



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1988

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

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(INCLUDING RENEWALS)

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 2:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 16, 1988 (TREE SALE!)

PROGRAM. MEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE 9th ANNUAL
TREE SALE. A FRUITFUL EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE.

DATE. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1988 (SET-UP)
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1988 (SALE), FROM 9:00 a.m.
UNTIL. . . .

PLACE FORT HOMER HESTERLY ARMORY AT 504 N. HOWARD AVE.
ARMORY IS TWO (2) BLOCKS SOUTH OF CYPRESS AT
CASS STREET. GOING EAST OR WEST ON I-275,
EXIT AT ARMENIA AVE. DRIVE SOUTH ON ARMENIA
TO GRAY STREET, EAST ON GRAY ONE (1) BLOCK TO
HOWARD AND NORTH ONE (1) BLOCK TO ENTRANCE.

September Plant Raffle

Plant Name	Donor	Winner

Brown Turkey Fig	Honeycutt	Al Roberts
Brown Turkey Fig	Honeycutt	Kay Netscher
Brown Turkey Fig	Honeycutt	Al Hendry
Celeste Fig	Honeycutt	Rome Vaccaro
Guava	Frank Tintera	Rome Vaccaro
Cherry of the Rio Grande	Heath	Monica Brandies
Lang Jujube	Heath	Al Hendry
Real Ginger	Heath	Walter Vines
Spanish Lime	Heath	Janet Conard
Spanish Lime	Heath	?
Rheedia	Stark	D. Lee
Rheedia	Stark	D. Lee
Abacca Pineapple	Heath	Al Hendry
Sugar Apple	?	Honeycutt
Comphrey	M. Brandies	Stark
Comphrey	M. Brandies	Frank Tintera
Papaya	Honeycutt	Rome Vaccaro
Papaya	Honeycutt	Monica Brandies

MERUBA (a recipe from Cochin, India, via Ellen Goldberg)

Over low heat, make a syrup from about 1/4 cup of water and 1 to 1-1/2 pounds of sugar. Slowly add about 2 lbs. of cut up, peeled hard pears (or pineapple or mango). A pinch of cardamom powder may be added. Cook slowly over low heat until mixture is brown colored and thickened (consistency of honey or molasses). Ladle into sterile canning jars and seal, or refrigerate.

Here again is information about the Tree Sale; its importance warrants repeating!

TREE SALE NOTES:

1. ALL RFCI members, whether they work at the sale or not, receive a 10% discount on purchases at the sale (upon proof of membership)..
2. Those who work a half day or more, receive a 25% discount on plants selected prior to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.
3. Workers receive a 50% discount on plants still on the sales floor after 4:00 p.m.
4. Workers may select plants prior to the sale until 12:00 noon on Sunday. These plants may be stored in the designated area during the sale after being checked out.
5. No plants may be moved from the sales floor between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. Sunday.

* * *

MORE NOTES ON THE TREE SALE:

Shopping Carts: Shopping carts are extremely necessary for the sale to proceed in an orderly and efficient manner. We presently have approximately 75 shopping carts which are stored in Riverview and must be transported from there to the Armory on Saturday before the tree sale. We need approximately 100 to 120 shopping carts to actually handle the load. So if any of our members will keep their eyes open and possibly find new sources of carts, please let us know. If you know of a large store that has recently closed which may have carts for rent, or for loan, or if you know where we may buy some used carts, please let us know.

4-Wheeled Dollies: We also need 4-wheeled dollies, flatbed trucks and garden type carts on Saturday and Sunday for hauling large plants. Anyone who has these kind of carts, please bring them to the Armory on Saturday and be sure to register them with the traffic foreman.

Work Times: Saturday & Sunday, work will start at 9:00 a.m. and terminate sometime after 5:00 p.m.

Orange Vests: Workers on Sunday will be issued orange vests so that customers will be able to identify them.

Sign-Up: On Saturday and Sunday workers must remember to sign up on the worker roster clip board in order to receive their discounts.

REMEMBER - YOU ARE NEEDED TO MAKE OUR SALE A SUCCESS AND WITHOUT A SUCCESSFUL SALE THERE IS NO RFCI!!!!!!

* * *

COVERED DISH MEETING

Janet Conard and Al Roberts hosted our September meeting at Janet's home. It was delicious! That is, the covered dishes brought by the members were delicious. This is one meeting, each year, particularly enjoyed by the participants. Turnout was good but many members were obvious by their absence. We offer them our condolences!

Plans were made for the Tree Sale and from there the prognosis looks very good. Janet's screened porch was excellent for our meeting and for our lunch.

We were treated, also, by a tour of her yard where the fruit trees are developing beautifully. It is obvious much tender loving care has been devoted to her yard. We wish to offer our heartfelt thanks to Janet and Al for hosting the September meeting and look forward to next year.

* * *

****FOR MEMBERS WHO WISH TO SELL PLANTS AT THE SALE: RE-READ LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER FOR INSTRUCTIONS.****

Excerpted From the June-July 1988 Issue of the Miami RFCI Newsletter:

POLLINATING SOPS by Har "Tree Cupid" Mahdeem

The old English word sop means a juicy tidbit, a moist tasty treat such as bread dipped in gravy or milk. It is a word often applied to the fruit of the Annonaceous family and more apt than the word "apple", also used by English speakers in warm climates to describe these fruit. The rest of the English speaking public, living where real apples grow finds the indiscriminate application of the word apple to other, unrelated species confusing, and rightly so.

Anyway... Many of the sop species are neither adequately pollinated by Florida insect populations or by the wind. So one must see to it oneself. One each of the dozen sop species I've worked with, each individual "three legged" flower is sequentially bisexual, with the female stage first and the male stage following. The female stage can be seen when the three long and fleshy petals separate a little but remain pointing stiffly down and still guarding the sticky spot in the middle. During the male stage the three petals lift widely open, exposing a chandelier-like ring of pollen holders dangling loosely around the dried-up, erstwhile sticky, spot. After a few hours the petals wilt and droop back down.

With the atemoya sop (*Annona squamosa* x *cherimola*, "custard apple" in Australia), cherimoya (*Annona cherimola*) and custard sop (*Annona reticulata*, "custard apple", "bullock's heart") the sexual activity of each stage commences in the evening and continues for several hours, longer in humid weather and less in dry. For atemoyas and cherimoyas in early spring, this start up of activity occurs two hours or more before sunset, but as the year progresses the atemoya flowers activate later and the male stage follows the female stage by one day. Cherimoya and custard sops could be one to three in between stages, though I need to observe these some more. Sugar sop flowers (*Annona squamosa*, "surumuyo", "ata", "anon", "sweet sop" and "sugar apple") activate around sunset, with the male stage occurring the next day. Ilima sop flowers (*Annona diversifolia*, "papausa") usually activate in the middle of the day, with the male stage in the middle of the next day; however, in the early spring they can activate in the early morning, with the male stage following in late afternoon or early evening of the same day.

So far, I have accomplished nothing by hand pollinating the large round six-petaled flowers of mountain soursop (*Annona montana*) which activates near sunset; or gator sop (*Annona glabra*, "alligator apple") which activates around one to three o'clock in the morning. You can skip all this by growing varieties that do a decent job of attracting Florida insects, such as "Gefner" or "Bradley" atemoyas and the many other annonas which are said to do a good job of pollinating themselves.

Otherwise, prepare yourself. You will need: A small-tipped, fine hair water color brush and a pill bottle or film container. Know the flowers' ways. Find a dry flower (male stage) and brush the loose contents into the container. Find a sticky flower (female stage); be sure it is on a twig that is able to bear the weight of a fruit. Moisten the brush in the female flower's stickiness and then return the brush to the container for the pollen. Spread the petals just a little to insert the brush tip and then gently cover the sticky spot with pollen. Fuller pollination will help ensure a well-shaped fruit. If your tree has few flowers, you might not be able to get both male and female flowers at the same time (or a few hours apart). Try to obtain pollen from a friend's tree or you may wish to try refrigerating pollen. I have had no luck the few times I've tried it, but I was recently told it helps to keep it moist and not too cold, perhaps next to the lettuce...

When gnats have gone to roost and mosquitos have yet to swarm. When breeze brushes and sky flocks pinken. Spread the golden dust and breathe the aroma of annona.

* * *

CARAMBOLA PRESERVES (Bob Heath)

4 carambolas	1/2 cup honey
1 cup sugar	1 cup water

Place sugar, honey and water in saucepan and bring to slow boil. Cut carambolas crosswise in 1/4" slices and remove seeds. Add to liquid in pan and remove from heat. When cool, store in refrigerator for 24 hours. Remove from liquid and store in refrigerator.

A MESSAGE FROM A PRESIDENT:

Do you read your RFCI Newsletter every month?

Does it inform you?

Does it entertain you?

Does it provide you with a record of the fund of knowledge our programs provide?

Do you approach your mailbox each month with anticipation, knowing you will read about our next great meeting?

Do you enjoy attending our meetings?

Do you appreciate and utilize the practical advice and skills presented?

Do you like winning plants in our monthly drawing?

Do you savor the tasty morsels at our hospitality table?

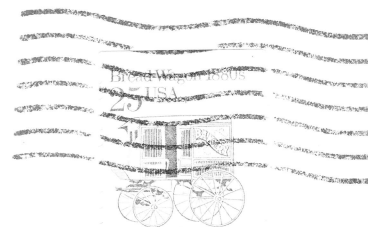
DO YOU WANT ALL OF THIS TO CONTINUE?

If your answers to the above questions are yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, and YES! (and, of course, it could not be otherwise!), then remember..... our annual plant sale is our organization's life's blood. Without it we cannot function, and WITHOUT YOU THERE IS NO SALE!!! We absolutely must have your help on Saturday, October 18, and Sunday, October 19, 1986, at the Armory. This is not a job that can be done by just a handful of people, so please chip in and return to RFCI at least what you get out of it. BE THERE!!!!

I would like to thank Janet Conard and Al Roberts for again hosting our annual presale "planning and potluck" meeting. All the food was excellent, and so was the setting and the company. Thanks again, Janet and Al.

ANY MEMBERS WHO WISH TO DONATE FRESH FRUIT OR EXOTIC VEGETABLES FOR THE TASTING TABLE, PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE TREE SALE.

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