



RFCI

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

March 2011

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

Meetings are held the second Sunday, 2:00 P.M.
at the Tampa Garden Club, 2629 Bayshore Blvd.

⌘ Upcoming Programs and Events ⌘

March 13: Tammy Kovar, biologist and owner of Biological Tree Service of Sarasota, FL will speak on growing trees and plants with Mycorrhizal fungi – a family of beneficial fungi that live in and around the roots of 95% of the earth's plants.

April 9-10: USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival

⌘ RFCI Booth Wins First Prize at the Florida State Fair ⌘



Our exhibit received First place in the Florida State Fair Plant Society competition. **"Thanks"** to Linda and Charles Novak, Thom Scott and Bill Vega (pictured) as well as Adam Zaidan and Paul Branesky for designing and setting up the exhibit. Also, **"thanks"** to all the members who spent time at the exhibit talking to the public. The public is always interested in our display of fruit trees and the unusual fruits we exhibit.

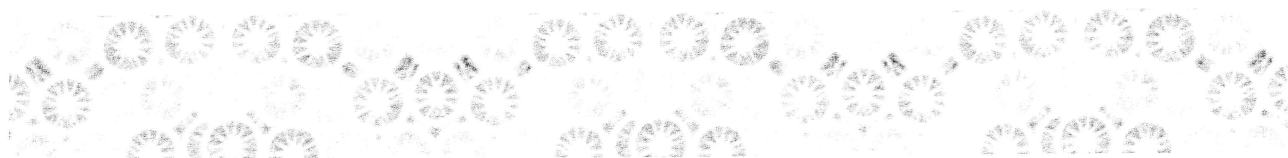
Each society receives a set-up premium of \$250. First place receives an additional \$250 and the blue rosette ribbon.

President: Paul Branesky; Photography: Fred Englebrecht

Editor: Gloria Sciuto; Support: Bob & Paula Heath; Production/Distribution: Charles & Linda Novak

Got Oranges?

Our President, Paul Branesky, recently purchased an Oragin machine for squeezing oranges. If you'd like to bring your oranges to our meeting, Paul will squeeze them. Don't forget the containers!



⌘ Board of Directors Election ⌘

At the March meeting, the general membership present will elect the Board of Directors for a one-year term. The Board then elects the executive officers. Directors must be willing and able to make a significant commitment of time to the club. The Board meets monthly or at such times deemed necessary.

The Board is responsible for the policies, finances and direction of the Chapter. Therefore, it is important for Board members to attend as many meetings as possible. The Board of Directors meetings are open to the entire membership. Members are encouraged to attend.

Please plan to attend the March meeting and vote.

The following members have been selected for your consideration as the next Board of Directors:

Paul Branesky
Bob Heath
Fred Engelbrecht
Jimmy Lee
Charles Novak

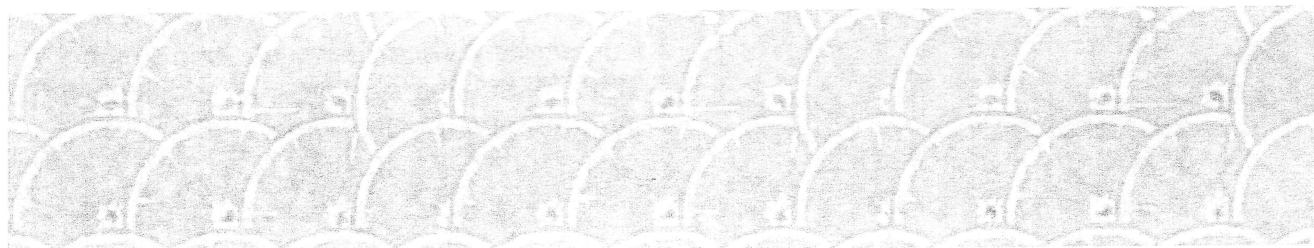
Thom Scott
Bill Vega
Susan McAveety
Sally Lee
Linda Novak

Verna Dickey
Judy Cimafranca
Andrew Hendrickson
Jerry Amyot

⌘ Welcome to Our Newest Members ⌘

Mark Pezzuti of Clearwater
Chris Witte of Brandon

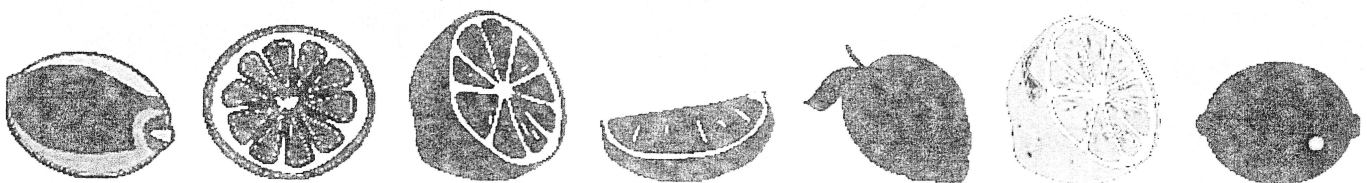
Ronald Profitt of Plant City
Joanne Wolfram of Seffner



☞ Fruit Washing at Jerry Amyot's Home ☛

11-19

Here's the event as chronicled in pictures taken by Fred Englebrecht. Thanks Jerry!



No party is complete without food. In true RFCI style, there was plenty!

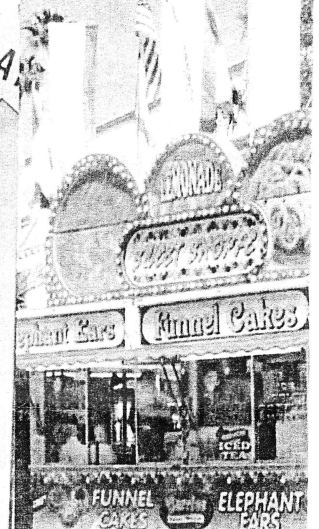
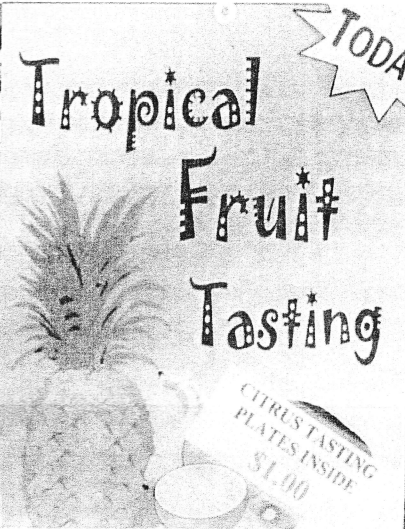


☞ Citrus Celebration at the Florida State Fair ☛

Our Citrus Celebration at the Florida State Fair was very successful. The weather was nice and the turnout was great. Fair attendees enjoyed a bowl of the many varieties of citrus (cut into sample size) and cups of fresh squeezed citrus juice. A huge **"THANKS"** to the many club members who helped make the Citrus Celebration a success by donating fruit, picking and washing fruit, delivering the fruit to the fairgrounds and helping with the event on Sunday.

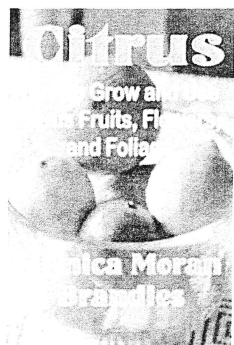


∞ Citrus Celebration at the Florida State Fair (cont.) ∞



☞ What's Happening ☞ by Paul Zmoda

11-22



Early Sunday morning on January 30, 2011, I turned on the radio to listen to WFLA's Florida Gardening Show. To my surprise, yet another of our club members was in the studio giving out valuable fruit information to the masses.

Long-time member, Monica Brandies, author of quite a few books on horticulture, was promoting her newest one called "Citrus – How to Grow & Use Citrus Fruits, Flowers & Foliage." It sounds like a great addition to your library. Monica's book is available through either her website: <http://www.Gardensflorida.com> or Amazon.com.

While the weather is still cool, I can tackle the bigger jobs of clearing brush, removing stumps, cutting out roots, pruning, hauling away the material and planting more fruiting trees. I'm installing more blackberry varieties and have a space ready for a superior strain of elderberry I've found growing along a nearby road. I'll need to propagate it, first, with rooted cuttings or root sprouts, I'm not sure yet, but the root sprouts appear to be ready to plant first.

I was hired by a couple in Seffner, FL to install their own personal vineyard. They had recently ripped out their declining citrus orchard and are very excited to start in a new direction.

Asian citrus psyllids are still around on the tender new citrus shoots so I sprayed for them.

New plantings: pole beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, mustard and more broccoli.

☞ Kumquats ☞

Kumquats are slow-growing, evergreen shrubs or small trees that can grow up to 2.5-4.5 m tall, with dense branches, sometimes bearing small thorns. The leaves are dark glossy green and the flowers are pure white, similar to other citrus flowers, borne singly or clustered in the leaf-axils. The edible kumquat fruits closely resemble that of the orange but are smaller and are often oval, 3-5 cm long and 2-4 cm wide.



Depending on variety, peel color ranges from yellow to red. The fruits are extremely juicy and tasty and usually have a sweet outer skin, with large, conspicuous oil glands, accompanied by a tart, inner flesh. The fruits are considered ripe when they reach a yellowish-orange stage, and have just shed the last tint of green.

Copied from <http://www.greenzonelife.com/citrus-trees/kumquat.html>

∞ The 300-Variety Mango of Malihabad ∞

It is hard to believe that a farmer can have as a hobby the grafting of multiple varietal scions of interesting and unique mango diversity on to a single tree. I certainly did not believe it — until I saw the orchard of Haji Kaleem Ullaj Khan in Malihabad. There he maintains several trees with many varieties grafted onto them as sources of scions for his mango nurseries. A good and reliable source of scions is essential to run a successful and credible mango nursery, but to have a conventional scion block is expensive in terms of maintenance and land.

The son of the magician grafter, Najmi, showed me two very remarkable mango trees. One is said to be 100 years old and is named Al-Muqarrar. It has had more than 300 varieties of mango skillfully grafted onto it. The other, younger tree has more than 150 mango genotypes grafted on to it. Each branch looks like a different tree! Both trees are bearing fruits of different color, shape and size, and at different times.

Born in 1945, Haji Kaleem Ullaj Khan does not have any academic horticultural degrees, but he is widely renowned in India for his skills and knowledge in multiple grafting on a single tree. He was awarded the title of Udhyan Pandit (Professor of the Orchard) by a former President of India. He presented a mango tree bearing 54 varieties to the current President for the premises of the Mughal Garden of Rastrapati Bhavan. He has been acknowledged by many high-profile visitors and was decorated with the Padamashri award. His name is recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records for his grafting feats.

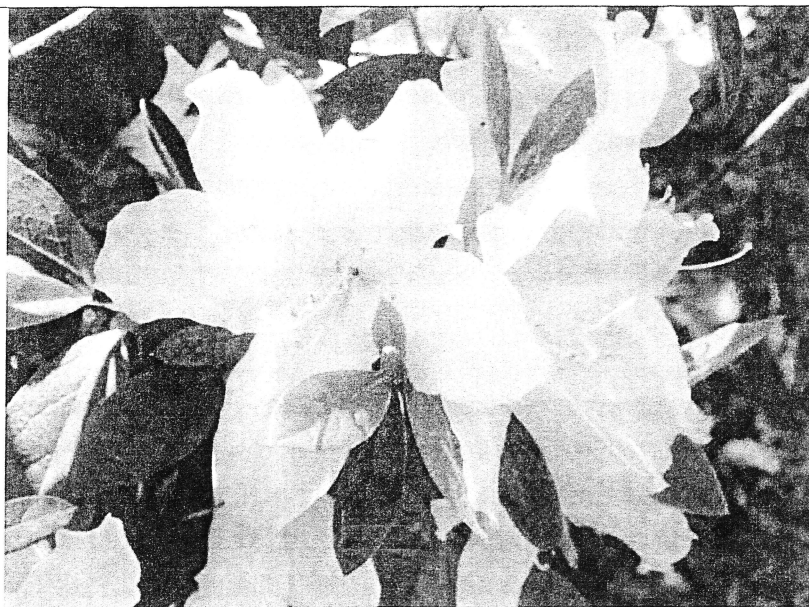
AL Mukarrar - Mango Tree



Abdullah Nursery is famous in Malihabad and throughout India for Haji Kaleem Ullaj Khan's innovations, and markets saplings of commercial varieties to such distant places of Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. Unlike government research stations, Haji Kaleem Ullaj Khan uses ground layering for his propagation for most commercial saplings, and veneer or wedge grafting in special cases. He has also grafted a guava tree that flowers and fruits all year round, which is another attraction for the nursery.

This innovation borne out of local need for nurseries to maintain many scions at relatively low cost. However, this can be a high-risk practice, because many varieties depend on one mother tree's survival. It is thus important to have adequate safety duplication or maintain some scion material trees separately. Multiple variety grafting can also be used as an attraction in agrotourism, and for innovative marketing of diversity in urban and home gardens. This will create a new market for nursery growers and raise public interest in the diversity of mangoes. This activity has been conceptualized in the context of the UNEP/GEF project Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical Fruit Tree Diversity in India.

Written by Luigi on May 8, 2010 and copied from the Agricultural Biodiversity Weblog at <http://agro.biodiver.se/2010/05/the-three-hundred-variety-mango-of-malihabad/>



White Azalea is a showy flower for spring time.

If you love gardening or just want to get away from your daily stresses, then you will want to visit the Nature Coast Botanical Gardens. The Gardens became a reality as a result of many volunteer hours from the Spring Hill Garden Club members, as well as helpful other community volunteers.

Located just off Spring Hill Drive near the US 19 entrance.

Nature Coast Botanical Gardens
1489 Parker Avenue
Spring Hill, Florida 34606
Daily admission is free, However
donations are greatly appreciated.

Phone: (352) 683-9933
Open 7 days a week / dawn until dusk



3361784149 0025

P. JUDSON NEWCOMBE
314 DEER PARK AVE.
TEMPLE TERRACE, FL 33617

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Tampa Bay RFCI
2812 N. Wilder Rd.
Plant City, FL 33565-2669

