



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2004

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

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

NEXT MEETING: MAY 9

PROGRAM: DR PAUL BEAVER IS A WORLD TRAVELER AND WILL BE SPEAKING TO OUR GROUP ABOUT TROPICAL FRUIT & OTHER NATIVE PLANTS OF THE AMAZON. Some of the best fruit we can grow in central Florida comes from the rain forests of the Amazon basin in South America. Paul will acquaint us with some of the rare forms of fruiting plants and re-acquaint us with some that we enjoy regularly. This should be an interesting and educational program. As usual we'll meet at the USF Westside Conference Center at 2:00. For the benefit of our new members we provide a map on page 04-32. We will have our regular extensive plant raffle and fabulous buffet. In addition, starting at 1:30 we will have our usual Farmers Market for members to sell to other members the fruit of their abundance; so pack up your excess fruit and vegetables, price it right and be at the market before 1:30. Members looking for produce not available anywhere else at bargain prices may find it here.

WHAT'S HAPPENING APR-MAY 2004 by PAUL ZMODA

Olive flowers! On our newest cultivar, 'Arbequina', from Spain. It was so exciting that I had to take some photos. This variety is self-fertile so we may get olives. Stay tuned.

I set out dozens more grape cuttings from cold storage into rooting boxes and they are sprouting nicely. The first round of trape cuttings got potted up, as did dozens of tea seedlings.

Many potted fruit trees are getting larger pots now.

Our special bunch grape 'Il Primo' has so many flower clusters that I thinned them to two or three per shoot.

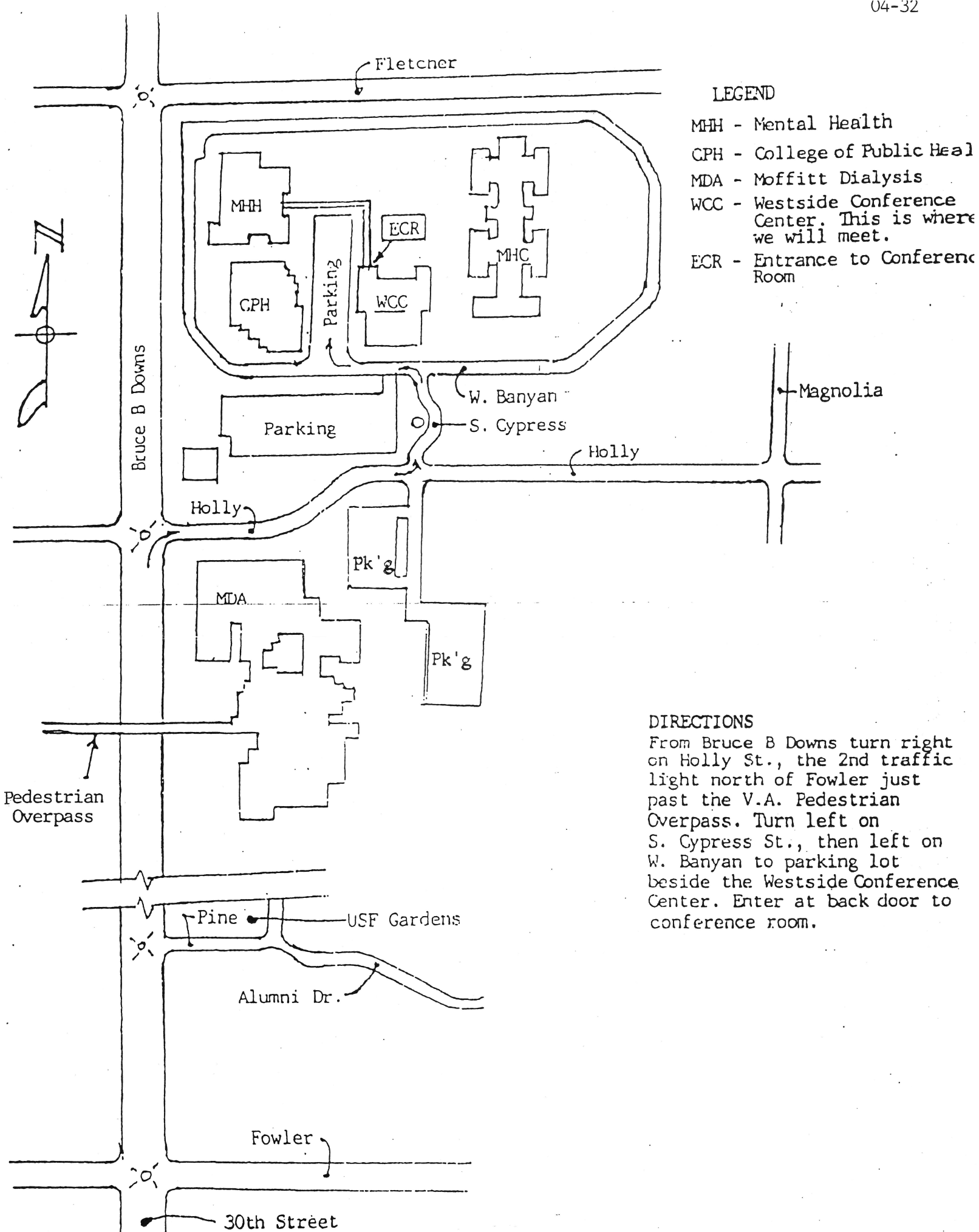
I finished clearing an area out back for three new banana plants. All bananas received a thick mulching with aged horse manure. All citrus got another fertilization with 10-10-10.

I grafted a few 'Moreland' pecans onto potted rootstocks. Close monitoring of the previously grafted persimmons shows that close to 100% seem to be taking well.

Lilly Pillies and Surinam cherries are growing to huge sizes. Heavy pruning has begun.

We may get many kinds of plums if the invasion of Tussock moth caterpillars would leave them be.

New plantings: Lychee 'Mauritius', Ruby Supreme guava, peppers, dwarf paw paws, bananas.



New Members:	Bernard Azar	Tampa	Lamar & Paula Hardwick	Tampa
	Nick & Joan Cutro	Tampa	Jackie Hughes	Lutz
	Gabriel Dagher	Wesley Chapel	Robert Messino	Odessa
	Patrick Gallahan	Valrico		

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

Grafting Knives and Grafting Kits: The club has grafting knives, grafting kits and Parafilm available for purchase by members who would like to graft their own plants. Contact Charles Novak (813) 754-1399.

Tampa Bay RFCI Polo Shirts: The club has polo shirts (dark green or blue) available for purchase by members. The cost is \$15 each. Contact Charles or Linda Novak.

RENAISSANCE CENTER FOR THE ARTS PROGRESS REPORT

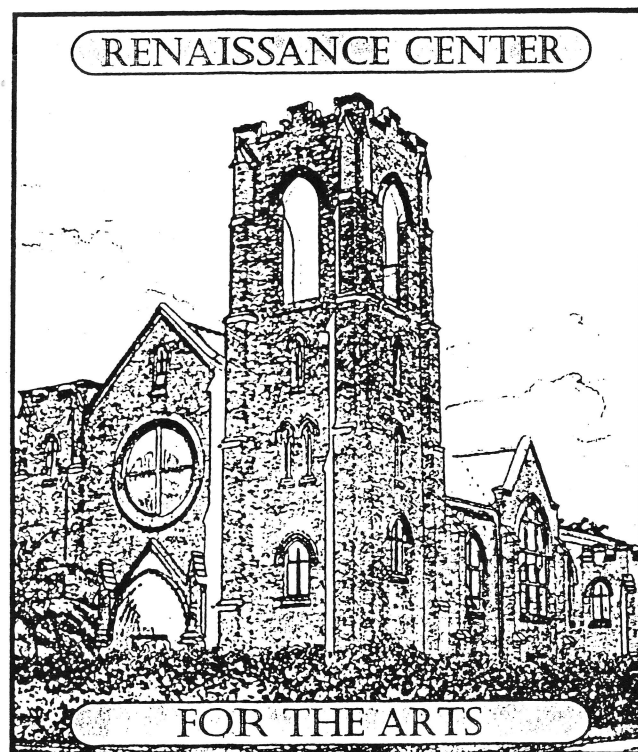
(See the Oct. 2003 Newsletter)

Renovation of the Arts Center as described in the October 2003 Newsletter is proceeding very well. The building renovation has reached a point where it may be used. The magnificent auditorium is complete, toilet rooms are finished, air conditioning and electrical work is done, with lighting fixtures installed, and all the doors have been hung.

A wedding and a jazz festival in the last couple of months in the auditorium were exceptionally well received. Classes are expected to start in music and art in September.

The complete landscaping plan of the entire site has been completed & has been given to nurseries that may provide donations of plants. Saturday, April 24th, we picked up two large loquat trees (required by the Building Dept.) donated by the Tree Mart, a nursery at 12505 Nebraska Avenue. Numerous fruiting trees & bushes and lots of ornamentals are planned. A pergola at the building entrance with grape vines is being developed. The developer for the water garden area has come forward and is expected to begin development soon. There will be a fish pond, a waterfall and a stream with fish, all covered by a large gazebo.

Nick Cutro, an RFCI Club member and coordinator of the entire project, has begun the cleanup of the site and planting of some trees. He indicated that classes for horticulture will begin after the art and music classes in September. We are looking forward to a beautiful park-like environment to be enjoyed by the public and those interested in the arts and horticulture.

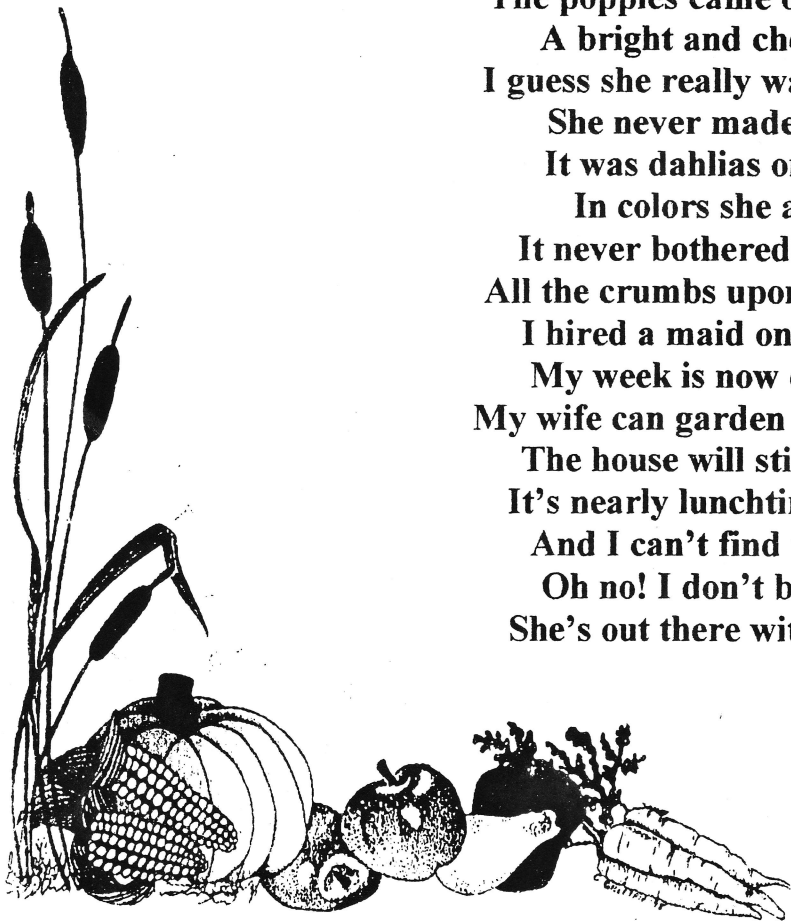




MY WIFE THE GARDENER

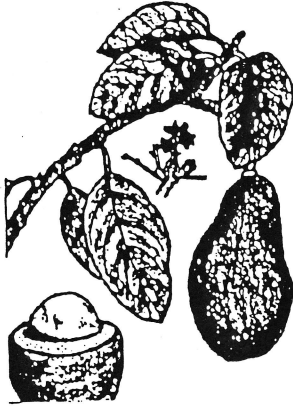
CONTRIBUTED BY OUR GOOD MEMBER
JUDY HALL

She dug the plot on Monday
The soil was rich and fine,
She forgot to thaw out dinner
So we went out to dine...
She planted roses Tuesday
She says they are a must,
They really were quite lovely,
But she forgot to dust...
On Wednesday, It was daisies
They opened with the sun,
All whites and pinks and yellows,
But laundry wasn't done!
The poppies came on Thursday
A bright and cherry red,
I guess she really was engrossed
She never made the bed
It was dahlias on Friday
In colors she adores,
It never bothered her at all,
All the crumbs upon the floor...
I hired a maid on Saturday
My week is now complete,
My wife can garden all she wants
The house will still be neat!
It's nearly lunchtime Sunday
And I can't find the maid,
Oh no! I don't believe it!
She's out there with a spade!



FAMILY - LAURACEAE

84. *Persea americana* - Avocado



Evergreen tree to 60 feet in height, native to Central America. Its glossy, dark green leaves are 4-8 inches long. New leaves and shoots have a reddish color. Flowers are small and whitish in color. The green, pear-shaped fruit varies in size from small to large. The tree has hermaphrodite flowers, the male and females opening at different times. This causes a pollination problem and

fewer fruit production. Increased pollination is possible by planting several varieties having different male and female opening periods, classified as A or B. Fruit is eaten fresh, mixed with other ingredients in salads, desserts and flavoring. Flavor is nutty or buttery and the fruit is a good source of oil and minerals. New plants are started from seed and graftings. Those started from seed will require an average of 8-10 years to produce fruit. Trees will be damaged by temperatures around 28-30 degrees F.

FAMILY - LECYTHIDACEAE

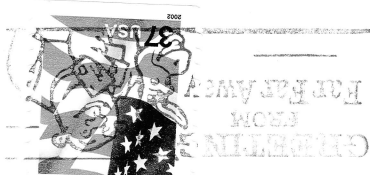
85. *Bertholletia excelsa* - Brazil nut

A large evergreen tree native to South America and the West Indies. Large, wavy-edged leaves get to 20 inches long. Flowers are creamy white. Fruit is round and woody - about 5 inches in diameter - containing 12 to 24 Brazil nuts. Outer color of nut is brown and the flesh is white. Seeds are eaten fresh or roasted and the flavor is excellent. Plants are propagated by seeds and layers. This tree does not thrive well in Florida.

32617+4143

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