

RFCI

NEWSLETTER – October 2009
TAMPA BAY CHAPTER of the
RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL, INC.

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

Meetings are held the second Sunday
at the Tampa Garden Club, 2:00 P.M.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Please plan to join us for the following:

October 10 - 11: Fall USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival

October 17: Boktoberfest Plant Sale; Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales; www.boktowergardens.org

November 8: Program - Cold Protection & Medicinal Uses of Fruiting Plants

New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Carolyn Haack; Tammy Ullery and Joseph & Judith Mamuschia

Please Join us for the USF Fall Plant Festival

We will forego our usual October monthly meeting to participate in the USF Plant Festival on both Saturday and Sunday, October 10th and 11th. All members are invited to participate and bring plants to donate or sell. Parking is free but admission is \$5.00, for which the Club will reimburse workers who participate in the Sale. This is an interesting affair and well worth the admission. Likewise, it is a social event as well as a money maker for the Club. We will have no tasting table or plant raffle. But we desperately need workers. Let's make this USF Sale our big one. Please join us!

☼ **Friday Setup 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.**

Our participation will begin around 3:00 P.M. Friday afternoon, Oct. 9th. We will need help raising tents, setting up tables, arranging plants and posters.

☼ **Saturday and Sunday Plant Festival**

Here are some important points to remember:

- **Setup:** the Gardens will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. for our final preparations. At this time, traffic will be one way – in the front gate and out the side gate.
 - The front gate will close at 8:30 A.M. on Saturday and Sunday. Participants will enter by the side South gate after the front gate closes, **on foot**, until 9:00 A.M.
 - The public will be admitted at 10:00 A.M. on both days. Admission is \$5.00.
 - The Festival will end at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday and 3:00 P.M. on Sunday.
 - Only after 4:15 P.M. on Saturday and 3:40 on Sunday, will we be allowed to bring vehicles in to re-supply or remove plants.
-

President: Paul Branesky

Editor: Gloria Sciuto; Production & Distribution: Charles and Linda Novak

- Parking for participants not bringing plants or supplies is across the street from the front entrance to the Gardens in the South parking lot.
- The USF Botanical Gardens takes 10% of our gross sales. The remaining 90% will be split 70%/20% between the participant and the RFCI, respectively. Be sure to read the directions that follow to mark your plants accordingly, remembering that you earn 70% of the selling price.
- We have provided ID cards for RFCI workers. Only those with ID cards will be admitted before the Sale begins. If you are refused admittance, someone from our group will vouch for you to gain so that you can admittance. Please wear your RFCI T-shirt.

IMPORTANT: Members bringing plants to sell need to restrict sales to fruiting plants only – no ornamentals or flowers.

Guidelines for Participating in the USF Plant Festival

To avoid misunderstanding, confusion and errors, we would like members to follow these guidelines:

- Each member selling plants must submit a manifest listing their plants and prices. This manifest must be given to a board member or member designated for verification.
- Each plant must have a label with the name of the plant, the price and the seller's initials. It would be helpful if the seller puts a color slash or dot on the label for easy identification.
- **Please note that members cannot sell (non-approved) citrus plants, non-fruiting plants or herbs.**
- Sellers are responsible for their plants. If the seller cannot be there both days of the Sale, he/she should ask a member to handle his/her plants.
- Sellers should not lower the prices of their plants without advising the designated member and changing the price on the manifest.
- Members selling plants should be willing to help unload and load Ray's truck and help with the setup and breakdown of the sales area (if physically able).
- When the Sale is over on Sunday afternoon, sellers will inventory their unsold plants, enter on their manifests the number of plants sold and submit their manifests to the designated member. Members should then remove their unsold plants.

Tagging Plants:

- During the Sale, members who want to purchase Ray's plants may do so at the regular price listed. Plants purchased at the regular price should be placed in the club's "plant holding area" until members can take them home.
- If working members wish to purchase plants at a discount after the Sale, they may do so by tagging their selected plants **after 2:00 P.M.** on Sunday. Plants may not be removed from the sales area as they are still available for purchase by the public until the end of the Sale. Plants may not be tagged prior to 2:00 P.M. and placed in the area behind the cashiers or elsewhere. To tag a plant, tie a brightly colored flagging tape on the plant.
- Only after the final inventory of Ray's plants has been completed on Sunday, can members move their flagged plants from the sales area and pay the designated person for the plants.

Directions to the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens (USF Garden Festival):

From 1-275: Exit Fowler Avenue. Head east to Bruce B. Downs Blvd./30th Street and turn left. Go north one block to Pine Drive (1st light) and turn right. Go east one block to the first traffic light and turn left. Go north one block to the Garden entrance on left at the intersection with Alumni Drive.

From I-75: Exit Fowler Avenue. Head west to Bruce B. Downs Blvd./30th Street; turn right. Go one block north to Pine Drive (1st light) and turn right. Follow Pine to left and Garden entrance is on left at the intersection with Alumni Drive



What's Happening – October 2009 by Paul Zmoda

Like to grow your own food – not just fruit, but vegetables, nuts, cacti, even flowers? There are many restaurants in our area that prefer to serve locally grown produce but that cannot always get it because there just is not enough of a supply. You may be able to supply these items and make cash doing so. My advice is to be the best at growing desirable crops and marketing them. Start small; give away a few samples and make contacts at restaurants. Become a reliable and profiting producer of a coveted item. I've sold hot chili peppers, squash, Pomellos, and other citrus (fresh, ripe limes are good sellers).

Our dragon fruit cactus is holding a single, maturing fruit after many weeks. This gave me a 20% success rate from hand-pollinating.

My pecan tree in Tampa was holding a huge crop of nuts this year. That is, until the furry-tailed rats found them. I trapped well over 30, and they still kept coming. They waste as much as they eat and, even though, I began the pest control in July, by early September, every pecan was gone. Next season, I will try spraying hot pepper sauce on the clusters.

Our lone cherimoya fruit, Annona Cherimola, kept getting larger and larger until I knew the time was near. One morning, it dropped to the ground, where I discovered it – mostly undamaged. Finally, after so many years of growing this plant from seed, I got to taste this specimen. It was sweet and chewy. The flavor reminded me of a well-ripened pear.

I harvested olives from the Arbequina tree. They are in the refrigerator curing in a bath of lye.

New plantings: lettuce, tomatoes, Chinese broccoli, cucumbers, regular broccoli and Pai-Tsai – a tender Chinese, leafy green good for salads, stir fries, sandwiches, etc.



Fifth Photo Shoot Contest Results

Congratulations to the winners!

First Place: Charles Novak - Variegated Pineapple

Second Place: Roberta Harris – Kampong Mauve Sugar Apple

Third Place: Judy Cimafranca – Carambola

Winners will receive a copy of the club cookbook. Special thanks to Fred Engelbrecht, Sheldon Sumner and Susan Reed for submitting photos for the Photo Shoot.

September's Program: Water Conservation and the Southwest Florida Management District (SWFMD) by Ed Hobin & Lois Sorensen

In September, we had two very knowable speakers who work for the Southwest Florida Management District. Ed Hobin gave familiarized us with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and its charter.

As you can see from the map, the SWFMD spans a large part of the state – irrespective of political boundaries. It spans 16 counties – a total of approx. 10,200 square miles.

Four Main Responsibilities

According to Mr. Hobin, the District has four main responsibilities:

1. Water supply – ensure there is sufficient water supply for all current and future users while protecting the environment and water systems
2. Flood protection – try to keep people out of the flood plains
3. Water quality – monitor the surface and ground water supply
4. Natural systems – protect, preserve and restore our district's water systems



Why Are We Having Water Problems & What Can We do About It?


According to Mr. Hobin, we cannot fulfill our need for water by relying on rainfall only. Our area receives an average of 53" of rainfall per year, however, sunshine soaks up approximately 40" of that rain. If you look at how the state is shaped, we live "literally" on an island. In order to have the volume of water we need for now and the future, we need to have an alternative to ground or surface water.

According to the Water Management District website, "Approximately 80 percent of water used within the District has come from traditional groundwater sources. Most of this ground water was withdrawn from the Upper Floridian aquifer and, as a result, the overreliance on pumping ground water has produced visible consequences. Excessive groundwater pumping has lowered water levels in lakes and wetlands, reduced river flows and increased saltwater intrusion in the aquifer along the coast. Saltwater intrusion makes water unfit for drinking or irrigation without considerable treatment."

During his talk, Mr. Hobin stressed that we can no longer just rely on ground or surface water. He discussed the different alternatives outlined in the figure below. We can each do our part to be sure that Central Florida will remain the lush and abundant area that we know – now and in the future.

Water Supply Sources


Traditional Sources




Ground Water: Water that is pumped from the aquifer. Most ground water within the District is drawn from the Upper Floridan aquifer. Ground water accounts for approximately 80 percent of the fresh water used within the District.

Alternative Sources


Consistent with statutory direction (section 373.0831, Florida Statutes), the District works with local governments and regional water supply authorities to investigate, develop and implement a wide range of alternative water sources.




Conservation: Efficient water-saving practices including personal habits, Florida-friendly landscaping and low-flow fixtures. Conservation is the most cost-effective way to reduce water demand.




Reclaimed Water: Wastewater that has received at least secondary treatment and is reused after flowing out of a domestic wastewater treatment plant. Reclaimed water can be reused for irrigation, groundwater recharge and industrial processes.




Rehydration: The application of storm water or reclaimed water to the surface of upland areas or wetlands to help increase the amount of water in the aquifer. The applied water undergoes additional cleansing as it filters down to the aquifer.



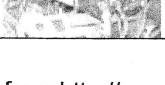
Surface Water Supplies: Water supplies drawn from creeks, rivers and lakes. This water source may be limited by seasonal rainfall totals.



Reservoirs: Constructed areas where water is collected and stored. When needed, water from reservoirs can be treated for use.



Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR): The process of treating water and injecting it into the aquifer for storage. When needed, the water can be recovered and treated for use.



Desalination: The removal of salt from seawater or brackish water to produce drinking-quality water. Desalination has the potential to be a droughtproof, inexhaustible alternative water source.

Copied from <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/watersupply.pdf>.

Water Conservation: Florida-Friendly Landscaping Principles

According to the District, The Nine Principles outline what you can do to conserve water and reduce the pollution of resources:

1. **Right plant, right place** - Plants selected to suit a specific site will require minimal amounts of water, fertilizers and pesticides.
2. **Water efficiently** - Irrigate only when your lawn needs water. Efficient watering is the key to a healthy Florida yard and conservation of limited resources.
3. **Fertilize appropriately** - Less is often best. Overuse of fertilizers can be hazardous to your yard and the environment.
4. **Mulch** - Maintaining a 3-inch layer of mulch will help retain soil moisture, prevent erosion and suppress weeds.

5. **Attract wildlife** - Plants in your yard that provide food, water and shelter will attract Florida's diverse wildlife.
6. **Manage yard pests responsibly** - Unwise use of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial organisms and the environment.
7. **Recycle** - Grass clippings and leaves provide nutrients to the soil and reduce waste disposal when reused on the landscape.
8. **Reduce storm water runoff** - Water running off your landscape can carry pollutants such as soil, debris, fertilizer, gasoline and pesticides that can adversely impact water quality. Reduction of this runoff will help prevent nonpoint-source pollution.
9. **Protect the waterfront** - Waterfront property, whether on a river, stream, pond, bay or beach, is very fragile and should be carefully protected to maintain freshwater and marine ecosystems.

For more information, you can order a free 156-page Recreation Guide, which describes more than 50 properties owned by the District and open to the public. To order the Guide, go to <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/#areas>. You can download a copy or get a free hardcopy.

For more general information, you can call or write:

- Toll-free (*Florida only*) 1-800-423-1476
- Bartow Service Office (863) 534-1448
- Sarasota Service Office (941) 377-3722
- Tampa Service Office (813) 985-7481

**Southwest Florida Water Management
District Headquarters**
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899
(352) 796-7211



September Tasting Table

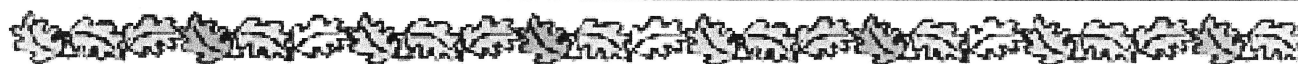
Thank you to the following folks for their tasty offerings and to all of our anonymous donors who did not sign the sheet. If you are a member, please remember to ask for your free plant raffle ticket.

Name	Item	Name	Item
Heath	Spiced carambola sticks	Vega	Pasta
Branesky	Lychee Flan, fried bananas	Johnston	Cherry cobbler
Reddicliffe	Tropical Ambrosia salad	Coronel	Babingka
Terenzi	Cinnamon chocolate cake	Scott	Red grapes
Newcombe	Carambola/strawberry yogurt	Lohn	Tiramisu
Lavalette	Sweet banana cakes	Cimafranca	Mango cutups
Champagne	Cinnamon nut sheet cake	Scharett	Guacamole
McCormack	Strawberry wafers	Lee	Rum cake
Phillos	Chamorrta pickled mango	Kirby	Fried plantains
Zmoda	Cactus fruit, canned jackfruit	McAveety	Chips and salsa
Sawada	Yakitori with spicy miso sauce	Shigemura	Fried rice, coconut marshmallows
Novak	Key lime cookies, raspberry cheesecake bars, chicken & corn casserole, fresh kiwi-carambola-papaya platter, fruit juices		

September RFCI Plant Exchange

Thanks to all of our donors. Members who donate plant(s) may now receive a ticket for the raffle.

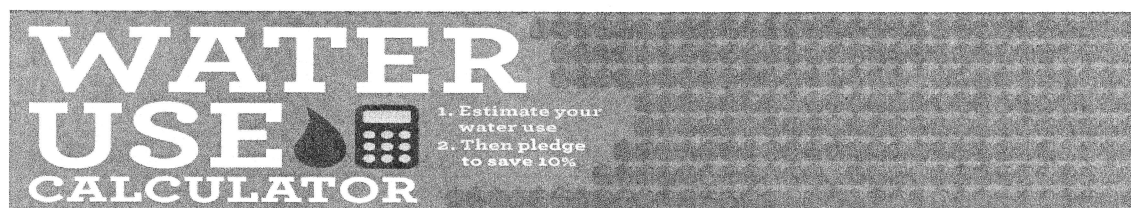
Plant	Donor	Winner
2 Red sugar apple	Bob Heath	P. Branesky, Omar L.
2 Chaya spinach	Bob Heath	M. Galbreath
2 Papaya	Bob Heath	---
2 Carissa	Bob Heath	M. Estes
Pineapple	Bob Heath	D. Provencher
Passion fruit	Bob Heath	J. Ritter/Vega
6 Basket carambola	Charles/Linda Novak	R. Shigemura
6 Papaya – red lady	Charles/Linda Novak	Reddicliffe, Sumner, McAveety
Guava	Jerry Coronel	---
5 Citrus	William Vega	L. Estes (2), J. Ritter
8 Sugar cane	William Vega	R. Bean
Drying Tomato plants	Paul Zmoda	R. Shigemura
2 Dragon fruit cactus	Paul Zmoda	---
2 Cactus fruit	Paul Zmoda	R. Shigemura
5 Basil	Paul Branesky	---
Rabutan	Paul Branesky	---
Pink guava	Paul Branesky	I. Grieg
9 Ipe trees - Pink	Beth Reddicliffe	Provencher, Zmoda
Caladium bulbs	Ron Shigemura/ Shice Sawada	T. Ullery, J. Mamuschia
Palm tree	Maria Estes	---
Foxtail palm	Mike Sweet	---
Spinach jatropa	Nancy Mc Cormack	---
Maple (?)	Tina Aguire	



Members' Corner

For Sale - Trailer \$100. Contact Ed Musgrave, (813) 689-6139.

Free Date Palm - Yours for moving. 16'H, base approx. 36" around; trunk diameter about 2' wide; Loretta Maranto, (727) 724-3561, Safety Harbor.



Find out how much water you use at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/thepowerof10/>

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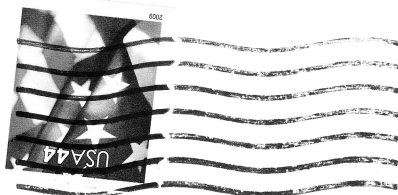
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