



# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2002

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

EDITORS: BOB HEATH, THERESA HEATH, CHARLES NOVAK, LINDA NOVAK, JIM LEE, SALLY LEE

PRESIDENT: JIM LEE

WEBSITE: [www.rarefruit.org](http://www.rarefruit.org) (CHARLES NOVAK)

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 2:00 PM.

THIS MONTH 1:00 PM

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 8

PROGRAM: THE PROGRAM THIS MONTH IS OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY & COVERED DISH SOCIAL AT CLUB MEMBERS' DR & MRS BURNS & CATHY CREIGHTON'S FARM ON MIZELLE CREEK IN LYTHIA. This is a covered dish social & everyone is invited to bring something good to eat. We will meet at the Creighton farm on Mizelle Creek at 1:00 pm (SEE MAP ON PAGE 02-89). We will have the usual plant raffle so bring plants to donate. There will be no formal speaker & only a little club business will be conducted. We will have a door prize & wine tasting so all you little ol' wine makers bring your best. This is our 8th annual Christmas Party & a great social event so all try to come & help us celebrate.

## TASTING TABLE: NOVEMBER 2002

Sophia Gaponiuk	Passion fruit mousse	Lillian Smoleny	Banana & pecan muffins
Betty Bruder	Orange chocolate chip cookies	John & Niki Hill	Razzleberry pie
Musgrave	Passion fruit jelly & crackers, juice	Marty Springer	Green beans & potatoes
Branesky	Rice ginataan & collard greens	Thom Scott	Dried fruit mix
Saceda-Bigelow	Peach cream cheese pie	Cora Coronel	Bilo-Bilo
Nancy McCormack	Chocolate chip cookies		
Sally Lee	Avocado dessert, cranberry pie, coconut cake		
Rose Terenzi	Chocolate cheese cake, lime cake, candied citron		
Novak	Guava rolls, apple cake, banana nut bread, Meiwa kumquats, Lee tangelo slices, tropical fruit juices		

And other items not listed on the signup sheet. **Thanks** for the food donations. Please list your donation on the signup sheet. Also, ask Sally Lee for your free plant exchange ticket.

## Scheduled Programs/Events:

- December 8:** Holiday Social at the Creighton Farm in Lithia. See map in this newsletter. \*\*\*Festivities begin at 1 P.M.
- January 12:** Chris Rollins, Director of the Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead, FL., will present a program on the *Fruits of Southeast Asia*.
- February 6-17:** Florida State Fair
- February 9:** Citrus Tasting at the State Fair



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Nov - Dec 2002

by PAUL ZMODA

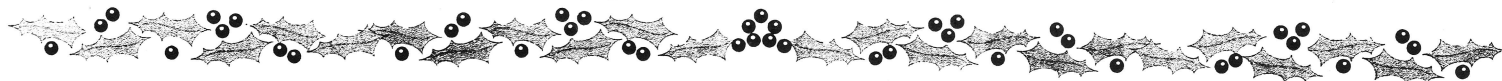
Temperatures have been cooling down outdoors; leaves have been falling as many fruit trees are slowing down for the winter. Citrus trees are beginning to show off their crops. 'Early Sunrise' tangelos are a bright yellow and our leader in ripening. Also yellow are Meyer lemons and Key limes. 'Sweet Siam' pommelos are huge, heavy & ready to pick. Honeybell or Mineola tangelos are coloring up and are tempting us. Orlando tangelos are looking good. Indian jujube trees from ECHO are looking happy and healthy. Carlos muscadine grapes are almost ready - if opossums would leave them alone, we may get some.

I potted up more air layered branches of tea & olives. Our vegetable gardens are providing purple & green beans, lots of salad fixin's and plenty of herbs. I planted more fava beans. These broad beans don't mind cold weather and should make an interesting winter vegetable.

Some figs are making nice main crops. The football-sized papayas on our large, double-trunked tree began to show a bit of yellow at the tips. This indicated that it was time to pick one and see how long it took to ripen indoors. On the fifth day it was a beautiful golden-orange color and, despite no aroma, was cut open and found to be absolutely delicious. Fuyu persimmons are ready now and some bananas are almost ready to start picking.

The recent cold weather means it is once again time to re-cover our carport with plastic for our temporary winter greenhouse. All soursop and rambutan trees were placed inside after a thorough spraying and weeding. All other cold-sensitive trees will come inside as the temperatures drop lower.

New plantings: Onions, mustard, peas.



Dovyalis caffra

Flacourtiaceae

### KEI APPLE

GROWTH FORM: Dense thorny shrub to 15-20' with extensive horizontal branching and with stiff sharp spines, it makes an impenetrable hedge.

HARDINESS: Temperatures below 22° will produce extensive damage.

FRUITING SEASON: Small yellowish flowers on female plants in February & March, maturing fruit in June & July.

FRUIT: Smooth skin, yellow when ripe, about 1" in diameter. Fruit contains four or five flattened, pointed seeds about 1/4" long.

PULP: Juicy, smooth, with a texture similar to a very ripe pear. Flavor is very tart.

SOIL & MOISTURE: Tolerant of drought and wet conditions, Ph between 5.5 and 7.5. Somewhat salt tolerant and prefers full sun.

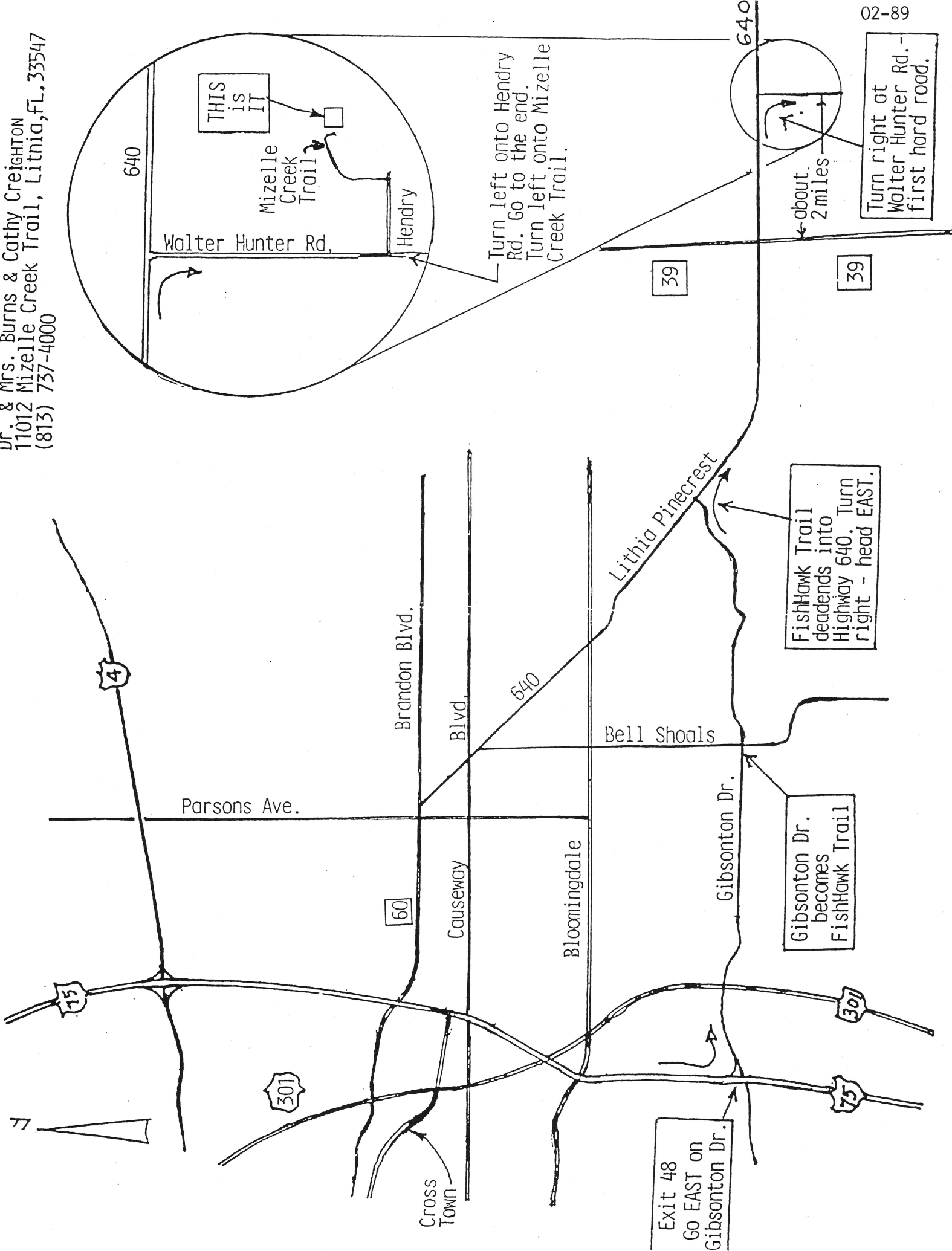
PROPAGATION & CULTURE: May be propagated from seeds by cutting or by grafting. Requires male & female plants for fruiting. Rate of growth is slow.

PROBLEMS: No serious pests or diseases; somewhat subject to leaf minors.

USES: Eaten fresh, made into preserves, jellies & jams, pies & tarts.

Dr. & Mrs. Burns & Cathy Creighton  
11012 Mizelle Creek Trail, Litnia, FL, 33547  
(813) 737-4000

02-89



## MIST &amp; DRIP IRRIGATION

by Matt Clark, Mister Landscaper

Matt Clark brought a great array of materials and items which may be used in our home irrigation systems. He indicated that his wife & he got involved in Mr Landscaper about 3 years ago now. They travel in Texas, North Carolina or any place south & east, showing people how to conserve water, which is their primary goal. Here in Florida we have a water problem and have had for years.

Matt & his wife distributed to the members, until he ran out, pieces of polyvinyl pipe misting heads & stakes & interconnecting tubing & other items as necessary to do a low volume micro misting system, so he could demonstrate to all of us how the system works. The company also makes a drip irrigation system & he explained the difference between a misting and a drip system. Micro misting irrigation is a system in which water is forced through a small opening, atomizing the water into a fine misting spray in a lateral dimension. The spray coverage on most of their misters is 8'. Drip likewise is exactly what it says. It provides a continuous drip, one drip at a time, providing about 1/2 gallon per hour which, with 20 heads, is about 10 gallons per hour. A conventional system with pop-up heads produces approximately 10 gallons per minute at 50 to 60 lbs. pressure. The primary purpose of a micro irrigation system is to water the ground at your trees, shrubs & other plantings.

At this point Matt showed us how to put the system together, which is very simple and requires no tools other than a knife or shears to cut the piping & tubing. The instructions are explained in detail in the instructions that come with the package, available at Lowes Home Centers & other stores. The piping & tubing is made of ultraviolet inhibited polyvinyl & will last for an estimated 20 years exposed to the weather; buried it will last even longer. Matt has his irrigation system laying on top of the ground where he runs over it with the lawnmower without any concern. He emphasized the fact that there is no water restriction on the use of a misting system such as this. It is permissible to operate a misting system at any time during the week but he suggested it be used in the morning or late evening to minimize

evaporation. The system may also be connected to an outside hose bibb or connected permanently to an irrigation system or the water line with a backflow preventer to prevent contaminated water from getting into the domestic water system.

The system also contains a regulating valve to adjust the flow to 10 gallons per hour. The company manufactures flow controls from 5 gallons an hour to 30 gallons an hour, so at the connection to one hose bibb you can put 50 stakes with individual misting heads or 50 drip irrigation heads on 300 feet of tubing. They have 2 different kinds of misters that can be adjusted for 3 different designs. The adjustment is on top of the mister. The first adjustment gives a 360° down spray; a second adjustment provides a 90° spray for use in corner locations. Another adjustment gives you what they call a center spray, a long narrow pattern 2' wide by 9 to 10' long. In addition, with the second head, 3 more designs are available. The 1st design gives a 320° part circle which allows you to put the mister close to a tree without actually putting water on the tree but only around the feeder roots. Another adjustment allows for 180° or a half circle where the mister would be used up against the house or a wall or property line. The 3rd adjustment gives a 160° spray. The entire kit costs \$29.95 at Lowes and includes 50' of tubing, 5 stakes, all of the fittings, the misters, the punch, everything you need for a 50' system. But if you go to the Extension Service Water Wise Program, you can buy the contents of the kit in a plastic bag for \$10; but only 1 per family. This is a good start and one can go to Lowes for extending the system.

Matt said that was enough on the misting system; now we should talk about the drip irrigation system. A drip irrigation system is exactly what it says. In this case the emitter provides a drip. The stake is put right next to the plant or shrub or in a potted plant or hanging plant & may be adjusted to a rapid or slow drip, wherever you need a small amount of water. The drip system also



comes in a kit which costs about \$20. The kit contains 8 stakes with heads, 30' of tubing, the tees & the small tubing. Otherwise the system is very similar to the misting system and the 2 systems, the misting & the drip

irrigation systems, can be combined into one system where misters or drip irrigation is desirable. The system has 2 different kinds of drip emitters. One is set for 1/2 gallon per hour. The other for 1 gallon per hour.

**FLORIDA STATE FAIR - February 6-17, 2003.** The Council will again participate in the Horticulture displays by plant societies at the Florida State Fair. Our display is to be artistically designed to display the species in which we specialize and to be maintained at a high standard of quality for the duration of the fair. The displays are judged by a committee consisting of one representative from each society entered in the competition. Our exhibits have been awarded several ribbons in the past-including first place in the 2002 competition. We need members to man the exhibit during the fair. Free fair admission tickets will be given to those members who man the exhibit for a few hours. A signup sheet will be available at the Holiday Social.

**CITRUS CELEBRATION AT THE STATE FAIR – Sunday, February 9, 2003.**

The Council has again been invited to host a citrus tasting event at the State Fair. A signup sheet will be available at the Holiday Social. There will be more information in the January newsletter. Please plan to help with this event.

**Trip to Gene Joyner's Unbelievable Acres Botanic Gardens, Saturday, Nov. 2**

The day started very early for the 41 club members who rode the bus to West Palm Beach. Several other members drove to Mounts Botanical Garden and to Gene's Gardens. Members spent the 3 and 1/2 hour trip to Mounts talking with each other – mostly about their interest in growing rare and tropical fruits. Mounts Botanical Garden was holding their big Plant Sale and it was a very busy place. Several members purchased plants to add to their collections. We arrived at Gene Joyner's Gardens at approximately 12:45 P.M. We spent almost two hours touring his Unbelievable Acres. Gene's tour was very interesting and informative. Members were amazed at the large number of plants and the many varieties of fruiting trees, bushes and vines that can be grown on 2 and 1/2 acres. To the members' delight they were allowed to take cuttings from many of the plants growing in the Gardens. Everyone was exhausted on the return trip and most members tried to get some sleep. After seeing what Gene has accomplished with his many years of dedication and hard work many members were inspired to add more fruiting plants to their yards.

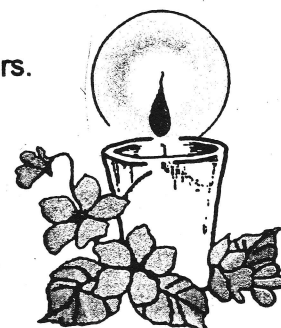
**Members' Corner:**

The Members' Corner is in the newsletter specifically for members to exchange plants & seeds or other items and may be used to request plants & other things and to offer comments and observations. Please give to Bob Heath at the meeting or send to his residence within 10 days of the previous meeting for inclusion in the newsletter for next month.

Wanted: Florida Betony (rattlesnake plant) for inclusion in my native plant garden. Bob Heath 289-1068, 4109 DeLeon, Tampa.

For Sale: Sears Chipper \$250.00 Contact Sally Lee (813) 982-9359

Parafilm for grafting and grafting knives are available for purchase by club members. Contact Charles Novak at (813) 754-1399



**NEW MEMBERS:** Constance Price  
Frederic Engelbrecht

St. Petersburg  
Tarpon Springs

A really good pie that goes well with the holidays.

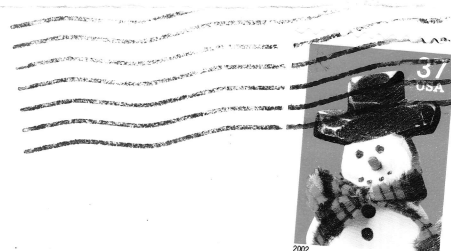
9 inch pie shell	1/2 tsp ground cloves
1 cup sugar	1-1/2 cups cooked pumpkin,
1/2 tsp salt	mashed or pureed
1-1/2 tsp cinnamon	1/2 cup milk
1/2 tsp ginger	2 eggs, slightly beaten

Preheat oven to 425°F. Prepare pie shell. Combine remaining ingredients in a large bowl and beat until smooth. Pour into prepared pie shell. Bake 10 minutes, then lower the heat to 300°F and bake for about 45 minutes or until filling is firm.



# Happy Holidays

TAMPA BAY RFCI  
4109 DeLeon  
Tampa FL 33609



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

