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<http://www.facebook.com/TampaBayChapterRareFruitCouncilIntlInc>

November 2021
TAMPA BAY CHAPTER of the
RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL,
INC.

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 ⌘



November 14th, 2:00pm. Field trip to The Olive Grove!! Deirdre Davis, owner of The Olive Grove, 15016 Rester Drive, Brooksville, Florida 34613 will host our visit Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 2.00 p.m. She will talk about different kinds of olives (some grown on her farm), olive oils, tasting and infusion. Available for sale are olive oils, homemade spreads, soaps, and olive trees.

Note: There is no regular meeting at the American Legion this month.

Meet at the Olive Grove for 2:00pm on November 14th, there is plenty of free parking, bring a chair, and wear your Club shirt! There are other events going on at the Farm, and wearing our Club shirts makes knowing who we are easier for the staff there.



Note: There is another event later in the afternoon at the Olive Grove at 4:00pm with a band and free gumbo that Club members are welcome to attend.

Please contact call/text Cora at 727-403-1756 or email Jencofarm@aol.com to let her know you would like to stay after the Club's 2:00pm tour to attend the 4:00 event.

⌘ Welcome New Members ⌘

Melissa Bertoch Tampa
Margie Campbell Tampa
Rudy Orta Tampa
Mark Randall Thonotosassa
Tom and Annie Thomas Palm Harbor

Neal Halstead Tampa
Tyron Hoover Tampa
Joyce Paisner St. Petersburg
Diana Kyle Tampa
Kim Colon Tarpon Springs

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

The USF plant sale in October

All photos by George Campani

On October 9th and 10th, the University of Florida held their fall plant festival. It was great weather, and a great weekend to sell plants, or to buy that something new and different for your garden. Thanks to all our Club volunteers for getting the sale put together and selling! It's a lot of work, but a lot of fun. There were numerous fruit juices to sample, a display of rare and unusual fruits, the Club's recipe book, mugs, t-shirts, postcards, and of course, plenty of fruiting plants for sale.

Thank you to all those listed below who helped in one way or another at the plant sale, and also to anyone I may have missed listing here.

Cora

Fred Engelbrecht

Bob Latimer

Julienne Clark

Jerry Amyot

Mike Sweet

Ken Roll

Saju Abraham

Lynn Little

Jenny Thomas

Brian Gomez

Paul Zmoda

Richard (don't have last name)

Chris Ramirez

Alice Chimura-Stein

Angela Rodriguez-Diaz

Hillary Cosenza

Susan McAveety

Jager Mitchell

George and Debbie Campani

Paul and MaryAnne Branesky

Roshan and Maya Premraj

Jerry and Cora Coronel

Scott Petersen







In Memoriam



The horticulture world is deeply saddened by the loss of Norman “Tippy” Feil, on September 30, 2021 at age 96. He was a very well-known grower of so many fruiting plants on Merritt Island. Our Club has enjoyed his talks and also a visit to his 18 acres for a tour.

If you haven’t already seen this 38 minute video by Pete Kanaris on Tippy, please watch this very informative documentary, there is much valuable information here on growing various fruits in Florida. “4 Decades of Tropical Fruit Collecting as Therapy”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPh7XpvPxfQ>

Also, this new video tribute to Tippy by Flying Fox Fruits Adam Shafran (jaboticaba grower that has spoken to our Club), 38 minutes in length is now available. “Remembering Norman Tippy Feil – Legendary Rare Fruit Grower/Collector”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFWP4GLCgRM>

The question is what will happen to his trees?

∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

It was good to get back to “normal” with our participation in the Fall Plant Festival at USF. The weather has been pretty good lately for growing.

Our monstera fruits were ready to pick when I noticed one had begun to get soft and the scales at the stem end were coming loose. The layer under the scales is eaten. It was gooey, a little sweet, and the flavor was ok. I don't see what the fuss is about.

I cut a large jackfruit off and opened it up. Now this was good – tasty and sweet. Unfortunately, I am allergic to the latex, and my stomach reminded me all that night.

I finally got some fruit to form on our tropical raspberry. I believe it is *Rubus moluccanus*, an Australian native. Like many *Rubus* species, it is a biennial plant – fruiting only on two-year-old canes. The honey bees really like the flowers and only one plant is sufficient to get fruit. I am still undecided if the fruit is worth growing as it lacks any real flavor or size. One thing is certain: it has the potential to become an invasive weed.



Photo of tropical raspberry by Paul Zmoda

? Member Questions ?

Question: I purchased a 3-foot-tall sugar apple this spring, and over the course of a very rainy summer, about half of the young branches have yellowed, wilted and died back. The area the tree is planted in is sheltered from wind, on the protected south side of the garage, but I've found the soil tends to drain slower than maybe is best. What should be done to save the tree?

Answer: Sugar apple (*Annona squamosa*) is a member of the Annonaceae family as are Cherimoya, soursop, custard apple, Ilama, pond apple, and atemoya.

All appreciate the heat and humidity of Florida summers, and the dry season that occurs before the spring flowering. However, they are susceptible to root rot, and are not tolerant of excessively wet or flooded soil conditions. Flooding for as little as 7 to 10 days may result in root rot and plant death. Symptoms of flooding stress include leaf chlorosis (yellowing), stunted leaf and shoot growth, leaf wilting and browning, leaf drop, stem dieback, and tree death.

Since the tree is still small enough, carefully dig it up and place it higher above the soil line. It is fairly easy to raise the area the plant is in by mounding the soil and placing blocks or timbers around the raised-up area to hold the soil in place. Replant the tree at this higher level. This way, the root area will be above the wet logged soil.



A poem in a 1930s book titled "Citrus Growing in Florida" by the Florida Department of Agriculture:

*"Would'st have abundant crops reward thy toil
And fill thy barns, O tiller of the soil?
Then ever keep in mind this maxim true,
Feed well the land and 'twill in turn feed you."
— Author Unknown*



∞ Club Notes ∞

Did you forget me? This cooler was left at the plant sale. If you are missing your cooler, please contact Fred 727-560-4758 to make arrangements to retrieve it.



New badges are coming soon! All currently active members will be receiving new badges! The badge has a new design and font with the Club's logo. If anyone's name is incorrectly spelled on the old badge or on the newsletter address label, or otherwise needs changing, please let me know soon. bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com



Show off your garden accomplishments! 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: **December 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