



NEWSLETTER

MAY 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: MAY 8 @ USF (SEE MAP)

MEETING PLACE: THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE USUAL LOCATION ON THE USF CAMPUS IN BUILDING WCC, WESTSIDE CONFERENCE CENTER. FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR NEW MEMBERS, WE PROVIDE A MAP ON PAGE 05-31.

PROGRAM: THIS MONTH, AS USUAL ON MOTHERS DAY, OUR SPEAKER WILL BE OUR GOOD FRIEND FROM PALM BEACH COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE, GENE JOYNER. Gene's visits to our meetings are always enjoyed by our members, as he is a knowledgeable authority on tropical fruiting trees. At this meeting, he will be focusing mostly on mangos, providing a slide presentation of the growing and care of the vast number of mango varieties. He will touch on pruning, grafting, cold weather protection, diseases and pests. Also, he will be available to answer questions and identify plants if you have questions that need answers or plants that need identifying. We'll also have our usual tasting table & plant raffle. Please contribute. This should be an exceptionally interesting meeting so we expect to see a large crowd. We know it is Mothers Day and we suggest that members bring their mothers. Also bring fruit and vegetables for the Farmers Market.

The air conditioning will be off for our meeting on May 8, so dress accordingly.

A Warm Welcome to our New Members:

Bob & Eileen Farrell	Tampa	Emad Husein	Tampa
Nikolas & Emily Fingar	Tampa	Milagros Stewart	Riverview
Carlos & Coraliz Fontanez	Brooksville	Marilyn Mastorides	Tampa
Jeremiah & Faye Foster	Winter Haven	Shelly Holder	Tampa
John Gozi & Lee Hollar	Tampa	Cheryl Growe	Brooksville
Kerry & Tiffany McKenzie	Tampa	Vilma Wood	Valrico
Kenneth & Judy Der	Plant City	Bob Williamson	Tampa
Ramachandra & Rao Dasari	Tampa	Lorraine Whyte	Tampa
Stephen & Rena Jacobson	Tampa	Ellen Verdel	Tampa
Derek & Georganne Baker	Tampa	Karl Pericot	Tampa
Bill & Debbie Sapper	Tampa	Dan Barravecchio	Tampa
Luz Rebecca Martinez	Dade City	Duncan McClellan	Tampa
Jolan Keller	Temple Terrace	Abedlghani Abadi	Brandon
Linda Murrell & Bernie Spector	Springhill	Lynn Keen	Wimauma
Jack McGeachy	Land O'Lakes	Nimet Kapadia	Tampa
Rachel Alexander	Land O'Lakes	C. Millie Mikkelsen	Tampa

Condolences: Sadly, we report that member Allen Ebanks passed away April 18.

Al had been a member for several years and generously donated citrus fruit for our Citrus Celebrations and fruit for our Plant Festivals. We extend our condolences to his wife Dottie.

From the President
Charles Novak

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers in our club!

Our scheduled speaker for the May meeting is Gene Joyner. He is one of our favorite speakers and his presentations are always interesting and enjoyable. His program will be on Mangoes. We expect a large turnout for our Mother's Day meeting.

I'm sorry I was unable to be at the USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival. I was told that our members did a great job! I want to thank all the club members who volunteered their time to help with this event. It is greatly appreciated. I heard that Saturday was even busier than usual and the fruit juices were very popular with the public. There will be more sale information at the May 8 meeting.

Six of our members (including me) were in the Amazon during the sale. We will have a program on our trip at a future meeting. If we receive all the seeds collected there will be many new seeds available on the Seed Board. To our new members: the seeds on the Seed Board are free. If you end up with more plants than you need, please donate them to the Plant Exchange.

We are still in need of a member to take over the duties of Club Librarian. Please consider volunteering for this important position.

The Rare Fruit Conference 2005 will be held July 7 - July 10 at the Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead, FL. Website: <http://www.fruitandspicepark.org/FruitConference.php>

Club members are invited to attend. I have attended twice and totally enjoyed the tropical fruit nursery tours, packing house tours, research station tours, local and international speakers, barbecues, banquets and rare fruit tastings. The registration fee is used to supply speakers with airfare, meals for registered participants and hospitality supplies. More information and registration forms will be available at the May meeting. **Note:** No regular club meeting is scheduled for July.

Let's make our new members and guests feel welcome at club meetings and let them know what a great club we have and the benefits of being a member.

There will be a Board of Directors meeting after the regular meeting on May 8. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

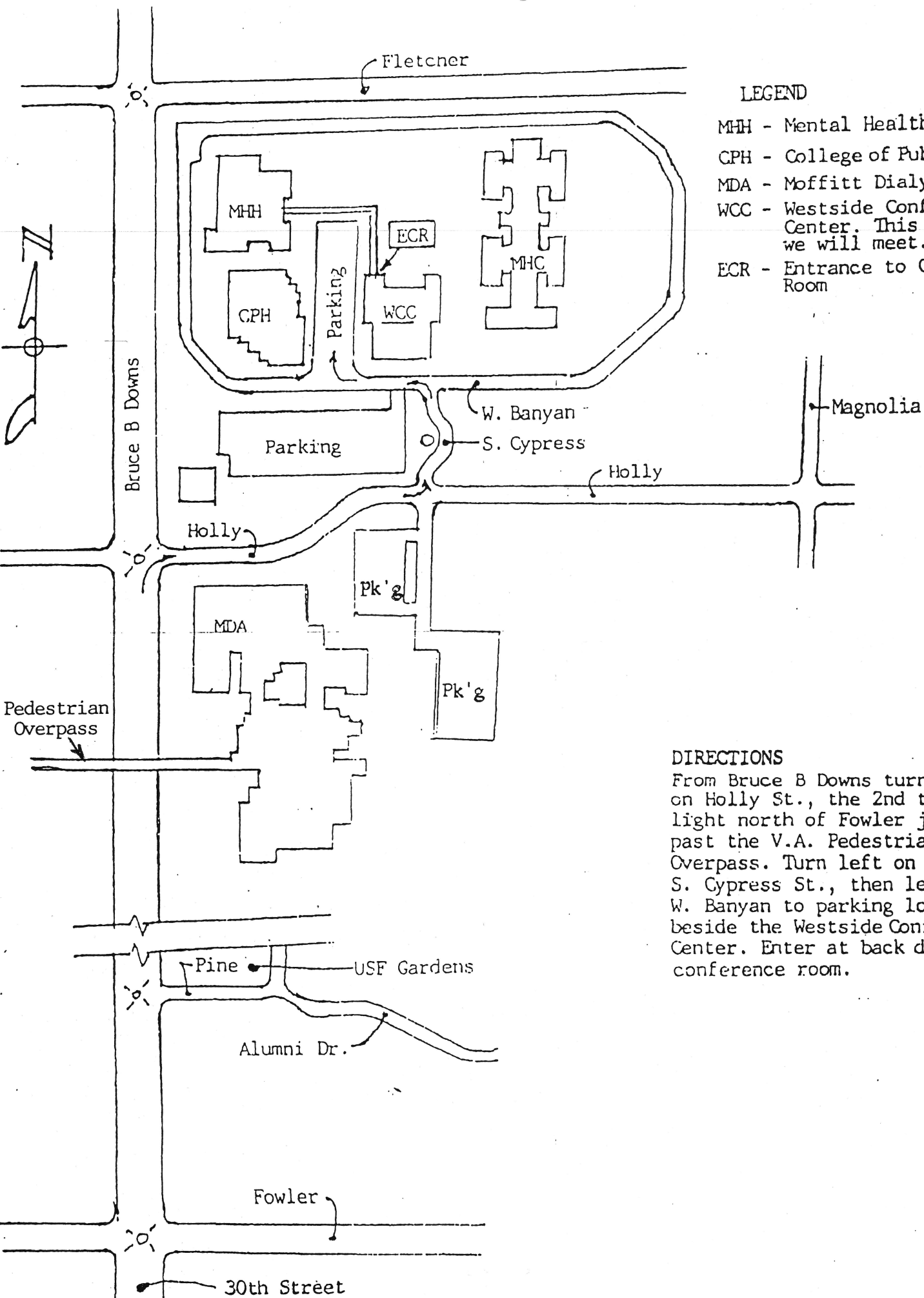
Scheduled Programs/Events:

- May 8:** Gene Joyner of Unbelievable Acres Botanic Garden in West Palm Beach. Topic: Mangoes
- June 12:** Dave Palmer, Hillsborough County Extension Agent. Topic: The Proper Use of Pesticides
- July 7 - 10:** Rare Fruit Conference 2005 - Homestead, FL
****No Regular Meeting Sunday, July 9, at Westside Conference Center**



Events of Interest:

- May 16:** Manatee Rare Fruit Council Tree Sale. Manatee Convention Center, One Haben Blvd., Palmetto www.mrfc.org
- July 7-10:** Rare Fruit Conference, Fruit Spice & Park in Homestead, FL
- August 2005:** Chris Rollins' 27 Day Fruit and Garden Tour of Southeast Asia, www.fruitandspicepark.org (305) 247-5727



LEGEND

- MHH - Mental Health
- CPH - College of Public Health
- MDA - Moffitt Dialysis
- WCC - Westside Conference Center. This is where we will meet.
- ECR - Entrance to Conference Room

DIRECTIONS

From Bruce B Downs turn right on Holly St., the 2nd traffic light north of Fowler just past the V.A. Pedestrian Overpass. Turn left on S. Cypress St., then left on W. Banyan to parking lot beside the Westside Conference Center. Enter at back door to conference room.

TRIP TO AMAZON JUNGLE

Six members of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Rare Fruit Council International, Inc., recently took a most unforgettable trip to the Amazon River in Peru. Those brave members were:

Charles Novak
Jerry Amyot
Al Hendry
Yuku Tanaka
Judy Cimafranca
Verna Dickey

We left Tampa Airport on April 9th and after a delay on our flight out of Miami, we finally made it to Lima, Peru, at 1:30 AM and got settled in our hotel rooms for our last night with hot water and a real bed! We took off from Lima the next day and flew over the mountains to Iquitos, which is only accessible by air or by the Amazon River. Then the fun really began as we boarded a speedboat and headed down the Amazon and Tahuayo Rivers in the dark! We had to stop several times to dodge logs and other debris in the water. Finally made it to the Lodge around 9 PM but couldn't really see what it was like. Kerosene lamps lit the way to our rooms and we used flashlights to find our beds, which were covered with sheeting to keep out the mosquitoes. We had to walk around the back to bathrooms and showers, which used water pumped from the river. There was bottled water to brush our teeth and for drinking.

We awakened the first morning and got a good look at the Lodge, which is a wooden structure built up on stilts and has several sections connected by walkways. It can accommodate up to 53 guests, but there were no more than 12 at the time we were there, not counting the staff.

There were many activities and excursions that we enjoyed the week we were there. We spent a lot of time in boats and canoes traveling up and down the rivers and picking fruit along the banks. We also did some hiking thru the jungle in knee boots where we picked more fruit and saw a lot of jungle creatures.

One day was spent at the nearby Chino Village, where they had a contest to see who could bring in the best or most unusual fruit. Each person had their fruit on a stand in front of them and the club members went around and looked and tasted many of them. We voted and the winner was a large palm seed with a white edible center.

Another day we went to San Pedro Village where the school children put on a program for us – singing and dancing. They even got some of us out in a circle dancing with them – what a sight! We took school supplies and handed them out to each of the children. Then before we left, they gave each of us a bracelet or necklace that they had made.

We were caught in the rain several times and our ponchos came in handy. One day while it rained, a lady came from a nearby village and showed us how to make baskets out of palm fiber. On another day, we traveled by canoe to a village where the natives had spread out all their hand-made crafts and we purchased many items. We will bring them to the meeting when we show our pictures.

We tasted and saw many new and different fruits and of course saved all the seeds which we gave to Charles to mail. In the market in Iquitos, we saw many fruits that we saw in the jungle, and also many animals and fish that were for sale. We purchased a guanabana that we took with us to a nice restaurant where they made us juice to enjoy with our meal.

It was a "once in a life time" trip and we have many great memories. Thanks to Amazonian Expeditions for a wonderful experience.

By Verna L. Dickey

WHAT'S HAPPENING
Apr-May 2005
by PAUL ZMODA

The day after I planted lots of okra seeds, I saw a huge softshelled turtle leaving the garden. Uh oh. I knew it was a female, and from previous experience, I knew not to be surprised that she had spent the night looking for a choice spot to lay her eggs. Sure enough, she had trashed my okra bed, digging here and there. Oh well, I can always replant. I wonder just how the heck she found my garden which is so far from her pond.

And in "the more, the merrier" department: we are setting so many kinds of fruit this year. By having so many cultivars of each fruit tree planted close together, we will have lots of cross-pollinating occur. This is a beneficial situation since single trees may produce poorly. Two or more different varieties will usually out perform solitary trees.

Our collection of plum trees is holding more and more fruit each year, not only because each tree is older, but because as each tree "comes online" with flowers, we get cross pollination.

Our jakfruit is blooming well; it's formed about 20 male flowers: fig shaped, rough, green and up to two inches long. These are showing speckles or yellow as the pollen grains mature all over them. Then I spotted at least two whitish and smoother flowers - females! Oh boy.

Cherimoyas and sugar apples are showing plenty of flowers. Surinam cherry branches are drooping with ripening fruit.

Yuzu citrus seedlings and grape cuttings are potted up as more grape wood has been set out in rooting boxes.

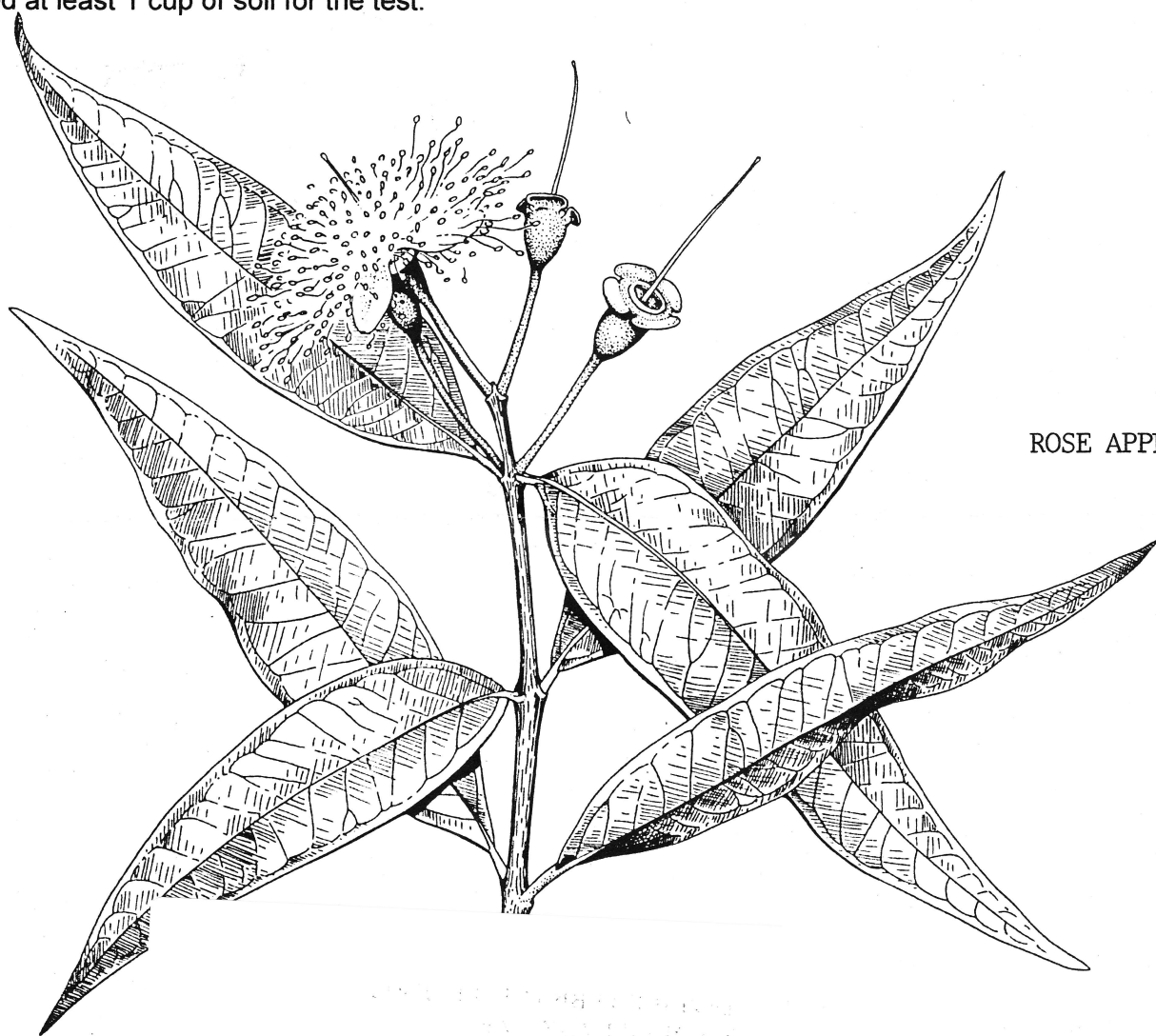
Our old tamarind tree has about three dozen pods for the first time and they are ripening. Inside is a delicious, creamy smooth pulp surrounding the hard seeds. The flavor is excellent: sweet/sour and very refreshing.

New plantings: White sapote.

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.

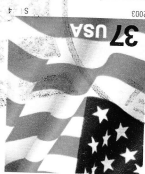
Tampa Bay RFCI Polo Shirts: The club has polo shirts (dark green or blue) available for purchase by members. The cost is \$15 each. Contact Charles or Linda Novak.

pH Soil testing at the May meeting. If you would like to have your soil's pH tested 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.



ROSE APPLE

FIRST CLASS MAIL



TAMPA BAY CHAPTER RFCI
4109 DeLEON ST
TAMPA FL 33609