



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1997

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 EACH MONTH AT 2:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: NOV. 9, 1997

MEETING PLACE: RARE FRUIT COUNCIL CLUBHOUSE, 313 PRUETT RD, 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: CHRIS ROLLINS IS CURATOR AT THE FRUIT & SPICE PARK IN HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA. He has consented to be our speaker at the upcoming meeting on November 9. Chris is an excellent speaker and very knowledgeable in regard to rare fruit and tropical fruiting trees. Chris was our guest speaker about a year ago when he described the damage wrought by Hurricane Andrew with slides showing the extent of destruction of trees and buildings. With this presentation, he will show us the great changes that have been made in the park since the hurricane. The Spice Park is home to an exceptional variety of tropical fruiting trees and plants, so this should be an interesting program especially for those members who have never visited the park. We invite all members to come and to bring some guests to show them one of the largest collections of tropical fruiting trees in the United States. The program will be followed by our usual tasting table and raffle and a sale of some of the trees left over from the USF sale, providing an opportunity for members to obtain some excellent tropical trees.

CALOOSA RARE FRUIT EXCHANGE ANNUAL TREE SALE

The Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange will be conducting their annual sale at the Extension Center by Terry Park in Fort Myers. They would appreciate any help we can give them in this fund raising event by encouraging our membership to attend their sale.

WHEN: Saturday, November 8; gates open at 9:00 and close at 3:00. (People interested in getting the very best of the popular varieties of lychee, mangos, longans, etc. should plan on being at the sale in the morning as these varieties usually sell out early.

WHERE: The grounds of the Lee County Extension Center, 3406 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers (next to Terry Park).

FACTS: Several dozen different kinds of trees will be available - including a number of varieties of mangos and avocados, macadamias, jakfruit, lychees, longans, atemoyas, cherimoyas, sugar apples, mangosteens, bananas. All plants offered will have been inspected by the USDA.

CRFE members will be available at the sale to help interested buyers with information about the available plants.

The Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange Tropical Fruit Cookbook will be for sale along with some baked goods, jams & jellies which members have made from its recipes. Beverages and snacks will be available. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL: PEGGY CARPENTER, PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN, CALOOSA RARE FRUIT EXCHANGE (941) 283-2953.

The October meeting was held at the Botanical Gardens Plant Sale
and so we did not have a Raffle or Tasting Table.

Thank You Thank You Thank You

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

Modesto	Alice Burhenn	Charles Novak	Polly Shewfelt
Arencibia	Frank Burhenn	Linda Novak	Lillian Smoleny
Bob Baker	Cheryl Drew	George Riegler	Arnold Stark
Sherry Baker	Tony Gricius	Lettie Roets	Lillian Stark
Phil Brown	Bob Heath	Phil Roets	Paul Zmoda
Barbara Born	Al Hendry	Bill Ryland	
Fred Born	Gyula Nemeth	Elaine Sarrason	

What's Happening

October-November, 1997

by Paul Zmoda

Get any rain lately? We did - at least twelve inches and probably more in 48 hours' time on September 26 and 27. The woodland stream is flowing along and the grounds are saturated in a sponge-like manner but no serious flooding occurred for us. Our septic systems passed this test easily and the roofs are holding with nary a leak. So here we are "post-deluge".

Some trees, notably almonds and peaches did not enjoy this bath; they are drooping and shedding leaves but are expected to survive. Avocados showed a delayed reaction and dropped some leaves also. Loquats, however, look very badly and may not make it. Others, such as pecans and Eugenias seem to crave even more water and are busily putting on lot's of new growth. Passifloras too are quite content with the situation. I was amazed to see the tropical almond (*Terminalia* sp.), with water flowing

over it's site, perky and growing well. All the palms are also enjoying the moisture.

The sunny Sunday following the rains I decided that I just had to start a vegetable garden. I rototilled through the sod in 4 foot swathes for a total of 260 square feet into the rich, black (and wet) soil. I found the water table to be a mere 8 inches below the surface. After allowing the garden to drain for two days, I began planting. First went plants: tomatoes, yellow squash, cabbage, peppers, eggplants, cauliflowers and broccoli. Then seeds: kale, radishes, spinach, carrots, argula, mustard, chard and finally, onion sets. From the woods I cut Palmetto fronds to use as shades for the tender seedlings while they acclimate.

We tasted our first fruits: figs, sugar apples and atemoya. Carambolas are beginning to bloom and the horseradish tree (*Moringa oleifera*) is providing leaves and flower buds for use as a steamed vegetable.



From the President
Charles Novak

The results of the vote on the future of the clubhouse were published last month and the majority voted to sell the clubhouse and move club meetings to the USF campus. The Board has agreed to offer the club property for sale to the membership before placing the property with a Realtor. Anyone wishing to make an offer must do so in writing. The offer must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of \$500.00. The offer must be made to RFCI, and postmarked no later than February 27, 1998. If no acceptable offers are received, a Realtor will be retained by the Board in an effort to obtain a fair market price for the property - which was appraised in March, 1997, at \$83,000.00.

We had a lot of public interest at the USF Plant sale. The grafting demonstrations went over very well. The club wants to thank Modesto Arencibia and George Riegler for demonstrating their grafting techniques and to all the club members who worked at the sale. Note: The remaining plants purchased by the club for the USF sale will be offered at a reduced price at the November and December club meetings. We still have some very desirable plants for sale.

Our speaker for November is Chris Rollins who is the Director of the Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead, FL. If you have not been to one of his presentations be sure to attend the November meeting. Chris always gives an informative and interesting program.

The following is a list of scheduled programs/speakers.

November 9	Chris Rollins
December 14	Christmas & Hanukkah Social
January 11, 98	Maryon Marsh - Herbs
February 15	Marian Van Atta - Living off the Land
March 15 & 16	Our 18th Armory Plant sale
April 12	Ray Jones - Making Beer out of Tropical fruits
May 10	Gene Joyner

The planning and preparations for the Citrus Festival, January 31, 1998, with USF are progressing. Please help with your contacts, ideas and suggestions. Contact the event chairman, Victor Peyron, at (813) 752-9126.

In the spotlight this month are all the members who donate their time and extra plants to the club. We have a great membership. Thank you!!

DON'T TRASH YOUR ASH!

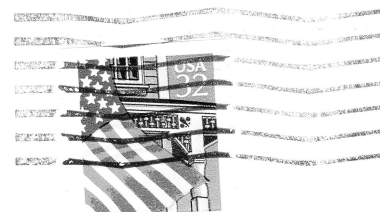
Wood ashes (not coal ash) make an excellent addition to your list of garden supplements. They contain primarily potassium and calcium carbonates, as well as magnesium oxide, phosphorus pentoxide, and trace quantities of copper, zinc, manganese, iron, sodium and boron. Wood ashes are high in the alkalinity needed to lime, or sweeten the soil, and thus are effective in reducing soil acidity. Spreading ashes around plants is also reported to aid in combating various insect pests.

They are beneficial to the growth of most vegetable plants, especially root vegetables, applied both prior to planting and during growth. However, due to their high alkalinity, wood ashes are unsuitable for use with melons, cucumbers and potatoes. Their use near azaleas or blueberries, or other acid-loving shrubs and trees, should be avoided.

As with all good things, too much is detrimental. To avoid an overdose, use approximately 5 gallons of ash per 1000 square feet of garden. Avoid using ashes from colored paper or treated wood, as they may contain chemicals harmful to plants, the environment, and/or yourself.

Wood ashes have been used in agriculture for millennia and the slash and burn method of agriculture, in which crops are planted on burned-over ash-enriched ground, is still prevalent in many cultures, especially in the tropics.

RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTL
TAMPA BAY CHAPTER
313 PRUETT RD
SEFFNER FL 33584



First Class Mail

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