



RFCI

May 2023

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 Unity North Tampa Church,

19520 Holly Lane, Lutz, FL 33558

∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞

Important - Change in meeting location!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Please read!

Continuing with the May meeting, and for the foreseeable future, Club meetings will be at the following location.

Unity North Tampa Church
19520 Holly Lane
Lutz, FL 33558

Unity North Tampa Church is right off North Dale Mabry Highway, just north of Tampa, and easily reachable from all major highways such as I75, 275, Route 41, or 589.

May 21st – Please note this date it is one week later in May so as not to conflict with Mother's Day.

Dell DeChant will speak on Loquats. He is active with the Florida Loquat Festival, where “*Florida's Urban Fruit*” is celebrated. This ancient fruit provides so many health benefits as well as being a beautiful small tree with ornamental value. Learn more about this wonderful tree.



∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Lazaro Gomes & Madeliene Rodrigues	Odessa
Tracey Person & Dionne Morales	Tampa
Solomon Roetter & Jessica	Parrish
Jerremi Shoemaker	Largo
Yogumand Balagu	Tampa
Michael Minardi	Tampa

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

The Spring Plant Sale at USF

Photos George Campani

The weather was warm, the crowds were bustling, and everyone looking for a plant had the opportunity to find a new treasure for their garden. There were a great deal of options to choose from, perfect for small gardens as well as big ones!

A huge thanks to all those who helped with this spring sale, from setting up the sales area, taking in new memberships, selling plants, or offering a smile and good advice to those who had questions. The sale is an important fund-raiser for the Club, and always fun and informative.









⌘ What's Happening ⌘

by Paul Zmoda



grape named FAMU 99 – photo P. Zmoda

Job one now is to keep plants watered – potted, and in the ground. This time of year is our dry season, but this year finds us in an extreme drought.

I grow several kinds of nice bananas, but can't give away or sell any starts. The reason is a pest called corm borers. These are black weevils about a centimeter long whose larvae burrow throughout the corm and lower stem. This weakens the whole plant, and it can die and start leaning until it snaps off at the base.

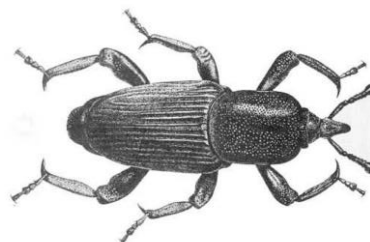
The grapes are growing well; the older vines are dealing with the drought just fine. Mayhaws are ripening; they make the best jelly. I grafted lots more persimmons. One is a new one for me called 'Prok'. It is an American variety with a good reputation.

The banana root borer is a nasty bug. It is found throughout all the world where ever bananas are grown. All varieties of bananas are attacked. There are no easy controls for them. Traps can be used to catch them using sliced corm sections on the ground to collect these weevils. The adults can live for 2 years, can fly, and are very secretive in their destruction, as they burrow into the banana corms where they are unseen. The pictures below show the adult borer, well equipped with hook-like extensions on the legs to better hold on to plant tissue.

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN706> for more details



Credit: G. McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity Database



Credit: FDACS - Division of Plant Industry

Fruit Trees and More
Huge Outdoor Multi-Vendor Tree and Plant Sale
Saturday, May 6, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Premier Sports Campus
 5895 Post Blvd, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211
 Exit 217 (Route 70) off I-75, go east 4.65 miles and left on Post Blvd
 Ample Free Parking Restrooms Expert Advice
 Sponsored by the Manatee Rare Fruit Council

∞ Club Notes ∞



It's time for elections!!!! Be at the May meeting to throw your hat in the ring to express your interest in running for available board positions. Normally elections are held in March, but with the urgency of needing to find a new meeting location, this process was put aside until the next meeting of the general membership, which is in May.

A longtime member is selling their home which has a backyard full of healthy fruit trees, if interested check listing: https://www3.savvycard.com/kathy-celeiro/3017-COLONIAL-RIDGE-DRIVE-BRANDON-FL-33511-T3434986/28vhpougo_lcid

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: **May 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.

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Dade City, FL 33525