



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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 THE 2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 2:00 p.m. (1:00 pm this month)

NEXT MEETING. . SEPTEMBER 11, 1994

MEETING PLACE. . THE HOME OF JANET CONARD, 919 W. HENRY AVE., TAMPA, PHONE 239-9246.
You will find Janet's house on the north side of Henry Ave., between Kenneth Ave. and the river, nine blocks west of Florida Ave., and four blocks north of Hillsborough Ave. Take I-75/275 to the Hillsborough exit and go west to Florida, Highland or Ola, and then north to Henry Ave., then west on Henry to Janet's house.

LOOK!

PROGRAM . . .
MEETING WILL BEGIN
AT 1:00 THIS MONTH!

POT-LUCK (COVERED DISH) LUNCHEON AT 1:00 P.M. Please bring cold dishes such as salads, luncheon meat, breads, desserts, etc. that do not have to be warmed up, unless you have a favorite that you would like to bring that is hot. We do have a microwave. If you have any folding chairs, please bring them, too. There will be a plant raffle and a very important planning session for next month's annual plant sale. PLEASE BE THERE!!!

TREE SALE NOTES:

*** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THE ENCLOSED FLYERS - SALE IS OCTOBER 1 AND 2.***

- 1) Members may supply unlimited numbers of small plants (smaller than 1 gallon pots). Anything bigger in quantities of more than 4 must be cleared in advance. Call Bob at 879-6349 or 870-1788 (days) or 289-1068 (eves.) OR Arnold at 654-4198 (days) or 621-4987 (eves.) by Sept. 26 for approval.
- 2) Members supplying plants should bring them Friday, Sept. 30 from 3:00 til 6:00 p.m. or, if necessary, before 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning, and assist in the Saturday set-up. They must also be available Sunday afternoon to assist with the after-sale clean-up if they expect to get paid.
- 3) All members' plants brought for sale must be labeled with the plant name and price, and must be accompanied by a completed manifest; and must be identified with owner's name or initials on each plant.
- 4) Members who work at least 1/2 day will be entitled to a 25% discount on plants. They may be selected between 11:00 and 12:00 on Saturday and Sunday. However, they are to be put in storage until 5:00 p.m. each day.
- 5) Only those members who work at least two half days will be entitled to select plants remaining on the sales floor after 4:00 p.m. Sunday at a 50% discount.
- 6) Non-working members (surely there aren't any of those) will only be entitled to a 10% discount on plants during 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.
- 7) No plants may be moved from the sales floor between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- 8) Workers must sign the roster each half day to get credit for working.

(Continued next page)

- 9) Anyone who can provide the use of 4-wheel dollies, garden type carts or flat bed carts, please bring them to the Armory very early on Saturday.
- 10) Work time: Saturday & Sunday: 8:00 a.m. till ?
(PLEASE PLAN ON HELPING WITH CLEAN-UP.)
- 11) Please publicize the sale to everyone you know (and even people you don't know). POST THE FLYERS!!!
- 12) Remember: YOU are needed to make this sale a success, and without a successful sale there is no RFCI!
- 13) Due to time constraints, RFCI will not be providing lunch on Saturday & Sunday. Bring your own lunch. However, beverages will be provided thru the mornings.

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What's Happening

August-September, 1994

by Paul Zmoda

Let's discuss **PESTS**. Pests of our fruit gardens in particular. If you aren't observant and quick enough, you may lose seeds, trees, flowers and fruit to hungry marauders which prowl by both night and day. I want to inform you of the more common, large animals to look out for when growing in this area.

First we have birds: nice critters to have around for the most part, but birds are **always** hungry. We need only be prepared for fruit and seed eaters, such as Mockingbirds and Bluejays (occasionally Cardinals, Crows, Waxwings, Thrashers, and Grackles). Many fruits, especially red-colored ones fall prey to birds. You can put bird netting around smaller shrubs. I've heard that thin burlap will work. Try Flashtape and fake owls or snakes to frighten them away. Sprouting seeds are vulnerable to Bluejays, which awake early (before you) and pull them out of flats and pots. Cover these with meshes, such as old window screens.

Next are the ubiquitous rodents-rats, mice, and squirrels. Being a former pest control technician, I dislike them all. Rats will eat ripe and unripe fruit as well as nectar-bearing flowers. Squirrels will dig up newly potted plants, and eat young peaches and plums, etc. They will chew off Monstera buds, it seems, just to watch them fall. You can expect to lose many fruits and even seed collections to these gnawing fiends unless you do something. Your options include: trapping, poisons, firearms, and others.

{editor's note: a very hungry cat sometimes works too!}

Small live-traps, like Hav-a-hart, work well for catch and release programs. Spring-loaded traps by Victor (and others) dispatch rodents quickly. Use bread for bait. Place traps for mice and rats along walls or runways where they have been seen. Rats use the same paths over and over and leave greasy black rubmarks as evidence. Place traps for squirrels at the base of large trees by day.

I have success with wax impregnated poison bait for rats which come swarming through the trees just before sundown. Hang the bait as high as possible in the foliage. It is very important to keep the bait stations well supplied at all times since the action of the poison is a blood anticoagulant which must build up in the animal's body over a period of time. If the bait is found to be eaten each morning, then you still have rats. Give them some more, until the bait is untouched.

Last are the larger mammals: opossums and raccoons. These are nocturnal omnivores which can cause a lot of ripening fruit (as well as bird nestlings) to disappear overnight. They may also dig into your lawns or plantings in search of worms and grubs. Large live-traps are very efficient. Use chicken bones or a can of sardines or cat food as bait. Dues to our county's high incidence of raccoon rabies, please be sure to handle raccoons with extreme care.

Raffle: August 1994

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
Mysore Raspberry	Phil Brown	Jerry Amyot
Fry Grape	Phil Brown	Jerry Amyot
American Beauty Berry	Zmoda	?
Orinoco Plantain	Zmoda	Al Hendry
Prinoco Plantain	Zmoda	?
Dates	Zmoda	Charles Novak
Pomegranate	Zmoda	Wlter Vines
Carambola	Heath	DiNoto
Tree Basil	Heath	DiNoto
Yucca	Heath	Jerry Amyot
Pineapple	Heath	Al Hendry
Passion Fruit	Heath	Kass Scott-Rivera
Cookbook	Kass Scott-Rivera	?
Avocado (5)	Yuku Tanaka	Brad More
Lemon Grass	Yuku Tanaka	John Bell
Noble Grapes	Sherry Baker	?
Kohala Longans	Sherry Baker	Al Hendry
Thousand Finger Bananas	Sherry Baker	Nancy McCormack
Brazilian Bananas	Sherry Baker	Nancy McCormack
HuaMoa Plantains	Sherry Baker	Brad More
Brazilian Banana Plant	Sherry Baker	?
Cherimoya	Janet Conard	Brad More
Cherimoya	Janet Conard	DiNoto
Cherimoya	Janet Conard	Kass Scott-Rivera

Tasting Table: August 1994

Lillian & Arnold Stark: Longans, Guava Jam & Crackers, Lemonade

Alice & Frank Burhenn: Smoked Fish Spread & Chocolate Nut Brownies

Walter Vines: Green Papaya Chunks

Bob & Terry Heath: Fruit Plate

Janet Conard: Raja Puri Banana Cookies

Paul Zmoda: Orinoco Plantains

Cathy Creighton: Guava Shells

Armando Mendez: Longans

Nancy McCormack: Blueberry Muffins

Frank Pupello: Guavas

Thank You Thank You Thank You

To all the members who came to the last meeting and worked so hard on our planting area and yard. We accomplished a great deal, and some of us learned new techniques which we can use in our own gardens.

To Roger and Shirley Meyer of the California Rare Fruit Growers for your generosity: They are sending our club two pounds of fresh jujubes for tasting at the September meeting. This is an unsolicited donation, and they are paying the shipping costs.

RFCI PAW PAW TRIP by Bob Heath

And, boy, what a trip! What an adventure! We left the clubhouse promptly at 6:00 a.m. with Jerry Amyot driving in his van; four passengers, Charles Novak, Arnold Stark, Brent Creighton and myself, Bob Heath. We made a direct run to Tifton, Georgia with only necessary breakfast stop and pit stops. In Tifton, just off of I-75 in a hollow, we found an old frame house inhabited by an elderly woman. Her property, well landscaped by her late husband, was reverting to the wilderness. We were surprised at the number of different varieties of citrus trees which were growing in proximity to the house. They were small, sour fruit but citrus all the same. She had some pear trees and apple trees, and a lot of flowering plants, but our interest was mainly in her paw paw trees. The ones that were fruiting were small trees, an inch or an

inch & a half in diameter, and 8 or 9 feet tall, with paw paws of all sizes hanging from the limbs and laying on the ground. We all collected a considerable number, some which were edible, some which were too far gone and usable for seeds only. We also collected soil from under the trees for inoculation of potting soil for the seeds. We were advised that her best fruit had all been eaten, but the ones that we tasted certainly were delicious.

From there, we proceeded to Marietta, Georgia, to visit Jone Stalcup and his wife. After checking into our hotel rooms, we proceeded immediately to their home, behind which were some acreage in muscadine grapes, quince, apples, paw paws, mulberries and a variety of figs and other fruiting trees. Al Hendry and his friend, Yuku Tanaka, met us there and we had an enjoyable visit with them and the Stalcups. We collected more paw paws to eat, more paw paw seeds and cuttings from a variety of different trees. From there to a popular seafood restaurant, then to an early retirement at the hotel, slightly exhausted from an exciting day.

We were up at 6 in the morning and out on the road at 7 for an hour and a half ride to Ison's Nursery & Vineyards and a frustrating couple of hours. Nobody met us at the nursery, and even after a couple of telephone calls and a two hour wait, still nobody had shown up. The nursery boasts a variety of muscadine grapes, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, apples, pears, pecans, chestnuts and other fruiting trees. We spent the time picking out grape vines in what is no doubt the messiest, unorganized, disorderly excuse for a nursery that I've ever seen. Finally, after waiting over 2 hours, we loaded all our plants in the van, making a list of what we had taken, so we could send them a check when we arrived home.

At that point, we grabbed some lunch and headed south for Tallahassee to visit Ed Self in Woodville, Florida. Ed has a beautiful home with swimming pool, wife and 2 little girls on 10 acres of lawn. He has recently begun to plant trees, and has paw paws, Japanese raisin trees, pomegranates, mayhaws, etc. growing. Eventually, he will probably have an exciting horticultural park. We spent quite a while with these interesting and hospitable people before we piled into Jerry's van and headed for the long trip back to Tampa, where we arrived about 1:30 Monday morning. I, for one, got into bed at 3:00 a.m., facing another day at the office.

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