



# RFCI

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

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

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March 2017

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

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

### ∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞

**March 12 - Grafting / Air Layering-**  
**best time of year!!** Think about what  
trees you would like to learn about how  
to graft. If you have available rootstock  
or scion material of desired varieties,  
bring them to the meeting to learn the  
all important craft of grafting.



**April 9 - USF Plant Sale** - If you are planning on bringing plants to sell at this  
spring's plant sale, prepare them now! Volunteers needed to man the booth.  
More information at March's meeting.

**May 14 - Olives**, Michael Garcia, Pres. Olive Growers of Florida (MOTHERS  
DAY)

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### ∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Arlene Rodney    Tampa

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

Here are lots of pictures from the Florida State Fair Citrus Celebration, our booth, the fruit, and our wonderful volunteers to whom so many thanks go to for making this year's Celebration more "fruitful" than last year! The display was set up by Bill Vega, George Campani, Paul Branesky, and Tom Schaefer and it won 4th prize! A round of applause for their efforts!



Photo by Fred Engelbrecht



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## ∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

This year the fruit flies have pretty much left our loquats alone. I haven't had to bag any. The large, blonde, loquats on the Edith Friedman memorial tree are very tasty. I grafted this one to a small rootstock recently. I tried using gibberellic acid on another loquat to see if I could force larger fruit. It only seemed to make the skin brown and rough.

Our calamondin tree was a mess - lots of dead branches and draped with Spanish moss. I wished to rejuvenate it, so I removed all the moss, cut the live trunks in half to ten feet, removed all dead wood, pruned the remaining branches and then treated the root zone with manganese, dolomite and citrus fertilizer. (See photo)

I found a gold wedding ring six inches down while moving some soil around. No initials, so I'll sell it.

I cold stratified my caper seeds and then gave them a heat treatment before planting them. Fifty percent are up at three weeks.

I heard that a Facebook friend is successfully growing a producing breadfruit tree in Davie, Florida!

Several grapes are sprouting; plums, avocados, dewberries, and citrus are starting to bloom, and I cut down the huge ice cream bean tree. One thousand pounds of cut tree took three trips to the county brush site.



New planting: Ceylong Peach, BD-1249 grape, and a dozen Principe Borghese tomatoes.



Posted on our Facebook site:

**Sandy Rhodes Huff commented on Facebook about the RFCI booth at the Fair:**

The RFC booth was terrific! My old phone didn't take a good enough photo to post, but the information was clear, signs easy to read, and I saw many people pausing to look at the display. Kudos to those who made the booth!

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Photo by Susan McAveety



Photo by Susan McAveety

## ∞ Club Notes ∞

I am looking for Asian Persimmon budwood. I already have: Honan Red, Sheng, Fuyu, Matsumoto Wase Fuyu, Winterset and Saijo to trade. Paul Zmoda. 813 677 5985. [Flatwoodsfarm01@gmail.com](mailto:Flatwoodsfarm01@gmail.com)

Looking for 45 or 65 gallon (huge!) black plastic nursery pots. Denise [bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com)

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, recipes, or questions about growing fruits - please send them to [bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com) Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **March 22nd**.

## ∞ Membership information ∞

### NEW MEMBERS

Download and fill out a membership application from: <https://rarefruit.org/membership/>, and send with check or money order for \$20 made out to Tampa Bay RFCI to: Tampa Bay RFCI, 39320 North Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542.

### RENEWING MEMBERS

Send check or money order for \$20 made out to Tampa Bay RFCI and mail to: Tampa Bay RFCI, 39320 North Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542.

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## Have a Chuckle!



*Q. How do you make a strawberry shake?*

*A. Put it in the freezer.*

*Q. What is the fastest vegetable?*

*A. A runner bean.*

*Q. What kind of a key do you use to open a banana?*

*A. A monkey.*

*Q. What is a vampire's favorite fruit?*

*A. A neck-tarine!*



*Q. How do you fix a broken tomato?*

*A. Tomato paste!*

*Q. Why shouldn't you tell a secret in a cornfield?*

*A. There are too many ears!*

*Q. What school subject is the fruitiest?*

*A. History – because it is full of dates!*

*Q. Why aren't bananas ever lonely?*

*A. Because they hang out in bunches.*



*Q. What fruit teases you a lot?*

*A. A Ba na..na..na..na..na!*

*Q. What kind of apple has a short temper?*

*A. A crab apple.*

*Q. What happens to grapes when you step on them?*

*A. They wine!*

*Q. How do you fix a cracked pumpkin?*

*A. With a pumpkin patch!*



*Q. Why did the banana go to the doctor?*

*A. Because it wasn't peeling well.*

*Q. Why was the tomato blushing?*

*A. Because it saw the salad dressing.*

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***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.*

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Tampa Bay RFCI  
39320 North Ave.  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542