



RFCI

November 2016

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

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com

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

Meetings are held the second Sunday, 2:00 P.M.
at the Christ the King Church, 821 S. Dale Mabry,
Tampa

∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞



November 13th: Cold Protection. The colder weather is coming. Learn about the many ways to beat the cold and protect your valuable fruit trees and other plants.



December 11th - Holiday Social- The annual Club Christmas Party! The party you just can't miss!!

January 8th - Plant Cell Genetics with Dr. Jude Grosser. UF Professor

∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Tim Beringer & Kerri Ladd Tampa

Saleem Syed-Ali St. Petersburg

President: Sandra Kischuk; Program Manager: Tom Schaefer; Secretary: Jim Porter, Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher; Photographs: Fred Engelbrecht

Pictures from the USF Plant Sale



This tot is fully enjoying his Ice Cream Banana.



Bill Vega showing off a beautiful specimen for sale.



The beautiful display of fruits really grabbed the attention of passersby, and drew them in to try the wonderful fruit juices, and of course, buy lots of plants.

Final Details and schedule for the Bus Trip to ECHO

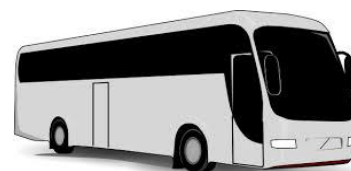
RFCI BUS TOUR - ESCOT BUS LINES SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

Pickup Skyview Elementary School, 8601 60th Street, Pinellas Park, Florida - Spot time 6:45 A.M.
(If you are facing the school, please park your car on the left side)

Pickup Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
2310 N. Falkenburg Rd. Tampa
On or about 8:A.M.
Before boarding, please provide name and license plate number of vehicle to Bill Vega.
Bill Vega will give you a "RFCI" yellow sheet of paper to be displayed on your dashboard.

Drop-off ECHO Global Farm
17391 Durand Rd Ft Myers, Florida
On or about 10:00 A.M.

Pickup ECHO Global Farm
On or about 11:30 A.M.



Drop-off Jing Du Japanese Buffet
13300 South Cleveland Avenue, Ft Myers, Florida
On or about 12:00 noon

Pick-up Jing Du Japanese Buffet
On or about 1:30 P.M.

Drop-off Fruitscapes Nursery
12870 Stringfellow Rd, Bokeelia, Florida
On or about 2:00 P.M.

Pickup Fruitscapes Nursery
On or before 4:00 P.M. (we have to leave no later than 4:30 P.M.)

Drop-off Return to Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Drop-off Return to Skyview Elementary School

Following are ECHO's notes for all visitors: Bring the following:

- ✓ a refillable water bottle
- ✓ sunglasses&/visor or hat
- ✓ wear comfortable closed walking shoes
- ✓ sunscreen
- ✓ insect repellent

Visitors may have phones for photos but NO TEXTS OR CALLS during tour. Visitors will respect Docents who are trained volunteers and will give you a great tour. Visitors will stay with the group. Stragglers and wanderers distract the tour. Visitors must not pick/eat on the Farm unless invited. Some plants are in fact harmful. Visitors must stay on the tour path. We share the Farm with creepy, crawly things best left alone.

ECHO is a global Christian organization that equips people with agricultural resources and skills to reduce hunger and improve the lives of the poor. ECHO has been named the top rated international charity based in Florida by Charity Navigator and is listed among the top 100 charities in the entire USA!

On behalf of the RFCI, I wish everyone a safe and happy trip. Please call me if I can help, Cora 727-403-1756.

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

Our sale at USF was a good one. We had perfect weather and plenty of customers. Thanks to all who helped setup, sell, and take down. Special thanks go to the ladies who fed us.

We had a nice display of fruits in front of our booth which really grabbed the attention of folks passing by. Letting them taste a few led to sales. At take down on Sunday, all the display fruits suddenly disappeared. Those of us who provided them had plans for some rare specimens, but were left with nothing. This should not happen again. If you did not bring display items, you are not entitled to them.

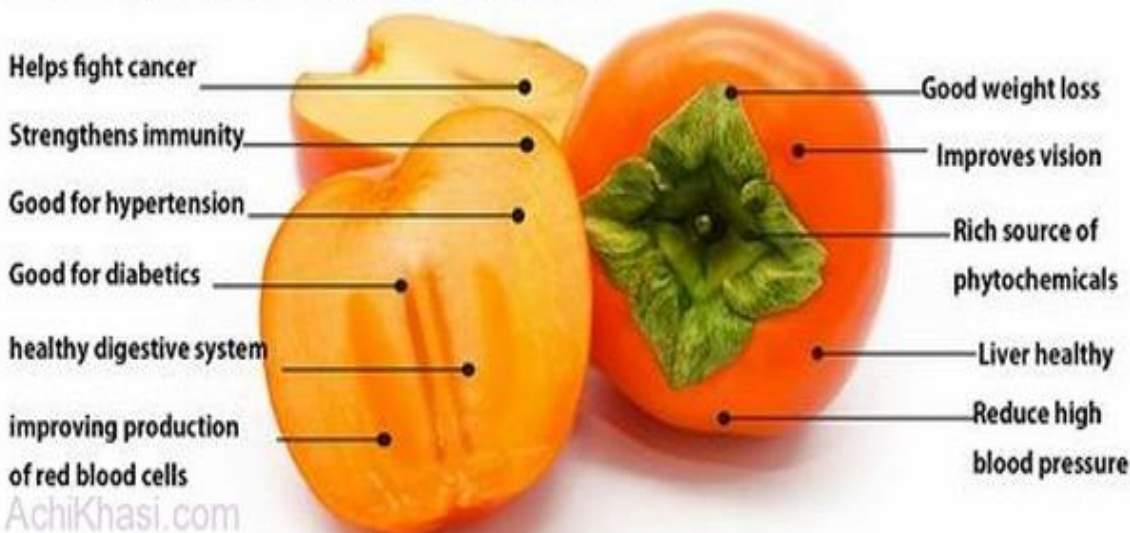
This has been a great year for our bananas - all of our cultivars have produced with the exception of 'Mona Lisa' (aka FHIA#2).

We are very pleased with our seedling longan tree which not only makes sweet and tasty fruit, but bears late, into October, when other sources are already done for the year.

Persimmons are coming on strong. Sweet and juicy, these often seedless fruits each have a unique shape for the cultivar and slightly different flavors as well.

New plantings: air layered mayhaw, moringa, and lots of vegetables in the Fall garden.

HEALTH BENEFIT OF PERSIMMON



Garden Spotlight

Text and Photos by Denise Provencher

This is the third in a series of articles that will describe visits to the gardens of members who are opening their gardens for other members to visit and to enjoy a wonderful opportunity to learn more about growing fruits in the Tampa area.

This visit was to Tom Schaefer's garden, a mix of colorful flowers and ornamentals, many, many fruit trees, and a wonderful high canopy of oaks. The oaks are the only original plants to the one and a third acre landscape that was otherwise vacant when the Schaefer's built their custom home here in 1991. The home, with its bright blue roof, is set way back off the road, and feels very private.

Tom says when he began



landscaping his yard, he planted many of the typical plants and ornamentals that Florida gardeners use, but was quickly converted to using fruits by his neighbor, the late Club member Ed Musgrave. Ed suggested he utilize more edibles in his landscape, and Tom listened. Now this yard is a wonderful mix of traditional and edible plants. Many of the plants came from the Club plant raffles, and from other Club members.

The front part of the yard is filled with fruit trees thriving under the light shade from the canopy of oak limbs. There is an enormous carambola, avocados, yellow jaboticaba, guava, pineapples, mangoes, bananas, cherry of the Rio Grand, and a peanut butter tree, a gift from Ed.

There are macadamia, good size miracle fruits, passionfruit, figs, and lychee in this area also. A guava is going through a transplant process called "root pruning". This is an excellent way of moving a larger plant to a new location, and involves pruning the root ball over a period of time, keeping the plant well watered, and eventually being able to move the entire root ball to its new location. The process takes time, but in many instances can avoid fatal shock that would occur in a one step dig up of a plant.

One issue that Tom is preparing to deal with in his garden is the lack of automated irrigation. He waters by hand, a process that will be sped up with the installation of irrigation equipment he acquired when Colorfield Farms nursery went out of business several years ago.

Along the side of the home is an area for gingers and related plants. Many of these provide beautiful and colorful flowers. The rear part of the yard gets much more sun. There are citrus trees, peaches, persimmon, grimachama, strawberry tree, blueberries, hog plum, and pomegranates. An old tennis court provides a solid, level surface to place countless containers filled with these plants and more. There is a dragonfruit section, each plant with its own support to climb.



An area on the far side of the property contains a work building with a temporary greenhouse area to bring orchids, and other plants inside in the event of a freeze. Tom also has worm bins in this cooler area. There is a jungle of lush bananas that shade the area, and give a little protection to a young jackfruit tree.

There is just an amazing variety of fruit plants here, and Tom enjoys talking about how he developed this yard into his personal paradise. There are practical ideas that other gardeners can learn about, and use in their own yard.

To contact Tom Schaefer, and make an appointment to view his garden call 813- 777-0019, or email, tschaefer5@tampabay.rr.com



Persimmon Bread

By V. Monte

With persimmons in season, and the holidays almost upon us, this easy, moist, and delicious bread will impress your dinner guests.

Ingredients

½ teaspoon salt
½ cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup persimmon pulp
½ cup chopped pecans or walnuts
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ cup raisins



Preparation

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Oil a 9 x 4" pan.
In a small bowl, combine flour, cinnamon, salt, nuts, and raisins.
In a large bowl, blend eggs, sugar, and oil.
Mix baking soda into the persimmon pulp, and add it to the sugar mixture.
Fold in flour mixture.
Pour the batter into the greased pan.
Bake for 75 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

∞ Local Events ∞

Nov. 19th and 20th - Edison and Ford Winter Estates and Public Gardens - Free -
Annual garden market with all kinds of plants, food, garden art, honey, and gardening supplies. Many unique tropical heritage plants available. 239-334-7419

∞ Club Notes ∞

We welcome your submissions for the newsletter, pictures, notes of interest, events in your area, tips you've tried or learned that you would like to share with others, or questions about growing fruits - please send them to bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com
Submissions for the next newsletter due by: November 22nd.



The objectives of The Tampa Bay Rare Fruit Council International:

To inform the public about the merits and uses of fruits common to this region and encourages the cultivation, collection, propagation and growth of fruits that are exotic or unusual to west central Florida. The club also encourages the development of new fruit varieties, cooperating with local and foreign agricultural agencies.

Tampa Bay RFCI
39320 North Ave.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542