



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2003

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 (Charles Novak)

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

NEXT MEETING: MAY 11 2003

MEETING PLACE: UNIVERSITY OF S. FLORIDA, BUILDING WCC (WESTSIDE CONFERENCE CENTER)
(SEE MAP PAGE 03-30)

PROGRAM: OUR SPEAKER THIS MONTH IS OUR GOOD FRIEND GENE JOYNER FROM THE PALM BEACH COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE. Gene's visits to our meetings are always enjoyed by our members each year on Mothers' Day. Gene will be speaking this month on lesser known fruiting trees suitable for growing in the Tampa Bay area. He will also be available to answer questions & identify plants if you have questions that need answers or plants that need identifying. We will have our tasting table & plant raffle so please contribute. At this meeting we will be welcoming all our new members, so we expect a large crowd. As it is Mothers' Day, we suggest that members bring their mothers or children as the case may be. See you there.

New Members:

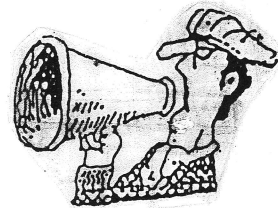
Tony Abernathy	Davenport	Hapi & Patty McKenzie	Seffner
Garcia & Ophelia Branch	Lutz	Lynette Menezes	Tampa
Michael Brandt	Lakeland	Michael Newhams	Sarasota
Mary Bronson	Tampa	John Ritter	Temple Terrace
Sandra Duenas	Lutz	Rex Scarbrough	Riverview
Susan Edwards	Tampa	Russel & Pat Smeelink	Tampa
Barbara Fincher	Pinellas Park	Leroy Smith	Tampa
Jenny Franklin	High Springs	Noel Smith	Tampa
Lisa Ghalayini	Tampa	Susan & George Spruell	New Port Richey
Jim Gluck	Tampa	Jean Valdes	Temple Terrace
Clifford Groscurth	Zephyrhills	Kenneth & Aurora Walker	Wesley Chapel
Stephen Kryston	Kenneth City	Nisa Vichaikul	Balm
Rowena Kinchley	Tampa	B.J. & Steve Vosburgh	Lutz
Lisa Logsdon	Lutz	Stan & Vickie Wilson	Dover
Patrick & Melody Ludwig	Ruskin	Jeanne Wolfe	Tampa
Mary Ann McGrath	Tampa		

A warm welcome to our new members. We hope to see you at the May meeting.

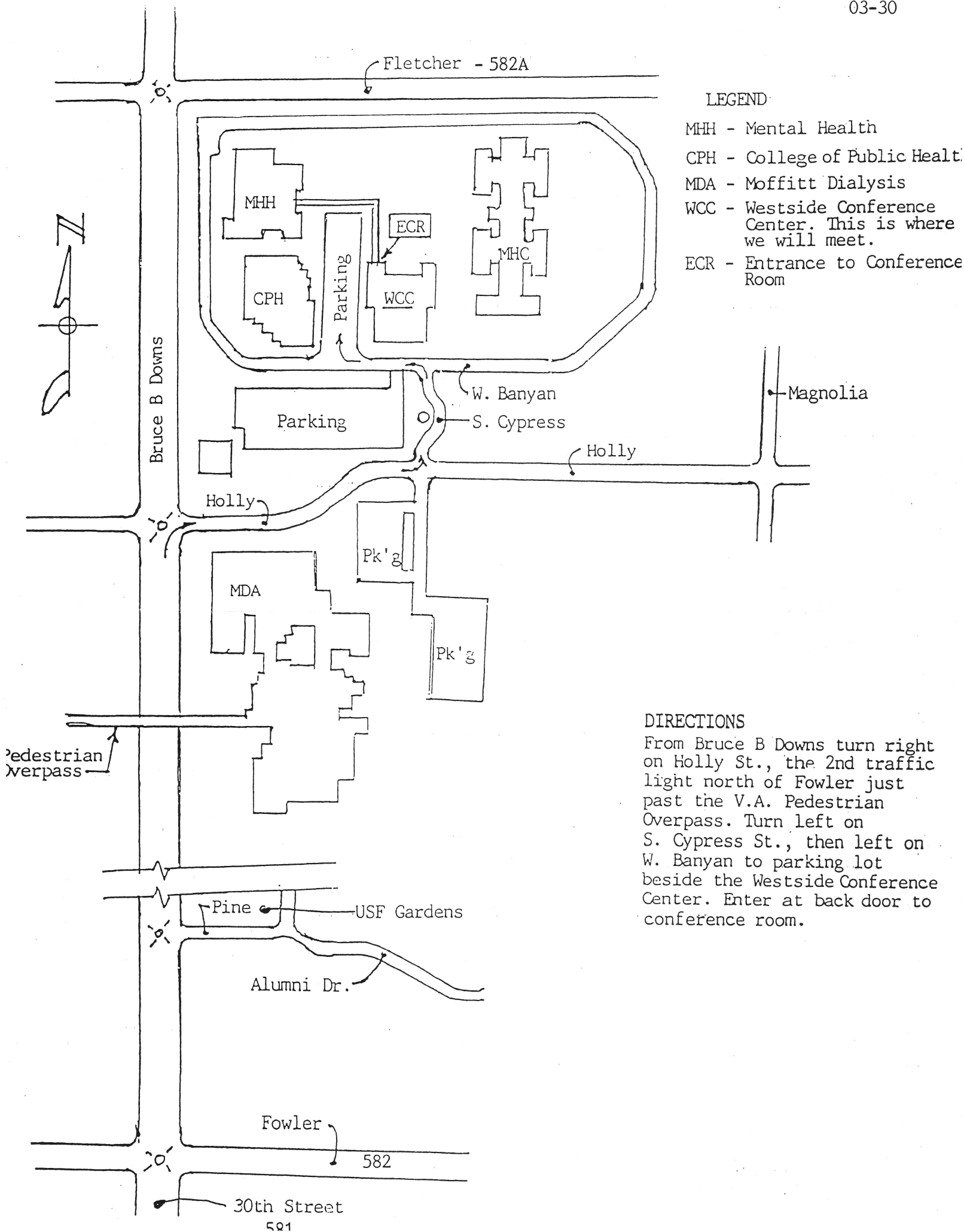
Members' Corner:

For Sale: Sears Chipper \$250.00 Contact Sally Lee (813) 982-9359
Wanted: Good, used railroad ties for landscaping. Charles Novak (813) 754-1399

FREE clay pots 2" size up to 8". Great selection. Contact Bob Heath
813-289-1068.



Grafting Knives and Parafilm are available for purchase by club members.
Contact Charles Novak (813) 754-1399 or c.novak@worldnet.att.net.



From the President
Jimmy Lee

A big "Thank You" to all the club members who helped to make the USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival a success. We had a good time and the weather was just great for an outdoor sale. In addition to the many fruiting plants sold over 300 cups of tropical juices were enjoyed by the public. We had a total of 27 new memberships. We hope to see our new members at the May meeting.

Our scheduled speaker for the May 11 meeting is Gene Joyner. He is one of our favorite speakers and we can look forward to a very enjoyable presentation on rare fruits. We always have a large turnout for our Mother's Day meeting. A contribution to the tasting table or plant exchange is always greatly appreciated by all who attend.

As I am also the Program Chairman please contact me if you know of someone who would give a program of interest to our members.

Scheduled Programs:

May 11:	Gene Joyner (of Unbelievable Acres in W. Palm Beach) speaking on "Rare Fruit"
June 8:	Clubmember Thom Scott speaking on "Growing Vegetables"
July 12-13:	USF Botanical Garden Tropical Plant Festival

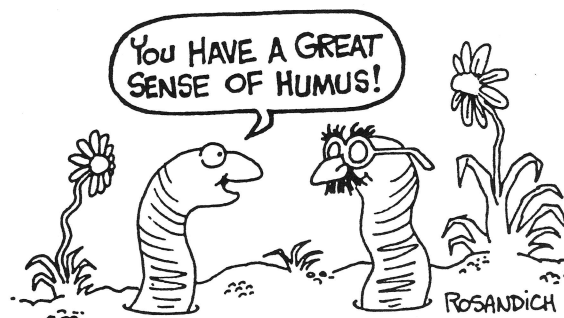
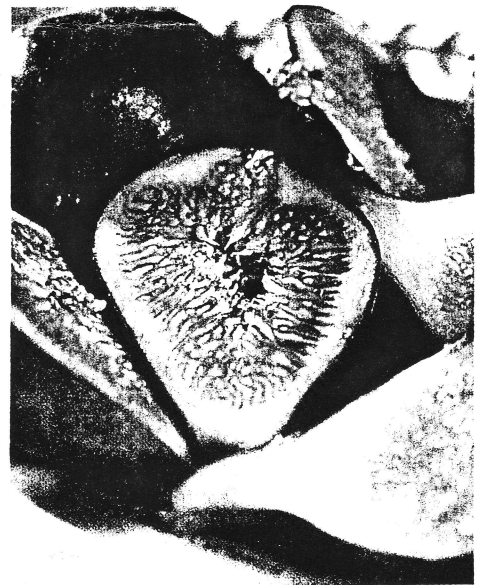
Superfruits

FIGS PACK A POWERFUL PUNCH OF MINERALS.

More potassium than bananas! More calcium than skim milk! An more fiber and minerals than almost any other fruit, nut or vegetable! What are these superfruits? Figs.

Fresh or dried, these biblical fruits are not only packed with nutritional goodness, they're also low in calories and delightfully sweet. Figs are delicious by themselves. You can also chop and add them to desserts, a simple grain dish, pancakes, waffles or yogurt.

Figs are easy to grow, very productive and much tastier eaten fresh from the tree.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Apr-May 2003
by PAUL ZMODA

It is the night before the big plant sale. All of my sale plants have been selected, groomed, priced, labeled and are now at the University site awaiting new owners to take them home. I really look forward to these sales. I enjoy the excitement of it all, the chance to share plants and knowledge and last but not least, to make some money for the club and for myself as well. This is what I want to do when I retire from my regular job in the laboratory.

Many of our club members sell plants and you can too. Make no mistake, selling plants is not an "easy" way to make money. It takes practice and a lot of work and time. In addition, the profit margin is frequently fairly small. If you're serious about giving it a try, here are some suggestions:

- 1) Be familiar with what you want to sell. Read, study, inquire and grow the plant(s) for a while so you can answer the inevitable questions from customers.
- 2) I highly recommend you obtain an inspection certificate from the Division of Plant Industry. Their personnel will lower your chances of spreading pests and diseases.
- 3) You can purchase plants for resale at a higher markup or propagate your own from seeds, cuttings, graftings, etc.
- 4) You will need adequate space to work on your sale items as they grow.
- 5) You will need potting containers, potting soils of good quality, fertilizers, tools, pesticides and a water source.
- 6) Groom your plants frequently and protect them from anything which may harm their appearance such as wind, hail, weeds, etc. Sickly looking plants won't sell.
- 7) Decide on competitive and fair prices; sky high pricing will result in few sales. Returning home with more than 20-30% of your plants is not a good day.
- 8) Learn how to sell. Don't be pushy. If someone is interested, you'll have to learn just how to work potential buyers without appearing too eager, conceited or ignorant. If you don't know the answers to questions posed to you, offer to find out. Be truthful and thank those who buy & those who don't.

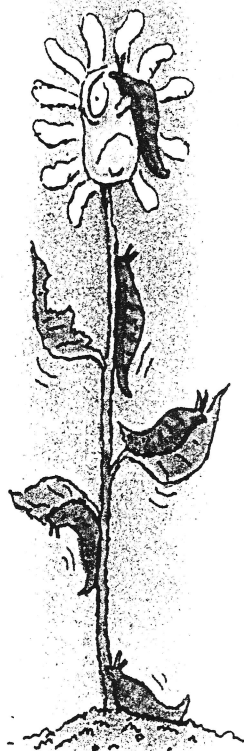
New plantings: Pawpaws, grape, figs, lemon grass, plum, dewberry, edamame soybeans, okra, avocado, chestnut, kwai muk, atemoya, red sugar apple, pommelo, banana, nectarine.

OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER is available as an open forum for a source of considerable knowledge. If you have questions concerning fruiting plants or interesting bits of information, please call or write one of the editors. Your letter may grace the pages of our newsletter if it is fit to print in a family oriented publication.



Why Did My Plant Die?

Geoffrey B. Charlesworth



You walked too close. You trod on it.
 You dropped a piece of sod on it.
 You hoed it down. You weeded it.
 You planted it the wrong way up.
 You grew it in a yoghurt cup
 But you forgot to make a hole;
 The soggy compost took its toll.
 September storm. November drought.
 It heaved in March, the roots popped out.

You watered it with herbicide.
 You scattered bonemeal far and wide,
 Attracting local omnivores,
 Who ate your plant and stayed for more.
 You left it baking in the sun
 While you departed at a run
 To find a spade, perhaps a trowel,
 Meanwhile the plant threw in the towel.
 You planted it with crown too high;
 The soil washed off, that explains why.
 Too high pH. It hated lime.
 Alas it needs a gentler clime.

You left the root ball wrapped in plastic.
 You broke the roots. They're not elastic.

You walked too close. You trod on it.
 You dropped a piece of sod on it.
 You splashed the plant with mower oil.
 You should do something to your soil.
 Too rich. Too poor. Such wretched tilth.
 Your soil is clay. Your soil is filth.

Your plant was eaten by a slug.
 The growing point contained a bug.
 These aphids are controlled by ants,
 Who milk the juice, it kills the plants.
 In early spring your garden's mud.

You walked around! That's not much good.
 With heat and light you hurried it.

You worried it. You buried it.
 The poor plant missed the mountain air:
 No heat, no summer muggs up there.

You overfed it 10-10-10.

Forgot to water it again.

You hit it sharply with the hose.

You used a can without a rose.

Perhaps you sprinkled from above.

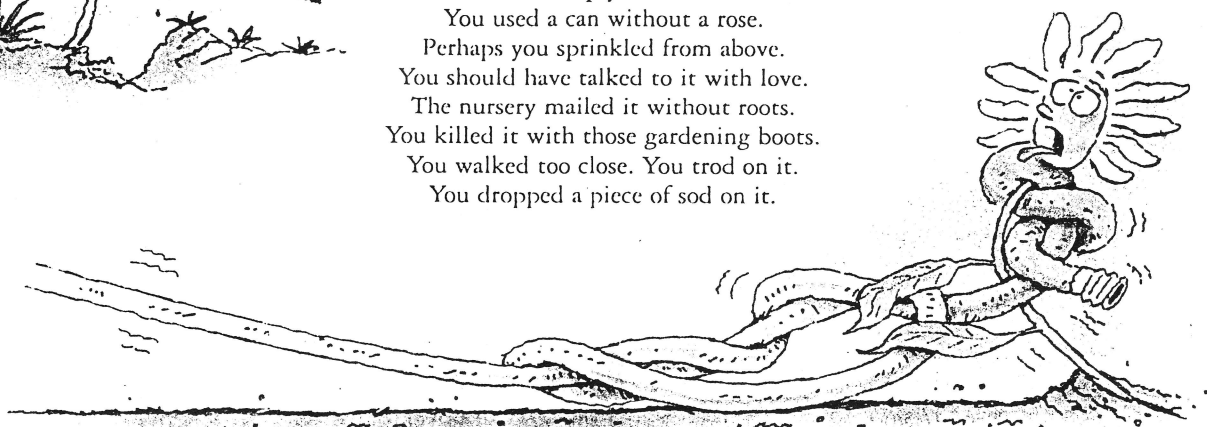
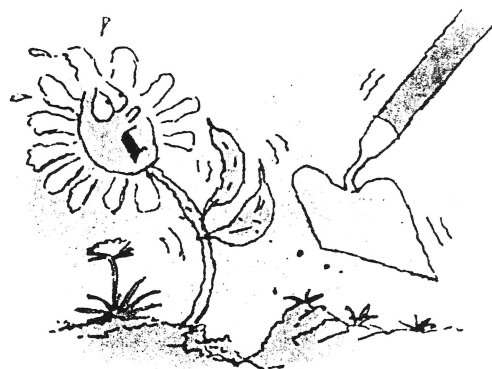
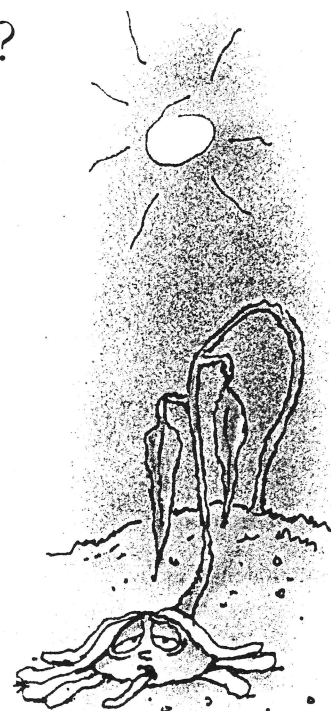
You should have talked to it with love.

The nursery mailed it without roots.

You killed it with those gardening boots.

You walked too close. You trod on it.

You dropped a piece of sod on it.



SWEET, PRODUCTIVE, AND EASY to grow, the muscadine grape is a native southerner that deserves a place in every southern garden. Admirably adapted, it suffers virtually none of the pest and disease problems that plague other grapes in this hot and humid region. The flavorful, aromatic fruits are little known outside the South, however, and rarely appear even in southern supermarkets, so if you didn't grow up eating muscadines, you may not know what you've been missing. I still remember my delighted surprise upon tasting my first muscadine, and every year brings that pleasure anew.

Wild muscadines (like muscatel, the name apparently derives from the French word *musc*, meaning musky) grow in the woodlands of the Southeast's coastal plain and piedmont, from Delaware to Florida, and as far west as Kansas.

RFCI Tampa Bay Chapter
4109 DeLeon St
Tampa FL 33609

Make Mine Muscadine!



FIRST CLASS MAIL

R. HUDSON NEWCOMBE
54 DEER PARK AVE.
TEMPLE TERRACE, FL 33617

