



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1996

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

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: BOB HEATH, THERESA HEATH, ARNOLD STARK, LILLIAN STARK

PRESIDENT: CHARLES NOVAK

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: NOVEMBER 10, 1996

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 IS OUR FIRST, HOPEFULLY, ANNUAL FRUITARAMA, from noon til 4:00 p.m. on November 10. See the October newsletter and additional information on page 96-72. All members are invited to what we hope will be a great event and one which, we're sure, will be more fun than a regular meeting and hopefully a lot more profitable for our club. We expect all our regular attendees to show up and enjoy the day. See you there!

New Members:

Robert Milligan 3323 Fox Lake Drive Tampa, FL 33618-1118 (813)963-1330

Justin Jacobson 4192 42nd Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33711-4229 (813)864-3910

Thank You Thank You Thank You

To Modesto Arencibia for donating a Tent Canopy to the Club

To the many members who participated in the USF Botanical Gardens Plant Sale

Gleaners of Hillsborough Country

The Gleaners of Hillsborough County is associated with the National Gleaning Organization, Society of St. Andrew.

This has been a banner year for harvesting fruit and produce that might have fallen to the ground or been plowed under at the end of the season when crop prices fell. Strawberries, Citrus, Cucumbers, Squash, Cantaloupes, Tomatoes, Grapes and Carambolas have been directed to the Divine Providence Food Bank, which distributes to over 230 non-profit agencies that feed the hungry and needy plus neighborhood service centers and church pantries, Aids Network, Salvation Army, Beth El Mission, etc.

The Rare Fruit Council members can help by letting the Gleaners glean any excess amount of fruit and donate it to non-profit organizations for feeding the needy and hungry. No amount is too large or too small. Citrus and other fruits would be most appreciated. Contact Polly Shewfelt at (813) 689-8621.

FRUITARAMA, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

It's here! Our first main event held at our very own clubhouse and fruit and spice park--wear one of those yellow RFCI shirts we all love so much, bring your money, your friends, a comfortable chair, and plan for a day of fun and fellowship.

Saturday's Schedule--9:00 a.m. 'til 12:00 p.m.

Bring your donated items--garage sale merchandise, fruit for the display and tasting tables to the clubhouse.

Vendors may set up during this period. If you choose to do so, however, it will be at your own risk as there will be no security.

Sunday's Schedule--8:30 a.m. 'til 11:00 a.m.

Vendors should set up during this period. Each vendor is responsible for bringing any props needed for displaying his wares--tables, trellises, ground cloths, etc. Please be certain each of your items is clearly marked with the vendor number and price as outlined in the Fruitarama Guidelines published in the October newsletter.

Donated items will also be accepted during this period.

Sunday's Schedule--11:00 a.m. 'til noon

All volunteers should arrive not later than 11:00 and help out where needed.

Sunday's Schedule--12:00 'til 4:00

This is when our guests deluge us! Vendors, please staff your sales or display area during this time. Be prepared to answer questions about your merchandise and to promote RFCI and its role in disseminating information about tropical and sub-tropical fruit.

Sunday's Schedule--after 4:00 p.m.

Vendors and volunteers to break down their areas and clean up as necessary.

A Reminder--Payouts will be made during the week following Fruitarama.

Members who have fruit suitable for placing on the fruit plates are requested to bring whatever they can to the Fruitarama on Saturday afternoon or early Sunday morning before festivities begin. Grafting root stock is needed for the grafting table, annona, avocado, citrus and carambola seedlings. Please advise if you can bring any of the above.

From the President
Charles Novak

Tom Economou gave a great presentation at our last meeting! He had many interesting fruits on display. I hope you had a chance to taste the JackFruit. Someday, I hope to go on one of his trips.

I want to thank all the people who worked at the USF plant sale (October 12). We had many different fruit trees for sale. If you have unsold plants, please bring them to the Fruitarama. If you have any suggestions to help make the USF Spring Plant Sale better, call me at home or speak to me at the meeting.

Fruitarama is here and we need your help to make it a big success. It is also your chance to learn to grow and use tropical fruits. Please contribute to the bake sale and yard sale.

The following is a list of scheduled programs/speakers for the next 6 months.

November:	Fruitarama and sale
December:	Second Annual Christmas party
January:	Dr. Ralph H. Sharpe, U of FL, Gainesville (Pineapple Guava)
February:	Don Chafin - Homestead (Bananas)
March:	Pre-sale and sign up meeting (Free Plant for all members who work at the Plant Sale)
March:	22 and 23 Annual Plant Sale
April:	Vivian Murray - The Treehouse (tentative)

I am starting a new section called Membership Spotlighting. Each month I will spotlight one or two of our members who have interesting fruit trees and/or have information of interest. This month I am Spotlighting the following two members:

Polly Shewfelt for her outstanding work in establishing and running the Gleaners of Hillsborough County. The gleaning of fruits and vegetables helps a lot of people. (See Article)

Alan Smith for his introduction of new and interesting fruits from Africa and other parts of the world to Florida. You can see his fruit trees by setting up an appointment, (813) 539-7527.



Raffle: October 1996

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
Coffee	C. Novak	?
Hardy Kiwi	C. Novak	Helen Drwinga
Hardy Kiwi	C. Novak	?
Horseradish Tree	C. Novak	Gertrude Pierre
Horseradish Tree	C. Novak	?
Baobab	C. Novak	Rick Hunt
Baobab	C. Novak	?
5 finger fern	Modesto Arencibia	Helen Drwinga
Papaya	Modesto Arencibia	Frank Woodruff
Papaya	Modesto Arencibia	Rick Hunt
Lemon fruit	Modesto Arencibia	?
Yellow Grenadilla	Stark	Janet Conard
Yellow Grenadilla (2)	Stark	??
Corsican Citron	Stark	?
Lemon Grass	J. Murrie	Terry Heath
Lemon Grass	J. Murrie	Winston Kao
Aloe	Bob Heath	Jim Murrie
Surinam Cherry	Bob Heath	Dolores Canter
Fig	Bob Heath	Buster Keaton
Cherimoya	Bob Heath	Winston Kao
Beauty Berry	Bob Heath	Pat Woodruff
Jelly Palm	Bob Heath	Helen Drwinga
Sesame Seed (10)	R. Maseda	?
Momencillo (2)	R. Maseda	Winston Kao
Mint	Yuku Tanaka	Kass
Mint	Yuku Tanaka	David Mitchell
Fig	Tony Ferreira	?

Attention: all you lucky plant winners - Please don't become a ?. To avoid becoming a ?, just print your name in the winner box next to the name of the plant you have selected when you are one of the fortunate plant winners.

Tasting Table: September, 1996

Cathy Kao: Banana Bread, Sour Cream Chocolate Chip Cookies, Fruit Cake

Novak: Apple Nut Cake, Banana Nut Cookies, Pummalo

Marjorie Simkins: Plums, Grapes, Orange Slices

Dolores Canter: Bagel Chips & Apricot Jelly

Sherry Baker: Cookies with Pumpkin Face

Kass Scott-Rivera: Herb Tea, Lemonade

Jules Cohan: Feijoa (Pineapple Guava)

Gertrude Pierre: Cream Cheese Cake

Riegler: Feijoa (Pineapple Guava)

Modesto Arencibia: Lemonade

Stark: Limeade

Nancy McCormack: Muffins

Helen Drwinga: Coffee Cake

Pat Jean: Cheese Coffee Cake

P. Shewfelt: Persimmon Slices

Janet Conard: Persimmon Cake

Lillian Smoleny: Persimmon Slices

Connie Ferreira: Assorted Cookies

What's Happening

October-November, 1996

by Paul Zmoda

While waiting for the club's planting area to fill out and grow, why not visit an established fruit-filled plot only minutes away from the clubhouse? *Your* taxes help support the grounds at the Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service in Seffner, so you owe it to yourselves to check on it from time to time. Behind the building you will discover many of the fruiting plants that we love so much growing along the winding pathway.

Tampa Bay RFCI's founding members donated many of these fine specimens and planted them as well. (Our meetings were once held inside the building before we purchased the present location.) There you can study the growth of Figs, Chinese Chestnuts, Feijoas, Pomegranate, Olive, Persimmons, Acerola and more to see how they might perform in your yard.

Many trees, such as the Cattleya Guavas and arbor of Muscadine Grapes, are so full of fruit that you can sample them when in season. The Jujube twins, 'Lang' and 'Li' are something to see, as are the native Pawpaw, Kei Apples and Kiwi vine. There is a fenced herb garden and a working

vegetable plot to marvel at. In addition there are composting and mulch displays to help you decide which is right for your garden.

You'll also find that the staff there can help you with many home projects or problems you may encounter pertaining to raising your own food, canning and preserving same, grafting, pest control, nutrition and so much more. Our very own member, Al Hendry, volunteers there as part of the Master Gardeners Program.

The extension office can be found at 5339 County Road 579 [telephone: (813)744-5519]. From I-4 take exit 8 and go south (opposite the clubhouse, which is north). Go straight through the traffic light on Hillsborough Avenue (State Road 92). Just past the hill take the first left, and there it is on your right. I find it convenient to visit just after our meetings.

New seeds sprouting: Lettuce, Argula, Daikon and Purple Radishes. New plantings include: Mangoes, Muntingia, Jak Fruit, Mamey Sapotes, Bananas, Persimmon, Soursop, Malay apple, Pink Lemon, Calamondin, and Guavas.

FLORIDA STATE FAIR. . .

Dates for the Florida State Fair in 1997 will be February 6 thru 17. The RFCI will be participating. Set-up time for our booth is January 31 thru February 4. Judging is February 5, the day before the Fair opens. A committee is needed to plan the arrangement of the booth and develop the procedure for set-up. We are asking for volunteers to be on this committee to design the booth and help set it up. Please call Charles Novak or talk to him at the Fruitarama next Saturday or Sunday.

FRUIT FROM SOUTH FLORIDA by TOM ECONOMOU

Tom started by telling us a little story of how he started bringing fruit of various kinds to programs promoting his safaris to Central and South America, tours which he has been conducting for many, many years. It occurred to him before one of his presentations in West Palm Beach where he would be promoting his tours that many of the people to whom he would be talking

were not familiar with the fruit that they would see in Central and South American markets. He decided that if he could show them some of the fruit, that this would pique their interest and increase their participation. So he collected a variety of fruit in the Miami area and presented them to the people in West Palm. They were enthralled and excited: as he put it, "They

went bananas."

He also told us of one time he was in Memphis, Tennessee, when a little lady, obviously from the Far East, came up and picked up the banana blossom and asked, "Can I have this when you finish the program?" He asked her, "Why would you want that?" She answered, "I'm going to eat it." And that is something that anyone who lives in that part of the world knows, that banana blossoms are eaten in the Far East. In the markets, they are packed up in bags and sold for as much as \$3.00, according to our world traveler, Al Hendry.

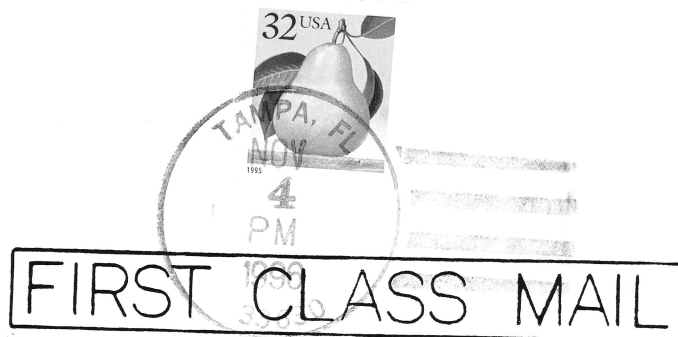
Tom mentioned that Al Hendry picked him up at the airport Saturday and they went to the Extension Service to inspect the fruiting trees in the gardens behind the main building. While walking through the gardens, they spotted the feijoa trees which were laden with fruit. Tom said, "Boy, I haven't seen feijoas in years." Tom ate one, it was fantastic and so they picked several to bring to show to us today. That's where the feijoas came

from that were on the table; from our own planting at the Extension Service. Tom indicated, however, that the two largest feijoas on the table came from Jules Cohan's trees. Jules has two trees and they produce a lot of feijoas, but unfortunately, Jules doesn't care for them. He leaves them for his wife to eat. Tom showed us how to peel a feijoa so that the pulp inside, which is sweet and has very tiny seeds, can be eaten. The outside rind of the feijoa is not eaten.

With that behind him, Tom held up a straggly looking limb and announced, "This is a Japanese raisin tree," and indicated that the raisins are really the swollen stems of the tree. He got the "raisins" from Peggy Wood, who is president of the Rare Fruit Council in Homestead. The "raisins" are sweet and juicy but woody. After chewing it and getting the juice out, you can discard the pulp. Tom said in tasting new fruit, you should have an open mind because the flavors, textures and colors are frequently not ones you are familiar with and they may not appeal to you the first time you try them.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

RFCI Tampa Bay Chapter
313 PRUETT RD
SEFFNER FL 33584



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

FRUITARAMA

& Garage Sale

**BOUNTIFUL
BAKE SALE**

LEARN TO GROW....

MANGOES

BANANAS

PAPAYAS

CITRUS

AVOCADOS

**GREAT
TASTING
TABLE**

& OTHER TROPICAL FRUIT !

Demonstrations on:

New Recipes

Grafting

Wine/Brandy Making

Jelly Making

Yard Sale:

Antiques

Books

Curiosities

Miscellaneous

Sunday, November 10, 1996 12-4
at the Tampa Rare Fruit Council Clubhouse
313 Pruett Road, Seffner

take I-4 to Exit 8

Go North 1 mile to Pruett Road

turn right and watch for signs

Sponsored by:

*Rare Fruit Council, International
Tampa Bay Chapter*

