



NEWSLETTER JULY 1997

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

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(including renewals)

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

NEXT MEETING: JULY 20, 1997

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 Rd (see McDonald school sign). Turn right (East). Go one mile. See Clubhouse on left immediately past McDonald School.

PROGRAM: OUR SPEAKER THIS MONTH IS WINSTON KAO. HE IS AN AGRICULTURIST, A SOIL SPECIALIST AND HERBALIST AND A DEVELOPER OF FORMULAS AND HORTICULTURAL PROCESSES. HE WILL BE SPEAKING ABOUT WATER CONDITIONING AND HOW IT AFFECTS THE GROWTH OF PLANTS, METHODS OF PREVENTING SOLAR AND HOT WEATHER WILT AND COLD WEATHER DAMAGE, METHODS OF STRENGTHENING PLANTS' IMMUNE SYSTEMS AND METHODS OF DEVELOPING BETTER NUTRITION IN PLANTS. WINSTON'S PRESENTATION SHOULD CERTAINLY BE VERY INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING. JOIN US FOR HIS INFORMATIVE TALK, GOOD FOOD, EXCITING RAFFLE AND COMPANIONSHIP.

Rare Fruit Club Conference:

The Metro-Dade Fruit & Spice Park and the Tropical Fruit & Vegetable Society of the Redlands have announced a Rare Fruit Club Conference. It will be held at the Park in Homestead on

July 11, 12, & 13, 1997

Details were published in our past 2 newsletters. For more information call: (305)247-5727

An Event Well Worth Attending

by Arnold Stark

Lillian and I went to the last Rare Fruit Club Conference, and we want everyone to know what a great experience it was! Not only did we meet many enthusiastic and knowledgeable rare fruit growers (hobbyists, nurserymen, commercial) from other clubs, but the presentations were very informative, and the field trips were outstanding! If you have never been to either IFAS, the fruit & Spice Park, Fairchild Gardens, or the Kampong, then this trip is not one to miss. If you have been to any or all of these places, then I don't have to tell you they are all worth revisiting (over and over again). The included meals were also excellent, with lots of fruit-tasting, including a blind taste-test of about 100 different mangos. If you haven't already made plans to go to the Conference, we urge you to do so. It will be an event you will long remember, and you will come home with a wealth of new tips for growing success.

We are leaving for Homestead around noon on Thursday, July 10, staying at the Hampton Inn in Florida City, and returning home after the end of the Conference Sunday evening. We have room for 2 passengers in our station wagon, so, if you need a ride, give us a call.

ADVENTURES IN THAILAND by Vivian Murray

Last October Vivian had the opportunity to go to Thailand for six weeks with a friend. Her friend is from Thailand so Vivian was able to go to places and see things that were not available to the average tourist because of the influence of her friend. She pointed out that Thailand is a completely different culture and language than we find in South America and other areas where the culture and predominant language is European. Thailand is a tropical country, being just 15 degrees above the equator, about the latitude of South Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, etc. In the southern areas around Bangkok, it never gets cold and in the north where the mountains are, there is some cool weather but not even as severe as we have here in our winters. So throughout the country and in the valleys in the north they can grow tropical fruit such as the mangosteen, yet up in the mountains they are able to grow things like peaches.

The dominant religion in Thailand is Buddhism and everywhere in Thailand there are statues, monasteries and Buddhist temples.

Vivian's first slide was one of the statues which must have been 40' tall when comparing it to a man standing at the base. The second slide was of the temple of the Emerald Buddha, which is situated beside the king's palace. The view was from outside the gate before entering the grounds. It is apparent, even on the slides, that this is an absolutely fabulous architectural marvel of Oriental design with slender spires reaching for the sky, emblazoned in real gold and painted in unimaginable splendor.

The third slide was another temple located in the north Chiangmai area that had even more gold. The next slide was of her friend who Vivian said had a nephew in every city to show them around. The nephews made all the arrangements when they were traveling; one picked them up at the airport when they flew in to Bangkok and took them to the hotel where they would stay.

When they arrived, Thailand was celebrating the king's birthday and his 50th year in power. Posters and displays were everywhere honoring the king.

Vivian had a slide of several tamarind trees on the palace grounds that had been highly sculptured, which is not the usual way of growing tamarinds. From under the trees one could see the tamarind pods hanging in the tree. Tamarinds have a very fine leaf and the effect was impressive.

The next slide showed a temple in the mountains in the north central region built into a natural cave with walls to provide several rooms with paintings and, of course, the Buddha statue in every room.

Another slide showed a shrine to the queen up on a mountain top with what Vivian described as a zillion steps. Having lived all her life in Florida, she said she wasn't used to these kinds of climbs, but she did make it to the shrine and took these pictures. At another shrine nearby she had to climb even more steps.

Vivian had several slides of flowers and other crops that the Thailand government is trying to promote to replace the fields of opium poppies that the farmers used to produce. She indicated that opium was probably no longer produced in Thailand.

Vivian said the main reason she went to Thailand was to look for the fruit. She had been told that the mangosteen is a summer fruit and would not be available in October; however, she was able to find mangosteen in some of the markets. She also found a fruit that grows on a palm called Salak, from which she was able to extract some seeds and take them back to Pine Island where they are now growing. A friend of hers on Pine Island has since told her that she has some Salak palms growing there on Pine Island that are about 4 to 5 years old and have fruited. Also, they have taken the winter cold there so Vivian says maybe they will be producing some Salak palms in the next 4 or 5 years.

The langsats was also available in the markets and Vivian has returned seeds to Pine Island but the langsats is a very tender tree and probably won't take our winters. The mangos and guavas that she saw in the markets were all green because they were unripe. They have yellow and red mangos but in Thailand guavas and mangos and some other fruit are frequently eaten unripe. Vivian didn't indicate why but it may be because ripe fruit tends to be infested with fruit fly larva.

When they were in Bangkok they went to the University of Bangkok to the Agricultural Department where they were fortunate enough to meet the local expert on tropical fruit. He was very gracious and arranged for a driver to take them to a local farm. They also met the local expert on mangos. A book which they showed to Vivian had pictures of these two botanists and a discussion of their work. They are both well known in Thailand as experts in their fields. They had developed some new mangos, one of which Vivian showed us called Chokanon.

Vivian brought back one of the seeds which has sprouted and is growing nicely. Amazingly, the tree has already produced bloom, so it is apparently very precocious. Most of the grafting Vivian saw in Thailand was approach grafting which tends to be more trouble but tends to be more successful.

Vivian showed us a slide of the Nam-Doc-Mai Fwong mango, which means the golden Nam-Doc-Mai, which turns to golden yellow when ripe instead of the green color of the regular Nam-Doc-Mai which the Murrays have on Pine Island. Vivian was also very impressed with the Chokanon mango which grows in Thailand. She said she's not sure that it's going to do as well in central Florida as it does in Thailand.

We also saw a slide of the green wax jambu, which Vivian assures us is more tasty than the common red variety which we see around this area. Thailand produces a large quantity of sugar apple and they are an excellent variety which is found in the markets throughout Thailand. Vivian said they taste more

like atemoyas to her than sugar apples.

She had slides of fruit displayed in several markets; the fruit is arranged in neat rows, not just piled into bins. There were langsats, rambutans, sapodillas, several varieties of mangos, guavas, wax jambus and the durian. Vivian described the durian as a delicious French custard pushed through a sewer pipe. Durians are a delicious fruit but the unpeeled, mature fruit has a very strong disagreeable odor. One sees posters here and there in Thailand with a durian in a circle and a line across it indicating that durians are not acceptable in these enclosed places, such as hotel lobbies, buses, theaters and other such places. Vivian describes the smell as rotten meat. However, there are some varieties that are not so overpowering and really do not have that bad an odor. It is a very rich fruit and she indicated that she couldn't eat one entire fruit because it was so rich and sweet. In Thailand it is called king of fruit, which means in their opinion, it's the best fruit in the world.

In their travels through Thailand they saw a great section of country with grape vineyards. The grapes themselves were large and very good and one of the nephews arranged for them to get a tour of a local winery. The grapes are harvested in July and early August, after which they cut the grape vines back severely. When Vivian took the pictures in early November, the vines were flowering again because in Thailand they get two crops of grapes each year. Her slides of the vineyard itself reveals how meticulously they keep the vines and how clean the adjoining rows.

Also, they stopped along the way to look at some lychee groves where there seemed to be two different kinds of lychee trees. Vivian took some cuttings from both trees and hopes to have both kinds available in the future.

From the President
Charles Novak

Vivian Murray's program last month on her recent trip to Thailand was interesting and informative. I wish I could return to Thailand now that I have an interest in tropical fruits.

Remember the July club meeting has been changed to Sunday, July 20. I hope to see many of you at the Rare Fruit Club Conference at the Fruit and Spice Park, July 11-13.

Please review the letter from the board concerning the future of the club and clubhouse. The decision is yours to make. We will discuss the future of the club and clubhouse at the July 20th meeting.

Our speaker for July, Winston Kao, is a club member who has some very interesting techniques for growing fruits. He has grown and produced fruit on his trees long before the usual required length of time. Learn what to do to get fruit production faster and how to keep your trees healthy.

The following is a list of scheduled programs/speakers.

July 20	Winston Kao
August 10	Larry Shatzer - Edible Ginger
September 14	Paul Beaver
October 12	Tom Economou
November 9	Chris Rollins
December 14	Christmas & Hanukkah Social
January 11, 98	Maryon Marsh - Herbs
February 9	Marian Van Atta - Living off the Land

In the spotlight this month is : Paul Zmoda for writing an article each month for the club newsletter. Thanks, Paul. I know it takes time to write the articles. If you have an interesting article and would like to share it with us, please mail the article to me; and I will see about getting it in the newsletter. Summer is here and I know many of you are planning vacations. If you visit an exceptional botanical gardens, please tell us about it.

Did you know that Formosan termites are in many areas of the US, including Florida? They have been destroying live trees to the total cost of more than \$300 million. Hard-hit are live oaks, but they also attacks maples, ashes, bald cypress and about 15 other species. The Formosan termite can live above the ground in the tree and need not go to the ground for moisture.

Raffle: June 1997

Plant Name	Donor	Winner
Ceylon Gooseberry	Charles Novak	Nancy McCormack
Ceylon Gooseberry	Charles Novak	Jerry Tennant
Ceylon Gooseberry	Charles Novak	??
<i>Cornus kousanar</i>	Charles Novak	Walter Vines
<i>Flacourtia rukam</i> (Bitungol)	Charles Novak	Scott Daniels
<i>Flacourtia rukam</i> (Bitungol)	Charles Novak	Walter Vines
Wood Apple	Charles Novak	Walter Vines
Wood Apple	Charles Novak	?
Camphor (2)	Charles Novak	??
Tamarind	Zmoda	Walter Vines
Grumichama	Zmoda	Eicky Maseda
Papaya	Zmoda	Al Roberts
Black Surinam Cherry	Janet Conard	Cheryl Drew
Citrosa (2)	Ricky Maseda	??
Papaya	Ricky Maseda	Nancy McCormack
Papaya	Ricky Maseda	Lillian Smoleny
Dwarf Papaya	Ricky Maseda	Stark
Dwarf Papaya	Ricky Maseda	?
Cherimoya	Heath	?
Flame Flower	Heath	?
Atemoya	Heath	?
Pineapple	Heath	Elizabeth Bolint
Orange Berry	Heath	?
Cactus	Heath	Walter Vines
Mulberry	Heath	?
Cherry of the Rio Grande	Heath	Phil Brown
<i>Eugenia confusa</i>	Heath	?
<i>Solanum diaphellem</i>	Heath	
Datura	F. Burhenn	Walter Vines
Datura (7)	F. Burhenn	???????
Banana - 1000 finger	F. Burhenn	Andy Hendrikson
Banana - 1000 finger	F. Burhenn	?
Plumeria	Cheryl Drew	Jerry Tennant
Plumeria	Cheryl Drew	?
Angel Trumpet	Cheryl Drew	E. Sarrasin
Angel Trumpet	Cheryl Drew	?
Begonias	Charles Simkins	Jim Murrie
Begonias	Charles Simkins	Pearl Nelson
Begonias	Charles Simkins	Walter Vines
Begonias	Charles Simkins	Al Jean
Begonias (11)	Charles Simkins	(11)
Orange Berry	Phil Brown	Walter Vines
Quenepe	Phil Brown	Walter Vines
Banana - Praying Hands	Phil Brown	Al Roberts
Banana - Red Ihalane	Phil Brown	Jim Murrie
Banana - Goldfinger	Phil Brown	Stark
Banana - Valerie	Phil Brown	Walter Vines
Macadamia	Al Roberts	Ricky Maseda

What's Happening

June-July, 1997

by Paul Zmoda

This month's word is SUCCESS; it was recently discovered that I have successfully hand-pollinated our old friend the PawPaw (*Asimina triloba*). This ten foot tall specimen tree, which appears to be about 7 years old, presented it's second annual blooming period this past April. Last year's "lurid" purple flowers didn't pan out, but this year I was in the right place at the right time with my trusty artists' brush.

Like others in the Annona family, the pollen is usually shed the day after the flower is receptive. Luckily, there were many flowers in both stages to work with. I transferred pollen back and forth and waited until June to check for results.

With jubilation I spotted 8 fruits in 4 clusters, one fruit having 3 seeds within. This seems to prove that a single tree will produce without having a second one nearby, although I'm sure the yield would be higher in that case.

The single-seeded fruits resemble Macadamia nuts in size and shape, while the multiple-seeded one is $3 \frac{1}{2}$ + inches long. All are a light green color. Hopefully, all I can ask now is: will they taste good?

New plantings: 'Moreland' Pecan, 'Dunstan' Chestnuts, 'Hood' Pear, 'Mango' PawPaw, 'Manzanillo' Olive, 'Hana Fuyu' Persimmon and more bananas.

What's Happening

May-June, 1997

by Paul Zmoda

I've been rushing about, trying to plant as much as I can so my trees can get established ASAP. At my new place, I desired a large, open, sunny area to dedicate to sun lovers such as citrus, avocados, chestnuts, pecans, stone fruits, etc. First, I must finish clearing some land of large pine and oaks growing there. Although I hate killing trees unnecessarily, this seems justified as I will plant many more than I destroy.

Once the tree-cutting permit was obtained, Longleaf pines are felled and their trunks sectioned into hundred-pound "manageable" pieces. Mature oaks have to be limbed one at a time starting nearest the ground. The largest pieces of oak are trucked to a Bar-B-Que restaurant which trades the valuable wood for their tasty fare (will work for food!). Branches are run through a Troybilt 7 horsepower chipper. The resulting mulch is very useful. Some intermediate-sized wood is burned and later the ashes are spread around for the fertilizer value. The entire process is taking months to accomplish.

In the meantime, I am preparing many fruit trees for that planting area. Some months ago I had planted various citrus seeds such as pommelo. As the seedlings' stem diameters reach $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, they may be grafted. Up to now I have shield-budded Hirado Buntan, Chandler, Siam Sweet and other promising pommelos onto them. Using Trifoliate Orange root stock, I have budded many other citrus scions such as ugli, mandarins, tangelos, oranges and such. I grafted Brogdon Avocado to another cold-hardy one - Topa Topa. Having a dearth of root stocks compatible with peaches and plums, I decided to try using 'Red Ceylon' peach as the "host" for almond and plum. The attempted grafting techniques used here are shield bud, chip and veneer grafts.

As soon as I finish clearing the planting area, all these trees will get a good, permanent site.

New plantings: Peach Palm, bananas, Pindo Palms, Guiana chestnut, screw pine, pomegranates, passion fruit, Cas guava, yucca, Rose apple, coffee, carambolas, longan, loquats, Ilama, canistel, cocona, figs, Cattley guava, Paw Paws, tamarind and cherimoyas.

Tasting Table: June 1997

Novak: Nut Bread Assortment; Fresh Fruit; papaya Butter
 Marjorie Simkins: Chocolate Chip & Raisin Cookies
 Musgraves: Blueberry & Apple Cinnamon Muffins
 Lillian Smoleny: Blackberry Pineapple Cobbler
 Nancy McCormack: Raisin Oatmeal Cookies
 Janet Conard: Papaya Upside Down Cake
 Lillian Wentz: Oatmeal Cookies
 Walter Vines: Cheese Popcorn

Kimberly Hunt: Peach Cobbler
 Pat Jean: Cheese Bread Sticks
 Al Roberts: Orange Juice
 Lillian Stark: Lemonade
 Sue Wells: Lychees

FREE PLANTS

FREE PLANTS

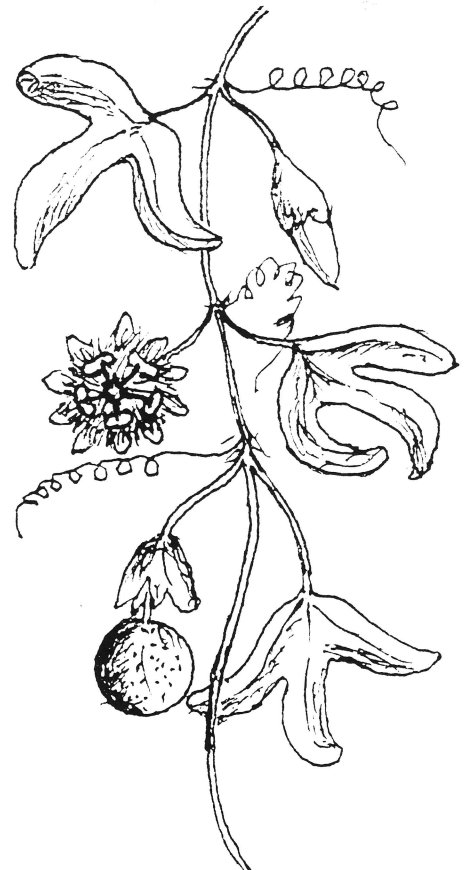
FREE PLANTS

At our next meeting July 20, Charles Novak is donating a lot of his surplus seedlings to the membership. The plants are mostly relatively small seedlings, one or many in one gallon pots, ready to be separated and individually potted. There is a good variety, rare and not so rare fruiting plants, all marked for variety. This is one of the main functions of our council, to share our plantings with our membership and to give all our members an opportunity to grow and learn.

A FIELD TRIP by Bob Heath

On Saturday, June 28, I went searching in the woods near Brandon for the native American passion flower and for a small huckleberry relative also native to central Florida. The wooded area is about 2 or 3 blocks north of Hwy. 60 and west of I-75 where they are presently building the new ice rink. A countless number of maypops are growing in the fields there. It was pretty hot work but I dug up four plants, one with fruit, put them in three gallon pots, and watered them well. Hopefully, all will make it. The maypop, *Passiflora incarnata*, is native to the southern United States from Florida to Virginia, Missouri to Oklahoma. It has a pink and white flower followed by yellow fruit, about 2" in diameter. The fleshy arils that support the seeds inside taste much like those of the tropical purple granadilla, *Passiflora edulis*, or the giant granadilla, *Passiflora quadrangularis*. The four I got wilted badly but if they recover I will make another trip and try again to get some more plants.

I also found two specimens of the huckleberry relative which did even better than the maypops with their transplanting, with almost no wilting. As a child, I ate the berries when I found them in the woods but I never tried to transplant the small bushes which I suspect are members of the blueberry family, *Vaccinium*, in lieu of the huckleberry family, *Gaylussacia*. But it will be interesting to try to identify the bushes. Perhaps someone in the Native Plant Society would know the scientific name and family.



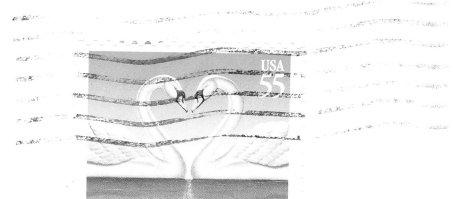


IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

Our July Meeting (**This Month**) will be postponed
for 1 week so that our members will be able to
attend the Rare Fruit Club Conference.

Our July meeting will be held on
Sunday, July 20.

Tampa Bay Chapter, RFCI
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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