



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1991

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

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PRESIDENT: LILLIAN STARK CHAPTER MAIL ADDRESS: 313 PRUETT RD., SEFFNER FL 33584
(INCLUDING RENEWALS)

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 2:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING . . . APRIL 14, 1991

MEETING PLACE. . . RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL CLUBHOUSE. 313 Pruett Rd., Seffner. Take I-4 to exit 8 North, S.R. 579, go one mile to Pruett Rd. (See McDonald School sign), turn right (East). Go one mile. See Clubhouse on left immediately past McDonald School.

PROGRAM . . . OUR PROGRAM THIS MONTH PROMISES TO BE VERY INTERESTING. In addition to being able to use our clubhouse for the first time for a meeting, we have a repeat engagement by Dr. Jude Grosser to bring us up to date on his research in cell genetics. Two years ago we had an interesting slide presentation on the highly scientific experiments he has been conducting in the crossing of plants and trees that do not lend themselves to crossing under natural conditions. His work is on the cellular level and produces very strange results. Dr. Grosser is the associate professor of cell genetics at the Lake Alfred Research Center and should provide us with some very detailed information of a highly interesting subject. In addition, we will have our usual tasting table and plant raffle so try to make this special meeting and enjoy this Sunday afternoon with your fellow members.

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IN MEMORIAM... Joe Constantine 1919-1990

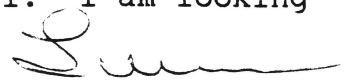
Joe Constantine was a charter member, one of the ten or so at the very first meeting of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Rare Fruit Council. His house on Lake LeClare in the lake area was our official meeting place for the first two or three years of our existence. Joe's place was an ideal meeting grounds for the club because of the tropical trees that he had growing there. We were able to see first hand large jaboticaba trees, large macadamia trees, large grumichama trees and many others. Joe Constantine was our second president after Jud Newcomb and provided us with much needed leadership through those early days. Joe's help was very critical in the planning and implementation of our first tree sale 11 years ago.

Joe was a local citrus grower and very knowledgeable in the citrus field but had an unabiding interest in the growing of rare fruit trees. But his health at that time was none too good and declined continuously until last June when he had to give up his heroic battle against emphysema. Many of our members knew Joe Constantine personally and have great respect for the things he did for the club. His declining health made him inactive over the last few years and he was sorely missed during this period. We wish to extend our condolences to his wife, Jane, and other family members, relatives and friends. May he rest in peace.

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Message from the President:

Dear friends, first I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as president during the coming year. So many new and exciting things are happening for our RFCI right now. We are about to have our first meeting in our new building - a dream about to become reality. It has taken a tremendous amount of hard work, many hours, and a great deal of money. But, if we are to properly complete this project, we need to have each and every one of you contribute to it. Some have already sent in their donations, or made a pledge. Sadly, there are those who haven't yet given something to help build this project we will all benefit from. Please look into your hearts and dig as deeply as you can into your pockets so that we can actually realize our goal. I am looking forward to seeing you all at our April meeting.



We regret to announce the death of member Lottice Shipley which occurred on March 13. Lottice regularly attended meetings, bringing goodies for our tasting table. She will be missed. Our sincere condolences to her husband, member Lloyd Shipley, and her family.

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Due to technical difficulties (the tape recorder didn't work) we do not have a transcript of last month's lecture.

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PIGEON PEA (Cajanus cajan)

The pigeon pea is a short-lived tree (five or six years in frost-free areas) reaching a height of ten feet. The peas are produced in pods, three to eight peas to the pod, and are about one-quarter inch in diameter. The pods are easily opened when they are dry. If left on the tree, they will pop open spontaneously at the proper time and plant themselves. The tree may be damaged by frost and may be killed at 26°F.

Under normal conditions, the tree will bear the year it is planted and all summer through subsequent years. The dried peas may be kept through the winter and planted in seed beds in February, then planted outside in mid-March or later.

The tree will grow rapidly in good soil, likes water, but will stand drought. The limbs are long and slender, becoming pendulous under good conditions.

There are two varieties of pigeon pea. The most common is from Central America and is brown when dry. A larger variety from Kenya is a marbled rust color. The flavor is different, more like peanuts or soy beans than English peas. They may be boiled like other dried beans with ham, or used in soups.

The young green seeds are used as a vegetable in many countries and have been canned in Puerto Rico and Trinidad. The green pods are sometimes used as a vegetable, also. The plants are used as excellent cattle fodder and also can be made into hay and silage. Pigeon peas are planted as green manures and cover crops, used as temporary shade, windbreaks and for erosion control. The dried stalks are used for firewood, thatching and basket-making in India.

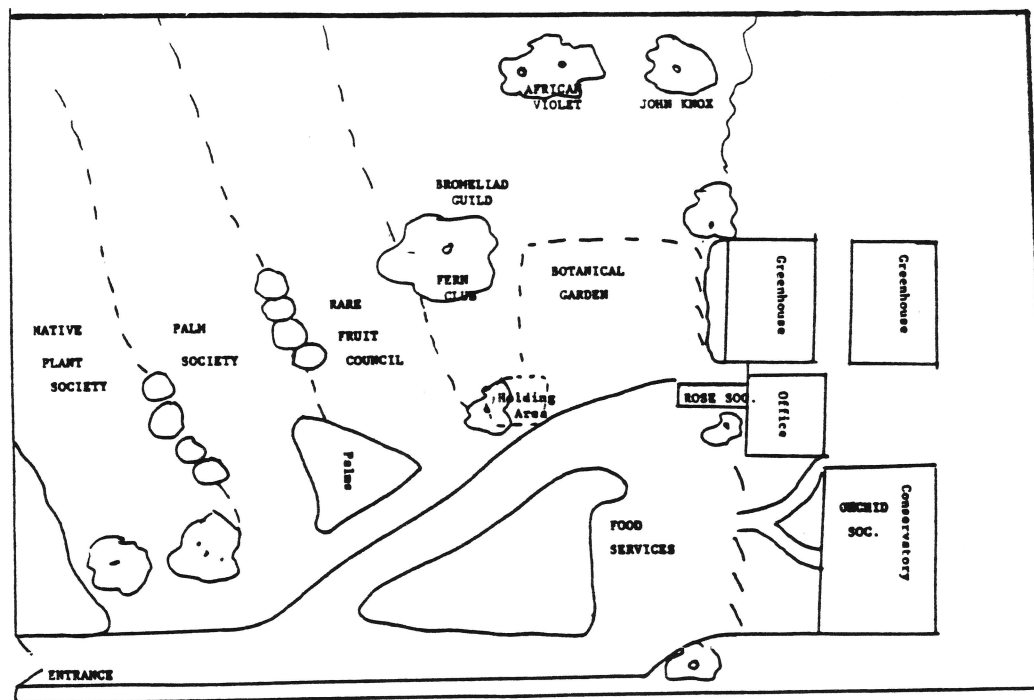
by Bob Heath

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA PLANT FESTIVAL

The RFCI Tampa Bay Chapter needs some participation in the U.S.F. Plant Festival to be held Saturday, April 20. We will need 10 to 15 people to participate for the entire day or any part thereof. We will also need plants for sale and display. We would suggest seedling surinam cherries, loquats, Cattley guavas, guavas, mulberries, etc. and air layered or rooted cuttings of any other fruiting plant that are available. It is important that merchandise forms be filled out to keep track of your selling prices, and that all plants be labeled as far as variety and selling price. The Gardens will be open at 9:00 for set-up on Saturday morning, and the public will be allowed in at 10:00. The merchandise forms will be available at the next meeting and at the plant festival. Samples of fruit will also be welcome for display. We welcome all members to come to the plant festival for either entertainment or for working. We believe the festival will provide a considerable amount of both.

EXCERPT FROM USF HORTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

The Plant Festival will be on Saturday, April 20, from 10 AM to 4 PM (gates will not open until 10; first shift volunteers should be in by 9). There will be food service by Alessi (soft drinks, hot dogs, sausages, etc.), and a bake sale by the USF Women's Club. Please plan to have lunch at the Garden. At this writing, we expect to have separate plant sales by the Native Plant Society, the Rare Fruit Council, the Palm Society, the Tampa Fern Club, the Tampa Bay Orchid Society, the Tampa Bromeliad Guild, the Tampa Rose Society, the Tampa African Violet Society, and the John Knox Village Horticultural Society, as well as the Botanical Garden. You will have to pay for plant purchases from each group separately. In the Botanical Garden sale, we will have a wide variety of both houseplants and outdoor plants, including ginger, aroids, begonias, bromeliads, red columbines, clematis, papyrus, pentas, bamboo palms, and many others. Special collectors edition Botanical Garden T-shirts will also be available. Many items will be in limited quantity. Parking will be on the grass across the street from the Garden. Please follow the directions of the volunteer parking lot attendants. There will be a holding area for your plant purchases and a shuttle to help transport your plants to your car. You may find it helpful to bring your own boxes, wagons, etc. for carrying your plants. We will be very limited in our ability to provide this sort of assistance. Things may get rather congested, particularly in the morning, so please be patient.



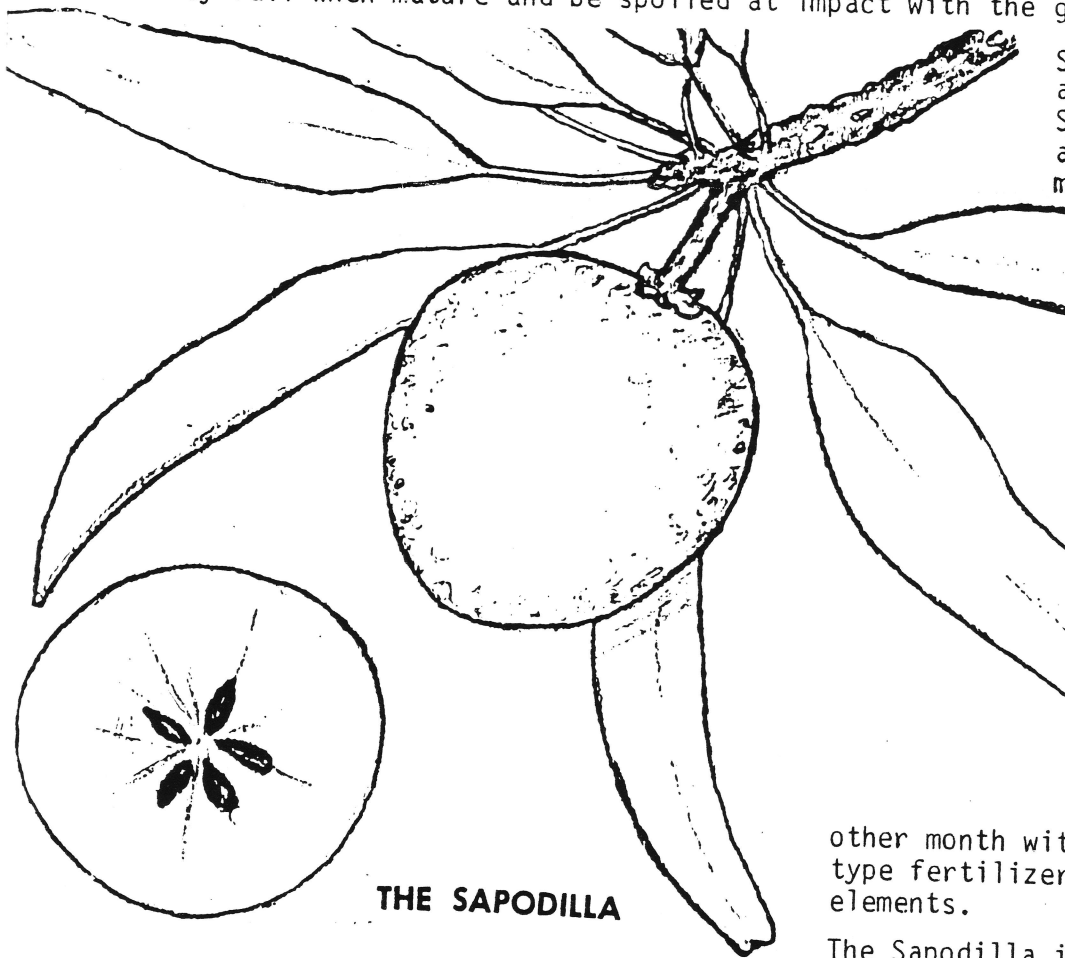
U.S.F. BOTANICAL GARDEN - FESTIVAL AREA

TROPICAL FRUIT OF THE MONTH - SAPODILLA - By Bob Heath

That the sapodilla will grow and fruit in central Florida can be attested to by several of our members who presently are enjoying the tasty brown fruit. Sapodilla is a member of the Sapotaceae family. You may find it listed as Manikara Zapota or Achras Sapota. In its native habitat in Central America and Mexico, it is a large slow growing evergreen tree, as is the Mamay Sapote, a near cousin. The tree is highly salt tolerant and adapts to a wide range of soil types and growing conditions. However, it is tropical and should be protected against temperatures below 30°. For this reason we recommend growing the trees in a container or in a location where they may be protected and can easily be covered.

A grafted tree will fruit when it is only three or four years old and perhaps four feet high and an inch or so in diameter. It is a dense, beautiful tree with thick glossy green leaves clustered at the tips of the branches. The wood is hard and termite resistant and is provided with a milky sap which is the source of the original chicle chewing gum.

The fruit is slow to develop from the small inconspicuous flowers and will normally reach maturity during the summer months, though some fruit may mature during the winter. The fruit is two to three inches long, oval, brown and scurfy. The flesh may be cream colored to brownish in the different species and normally provided with six or eight hard flat black seeds. It is normal to pick the fruit when it is mature and not allowed to ripen on the tree, as it may fall when mature and be spoiled at impact with the ground.



THE SAPODILLA

Suggested varieties are Prolific, Brown Sugar, Dade, Madella, and Russell. The tree may be grown from seed and later grafted from a tree with good quality fruit or air layering may be used to propagate new plants. A grafted tree will normally fruit in three to four years. The leathery leaves vary in size but average three to four inches in length. They are elliptical and frequently pointed, about 2" wide, a dark glossy green on the upper surface and pale green underneath. Young trees should be well nourished and given plenty of water for rapid growth. They may be fertilized every

other month with a citrus or fruit tree type fertilizer provided with the minor elements.

The Sapodilla is a desert fruit to be eaten raw or it may be pulped and used for ice creams or sherbets. Because of the chicle in the fruit, cooking usually results in a rubbery mess. It is reported that the Caribbean fruit fly will attack the Sapodilla but I have not had that problem, although the Caribbean fruit fly is very much in evidence in my neighborhood.

PLANT RAFFLE: March.

<u>PLANT NAME</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Rio Grande Cherry	Heath	F. Honeycutt
Tree Tomato	Heath	Alice Burhenn
Tree Basil	Heath	Alice Burhenn
Grumichama	Heath	Nancy McCormack
Key Limes	J. Murrie	Leo Cotter
Natal Plum	Honeycutt	Paul Zmoda
Surinam Cherry	Honeycutt	Robert Wente
Tamarind	Honeycutt	Louis Zoehrer
Chayote	Charles Novak	Mabel Galbreath
Chayote	Charles Novak	B. Mendez
Chayote	Charles Novak	Heath
Chayote	Charles Novak	Paul Zmoda
Chayote	Charles Novak	A. Mendez
Chayote(X2)	Charles Novak	Robert Wente
Chayote	Charles Novak	Louis Zoehrer
Chayote(X2)	Charles Novak	Jim Murrie
Chayote(X6)	Charles Novak	?
Grapefruit	Paul Zmoda	Louis Zoehrer
Passion fruit	Paul Zmoda	Heath
Pigeon Peas	Paul Zmoda	?
Sweet potato cuttings	Nancy McCormack	Louis Zoehrer
Sweet potato cuttings	Nancy McCormack	Jules Cohan
Sweet potato cuttings(X5)	Nancy McCormack	?

Hospitality Table: March

Pat Jean: Peanut Butter-pineapple cookies

Frank Honeycutt: Carambola

Bob Heath: Carambola

Lottice Shipley: finger sausage, pepper, pineapple juice, cheese and crackers

Frank Burhenn: Peanut Butter muffins, oatmeal & raisin muffins

Our annual elections for the board of directors was held at the March meeting. At the Board of Directors meeting the following slate of officers was elected to serve this coming year:

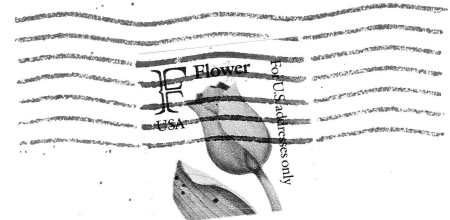
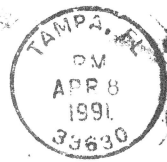
President:	Lillian Stark
Vice President:	Bob Heath
Vice President:	Arnold Stark
Treasurer:	Alice Burhenn
Secretary:	Edith Freedman
Membership:	Frank Tintera
Library:	Frank Burhenn
Plant Raffle:	Frank Honeycutt
Property Landscaping:	Bob Heath
Tree Sale:	Bob Heath & Arnold Stark
Program:	Al Hendry & Paul Zmoda
Seeds:	Charles Novak
Tasting Table:	Al & Pat Jean
Newsletter:	Bob & Terry Heath & Arnold & Lillian Stark

A POME FOR SPRING

The time is right to plant a tree, even better, plant many!
 Get up off your acerola, go out and plant a carambola.
 One you purchased at our tree sale, (hope that papaya is a female!)
 Spring has sprung, the sap is running, planting trees is very cunning.
 You don't need persimmon to pick the fruit, if it's your tree from leaf to root.
 So don't be a sapodilla, you can grow your own vanilla.
 Jaboticaba, you can't go wrong, it will bear, if you live that long!
 You can make pie, jam or wine, from that scrawny muscadine.
 Cooking jam can make you merry, from that tasty Surinam cherry.
 If Carib flies are a nemesis, bag the guavas on your premises.
 Hope your citrus gets no canker, if for citrus fruit you hanker.
 Here's a tip for growing wampi, do not plant them in a swampy.
 If fresh figs will tempt your palate, chase those squirrels with a mallet.
 (Is there a way to prune your peaches, to keep them out of possums' reaches?)
 To your fruit trees say aloha, to your guava and feijoa.
 If you listen to these words, there'll be enough to share with birds.
 A compost pile is worth the trouble, get out there and shovel, shovel!
 On these truisms you can rely, brought to you by Tampa RFCI.

* * *

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