



# RFCI

March 2019

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

<http://www.rarefruit.org>  
[Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com](mailto: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, McLoughlin Center,  
821 S. Dale Mabry, Tampa

## ⌘ Upcoming Programs and Events ⌘

**March 10<sup>th</sup> – Bud grafting workshop with mango expert Walter Zill!** A must for anyone wanting to learn the important art of bud grafting. This is a continuation of Walter's talk on mangoes. Learn to do your own grafting of this wonderful fruit.



**April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – USF Plant Sale!!!** A really huge and very fun event for the Club. Sign up for volunteers will be at March's meeting to help before, and during the sale, manning the booth, helping with the juices. A great opportunity to learn about fruits that grow in this area. No regular meeting in April.



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President: Tom Schaefer; VP and Secretary: Cora Coronel; Treasurer: Susan McAveety,  
Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher

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## *Citrus Celebration at the Florida State Fair*

Dear Members:

Another successful "Citrus Celebration" at the Florida State Fair thanks to our dedicated club members and our citrus participating suppliers. For about 20 years our Club has continued to display and sample many citrus varieties. This year some of our citrus suppliers stepped up a bit more:

W.G. Roe and Sons in Winter Haven, Florida was our biggest supplier. They supplied the juice oranges and the tasty new Juicy Crunch Mandarin, along with the Tango mandarin, Honey Murcott Mandarin, Royal Temple Tangor, Hirado Butan Pummelo, Hamlin Orange and the bubbled top Shiranui Mandarin.

Formerly Cee Bee's in Odessa, Florida (out of business) stepped up and fired up the washing machine for us, and supplied Flame Grapefruit, Honeybell tangelo, Monarch Tangerine, Early Gold, Ponderosa Lemon, Bearss Lemon, and Baboon Lemon. A special thanks to Adam Burchenal.

Martin Groves in Plant City, supplied much needed varieties which included the Sugarbell Mandarin, Lane-late Navel Orange, and Early Gold Orange.

Dundee Groves in Dundee, Florida supplied red grapefruit and Valencia Oranges.

A special thanks to the U.F. Citrus Research and Education Center's / Citrus Scion Breeding Program for their newly developed, unnamed citrus: the 914 Grapefruit and the 711 Mandarin that showed citrus varieties to fair goers that are not yet available.

Thanks to Charles Novak with his artistic talent coordinating the Club's Display for the Florida State Fair, assisted by Tom Schaefer, Paul Branesky, Linda Novak, Jager Mitchell, and George Campani.

Thanks to the many hard-working club members at the Citrus Celebration:

Special thanks to "Paul Branesky" the man that makes orange juice.

Special thanks to Kenny Gil and Mike Sweet for setting the citrus tasting up.

Maggie Campbell, Fred Engelbrecht, Yuko Topping, Yoshimi Tamura, Mary Ann Albert, Brenda Payne, Susan McAveety, Maya Premraj, Rochan Premraj, Debbie Campani, Shellie Sweet, Scott Petersen, Julianne Clark, Jerry Amyot, Ann Rhodes, Marc Rhodes, Raffina Dindial, Fe Lerosa, and Verna Dickey (stayed to the very end!), Ugur Soylu, Zaida and Fernando Gutierrez  
Paul Branesky Citrus Celebration, Chairman  
And our hard-working President, Tom Schaefer

I apologize to those I have missed.

Written on behalf of the Citrus Celebration Committee by,  
George Campani



At the citrus washing facility.  
Photo by George Campani



The juice making crew.  
Photo by George Campani



Many wonderful varieties labeled for fair goers.  
Photo by Fred Englebrecht



So much cut up fruit ready for tasting.  
Photo by George Campani





The Club's display in the making.  
Photo by Tom Shaefer



The scene is really coming together now.  
Photo by George Campani



The lush and beautiful Club's Rare Fruit exhibit at the Florida State Fair wins the People's Choice award!!!  
The display was designed by Charles & Linda Novak and Tom Schaefer. Photo by Fred Englebrecht

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## ⌘ What's Happening ⌘

by Paul Zmoda

It's fascinating to watch all the pollinating insects working our avocado flowers. Honeybees are up at dawn, attracted to the sweet nectar dripping from the flowers. One taste and I can see why it makes a great honey. Soon, different wasps join in. Most are paper wasps of different species. Flies are also drawn to the blooms – blue bottle flies mainly, but several smaller kinds as well. I saw a flower scarab beetle and last, but not least, some love bugs making an early season appearance. Love bugs are good pollinators of some fruit trees, such as plums, chestnuts, and I'm assuming, avocados.

While giving my jaboticaba tree a light pruning, I noticed that it's pushing out lots of flower buds.

I was happy to see that one of my wines earned a silver medal in the State Fair competition. It was made from my own Blanc Du Bois grapes.

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## Time for Plant Sales!

**March 16<sup>th</sup>** – 8am to 3pm Plant Sale – Palma Sola Botanical Park, 9800 17<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Bradenton, Plants, arts, crafts, music.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**, 8am to 3pm – Spring Obsession – Lakeland at Munn Park, garden items and plants, art, crafts



Taking a break. Photo by Fred Englebrecht



Sampling the fruit at the fair. Photo by George Campani



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## ⌘ Letter from the President ⌘

*I have enjoyed my 2 terms as president of our organization and 2 terms as a vice president and program manager. Now it is time for me to step aside and to have new leadership. I always feel a sense of community responsibility to help, assist or lead a group of people in a certain endeavor (military, teaching, construction and clubs).*

*As I leave my position, I want to thank Susan McAveety (treasurer and Facebook chairman), Denise and Bryon Provencher (membership, Newsletter editor and seed committee chairman), and Sandra Kischuk (Website host). These **key** people have helped our club tremendously throughout the years. Thanks to Jerry and Cora Coronel for their tireless efforts in all events, especially USF Plant Sales, July Fruit Tastings and program management. Thanks to Scott Petersen for merchandise management and Luba Peretiako for being a gracious hostess at the front desk. A special thanks to George Campani and Paul Branesky for their help (and driving!) with the Citrus Celebration and learning so much about citrus education. Thanks to Fred Engelbrecht, Jud Newcombe and Charles Novak for their shoulders and leadership guidance of our club. I will always remember and thank Bill Vega for all that he did **FOR THE CLUB**. And thanks to so many more people whom I have met, learned from and taught (and forgot to mention). It has been rewarding to me and hopefully to everyone.*

*Please help our club by volunteering for the board of directors and as officers of the club for the 2019-2020 season. Talk to as many members as possible and ask them to help serve. "Many hands make light work."*

*As I have mentioned to everyone, I will not be able to be on the board next year due to travels and other work that is scheduled. I will try to attend whenever I can. Health and family considerations are part of the reason for this decision. I will preside over the board of directors' elections and the board meeting March 10<sup>th</sup>. Without the support of our members, we are not as successful of an organization as we should be.*

*Also, I ask that all members please meet and greet new members every month and make them feel welcome. Help the newbies (especially those moving here from the frozen north) find members who grow the same plants they want to grow or are having problems with. Keep encouraging everyone. And thank everyone for bringing their covered dishes from around the world and sharing recipes! Of course, I want to thank and encourage our members to bring in Raffle Plants. The plant raffle is how I have expanded my plant base! Who needs a peanut butter shrub? One of my neighbors gave me the plant, and I continue to share here.*

*Congratulations to our workers who designed, put together and manned the horticultural display at the Florida State Fair this year. **We won the People's Choice Award!** We had a great Citrus Celebration event too. After a rough start, the execution was great. Wonderful fruit display there as well. We'll need more help next year! Did everyone meet and greet Megan Price, Miss Florida Citrus 2019 while at the fair? Thank you to Megan and best wishes at Florida Southern College in Lakeland!*

*I wish everyone success in the **Fruits of Their Labor** and with the Tamp Bay Chapter of the Rare Fruit Council International, Inc.*

*Sincerely,  
Tom Schaefer\President 2018-2019*

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## ✧ Club Notes ✧

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](mailto:bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com) Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **March 22nd.**

I have a dragon fruit growing 6 to 7 feet tall in a 35 gallon nursery pot and some large nursery pots, 35 gallon and several 15 gallon that I would like to find homes for. Whoever wants them would have to pick them up at my house in Redington Shores. FREE Brenda Payne [paynemail@juno.com](mailto:paynemail@juno.com)



At the washing station. Photo by George Campani



Fred Engelbrecht and Megan Price, Miss Florida Citrus. Photo by Tom Schaefer

## ✧ 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.



***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