



November 2024

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

Meetings are held the second Sunday, 2:00 P.M.
at the HCC Brandon Campus, Room 206/208
10451 Nancy Watkins Dr., Tampa, FL 33619

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

Tampa.Bay.RFCI@gmail.com

<http://www.facebook.com/TampaBayChapterRareFruitCouncilIntlInc>

⌘ Upcoming Programs and Events ⌘



November 10th, Persimmons with Mark Bailey – that deliciously iconic autumn fruit. Learn about this easy to grow, must have fruit! Mark Bailey is the Sustainable Agriculture and Food systems agent for Marion County and he will be discussing how to grow healthy and productive persimmons in Florida. Persimmons are native to both America and east Asia and both have an important role in local production. This fruit-bearing tree has a place in both the yard and in an orchard. His talk will detail how maximize fruit production of this delicious fruit.

1:00p-2:00p Social Hour
2:00p-2:30p Potluck
2:30p-3:30p Speaker
3:30p-4:00p Raffle

A Note from the President

Hello everyone!

What a whirlwind of events the past few weeks! Hurricane Milton really caused some damage to our west coast. It's crazy we all went through a storm that hasn't happened in over 100 years! I am relieved to hear that most of us were able to make it out with minor damage. Events like this can be very anxiety-ridden, especially for the garden. I personally lost most of my bananas, and a lot of my trees lost limbs. I always try to be optimistic and utilize this opportunity to take a look at my garden through a different lens, and see what can be modified or taken out. Sometimes catastrophe brings new life, and I can't wait to see the new growth that emerges.

It was definitely unfortunate that the USF sale was cancelled as I know that is a time of year that we anticipate, but keep a lookout for opportunities to sell your plants before our regular meetings. As always, I am honored to be your President, and I know we will end this year on a high note! If anyone needs plants to replace what was lost, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Cheers, Dylan"

⌘ Welcome New Members ⌘

Eric Hanson

Wimauma

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

Member Garden Assistance Initiative



As the weather cools off, we're organizing meetups to help some of our members with fruit tree pruning and general garden maintenance.

If you'd like to participate and lend a hand, we'd love to have you join us!

If you are a member who needs assistance with your garden, let us know.

Whether it's hurricane cleanup, pruning, weeding, planting, or other chores you need help with, this a great opportunity. Our newer members are looking for chances to learn pruning, planting, and other garden management skills, and are ready to help out.

Whether you're interested in helping fellow members or in need of help in your garden, reach out to our Secretary, KC Gonzalez, at **Gonza Gardens (Facebook)**, KCGonzalez@gmail.com, or (813) 525-8884. Let's come together and support each other in keeping our gardens thriving!

Hey, Rare Fruit Friends!!

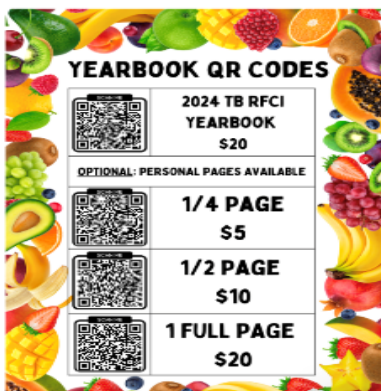
I am not sure when the last time there was a Tampa Bay Rare Fruit **YEARBOOK**, but I am working on one for us for this year, 2024!! I need **ALL MEMBERS** to help make it as amazing as possible!! Here is what I need and am looking for:

- 1 Member Photo (or 2 for joint memberships) like in a traditional yearbook, your Name, and what Year you joined TB:RFCI
- Photos from any 2024 TB:RFCI EVENT, like the Citrus Celebration, Plant Sales, Mango Tasting, or even fun photos you took during our monthly meetings!

Please email any photos to KCTBRareFruit@gmail.com

Thank you for your help!!!

-KC Gonzalez, Secretary



📖 Yearbooks are \$20 (ON SALE NOW), and we are planning a **YEARBOOK SIGNING PARTY** at the March 2025 Meeting 📅 📖

☐ Have a garden shout-out? ☐ A business promotion? ☐ Want to encourage new members? ☐ Honor a member? We have personal pages available!!

- \$5 for 1/4 page
- \$10 for 1/2 page
- \$20 for a FULL PAGE!

☞ What's Happening ☜

by Paul Zmoda

What a month October has been! We started the first week by traveling to my brother's sheep farm for his celebration of life, as he passed away in May. One of his friends arranged for me to get a box of true Northern Pawpaws. I, in turn hand carried on the plane, a big box of fruits for him and the crowd. They all loved the persimmons, limes, and dragonfruit.

Then, on the news, was a hurricane forming quickly and threatening Florida. We decided to cut our visit short, but it didn't matter as Tampa airport soon closed leaving us stranded in various hotels until we were able to return.

We arrived back in Riverview the following Saturday to find the homes were in pretty good shape, and the power back on. The majority of the fruit trees were ok – some were leaning and some were flat on the ground. All of the persimmons, with their strong tap roots, stood perfectly straight. Two grape trellises fell over and the veggie gardens were a mess. The forested lot out back is a complete disaster.

We hope all of you got through the storm in good shape.



Asimina triloba, the Northern pawpaw - Paul Zmoda

A Visit with Charles Novak, a Fruit Growing Legend



Spend an hour touring the legendary Novak garden, and hear Charles talk about all the amazing and diverse plants in his yard, in this video by Paul Nison.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVIwrY0KTPY>



Note: Beginning January 1st, 2025, annual dues will rise to \$25.00. It has been a very long time since we raised our rate, but expenses are always rising, so eventually it becomes necessary. We hope you understand. Your dues supports all the wonderful programs, guest speakers, workshops, seed table, field trips, holiday party, and educational materials that the Rare Fruit Club brings you. Thank you for your support!

Past Presidents Dinner



Back row: From left – Paul Zmoda, Sandra Kischuk, Front Row: From left – Hillary Cosenza, Jimmy Lee, Paul Branesky, Charles Novak, and current Club President Dylan Chadwell.

We are thrilled to share that our **Past Presidents Dinner** was a resounding success. The evening brought together past and present leaders in a warm and lively atmosphere, where we celebrated the contributions of those who have helped guide our organization over the years. It was a wonderful chance to reflect on their lasting impact and strengthen the bonds within our community.

In addition to the celebration, we had insightful discussions on the importance of continuing our mission to provide education to our members about the fascinating world of rare fruit. By sharing knowledge and fostering curiosity, we aim to deepen appreciation for the diverse and unique fruits that make our organization so special.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening so meaningful. We look forward to building on this tradition and continuing to honor those who have shaped our journey.

KC Gonzalez
Secretary

From the Seed Chairman:

The following seeds will be available to members at the November meeting. Please stop by the membership/seed table. Quantities are **very** limited, so don't miss out.

We have procured rare Jaboticaba seed varieties from special collections in Brazil. Please see the seed chairman at November's meeting if any of these varieties interest you.

Plinia cauliflora "Otto Anderson Selection I" This jaboticaba is from the Otto Anderson collection at Federal University of Viçosa (UFV) in Minas Gerais, Brazil. This tree has an upright growth habit with a dense crown. The large, dark purple fruit can reach 3+ cm, has abundant production, and the taste is one of the best Jaboticaba cultivars. This cultivar produces fruit at 8-12 years old, like most other *Plinia caulifloras*.



Plinia sp. "Navel do Juiz" A very beautiful, juicy and tasty jaboticaba with large striped fruits.

Plinia sp. 'Ruby Honey' *Plinia* 'Ruby Honey' is an heirloom very rare jaboticaba variety from Southeastern Brazil with reddish inner skin and pulp, extremely sweet, of size 2-2.2 cm in diameter. Its skin is smooth and shiny, relatively thin, and matures from the homogeneous red to very dark bordeaux red color. A "must have" in any serious jaboticaba collection.



Guapurium caipirinha (*Plinia* sp. Nov "Caipirinha") Also referred to as Bonsai Jaboticaba, this dwarf-sized and densely crowned variety is ideal for bonsai enthusiasts, or those who are limited in space. Although it rarely grows higher than two meters, it can spread up to 6 meters wide in its natural habitat.

Believed to be native to the central-eastern region of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The fruit pulp is watery with an incredibly sweet flavor, highly appreciated by many.



Passiflora tripartita mollissima - Banana Passion Fruit – An evergreen climber, fast growing, produces yellow-orange elongated fruits, with sweet edible pulp. Also very ornamental because of the stunning pink flowers produced abundantly. Likes rich, humusy soil, dappled shade, produces fruit after only 2 years. Hardy to low 20's at least.



Prunus salicifolia - Capulin Cherry – Native to the Americas, member of the Rose family, related to peaches, cherries, almonds, and other stone fruits of the Prunus genus. Requires no chill to set fruit, and no cross pollinator. Fruits are deep red when ripe, with a taste profile similar to common sweet cherries. Needs full sun. Fully hardy. Very attractive tree. Produces in only 2-3 years.



Vaccinium gaultheriifolium - Chinese Blueberry – Blueberry relative producing fruits typically larger than the average blueberry. Evergreen bush. Fruits can stay ripe on the bush for several months. Hardy to low 20's. Prefers some shade from hottest part of the day. Very attractive and ornamental edible plant.



Psidium guajava - Colombian Red Guava – Known for its large, deliciously sweet fruit with deep pink flesh and yellow peel, used for juices and flavorings. Evergreen. High in vitamin C. Eat fresh by cutting in half and scooping out the flesh. Hardy to light freeze.

∞ Club Notes ∞



Are you a member with a nursery selling fruiting plants? Members are always asking where they can buy fruiting plants from within the Club. Members want to give business to other members. Compiling a list of member nurseries would be great. If you would like to be on this list so other members can find you, please forward your name, name of business, general idea of types of plants you sell, and contact info (website, FB, phone, email) to: Tampa.Bay.RFCI@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. Please include the name of the person to be credited, and a bit of information on the item being sent.

NOTE: USF Plant Sale rescheduled to November 9th and 10th The Club will not be attending or selling at this November sale, but will look forward to planning for the Spring Sale. Feel free to attend the USF sale on your own.

Members who wish to sell plants prior to the start of the November meeting may bring their plants with them for an informal plant sale before the meeting starts.

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. Submissions for the next newsletter due by: **November 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

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.



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