



# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 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.

NEXT MEETING. . . . . NOVEMBER 13, 1994

MEETING PLACE . . . . . RARE FRUIT CONCIL 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 . . . . . HAR MAHDEEM IS A PLANT BREEDER FOR ZILL'S NURSERY  
IN BOYNTON BEACH AND AN AUTHORITY ON ANNONAS. HE  
WILL PRESENT A SLIDE PRESENTATION AND TALK COVERING  
THE ENTIRE ANNONA FAMILY WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON  
THE ATEMOYA, SUGAR APPLE AND SOURSOP. THIS SHOULD  
BE A VERY INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE LECTURE  
CONCERNING ONE OF THE MOST DESIRABLE FRUITING  
FAMILIES IN THE WORLD. OUR USUAL RAFFLE AND TASTING  
TABLE WILL FOLLOW AND MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO  
CONTRIBUTE. AFTER THE RAFFLE WE WILL HAVE A WORK  
SESSION IN BACK SO BRING SOME TOOLS AND DRESS ACCORD-  
INGLY.

## New Members:

Ann Margolin	2410 Margolin Lane	Clearwater	FL	34624	(813)531-5440
Ruben E. Rocha Jr.	5480 97th Terrace	Pinellas Park	FL	34666	(813)544-7372
Bruce & Jayne Braswell	8212 Mays Ave	Riverview	FL	33569	(813)677-2379
Rebecca Blanco	706 Lakewood Ave	Tampa	FL	33613	(813)961-1010
Peter & Jean Bianchi	10007 Kenda Drive	Riverview	FL	33569	(813)677-4289
Sally O'Neal	713 Isleton Drive	Brandon	FL	33511	
Lindy Wooten	1410 Williams Road	Lutz	FL	33549	(813)935-7698
Al Yacco	7216 N. Armenia	Tampa	FL	33604	(813)930-9830
Toma Sue Mieczkowski	1725 Tanglewood Dr. N.E.	St. Petersburg	FL	33702	(813)527-1379
George & Marie Bobotas	1245 N. Florida Ave	TarponSprings	FL	34689	(813)942-7645

## News of Note:

The Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange will be having a tree sale on Saturday, November 12, 1994, on the grounds of the Lee County Extension Offices, in the area called Terry Park. Take exit 25 from I-75, and go west on highway 80 (Palm Beach Blvd) about 3 miles. The sale will be on the left, just past Palmetto Avenue.

## *Thank You Thank You Thank You*

To member Max Means for his generous donation so that the club could obtain a new battery for our riding mower.

To all the members who worked so hard during our *two* weekend trees sales. Without everyone's effort they could not have been a success. Workers who signed the attendance sheet at the big sale at the armory were:

ADAMS	JOE
AMYOT	GERALD
AMYOT	ALEX
ARKWRIGHT	WARREN
BAAMONDE	JJ
BAKER	BOB
BAKER	SHERRY
BELL	JOHN
BOJAR	ALVIN
BRANDIES	MONICA
BREWER	JAMES
BREWER	SUE
BROWN	PHILLIP
BURHENN	FRANK
BURHENN	ALICE
CAMPBELL	MARY ANN
CONARD	JANET
CREIGHTON	BRENT
DODSON	JEFFREY
GREAR	ROY
GRICIUS	TONY
HAYES	CHRISTOPHER
HEATH	BOB
HEATH	TERRY
HENDRY	AL
HUNT	RICHARD
JEAN	AL
JEAN	PAT
JONES	JOHN
MILLS	DIANA
MONTANO	PETER
MURRIE	JIM
MURRIE	JOAN

NELSON	PEARL
NEWCOMBE	JUD
NOVAK	CHARLES
PERRY	RICHARD
PIERRE	GERTRUDE
PUPELLO	FRANK
RAMIREZ	SAM
RIEGLER	GEORGE
ROBERTS	AL
RUBENSTEIN	IRENE
RYLAND	WILLIAM
SCHROFF	RICHARD
SCHROFF	SANDI
SCOTT	CLINT
SCOTT-RIVERA	KASS
STARK	ARNOLD
STARK	LILLIAN
STRICKLAND	FRED
TATE	SUE
TATE	GRADY
TAYLOR	GERMAINE
TINTERA	FRANK
VACCARO	ROMAGENE
VAN DER HOEK	JOHN
VINES	WALTER
WEBB	MARCIA
WILLIAMS	DAN
ZMODA	PAUL
ZOEHRER	LOUIS

Workers who signed the attendance sheet at the USF sale were:

JERRY AMYOT	BOB BAKER	SHERRY BAKER	ALICE BURHENN	FRANK BURHENN
DARLENE GREAR	ROY GREAR	TONY GRICIUS	BOB HEATH	AL HENDRY
CHARLES NOVAK	GEORGE RIEGLER	BILL RYLAND	LILLIAN STARK	YUKU TANAKA
PAUL ZMODA				

(If you worked, and aren't listed, please let me know so we can acknowledge your efforts. Sometimes, in the rush, the attendance roster doesn't get signed, so we have no record to base our thanks on)

## What's Happening

November, 1994

by Paul Zmoda

According to CRFG (California Rare Fruit Growers), astringent persimmons may be ripened to a palatable state by using several methods. By storing these fruits in an atmosphere of elevated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), they will lose their astringency and remain firm. In days of old, this was accomplished by using a container having a tight-fitting lid, into which was placed the persimmons and a lit candle. The lid was replaced and the candle burned out, having consumed most of the oxygen, but leaving a raised CO<sub>2</sub> level. This procedure interrupts the respiration process of the fruit.

Other methods which remove astringency but allow the fruit to become soft involve storing them in a container along with ethyl alcohol (ethanol) fumes or ethylene gas. This is easy to do by incorporating distilled spirits or a ripe banana into the ripening chamber. Note: fully ripened, mushy persimmon is excellent when spread on muffins.

The Grumichama (*Eugenia brasiliensis*) is blooming for me for the first time. I've never tasted this fruit before.

I am eagerly awaiting a pond apple to ripen (*Annona glabra*). Seeds are grown to produce dwarfing rootstock for various other annonas. Any day now, I hope to enjoy the largest

sugar apple ever from my Bradley Atemoya seedling tree, now eight years old. Seeds from this will produce more seedlings, which have proven to really illustrate a great diversity of expressed genotypes - many of them quite precocious, as some will fruit in containers at 2 years of age!

Many thanks again to seed chairman Charles Novak, who dispersed a good number of seedlings of rare Pacific Island fruits at a recent mini-meeting. Especially appreciated are the durians *Durio zibethinus* and *D. graveolens*, *Artocarpus odorissimus* (also called Tarap or Marang), *Nephelium mutabile* (also known as Pulasan) and of course - Mangosteen. In addition to these, I am very excited to also acquire Rambutans. These may do quite well here.

At our annual tree sale, I was both surprised and embarrassed to have the Division of Plant Industry inspector confiscate two of my plants offered for sale. Despite my purchase of them at our 1993 sale and my own nursery being inspected, I still managed to not know a very serious, banned, imported weed when I saw it. It is the Tropical Soda Apple (*Solanum viarum*) which resembles some of the lesser naranjilla species to which it is closely related. Armed with spines and producing many fruits with numerous seeds, this South American import has taken over at least 400,000 acres of pasture land in Florida alone. There is a stiff fine and/or jail time facing those who deliberately spread this plant around.

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## Exciting Times

### by Charles Novak

Our club is in the beginning stage of developing a data base of tropical fruit plants. This is a very exciting project for our club. Currently there are over 10 club members participating in this project. We need your help. At the November meeting we need your suggestions as to what type of information you would like to have available on a specific fruit plant. Example: pH, cold hardiness, etc. We are also seeking a grant to help with the cost of this project. Any help/information you can give us in getting a grant would be very helpful. We expect this project will take more than 3 years. Again, get involved and let's make our club the best it can be.

## Exciting Plants

If you missed the chance to get some plants from Brunei, Darussalam, we will be having some more plants available very soon. Sunday, September 24, 1994, there were over 20 club members getting unusual plants. Some of the plants available were as follows: Durians, Taraps, Mangosteens, Rambutans and Brunei Olives. There were more than enough plants for the members who showed up at the scheduled time. Latecomers were able to get at least one plant of most types available.

## Our Fruit & Spice Park

Our fruit tree planting continues to grow. As of October 27, our collection of plants presently growing in our park amounts to 30 fruiting specimens, although not that many have fruit on them at the moment. On October 16 a cattley guava, cherry of the Rio Grande, Fuyugaki persimmon and three more banana trees were added to the total. The result is transforming our pasture land into a forest (mini-forest) but we still have a long way to go, and welcome contributions from those who can supply them. So far, donations have been made by Bob and Sherry Baker, Frank and Alice Burhenn, Bob and Theresa Heath, and the Rare Fruit Council itself. It is apropos at this time, I believe, to extend special thanks to Theresa Heath and John Bell, who have been working diligently to keep the area mowed and trimmed, and to Alice and Frank Burhenn, who have been helping with the clearing and burning of the two trash piles in the back yard. We also look forward to participation by other members on the Saturday or Sunday mornings when we meet there to work. Those interested in lending a hand may call Bob Heath at 289-1068.



# 15th Annual Tree Sale

The RFCI Tampa Bay Chapter 15th Annual Tree Sale is now history. For our many volunteers, it was three hectic days. But three days for us with a certain meaning and sense of accomplishment that is hard to define. The social contacts, the camaraderie and also differences of opinion and maybe even sharp words are all part of this kind of event; a lot of planning, a lot of work, to make everything come together as it did.

Unfortunately, the weather was not too cooperative and there were several other events in the area to occupy the attention of potential customers. The attendance and gross receipts were down considerably from last year, but were better than many of our other sales in the past. The exact accounting must await the treasurer's report at the next meeting.

On Friday, September 30, after 3:00 p.m., we volunteers were busy unloading trucks of their precious cargo and hauling grocery carts from the clubhouse to the armory. Thanks to the use of Roy Greer's large trailer and three pickup trucks, we moved all the carts in one trip.

Saturday morning was hectic from 8:00 to 1:00, unloading trucks, setting plants and preparing the fruit plates and fruit displays. Thanks to Lillian Stark's excellent diagrams of the tree locations and barricades, the setting up went very smoothly; so well, in fact, that by 10 minutes of 1, we were actually prepared for the influx of people. And the people came and the trees went. But by 5:00 p.m., there hardly seemed to be a dent in the tree supply. Oh well, tomorrow is another day!

Sunday morning was considerably less hectic and more leisurely in preparation because most of the trees were already in place and only a minimum number of trucks needed to be unloaded. On both days we had good attendance at the membership table and information table where Lewis Maxwell and Monica Brandeis were passing out information. Late Sunday evening, gross sales were tallied, money was counted and suppliers were loaded up and heading back to their nurseries.

On Monday morning, carts were returned to the clubhouse and the last chores were complete. At this point we wish to thank all the workers who contributed their time and effort to make Tree Sale #15 a success.

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## U S F PLANT FESTIVAL SALE

On Saturday, October 8, just six days after our big Sale, there we were again, hauling trees, labeling trees, pricing trees and selling trees. "Boy, are we ever dedicated!" For us, the USF Sale doesn't begin to compare with our annual Sale, but it's a lot of fun and does help our treasury. Here again, we can wait for the treasurer's report.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH: PUMPKIN DUMP CAKE

3 eggs  
2 cups cooked & pureed pumpkin or papaya  
1-1/2 cups sugar  
1 tsp. salt  
1 cup evaporated milk  
2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Mix above and pour into an ungreased 9 x 13 pan.

1 box of yellow cake mix  
1/2 cup Wesson oil  
1/2 cup water

Mix above and drop in very small pieces into pumpkin batter  
and press in gently. Top with 1 cup chopped nuts.  
Bake at 350° for about 1 hour or until done.

\* \* \* \*

RFCI TAMPA BAY CHAPTER  
313 PRUETT RD  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

