



RFCI

August 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 ∞

August 8th – Doug Phillips, University of Florida's Blueberry Extension Coordinator, will speak on blueberries. Learn how this powerhouse of a berry is grown in Florida, and how you can grow them at home. **Please use the front entrance of the building for entry, as there could be another group using the side room.**



∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Jenny Thomas	Tampa
Lynn Guzman Little	Tampa
Melissa Milburn	New Port Richey
Esperanza Centeno	Tampa
Jose Ugalde	Tampa
Sarah Carlson	Tampa
Patricia Moore	Riverview
Marie Palis	Clearwater
Joseph Ambalathunkal	Apollo Beach

President: Mike Sweet; Vice Presidents: Cora Coronel and Paul Branesky; Secretary: Jager Mitchell;
Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher



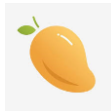
Welcome the New Board!



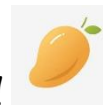
At July's meeting the new Board Members were installed before the mango tasting.

We welcome:

Mike Sweet as President
 Cora Coronel and Paul Branesky as Vice Presidents
 Jager Mitchell as Secretary
 Susan McAveety as Treasurer
 Angela Rodriguez
 Hillary Consenza
 Alice Stein
 Chris Ramirez
 George Campani
 Jerry Coronel
 Fred Engelbrecht
 Scott Petersen



The Mango Tasting!



July's meeting was the great Mango Tasting. It may have been a little smaller this year, but delicious nonetheless. Our volunteers spent the day in Fort Myers picking the fruit. More volunteers spent much time cleaning and preparing the fruit into the little cups to make it easy for the tasters. Everyone enjoyed their efforts.

The mangoes offered a wide range of flavor profiles and textures. All tasters were given a list of the varieties with flavor description that they could check off which ones they liked the best.

These were the mango varieties and country of origin available for this year's tasting.

Tommy Atkins – Florida
 Valencia Pride – Florida
 Duncan – Florida
 Kent – Florida
 Pim Seng Mun – Thailand
 Juicy Peach – Florida
 Turpentine - Caribbean

Maha Chinook – Singapore
 Carabao – Philippines
 Nam Doc Mai – Thailand
 Pickering – Florida
 Edward – Florida
 Carrie – Florida







∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda



Some good things are happening in this great growing weather. We are feasting on Glenn mangoes daily as we enjoy our largest crop ever. Our che tree finally bore some properly ripened fruit. Often called Chinese mulberry, *Maclura tricuspidate* fruits are sweet, chewy, and taste like figs, to which they are related.

Two smallish soursops ripened and they were tasty eaten fresh. So many grapes are ripening that I'm having to freeze some for winemaking later.

Avocadoes are starting to drop – a sign that I need to step up my harvesting. Yellow passionfruit are falling; each morning is like hunting for Easter eggs.

New plantings: five grapevines and a grafted white sapote.

Interesting survey on breadfruit that may be of interest to some readers:

Researcher looking for input from Florida gardeners regarding growing breadfruit. I'm a geographer based in South Carolina, originally from Tampa. My research involves studying how climate change is reshaping agricultural landscapes. Recently I've been looking into efforts to grow tropical plant species further and further from the tropics with a focus on breadfruit (*Artocarpus altilis*). I've created a brief online survey and would be grateful for your assistance in sharing it with anyone affiliated with the Tampa Bay chapter of the RFC who might be growing breadfruit in Florida. Happy to answer any questions or discuss this research further if you like.

The survey link is:

<https://snap.coastal.edu/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=162367429984>

Many thanks,
Russell Fielding
Coastal Carolina University

∞ 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

There are several members looking for black Surinam cherry seeds, Roselle and green yard long beans. If anyone has any extra seeds available to share, please bring them to the seed table..

Seeking Citrus rootstock: need 2-3 rootstock suitable for citrus grafting. Contact: Louis Schulman schulman1@verizon.net

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: **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, 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