



RFCI

October 2013

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

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

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<http://www.facebook.com/TampaBayChapterRareFruitCouncilIntlInc>

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

⌘ Upcoming Programs and Events ⌘

October 12th and 13: USF Botanical Garden Plant Sale. No regular meeting.

We will need many members on Friday Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. to help unload plants from the truck. At 2:30 p.m. on Sunday we'll need help to load plants back on the truck. We need people to help with the juicing on both Saturday and Sunday. Bottled water will be provided by club. Club members who work 2 days will get a free club T shirt, and Moringa cuttings!!!! Come join us!

If you plan to sell plants, please note that members cannot sell citrus, non-fruiting plants or herbs. Members selling plants must submit a manifest listing their plants and prices. Plants must have a label with the name of the plant, the price and the seller's initials.



If you have questions: Jimmy & Sally Lee (813) 982-9359.
USF Botanical Garden website: <http://gardens.usf.edu/>

November 10th: Grafting Workshop. This hands-on workshop will teach you how to do your own grafting. Knowledgeable members will show you methods of grafting. You must bring your own tools such as knives and tape, and compatible rootstock and scions to the workshop.

December 8th: Holiday Social at 1pm

⌘ New Members ⌘

Suzanne and Arthur Richards	Tampa	James Jarrell	Valrico
Melody and Patrick Ludwig	Palmetto	Wavewey Gittens	Tampa
Lauren and Joseph Cathelineau	Tampa	Michael & Brigid Higgins	Lithia

President: Thom Scott; Editor: Denise Provencher; Photographs: Fred Engelbrecht
Membership: Bryon Provencher; Production/Distribution: Denise Provencher

∞ Annonas and Eugenias ∞

Adam Shafran

At September's meeting Adam Shafran spoke about the amazingly diverse, colorful, and delicious Annonas and Eugenias, two of his favorite groups of plants to talk about. We are blessed in Florida to be able to grow so much here, including these exciting fruits.



Eugenias are an extremely diverse group of fruiting plants. They are very adaptable, have a long fruiting season, delicious and nutritious fruit, and can be grown in containers. Many are typically precocious, producing in only one and half to three years. The fruits come in an amazing variety of colors, flavors, sizes, and textures. Most have very ornamental, fragrant, white flowers. Most varieties like an acid PH, some even tolerate salt, some are considered invasive, like Surinam Cherry. Many have been considered for their medicinal value.

When selecting varieties for growing outside year round, choose those with a good hardiness to cold. To grow their best, they benefit from adding chelated iron or sulphur to the soil. When picking the fruit wait until the fruits fall off into your hand.

Some popular types of Eugenias include:

Surinam Cherry or Pitanga - They are delicious, but variable. Sometimes you may get a nasty tasting one that tastes like diesel fuel. It's best to graft or air layer from a tree that is known to have good tasting fruit.

Cherry of the Rio Grande - This is a nice, cold hardy tree that fruits in April.

Cedar Bay Cherry - Great for container growing, but is also salt tolerant.

John Kimbers - A variety from Logee's in Connecticut. Early producer with long season.

Grumixama – Ana - a dwarf variety, very pretty, hardy tree gaining in popularity. An interesting feature of this plant is its ability to root from a leaf.

Pitomba - Some are better than others, these plants are not as sensitive to PH or to drought or flood. The fruit has an apricot taste.

Rainforest Plum - Rare here, the fruit is firm, sweet, and delicious. Does not like high PH.

Uvalha - There are many varieties, trees are attractive, slow growing, some have sour fruit.

Pictures of a variety of Eugenia fruits



Annonas are related to Magnolias. There is a high demand for these plants. They are found in tropical areas throughout the world, especially Central and South America. There is potential for breeding new varieties. Annonas are excellent for growing in containers.

There are many, many varieties of Annonas, some can be difficult to distinguish, or may be mislabeled when purchased. As with the Eugenias, the best way to preserve the genetics of a favorite tree with the fruit qualities you desire, is to graft. Spring is best, but, it can also be done in summer and fall. The flowers of Annonas are interesting, as they are protogynous, starting as female, then turning into male flowers. Sometimes to get fruit, the pollen must be harvested and stored until the flowers turn into male ones, and then hand pollinate the flowers. Bees, ants, and beetles are also pollinators.

Some favorite varieties of Annonas include:

Sugar Apples and Soursop - These are quite hardy, although the fruit can be variable.

Cherimoya - Finds Florida too humid, and doesn't do well. Dream is the best variety as it is hardy, and doesn't need hand pollination. The fruit taste is out of this world. It can be grafted onto any other Cherimoya as rootstock.

Atemoya - Best in Central Florida, it's cold tolerant, doesn't like flooding, and it requires hand pollination, but you can never have enough of them!

Custard Apple - A great, early producer, takes cold, more people should grow them.

Ilama - Sensitive to cold, hard to find, and supposedly the tastiest of all Annonas. The fruit will split when it's ready to eat. Flowers are red.

Rollina - Delicious, takes cold very well, best picked slightly green, heavy feeder, a fast grower.

Pictures showing the amazing diversity of Annonas



Resources for Eugenia and Annona information:

For a great list of Annonas, Google: “ultimate annona list”.

For a fabulous, comprehensive, and constantly updated master list, check out:

www.TropicalFruitForum.com

⌘ What's Happening ⌘

by Paul Zmoda

Our summer rains are so welcome. With them comes good plant growth and plenty of ripening fruits. Guavas need two years here without a freeze to produce. Since we didn't have a freeze last winter, we are getting some nice guavas. Our cultivars are: Miami Supreme and a Chinese White. They will swell up suddenly when ripe. If you wait too long to pick, the Caribbean fruit fly will ruin them. I watch for a size and color change and harvest when they yield to a good squeeze. They should be fairly firm and aromatic. A day or two in the house is all they need to be ready to eat.

Our bananas are budding out nicely, also thanks to no frost. Goldfinger, Mysore, and Dwarf Brazilian are fruiting early enough in the year that we should expect ripening before winter. We are eating lots of “John Rick” American Persimmons – gooey and sweet.

Plenty of our citrus trees are looking healthier this year. I am looking forward to a good crop of Meyer Lemons. Since we have the Citrus Greening Disease, I began a foliar feeding program using a product called TARA

14. This nutrient spray along with heavy doses of fertilizers and fish emulsion sprays has greened up most of our trees, and many are holding sound fruits.



New plantings: Black Sapote and various mustards and herb seeds, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers.



September Plant Exchange



If you win a plant in the raffle, please remember to sign the sheet when picking up your plants.

Plant	Donor	Winner
Longan	Frank T	Conroy
Peruvian apple cactus	Provencher	
Sugar palm	Provencher	
Orange berry	Provencher	
Santol	Provencher	
Cuban mangosteen	Provencher	
Plaintain	Premraj	
Surinam cherry	Young	
Jackfruit	O'toole	
Pond apple	Wadsworth	Ferreira
Pineapple	Frances P	
Red papaya	Ferreira	
Jackfruit	Ferreira	
Starfruit	Kroslak	
Surinam cherry	Kroslak	
Malabar spinach	Musgrave	
White sapote	Novak	
Moringa	Branesky	



Did you know?

Bats are needlessly among the most feared of Earth's wild animals.

They are gentle, intelligent, and very clean.

Less than half of one percent of bats carries the rabies virus.

Without bats, entire ecosystems would be critically altered, compromising the quality of plant, animal, and human life on Earth.

Bats are close to humans on the evolutionary tree.

Bats do not damage or destroy fruit. They eat spoiled, unharvestable fruit, nightflying insects, and enjoy the blooms of night blooming flowers, and even herbs.

They also cannot tell the colors of the fruit they eat, but bats actually see quite well, day or night, and have the best hearing of all land mammals.

All bats in Florida are insectivores. There are 16 species in Florida.

So, this Halloween, fear the ghosts, goblins, and witches, but not your garden friend, the bat!

(Florida Gardening Magazine Oct/Nov 2013, by Karenluise Calasant)

⌘ September Tasting Table ⌘



Thank you to the following folks for their tasty offerings and to all those who did not sign the sheet. Members who donate food receive a ticket for the plant raffle.



Name	Item	Name	Item
Novak	Key lime, raspberry bars	Coronel	Banana rolls
Lee	Chinese pastry	Zmoda	Guavas
Branesky	Mango, lychees, strawberry, longans	Latimer	Brownies
Black	Potato salad	Newcombe	Carambolas
Oliver	Brownies	Dexter	Peach cake
Shigimura	Pineapple cherry, coconut cake	Sawada	Japanese fried chicken
Payne	Cantaloupe, key lime cheesecake	Levesque	Apple pie, chocolate pie
Orr	Bread with apple butter	Krotz	Deviled eggs
Ludwig	Papaya pasta salad and fruit	Tamura	Deviled eggs
Topping	Quinoa salad	Davies	Meatballs/ziti
Premraj	Veg chow mein	Hartzler	Spring and summer rolls
Lavalette	Potato croquet	Ferreira	Potato salad
Mcdaniel	Fried tuna and tea eggs	Nguyen	Mini kolacky
Clarke	Pasta, cheesecake	Johansson	Fruit salad
Reddicliffe	Tropical ambrosia salad		

⌘ Orange Picking in Florida Postcard - dated 1920 ⌘



Notes

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