



# RFCI

May 2022

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

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

[Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com](mailto: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 ∞



**May 8<sup>th</sup> – Bees A Buzzing!!!!!!** Pinellas Beekeepers Vice President Todd Truby will have our May meeting buzzing with information and education regarding bees in our gardens. Bees are critical for pollinating our food supply and we must protect them. Learn about living with bees, attracting them to your garden and how to safeguard them.

## ∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Stephanie and Bill Weber  
Antoinette Fernandez  
Carolyn Hewett  
Heather Bender-Dekosky  
Martha-Irene Weed

Tampa  
Tarpon Springs  
Tarpon Springs  
Palm Harbor  
Tampa

CJ Sands  
Carmen Goodwin  
Melissa Metz  
Don Hendry  
Rimma Pikus

Lakeland  
Palm Harbor  
Lutz  
Palm Harbor  
Valrico

## April's 2022 Plant Sale at USF's Botanical Garden

Photos by George Campani



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



April 8, 2022 commenced the preparation for the weekend's plant sale with the unloading of plants from FruitScapes LLC. and members logging in their plants for sale. And yes, we were able to get the pole tent (canopy) put together once again. After installing the temporary fencing and the setting of tables we were ready for Saturday.

On Saturday the weather was a little cool making for a nice day outside. Our members had many conversations with the public sharing their many experiences on growing and caring for plants. The fruit drink sales (Passion Fruit, Guanabana, Guava, Mango) were once again a big hit and we ran out early. Our Club's membership table was always busy promoting our club and handing out membership applications.

Note, that some plants were new to many of our club members; we had the Achachairu Tree (relative of the Mangosteen) its fruit is said to be sweet/tart? It grows in the Amazon Basin. They say the Achachairu can be grown in our area. Also, of interest to many was the Grumichama tree (*Eugenia Brasiliensis*) and The Cherry of the Rio Grande (*Eugenia Aggregata*), some people refer to them as cherries or cherry like fruit. The plants all sold.



The Sunday weather was nice once again. The members were busy making fruit drinks, once again, and our plants continued to attract the public's interest. We were busy and ran out of many varieties of plants: Achachairu, Grumichama, Jaboticaba, Persimmon, and others. When the Plant Sale was over the packing-up, taking of

inventory, and moving out went smooth, thanks to the many volunteers. Another successful event for our members to participate and talk about fruit trees.



Special thanks to MaryAnn Branesky who made a delicious super large bowl of Lo Mein Noodles with vegetables on Saturday and a large pot of Arroz Caldo Soup (chicken and rice+) on Sunday, which made breaks much more enjoyable.

A special thanks to Steve Cucura from FruitScapes LLC. for helping with supplying plants. A special thanks to the many members that supplied plants for sale and volunteered for the Plant Sale, Angela Rodriguez Diaz, Paul Zmoda, Ken Gil, Rochan Premraj.



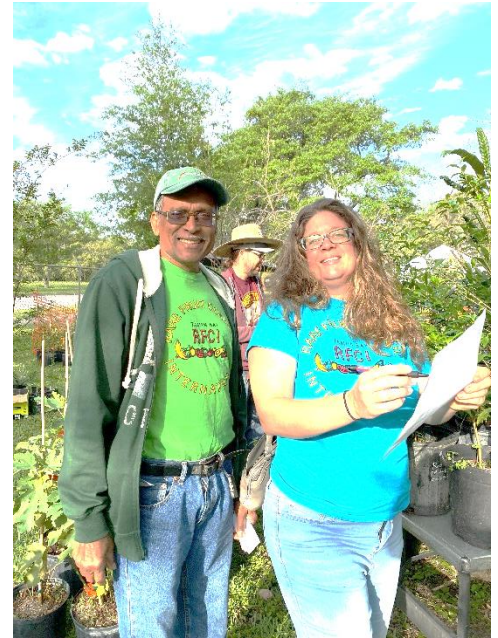


A special thanks to the many members that volunteered at the Plant Sale:

Susan McAveety, Jager Mitchell, Dylan Chadwell, Chris Ramirez, Tom Schaefer, Paul Branesky, MaryAnn Branesky, Scott Petersen, Mike Sweet, Alice Stein, Fred Engelbrecht, Marilyn Whitfield, Ronald Dunn, Bernadette Dunn, Jenny Thomas, Dan Sakuta, Bud Mucha, Maya Premraj, Yuko Topping, Raffina Dindial, Yoshimi Tamura, Rochan Premraj, George Campani, Paul Zmoda, Angela Rodriguez Diaz, Ken Gil,

Debbie Campani, Deborah Reinhold, Greg Bradley, and I apologize to those I have missed.

Written on behalf of the Plant Sale Volunteers, by George Campani, Club member.





**Pictures from the April USF sale by Fred Engelbrecht**



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## ∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda



All threats of frost are gone as 'What's Happening' enters it's 31<sup>st</sup> year. Warm spring weather means it's time to propagate. Grape cuttings, collected at pruning time and stored in the refrigerator are now leafing out in rooting boxes. Persimmon seeds are coming up in their citrapots – those planted last year have been grafted and are pushing new growth. I set up some air layers on longan and pomegranate.

Some fruits are ripe and ready – mayhaws for jelly making, sour oranges in the woods for cooking sauces and best of all – a fully twenty pounds of jaboticabas for snacking and wine making.

New planting: 'Hall' avocado

Full load of jaboticaba fruit – photo Paul Zmoda

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### **Manatee Rare Fruit Council Annual Rare Fruit Tree Sale Saturday, May 7th, 2022 9 AM - 3 PM**

33rd Annual Fruit Tree Sale - Same venue as 2021: Premier Sports Campus, 5895 Post Blvd, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211. We are so excited to announce the Fruit Tree Sale again this year! Growers from all over the state will wow you with their best fruiting plants and comprehensive growing knowledge. Thousands of trees will be on display for your selection...too many to name. **Many rare plants you won't find elsewhere** — all in one place, all on one day.

Vendors will be accepting payment directly for their own sales -- and many will be accepting credit cards, but it's best to bring cash just in case, so that you don't miss out on your favorite must-have trees. There will be no ATM available at the site.

Make sure to bring your cart or wheelbarrow to haul around your trees, if you have one.

**NEW DAY OF THE WEEK THIS YEAR... NOW ON SATURDAY**

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## Spring is bee-swarming time!



Call a beekeeper to relocate them to an apiary before they get into some unwanted place like your house or garage!



### Warning!!! Regarding Honey Bee Swarms

Please, please, please take note that this is an example of a honeybee swarm. They are not building a nest there but are simply resting. They swarm the queen to protect her. Please DO NOT spray them... Just leave them alone.



Please... Don't Destroy the ...  
:"Swarm"

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## ∞ Club Notes ∞

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](mailto:bdprovencher@tampabay.rr.com)  
Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **May 22nd**.



Member looking for Krachai/Chinese finger root (*Boesenbergia rotunda*) If you have some extra to share, please contact Eric - Email: [eric.young13@ncf.edu](mailto:eric.young13@ncf.edu)



Member seeking Babaco Papaya, also known as Mountain Papaya, Champagne Fruit. This hardy papaya relative with a unique, football size, effervescent fruit (hence the champagne name), must be obtained from cuttings. If you have one or two to sell, please bring in to the May meeting. Thank you.

Elena Cifuentes wanted to share a picture of her papaya with members. She had planted the papaya 3 years ago, and it just began bearing fruit after growing very tall. She was surprised to cut open the first fruit and find it devoid of seeds. Another fruit had only one black seed inside with other tiny seeds. Most female papayas just won't set fruit if they are not pollinated by a male, or are hermaphroditic, but occasionally the female can produce fruit even unpollinated. They are just a bit unusual to see.




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**Imbe hermaphrodite scions wanted, will pay.** [Palmermj1@juno.com](mailto:Palmermj1@juno.com)

Monty Palmer, 480-688-2087 643 W 6th St. Mesa Arizona 85201, a member of the Rare Fruit Council in Arizona is seeking hermaphrodite scions of Imbe, African mangosteen (*Garcinia livingstonei*). The desert climate presents challenges in growing this fruit, and best success is achieved by using the hermaphrodite trees. He hopes someone from Florida has some to share.

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## ∞ 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

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***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.*

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