



NEWSLETTER

MAY 1993

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

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: BOB HEATH
THERESA HEATH
ARNOLD STARK
LILLIAN STARK

PRESIDENT: SHERRY BAKER

CHAPTER MAIL ADDRESS: 313 PRUETT RD, SEFFNER FL 33584
(INCLUDING RENEWALS)

BECAUSE OUR REGULAR MEETING DAY FALLS ON MOTHERS DAY, THE MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO MAY 16th, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, FOR THIS MONTH ONLY.

MEETING PLACE RARE FRUIT COUNCIL CLUBHOUSE, 313 PRUETT ROAD, SEFFNER. TAKE I-4 TO EXIT 8 NORTH, S.R. 579, GO ONE MILE TO PRUETT (STREET SIGN ON LEFT SIDE). TURN RIGHT (EAST). GO ONE MILE. SEE CLUBHOUSE ON LEFT IMMEDIATELY PAST McDONALD SCHOOL.

PROGRAM FRED STRICKLAND IS A BLUEBERRY GROWER IN PLANT CITY. He will present a slide show on the propagation and cultivation of the delicious blueberry. Very strict requirements must be followed for the successful growing of blueberries and his presentation should be of great interest. We will also have our usual raffle and tasting table so bring plants and goodies.

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THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

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The March "No Name" Storm picked up our grocery cart quonsit hut and deposited it some thirty feet away.

The Club wishes to thank the following members who worked on Saturday, March 27 to put the shed back in place and to remove a very large chestnut limb and other storm damaged foliage:

Al Hendry
Bob Heath
Frank Honeycutt
Jud Newcomb
Paul Zmoda
Charley Novak
Frank Burhenn
Arnold Stark
Bob Baker

Helpful Hint: (from the Stark Family kitchen)

Now that the Surinam cherries are ripening, it is time to prepare some tasty desserts, preserves, and wine from this versatile fruit. But pitting them is really the pits! And of course, they are not all ripe at once. Collect the fruits as they ripen. Do not rinse, unless there is an obvious dirt problem, and if you do rinse, be sure the fruit is dry before continuing. Place the fruit in plastic freezer bags, up to a quart per bag. Close with a twist tie and freeze. If the bag is not full, more fruit can be added as it is picked. When you have sufficient frozen fruit for your recipe, take one bag out of the freezer. Dump the fruit into a colander and rinse briefly with cold tap water. Do not thaw. Use your fingers to "pop" the pit from each cherry, placing the cherries in a bowl. Repeat with another bag of frozen fruit. This is really much easier than pitting the fresh fruit, and the fruit is just fine for all manner of uses.

What's Happening: April-May, 1993

by Paul Zmoda

The key to growing healthy plants is having healthy soil. It's a good idea to build up your own soil while recycling yard waste via composting. Good soil is fluffy, rich in available nutrients, and holds water well. The compost recipe is fairly simple: Mix dried plant matter with fresh green plant material and keep moist. Turn weekly to introduce oxygen and soon you will have a source of super soil. Fermenting compost gets very hot and steams as you turn it. In a couple of months you will end up with rich, dark soil that can be used to side-dress vegetables or fruiting plants. Mix some peatmoss in and you will have made a great potting soil for starting your rooted cuttings and seedlings.

Normally cast-off items suitable for composting include grass clippings, fallen leaves, weeds, egg shells, manures, prunings, kitchen vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, and hair from the barber shop, among other things. The intense heat generated by an active compost pile pasteurizes the ingredients. This means that weed seed, fungi, and other plant disease organisms are killed, so you don't have to worry about spreading them around later. Finished compost can be spread all over your yard to improve the underlying soil. You just can't have too much!

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COSTA RICA FRUIT AND FLOWER SAFARI

JULY 28 - AUG. 7, 1993

**Visit National Parks
Rain and Cloud Forests**

\$1,395 - 11 DAYS

**Miami Air/Hotels/Tours
and 21 Meals**

This Safari will visit or pass through 4 National Parks & Reserves including the Poas Volcano, Manuel Antonio National Park, Tortugero National Park and Braulio Carrillo National Park. Our safari tourists can decide to remain extra days in Costa Rica to see other national parks probably without extra airfare (ask us about this option). For additional information call Gene Joyner at
For reservations call 305-285-7173.

SAFARI DIRECTORS: TOM ECONOMOU & GENE JOYNER.

Raffle: April

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
Blackberry Jam Fruit	Stark	Zmoda
Miracle Fruit	Stark	Evelyn Reda
Chayote	Novak	Evelyn Reda
Chayote	Novak	Mary Ann Campbell
Chayote (4)	Novak	?
Pond Apple	Bob Baker	Gregg Cardin
Surinam Cherry	Zmoda	Jesse May
Surinam Cherry	Zmoda	?
Grumichama	Honeycutt	Dan Williams
White Chayote	Honeycutt	?
Wampi	Armando Mendea	Al Jean
Spanish Lime	Armando Mendez	Gregg Cardin
Black Sapote	Armando Mendez	Scott Daniels
Black Sapote	Armando Mendez	?
Rose Apple	Armando Mendez	Gene Wagendseller
Egg Fruit	Armando Mendez	Al Jean
Oliver Loquat	Walter Vines	Jesse May
Oliver Loquat (2)	Walter Vines	?
Soler Pumpkin	Walter Vines	?
Lemon Grass (2)	Stark	Scott Daniels
Rosemary	?	Gregg Cardin

Tasting Table: April

Lillian Stark: Peach jam, papaya jam, crackers.

Arnold Stark: Carambola wine.

Pat Jean: Apple strips.

Mary Ann Campbell: Lemon coconut cake

Maya Byvoet: Durian wafers

Nancy McCormack: Honey cake

Anna & Jesse May: Doughnuts

Frank & Alice Burhenn: Chocolate cake

Thank You Thank You Thank You

To the participants in last month's auction: a lovely Lychee was acquired by Paul Zmoda; Alice Burhenn, Bob Heath, Mary Ann Campbell, John Bell, Arnold Stark, Anna May, and Charles Novak went home with a variety of unusual tomato plants. Thanks to D.D. Smith for donating the tomatoes!

The Pinellas County Fair was a great success! Club membership applications, Annual Tree Sale Flyers, our Exhibit Board, and several specimen plants were on display. We were awarded a first place ribbon with a \$50 cash prize!!! A special thanks to Jeffrey and Sherry Dodson and Bob and Terry Heath for their time and plants.

✎ **IMPORTANT** ✎
MEETING DATE
CHANGED
TO
May 16

TAMPA BAY RFCI
313 PRUETT RD
SEFFNER FL 33584



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

