



RFCI

January 2020

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 American Legion Post 111,
6918 N. Florida Ave, Tampa 33604

∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞

**Important reminder: Please note the change in our monthly meeting venue.
See page 5 for a map.**

New address for meetings:

American Legion Post 111
6918 N. Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33604

January 12th, 2:00pm - Fruit Tree breeding with Dr.

Jose Chaparro. Dr. Chaparro is an Associate Professor with UF-IFAS. He has an extensive background in the breeding of fruit trees and genetics. He will focus on citrus for this discussion.



February 6th – 17th Florida State Fair - more information on the Club's participation in the Fair and how you can help and sign up for helping with various activities will be at the January meeting.

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

∞ December's Club Social was an enjoyable afternoon! ∞



President Fred Engelbrecht awards Gerald Amyot and Verna Dickey for their abundant help with so many projects over many years.



The room was filled with those enjoying a good feast.

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

Happy New Year from Flatwoods Fruit Farm! Lots going on here to observe and taste.

Our jackfruit tree, which froze halfway down last year, is right back up to twenty-five feet and making both male and female flowers.

The largest white sapote tree is pushing out many flower buds.

The Glenn mango, snug inside its protective greenhouse, is also making flowers.

Grapevines are going leafless, so pruning will be scheduled before long.

Our Minneola tangelo is loaded with large, juicy fruits. I squeeze them as needed.

Some fig cuttings have been put in rooting boxes and I need to graft starfruits before Christmas.



Early stage jackfruit flowers – photo Paul Zmoda

Floridians' right to home-grow fruit protected



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in late June signed legislation protecting the right of all Floridians to grow fruit and vegetables on their own property, even in their front yard.

Starting July 1, any local Florida ordinance that expressly limits or prohibits growing vegetables on one's own property is "void and unenforceable."

The law defines a vegetable garden as a place where "herbs, fruits, flowers, or vegetables are cultivated for human ingestion." It doesn't however, invalidate local

government rules about gardens "relating to water use during drought conditions, fertilizer use, or control of invasive species."

For one Miami-area couple, the law ends a long legal fight that started when their town ordered them to dig up the garden they had been growing for 17 years.

New Year's Resolutions for Gardeners – Pick one or two this year!

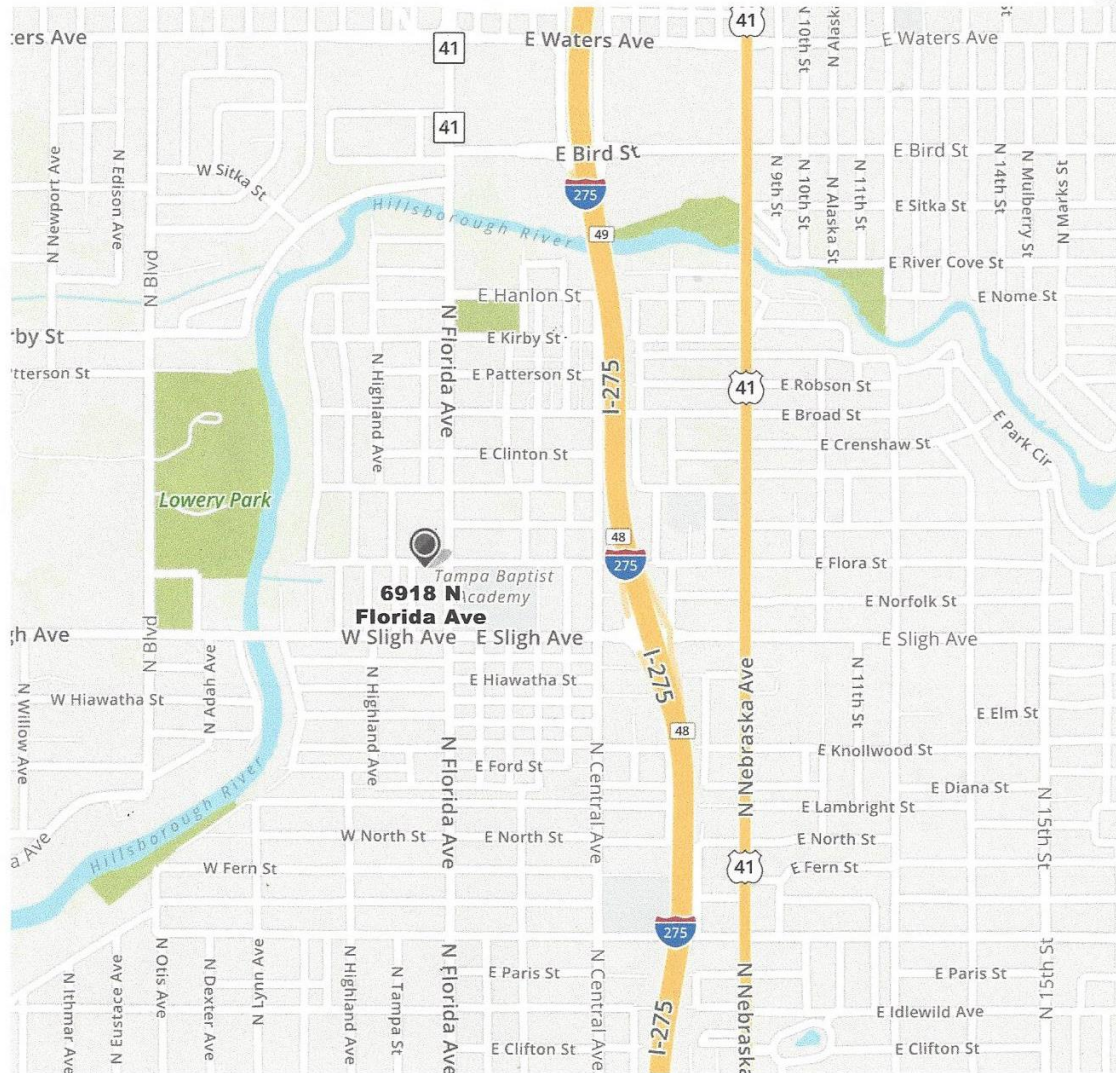
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|---|--|
| 🌸 Plant a fruit tree – or two! | 🌸 Build a raised bed. |
| 🌸 Start a compost pile. | 🌸 Invest in a quality pair of pruners. |
| 🌸 Switch to organic fertilizers. | 🌸 Sign up for a community garden plot. |
| 🌸 Install a rain barrel. | 🌸 Plant more flowers for pollinators. |
| 🌸 Plant milkweed for the monarch butterfly. | 🌸 Support your local farmers market. |
| 🌸 Learn about the "good" bugs. | 🌸 Plant a berry bush for the birds. |
| 🌸 Use leaves and clippings for mulch. | 🌸 Show a child how to plant seeds. |



6918 N Florida Ave

Tampa | FL 33604-5560

mapquest

**Reminder – New venue!!!!**

American Legion Post 111

6918 N. Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33604

Exit 48 off 275, Sligh Ave head west on Sligh Ave, take a right onto Dearborn (just AFTER the intersection of N Florida Ave.)

There is no entrance to 6918 N Florida on N Florida itself. It is easiest to pass N. Florida and take Dearborn.

You will see the parking area on the right before you meet with W Flora St.

Pura Vida Long Neck Avocado

Fruits can grow up to 3 feet long, weigh up to 3 pounds, and sell for \$47 for a small box. These special fruits are grown in Miami. The taste is thick, creamy, savory, and slightly sweet – Edelle Schlegel Miami Fruit co-founder.



∞ Club Notes ∞

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: **January 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.

Funky Fruit Facts.....

The world's most consumed fruit is the tomato. Annual production of tomatoes is 170.75 million metric tons! Bananas, watermelons, apples, and grapefruit follow closely behind.



Apples, peaches, and raspberries are all members of



the rose family.



A strawberry is not actually a berry, but a banana is.



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