



RFCI

March 2018

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

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

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 11th, 2:00pm - Kumquats - Local grower and general manager of Kumquat Growers in Dade City, Greg Gude discusses the tasty and versatile delight that is the kumquat. The Gude family has been in the kumquat business for generations, so they have a lot of information to share.



USF Spring Plant Sale - April 14th and 15th (set up on Friday the 13th). Volunteers will be needed for this fun and exciting fund raiser for the Club. More information and sign up at the March meeting.

To your health:



The flu epidemic this winter was one of the worst in recent years. People are still turning to good old orange juice to help them fight colds and flu. During the epidemic, orange juice sales spiked. Orange juice, especially with the pulp, is loaded with vitamin C and folic acid, and can help you fight the flu and feel better faster.

In addition to important vitamins, flavonoids in citrus also fight off infections. Flavonoids include about 4,000 compounds responsible for the color of fruits and flowers. Research shows flavonoids found in the soft white skin of citrus fruits, can really boost up your immune system. Drink up!

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



The Club's beautiful and informative display received sixth place this year! Much information about citrus and other fruits is shown in the display that attracted many viewers.



Club volunteers are working hard preparing fruits for the tasting.



Fairgoers Fruit Tasting at the Citrus Celebration!



Tom Schaefer and the lovely Miss Florida Citrus, Rachel Smith.

⌘ What's Happening ⌘

by Paul Zmoda

Plant damage due to the freeze has become more apparent. I now believe we got as low as 24 degrees F. Large trees such as Jackfruit and several Carambolas look lifeless at this time as do some smaller specimens, like the Canistel and a Black Sapote out in the open orchard. Two large Java plums, and the big Longan had the upper and outer leaves lost. Some trees are fine - in fact, both Jaboticabas are leafing out and beginning to flower. White and black Sapotes, under large tree canopies, are untouched.

Due to hopeless citrus greening issues, I removed all my Pommelo and Oroblanco trees. I grafted a Starfruit, and two Pawpaws.

New plantings - dwarf Namwah and Rajapuri bananas, tomatoes, and broccoli.

Tom Schaefer and George Campani attended the 100th anniversary celebration at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) in Lake Alfred. There were many speakers discussing hope and research in the battle against greening and the many ways of approaching the problem. For the past 100 years the CREC has been honored to assist the citrus industry in meeting its developmental needs through its research, extension, and teaching programs. CREC is the oldest and largest off-campus experiment station in University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and unique in that it focuses on only one commodity, citrus.

CREC discovers and delivers innovative solutions that empower citrus and other agricultural interests to conduct responsible and profitable business through fostering scientific excellence and efficient use of resources.

For more information: <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/>



From the President
Tom Schaefer

Thank you to all our helpful members who worked together at the Florida State Fair for the 2018 Citrus Celebration event. **You are a cut above!** We were able to provide 40 fruits to sample! (See list below)

This event is always a hit, plus it educates the public as to what citrus varieties are available. Too bad most members have lost so many of their citrus trees to greening and canker. Remember when our members provided all the fruit? Special thanks to George Campani for his relentless quest to secure so many varieties from packing houses and growers. Our juice, provided and squeezed by Paul Branesky, was a hit also. It was great to see the fairgoers enjoying fresh citrus.

The fruit display was great as were those members who answered questions from the fairgoers. An added plus this year was support from Miss Florida Citrus, Rachel Smith. We also received promotion from Mark Govan at WFLA radio, 970AM. Thanks again to our behind the scenes members for their coordination efforts and those who brought food for the workers!!!

We provided a vast supply of information in our horticultural display about citrus, along with several specimen fruit trees and special air pruning pots. Thank you to Bill & Liz Vega for their work on the display. Although we placed 6th in judging, we were well pleased with the public response. So many people stopped to ask about their failing citrus trees. Our reply: there is hope! By increasing the nutrition to the plants and using the predatory wasp to help control the psyllids, quality fruit can be obtained even as the bacteria lays dormant. Although many have removed their trees, new ones will be planted soon. Don't forget to order your wasps if you find the psyllids on your trees. (Google: Citrus Greening wasps to find the order form)

While receiving so much news from UF/IFAS Extension Offices, the UF Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) at Lake Alfred, and internet sources, we can again be rewarded with quality fruit. Just stay on your nutritional management program! Greening, HLB, has taken two thirds of Florida's trees and has moved to Louisiana, Texas, Mexico, Arizona and California! Search the news of HLB in California. Florida has lost its top spot as citrus producer. But we are starting our recovery, even without a cure for the disease. This month our speaker will be discussing kumquats and learning how HLB is affecting them.

We will be looking for new members to join us, having received literature at the fair. Please make everyone feel welcome by sharing your experiences and helping them to grow some "Rare Fruit" or care for their existing trees. Share your special covered dish with us at our tasting table! And don't forget to donate plants for our plant raffle too! This month we have the Board of Directors election. If you are interested in serving on the board, please speak to our nominating committee on arrival to the meeting. At the board meeting, which follows the general meeting, the board will elect new officers. Without your participation, we do not survive. It has been a pleasure to serve you this past year and look forward to great times ahead.

This list shows the 40 varieties of citrus the Club was able to provide for fairgoers to taste.

Citrus Celebration 2018..Fruit Varieties

1	Bearss Lemon	15	Nakron Pummelo	28	Ruby Red Grapefruit
2	Duncan Grapefruit	16	Navel Orange	29	Shaddock Pummelo
3	Early Gold Orange	17	Orlando Tangelo	30	Shiranuhi Mandarin
4	Early Midsweet Orange	18	Pineapple	31	Shriekinbang Carambola
5	Flame Grapefruit	19	Pineapple Orange	32	Siamese Pink Pummelo
6	Flangtang Carambola	20	Pink Grapefruit	33	Siamese White Pummelo
7	Hamlin Orange	21	Pink Pumello	34	Sour Orange
8	Hirado Butan Pummelo	22	Ponderosa Lemon	35	Sugar Belle Mandarin
9	Honey Murcott Tangerine	23	Roe Tangerine	36	Tangelo
10	Honeybell Tangelo	24	Rohde Valencia	37	Tango Mandarin
11	Malina Pommelo	25	Rough Lemon	38	Td Pomello
12	Mid Sweet Orange	26	Royal Tangerine	39	Temple Orange
13	Monarch Tangerine,	27	Royal Temple	40	Valencia Orange
14	Nagami Kumquat				

œ Club Notes œ

The Club is looking for a new photographer. This person would be responsible for taking pictures of all events and activities, speakers at the monthly meetings, plant sales, etc. Please contact tschaefer5@tampabay.rr.com for more information if you are interested.

Send in 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 Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **March 22nd**.

œ Membership information œ

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.



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
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