



RFCI

July 2021

**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 ∞

July 11th, 2021 2:00pm Social Hour @ 1:00pm Mango Tasting!!!!

Please join us for our annual Mango Tasting Event. Along with the tasting, we will have a panel of expert members to answer your fruit related questions, so bring those questions! This event is for members only this year as we all recover from the pandemic. The event will not be open to the general public.

Bring a dish to share for the buffet table and be sure to bring an edible plant for the raffle. Get raffle tickets—win a plant!

We need volunteers to help cut fruit. Please contact Cora at 727-403-1756 if you'd like to volunteer to help. Please bring your own knife and show up early!



∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Joseph Stein Tampa

Glenn Hartley Lakeland

Evelyn Murphy Tampa

Stephanie & Fred Merrell Lithia

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

Additional meeting information:

Please use the front entrance to the Legion, your badge will be there, along with sign-in. Please remember to return your badge when you leave for the day.

Before the meeting begins 12:00 – 12:30 Members are needed to arrive early to help set up the room for the meeting, and to stay a little later after the meeting to help clean up. Please consider helping out before or after the meeting if you can.

12:00 - 1:30 We would also like to have the Club's farmer's market before the meeting starts – where members can bring in their extra fruit bounty to sell, or to sell their plants.

At the meeting:

2:00pm The Mango Tasting will begin.

There will also be the usual plant raffle, so if you have extra plants from your garden, bring them on in to share with other members.

Note: Per current Covid regulations, there are no mask or social distancing requirements. Please do what makes you comfortable. Wear a mask if you prefer, many of us will be!

Per seed chairman: There will be a selection of seeds available celebrating the garden fruits of Japan. Seed counts are limited so stop by the seed table early for the best selection. There are several members looking for black Surinam cherry seeds. If anyone has any available please bring them to the seed table.

If you like to renovate.....we are looking for you.

The Club is looking for members who are renovators, or who know someone who would like to help, such as licensed plumbers, handiperson, painters, etc. to help renovate the bathrooms at the American Legion. The club would like to assist the owner of the AL in renovating the facilities to improve them for everyone. Covid hit businesses like this hard, and since the Club would like to hold meetings here for a long time to come, it would be a wonderful gesture to help with the improvements. If you can help, please share with the board members after the next meeting how you can help with this project.



Learning from Mango Men Homestead – a new Mango Reality With Ian Campbell

Photos from: <https://www.facebook.com/mangomenhomestead/photos/>



This photo by George Campani – (L to R) Fred Englebrecht, Paul Branesky, and speaker Ian Campbell.

It was so wonderful to see our members again in a regular meeting! Our speaker for June shared much information on growing mangoes. I think we all learned something new that we can practice at home.

Ian Campbell of Mango Men Homestead discussed how they do things differently on their mango farm. On a mere 1 1/2 acres there are 290 trees growing strong and healthy, providing maximum production. The Campbells wanted to share their techniques for growing mangoes that their years of work have proven to be the most effective. Here are some pointers for great mango trees.

Ian explained their aggressive pruning protocols for the closely planted mango trees. Pruning is a year-round activity producing an open, well-shaped crown, on easy to harvest trees.

For fertilizer for trees actively growing, Ian recommends one that keeps the nitrogen to a minimum, such as an 8-3-9. Do not to use fish-based fertilizers, as they can year-round burn mangoes.

For older mature trees, a 0-0-51, an all potassium fertilizer is recommended. Be sure the type of potassium is not potassium chloride.

Worm castings are great as they are low in nitrogen. Chicken manure may be used but only on the outer edges of the root area, not near the trunk.

The primary pollinator of mangoes are flies. Bees are not interested in mango flowers.



Wash harvested fruit to prevent the sap from remaining on the fruit skin, as it can cause unsightly sap burns on the fruit.

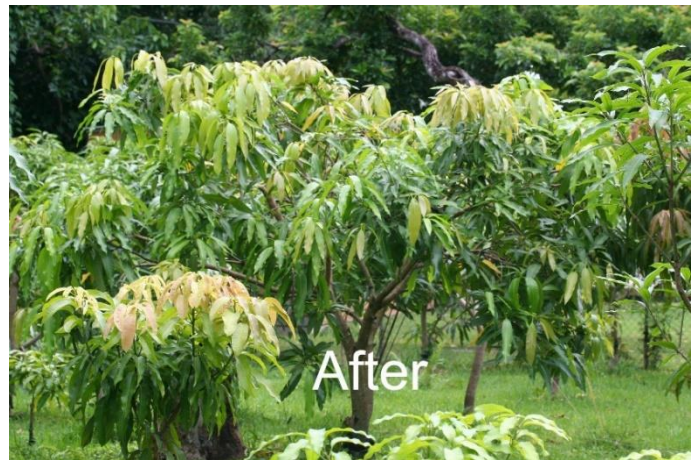
The Campbells do not use compost or mulch on their mango trees. Both can cause retention of moisture near the trunk. Moisture attracts diseases. A drier mango is a healthier mango. Don't irrigate unless really needed. The fruit of a drier mango will have a higher sugar content.

Always keep fallen fruit picked up to reduce attracting unwanted guests to your orchard, such as squirrels, rats, and raccoons. Pick fruit when it is ripe enough to pick to further reduce attracting birds and other animals.

Peppermint tea is great for repelling pests. Just put the leaves in a bucket, and let the oils steep out. Filter and put in a sprayer. Apply weekly. The Campbells use Tanglefoot for many pests. Ants especially are a vector for disease so you want to keep them away.

The Campbells prefer to do all their own grafting. You can learn to do this yourself as well. Remember that the rootstock you use will determine the size and shape of the tree (the scion you graft to the rootstock). Dwarf varieties are better especially for smaller spaces.

Choose varieties of mango that are perfect for you and the space you have to grow the tree. There are so many incredible varieties and flavors to choose from.



Mango tree pruning – keeping the canopy at a short, manageable, easy to harvest height, and open.



At the Farm in Homestead

☞ What's Happening ☞

by Paul Zmoda

Summer is here and so is the badly needed rain. We had a nice plum crop this year. One of the best tasting is 'Guthrie', a hybrid of a wild Chickasaw plum and an unknown domestic plum. Ping pong ball in size, Guthrie is yellow with a red blush, very juicy and sweet. (See photo below). It is not self-fertile, so it is best planted near other plums of any kind where it will be pollinated by them.

Another plum that gave us a bumper crop (which had to be thinned) was 'Gulf Rose', one of the Gulf series of plums from the University of Florida. These beauties are dark purple inside and out. We grow several wild plum species also, not only for their beauty, but also to cross pollinate with all our plums.

Our mangoes are ripening. We have 'Glenn' which has 30 blemish-free gems this year and a three year old grafted mangotina we are calling 'Lydia', holding its first crop of eight mangoes. Mangotina means little mango in Spanish. This type is a common, seed-grown street tree in Puerto Rico.



Guthrie Plums

Photo: Paul Zmoda



☞ June 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
Java plum	Branesky	Dunn
Java plum	Branesky	Provencher
Morninga	Branesky	Centero
Mystic red mulberry	Dunn	Merrell
Red pepper	Havian	Johnston
Fig	Coronel	Gutierrez
Fig	Coronel	Centero
Dragon fruit	Provencher	Centero
Dragon fruit	Provencher	Hogan
Seminole pumpkin	Provencher	Centero
Luffa	Provencher	Kincaid
Luffa	Provencher	Larsen
Yam	Provencher	Gutierrez
Cranberry hibiscus	Provencher	Stalikas
Edible canna	Provencher	Nicolette
Mild pepper	Zmoda	James
Orinoco banana fruit	Zmoda	
Key lime seedling	Dickey	
Lychee	Dickey	Merrell

☞ June 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
Coronel	Fried rice	Dunn	Salad
Johnston	Meatball	Johnston	Blueberry cobbler
Clarke	Fish, guava bread pudding	Larsen	Blueberry scones
Mcaveety	Pasta salad	Club	Lots of pizza!!!!!!

∞ Club Notes ∞



REMINDER OF DUES PAYMENT DATES

All members: During the Covid crisis, all memberships were extended for one year as the Club could not meet during that time. Your new due date for payment of dues membership is on the mailing label for your newsletter if you receive by mail, or is part of your email if you receive by electronic means. Please use this new date for your renewals. If you have any questions, please contact the membership chairperson at the meetings, or at bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com

Contributing to the newsletter is a great way to share what you are doing in your garden with other members, learn what other members are growing, and get your questions answered.

Your submissions for the newsletter, pictures, notes of interest, events, tips, recipes, questions, etc. are especially needed - please send them to bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com

Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **July 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



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