



# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1994

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

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: BOB HEATH  
THERESA HEATH  
ARNOLD STARK  
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PRESIDENT: SHERRY BAKER      CHAPTER MAIL ADDRESS: 313 PRUETT RD, SEFFNER FL 33584  
(including renewals)

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

NEXT MEETING . . . . .MARCH 13, 1994

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 Road. (See McDonald School  
sign.) Turn right (EAST). Go one mile. See  
Clubhouse on left immediately past McDonald School.

PROGRAM . . . . .Our program this month will explore organically  
oriented gardening presented by Samm Philmore,  
who is a member of the Organic Society in the  
Tampa Bay area. He will discuss growing fruit  
and vegetables organically and pest control by  
natural biological means.  
In addition, we'll have our monthly tree raffle  
and tasting table, so please contribute.

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RFCI LANDSCAPING AND TREE PLANTING EXPOSITION: Landscaping and tree planting of  
the back area of our property is underway, albeit in a very early stage. On Saturday,  
February 19th and 26th, we planted 16 trees; 4 bananas, 4 figs, 1 persimmon, 3 citrus  
trees, 1 carob, 1 pomegranate, 1 white mulberry and 1 downy myrtle. Sadly, only five  
club members were able to donate their time. For their efforts, we wish to thank  
Alice Burhenn, Bob Baker, Sherry Baker, Jud Newcomb, George Reigler and Bob Heath.  
Unless additional help is forthcoming, this will probably be the extent of our  
planting at this time because of the inconvenience of watering plants by hand  
weekly through the dry season. With the start of the rainy season, additional  
trees may be planted if participation warrants.

Landscaping of our property is one of the primary functions of our club and will  
eventually result in a fruiting plant showplace in which we should all be proud.  
Those who have seen the Mounds planting at the Palm Beach Extension Service area  
know what an interesting place our property may become.

When we were meeting at the Hillsborough County Extension Service building, we  
planted their back yard, building a bridge over the swale and a grape arbor for  
the muscadine grapes, and creating the pathways through the planting. That area  
is growing very well and is well worth a visit by those who have not seen it recently.

Our primary need at this point is installation of an irrigation system. Our hope  
is that someone in the irrigation business will see fit to donate this system for  
an advertising project. Projected upcoming work days shall be: March 19th and 26th  
and April 2nd.

## DUTIES OF BUREAU OF PLANT INSPECTION by PAUL HORNBY

Paul Hornby is with the Department of Agriculture in Gainesville. The primary duties of the department are broken into different responsibilities. Paul is in the Bureau of Plant Inspection. They have about 80 field inspectors and about a dozen supervisors spread across the entire state of Florida. One of their biggest responsibilities is plant surveys with the emphasis on discovering plant pests before they become established and to try to eliminate organisms before they become established. So they focus on areas where there is a lot of travel, international airports, for instance, and surveys in residential areas. They have an entire unit whose job it is to survey citrus areas and citrus groves. They also conduct inspections on imported fruits and vegetables, looking for quarantined organisms. Paul provided slides of several of the pests and organisms with which they are presently concerned.

The red wax scale, which we have in Florida, is presently spreading from its original infestation in south Florida. It attacks avocados, mangoes and other tropical foliage. He showed us pictures of this and several other scales, some of which are in Florida and a problem, some of which are in Florida but not a big problem, and others that are not presently existing in Florida but are expected to show up sooner or later. He also discussed citrus canker which first appeared in Florida about eight years ago and has just last month been declared completely eradicated from citrus groves in the state of Florida. This was an eight year battle that cost the state and citrus growers, particularly nursery stock growers, untold millions of dollars.

We looked at slides of some rust diseases, such as white rust, which is a very serious pest of chrysanthemums. We have several large chrysanthemum nurseries in the state and we want to protect them from this organism. A little over two years ago, it surfaced in California, never having been in the United States before that, as far as we know. It was thought to have spread from Europe where it is a common organism. He showed us the geranium rust, a viral organism that attacks geraniums. It is most common around this area but doesn't seem to be causing too much of a problem. However, when it shows up in a nursery, they do take a quarantine action on it. He showed us what's called the red ring, which is a serious pest of palm trees in South America and the Caribbean but has not yet shown up in the United States, and they are making every effort to keep it out of Florida.

He then showed us slides of the giant African snail which has been imported into Florida on more than one occasion in the late 60's and early 70's. It has been eradicated, although it took several years to completely wipe it out. Also, about two years ago, one of their inspectors in Tallahassee happened into a pet store where he saw three of them for sale in an aquarium. He immediately confiscated the snails, of course, and then began the detective effort to follow the paper trail to the source, which was finally determined to be an aquatic importer in central Florida. He had bought them from an importer in New York, who had originally gotten them from Algeria. He had shipped them all over the country and it took considerable effort going through his paper work to find states where they had been shipped, and to contact authorities in other states to let them know of the snails. Altogether, they confiscated about 100 snails. The giant African snail is considered a delicacy in Africa but he wasn't too sure about them being edible here. In the late 1960's the infestation began with just one snail brought in from Hawaii. A boy brought it back in his pocket as a pet and when he tired of fooling with it, just threw it out in the bushes. Snails being hermaphroditic, we soon had a population of the snails in the Miami area. The snails are attracted to beer. Putting a pan of beer out and coming by every day to collect the snails is one method they used in their eradication program.

Another snail pest is the white garden snail which we do not have in Florida, but is a problem in California. It is a minor problem unless the numbers become very large. Still, we are trying to keep it out of Florida.

The real one they watch for is the European brown garden snail. At present, it does occur in the states of Texas, Arizona, Wyoming, California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii, but it has not appeared yet in Florida. All plant material coming from the quarantined area needs to be certified against the brown garden snail. They routinely intercept the snail on uncertified plant material being brought into the state by tourists, nurseries and individuals ordering plant material from the quarantined states. This snail is your common escargot. The California citrus growers, because the infestation is so heavy, have a second income collecting the snails and selling them to the processors. The grove owners place a 6" copper band around each citrus tree trunk and the snails, since they do not like to cross the copper, accumulate below the copper during the night. The workers simply come around in the morning to each tree and scoop up the snails that have accumulated around the copper band.

Paul showed us slides of the gypsy moth, which is a real problem in more northern climes, and is found occasionally in the north Florida area, but has yet to become established in Florida. The problem is that the female lays her eggs on just about anything, trees, plants, campers, trailers, etc., so that when someone comes down from the north they may bring the gypsy moth eggs with them. The inspectors install traps in the RV parks and state parks and other places where tourists may be bringing in the eggs.

The thrip, which he showed us next, made the headlines a couple years ago when it first appeared in the states. Thrips attack vegetables and ornamentals. They are very small but reproduce in great numbers so that when they appear, they appear as a major infestation. They have become established in Florida and now it is normally necessary, when shipping to Europe and Bermuda and such places that do not have thrips, that the material be certified as thrip free.

Another pest that we are very familiar with is the fruit fly, both the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. Florida is presently free of the Mediterranean fruit fly, but Miami area recently had an infestation which required spraying and extensive trapping to monitor the potential spread of this major citrus pest. California, of course, is cursed with the Mediterranean fruit fly and also the peach fruit fly and some others, which severely limits the market they can ship their fruit to because of the quarantine. Paul showed us several traps that are used for these fruit flies and also the Oriental fruit fly. Traps are not an eradication device, but rather a monitoring one. The Caribbean fruit fly is a definite pest in the state of Florida and some efforts are being made to control them. Some sterile male fruit fly releases are being conducted and also biological controls are being examined. For a sterile fly release, it is necessary to breed millions of fruit fly larvae and sterilize them with radiation and release them to mate with fertile females in the hope that this will wipe out the population. One biological control method being used at this time involves a small wasp which lays its eggs on the larvae of the fruit fly, thereby destroying it.

Another primary duty of the inspectors is nursery inspections. They get into greenhouses and nurseries, containerized operations, field grown operations or any kind of plant propagation facilities to inspect for foliage diseases. They also inspect cut fern operations and cut flower operations. They do not regulate movement within the state but other states do, so these items need to be certified if they enter these states. They also certify specific sites for citrus production and

nursery production. They also certify plants for nematode infestation, which is required to move plants into the states of Louisiana, Texas and California, and the European community. Also, they are involved in what is called the Japanese Caribbean fruit fly protocol program, which involves the trapping and monitoring of Caribbean fruit flies. In this they work closely with grove owners who voluntarily survey areas around their groves and remove any alternative fruit fly host material such as wild guava plants which may occur along ditch banks and within the citrus groves. Then they put blocks of traps around the areas and certify nurseries as being free of Caribbean fruit flies based on zero trapping. The fruit from certified nurseries may be shipped to Japan without additional treatment to kill Caribbean fruit fly larvae.

Next, Paul showed us the lethal yellowing of coconut palms and he suggested that anyone who has been in south Florida for any length of time is familiar with it. It has basically changed the landscaping in south Florida. You seldom find the Jamaica coconut palm anymore. We have interstate regulations controlling the movement of lethal yellow in plants in Monroe, Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin Counties, as well as Lee and Collier Counties. The disease seems to be transmitted by a leaf hopper. Their division is also empowered to enforce the endangered plant protection laws. In driving in or out of the state, you may have noticed the vehicle inspection stations at which all commercial vehicles are required to stop and be inspected. There are a total of 18 of these stations at the bridges on major highways crossing the Suwannee and St. Mary's Rivers, basically protecting the peninsula part of the state. These stations are open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, and about 200 trained law enforcement officers man the stations.

They have laboratories presently working on biological control of the citrus black fly and the sweet potato white fly using predatory wasps for control. Also, they are working with a wasp which is the predator of the Caribbean fruit fly.

Another recent responsibility of the Bureau is the regulation of beehives within the state. Paul showed us a slide of a bait hive which they have at all major seaports and inspection stations for the early detection of Africanized bees. Next, he showed us a slide, greatly enlarged, of a bee with a Vorel mite, which has shown up in the last couple of years and has now spread throughout the state, as well as other states.

In the Florida panhandle, they have an ongoing eradication program of the cotton boll weevil. It has been very successful and cotton production is up significantly due to this program and the cooperation between the growers and the government.

In regard to the Caribbean fruit fly, the protocol program is underway and Paul showed us a slide of the Caribbean fruit fly in Gainesville where they raise about 12 million of them every week. The eggs are put out on trays and incubated. They use a lineal accelerator in this facility to radiate and sterilize the flies. They dye them for identification and release them throughout the state, and hopefully one day they will be able to eradicate the Caribbean fruit fly, thank goodness, which would be of great benefit to our citrus growers (primarily the shippers), and anyone who has host plants such as loquats, surinam cherries, feijoas, peaches, plums, grumichamas, guavas, etc. The accelerator has taken four years to set up and we're looking forward to the success of this program.

Paul showed us a picture of the wild red rice, which is an exotic strain of rice originally discovered in the Everglades. This is an aggressive form of rice in those areas where rice is grown in Florida and will virtually take over a rice paddy and eliminate the cultivated rice if given a chance. Fortunately, this strain has been eradicated in the Everglades rice growing areas.



## What's Happening

February-March, 1994

by Paul Zmoda

February is off to a great start: warm nights and days in the eighties. What more could we rare fruit growers ask for? There sure is a lot of activity going on outside. Watch for flowers on Cherry of the Rio Grande, Lychee, Surinam Cherry, Garcinia, Rollinia, Plum, and, of course, on the citrus whose members are beginning their wonderfully scented display. By the time you read this, the fragrant Granadilla (*Passiflora alata*) will have finished its first round of colorful, teacup-sized blooms. I could not get a single fruit to set on these however.

Carambola grafts are taking rather readily and I've grafted some "CHEN" cherimoya onto seedling cherimoyas using both chip and shield bud methods. Time will tell if this works. I also tried whip-grafting PawPaw (*Asimina triloba*) onto seedling cherimoyas as well as an attempt to root dormant PawPaw cuttings. Other grafts undertaken are "Ponkan" tangerine onto both a young "Parson Brown" sweet orange and the trifoliate orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*); the latter should make a dwarf tree. The grafting method used on these citrus was shield-budding (inverted T).

I recently received two lots of PawPaw seed, one from Ohio and one from Missouri. They should be stratified, or cold-treated, to break dormancy before planting. To stratify PawPaw seeds (or any other seeds which requires it, such as Persimmons, Apple, and Peach) just encase them in moist sphagnum moss, tissue paper, or vermiculite, and place in your refrigerator for 6 to 8 weeks.

Anyone interested in Mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana*) will be happy to know that the seedlings purchased at our fall sale are putting out new leaves. They are a pretty ruby-red at first and get greener as they enlarge.

Carambola seedlings take approximately 4 to 6 weeks to come up, while Spanish Lime (*Quenepe*) take about 6 to 9 weeks when planted in flats of pure vermiculite in the greenhouse.

My newest plantings include: a double-headed Kumquat (Meiwa and Nagami), Podocarpus, "Jennybelle" serviceberry, a grafted "Li" Jujube, a grafted "Golden Star" Carambola, and Cherimoya seedlings.

The established "Spain" Cherimoya seedling and "Grandson" (a Cherimoya-like Atemoya progeny) are both leafing out dangerously early this year. On the other hand, the sugar apples are still holding onto last year's green leaves.

If you have never grown Asparagus before, please give it a try. You may plant it at any time of the year in a well-drained, sunny place. Plants are usually obtained as dormant 'crowns': spider-like roots with buds in the center. I rototilled an old garden patch with compost and cow manure before digging trenches 8 inches deep. Space the crowns 15-20 inches apart in the trenches and cover, at first with 2 inches of soil. Water well, and as the spears grow, fill the trenches with the soil until it is once again even. Keep watered, mulched, and fed with manure and compost, but don't harvest any the first year. As the roots gain strength, you may pick a few the second year and lot's more in the following year.

I recently purchased many, many back issues of California Rare Fruit Grower publications. There is so much valuable information contained therein. I will pass some of these goodies on to you readers from time to time. One tidbit is that you may tell female papayas from males during the seedling stage by looking at the roots: the males supposedly have a single taproot while females possess a bifurcate or divided root.

## Raffle: February

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
Citron Fruit	Stark	Jerry Amyot
Citron Fruit	Stark	Bernie Spector
Citron Fruit	Stark	John Bell
Citron Fruit	Stark	Walter Vines
Citron Fruit	Stark	Ronald Webster
Citron Fruit	Stark	Juanita Diaz
Citron Fruit	Stark	?
Silverthorn	R. Grear	Anita Lareau
Loquat	R. Grear	Bernie Spector
Loquat	R. Grear	?
Loquat	T. Ferreira	?
Surinam Cherry	T. Ferreira	John Bell
Jakfruit	T. Ferreira	George Nelson
Cassava Root	Zmoda	Mabel Galbreath
Cassava Root	Zmoda	J.B. Creighton
Carambola Seedling	Zmoda	Schroff
Carambola Seedling	Zmoda	Sue Tate
Carambola Seedling	Zmoda	Ronald Webster
Green Garlic	Walter Vines	J.B. Creighton
Green Garlic	Walter Vines	Sherry Baker
Green Garlic	Walter Vines	Zmoda
Green Garlic	Walter Vines	Sue Tate
Wood Apple	Scott Daniels	Elaine Baysuger
Naranjilla	Scott Daniels	?
Java Jelly	Heath	Mabel Galbreath
Snagt Jelly	Heath	Kass Scott-Rivera
Tropical Almond	Heath	G. Diaz
Ruby Red Guava	Heath	J.D. Jones
Yellow Passion Fruit	Heath	G. Diaz
Jelly Palm	Heath	?
Macadamia	Heath	George Nelson
FLA Cooking Adventure	Kass Scott-Rivera	Bernie Spector
Ruby Red Grapefruit	Bob Baker	T. Ferreira
Ruby Red Grapefruit	Bob Baker	Sue Tate
Ruby Red Grapefruit (2)	Bob Baker	Kass Scott-Rivera
Ruby Red Grapefruit	Bob Baker	Monica Brandies
Spinach Tree (3)	Charles Novak	???
<i>Heliconia pisticorum</i> "Holiday"	George Riegler	Bob Baker
<i>Heliconia pisticorum</i> "Holiday" (2)	George Riegler	Frank Burhenn
<i>Heliconia pisticorum</i> "Holiday"	George Riegler	?
Lemon Grass	Alice Burhenn	Kass Scott-Rivera

## New Members

Beth & Vern Radcliffe 3310 W. Dorchester St. Tampa, FL 33611 (813)837-4487

Note: Have you been thirsty at a meeting? You may have noticed the "Please don't drink from this faucet" signs. Because having a well certified for potable water usage is very expensive, and time-consuming, we decided instead to use bottled water for drinking purposes. The water is located in the back room next to the refrigerator. Cups are also available.

## *Thank You Thank You Thank You*

Bob Heath for organizing planting-yard work days, and for donating carpet mulch for the garden  
Al Hendry for speaking to the Lutz Garden Club on Rare Fruit Gardening.

### ANNUAL ELECTION:

In March we will have our election of Board Members from the membership attending the March meeting. The nominating committee has made a list of nominees who are willing to serve on the Board for the coming year. All of these volunteers are consistent meeting attendees and consistent workers.

At this time we have a slate of 13 nominees. The maximum allowed by our by-laws is 15; therefore we have room on the Board for 2 more nominees. Anyone who wishes to serve may contact the nominating committee (see February Newsletter) to offer their services, or make their decision known at the March meeting. Likewise, it is important that we have a good turnout to elect our Board, the members who will guide us through the next year.

The by-laws also provide that the officers shall be elected from the Board by the Board members after the March meeting and will take office at that time.

### NOMINEES

Bob Baker	Edith Freedman	Arnold Stark
Sherry Baker	Bob Heath	Lillian Stark
Alice Burhenn	Al Hendry	Walter Vines
Frank Burhenn	Charles Novak	Paul Zmoda
Janet Conard		

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### RECIPE OF THE MONTH: PAPAYA-CALAMONDIN NUT BREAD:

6 calamondins, seeded and puréed in blender with enough cooked ripe papaya to make 1 cup of purée.

1-1/2 cup flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
2 eggs, beaten  
1/4 tsp. nutmeg  
1/2 tsp. allspice  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Sift together flour, salt, sugar and baking soda. Mix puree, oil, eggs and spices together and add to dry ingredients. Stir in nuts and mix, not too thoroughly. Pour into buttered 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pan and bake for 50 - 60 minutes at 350°F. Turn out of pan and cool on a rack.



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JOKE: What is green and makes pretty music? A pickle-o!

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## Tasting Table: February

Candy Amyot: Banana-chocolate-mocha Cake, Banana-coconut-chocolate chip cookies

Paul Zmoda: Sugar Apple, Caranbola, Jakfruit (canned)

Burns & Cathy Creighton: Sweet Yam Casserole

Nancy McCormack: Cherry-nut Muffins, cookies

Charles Novak: Passion Fruit

Tony Ferreira: Carrot Cake

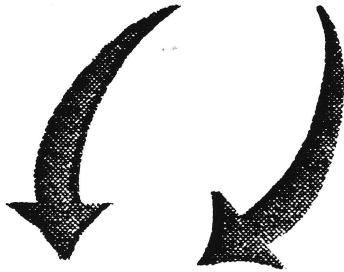
Walter Vines: Guava Paste

Janet Conard: Papaya Upside-down Cake

Al Roberts: Papaya Juice, Lemonade

Diana Mills: Carrot Cake

Jud Newcombe: Carambola



**Membership renewal dues are due this month.**

**Please pay at the meeting, or be sure to mail your check to the club before April 1, 1994. Check your mailing label. If there is a red mark on it, your membership expires (*what a horrible thought*) at this time.**

RFCI, Tampa Bay Chapter  
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