



# RFCI

June 2024

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, 1:00 P.M.  
at the HCC Brandon Campus, Room 206/208  
10451 Nancy Watkins Dr., Tampa, FL 33619

## ∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞

### **June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Members only - from 12noon - 3pm - The Clubs' Great Mango and Tropical Fruit Tasting!**

**Note the change in date to coincide with mango ripening schedules. This event will be held at The Regent, 6437 Watson Road, Riverview, FL 33578, in Ballroom C (where the holiday party was).**



**The room is to the right as you enter the lobby. Check-in table will be at the entrance.**

Our annual fruit tasting is an experience not to be missed. Many varieties of mangoes and other available fruits will be available to taste. Member Chris Ramirez from Fruit Tropics Nursery will have mango and other trees for sale.

Come taste which varieties you like best and would like to grow in your yard.

**Volunteers are needed to cut and prepare the fruit. Please arrive at 10am to help cut the fruit.**

If you can bring a knife and cutting board, that would be great.

Bring "mango inspired" dishes to the potluck to celebrate this incredible fruit.

**There is NO plant raffle. Please do NOT bring plants.**



To sign up to volunteer for the fruit preparation, use the QR code on this page, or contact KC at email: [kcgonzalez24@gmail.com](mailto:kcgonzalez24@gmail.com)

## ∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Robert Ruiz	St. Petersburg
Sahniah Lambert	Odessa
Corey McCain	Lakeland
Darren Osgood	Tarpon Springs

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

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## Grafting and Air-layering Workshop and Demonstration

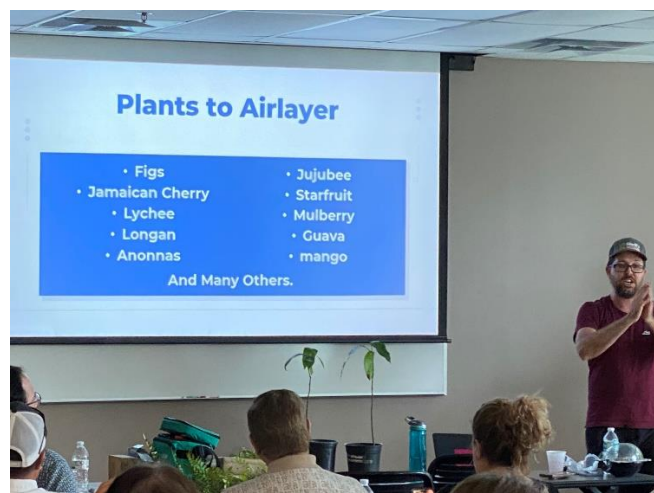
### Photos: George Campani

At our May meeting, Club experts Paul Zmoda and Kenny Gil were on hand to provide members with information on air-layering and grafting techniques for fruit trees.

Paul demonstrated numerous types of grafting cuts that could be used.



Kenny provided an informative slide presentation on air-layering.



Also at the meeting was Paul Rabaut, professor of Biology at HCC, and Sustainability Coordinator, discussing the Food Forest on the Brandon Campus.

The garden area has been fenced, and there are quite a few growing fruit trees already there. Black plastic is helping to keep weeds at bay.

There is an excellent opportunity for members who would enjoy becoming involved with the development of this garden.

Contact Paul for more information on ways you can become involved, or check in with members at the monthly meetings to see who is working on the garden.

To contact Paul directly:

[prabaut@hccfl.edu](mailto:prabaut@hccfl.edu)

[sustainability@hccfl.edu](mailto:sustainability@hccfl.edu)



## ☞ What's Happening ☞

by Paul Zmoda

The long spell of cool weather was much appreciated, but had to end eventually. So here we are – watching everything grow quickly. We spent several days at my brother's sheep farm in Maryland. I was in awe at how the landscape is so green and lush. I looked for the largest fruiting pawpaw trees, and found ten of them, alongside a rushing river.

Back home, there is lots to do such as making new rooted cuttings, potting up finished ones, harvesting corn, pole beans, tomatoes, plums, and blackberries.

At one month, seven out of eleven true cherimoya flowers are holding small fruits, thanks to hand-pollinating twice a day. I have a little extra pollen left over and it's going on some sugar apple flowers soon to hopefully make my own Atemoyas.



Photo: Paul Zmoda – Brazos Blackberries

**CITRUS**  
& SPECIALTY CROP  
**EXPO**

PRESENTED BY AgNet

*Tampa, FL*

*August 21-22, 2024*



AUGUST 21-22, 2024 | FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS | 4800 US-301,  
TAMPA, FL 33610

Tons of exhibits, speakers, seminars, on citrus and other crops too.

<https://citrusexpo.net>

Citrus & Specialty Crop Expo offers **complimentary** attendee registration for commercial growers, commercial grove owners, commercial grove managers, certified crop advisers, grower association executives, government, legislative, and universities.

**June's Fruit Tasting will NOT be held in this new meeting location. See page 1 for special instructions regarding the Fruit Tasting, as location and date are different.**

## New Location for Meetings!!!

**Please note the correction from last month's newsletter. It's the orange building on the map, not the red one.**

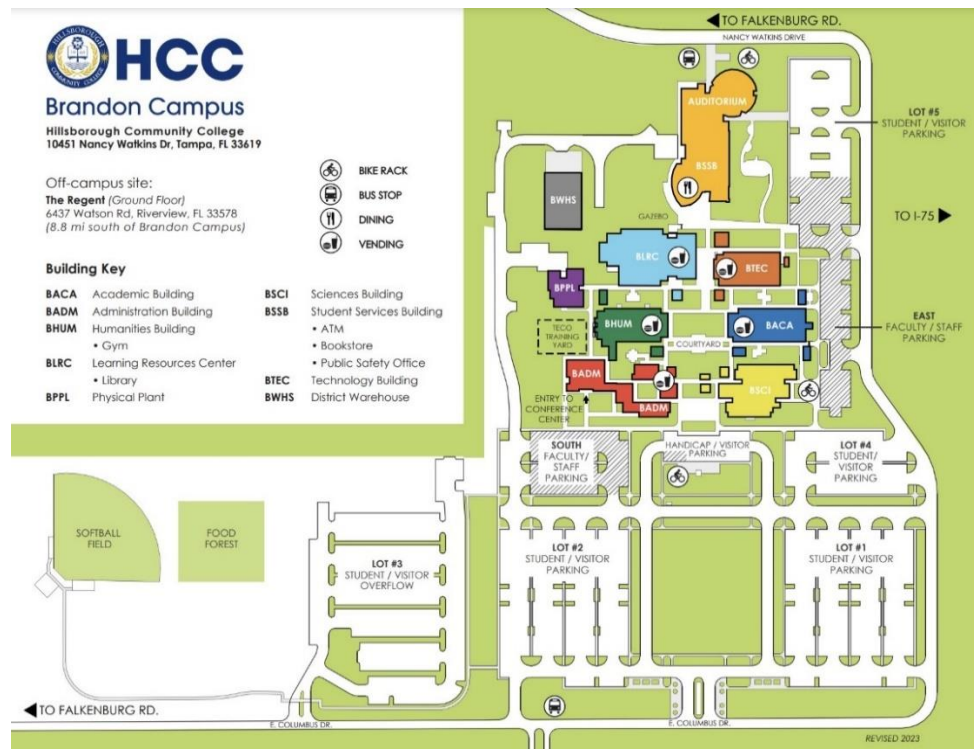
HCC Brandon Campus Map below:

The **Orange** Bldg is the **Student Services Building**. This is the building where the conference room we will be using is located. There is plenty of parking and marked handicap parking spaces available nearby.

Room 206/208 is upstairs.

To get directions from your location use the following address: 10451 Nancy Watkins Dr. Tampa 33619  
HCC Brandon is very centrally located to all major roadways, and quite easy to access.

Note the location of the food forest on the left near the softball field. Members will have the opportunity to develop and maintain this garden on the campus. More info at the next meeting!



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## ∞ Club Notes ∞

**Re: Potluck foods: Please label ingredients in your dish to assist those with food allergies to know whether something is safe for them to eat or not. Thank you!**

We value your feedback! Feel free to submit your thoughts and ideas on how the Club is doing, how it can be improved, what things you would like to see happen, and of course let us know where the Club is doing well. Use the QR code, or

Follow the link: <https://forms.gle/mm8AhGsDaBCTfehG7>



Got ideas for field trips? Gardens, food forests, production, farms, etc. to visit?

Let us know here, and we will look into it.

Also let us know whether you would like day trips, or overnight trips, or longer.

Use this QR code, or contact KC at email: [kegonzalez24@gmail.com](mailto:kegonzalez24@gmail.com)

If you have any photos, videos, or other material you would like to have posted on the Club's social media site, please contact Kiki at [kikiinthegarden@gmail.com](mailto:kikiinthegarden@gmail.com). Please include the name of the person to be credited, and a bit of information on the item being sent.

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### Always appreciated:

Member contributions to the newsletter! What 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](mailto:Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com). Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **June 22nd**.

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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

**Both new and renewing members can also make a secure payment using Square. See the October posting link on our Facebook page, or the link on our Website.**

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Some pictures of the Food Forest area at the HCC campus. Imagine the incredible opportunities! It's an amazing space. Learn more at our meetings on how to get involved in "growing" this space. Photos: Bryon Provencher





***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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