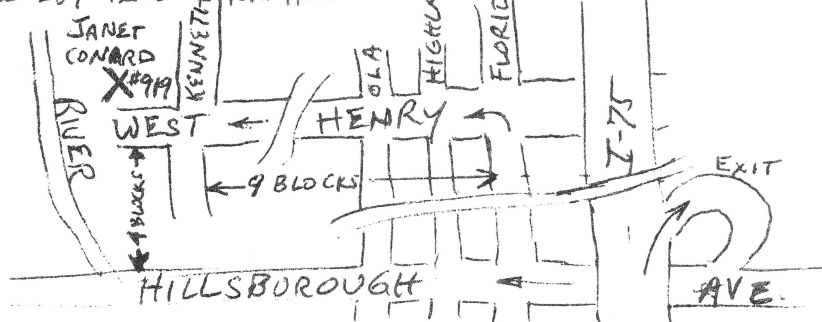
SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING

914 WEST HENRY AVE

USE HILLSBOROUGH AVE EXIT OFF I-75

Go 4 BLOCKS N. OF HILLSBOROUGH
+ 9 BLOCKS W. OF FLORIDA

CALL 239-9246 FOR HELP



P. JUDSON NEWCOMBE
314 DEER PARK
TEMPLE TERRACE, FL 33617