



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1989

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

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(INCLUDING RENEWALS)

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

NEXT MEETING.OCTOBER 8, 1989

MEETING PLACEHOUSE ON PRUETT ROAD. SEE MAP ON PAGE 89-62.

PROGRAM

OUR PROGRAM THIS MONTH IS REALLY SOMETHING SPECIAL. We are going to meet at our very own club house, so everyone can see what we have bought. See Page 89-61, "Congratulations Tampa Bay RFCI" for a description, and Page 89-62 for the map of how to get there. We will look at the house and see how it may be altered to provide our meeting room, kitchen area, bathrooms, library, etc. We will look at 2.2 acres of land for planting, our potting shed, laboratory, greenhouse and other facilities, some of which are still in our imagination. And we can discuss all the things we still need. Also, we will have our regular raffle, so bring your spare plants. We will also have the tasting table of good things to eat.

THANKS...

Thanks to all of you who participated in this year's annual Tree Sale! All indications are that this was our most successful sale ever! Certainly, the gross income was higher than for any previous sale. We also have twenty new members! The next newsletter will include a more complete review.

We hope that all of our members and friends forgive the relative brevity of this newsletter, but we are exhausted after our annual sale, which, this year, fell between two meetings, thereby requiring the writing of a newsletter right after the big event.....zzzzzzzzzz!

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH: MANGO CRISP (RFCI Tropical Fruit Recipes)

Line buttered 8x8x2" pan with 4 cups peeled and sliced mango. Sift together 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, 1 tsp baking powder, 3/4 tsp salt, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1 tsp nutmeg; work in 1 egg with pastry blender until coarse meal consistency. Sprinkle over mango slices. Drizzle 1/3 cup melted butter or shortening over the top, followed by 1/2 cup chopped pecans. Bake at 375 for 45 minutes.

TREE SALE

Boy! Was this a good Tree Sale? You bet; the best yet! And we really needed it. Everybody worked hard, but everybody had a great social encounter. Esprit de corps was certainly in evidence. Our condolences go out to those who couldn't participate this year. We had a great time and we believe most of our customers did too!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have just completed our 10th successful tree sale. THANKS to all who gave up a weekend to help. We should know by meeting time just how we did financially.

See "Atlantic" Magazine for September 1989 for a good article on breeding disease resistant bananas. The article discusses the program at La Lima, Honduras, managed by Phil Rowe, to develop plants resistant to Panama disease and Sigatoka. Hybridizing plants that don't normally produce seeds is an interesting process.

"Organic Gardening" also has an interesting article on commercial banana growing in California. Some of our members have visited both of these places on recent fruit seminars and plant collecting trips.

Extension service Master Gardeners are starting a new series of plant clinics and demonstrations to run from now until spring. See the garden calendar in the Tampa Tribune or St. Pete Times for those you may be interested in.

Some of our members attended the 7th International Rare Fruit Seminar in Miami. We visited the rare fruit collections in Dade County and Big Pine Key. Fruit Council members came from Zaire, California and Florida clubs. We intend to hold next year's seminar in Puerto Rico and the year after (1991) is to be hosted by Tampa, Bradenton, and Sarasota.

The following is from the book "The Italy of America" written by J. F. Bartholl and F.C.M. Boggess in Jacksonville in 1881:

"That all of the tropical fruits will grow in this portion of Manatee County has been proven by experience. There has been as fine a pineapple raised here as I ever saw on the island of Cuba.

Mango apples are an excellent fruit; they have a seed like a plum and are as large as an orange. They will bear in five years from seed. The fruit always demands a good price - from two and one half to three cents each.

Alligator pears are also thrifty growers and will bear in five years. They are equal to the cantaloupe in flavor and are eaten the same way, with salt and pepper.

Coconuts will bear as many as one hundred in one crop and never bring less than two and one half cents each.

Dates grow well and also sapodillas and sugar apples.

Bananas have proved to grow well and rapidly and are worth fifty cents to a dollar a head. Some heads have as many as two hundred bananas on them. One acre of bananas on hammock or bay land will support a family, and but little capital or labor is required. There are a great many varieties. The French are preferable, being better flavored, though the horse are the most hardy and bear well."

These prices may seem reasonable when one looks at a list of "Prices of Leading Necessaries of Life, Etc." Flour \$8.50 bbl; grits \$5.50 bbl; coffee (fair Rio) 18¢ lb; syrup (good made here) 40¢ gal; Women's coarse leather shoes \$1.00 pair; nails 8¢ lb; venison 6¢ lb; beef 6¢ lb; pork 8¢ lb; oysters and clams about 50¢ per 100.

SEPTEMBER PLANT DRAWING

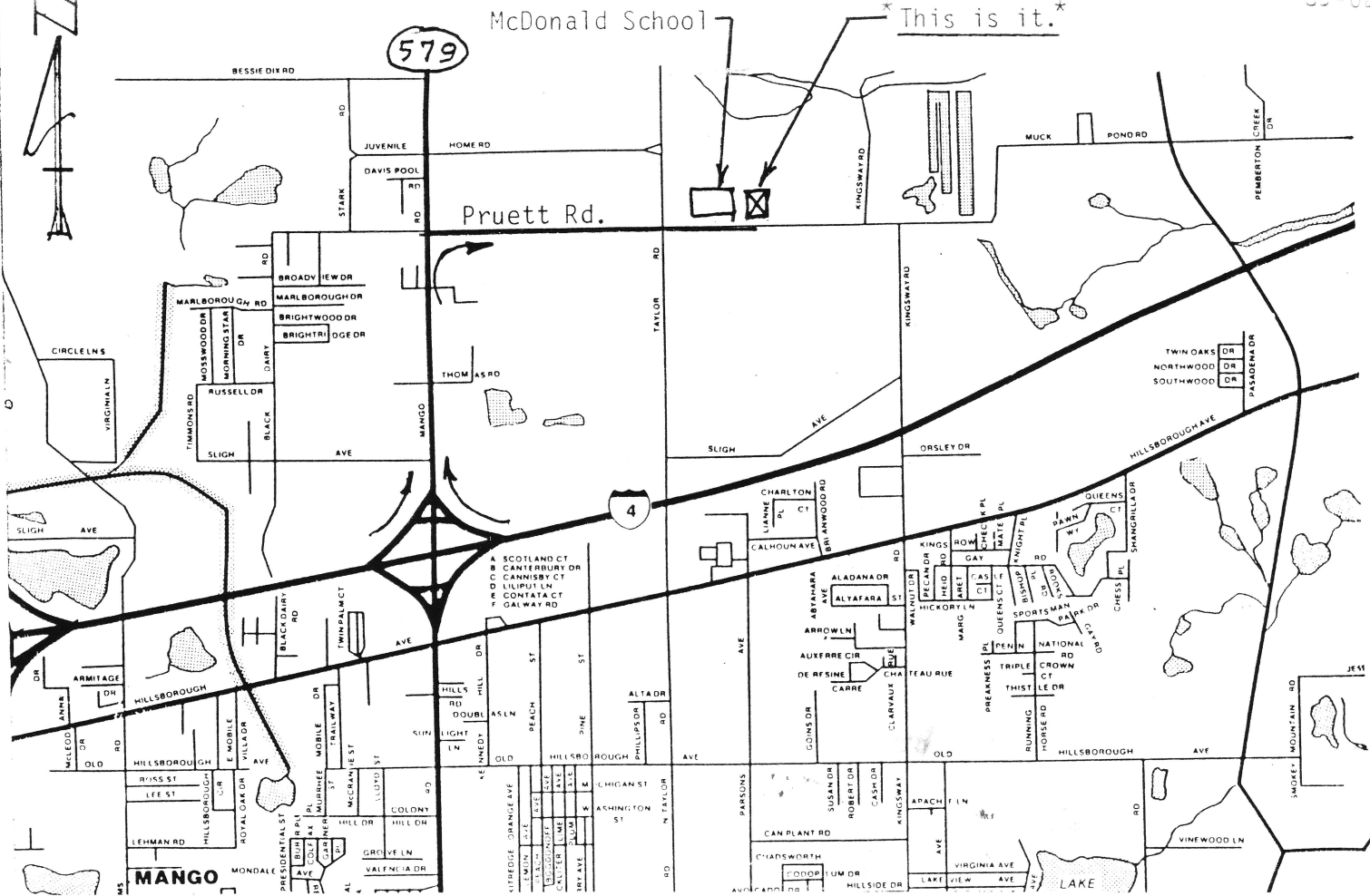
<u>PLANT</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Cattley Guava	W.L. Bradshaw	Bruce & Sherry Pearson
Surinam Cherry	"	?
Papaya	"	Bruce & Sherry Pearson
Pecan	Bruce & Sherry Pearson	John Bobby
Fig	"	W.L. Bradshaw
Banana	"	"
Brazo Blackberry	"	"
Wampi	A & L Stark	F. Honeycutt
Atemoya	"	Jan Conard
Naranjilla	Rome Vaccaro	Larry Fox
Guava Fruit	E. Freedman	B. Mendez
Purple Passion	Honeycutt	Bruce & Sherry Pearson
Purple Passion	"	?
Loquat, Japanese Plum	"	?
Seminole Pumpkin	Monica Brandies	A. Mendez
Sugar Apple	Bob Heath	Larry Fox
Cherry of the Rio Grande	"	W. L. Bradshaw
Surinam Cherry Black	Armando Mendez	Larry Fox
Naranjilla	"	Jan Conard
Papaya	?	Monica Brandies
Calanda	?	Theresa Heath
Passion Fruit	?	Rome Vaccaro
Papaya	?	Bruce & Sherry Pearson
Papaya	?	Molly Charlton
Papaya	?	Pearl Nelson
Papaya	?	Jim Murrie
Calanda	Charlie & Alicia Pruet	John Bobby
Papaya	?	Alicia Pruet
Campomanesia seeds	?	Pearl Nelson
Jaboticaba	?	L. B. Simmons
Jaboticaba	?	W. L. Bradshaw
Jaboticaba	?	Walter Vines
Papaya	?	L.B. Simmons
Papaya	?	Roma Vaccaro
Papaya	?	Monica Brandies
Papaya	?	L. Stark (2)

Congratulations Tampa Bay RFCI!!!!!!

We finally did it! After years of talking about purchasing a piece of property as a permanent home for our organization, we can now say we have a new home! We just recently had our closing, and have purchased a house on 2.2 acres of land ready for planting. The house will need considerable renovation to transform it into our new meeting place, and we will need plenty of volunteer assistance to help accomplish this task. Our new address is 313 Pruett Road, Seffner, FL 33584, and it is about 2 miles from our present meeting place. To get there, go to State Road 579, just as you do to get to our present meeting place. Go north on 579 about 1 mile from U.S. 92 to Pruett Rd. Turn right, and go east about 1 mile. We are on the left, immediately past MacDonald Elementary School. Please come to the meeting and see the place. We think you'll be as excited as we are.

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TASTING TABLE: This is a special meeting and a good spread on the tasting table will be appreciated by all. Those who like to cook up little goodies are invited to contribute.



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