



RFCI

NEWSLETTER

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER of the
RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL INC

06-41
July 2006

EDITORS: BOB HEATH, PAULA HARDWICK, CHARLES NOVAK, LINDA NOVAK, TERRY LEE

PRESIDENT: CHARLES NOVAK
email: Charles.Novak@gmail.com

RFCI WEBSITE: www.rarefruit.org

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

NEXT MEETING: JULY 9

PROGRAM: FOR THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WE HAVE SCHEDULED WAE NELSON AS OUR SPEAKER. WAE NELSON & HIS WIFE KATHY PUBLISH FLORIDA GARDENING MAGAZINE, the only gardening magazine dedicated to Florida, available on alternate months 6 times a year. It is of interest to note that some of our members contribute articles to Florida Gardening occasionally or regularly. The magazine has been in existence for over 11 years and is managed almost exclusively by Wae & Kathy Nelson. Kathy is the editor and Wae is the publisher. It should be an interesting presentation because Wae has a lot to tell us.

Topic: THE SOIL & ITS EFFECTS ON GROWING FRUIT IN FLORIDA with suggestions & tips on ways to improve the soil for the growing of fruit trees.

We will also have our usual tasting table, farmers market, plant raffle and camaraderie. So bring good things to eat, fruit trees for the raffle, fruit & vegetables for the farmers market, and your good humor.

TRIP TO MERRITT ISLAND

Seven of our club members made a trip to Merritt Island on Saturday, June 17, to meet with some of the Rare Fruit Council members in that area, to plan for our club's trip scheduled for July 15. We met at Charles Novak's house in Plant City at 8:00 a.m. and traveled from there in Paul Branesky's air conditioned van. It took us about 1-1/2 hours on some new highways with light traffic. With 7 people talking, the time flew by.

We met with Toppo & his wife at their impressive tropical forest. He has 40 acres planted in lychees, mangos & avocados in abundance, and many other tropical fruit trees, which we all appreciate. The lychees were fruiting abundantly and Toppo drove us around to the best picking spots. Needless to say, we gorged on the delicious red jewels, and Terry, Paul and Adam picked buckets full to take home. Jerry, Charles and Adam took numerous mango cuttings, neatly wrapped in parafilm, to graft onto their seedlings back home.

After exploring Toppo's gardens, we joined his wife, who had prepared a lovely feast for us for lunch. We dined with them on their covered terrace and discussed our upcoming trip in July, and the many things that fruit tree nuts find interesting to talk about.

After lunch we visited Kim Powell & Debbie Davidson's "Cracker Box Palace", a certified organic nursery, quite a spread in a rather wild and overgrown condition. Kim indicated they have over 3000 pineapples and at least that many bananas. We also looked at mangos, guavas, passion fruit, etc., about 80 varieties of fruiting plants.

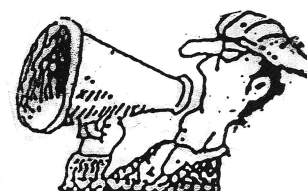
The day flew by and all too soon it was time to head for home. At 7:30 p.m. at Charles' house we were each saying goodbye to our friends and heading our separate ways.

June Plant Exchange

PLANT	DONOR	WINNER
Cabeluda	Bob Heath	Ed Musgrave
Red Passion Fruit	"	B J Vosburgh
w/ Rangoon Creeper		
Hawaiian Chestnut	"	?
Banana	"	Jocarol Smith
Rangpur Red Lime	"	?
Carissa	"	?
Oteheite Gooseberry	"	Michael McDuffie
Pink Guava	"	Linda Brown
Papaya	"	?
Yellow Passion Fruit	Bob Heath	?
Red Papaya	Sal Russo	James Davis
Guava	"	Vega
Guava	"	?
Palm	Peter Dixon	?
4 Yellow Canna Lilies	Harris	A. Stern
5 King Sago	Bill Brown	?
2 Queen Sago	"	?
Blackberry	"	?
2 Plumaria	"	Andrew Hendrickson
Plumaria	"	Cathy Tuckerman
7 Pink Elephant Ear	"	B. Reddicliffe
2 Aloe Vera	"	?
3 Orinoco Banana	Roshan Preraj	?
Carob	Tony Ferreira	?
Sugar Apple	"	?
Kumquat	Bob & Connie Costellas-White	Marv Hymes
Amorphaphalis Voodoo Lily	Ed Musgrave	Tony Ferreira
" " "	"	R. Harris
" " "	"	A. Harris
" " "	Ed Musgrave	Ludwig
Papaya white	Cris Andrews	G. Campani
Papaya	"	Bill Brown
"	"	Thom Scott
"	"	Marv Hymes
"	Cris Andrews	Roland Newman
Tropical Spinach	Nancy McCormack	?
3 Banana Numwah	Thom Scott	Ron Shigemura
4 Banana Numwah	"	B. Reddicliffe
Loquat	Claudette Webber/Gregory Henry	B. Reddicliffe
Dragon Fruit	Patrick Gallahan	James Davis
B. Nodosa Orchid	Drexel Jackson	R. Harris
Curly Butterfly Bush	B. Reddicliffe	?
" " "	"	?
Dragon Fruit	?	Scott Hendrickson
Dragon Fruit	?	Kyle Campbell
Caladium	?	Sara Kano
Banana Ficus	"	Ashley Holland

MEMBERS' CORNER

Rhapis Palms free for the digging. Call Marilyn Chavez @ 813-932-9077.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Jun-Jul 2006

by PAUL ZMODA

Rain at last! It sounded so good on the roof during tropical storm Alberto. We received 4.45 inches and sure can use lots more. Many trees are suffering - even large oaks.

Interestingly, the bananas were going about their business without irrigation, sending out leaves and buds which appear very healthy. Who would think these plants which are largely made of water would do so well in a drought?

My favorite banana taming tool is a double-edged hand saw. Fine teeth on one side make trimming yellow leaves and fruit bunches a breeze while the coarse teeth on the opposite side are great for felling the spent trunks after harvest. I had spent fruitless years searching for one to replace my old broken saw. I finally found one in a hardware shop in downtown New Bern, North Carolina. My mom told me they have anything you could need and she was right. The saw is made by Ames - True Temper.

Pawpaws were in big demand at the recent USF botanical gardens Butterfly & Herb Fair. My booth was the only one providing them as a host plant for the larvae of the zebra swallowtail butterfly. One young lad (an obvious lepidoptera enthusiast) rushed up and requested a pawpaw plant - his favorite butterfly was the zebra swallowtail, after all. When told I was sold out of them, he looked crestfallen until I mentioned that he was in luck, as I still has plenty of soursop trees available. This tree is a good alternative for raising the caterpillars, a fact I discovered back in 1998. The boy purchased a tree and I wished him luck just as a torrential downpour cut short the second day of the sale.

Throughout the sale, people were amazed at the size of the fruit you might grow on a soursop tree. They also didn't know that pawpaws will make fruit they could enjoy also.

New plantings: okra, yardlong beans, calabasa, pawpaws, salvia & red porterweed.

Pruning Tool Care & Maintenance



We all know that pruners (and cutting tools) should be cleaned after each use. If you don't have time to scrub them and clean off the dirt and sap, at least wash them with water and spray them with a quick shot of WD-40 or some other silicone-based spray. These products repel water and retard rust and oxidation. But in addition to cleaning cutting tools, it's a good idea to disinfect them after use ... and if working with diseased material, between cuts! But what to use ... kerosene, turpentine, alcohol, WD-40, Lysol, Clorox (10% solution), Listerine, Trisodium Phosphate (10% solution)?

Well, taking care of your prized pair of pruners just got easier! There's a new product on the market called EZ-Cut™ (patent pending), which comes in a 4-ounce pump-spray bottle. EZ-Cut™ cleans dirt including sap, prevents rusting, disinfects and lubricates pruning tools all in one step. EZ-Cut™ is non-corrosive, non-flammable and non-toxic, and can be used on manual or power gardening tools. On top of that, it even repels insects!

The best price I was able to find for EZ-Cut™ was at Commercial Landscape Supply, Inc., \$7.50 per bottle + S&H. Phone: 800-635-8686 (M-F 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PST). Web Site: <http://www.clscatalog.com/>. Email: ayda@clscatalog.com.

From the President
Charles Novak

I want to thank the members who helped with the workshops in June. I hope everyone will try grafting and air layering. If your first attempts do not meet with success I hope you will keep on trying. We all have had our share of grafting and air layering failures, but the more attempts you make the better you get and the successes will come. If you need grafting supplies please let me know. We still have a few knives and grafting tape. We are out of Parafilm but we will be ordering more soon.

Reasons for Graft Failures:

1. Stock and scion were not compatible.
2. The cambiums were not meeting properly.
3. Scions were upside down (Some plants can be successful grafted upside down).
4. Grafting was done at the wrong time (Most plants can be grafted year around).
5. Rootstock or scion was not healthy.
6. Scions were dried out or injured by cold.
7. The scion was displaced by storm, birds, or other means.
8. The graft was attacked by insects or disease.
9. The graft union was girdled because Grafting tape was too tight.
10. But the main reason for Failure is not trying!

Wae Nelson, publisher of Florida Gardening magazine, is our scheduled speaker for the July 9 meeting. Wae is very knowledgeable on many subjects and I encourage members to attend the meeting and learn from his presentation.

Guests are welcome at our meetings so invite your friends and neighbors. We have a great club and our members are glad to share their fruit growing knowledge and experiences.

If you know of someone who might present a program of interest to club members, please contact me at (813) 754-1399. Also, if you have any suggestions concerning field trips, other activities, the newsletter, etc., please contact any of the Board members and we will discuss it.

There will be a board meeting after the regular meeting in July. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend the board meetings.

Scheduled Programs/Events:

- July 9:** Wae Nelson, Soil and its effects on growing fruit in Florida
July 15: Club trip to Merritt Island
September 10: Maryon Marsh, Herbs
October 14-15: Fall USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival

TRIP TO MERRITT ISLAND: We are planning a club trip to Merritt Island on July 15 for a **Mango tasting**. The Brevard RFCI has invited us over to sample mangos. Topy and Claire Feil have 40 acres with over 30 varieties of mangos, many Lychee trees, and other fruiting trees. If you would like to go on this trip please attend the July 9 meeting. We will need to carpool as much as possible. If you can drive and have room for other members who need a ride or if you are a member who needs a ride it is important to attend the meeting to make arrangements. More information and directions (and maps) will be available at the July meeting.

Trivia

Q. What does WD-40 stand for?

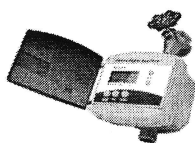
A. WD-40 literally stands for **Water Displacement, 40th attempt**. That's the name straight out of the lab book used by the chemist who developed WD-40 back in 1953. The chemist, Norm Larsen, was attempting to concoct a formula to prevent corrosion -- a task accomplished by displacing water. Norm's persistence paid off when he perfected the formula on his 40th try.

My \$50 Misting System

Posted by coreybv on <http://forums.gardenweb.com>
<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/load/rosespro/msg021521301352.html?56>

I've noticed a lot of posts with people saying they have poor success with the baggie method, so I thought I'd post my misting setup to encourage people to give misting a try who might have otherwise thought it was an expensive undertaking.

My system consists of two main components, both of which I purchased at Home Depot. First, the mister itself. I use the "Arizona Mist Cooling Stand," which sells for \$12.99.



Next, a timer. This is the part that scares people off, I think, since I've seen people here talk about spending hundreds of dollars on their misting timers. I use the "Melnor Electronic Water Timer-6 Cycle," which sells for \$40. I already had it from a lawn renovation project and decided to give it a try.



That's it. Throw in an old garden hose, and you have a complete misting system. Put your cuttings out in full sun (the hotter the better) and position the mist nozzles next to them (you may have to move it around to compensate for changes in wind direction). In the hottest, driest months, I set the timer to run the built-in misting program from about an hour after sunrise to just before sunset. This turns the water on for 7 seconds every 2 minutes. Due to the residual water pressure in the hose, this keeps the mist flowing constantly. In my tests, this setup ended up using only 5 or 6 gallons a day, and in the 100+ degree heat of last July, I had a few of my easier varieties ready to pot up in just over a week.

After the weather cools a bit, I change the timer to just come on for 5 minutes at a time in 6 evenly spaced intervals throughout the day.

Using this inexpensive system with cuttings stuck in sand, I achieved nearly 100% success last summer, which was my first year to ever attempt rooting.

Misting is very simple and can be done without much expense. If anyone has had low success rates with the other methods, I'd highly recommend giving this a try.

Tasting Table June 2006

C. Coronel	Kamat sili, ginatan mais	B. Heath	Lemon squares
A. Dixon	Trifle - English	D. Campani	Brownies
Reddicliffe	Potato Salad	Musgraves	Tropical fruit tray
Sawada	Vegetable Sushi	J. Smith	Italian cookies
Shigemura	Orange cheesecake, orange cake	P. Ludwig	Potato salad (2 types)
	blueberry tarts	Ferreira	Fruit salad
Cimafranca	Ube jam, mango, chicken adobo &	M. Foltarz	Chicken BBQ
	yellow rice	McGauley	Kefir bananas
T. Scott	Cherries	L. Maranto	Banana Pies (2)
Novak	Mango-coconut rum cake, guava cheesecake, coleslaw with tropical fruit, juices,		
and many other items not listed on the sign up sheet. Thanks to all members who donate to the tasting table.			



EVENTS OF INTEREST

DADE CITY MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Saturday, July 29, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Event will be held in AGNES LAMB PARK - one block west of historic courthouse at the corner of Meridian Avenue and Eighth Street. This will be a combination of a farmers market & flea market with entertainment. No admission fee.

USF MIDSUMMER PLANT FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday, July 8 & 9, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

This event will be held at USF Botanical Gardens. Admission is \$3.00.



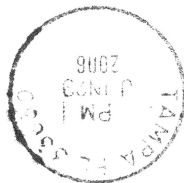
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