



# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1984

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

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(Including Renewals)

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 2:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING. . . . . NOVEMBER 11, 1984

MEETING PLACE . . . . . COMMUNITY ROOM UNDER WEST RAMP,  
TAMPA BAY CENTER SHOPPING MALL,  
BUFFALO AND HIMES AVES. NEXT TO  
TAMPA STADIUM. (TAKE DALE MABRY  
TO BUFFALO AVENUE, AT STADIUM.)

PROGRAM . . . . . "A LITTLE POME"

November's meeting, for your treat  
Presents no tricks, they're good to eat  
Miami's Tom Economou  
Prepared a program just for you.  
"Tropical Fruit Fiesta" named  
Yearly event, duly acclaimed.  
On this Sunday in November  
Sample fruit you'll long remember.

## NEW MEMBERS

Steven N. & Mary Lou Nelson, 6368 7th Ave. N., St. Pete 33541, Tel. 345-3676  
Elizabeth S. Jackson, 2012 Jorome Dr., Tampa 33612, Tel. 935-8676  
William O. Higgins, 4217 Culbreath Ave., Tampa 33609, Tel. 870-1351  
Steven Roberts, 1420 E. Bay Dr., Largo 33541  
Louise K. Schmidt, 598 Riviera Dr., Tampa 33606  
David Zuessman, 260 Medallion Blvd. N.E., Madeira Beach 33708, Tel. 391-8137  
John J. Richardson, PO Box 1167, Punta Gorda 33950  
Erica E. Shaffor, 901 Glenhaven Rd., Zephyrhills 33599  
William R. Edson, 1404 S. Moody Ave., Tampa 33629, Tel. 253-5334  
John A. & Laure E. Prokop, 6901 30th Ave. N., St. Pete 33710, Tel. 343-5785  
Ivan L. & Frances B. Cheatham, 12766 Seminole Blvd., Oasis Mbl. Home Park, Largo 33544,  
Tel. 581-4288  
William J. & Mary Yedkois, 5824 Mangrove St. N., St. Pete 33703, Tel. 526-5180  
Melinda E. Pickering, 7812 Valrie Ln., Riverview 33569, Tel. 677-8149  
Gloria M. Obiena, 7812 Tiburon Dr., Largo 33543, Tel. 531-1367  
Bobbie Puls, 10826 Stephanie Lane, Tampa 33610

New Members, continued

Ronald J. & Barbara Edwards, 220 Sharon Dr., Spring Hill 33526

Robert E. Mako, 2915 Arrowsmith Rd., Wimauma 33598

Helen Suri, Rt. 3 Box 126, Tampa 33619, Tel. 626-5260

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

We are hoping to interest many of our members in what may prove to be a most valuable function of our organization: COOPERATIVE BUYING. As a group, we can purchase things in large quantities, thereby receiving bulk purchase discounts. At present, we are considering two purchasing efforts: citrus tree insulators and unusual fruit tree varieties.

- 1) The Reese Clip-On Citrus Insulator is a device which provides year-round protection from freeze damage, insect damage, and herbicide damage (to the trunk). We are expecting to receive a large quantity of brochures in time for the next meeting. If you are interested in these devices, you may take a brochure, and contact Arnold Stark at 988-6767 to place an order. We are not yet sure of the price, but expect them to be \$3.00 - \$3.50 each. These insulators are applicable for use with other trees. Those wishing to examine one may do so at the next meeting; Paul Rubenstein, who informed us of this product, will bring several with him.
- 2) This winter the Club will be buying a variety of fruit trees from California. Trees will be bare root, wrapped in plastic and root baling, and sprayed with Wilt Pruf. We will be receiving approximately 75 trees in the month of February. Trees will need to be unwrapped and potted in plastic pots on the day of their arrival, since they will already have been out of the ground five or six days at that time. A considerable amount of effort by several people will be required to pot some 75 trees and volunteers for this work will be appreciated. We will provide the pots and the soil and the working space. The trees will be plums, apples, peaches, persimmons, pecans, jujubes, and possibly some figs. All will be varieties that are not readily available in Florida. The cost of the trees to the Club in their pots will be approximately \$6.50. The purpose of this effort is to provide trees for those members who may be interested in buying some for their own planting, adding to the plants in the Seffner planting, and for raffle at the monthly meetings. All those interested in getting involved in this worthwhile project, please contact Bob Heath. This is a Club project which will allow members to obtain trees not otherwise available and at wholesale prices, which, of course, is one purpose of the RFCI, and we would expect considerable involvement from our members.
- 3) Earl Martin, a nurseryman from the Gainesville area, unfortunately did not get to our sale because of brake-failure on his way to Tampa. He feels very bad about "letting us down", and has offered to drive a truckful of apple trees, pear trees and blueberries to a meeting so that our members can make the purchases they would have made at the sale (25% discount). He has the following varieties available for our area:

APPLES - Anna, Golden Dorsett, Schlomit\*, Michal\*, Elah\*

PEARS - Hood, Pineapple, Florida-Home

BLUEBERRIES - Alice Blue, Becky Blue, Sharp Blue

\* These are new imports from Israel, and are unavailable locally.

All who are interested in purchasing any of the above, please give your order to Arnold Stark, either at the November meeting, or call him at 988-6767, evenings before 10:00 p.m.

APPLESAUCE!

Three new apple varieties have been tentatively recommended for our area. They are "Elah", "Michal", and "Schlomit".

"Elah" trees bloom in mid-to-late March, and are very precocious and prolific. The medium sized fruit are bright yellow with a 30% pink blush, and ripen from mid-June to late July. They are best when eaten slightly before fully ripe, as they tend to get mealy. "Elah" had less incidence of fruit rot than other cultivars ripening during the same time. The trees are upright and semi-spreading, and have a chilling requirement of 450 hours.

"Michal" is a crisp light greenish-yellow apple with a 50% orange-red striping, which is medium-large in size. It blooms in mid-March, and ripens late June to mid-July at Gainesville. The tree has both a good spreading habit and resistance to leaf diseases, and has a chilling requirement of 425 hours.

"Schlomit" blooms early to mid-March, and bears large light to medium yellow fruit with a 25% rusty red blush. Flesh is medium sweet with high acid, and ripens late June and throughout July. The trees are medium, upright, and spreading, and have a 375 hour chilling requirement.

Adequate bloom overlap will occur with "Elah", "Michal", and "Schlomit" to insure pollination. Plantings of these cultivars should be made on a small scale, as tolerance to fire blight, fungal diseases, and fruit rot has not been adequately determined.

(Adapted from Miller, E.P. & L.H. Baker, 1982, Prof. Fla. State Hort. Soc. #75)

\* \* \* \* \*

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: FRUITCAKE

(L.M. Stark)

1 cup Almonds  
1 cup Brazil nuts  
1 cup hazel nuts (filberts)  
8 oz. dried apricots  
8 oz. pitted dates  
16 oz. candied cherries & pineapple  
1 cup Bisquick  
1/2 cup sugar  
3 eggs  
1-1/2 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 300°F. Line a 9x5x3 loaf pan with aluminum foil and grease the foil surface. Leave fruit and nuts whole. Mix all ingredients thoroughly. Spread in the pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean (about 1-3/4 hours). Remove from pan and gently remove the foil. Cool completely. Prick all surfaces with a toothpick. Baste with rum (or brandy or your favorite liqueur). Wrap well with heavy aluminum foil and store in the bottom back of your refrigerator for 6-8 weeks. Every week unwrap the cake and baste with more rum (or etc.). Bake in early November for a Christmas treat.

Please: Won't you send us your favorite fruit recipe(s) so that we may include them in future newsletters?

\* \* \* \* \*

We had a good turnout of workers for our work day at the Agricultural Center on September 15. We wish to take this opportunity to thank those who worked. We were able to complete most of the paths and planted all the trees we had available. Our need now is the acquiring of more trees to plant. We were expecting to get several trees at the tree sale including apples, plums, peaches and citrus. However, due to the problems Martin's Nursery had, these trees were not available at the sale. We were fortunate to get two figs, brown turkey and celeste, one Chinese chestnut, one tanenashi persimmon, and several nice catley guavas and surinam cherries. We still need the following:

APPLES - New Southern Varieties (Not Anna or Dorsett)	LOQUAT - Grafted Varieties
AVOCADO - Young Gainesville	MULBERRY - White Red
BANANAS - Cavendish Lady Finger Orinoco	NECTARINE - Sunred
BLUEBERRIES	PAPAYAS
CARAMBOLAS - Named Varieties	PEACH - Flordawon Okinawa
CARISSA	PEAR - Flordahome Hood Pineapple Orient
CAROB	PERSIMMON - Eureka Tamopan Fuyu Gaki Hana Fuyu
CITRUS - Temple Tangor Meyer Lemon Rangpur Citrange Satsuma Meiwa Kumquat	PLUM - Methley Excelsior
FIG - Osborne Prolific Alma Kadota Green Ischau	POMEGRANATE
JABOTICABA	QUINCE
JAPANESE RAISIN TREE	WHITE SAPOTE - Dade Manners
JELLY PALMS	
JUJUBE - Chinese	

The irrigation system is effectively complete except for the control system and the county has appropriated the funds for that. The control system will allow the entire system with three types of drip irrigation to be controlled from an office within the building automatically by time clock or manually as desired.

The next work day will be scheduled when more trees are acquired. So please drop your tree donation at the Agricultural Center or call Bob Heath at 876-7422 and he will arrange for delivery to the Center.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PRIDE! That's what I feel, and all of you should feel, about our RFCI Chapter! Our fifth annual tree sale was a huge success, in spite of its major problems (mainly, the lack of citrus trees, due to the "canker" quarantine, and the lack of apples, pears, and blueberries, due to a supplier's truck breaking down en route to Tampa). (Note: both of these factors were entirely beyond our control - we were great!) A large percentage of our membership worked, and worked hard! Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy what we were doing, and our cooperative effort reaped great benefits: not only did we make some money, but our sense of "community" was greatly strengthened, and we have an unprecedented number of new members! More of our members sold or donated plants than every before! One of our commercial suppliers said ours was the best organized tree sale in which he had ever participated! The supply and variety of plants (except for citrus, apples, etc.) were great, and they looked fantastic. I'm sure the majority of the public was greatly impressed and satisfied. There were many "repeaters" visiting our sale this year, so we apparently are doing a good job in their eyes. Thanks again to all of you who helped further this effort, and let's keep up the good work!

## TREASURY NOTES....by Tom Goldsworthy (continued)

25. GRAPE ROOT BORER SOLUTION? The June, 1984 issue of Organic Gardening Magazine has an article entitled "Stick 'Em Up!" by Barbara Pleasant on pages 65-66, which outlines a procedure for killing Squash Vine Borers by injecting the vines with BT (*Bacillus Thuringiensis*) also known as liquid Thuricide. This bacillus kills the borer by interfering with its digestive process. I wonder if this would work on the grape root borer as well, since it mentions in the article that the borer is related to the peach borer. Have any grape growers tried this in our area? If so, please inform us of results.
26. APPLE LOVERS. "The Romance of Antique Apples" by Barbara McEwan appears in Farmstead Magazine No. 63 (Fall, 1984) on pages 24-28. It includes a table summarizing 38 apples, and a table giving the address of 8 nurseries selling old varieties. It mentions 3 varieties suitable for Zone 9 growing area.
27. SOUTHERN GREEN MANURES FOR SOIL IMPROVEMENT. The director of the Tampa botanical gardens at the University of South Florida has written a short article in the June, 1984 issue of Organic Gardening Magazine telling about a nitrogen fixing legume suitable for our area of Florida which can be planted to improve the soil. See: "A Southern Green Manure: Hairy Indigo" by Frederick B. Essig on pages 58-59. Hairy Indigo is '*Indigofera hirsuta*'.  
  
A similar article about Lana woolpod vetch (*Vicia dasycarpa*) appeared in the Sept./Oct. 1984 issue of The New Farm Magazine of Regenerative Agriculture, on pages 21-23. By Mike Brusko, it was entitled "A Cash & Cover Crop". If you prefer to get your nitrogen from the air instead of a bag, these articles may interest you. Would you like to see copies of these articles in our library?
28. SUBMIT BILLS NOW OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE. If you have any bills to submit in connection with the 5th annual plant & tree sale of October 14, please forward these bills to the treasurer now. We cannot prepare the final report until all bills are turned in, and we are anxious to compare this sale with last year's. We hope to prepare the final report shortly after the October telephone bills are sent out.

29. ANNUAL SALE WORKERS. I believe in giving credit where credit is due. If you worked the weekend of the 14th, and your name does not appear here - let us know so that next month we can complete the list. These are the 49 people who signed in on our workers' sign-in log Saturday and Sunday:

Louis Alarcon, Abe Azar, Alice Beasor, Bruce Beasor, John Bell, Olga Blaka, Joe Constantine, Frank DaCosta, Jean DaCosta, Aubrey Dickson, Betty Dickson, Abe Freedman, Edith Freedman, Carl Furstein, Patricia Furstein, Frank Galatocky, Rita Galatocky, Rosie Goldsworthy, Tom Goldsworthy, Bert Harnley (B. Dickson's friend), Bob Heath, Al Hendry, Herb Hill, Margaret Hughes, Tom Hughes, Harry Klaus, Doris Lee, Bill Lestor, Elizabeth MacManus, Armando Mendez, Felicia Mendez, Glen Myrie, Kay Netscher, Jud Newcombe, Christine Prodanas, Irene Rubenstein, Paul Rubenstein, Bill Ryland, Celso Sanchez, Bea Seekins, Harold Seekins, Arnold Stark, Lillian Stark, Fran Stevens, Anita Unruh, Will Unruh, Roma Vaccaro, John Victor, Mary Victor.

Without these 49 workers, the sale would not have been possible. Thanks to you all. If you know of someone we forgot to mention (because they failed to sign in on the roster), please let us know. We need an accurate count of how many people it really takes to run a show like this.

30. CLUB MEMBERS WHO DONATED SOME PLANTS TO THE SALE. The following 7 members gave plant donations to the club. The amount of money raised by these plant sales is given after the name, in parentheses:

Olga Blaka (\$9.00), Joe Constantine (\$144.00), Betty Dickson (\$28.00), Celso Gomez-Sanchez (\$25.00), Albert Greenberg (\$94.00), Bob Heath (\$51.00), Joe & Fran Stevens (\$17.00).

Everyone's plant donations amounted to \$368.00. These contributions not only increased our treasury, but they enriched the variety of our sale selection for the public. Again, if I have omitted someone, please let me know so that next month we can complete our list and have an accurate picture of the sale.

31. TREE SALE PLANT SUPPLIERS. In addition to the people above who donated plants, the following 12 people brought plants and trees to sell on a percentage basis:

- A. Non-Member Commercial Suppliers (4): Steve Farnsworth, Green's Nursery, Albert K. Smith, Harry Snyder.
- B. RFCI Member Suppliers (8): Joe Constantine, Herb Hill, Tom Hughes Vineyard, Armando Mendez, Glen Myrie, Arnold & Lillian Stark, Ray Thorndike, Roma Vaccaro.

If I have missed anyone, please let me know so I can update the list next month.

32. MR. & MRS. PLANT SALE. To recognize individuals is not to detract from all the others who worked hard and long. I want to recognize the couple who consistently "make" the plant sale: Paul and Irene Rubenstein. Most members cannot have any idea of the number of hours, telephone calls, letters, trips, and miles they expend on the club's behalf to make the plant sale work. But I have seen it from the inside because I worked on the sale organization. In spite of the citrus blight, Paul coordinated our plant suppliers to bring a wonderful selection of plants. Quite a number of us were all out beating the bushes for shopping carts; only John Bell (23 carts) and Paul & Irene (100 carts) found any significant number for us to use. Irene handled the early rental of the Fairgrounds, and did much of the financial report for the plant sale final report. We should know that there would have been major problems in conducting the sale without their outstanding efforts to solve several important problems. Thanks, Paul and Irene.

It was clear that many of the 49 workers at the sale remembered what they did in previous years, because the set-up procedures on Saturday and Sunday went along smoothly, and we were definitely ahead of schedule this year and ready to go long before 1:00 P.M. Sunday.

When the mob of people surged through the lines at 1:00 P.M., everyone manning the tables, floor, and check-out lines really did well, and there was never a long or serious back-up. We all deserve a pat on the back. Having said that, I hope you won't mind if we deliver two pats on the back to: (3) Kay Netscher who worked like a whirlwind to check in and check out all of the suppliers' and members' plants and who agreed to store lots of our junk til next year; and to (4) Lillian Stark, who followed behind Kay Netscher and helped lay out the floor and then later lined up customers to keep the lines moving; and to (5) Arnold Stark, who worked at least half as hard as Lillian, as well as worked on organizing the sale; and (6) (7) Will and Anita Unruh who did all those things for me and stored more of our junk til next year; and to (8) Betty Dickson for all the projects; and to.....Well, there are five more I should mention, but I firmly resolved to stop at six people. I am fully aware that there are 41 more names of members who worked hard, and whose help we enjoyed.

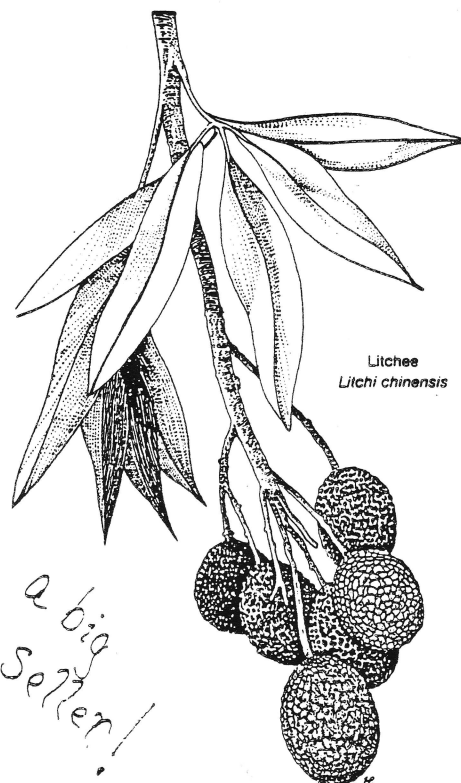
33. CLARIFICATIONS. Anyone who brought plants to the sale is welcome to examine the worksheet (RFCI-10) upon which we calculated their share of the sale money.



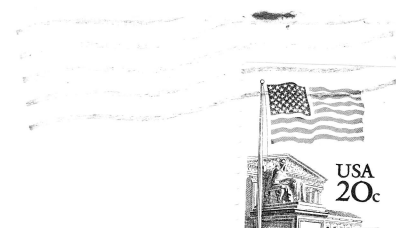
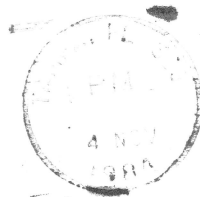
The  
Fate  
of  
Florida  
Citrus?

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CONTACT TREASURER FOR DETAILS



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