



NEWSLETTER

JULY 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: JULY 10

PROGRAM: Our program this month will be somewhat different because most of our key members will be in the Miami area enjoying the Fruit & Spice Park and other gardens and eating mangos. There will be no meeting @ USF Westside Conference Center where we usually meet. However, the membership which will still be in the area have been invited by Nick Cutro to tour the building and grounds of the Renaissance Center for the Arts, where some of our club members have donated and planted fruiting and ornamental trees and flowers. This will be more of a social affair with no speaker, no farmers market and no raffle. We'll have a tasting table for those who come and would like to bring a covered dish. Bob Heath and Nick Cutro will be available to lead the tour and answer questions. We expect to assemble at 2:00 and will be through by 4:00. The red brick church building is at 2201 FLORIDA AVE., ONE BLOCK SOUTH OF COLUMBUS DR., and PARKING is available in the PARKING LOT JUST SOUTH OF THE BUILDING. (SEE BELOW)

THE RENAISSANCE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The First Congregational Church was built in 1906: a beautiful red brick building on the corner of Florida Ave. & Francis St. in Tampa Heights. At that time Florida Ave. & Francis St. were unpaved dirt streets and traffic was almost entirely horse & buggy. The church prospered until the mid 50's but eventually faded and was converted to the Polish-American Club, which used it until 1980 when it was sold to Lighthouse Gospel Ministries. It was abandoned and condemned in 1990 when homeless people moved in. One night a fire gutted the building. Most of the roof collapsed onto the first floor and into the basement. The back wall of the building collapsed and left it a shell of three walls and a rubble of 16,000 bricks.

A man of vision and an almost unlimited drive, Nick Cutro is rebuilding the structure, a historically designated building, into the Renaissance Center for the Arts, a non-profit organization for the teaching of art, sculpture, music and horticulture. Cutro hopes to rekindle in today's youth a creative spark and renew a community spirit in old Tampa Heights. He calls it "Project Phoenix", where a jewel is rising out of the ashes of a burned out, abandoned church.

TAMPA BAY RFCI NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE: Members, please check out our newly designed website (www.rarefruit.org). Also, read "From the President" about the website and how you can help with the website.

NOTE TO ANYONE WHO IS GOING TO THE RARE FRUIT CONFERENCE 2005 IN HOMESTEAD or to the MANGO FESTIVAL: We would like to know when you are going and how you are traveling and how long you intend to stay in the Miami area. Please call SALLY LEE @ 813-982-9359.

From the President
Charles Novak

Our June program on the Proper Use of Pesticides was very interesting. There were many questions and answers. I learned a lot about using pesticides correctly and I'm sure other members did also.

Remember, no regular meeting in July. Members are invited to attend the Rare Fruit Conference, July 7 - July 10, at the Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead, FL. There will be tours, speakers, a banquet, and rare fruit tasting.

Website: <http://www.fruitandspicepark.org/FruitConference.php>

I'm looking forward to seeing some of our members at the Rare Fruit Conference. This is a great opportunity to meet other growers of rare and tropical fruit. It will be very interesting to everyone who attends.

I have recently redesigned our club website (www.rarefruit.org). Please take a look and let me know what you like and dislike about the site. Please submit some tips and your favorite recipes. I have 10 recipes on the site now and I hope to add more each month. As time permits I will add new guides and tips each month. Also, you can purchase posters, books and plants through links on our website. There are over 100 links to other fruit websites. If I've missed any good links, please let me know.

The August program will be on the April trip to the Amazon by several club members. We have many photos and we will bring some of the items we purchased for members to see.

Scheduled Programs/Events:

July 7 - 10: Rare Fruit Conference 2005 - Homestead, FL

****No Regular Meeting Sunday, July 10**

August 14: Trip to the Amazon presentation

September 11: Growing Vegetables by member Debbie Butts

October 8 & 9: Fall USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival

Events of Interest:

July 7-10, 2005: Rare Fruit Conference, Fruit Spice & Park in Homestead, FL

July 16 - 23, 2005: Costa Rica Tropical Fruits, Flowers and Spa Tour with Tom Economou and Gene Joyner (561) 686-6687-leave message and phone number

August 2005: Chris Rollins' 27 Day Fruit and Garden Tour of Southeast Asia,
www.fruitandspicepark.org (305) 247-5727

Club Library: An inventory of the club's library books has been completed and, unfortunately, a number of books are missing. Please check your collection of books and return any club Library Books at the next meeting.

Membership Directories: A new membership directory will be printed in August. Please notify Charles Novak (813) 754-1399 of any name, address, phone number and e-mail changes.

JUNE PLANT EXCHANGE

Plant	Donor	Winner
Red Passion Fruit	Heath	?
Surinam Cherry	"	?
Cabeluda	"	Charlie Loenichen
Carissa	"	Vikki Sinclair
Papaya	"	Betty Bruder
Roselle	"	Rose Tireny
Curry Leaf	"	Sandra Worsham
Jack Fruit	"	?
Cuban Oregano	"	Luba
Rangoon Creeper	Heath	?
2 Blue Porterweed	J. Kitchen	?
Elephant Ear	"	?
Mother-in-law Tongue	"	?
Cytharexylum Myrianthum	Charles Novak	Ed Musgrave
"	"	J Kitchen
"	"	Bill Marley
"	"	Tony Ferreira
"	Charles Novak	Bob Heath
Papaya	Lee	Bill Carly
Orange Berry	"	Sanda Worsham
Longan	"	?
Casava	"	?
Passion Fruit	Cohn	Donna Grose
"	"	Rose Tereny
"	"	?
"	Cohn	?
Loquat	T. Scott	?
"	"	?
Surinam Cherry	"	?
Banana Namwa	"	Betty Bruder
"	"	Vega
Pineapple Slips	"	Vega
"	"	?
"	T Scott	?
White Sapote Fruit	T Ferreira	Steve Palis
"	"	"
"	"	?
Pineapple	Vega	D. Roe
"	"	?
Halo	"	?
2 "Young" Avocado Seedlings	John Gibson	?
Ashwagandha	R. Rao	Bill Carlyn
"	"	?
Tomato Fruit	Ron & Debbie Butts	R Shicemura
"	"	Bob Heath
"	"	?
Egg Plant Fruit	"	?
Bitter Melon	Butts	?
Edible Jatropha	N McCormack	?
Shooting Star	B Reddicliffe	?
Nite Shade Berry	"	B. Specton
Atemoya	"	?
Avocado	?	Teri Worsham
Egg Plant	M Chavez	?

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Jun - Jul 2005

by PAUL ZMODA

Our Annonaceous fruit trees are flowering quite well this season. These exotic trees bear flowers which open and are ready to be pollinated with the correct pollen. Hours later, these same flowers shed their own pollen. It is desirable to have several flowers available in both stages to ensure fruit-set. Tiny sap beetles (Nitidulidae) perform the pollinating duties for many of these flowers here. I encourage them to hang around by attracting them with slices of spoiling citrus fruit. I scatter these all around the flowering trees. These insects are very reliable pollinators of sugar apples (sweetsops) and atemoyas.

Annona senegalensis an African fruit, had two blooms. Since no pollen was available, they aborted. One Ilama, Annona diversifolia, had 10 or so flowers at both stages. Between the beetles and my trusty artist's brush, I have set a single fruit. Our cherimoya, Annona cherimola, had a dozen flowers, but only one fruit was satisfactorily pollinated and is enlarging nicely.

After planting the Vietnamese Gac seedling (*Momordica cochinchinensis*), the small vine suffered a damping-off disease just above the soil line. This spelled death for the upper part of the plant. I clipped this piece off and divided it into 2 pieces which I put into rooting boxes to hopefully get new plants started. Meanwhile, the lower part of the vine sprouted anew and is doing quiet well now.

I top-grafted a few scions of the Puerto Rican 'Mangotina' and 'Champagne' mangoes onto our large 'Julie' tree.

Our chickasaw plum selections have ripened. Best is 'Guthrie', a sweet, tasty, pingpong ball-sized fruit. Other cultivars are smaller and tart. I canned these using various pickling liquids, both sweet and sour.

New plantings: Passion fruit, Doyle blackberry, ginger, sunchokes, sesban, okra and amaranth.

TASTING TABLE JUNE 2005

S. Lohn	Carrot cake	R. Terenzi	Blueberry-Lemon Cheesecake
M. Lohn	Brownies w/walnuts	T. Ferreira	Sliced white sapote
V. Sinclair	Pistachios & dates	M. Chavez	Apricot upside down cake
C. Coronel	Ginatan Mais	B. Parker	Fruited jello
L. Smoleny	Pumpkin & pecan bars	N. McCormack	Graham crackers
D. Wallace	Watermelon	B. Reddicliffe	Tuna shell pea salad
A. Musgraves	Cookies	D. Zaumoyor	Hummous w/pita bread
A. Hendry	Tejocote & Nance	S. Lee	Sandwiches, cookies, fudge
B. Heath	Nopales con salsa		
S. Sawada	Fruit Macaroni salad, cucumber & carrot sunomono		
R. Shigemura	Chocolate cherry cake, vegetable plate with 2 dips, strawberry kanten		
L. Novak	Blueberry cheesecake, tropical cheese spread with crackers, tropical wild rice with mango & pineapple, fresh fruit platter		

Juices: Guava, Mango, Guanabana (soursop), Pineapple-peach, Pineapple-strawberry-banana and many other delicious contributions to the tasting table. Please list your contribution on the sign up sheet and get your free plant exchange ticket from Sally Lee.

MY JOURNAL

by Bob Heath

I have a journal to keep track of events and activities of my days as they drift by. It is such an important part of keeping track of my garden activities that I thought everybody must have a journal and do the same. But I found that very few people, if any, keep a daily journal of their activities.

Gosh, how does one remember when he put that air layer on the fig tree, or when he grafted the sugar apple? How do you know when to turn your compost pile if you don't have a record? Personally, I could hardly operate without a journal. I get my journals from Office Depot, but they are available in Walmart and Walgreens stores.

Typical entries look like this:

Apr 7, 2005 - Put air layers on persimmon, red lime & fig trees.

May 19, 2005 - Planted 27 red guava seeds.

May 18, 2005 - Planted yucca & Indian papaya seeds. Planted mango tree, East Indian variety.

June 10, 2005 - Picked first ripe Kei apples.

These entries in the journal enable me to know when to check air layers, when I applied fertilizer, when I made grafts on what trees and when I can expect fruiting next year on my various trees. These are important things and the reason I keep a journal, something that every serious rare fruit grower should do.

HER MOWER IS JUST A MEMORY

Stevie Daniels had a lovely yard at her old Pennsylvania home - and a subversive one. Filled with wildflowers, it sported blue grama and little bluestem native grasses, but not a patch of traditional grass.

Daniels, author of "The Wild Lawn Handbook", worried that her neighbors might complain. Instead, they marveled that a yard could look so spiffy without sprinklers.

Welcome to the new no-lawn yard. Whether it's growing adaptable prairie grasses in the Great Plains states or xeriscaping with drought-tolerant plants in low-rainfall areas, "native" is definitely what the well-dressed lawn is wearing this season. Long a fringe green hobby, the movement now lures homeowners who like being lazy as much as they like helping the environment. In other words, kiss the weekly mowing goodbye.

So in New England, folks dabble in tall fescue. Everywhere, homeowners install "islands" of trees surrounded by mulch. In Las Vegas, where construction regulations forbid turn in new-home front yards during droughts, people decorate with cacti and desert shrubs.

All this helps enliven the endless green conformity of many suburbs. In America, "we're proud of our freedom, so why, when it comes to our yards, are we hesitant to express our individuality?" Daniels asks. And in the end, there's no feeling quite like relaxing while watching your sweaty neighbor mow. Sweet.

---Sounds like our philosophy.

(From July 2005 Readers Digest)

Grafting Knives, Parafilm and Grafting Kits: The club has grafting knives, Parafilm and grafting kits available for purchase by members who would like to graft their own plants. Contact Charles Novak (313) 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.

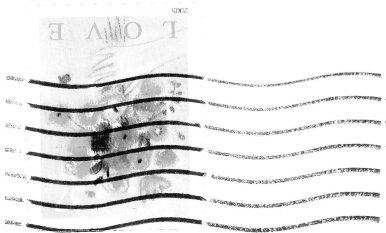
pH Soil testing at the August meeting. If you would like your soil's pH tested, obtain soil samples from 6 to 8 sites within the area you want tested. Mix the soil together, put it into a plastic bag and bring to the next meeting. You will need at least 1 cup of soil for the test.

Members' Corner:

Charles Novak and Jim Lee have 18 large fruiting and flowering trees for sale at very good prices. Please call (813) 754-1399. The trees are at Charles Novak's Home. Will deliver if all the trees are purchased by one person.

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