



March 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 ∞

March 14th: Biodigesters with guest speaker Ashlee Painter.

Ashlee is currently the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Oldsmar. She has her Masters in Coastal Sustainability from USF, and has extensive world wide experience in Biological sciences and research.

Biodigesters have been used for centuries to turn food and yard waste into biogas and liquid fertilizer. This talk will center around how building simple biodigesters can help reduce your food and farm waste, while providing you with fertilizer for your plants, and a biogas that can be used as an energy source.



April - The Spring Plant Sale at USF. The University of South Florida Botanical Gardens hosts their 31st annual Spring Plant Festival April 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and April 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The plant sale is a big and fun fundraising event for the Club. Volunteers will be needed Friday the 10th to set up the Club's sale area, as well as during the plant sale to man the booth, assist customers with sales, and of course, make juice. Sign up at the March meeting.

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

∞ Citrus Celebration ∞

Dear Members:

Your dedication to the "Citrus Celebration" at the Florida State Fair on Sunday, February 9, 2020, has once again made this event a big success. Sunday turned out to be a nice sunny day and the fair goers kept us busy. During the "Citrus Celebration" our club had a large citrus fruit display, on three tables, for the fair goers to view. The many varieties displayed ranged from small Kumquats to the large Pomelos. Club Members **Jerry Amyot, Jerry Coronel, Rochan Premraj, Scott Peterson and others** were at the citrus fruit display tables to assist the fair goers with their many questions on growing citrus. Special thanks to **Charles Novak, Paul Branesky and Jerry Amyot** for gathering (picking) the display fruit.

Thanks to the many hard-working club members the fruit tasting at the "Citrus Celebration" was once again a big success. We had over 25 varieties of citrus for tasting, along with some star fruit and guavas. The fruit tasting was coordinated by **Mike Sweet, Cora Coronel and Ken Gil**, from the cutting of fruit, to the staging of fruit in trays. Thank you:

Fred Engelbrecht, Paul Branesky, MaryAnn Branesky, Mike Sweet, Shellie Sweet, Cora Coronel, Jerry Coronel, Yuko Topping, Yoshimi Tamura, Rochan Premraj, Maya Premraj, Hillary Cosenza, Alice Stein, Paul Zmoda, Stanley Te, Maria Te, Tom Schaefer, Jerry Amyot, Debbie Campani, George Campani, Verna Dickey, Marilyn Whitfield, Christopher Ramirez, Julene Clarke, Wayne Boynes, Bob Latimer, Dottie Latimer, Patty Quinby, Ugur Soylu, Asuman Soylu, Fr. Bernie Zajdel, Tom Johnston, Kathy Johnston, Fernando Gutierrez, Raffina Dindial, Jager Mitchell, Ken Roll, Scott Peterson and I apologize to those I have missed.

The Citrus Celebration would not be complete without **Paul Branesky's** fresh orange juice made right in front of the fair goers. Natural... Healthy... Delicious tasting. Great Job **Paul!**

Tom Schaefer was instrumental in getting **Julianna Fray**, Miss Florida Citrus, to participate in our "Citrus Celebration". This was a nice addition to our event. **Julianna** spoke with the fair goers and spent time with our members. Thank you, Julianna.

Thanks to the many members of our club who, once again, participated in the Fair's Horticulture Display. This is a 10ft by 10ft. area where we have fruit trees displayed during the entire State Fair, located in the Florida Center Building. Committee Members are **Charles Novak, Linda Novak Jager Mitchell, Tom Schaefer, Paul Branesky, George Campani, Scott Peterson** and our Club President, **Fred Engelbrecht**.

Thanks to our citrus suppliers:

W.G. Roe and Sons in Winter Haven, Florida: was our biggest supplier. They supplied the juice oranges and the tasty new Juicy Crunch Mandarins, along with the Roe Tangerines, Tango Mandarins, Temple Tangors, Hirado Buntan Pummelos and Hamlin Oranges.

Formerly Cee Bee's in Odessa, Florida (out of business) stepped up and fired up the washing machine for the second year just for us to supply Flame Grapefruits, Ponderosa Lemons, Baboon Lemons and Ruby Red Grapefruits. Thank you **Adam Burchenal** and **Ken Burchenal**.

Martin Groves in Plant City, supplied much-needed varieties which included the Sugar Belle Mandarins, Tango Mandarins and Early Gold Oranges.

Dundee Groves in Dundee, Florida supplied Red Grapefruits, Hamlin Oranges, Honey Tangerines and Valencia Oranges.

A special thanks to U.F. Citrus Research and Education Center for their educational handouts.

Thank you to our **Club President, Fred Engelbrecht** for a great job!

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

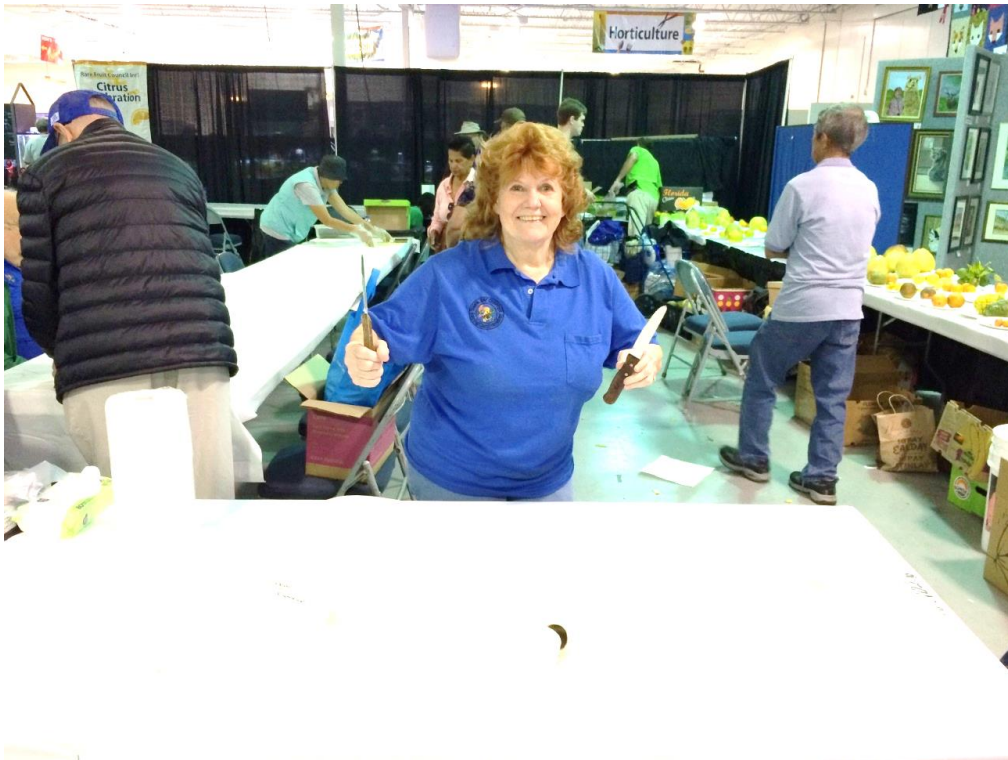
All photos of the Citrus Celebration by George Campani



The setting up of the display.



Beautiful fruit display.



Ready to slice and dice!



Fruit tasting.



Fruit preparation.



Oh, there's a lot of preparation of the fruit!



Squeezing the juice.



Miss Florida Citrus and select pummelos.

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda



I'm enjoying the pleasant weather – not too hot, not too cold. Many trees are rapidly entering their bloom phases and setting good amounts of fruit. One Chickasaw plum in our front yard is a show-stopper all covered in massive amounts of snow white flowers.

Loquats are ripening and pretty tasty: 'Yehuda' was first, followed by my Bob Heath memorial loquat tree. 'Tori' will ripen soon after.

I saw an insect crawling on the laundry room ceiling, so I grabbed it to get a closer look. I was horrified to identify a

Brown Marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys*. I soon learned they are spreading after accidentally being introduced from Asia into Pennsylvania as far back as 1998. By 2010 the BMSB caused \$37 million in lost apple crops and up to 90% of stone fruits were ruined. This could be very serious to all of us as this pest can affect at least 100 kinds of plants, many of which are agriculturally important.

If you see any, try to catch them, put in a container of alcohol and I will identify at our meetings.

∞ Club Notes ∞

At the March meeting, the Club will vote in the board of directors for the coming year. Members are always invited to join the board and participate in the running of the Club.

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: **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, 12722 Prosser Rd., Dade City, FL 33525

RENEWING MEMBERS

Send check or money order for \$20 made out to Tampa Bay RFCI and mail to:
Tampa Bay RFCI, 12722 Prosser Rd., Dade City, FL 33525

Please note as of March 1st, please send memberships to the new address above. We have moved!



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
12722 Prosser Rd.
Dade City, FL 33525