



August 2022

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 14, Tomatoes in Florida. Dr. Gary Vallad is a vegetable pathologist at UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center and will speak on growing tomatoes.



∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Shelli & Brian French	Tampa
Clinton Moore	Largo
Mindy Fisher	Tampa
Jennifer Kron	Trinity
Sarah Bridges	Lutz
Sherrie Gill	Tampa
Constantina Dallas	Tampa
Emily & Edward Wendt	Tampa
Bill Baron	Apollo Beach

President: Hillary Cosenza; Vice President: Dylan Chadwell; Secretary: Jager Mitchell;
Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher

The Mango Festival and Tasting

Photos and write-up by George Campani

The Mango Festival and Fruit Tasting was a big success on Sunday July 10, 2022. However, the planning began without the normal cohesion of our biggest supplier. As the Mango Committee was planning their trip to Pine Island to gather many varieties of mangos, we were reminded of the many ups and downs of the agricultural industry when our biggest supplier of mangos (in pounds and varieties); told us he was having a bad year and had no mangos for us this year. This was due to cold and windy weather during the fruit set on Pine Island and many growers were dealing with less mango fruit production (some growers more than others). Although our trip to Pine Island started with this hiccup, the response by one committee member was the “hunt is on!”



This challenge energized the committee to expand our Pine Island contacts and to visit new mango groves. On Saturday July 2, 2022 the first group from the Mango Committee, (Alice Stein, Chris Ramirez, Patty Quinby, Carmen Goodwin, and Patricia Capitano) visited a mango grove on Pine Island that supplies Exotic Tree Place, in Tampa, with their mangos. The grove owner (Tommy) gave our club members a personal tour of his grove which included tasting many varieties of mangos, picking many varieties of mangos, and seeing the grove’s many varieties of mango trees. After the tour, it was off exploring for more mango varieties on the Island.

The journey continued with a stop at Stanley’s Mangoes where they added some additional varieties of mangos to their total. Stanley’s Mangoes is another mango grove with many interesting varieties of mangos. This stop brought the total varieties for the day to over twenty varieties of mangos, incredible!



What a day over twenty different mango varieties:

Bailey’s Marvel	CaC	Carrie	Coconut Cream	Cogshall
Glen	Graham	Gold Nugget	Himsagar	Juicy Peach
Juliette	Maha Chanook	Malika	Nam Doc Mai #4	O-15
Orange Sherbet	Pheonix	Pickering	Pim Seng Mun	Pina Colada
Keo Savoy	Venus			



Then on Wednesday July 6, 2022 the second group from the Mango Committee (George Campani, Paul Branesky, and Rochan Premraj) ventured out to Pine Island with the first stop at "Gatherings Grove". There we met Wade for a tour of the grove, which included gathered mangos, being shown a technique for grafting mango trees, and then a stop at the "Original Bailey's Marvel Mango Tree" that the Bailey Brothers developed early last century. Here we picked some more mangos for the Mango Festival. Wade ended the day's excursion with an informational tour of the mango processing facility, where they dry slices of mangos, they freeze dry mangos pieces, and they also make a mango puree. We also had fun in the rain and had fun fighting bugs. Great tour!

Next stop – The Mango Factory, where we were able to view some of their many varieties of mangos and add a couple of additional varieties of mangos for the Club's Mango Festival. There we met Doug Flowerree (owner) for some conversation on the history of the grove. Doug mentioned when he added

shipping mangos to the overall operation, he was better able to manage the supply of mangos with the demand. The rain continued!

The second group's adventure ended with 11 mango varieties from Pine Island:

Cho Anon	Haden	Thong Dam	Thom Pi Khan	Valencia Pride
Bombay	Tommy Atkins	Pim Seng Mun	Koy Savoy	Nam Doc Mai
Bailey's Marvel from The Original Tree				

On Sunday July 10, 2022 the Club's Mango Tasting Festival was a big success, thanks to the many volunteers that cut fruit, set out trays, set out numbered cups, and filled cups with mangos for tasting.

This was coordinated by Ken Gil and Dylan Chadwell. They also provided a mango information and identification sheet (handout) that coordinated the number on the cups to the numbered variety of mango (for identification) on the information sheet. This Mango Sheet could not only be used to identify the variety of mango in the tasting cup, but also provided additional information on each mango. Great job!



Sunday's event was a great way to meet new and old Club Members, and enjoy the many delicious varieties of mangos. A special thanks to Sunday's volunteers that pitched in to help and are too many to mention, but this event could not have been possible without them. Thanks to everyone!

Thanks to our Club President, Hillary Cosenza for a great job coordinating this well attended event!





☞ What's Happening ☞

by Paul Zmoda

Summer is here, and it's hot and humid out. That makes me go slower as I work, while the plants speed up.

I hope none of you got tired of eating mangoes by now – I'm not. What few 'Glenn' fruit we picked were delicious. I was able to pick the majority of our grapes before losing the last of them to various animals. Most are now frozen, awaiting winemaking. Many were crushed and pressed for fresh juice – so good at breakfast. I boiled down some of the juice until thickened. This syrupy jam is excellent on waffles and biscuits.

I heard that the Oriental fruit fly has been found in St. Petersburg. Know what it looks like and do not move fruit out of the area until it is ok to do so. We don't want to spread a serious pest around. It is known to attack 434 different fruits.

The weather is good for making air layers so I put many on some plum trees.

A cacao is starting to flower, and avocado feasting season has officially started here.



Bunch grapes – photo Paul Zmoda



The mango tasting table had so many tasty mango choices. Photo - Paul Zmoda

Mangoes available for tasting included: Keow Savoy, Juliette, Glenn, Carrie, Golden Nugget, Malika, Cogshall, Venus, Nam Doc Mai #4, Nam Doc Mai, Nam Doc Mai Mun, Haden, Chok Anon, Bombay, Tommy Atkins, Valencia Pride, Tong Dam, Tong Pi Khan, O-15, Graham, Pina Colada, Bailey's Marvel, Himsager, Coconut Cream, Cac, Orange Sherbet, Juicy Peach, Pim Seng Mun, Maha Chanok, Phoenix.

∞ Club Notes ∞

Important information on the Oriental Fruit Fly – pictures, maps, information on quarantine for both homeowner and commercial growers. Of particular interest to Pinellas County residents as the insect has been found there.

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Pests-and-Diseases/Plant-Pests-and-Diseases/Exotic-Fruit-Fly-Pests/Oriental-Fruit-Fly-Cooperative-Program-St.-Petersburg-Florida>

https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/104629/file/FDACS-P-01884_2022-06-Updated-Oriental-fruitfly-PA.pdf



Sugar Apples!!! Quality Plants, varieties of sugar apples, contact Carlos Dermosheghian, Lutz 813-949-2395 If you missed Carlos at the July Mango Tasting, you may contact him directly to purchase trees. He will also be at the August meeting.

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