



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 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 EACH MONTH AT 2:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 11, 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 THE MEETING IN DECEMBER WILL FEATURE
A RETURN VISIT FROM OUR OLD FRIEND, TOM ECONOMOU.
As usual, he will bring a cornucopia of fruit collected
from South Florida for our perusal. This is always one
of the most interesting meetings of the year and will
give new members and old a chance to examine fruit
which they may never have seen before.
Our tasting table and raffle continue to be great
successes, due to the contributions of many of our
membership. Please feel free to bring plants and
goodies for these events.



New Members:

David Mitchell & Sally Starr 4632 Driesler Circle Tampa, FL 33634 (813)884-2934
Alan Smith 7341 121st Terrace North, Largo, FL 34643 (813)539-7527
Lillian Smoleny P.O. Box 847, Valrico, FL 33594 (813)689-3547

Address Changes

Scott & Susan Daniels 4600 Cypress Way So., St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Jim & Joan Murrie 2105 9th Street SE, Winterhaven, FL 33880-4715
Ellen & Jim Meyer 5021 Cypress Trace Drive, Tampa, FL 33624-6911
(When you move, please send the club your new telephone number also!)



THE GUANABA AND ITS RELATIVES

by Har Mahdeem

Har Mahdeem works at Zill High Performance Plants, which is a wholesale nursery west of Boynton Beach on the east coast of Florida. In 1984, Har started on a program of breeding Annonas, since none of the fruit in the Annona genus were entirely satisfactory for large scale commercialization. They decided they would have to breed the different varieties with each other and try to mix the good characteristics that the various species contained, to try to arrive at something more desirable. Some had good colors, others great taste, and others had good handling characteristics. They have developed a breeding program since that time, evaluating the hybrids as they produce fruit.

There are over 100 species in the Annona genus alone, and 40 or 45 genera in the family that have edible fruit. There are over 2000 species in the family and about 130 genera, but Har was only talking about one group within the Annona genus. This is the Guanabani group. The group which includes the sugar apple, cherimoya and their close relatives, the Attae group, has flowers with three large outer petals and three very tiny inner petals. The Guanabani group which Har was discussing at this time has six large petals, three on the outside and three inside, of almost equal size. Har showed us many slides of members of this group, together with their flowers, and described for us the qualities, seedliness, texture, taste and other qualities. He also touched heavily on the hybrids, their successes and failures, and where their research is leading them.

The Annona genus, as currently accepted, contains around 100 species. With such a large number of species in one general category, one attempts to clarify degrees of relatedness by saying that several very closely related species form a "section" of the genus. Sometimes several of these sections together can form a recognizably distinct "group". The Guanabani Group of sections of the Annona genus is so very distinct that it should probably be "raised to generic status", so that what is now called *Annona muricata* would be called *Guanabanus muricatus*, *Annona montana* would be *Guanabanus montanus*, and so on.

THE EUANNONA SECTION (or Euguanabanus Section) has 10 species.

ANNONA MURICATA, the soursop or guanaba, guanabana, graviola, or corossol, is from the northern part of South America. It produces one of the larger fruits of the Annonaceae family of plants. These large fruits are usually processed to make very rich, sweetened tart juice or ice cream, both of which are very popular over wide regions of the tropics.

Unlike many of the other species in the Annona genus, including some in this group, the guanaba does not normally go through a brief, seasonal, bare-of-leaves stage -- it is completely evergreen, heavily leafy, well adapted to very hot, very rainy climates. It is commonly colonized by ants, grazing mealybugs and scale insects. The leaves, flowers and fruits may be attacked by fungi, though not nearly as readily as many other Annonas are, and guanaba roots are even more notably resistant to root rots.

The guanaba is very cold sensitive -- winds in the upper 40's F. can force defoliation and deflowering; it can take many months to recuperate. If, like me, you must have a guanaba in your yard, plant it just a couple of feet out from your roof's drip line on the south side of your house well east of the southwest corner, so your tree will be protected from northerlies and northwesterlies; in addition, be prepared to take other drastic frost and freeze protection measures.

Always give your tree lots of water, on the ground, and lots of fertilizer. With some varieties, or in some locations, you may need to hand pollinate after evening twilight.

ANNONA MONTANA, "mountain sop" or mountain soursop, zombi corossol, is from the Carribean Islands and much of South America. This closest relative of the guanaba is usually poor-to-bad quality, though a few selections exist which are quite all right to eat. In southern Florida it is very hardy to cold, diseases and pests, different soils, drought, and brief flooding. It makes good wind breaks and shade trees, though the many, many fruits will fall and make many, many "tree pies" on the ground if you don't keep them picked. These abundant fruits are rumored to hold promise as a source of food additives, such as for giving creamy body to ice cream.

ANNONA CORIACEA, "mesa sop", is from eastern Brazil. It reportedly makes large fruits of good eating quality. It hasn't been introduced to Florida, unless - (see *Annona dioica* below).

THE MACRANTHA SECTION has 2 species, neither reported to be good fruited.

THE ULOCARPUS SECTION has 2 species.

ANNONA PURPUREA, soncoya or chincua, is from Central America. It is cold hardy in southern Florida, disease hardy, pest hardy, and hardy to low nutrition. Even under poor conditions it is usually a vigorous, highly ornamental tree, with a heavy load of large leaves and maroon-colored new growth. In Florida it requires hand pollination, around sunrise. The large fruits consist mainly of closely packed, large seeds with tough fibers clinging to them and a little slimy juice; however, the carotenyl flavor is good.

ANNONA CRASSIFLORA, "cerrado sop", is from central Brazil. In the scrublands there, it is a very hardy tree. The large fruit is of excellent eating quality. The pulp, just deseeded and frozen with nothing else added, makes a very good sherbet. It has not been introduced to Florida yet.

THE CAMPICOLA SECTION has 2 species.

ANNONA DIOICA, "prairie sop", is from Paraguay and Bolivia and adjoining areas of Brazil. We may have *Annona coriacea* plants mislabeled as *Annona dioica*. The plants we have definitely are not dioecious, and the leaves don't look like photos or drawings of *Annona dioica*, and the one fruit we've had wasn't nearly as good as we'd expected from reading the glowing descriptions by early botanists. The one fruit we ate did have pretty good aroma and flavor (similar to the better selections of *Annona montana*), and had very few seeds, but eating this fruit was like sucking juice from cotton balls - the fiber could not be chewed up or swallowed.

THE PSAMMOGENIA SECTION has 2 species.

ANNONA SALZMANII, "Bahia sop", is from northeastern Brazil. The early botanists reported that it produced very large, highly desirable fruits. Some recent botanists suggested that it may already be extinct.

THE PHELLOXYLON SECTION has only one species.

ANNONA GLABRA, "gator sop", pond apple, corkwood, is from all the warm coasts of the Atlantic and the Carribean, including Florida and western Africa. (The good seeds float and stay viable on water for months.) They are very cold hardy for southern Florida, and are found growing northward at least to Cape Kennedy. Most trees produce poor-to-bad tasting fruits, but some selections are okay, maybe.

Some are said to be used in marmelades, and probably could be prepared in some other ways. The fruits are reportedly sold in markets in southeastern Mexico. Though most trees in Florida are slow growing and not very productive, under good conditions they can be vigorous and prolific.

SECTION: NAME UNKNOWN

An ANNONA species from eastern Peru (sent by Dr. Paul Beaver to Ray Jones, Manatee Rare fruit Council), may be still undescribed botanically. My provisional moniker for it is *Guanabanus corbipetalus*, "bucket-petalled sop". I haven't tried its fruit yet, nor have I read about it. It is a glossy, highly ornamental tree with brightly colored new growth that changes through many hues. The foliage has a pleasant spicy smell (unlike *Annona muricata*, *Annona montana* and *Annona purpurea*, which have fetid leaves).

All of the above species are of possible interest as rootstocks, due to their better resistance to root rots as compared to the species of the Attae Group (sugar apple relatives).

* * * * *

U.S.F. SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL

The University of South Florida is planning their Spring Plant Festival for April 8 and 9, 1995. We will have more details on starting and ending times, schedules, special rules on participation, etc. in January. The University is also planning a holiday fair on Saturday, December 10, 1994, from 9:00 to 3:00 at the Botanical Gardens, with plants, crafts and gifts. For more information, call Tim Manka at 974-2329.

* * * * *

SELBY GARDENS

Several of our members attended the Selby Gardens annual plant fair and sale in Sarasota on Saturday, November 5, including Jerry Amyot, Monica Brandeis, Bob Heath, Charles Novak, Bill Ryland and perhaps some others whom we failed to notice.

The Gardens are very beautiful and we spent considerable time wandering the paths to look at their collection of exotic and not-so-exotic plants. Also, they have an excellent array of various nature type books and gift items. The plant sale is very similar to the University of South Florida's plant festivals, with an extensive variety of ornamentals and few fruiting plants.

It was an enjoyable day and we would recommend this festival to our membership in 1995.



Recipe of the Month:

Tea Punch, Kass Scott-Rivera

16 Tea Bags	2 Cups Citrus Juice
1 1/2 Cups Powdered Sugar	5 Sticks Cinnamon
2 TBS Whole Cloves	1 Cup Crushed Mint
1 Gallon Water	
Brew in the Sun	
Strain	
Serve Cold	

Raffle: November 1994

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
Chives	Heath	Kass Scott-Rivera
Cheromoya	Heath	?
Wampi	Heath	Phil Brown
Spanish Lime	Heath	Kass Scott-Rivera
Tree Basil	Heath	Lillian Smoleny
Chaya Spinach	Heath	?
Pineapple	Heath	Gertrude Pierre
Chayote	John Bell	Heath
Chayote	John Bell	Gertrude Pierre
Chayote	John Bell	Monica Brandies
Chayote	John Bell	?
Java Plum	Charles Novak	Sue Tate
Java Plum	Charles Novak	Edith Freedman
Java Plum	Charles Novak	Betty Morris
Java Plum	Charles Novak	Sally Starr
Passion Fruit	Charles Novak	?
Sweetsop fruit	Zmoda	?
Cassava stems (4)	Zmoda	Monica Brandies
Natal Plum	Zmoda	Lillian Smoleny
Natal Plum	Zmoda	?
Cassava Plant	Zmoda	?
Soursop	Zmoda	J. Bell
Pond Apple	Zmoda	Sue Tate
Edible cactus (2)	Zmoda	??
Surinam Cherry	E. Freedman	Canter
Pomegranate	Phil Brown	kass Scott-Rivera
Barbados Cherry	Phil Brown	?
Lipstick Tree	Phil Brown	?
Apple & Spice Potpourri	Kass Scott-Rivera	Sue Tate
Apple & Spice Potpourri	Kass Scott-Rivera	Bob Baker
Apple & Spice Potpourri	Kass Scott-Rivera	?
Ginger	Bob Baker	Canter
Ginger	Bob Baker	Kass Scott-Rivera
Musa sumatrana	Bob Baker	?
Ney Pouvam	Bob Baker	F. Burhenn
Pineapple, smooth	Burhenn	?
Aloe	Burhenn	?
Tropical Guava	Burhenn	Betty Morris
Cactus, orange	Burhenn	C.J. McMillen
Cactus, orange	Burhenn	Nancy McCormack
Cactus, orange	Burhenn	?
Rose Penta	Burhenn	Sally Starr
White Penta	Burhenn	Sally Starr
White Penta	Burhenn	Canter
Basil	Burhenn	?
Key Lime	Bev Millar	J. Bell
Custard Apple (2)	MaryAnn Campbell	??
Coreopsis	Brent Creighton	Canter



Tasting Table: November 1994

Zmoda: Natal Queen Pineapple
 Burhenn: Fudge Nut Brownies
 Sue Tate: Vegetable Cornbread
 Pat Jean: Banana Cake
 Stark: Dried Jujubes
 Bev Millar: Key Limes

Lillian Wente: Raisin Cookies
 Diana Mills: Pickled Peppers, Cheese
 Nancy McCormack: Zucchini Nut Muffins
 Kass Scott-Rivera: Tea Punch, Deviled Tuna & Crackers
 Cathy Creighton: Apple Crisp, Apple-Bran Muffins
 Sherry Baker: Apple-raisin-nut Pumpkin Bread

Thank You Thank You Thank You

To the bidders for the lovely auction plants at our last meeting: Brent Creighton and Grady Tate each won a beautiful Cherry of the Rio Grande, and David Mitchell and Sally Starr won a large passionfruit plant (donated by Frank Burhenn).

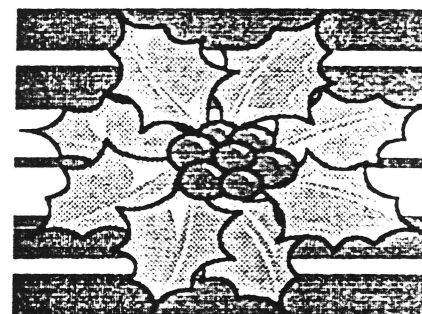
Notice: John Montano wishes to share his successful grafting of 425 persimmon trees. You may have seen some of his fruit on display at the sale last October. He is offering 8 different varieties at a bargain price of \$10.00 each. Some of these trees are 5 feet tall and will be sold bare root. They will be available after December. He can be reached at (813)968-6465.

In response to requests, this newsletter will be accepting advertising that might be of interest to our members. The rate schedule set by the board of directors is, per issue:
 full page, \$50; half page \$30; one quarter page, \$15; one eighth page, \$10.

Ads for multiple issues will have a 10% discount.

For further information call Lillian Stark, 621-4987.

What's Happening November-December, 1994 by Paul Zmoda



The weather is getting a bit cooler these days, so it is time to sit outdoors and relax some....**WRONG!** It's time to work harder; there is much to be done:

1. Transplant semi-dormant trees, shrubs, and vines.
 2. Collect lots of fallen leaves for mulch and compost piles.
 3. Ready your greenhouse for the coming cold spells.
 4. Lightly prune your trees (save the heavy, final pruning until danger of frost is past).
 5. Harvest fall fruits and vegetables to freeze, can, and make juices and jellies.
 6. Root crops are ready to dig.
 7. Keep vegetable gardens well-watered and fed.
 8. Don't miss out on the planting of onions, stir-fry greens, and peas.
 9. Make last cuttings of valued specimens in case you lose the mother plants in a hard freeze.
 10. Collect seed.
 11. Pick lots of citrus for your holiday gift giving.
- All done? OK, *now* you can relax. Happy Holidays!

Exciting Times:

by Charles Novak

If you were not at our last club meeting you missed the announcement that Dr. Bobby Tee from Brunei Darussalam is planning to visit us in March 1995. He will talk about the fruits of Brunei. He will also be offering the book, Brunei Darussalam Fruits in Colour at the reduced price of \$40.00 each. The sale of the books will help in deferring his trip expenses. The book Brunei Darussalam Fruits in Colour is a beautiful book and a must for your library.

Only two people have turned in their suggestions on what plant information should be in a data base of tropical fruit plants. We need your participation to make this project a success. At the December meeting we will have a discussion concerning this project. Again, get involved and let's make our club the best it can be.

LOST AND FOUND

Several items were left at the Tree Sale on October 2, which we are holding for the owner until claimed. Items include a large black umbrella, a pair of glasses, a T-shirt with Granada and a killer whale on front, and a pair of gray shorts. Anyone knowing to whom these items belong may contact Bob Heath at his office (879-6349) or at his home in the evening (289-1068).

 *Best Wishes* 
for the
Holiday Season
and the New Year

Exciting Plants:

by Charles Novak

I received two seeds of the Brown Mango (Bembangan-Membangan, Botanical Name: *Mangifera panjang Kastermans*) from Dr. Bobby Tee. I planted the seeds on the 15th of August and, as of November 24, the two plants are over 3 feet tall. Astonishing growth! If the plants keep growing at this rate, they will be taller than my greenhouse by this time next year.

U.S.F. BOTANICAL GARDEN HOLIDAY FAIR

On Saturday, Dec. 10, 1994, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, University of South Florida Botanical Gardens will hold their First Annual Plants, Crafts & Gifts for the Holidays Fair. The USF Botanical Gardens is in the southwest corner of the USF Tampa campus, at the corner of Pine & Alumni Drives, off Bruce B. Downs Blvd. (30th St.) just north of Fowler Avenue. Parking & admission are free. For more information, call 974-2329.



RFCI Tampa Bay Chapter
313 Pruett Rd
Seffner FL 33584



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

