



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1994

**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)

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

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 14, 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 for August will permit our membership to become intimately involved with our two-acre fruit, spice and herb park (projected). The festivities will take place in the back yard, where we will all be able to do those gardening things we find so enjoyable. Or, to put it more concisely, this will be a work day. So wear your shorts and straw hats, and bring your gloves and clippers and rake and shovel. And don't forget the lawn chair and ice cold tea. This will be a relatively short session followed by our tasting table and raffle. Hopefully, we will have plenty of good food for tasting 'cause some of us may get pretty hungry from working so hard. In case of RAIN, we have a prepared program to substitute for our work session. So feel free to join us even if it rains.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

BECAUSE OF A U.S. ARMY FUNCTION BEING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 15 & 16, WE HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO MOVE OUR TREE SALE DATE TO OCTOBER 1 & 2. THIS MEANS ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE ORIGINAL DATE NEEDS TO BE INFORMED OF THE CHANGE. WE WERE ADVISED OF THIS CHANGE BY COL. HAINES ON JULY 27, BUT WE FIND THAT PERHAPS THIS DATE CHANGE WILL BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE. THE USF PLANT FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEKEND OF THE 7th & 8th. WE FEEL THAT HAVING OUR SALE THE WEEK BEFORE THE USF SALE WILL PLAY TO OUR ADVANTAGE AND ALLOW US TO TAKE THE LEFT-OVERS FROM OUR SALE TO THE USF SALE THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY. HOPEFULLY, THE CHANGE WILL NOT INCONVENIENCE ANY MEMBERS WHO MAY HAVE MADE PLANS FOR THE FIRST WEEKEND IN OCTOBER. BUT THE DATE CHANGE WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF OUR CONTROL.

It is with heavy heart that we have to report the recent passing of Bobbie Puls. She was a long time member, a hard worker and a personal friend for many years. Her cheerful smile and friendly demeanor will be missed by all those who knew her.

CONGRATULATIONS....

The Club wishes to offer its congratulations to Romagene Vaccaro on the recent birth of a baby boy, who will complement the darling little girl she already has. The baby was born June 28 and weighed 9½ pounds. His name is Sam.

CYPRESS GARDENS by Joe Freeman

Joe Freeman is the chief horticulturist at Cypress Gardens, but has only been there since January of this year. Before that, he was the urban/commercial horticulturist with the Polk County Extension Service in Bartow, where he served for 14 years. His main job at Cypress Gardens is to interact with the media. He is actually in the Marketing Department instead of the Horticultural Department, which is an entirely newfield for him, but one which he is learning to enjoy. His presentation was an overview of Cypress Gardens, done with many beautiful slides of their attractions. When it comes to the horticultural festivals at Cypress Gardens, he said that what they do is called "horticultural art", and Joe admits he is an artist of sorts. He does pressed flowers, pastels and colored pencils. So he really enjoys that aspect of horticulture, taking something that normally grows as a shrub and transforming it into a small tree, or planting plants in a wire frame so they end up as a design, a plant that looks like something else. Cypress Gardens practices topiary in the classic sense, where a plant growing in the ground is pruned meticulously year after year to maintain a specific shape. What they do at Cypress Gardens is called the "new topiary". They basically build the shape and then inject the plant into it.

Cypress Gardens originated back in the 1930's with Dick Pope, Sr. a man with an amazing vision. He saw a cypress swamp full of snakes, alligators and weeds, and in his dreams, he envisioned a garden, complete with beautiful southern belles in their antebellum dresses. This was Dick Pope's wife's idea, to have lovely ladies pose outside the gardens and act as a magnet for the tourists coming by. It worked so well, so beautifully, that it has been incorporated as a permanent part of the Gardens. But Dick Pope envisioned gardens, gardens full of tropical and subtropical plants, that would be the envy of Florida. A banyan tree which was planted over 50 years ago is an example of Dick's vision and the kind of exotic tropical trees which he planted. Cypress Gardens covers 16 acres and Joe showed us many of the area gardens and rare flowering plants that occupy the gardens, such as the Angel's Trumpet, and over 8,000 varieties of plants, including 35 varieties of bananas from over 75 countries around the world, several types of gingers, azaleas, crotons, bromeliads, etc. They have a French garden, an Oriental garden, gazebos, a wedding chapel where 200 to 300 couples get married every year. Another thing Cypress Gardens is well known for is the ski show which started in 1943. This was also Dick's wife's idea, featuring the Aqua Maids, and it has expanded annually to its present spectacular form. The majority of innovations in water skiing have all originated at Cypress Gardens. He also showed us the island in the sky which rotates and gives one a spectacular view of the surrounding area. On a clear day, you can even see Bok Tower from there. Cypress Junction is a model railroad with several thousand feet of tracks, figures, buildings, 14 trains, 1½ tons of plaster to build the landscape with mountains, waterfalls, the whole bit. The bird show has been at Cypress Gardens for years. It is a holdover from the animal park which has been discontinued by Busch Gardens, leaving only the bird show. The bird shown, Feathered Follies, gives one a chance to watch the birds perform their stunts.

All wrapped up together, that is Cypress Gardens. That is what Dick Pope envisioned years ago. But it has become more than he imagined. Easter services are spectacular at Cypress Gardens, and if you get there early, before 7:30 when they start charging for admission, you can get in free for the whole day. It means getting there very early but a lot of people do and enjoy the Gardens for the entire day.

This year they will have four flower festivals. Starting this December, they will have their spectacular "Garden of Lights" with about 130 light displays, as well as belles in dresses and special lighting in the trees. The Chrysanthemum Festival is in the spring every year with roughly two million chrysanthemum blooms, arches,

cascades, pom pom trees and walls of chrysanthemums. The Poinsettia Festival in November is the largest poinsettia display in the nation. Several thousand poinsettia plants, red, pink, white and variegated flowers, this year will be presented in accompaniment with the "Garden of Lights". The Spring Flower Festival is a topiary festival featuring two 14' swans, each weighing about 12,000 pounds, with about 3,500 begonias comprising each swan. The figures are created with welded, formed metal rebar and covered with a fine mesh which is covered with spagnum moss and fabric to make a 4" thick moss bed, to which the various flowers are attached. Irrigation is built in to the frame and waters the plants daily. Each one takes approximately 12 to 14 weeks to plant from start to finish. They also have an Easter bunny that is 18 feet tall, and many other figures. Spring Flower Festival starts March 1 and extends to about the end of May.

Their newest festival is the Victorian Garden Party which has 75 life size ivy covered topiaries with 23 different cultivars of ivy to cover them, and including a 30 foot steam boat and a working carousel. This festival starts June 1, and runs through the end of September.

A new feature at Cypress Gardens is the Wings of Wonder, the butterfly conservatory, a 5,500 square foot Victorian glass house which features roughly 1,000 different varieties of free flying butterflies, in a tropical rain forest maintained at 80° with a humidity of 70%. They also have the Plantation Gardens, which is a butterfly garden, an herb garden, a vegetable garden and a fruit garden.

After the slide presentation, Joe showed us how to do a small two dimensional ivy topiary, with a metal framework and spagnum moss to make the form for the ivy to grow on.

QUEST FOR THE PAWPAW

The paw paw, *Asimina triloba*, is one of the very few large fruits native to the Continental United States. Here is a fruit, one of the 850 species of the Annonaceae family, that warrants further development, and recently, considerable effort has been expended in that direction, such that now there are several named varieties of excellent quality. Unfortunately, our efforts to grow them in central Florida have been disappointing. But it is only a matter of time until a central Florida paw paw becomes available. To this end, Charles Novak is planning a trip to two nurseries, one near Tallahassee in north Florida, and the other at Marietta, Georgia. This will be a two-day trip occurring on the weekend of August 20 and 21. We plan to leave from the Clubhouse early on Saturday morning, the 20th, and visit the Tallahassee nursery late on Saturday. We will then drive to the Atlanta area where we will spend the night in a motel and in the morning, we will visit the Marietta nursery, and then return home to Tampa Sunday afternoon and evening.

The paw paw fruit will be ripe on these dates and we expect to sample several different varieties. We will also be bringing back plants and soil from beneath the paw paw trees. Why soil? Because it appears that there is a micorrhizal fungus that grows in association with the roots and helps the tree become established. So it is important that this fungus be placed in the ground before the paw paw trees are planted.

This will be a whirlwind trip and anyone interested in joining our group should contact Charles Novak at his home in Plant City (813) 754-1399, for additional information.

Raffle: July

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
PawPaw	Pjil Brown	A. Miller
Star Apple	Phil Brown	V> Reddicliffe
Mangos	J. Murrie	Monica Brandies
Hass Avocado Seedlings	Janet Conard	Monica Brandies
Red Guava	Janet Conard	Germaine Taylor
Choquette Avocado	Al Roberts	?
Java Plum	John Bell	Phil Brown
Pears	Herb Hill	J. Murrie
Mulberry	Heath	?
Chaya	Heath	Janet Conard
Spanish Lime	Heath	?
Spanish Red Pineapple	Heath	Kas Scott-Rivera
Tamarind	Heath	?
Mountain Soursop	Heath	Tony Ferriera
Cherimoya	Heath	Al Roberts
Raja Puri Banana	Tuku Tanaka	Charles Novak
Raja Puri Banana	Tuku Tanaka	Jerry Amyot
Raja Puri Banana	Tuku Tanaka	Phil Brown
Pumpkin	Charles Novak	Al Hendry
Pumpkin	Charles Novak	Heath
Bromeliad	Beth Reddicliffe	Monica Brandies
Podocarpus	Beth Reddicliffe	?
Tamarind	Roy Gear	Nancy McCormack
Avocado	Roy Gear	J.D. Jones
Pond Apple	Roy Gear	Janet Conard
Macadamia	Roy Gear	?
Pots	Roy Gear	?
White Sapote	Tony Ferreira	A. Miller
Red Cattleya Guava	Zmoda	L. McKone
Spanish Pink Lemon	Zmoda	A. Miller
Passion Fruit	L. & K. McKone	?
Papaya	Ronald Webster	Al Roberts
Papaya (2)	Ronald Webster	Al Hendry
Tree Basil	Ronald Webster	A. Miller

Tasting Table:

Janet Conard: Papaya Upside-down Cake

Linda Amyot: Apple Muffins

Charles Novak: Passion Fruit

Beth Reddicliffe: Macaroon Cookies

N. McCormack: Cinamon donuts, bran muffins

Zmoda: Mango, Guanabana, & Barbados Cherry Juice

Herb Hill: Pears

Tony Ferreira: White Sapote Slices

Connie Ferreira: Date Nut Bread

Lillian Wentz: Peanut Butter cookies



Thank You Thank You Thank You

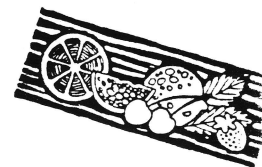
Jim Murrie for donating a large supply of pots for member's use.

Lewis Maxwell for donating a bagful of pineapple tops.



New Members

Kyle Campbell 4417 Waltham Avenue, Tampa, FL 33634 (813)882-8403
John & Leslie Marsh 3404 Gables Court, Tampa, FL 33609 (813)873-8521



What's Happening

July-August 1994

by Paul Zmoda

Something exciting occurred today, July 6, 1994: I may have discovered a natural predator of this citrus leaf miner we are hearing so much about lately. While inspecting my citrus planting for new leaf damage, I spied a very tiny ant chewing through a mined leaf. As I watched, it reached into the hollow space between the upper and lower leaf surfaces and grabbed hold of the resident larva. The ant proceeded to extract the miner and carry it off! I immediately contacted the Division of Plant Industry, which sent an inspector the following day. We hope to identify this ant species and (hopefully) find it to be a useful, new biologically safe agent to help control this pest. Keep your eyes open folks.

Pruning may induce certain trees to flower and, later, to set fruit. Carambolas produce well after a good pruning and mulberries should always follow with fruit after their branches are "headed" (shortened).

Sap beetles are known to be fairly reliable pollinators of the annonas, especially sugar apples and atemoyas. I have noticed plenty of the beetles in each female-stage flower, as many as 10-12, but lately no fruit forms. "How come?", I wondered? Perhaps the beetles are eating all the pollen grains for lack of their normal food-rotting fruit.

(Most local fruit is immature at this time). In order to have some pollen available, I reasoned, I have to prevent the beetles from entering the flowers. A small piece of aluminum foil can be tightly wrapped around the early-female-stage annona flowers. This accomplishes two things: first, it locks out the beetles while the pollen is maturing; second, it holds in moisture so that the stigmas may remain receptive into the next day when that pollen becomes available. At least I can ensure some pollen for the female-stage flowers.

I have found that I can induce flowering in the llamas (*Annona diversifolia*) at this time of the year. Select maturing green branches with lots of leaves. Next clip off several leaves, but leave the petioles. After several days, the petioles will drop off. Soon after that, the flower buds will push out and develop, since the flower buds lie directly under the abscission of the leaves. Try this with other Annonas, especially when they are actively growing; it could possibly prolong the fruiting season. {editor's note: Paul called as this was being typed to excitedly say it has also worked with his Cherimoya!}

WANTED: Chicken or Cow manure, large quantities. I will pick up. Please contact me at (813)932-2469 ASAP.

Recipe of Month: Minty Pears (Herb Hill)

Blanch Pears, remove skins. Core and Cut into halves, quarters, or slices. Measure fruit and juice. Add honey or sugar, 1 cup for each 1½ quarts. Add 2 tablespoons fresh mint. Can or process according to your canner's directions.

Upcoming Fruit events:

94-60

Selby Gardens, in conjunction with the Sarasota Fruit & Nut Society, Manatee Rare Fruit Council, and U. of Florida Extension Service will be presenting a seminar titled An Introduction to Tropical Fruits and How to Grow them, on August 27, 1994. Attendance is limited. The seminar is scheduled from 9 AM to 4 PM and registration is \$27.50 for those who are not members of the sponsoring societies. Registration Deadline is August 12, 1994. Lunch is provided. Make check payable to : Sarasota Horticultural Advisory Committee

mail to : Sarasota County Cooperative Extension Service
attn: JoAnn Waller
2900 Ringling Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34237



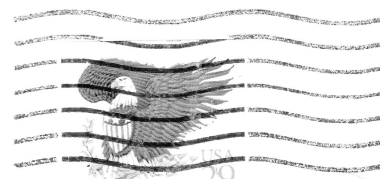
❀ Our Big Plant Sale ❀ Coming up on **October 1 & 2** this year

👉 Note Date Change

This date change courtesy of the US National Guard
and their need to use their armory on the previously scheduled sale date.

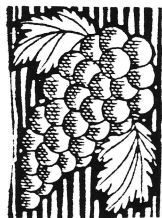
USF Plant Sale is scheduled for October 8, 1994, one week after our rescheduled plant sale.

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER RFCI
313 PRUETT RD
SEFFNER FL 33584



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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



33617-4149 44