



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1998

98-19

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

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

NEXT MEETING: BECAUSE THE 2nd SUNDAY IN APRIL IS EASTER, WE HAVE ELECTED TO CHANGE OUR NEXT MEETING TO **APRIL 19** AT THE REGULAR 2:00 p.m. TIME. THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE HOME OF GEORGE RIEGLER, WHO HAS GENEROUSLY VOLUNTEERED TO HOST THE BAR-B-CUE. GEORGE LIVES AT 22506 SHIRLEY LANE IN LAND 'O LAKES. SEE THE ENCLOSED MAP.

PROGRAM: IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TWIST, WE WILL BE HONORED WITH RAY JONES OF THE BRADENTON RARE FRUIT COUNCIL, WHO WILL SHOW US HOW TO MAKE BEER & WINE USING TROPICAL FRUIT. When any of our members are blessed with an excess of fruit after making pies and breads, jellies and jams, this can be a welcome way to utilize what is left over, even if the fruit is beginning to age. This promises to be a fun presentation. We will have our regular raffle but the tasting table will be replaced by a bar-b-cue with hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken. Members are invited to bring a dessert or a small covered dish to accompany the bar-b-cue. IF YOU INTEND TO ATTEND THE MEETING, YOU SHOULD CALL CHARLES NOVAK @ 754-1399 OR BOB HEATH @ 289-1068 IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, TO PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS OR CHICKEN.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL

The Tampa Bay Chapter of the Rare Fruit Council will be participating in the USF Spring Plant Festival on April 4 & 5. This is an important fund raiser and all members are invited to attend to assist in the sale, to sell plants, enjoy the camaraderie and to visit other groups.

Our participation will begin about 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 3, setting up tables, arranging plants and posters, etc., til about 6:00 p.m.

On Saturday, April 4, the Gardens will be open from 7:00 a.m. til 9:00 a.m. for our final preparations. Price for admittance is \$1.00. The club has paid for 34 members and provided to the University a list of those members who most often participate in these functions. Only those on the list will be allowed in between 7:00 & 9:00 a.m. before the sale begins. If you arrive before 9:00 a.m. and are refused admittance, someone from our group will vouch for you to gain admittance. After 9:00 a.m. and until 10:00 a.m., no one will be admitted.

From 7:00 a.m. til 9:00 a.m. on Saturday & Sunday, traffic will be one way, in the front gate and out the side gate. The festival will end at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 3:00 on Sunday, and only after 4:15 and 3:15 respectively, will be allowed to bring vehicles in to remove plants or re-supply.

Parking for participants not bringing supplies or plants is across the street from the front entrance to the Gardens.

The U S F Botanical Gardens takes 10% of our gross sales; the remaining 90% will be split 50/40 between the participant and the RFCI, so mark your plants accordingly, remembering that you get 50% of the selling price.

New Members

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| ADAMS | Mrs. C. RUSSELL | 3420 LAKE PADGETT DRIVE | LAND O'LAKES | FL 34639- | (813)996-4290 |
| AGUIAR | VILMA | 2611 THORNTON | TAMPA | FL 33611- | (813)837-1572 |
| ANDERSON | MARCELYN | P.O. BOX 8052 | TAMPA | FL 33674- | (813)237-5999 |
| ANG | TILLY | 9006 EASTHAVEN CT | NEW PORT RICHE | FL 34655- | (813)376-6997 |
| ARGIRY | ALEX | 15609 MORNING DR. | LUTZ | FL 33549- | (813)971-1759 |
| BADGETT | CHERYL | 503 MOORE AVE | SEFFNER | FL 33584- | (813)689-0474 |
| BAIN | PAMELA | 6214 15TH AVENUE S | TAMPA | FL 33619- | (813)612-9598 |
| BLAIR | DREW & APRIL | 8240 MALVERN CIRCLE | TAMPA | FL 33634- | (813)884-7084 |
| BLALOCK | RAY | 7018 BAYWOOD DRIVE | TAMPA | FL 33637-6464 | (813)985-5448 |
| BRANESKY | PAUL D. | 6950 DALKEITH AVENUE N | ST PETERSBURG | FL 33709- | (813)544-3795 |
| BYNES | WILLIE | 2905 CHIPCO STREET | TAMPA | FL 33605- | (813)247-5501 |
| CASTILLO | KATHRYN | 117 MORROW CIRCLE | BRANDON | FL 33510- | (813)685-3010 |
| CHURA | SUSAN & MICHAEL | 4519 LA CAPRI CT. | TAMPA | FL 33611- | (813)839-3001 |
| CLAGUE | CHRIS | 1527 HOLLY ROAD | LAKELAND | FL 33801- | (813)683-1328 |
| CRAWFORD | CHIP | 6359 21st AVENUE N | ST PETERSBURG | FL 33710- | (813)384-8145 |
| DE FRANCO | LEE | 2057 CENTRAL AVENUE | ST PETERSBURG | FL 33713- | (813)896-0696 |
| DEABATE | GIOVANNI | 505 COURTNEY DRIVE | TAMPA | FL 33617- | (813)985-6166 |
| DOW | ROSEANNA | 6120 LIBERTY AVENUE | TEMPLE TERRACE | FL 33617- | (813)988-6614 |
| DUONG | HARRY | 7702 BRETTONWOOD DR. | TAMPA | FL 33615-1502 | (813)887-1911 |
| EDGE | ALVIN E. | 2307 ROSEHILL CT. | BRANDON | FL 33510- | (813)689-1513 |
| ENGEL | MARIA & CURT | 3312 SIERRA CIRCLE | TAMPA | FL 33629- | (813)839-1583 |
| GREEN | LORRAINE | 1925 FLORA ROAD | CLEARWATER | FL 33755- | (813)441-4999 |
| GREGOIRE | STEVE | 904 BEN LOMOND DRIVE | TEMPLE TERRACE | FL 33617- | (813)985-0264 |
| GROGAN | NANCY | 811 1st STREET NE #1 | ST PETERSBURG | FL 33791- | (813)896-6040 |
| GUERTIN | RICHARD | 1619 BENT PINE WAY | BRANDON | FL 33511- | (813)655-0366 |
| GUTIERREZ | JORGE | 15851 SANCTUARY DRIVE | TAMPA | FL 33647- | (813)977-6291 |
| GUZMAN DeLaPENA | DORA | 1003 E. 23rd AVENUE | TAMPA | FL 33605-1725 | (813)624-7117 |
| HALL | VERONICA | 3518 W. PAXTON AVE. | TAMPA | FL 33611- | (813)839-2509 |
| HARWOOD | DOUG & PEGGY | 3201 LAS BRISAS DRIVE | RIVERVIEW | FL 33569- | (813)685-7447 |
| JOHNPULLE | ANGELA & CAMILLUS | 4518 CULBREATH AVENUE | TAMPA | FL 33609- | (813)636-4029 |
| JOHNSON | ERIC & PHYLLIS | 5304 ENDEAVOUR AVENUE | DOVER | FL 33527- | (813)737-1420 |
| JOSEPH | ESSY | 15905 MYSTIC WAY | TAMPA | FL 33624- | (813)963-3361 |
| LONG | IRIS | 84-09 35th AVENUE | JACKSON HEIGHT | NY 11372- | (718)779-6684 |
| McAVEETY | SUSAN | 8621 FOXTAIL COURT | TAMPA | FL 33647- | (813)975-0177 |
| MOYA | EVELYN | 8318 PADDLEWHEEL ST | TAMPA | FL 33637- | |
| ORR | JOHN & SAMANTHA | P.O. BOX 8844 | MADEIRA BEACH | FL 33738-8844 | (813)392-5819 |
| PADGETT | FAITH | 3908 SWEETLEAF DRIVE | BRANDON | FL 33511- | (813)685-5460 |
| PAGE | SHERI | 23340 ORLEANS PLACE | LAND O'LAKES | FL 34639- | (813)929-9022 |

| | | | | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| PILOT | SHARON | 3204 PLEASANT LAKE DRIVE | TAMPA | FL 33618- | (813)968-9404 |
| PUTROW | MIKE | 11727 SPANISH LAKE DRIVE | TAMPA | FL 33635- | (813)855-2650 |
| REDDIN | DAVE | 511 N. MT. CARMEL ROAD | VALRICO | FL 33594- | (813)685-0570 |
| RIVERS | JANE | 3910 SAN MIGUEL STREET | TAMPA | FL 33629- | (813)254-6735 |
| SMITH | NORWOOD | 10514 HOMESTEAD DR. | TAMPA | FL 33618- | (813)933-1052 |
| STERN | PHILIP | 1031 KINGSWAY LANE | TAPRON SPRINGS | FL 34689- | (813)937-2714 |
| THOMAS | CARR | 6002 20th AVENUE S | TAMPA | FL 33619- | (813)626-4843 |
| TWIGGS | RUDOLPH | 6910 N WILLOW AVENUE | TAMPA | FL 33604- | (813)935-7953 |
| VUILLE | JANET | 8331 40th PLACE NORTH | ST PETERSBURG | FL 33709- | (813)381-4192 |
| WARD | LARRY R. & MARIE C. | 1910 W. FLORA STREET | TAMPA | FL 33604- | (813)935-1435 |
| WEAVER | SUE | 6042 2nd AVENUE SOUTH | ST PETERSBURG | FL 33707- | (813)345-6352 |

Excerpts from the World Wide Web

Lychee Airlayering By J. D. Gordon

Lychees may be propagated from seed, cuttings and by grafting, however, the most widely used method is airlayering. Air layering is a simple process which produces genetically identical plants and, depending on the cultivar, trees that will begin to provide substantial amounts of fruit 3 to 5 years after planting.

A brief description of the steps to be taken, from branch selection to planting follows:

1. *Branch selection*

The branch should have a diameter of approximately one-half inch at the base. It should be reasonably straight, in good healthy growing condition and about 3 feet long. If it is much shorter, the time to reach fruiting stage may be increased. If much longer, the airlayer will be more difficult to handle and plant, as well as more susceptible to wind induced damage when planted.

2. *Preparation of the branch for application of the growing medium*

While airlayering can be done at any time of the year, the bark will "slip" better in the spring when growing conditions are better. Roots will also form faster in the spring and early-summer.

Remove a ring of bark, about 2-1/2 inches in length, a few inches up from the base of the branch being airlayered. There are many ways to do this, but one very successful procedure is to use mossing shears (ordinary shears which have two opposing semi-circular cuts ground into the blades) to cut the bark. It is important to be careful to cut only through the bark and not into the wood, for if the xylem (outer layer of the wood) is cut, the branch will die. After the two cuts are made, pull the bark off by rotation with the jaws of a pair of pliers. Once all the bark is removed the surface of the wood must be cleaned of any residual cambium layer. This may be done with a plastic dish scouring ball. Clean any residue in grooves of the wood with the point of the shears. If the cambium layer is not completely removed, a callous may bridge the gap between the two cuts and no roots will form. A knife may be substituted if only a few airlayers are to be made and mossing shears are unavailable.

Continued next page...

3. *The growing medium*

Many different media have been used, including peat, mud and straw, vermiculite, sawdust and sphagnum moss. Since sphagnum moss is used almost universally here in South Florida, the others will not be discussed.

Soak the sphagnum moss in water for at least 15 minutes. Squeeze out the excess water. Hold a large handful of moss in one hand, make a groove in it with the heel of other hand, and then wrap it around the branch, overlapping by an inch on each side the area where the bark has been removed.

Cover the damp moss with a sheet of plastic or foil. If foil is used, twist both ends in the same direction making a so-called "candy wrap". If plastic is used, secure it at both ends with plastic ribbon. Different colors may be used to identify different cultivars or different times of airlayering. Plastic is preferred since it is more resistant to attack by birds and other animals, and it seems to maintain the humidity in the moss better. Opaque plastic, such as is used in tomato growing, is very satisfactory and readily available here. Clear plastic maybe used, making the new roots visible; however, it is quite easy to feel the presence of roots inside the opaque plastic.

4. *Cutting off and handling the airlayer*

Usually after about two months adequate roots have been formed and the airlayer may be cut off with loppers or a pruning saw if necessary. Do not leave a stub on the branch or trunk from which the airlayered branch grew, but leave about one inch of stem below the root ball to facilitate stability and placing the plant in the pot. Keep the cut off airlayers in the shade cutting no more than 20 or 30 at one time if this is a one-person operation.. As quickly as possible bring the airlayers in, remove the plastic or foil, place the rootballs in 5-gallon buckets to soak, and spray the foliage with water. Continue intermittent spraying until the potting operation is completed. The buckets for soaking the root balls may contain water or, as I prefer, a solution of about 1/2 oz. of chelated iron and an equal amount of a complete soluble fertilizer.

It should be noted that at every stage the rooted airlayers must be handled very carefully as the roots are very tender and given one little twist they may be completely detached.

5. *Potting*

After potting, if the airlayers are to be kept in a mist house or mist area, very little foliage need be removed, only enough to shape and balance the plant. If they are to be kept in a shaded area without misting, remove about 1/3 to 1/2 of the foliage and water the plants 2 or 3 times a day.

Use a light potting soil containing sand, peat, and perhaps other materials such as perlite, wood chips, etc. Plastic pots of at least 2 gallon capacity are preferred as they permit reasonable root growth and provide adequate stability for the plant.

Place about 2 inches of potting soil in the pot. Hold the plant upright while tamping additional soil around the periphery of the root ball. NEVER press down on the soil directly above the root ball. After tamping, pour on about a cupful of the solution containing iron and fertilizer as mentioned above. About an ounce of a slow release fertilizer, such as Osmocote, may be added to the top of soil and the job is finished. About one month later, under warm weather conditions, the plant should be ready to go into the ground

Note: The specific details regarding choice of materials, procedures, tools, etc. are those which the author believes in most cases are commonly used in South Florida today.



What's Happening

February-March 1998

By Paul Zmoda

We've been excitedly watching our very first peaches forming on our very first peach tree. At Pea size, they look like fuzzy pussywillows. It has been at least twenty one years since I last observed them growing at my parents' homestead in New Jersey and in the many orchards at my college in Pennsylvania.

The 'Tari Burgundy' bunch grapevines are springing forth with new growth already; their tiny flower buds plainly visible. The 'Gulf Gold' plum is loaded with olive size fruit.

I've tilled another 200+ square feet of vegetable garden space. With all the rain we've been having, it is imperative that I make raised beds or the seedling vegetable plants would soon rot away. I was able to obtain two free loads of stable bedding from the State Fair during the cleanup phase for this purpose.

The first of the corn and beans have been planted and the winter crops are doing nicely. We are enjoying tomatoes, broccoli, cabbages, eggplant, peas and mustard greens along with turnips. Flats of various melons and squashes were seeded, as well as celery, Wonderberry and globe artichokes. The latter, which came up very quickly, will soon be ready to set out.

It is almost too late to inoculate shittake and oyster mushroom spawn, as the fresh logs should be cut before leaf break for best results. I put up an additional 18 logs of yet another shittake strain so that I may compare the fruiting results to the previously inoculated strains. We continue to harvest mushrooms from the first batch. Spaghetti sauce which included them turned out to be delicious.

New planting: native hog plum grafted on peach, 'Brogdan' and 'Lula' avocados and loquat.



Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

To the following members who worked at the March Tree Sale, making it a success.
(If you were there, but didn't sign in the log book, your name may be missing-but let us know so we can add your name to the list of those who have deserve recognition for their efforts)

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|
| AMYOT | JERRY | JEAN | AL | PIERRE | GERTRUDE |
| ARENCIBIA | MODESTO | JEAN | PAT | PUPELLO | FRANK |
| BRANDIES | MONICA | KRAUJALIS | ED | REDDICLIFFE | BETH |
| BREWER | JAMES | MARSH | MARYON | RIEGLER | GEORGE |
| BROWN | PHILLIP | MARSHALL | JOAN | ROBERTS | AL |
| BURHENN | FRANK | MAXWELL | LEWIS | RYLAND | WILLIAM |
| BURHENN | ALICE | McCORMACK | NANCY | SARRASIN | ELAINE |
| CONARD | JANET | MURRIE | JIM | SMOLENY | LILLIAN |
| DANIELS | SCOTT | MURRIE | JOAN | STARK | LILLIAN |
| FREEDMAN | EDITH | MYRIE | GLENN | STRICKLAND | FRED |
| GRICIUS | TONY | NEMETH | GYULA | VACCARO | ROMAGENE |
| HEATH | BOB | NEWCOMBE | JUD | WARREN | KATHLEEN |
| HEATH | TERRY | NOVAK | CHARLES | ZMODA | PAUL |
| HENDRY | AL | NOVAK | LINDA | | |
| HUNT | RICHARD | PEYRON | MARGUERITE | | |

From the President
Charles Novak

Thanks to all club members who helped with our 19th annual plant sale. Also, thanks to all the members who made the trip to Pine Island to purchase fruit trees for the sale. Sale results will be available at the April club meeting. Welcome to all new members who joined the club at the sale! We look forward to seeing you at the club meetings.

Important note: Our April meeting will at George Riegler's home on **April 19.** Review map on how to get to George's home. Since April 12 is Easter Sunday we are postponing the meeting by one week. The club will be furnishing Hamburgers, Hotdogs, and Chicken for a barbecue. Ray Jones will enlighten us on the making of beer using Tropical fruits. Come hungry and party with us, learn how to make beer, and see all the neat plants George is growing. Please bring a vegetable dish and/or a dessert- and your lawn chairs.

Note: If you plan to attend and didn't sign up at the plant sale please call one of the following club members:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Charles/Linda Novak | (813) 754-1399 |
| Bob/Terry Heath | (813) 289-1068 |
| Arnold/Lillian Stark | (813) 621-4987 |

We need this information in order to estimate the amount of food, etc., to purchase for the barbecue.

Where to go on our first field trip this year? Any Suggestions?

The following is a list of scheduled programs/speakers.

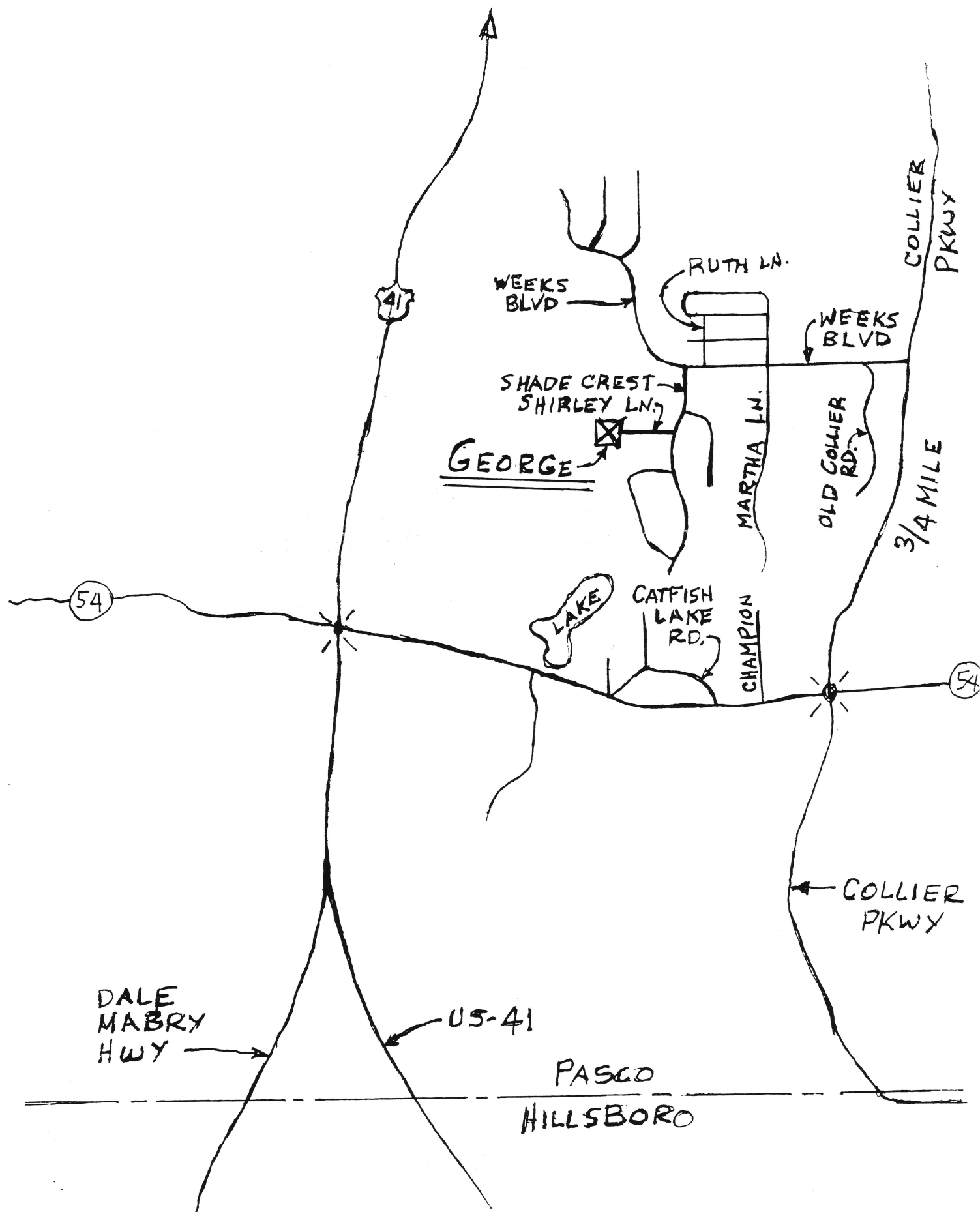
| | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| April 19 | Ray Jones - Making Beer using Tropical fruits |
| May 10 | Gene Joyner |
| June 14 | Possible Field Trip to where??? |

We need your help with the club's exhibit at the State Fair next year. Call me or see me at the April meeting if you are willing to grow one or two fruit plants for the Fair. These plants will need to be very nice specimens and will need extra care. Let's work together and really have a great display next year.

NOTE: There will be a Board Meeting after the April club meeting to elect the club officers. Members are welcome to stay for the board meeting.

DIRECTIONS TO GEORGE RIEGLER
@ 22506 SHIRLEY LANE
LAND 'O LAKES FL

TO BROOKSVILLE



Election Notice

At the April meeting, the members will elect the Board of Directors. The Board then elects the executive officers to serve for the next 12 months. Directors must be willing and able to make a significant commitment of time and energy to the club. All Board of Directors meetings are open to the entire membership, and we encourage members to attend and participate in discussion of issues.

The nominating committee has selected the following members for your consideration as the next Board of Directors:

Jerry Amyot
Lanny Brooks
Alice Burhenn
Janet Conard

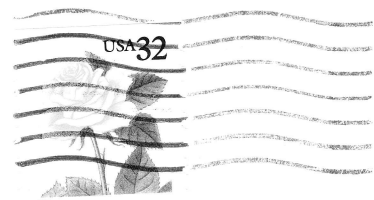
Edith Freedman
Bob Heath
Al Jean
Pat Jean

Charles Novak
Elaine Sarrasin
Arnold Stark
Lillian Stark

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the April meeting. The maximum number of directors allowed by our club's by-laws is 15.

* * *

Tampa Bay Chapter RFCI
313 Pruett Rd
Seffner FL 33584



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

