



<http://www.rarefruit.org>

May 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 ⌘

May 8: Gene Joyner of Unbelievable Acres Botanical Garden of West Palm Beach
will speak on *Lesser-Known Banana varieties, Flowering Bananas and Banana Problems*

⌘ Welcome to Our Newest Members ⌘

- Rick & Cindy Baker – Pinellas Park
- Ken & Angela Newell – Tampa
- John & Angi Nagel – Odessa
- Gene & Connie Field – Tampa
- Rick Kolb – Tarpon Springs
- Paula, Ed, Miranda Owens – Tampa
- John & Carol Dolphin – Brandon
- Michael Logan – Tampa
- Nancy Seiter – Oldsmar
- Robert Lawson - Tampa
- Janis Dann – Tampa
- Fred Kuszmar – Tampa
- Valerie Sparks – Tampa

⌘ Manatee Rare Fruit Council Annual Plant & Tree Sale ⌘

When: Sunday, May 15, 2011, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Where: Manatee Civic Center, 1 Haben Boulevard, Palmetto, FL;
at the corner of US41/301 and Haben Blvd in Palmetto

Download a Printable Flyer at: <http://www.mrfc.org/Portals/25/pdfs/treesales/treesaleflyer2010.pdf>

For More Information: <http://www.mrfc.org/> or call 941-776-0222



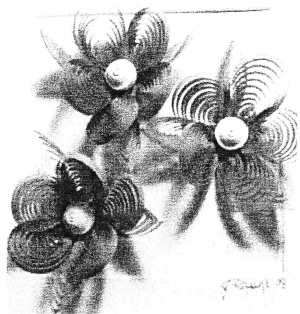
Copied from <http://www.mrfc.org/PlantSale/tabid/468/Default.aspx>

President: Paul Branesky; **Photography:** Fred Engelbrecht

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

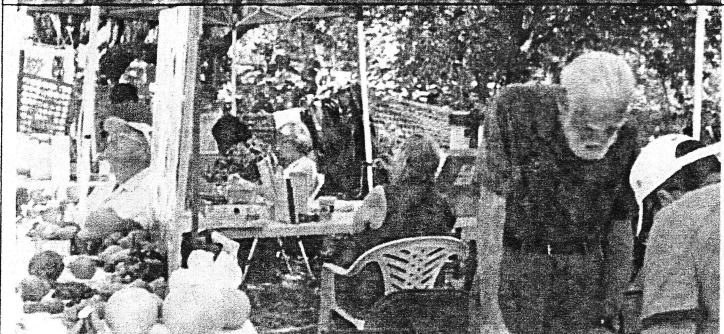
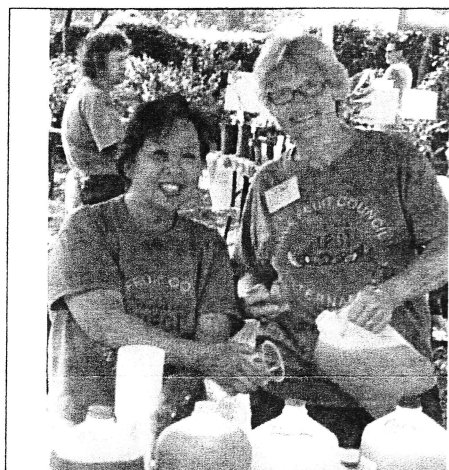
∞ USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival ∞

A Special Thank You...



A special THANKS to all the members who helped with the USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival. We were very busy – especially on Saturday. The weather was great (a little on the warm side) and many fruiting plants were purchased by the public.

We served 796 cups of juice to the thirsty crowd. Thanks to Fred Engelbrecht for supplying the photos.





∞ A Tribute to Mothers ∞

Our May meeting is on Mother's Day.
Here is a beautiful poem submitted by Linda Novak.
Happy Mother's Day to you and yours.



My Mother Kept A Garden

My Mother kept a garden,
a garden of the heart,
She planted all the good things
that gave my life its start.
She turned me to the sunshine
and encouraged me to dream,
Fostering and nurturing
the seeds of self-esteem...
And when the winds and rain came,
she protected me enough-
But not too much because she knew
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.
Her constant good example
always taught me right from wrong-
Markers for my pathway
that will last a lifetime long.
I am my Mother's garden.
I am her legacy-
And I hope today she feels the love
reflected back from me

Author Unknown

∞ Got Oranges? ∞

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

PLEASE CONTACT PAUL AT (727) 341-2605, SO HE WILL KNOW TO BRING THE MACHINE.

⌘ Growing Trees and Plants with Mycorrhizal Fungi ⌘

by Tammy Kovar

At our March meeting, Tammy Kovar, owner of Biological Tree Service of Sarasota spoke about the role of fungi in sustainable plant growth.

She stressed that the healthier a tree is, the more it will produce. Normal state for plants is a 70%/30% root system. (70% above the ground and 30% below the ground).

According to Tammy, approximately 75% of what we give plants is not received because the essential microorganisms found in healthy soil are either out of balance or completely destroyed.



Picture copied from
<http://www.soilscienceproducts.com/>

Carbon Balanced Fertilization vigorously restores the health of the soil, turf, and plants by allowing them to be more resistant to insects and disease.

How Plants Work

Tammy said that all plants are dependent on high-energy carbon compounds (sugars) which come from light (photosynthesis).

All plants need:

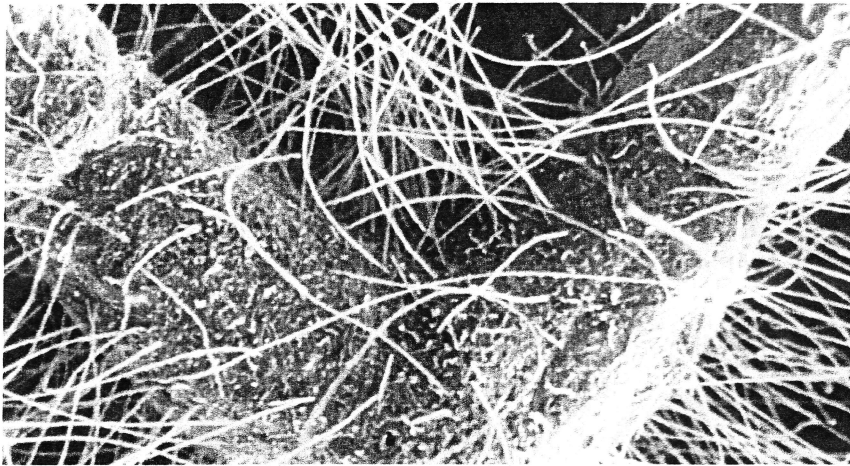
- Light
- Carbon dioxide
- Water
- Mineral nutrients

All growth requires glucose, which needs to have that 70.30 balance we mentioned before.

What Are Mycorrhizae?

According to Dr. Mike Amaranthus, "Mycor" – "rhiza" literally means "fungus" – "root" and defines the mutually beneficial relationship between the plant and root fungus. These specialized fungi colonize plant roots and extend far into the soil. Mycorrhizal fungal filaments in the soil are truly extensions of root systems and are more effective in nutrient and water absorption than the roots themselves. More than 90 percent of plant species in natural areas form a symbiotic relationship with the beneficial mycorrhizal fungi."

Here is an example of the mycorrhizal fungal filaments:



Tammy added that there are two main types of mycorrhizae:

- Ectomycorrhiza – largest microorganism on earth; grow on outside of roots; add surface area to the absorption of your tree or plant
- Endomycorrhiza – can't see; inside the root; tree like structures; absorb minerals and water out of the soil

Why are Mycorrhizae Important?

As Tammy explained and Dr. Mike describes, "Mycorrhizal fungi increase the surface absorbing area of roots 100 to a 1,000 times, thereby greatly improving the ability of the plant to access soil resources. Several miles of fungal filaments can be present in less than a thimbleful of soil. Mycorrhizal fungi increase nutrient uptake not only by increasing the surface absorbing area of the roots, but also release powerful enzymes into the soil that dissolve hard-to-capture nutrients, such as organic nitrogen, phosphorus, iron and other "tightly bound" soil nutrients. This extraction process is particularly important in plant nutrition and explains why non-mycorrhizal plants require high levels of fertility to maintain their health. Mycorrhizal fungi form an intricate web that captures and assimilates nutrients, conserving the nutrient capital in soils."

Seeing is Believing

There are dramatic examples that compare non-mycorrhizal plants (on the left) to the mycorrhizal plants (on the right). These photos were copied from <http://www.mycorrhizae.com/>:



How to Reestablish Mycorrhizae

Dr. Mike has a 2-minute video that shows how easy it is to reestablish mycorrhizae. Just paste this URL into your browser and click:

<http://www.mycorrhizae.com/home/re-establish-mycorrhizal-fungi>

Where to Buy Products

For more information on Tammy's products, see

<http://stores.sustainablelandscapesupply.net/StoreFront.bok>.

Tammy's store is at 7345 International Place, Suite 107, Sarasota, Florida, 34240. Store hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and on weekends by appointment.

Receive your newsletters by e-mail. Photos, etc., will be in **color**.

Also, you will receive additional articles of interest.

To request your newsletter by e-mail contact Charles Novak at charles.novak@gmail.com

⌘ What's Happening ⌘

by Paul Zmoda

No April Fool joke – we all got a huge, unusual shot of rainfall as the 4th month began. This will hopefully help all our trees get through the Spring dry season okay.

Our Olive tree “Arbequina” is also blooming up a storm at this time and, for the first time, I noticed that the honeybees found them attractive. A huge crop was soon set.

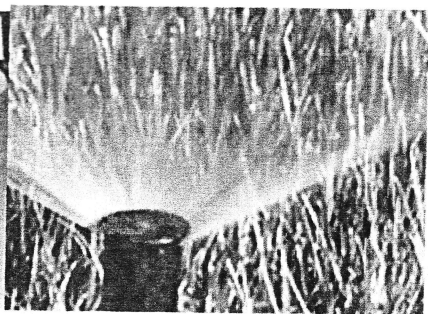
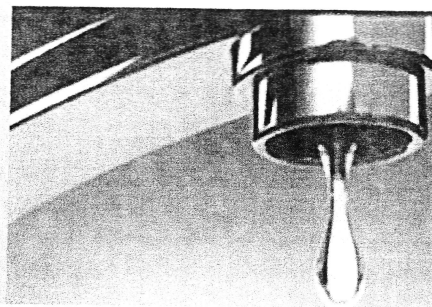
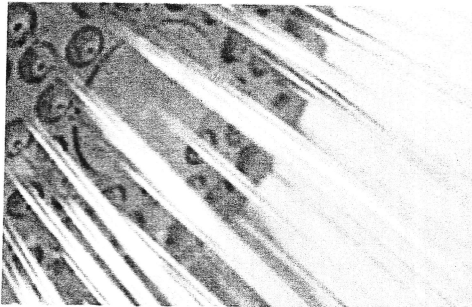
In case you haven't heard, a new Oriental market opened near Brandon on S.R. 60. It's HUGE! This market has everything and more – duck heads, anyone? The produce section has a vast array of fruits and vegetables to interest you. One bin held fruits that were labeled sugar apples, but I recognized them as cherimoyas – *Annona cherimola*. They had two forms available: *Impressae* and *Tuberculate*. The former looks as if fingerprints were pressed into the skin and the latter has short, soft, spiny projections. Both are very delectable after a short ripening period.

New plantings: elderberries, blueberries, red okra, pole beans, arugula, grapes.

⌘ April Was Water-Conservation Month ⌘

According to watermatters.org, April was water conservation month in Florida. Here are some interesting facts, copied from www.watermatters.org, about how saving water benefits you!

Turn off the tap while brushing my teeth and shaving. I'll save up to 225 gallons per month.	Reduce my daily shower by 2 minutes. I'll save up to 240 gallons per month.	Replace my showerhead with a low-flow model. I'll save around 480 gallons per month.	Fix my dripping faucet. I'll save around 1,650 gallons per month.
Turn off my irrigation system and only water as needed. I'll save up to 2,000 gallons each time I skip a water day.	Check my irrigation system for leaks. I'll potentially save up to 6,300 gallons of water per month	Run my clothes washer and dishwasher only when full. I'll save up to 175 gallons per month.	Use a hose with a shutoff nozzle when washing the car and save around 40 gallons per wash.





Earth Day flag copied from
<http://chemistry.about.com/od/environmentalchemistry/f/earthday.htm>

Friday, April 22nd was Earth Day

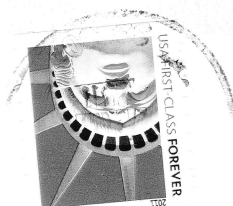
According to Dr. Ann Marie Helmenstine, "Earth Day is the day designated for fostering appreciation of the earth's environment and awareness of the issues that threaten it. Actually, Earth Day is one of two days, depending on when you choose to observe it. Some people celebrate Earth Day on the first day of Spring, which is the vernal equinox that occurs on or around March 21st.

In 1970, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed a bill designating April 22 as a national day to celebrate the earth. Since that time, Earth Day has been officially observed in April. At present, Earth Day, which is observed in 175 countries, is coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network. The passage of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act are considered to be products associated with the 1970 Earth Day."

See <http://www.earthhour.org/Homepage.aspx?intro=no> for an inspiring look at how people around the world honor Earth Day and Earth Hour.

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