



RFCI

August 2019

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 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Driscoll Hall - 501 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

⌘ Upcoming Programs and Events ⌘

This meeting will be held at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Driscoll Hall - 501 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa 33609.



Plant Communication and Interaction with other Species – Emmanuel Roux – Head gardener of the 15th St. Agrihub at Eco Village, St. Petersburg, will illustrate the surprising intelligence of plants, how they communicate, collaborate, and compete via the soil internet. He will share his understanding of the complex interactions between the soil, microbial life, and plants, which is the beginning of the natural process to grow the food we depend on the way nature intended.

⌘ Welcome New Members ⌘

Stephen & Stefani Farrington	Tampa
Tina & Francis Aguire	Brandon
Jesse Haskins	Tampa
Michelle & Madison James	Tampa
Alan Kloman	St. Petersburg
Tracy Riordan	Dunedin
Raj & Latha Pillai	Lutz

President: Fred Engelbrecht; Vice Presidents: Cora Coronel and Kenny Gil; Secretary: Jager Mitchell;
Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher

∞ In Memory ∞



Irene Rubenstein, of Tampa, RFCI Club member since 1990, life member since 2009, passed away March 28, 2019. Irene and her husband were founding members and Irene served for many years as treasurer, was active at the Club's plant sales and the State Fair up to 2017. She was a very generous person, donating to USF Botanical Gardens, volunteering with countless local organizations, and enjoyed her time with the Club. She was originally from Maryland.

Wayne Clifton member of the Manatee Rare Fruit Council died on June 19, 2019. An avid gardener and accomplished grafter, he grew tropical trees and was a member of the Manatee Rare Fruit Council. He retired after 25 years from the USDA where he worked as an agricultural inspector, traveling all over the state of Florida. He introduced the "Dream" cherimoya (Annona) tree, a variety that fruits well in Florida.

July's Tropical Fruit Tasting Event Photos George Campani



Prepping the fruit



Charles Novak and Fred Engelbrecht



There were 16 different kinds of mangoes to savor, as well as lychee, longan, jaboticaba, jackfruit and boiled jackfruit seeds, and other more obscure fruits such as lili pilli. Due to weather, not all the anticipated varieties were ripe in time for the event.

Many thanks go to the helpers who arrived early to peel and arrange fruit, placing pieces in small cups for accurate tasting, and to those who washed, peeled, cut and served the fruits and to the following who went to pick them: Fred Engelbrecht, Lita and Fernando G., Roshan and Maya Premraj, Kenny and G Gil, Jager Mitchell, Bob Latimer, George Campani, and Jerry and Cora Coronel, who also planned the trip to Bookelia to pluck the varieties of mangos, and to set up a system for members to select the best mango for their taste.





From the left: Jerry and Cora Coronel, Roshan Premraj, George Campani, and Denise Provencher were honored with service awards for the many hours of service they each have provided to the Club over many years. President Fred Engelbrecht (right) handed out the awards.

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda



It's so hot these days – I have to take it easy outdoors. All our tropicals and borderline tropicals are loving the heat and rain. All bananas are growing like gangbusters, especially with feeding. I've been using a pelletized chicken waste product on them and other trees.

We are feasting on delicious avocados – I pick up several each morning and after softening indoors, we enjoy on crackers. Only one pineapple this year, but it was so good!

Longans are still not ripe. I'm hoping this seedling's fruit is late to ripen just like the first time two years ago. The crows are already checking them out.

I picked a perfectly ripe soursop: 2 pounds, 3 ounces, and am making ice cream as I write this. Two or three more are hanging on our potted tree – the best year yet. Photo Paul Zmoda

Fruit Fly Catchers

Fruit flies can be a serious problem for fruits. In Florida, there are over 250 fruits affected by this nasty pest.

Accomplished grower and member Charles Novak brought in lots of plastic eggs to use in making sticky traps for keeping the fruit flies and gnats at bay around your fruit trees. These simple plastic eggs, the kind that often are used for selling panty hose, are perfect for this job. To make a fruit fly catcher you will need:

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 cup of corn syrup

Mix the sugar, corn syrup, and water in a saucepan on the stove over low heat just until the sugar is dissolved. Slather the mixture onto the outside of the egg.

The red eggs will attract the fruit flies and the sticky coat will trap them.

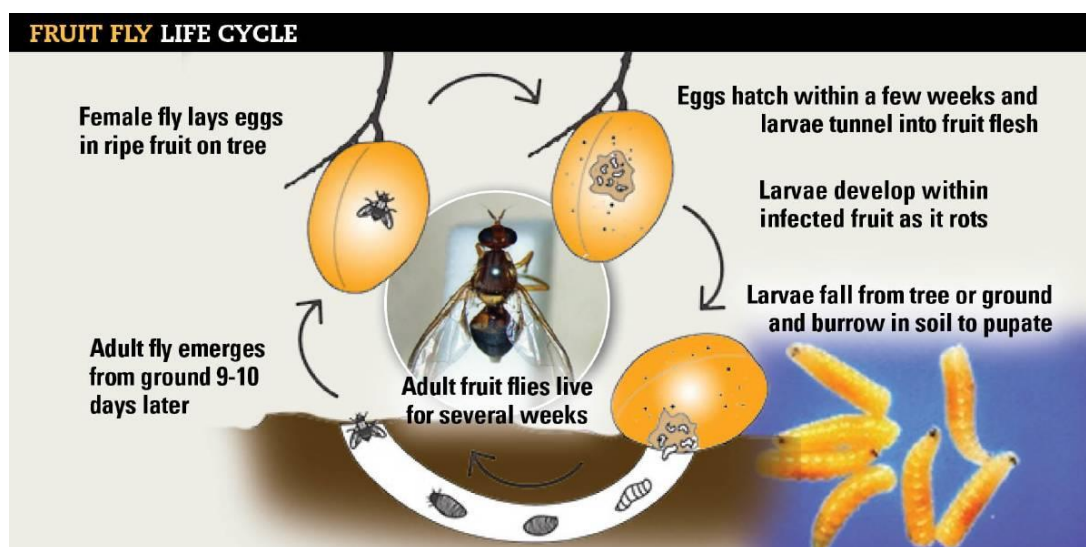
Paul Zmoda, also an accomplished member and grower says yellow coloring makes a great attractant too.

These eggs have a red half and a clear half. Paint the inside of the clear half yellow and reap the advantages of both colors.

Also, Scotts TangleFoot can be purchase and used.

See: <https://www.tanglefoot.com/products/insect-control/tanglefoot-tangle-trap-sticky-coatings>

These eggs will be available at the next meeting, don't forget to pick some up!





July Plant Raffle



Here is sampling from the plant raffle table. Thank you to everyone who brought in plants to share at the raffle.

Plant	Donor	Winner
Sugar apple	Luba	Clarke
Canistel	Coronel	Hill
Ilama	Zmoda	Uvine
White jade	Clemons	Uvine
Hibiscus radiatus	Clemons	
Yellow dragonfruit	Clemons	Francis
Lychee	Provencher	
Jackfruit tree	Provencher	
Kopsia	Provencher	Devlin
Lychee	Roll	
Mango	Rivera	
Cranberry hibiscus	Farrington	
Everglades tomato	Farrington	
Quenep	Vlad	Aguire
Custard apple	Vega	Uvine
Hot pepper	Vega	
Jackfruit	Vega	Devi bliss
Arabian jasmine	Francis	
Purple possum passion fruit	Jene's Tropicals	
Curry leaf	Riordan	
Goji berry	Ugur	Stark
Butternut squash	Tracy	



See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ougUepRD50>

Pete Kanaris of GreenDreamsFL created another interesting video highlighting a local grower of fruits. This time it's Adam Shafran of Sanford and one of the most impressive collections of rare tropical fruits in the U.S.

Adam has spoken to our Club on jaboticabas, and he has many in his collection. Prepare to be blown away with some valuable information & some wild new introductions to some very special fruit cultivars! Jaboticaba, Pitangatuba, Lemon Drop Mangosteens, & So Much More! Learn more by watching the video.



∞ July Tasting Table ∞



*This is a sampling of the wonderful offerings at the buffet 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
Luba	Pineapple juice	Maya	Baked plantains
Black	Passion fruit mousse	Campani	macaroni salad
Latimer	Cupcakes	Ugur	Cherries
Novak	Longans	Bowman	Lentil soup
Amyot	Pawpaw cake gluten free	Farrington	Beet and carrot salad
Hill	Hibiscus tea, hot sauce	Oliver	Toffee
Dexter	Pasta/bacon/broccoli salad	Putnam	Cocoa pudding
Lavallette	Potato salad	Dickey	Salad
Tyler	Broc salad	Vong	Salsa and chips
Schaefer	Brownies	Paul	Bread pudding
Clarke	Roast pork, garlic mashed potatoes	Clarke	Zucchini casserole, plantains
Clarke	Coleslaw, turkey sandwiches	Quinby	Cheese and crackers
Aguero	Cheese, bread, cookies	Kibitliewski	Kale salad

∞ Club Notes ∞

All members! Don't forget your photo contest submissions must be in by August 31st! See June's newsletter for all the details!

Who made the dish with katuk at the buffet table? A member would like to know more about using katuk in recipes, and would like the recipe if possible.

Send in your submissions for the newsletter, pictures, notes of interest, events, tips, recipes, questions, etc. - please send them to bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **August 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.



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