



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2005

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

EDITORS: BOB HEATH, PAULA HARDWICK, CHARLES NOVAK, LINDA NOVAK, JIM LEE, SALLY LEE

PRESIDENT: CHARLES NOVAK WEBSITE: www.rarefruit.org (CHARLES NOVAK)

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

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 9

PROGRAM: Our speaker this month will be Tammy Kovar Dorton. Tammy took plant science in college and is a graduate botanist and horticulturist. She is an advocate for the use of mycorrhizae and micro nutrients in the development of plant health. She is a dynamic personality and an excellent speaker and this should be a very educational and interesting program. Also we will have our usual plant raffle, farmers market and delicious tasting table, with an active social hour. As usual, we'll meet at the U.S.F. Westside Conference Center at 2:00, but in an adjoining room from where we usually have our meeting. See map on page 05-04.



DECEMBER PLANT EXCHANGE

PLANT	DONOR	PLANT	DONOR
Longan Seedling	Heath	Loquat	Roberta Harris
Passion Fruit	"	Magnolia	Steve Harris
Orange Berry	"	Guava	Amanda Harris
Passion Fruit	"	Guava	Roberta Harris
Rangoon Creeper	"	Thai Lemon	Connie White
Banana	"	Tea Camellia	Zmoda
Celeste Fig	"	White Flower Cacti	Yoblonski
Tomentosa	"	Hens - Chicks	"
Pineapple	"	Avocado	"
Surinam Cherry	"	unknown	"
Banana	Paul Branesky	Farm Fresh Brown Eggs	Mary Ann Branesky
"	"	Brown Eggs 2 doz.	"
"	"	Dwarf Banana	Bobbie Parker
"	"	Red Papaya 5	Joanna Kitchen
"	"	White Ginger 3	"
Banana	S. Reed	Native Grass	"
"	"	Snake Plant	? Bigelowe
Avocado Tree	B. Reddicliffe	Pineapple Plant	William Vega
Maple Leaf Tree	"	Pummelo Fruit	Zmoda
Hot Pepper Plant	"	Loquat 2	Susan Edwards
Surinam Cherry	Faye Moore	Sugar Cane	Loenichen
Loquat	"	Papaya	Kirby
Mamey Sapote	Ed Musgrave	Poinsettia	Richardson-
"	"	Chocolate bars	Luba
"	"	Hot Pepper Plant	"
Tea Plant	?	Salvia	"

NOTE: Almost no one who won a plant signed their name which was okay, as it was our Christmas party. But it seemed appropos to list the donors.

From the President

Charles Novak

I wish all our members a very Happy New Year. Hopefully, we will not have to deal with a very active hurricane season this year. I'm still cleaning up from Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne.

I want to **Thank** Burns & Cathy Creighton for hosting our Holiday Social for the sixth year at their wonderful farm in Lithia. Approximately 125 members and family attended. A big **Thank You** to everyone for bringing the delicious food and wine; and for the plants, fruits and gifts for the free raffle and silent auction. The silent auction included a rare Indian dessert Mango 'Dasher'. The highlight of the afternoon was the tour of the beautiful Creighton home.

Please plan to help with the Citrus Tasting event at the Florida State Fair on Sunday, February 13. Also, volunteers are needed to man our horticulture exhibit at the State Fair, Feb. 10-21. There is more information on these events in this newsletter.

There will be 20 gallons of the Colloidal cleaner available for purchase by members at the January 9 meeting. At the November meeting one member reported a remarkable improvement in the condition of her plants after spraying them with the Colloidal cleaner. The price for members is \$20 per gallon (which is below the \$24.95 retail price per gallon).

Our speaker for the January 9 meeting will be Tammy Kovar Dorton. Her program will be on Plant Health by using mycorrhizal fungi and beneficial rhizosphere bacteria. Both mycorrhizal fungi and rhizosphere bacteria are needed by plants to grow. I am now growing some very rare plants-which I don't think would be possible without the mycorrhizal fungi and rhizosphere bacteria. Try to attend this meeting; especially if you want to try growing some of the rarer fruiting plants.

Six of our members (including me) are going on April 2005 Amazon trip. We will try to bring back seeds. Also, on the bulletin board at the January meeting will be a copy of the planned itinerary for Chris Rollins' August 2005 Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand Fruit and Garden Tour (27 days). What a trip!!

If you would like to have your soil's pH tested at the January meeting obtain soil samples from 6 to 8 sites within the area you want tested. Mix the soil together and put it into a plastic bag. You will need at least 1 cup of soil for the test.

Note: The January 9 meeting will be at the Westside Conference Center but in Room E (Our usual meeting area is not available on the 9th).

Scheduled Speakers/Events:

January 9: Tammy Kovar Dorton on Plant Health

February 12: Pick Citrus at George & Elaine Riegler's

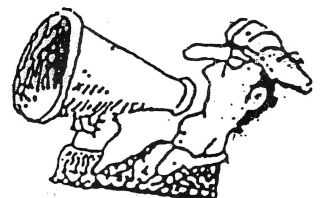
February 13: Citrus Tasting at the Florida State Fair. No regular meeting.

LOOK

NEW MEMBERS: Edgar & Cris Andrews Plant City
John Arthur & Sally Jones Tampa

MEMBERS' CORNER

Lost ring at the Holiday Social. Man's silver Masonic Lodge ring - has great sentimental value. If found please contact Shirley Quenan @ 813-238-3859.





For your information: There is a National 'Do Not Call' List available now for Cell phone owners. The number to call is 888-382-1222.

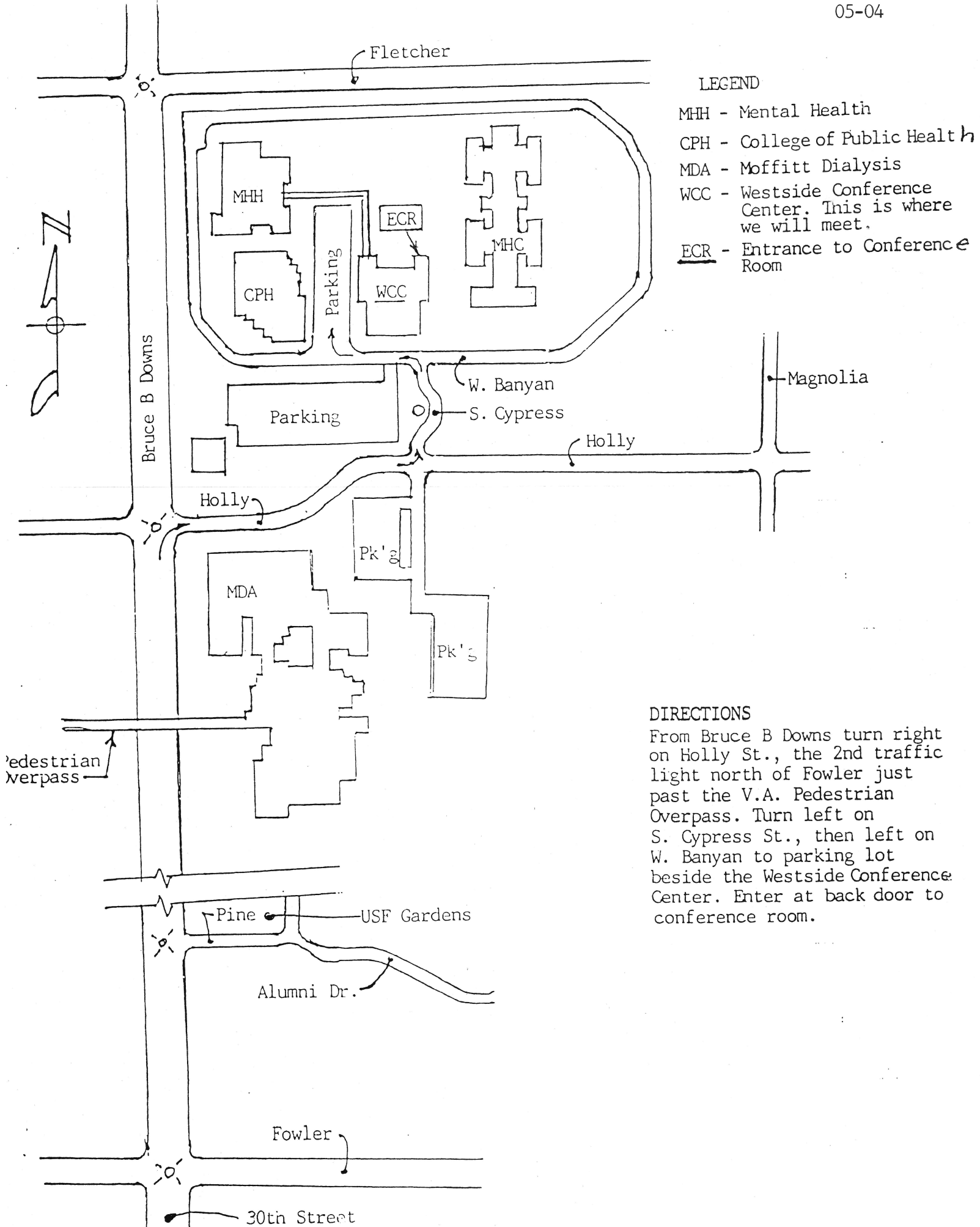
Tampa Bay RFCI Board of Directors Election in March: Please give some thought to serving on the Board of Directors. Directors serve a one-year term and will assume their respective offices immediately after the March meeting. The Board meets monthly or at such times as deemed necessary. The Board of Directors is responsible for the policies, finances and direction of the Chapter. Any member who is interested in serving on the Board of Directors should contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Sally Lee (813)982-0359, Walt Yoblonski (813)633-7754, Paul Branesky (727)341-2605. The list of candidates will be published in the March newsletter and will be presented at the March meeting. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor. The Board of Directors will be elected at the March meeting by a majority vote of the general membership present and voting.

CITRUS TASTING AT THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2005

This will be our 4th year hosting this event. It has been very popular with the public as it gives them the opportunity to sample many varieties of citrus. Please plan to help with this event. We need your help to make this event a success. We need volunteers to pick fruit and to prepare the fruit for sampling. A sign up sheet will be available at the January 9 meeting: or you may contact Charles Novak (813)754-1399 or Bob Heath (813)289-1068 or Sally & Jim Lee (813)982-9359 to volunteer or if you have questions. Also, please contact Bob, Charles, Jim or Sally if you can donate citrus fruit for this event. There will be more information in the February newsletter. Thanks in advance for you help.

HORTICULTURE DISPLAY AT THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR: FEBRUARY 10-21, 2005

We will need members to man the club's horticulture display. Free admission tickets will be given to members who man the exhibit for a few hours. A signup sheet will be available at the January 9 meeting; or contact Charles Novak (813)754-1399 to volunteer.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dec-Jan 2005

by PAUL ZMODA

While sitting in the shade of our kwai muk tree and eating a chicken salad sandwich garnished with plenty of our fresh lettuce, I contemplated the chores ahead of me in the next several days. First, remove all fig trees. Next, sink into the ground, bottomless 5 gallon pails and fill them with well rotted horse manure. Then plant new fig starts made from the old ones. I wish to impede as much as possible soil nematodes that live in the upper layers of the soil. The pails act as a barrier to them. Upon removing the old fig trees, it was noted that their roots appeared as strings of beads. Just as I suspected: nematode damage.

A new lane was now cleared for viticulture. Forty-eight feet of grape trellis is up; a two wire system for further study of our new bunch grape 'Il Primo' and its parent vines. This setup will also double as a wind screen.

The last of the rain-killed trees were taken out: peaches, nectarines, loquats, chinquapin, etc. In their places, soil and horse manure was added to create better drainage in the form of large mounds which got replanted with new trees.

I top-grafted 'Mangotina', a small mango from Puerto Rico, onto our 'Julie' tree.

Our vegetable gardens are producing a bounty of pest-free crops such as cucumbers, gourmet lettuces, onions, pole beans, broccoli, herbs, daikon radishes and pot herbs such as mustards and arugula.

Our 'Giant' jaboticaba has set fruit. This species is different from our regular jaboticaba. I only noticed the ripe fruit while fertilizing the tree because the purple color stood out. We tasted one a bit under ripe. It was pleasant tasting at that stage - sort of like a tropical guava.

New plantings: fig collection, grapes, red dwarf banana, loquats, hybrid plum, lettuce, broccoli.

BOB'S DRESSING FOR PUMMELO

This recipe was given me by a citrus farmer's wife in Ruskin years ago for grapefruit. However, we have found it works better for pummelo. It doesn't sound very appetizing; but try it; you'll be surprised. We have found it is very good as a side dish at the evening meal.

1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 tsp salt
1 Tbs Worcestershire sauce
1/3 cup chili sauce
1/4 cup vinegar
1/2 onion (minced)

Beat together thoroughly and serve over fresh grapefruit or pummelo sections.

* H A P P Y N E W Y E A R *

95. *Tamarindus indica* - Tamarind

Evergreen tree to 60 feet, native to India. Fern-like leaves are 4-6 inches long. Yellow flowers have red veins. Fruit slightly curved - brown pods up to 7 inches long. Large, flat, glossy seeds are embedded in a firm, sticky, brown pulp which is the edible portion. Pulp has semi-sweet flavor and is used in beverages, in manufacturing meat sauces, flavoring preserves and chutneys. Propagation is by seed, grafting or air layers.

FAMILY - MALPIGHIACEAE96. *Byrsonima crassifolia* - Golden spoon,
Nance

Shrub or tree to 30 feet, native to Mexico and the West Indies. Flowers are yellow and the fruit is also yellow and about 1/2 inch in diameter. Pulp is eaten fresh, used in jellies, wines and to flavor liqueurs. Propagation is by seed.

97. *Malpighia glabra* - Barbados cherry

Evergreen shrub to 12 feet, native to the West Indies. Shiny, dark green leaves are up to 3 inches in length. Flowers are pale pink to rose in color. Soft, juicy, thin-skinned, red fruit are about 1 inch in diameter, produced singly or in clusters of 2 or 3. Pulp is eaten fresh, in beverages, preserves, jams, jellies and juice. Propagation is by hardwood cuttings, air layering or seed. Seed produced by the plants may be infertile.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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