



RFCI

July 2023

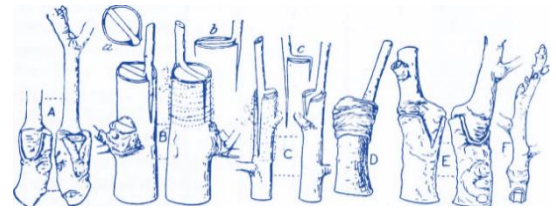
TAMPA BAY CHAPTER of the RARE FRUIT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL, INC.

<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 ⌘

July 9th – 2pm *Grafting and Air-layering with Club expert Paul Zmoda.* This workshop provides an excellent opportunity to learn or improve your skills with grafting and air-layering fruit trees. These skills will allow you to grow more varieties in less space, increase your collection of varieties, have one tree with both male and female branches, increase fruit production, improve hardiness, and all the other benefits that grafting provides. Air-layering will allow you to grow new trees from established branches of those trees that have the qualities you desire. These skills are not difficult to learn, but must be done correctly to be successful.



⌘ Welcome New Members ⌘

Yanina Harris-Bamberg Tampa
Bindi Shukla Tampa
Jenny Conn Tampa
Kevin Matti Largo
Angela Davis Homosassa
Luis Hoyos Plant City
Angie Tukuafu Valrico
Rachel Perrino St. Petersburg

Hannah Lily Palm Harbor
Matt Lawson Wesley Chapel
Christopher Serville Lithia
James George Land o Lakes
Nick Frey Riverview
Lauren Barette Largo
Roberta Harris Parish

In Memoriam



Monica Moran Brandies

Monica Moran Brandies age 84, died peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Monday, June 5, 2023. Monica was a member of the Tampa Bay RFCI since 1990. She has been a gardener since her college days. But when she moved to Florida from Iowa in 1987, gardening became a challenge all over again. After she relearned gardening “Florida-style”, Brandies, a freelance writer living in Brandon, put it all into a book. *Florida Gardening: The Newcomer's Survival Guide* is now in its second printing. Since then, she has published many books that have helped and inspired gardeners in Florida.

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

The 2023 Mango and Tropical Fruit Tasting
George Campani

The Annual Mango and Fruit Tasting Event on Sunday, June 11, 2023 was an overwhelming success. However, planning the event began with a hiccup! Once again, the Mango Gathering Committee was reminded of the ups and downs of the agricultural industry as our suppliers on Pine Island were hit hard by Hurricane Ian on September 28, 2022 and are still in the process of recovering. This made the challenge of getting many varieties of mangos more difficult and more far-reaching than in years past. The Mango Gathering Committee was split in two groups. One group (Alice Stein, Hillary Cosenza, Dylan Chadwell, Carmen Goodwin) went to the Southeast Coast of Florida looking for new mango suppliers, and the other group (Paul Branesky and George Campani) went to Pine Island.



Photo by George Campani

The trip to Pine Island was eye-opening: Once on Pine Island we observed that most of the mango trees had no mangos on them. *(note in these pictures that all trees have to regrow their canopies, one large tree is propped up, and there are baby trees planted to fill in empty spots.)* Our only success on Pine Island was at “Gatherings Grove” run by John Brosseau. Gatherings Grove was hit hard by Hurricane Ian, but they had a few mangos at the back of the grove and John was able to find us a few varieties that made the trip successful: Carrie, Nam Doc Mai, Choc Anon, and Falan.

While we were in the grove, John spoke about the different varieties of mangos and mentioned that the Choc-Anon mango is “unique”, because it can fruit in the summer and the winter; and sometimes it will give you two crops a year. He introduced us to the Falan Mango and mentioned that it can be eaten green. John’s trees will take time to recover and he is

adding some new varieties of mangos. I hope this Hurricane Season will leave Pine Island alone.

Thank you, John Brosseau,
 Gatherings Grove.



Photo by George Campani

The Mango Gathering Committee that went to the Southeast Coast had a successful trip.



Photos by the Mango Gathering Committee

On Saturday June 10th, the tents were set up at the church in preparation for what turned out to be an enormous group of fruit and mango tasters.



Photos by KC Gonzalez

On Sunday, June 11, 2023 the Club's Mango and Fruit Tasting Annual Event was not only chaotic, but a big success. There were event goers rotating around and moving everywhere; inside the building, outside under the canopies, or just gathering outside on the property. The large crowd was busy tasting delicious varieties of mangos and some checked out the varieties on the Mango Tasting Sheet (hand-out) for additional information. Some event goers wanted to know if there were any mango fruit or trees for sale, and where to get them. In addition to the 37 varieties of mangos for tasting, there were also; Jackfruit, Mamey Sapote, Lychee, and Sapodilla. Many people tasted these for the first time.

Many New Members showed-up for the first time and got to meet and have conversations with long-time Club Members about growing mangos and other fruits.

It was just an interesting and fun Event for many people that enjoy different fruit and different mango varieties.

A “Special Thanks” to the many hard-working volunteers (too many to mention) that cut fruit, set out trays, and filled cups with mangos for tasting. The fruit staging was coordinated by Dylan Chadwell (nice show).

In addition, a special thanks to the hard-working volunteers that brought in chairs, tables, put-up the canopies, and brought in fruit. This Event could not be possible without them. Thanks to Everyone! Thanks to our Club President, Hillary Cosenza, for a great job coordinating this festive event!

Written by George Campani, Member and Volunteer.

Photos below by George Campani



Photos below by George Campani



Mango varieties available this year for tasting were:

Angie	Diamond	King Lion	Saci
Buttercream	Edward	Lemon Meringue	Sophie Frey
Coconut Cream	Early Gold	Lemon Zest	Sunburst
Carioca	Emerald	Lucille	Sunny
Carrie	Fairchild	Maha Chanok	Tong Dam
Cambodiana	Falan	Nam Doc Mai #34	Vallenato
Cecilove	Glenn	Nova	Wango 2
Choc Anon	Haden	Orion	
Cogshall	Joellen	Pickering	
Cyrus	Keow Savoy	Pim Sen Mun	

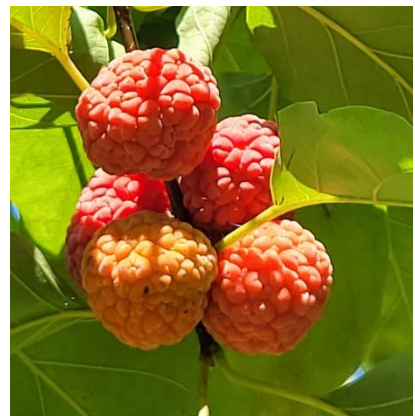
☞ What's Happening ☜

by Paul Zmoda

Most of us are full of mangoes by now after our successful mango tasting. Our own 'Glenn' tree is providing more than enough fresh fruit for two people. The rains that seemed so promising a few weeks ago have suddenly stopped. This is supposed to be our normal rainy season. Some of our grapes have been harvested and put away in a freezer for future winemaking. Other varieties are being attacked from all sides by mammals and birds before they can attain real ripeness. I have netted some vines and placed more traps to save what I can.

We have a single tree of a mulberry relative called by many names – che, melonberry, Chinese mulberry, etc. Said to be dioecious, it will make seeded fruit occasionally on its own. When very ripe, the fruits taste like a chewy fig.

New plantings: Savannah cherry, cherry of the Rio Grande, and a grafted grape.



Chinese mulberry -photo by Paul Zmoda

Can't get enough mangoes?

Mango Mania 2023 Pine Island's Tropical Fruit Fair Saturday, July 15, 2023 at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Catholic Church, 12175 Stringfellow Rd, Bokeelia, FL 33922
From 9:00 to 4 pm,

∞ Club Notes ∞



Members can now renew their memberships online! Go to the Facebook page and renew through the link provided there.



The Club is in need of a new secretary! If you would like to take notes at meetings, and other associated tasks, please see the Board members after the next general meeting to learn more.

The Club's new t-shirts are available! Bright new colors and logo style make these such a fashion statement at the next Club event. Be sure to get yours!

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: tampa.bay.rfci@gmail.com
Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **July 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