



# RFCI

<http://www.rarefruit.org>

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

October 2025

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

Meetings unless otherwise noted are held at 2:00pm:

The Oaks at St. Mark's Event Venue.

13312 Cain Road Tampa, FL 33625

### ∞ Upcoming Programs and Events ∞

#### **USF Plant Festival – Saturday October 11 and Sunday October 12, 2025.**

Our Club will once again participate in the USF Fall Plant Festival!!!

**Set-up is on Friday, October 10, 2025 for the Plant Sale.**

Also, the Club is looking for **volunteers** (and those selling plants) to help at the sale, and sell juices. If you have not attended a USF Plant Festival and you like plants, you should enjoy the interesting display of plants to purchase or just walk around and learn.



#### **Address of the USF Botanical Garden: 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL**

You may use the link below to sign up for Friday site set up, and plant set up, and on Saturday and Sunday there are morning and afternoon shifts.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4FA4AE23ABFD0-57634667-usffall>

**More details about the plant sale, especially for those bringing plants is on page 25-78, and plant manifest is on 25-79.**

**Check our Facebook page for our vendor location. USF has not disclosed set-up location yet. We will post it there as soon as the information is available.**

### ∞ Welcome New Members ∞

Judy Frank Tampa

President: Chris Ramirez; Vice President: Paul Branesky, Secretary: Hillary Cosenza;  
Treasurer: Susan McAveety; Newsletter/Membership: Denise Provencher

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*In Memoriam****Fred Engelbrecht***

It is with saddened heart that we announce the passing of long-time member Fred Engelbrecht. Fred joined the Club in 2002, has been President many times, served on the Board, and been the source of great advice and inspiration when it came to growing fruits. He will be greatly missed. He was known for his thoughtful, patient, and kind approach to leadership.

Frederic Herman Engelbrecht, 91, passed away peacefully on Tuesday September 2, 2025 in his home in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

Fred was an adventurous world-traveler, successful automotive executive, avid motorcycle enthusiast and uber-zealous fruit aficionado. Born in Holland, Fred spent his younger years in Aruba and in New York, NY where he met the love of his life and his wife, Kinuyo. Together they traveled the world as he worked for General Motors for an incredible 40-plus years. While living in Singapore, Ivory Coast, England, Japan, he visited many countries and collected masks and traditional pieces. And, in each and every country, he maintained his penchant for riding motorcycles, culminating in a trip to Sturgis, South Dakota on his Honda Goldwing. Last but not least, in his 60s, he developed a deep passion for growing fruit and his garden today boasts more than 200 varieties.

Member Alice Chmura sent in a link to this video interview she had done with Fred in 2021 about his history and fruits. It is about 9 minutes long, and provides a glimpse of a wonderful man who was always smiling.

<https://youtu.be/28ifZuq6Ooc>

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## Mulberries!

### With speaker Jan Doolin



For our September meeting, we all enjoyed an informative discussion on the versatile, and delicious mulberry. Speaker Jan Doolin of Lakeland discussed the best varieties for Florida's tough weather, and how to grow them successfully. She grows 200 trees on her one acre farm, and has raised countless varieties, assessing their performance here in Florida.

Mulberries are easy to grow, tolerant of difficult conditions and need little fussing. The fruit can be used in so many ways, and is sweet and delicious. One tree can provide enough fruit for fresh eating, and putting away in the freezer to extend the season. Fruit is not usually seen in grocery stores as it is very perishable. The mulberry is one of those trees that is a must have in your yard. The wildlife will benefit as well!

Jan brought in many cuttings of the varieties she sells. The link below will take you to her website Fruit Tree Addict, and there you can find more information on each variety.

<https://fruittreeaddict.com/collections/frontpage>

Jan also has an Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/fruittreeaddict/>

There is also a YouTube channel listing her many videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG5KPn4rFCvo9XKTKVFXERw>

Members enjoyed selecting from the many mulberry cuttings available from Jan after the meeting.





Scenes from the September meeting – Photos: George Campani



Bindhi at check-in, and raffle ticket desk.



The raffle table



Paul Branesky brought in some Pawpaws from the Kentucky Pawpaw Conference for tasting and purchase. Paul and Club President Chris Ramirez enjoying the delicious custardy fruit of the Pawpaw.

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## ∞ What's Happening ∞

by Paul Zmoda

Cooler weather is on the way. This means vegetable gardens can be planted with most anything. I have planted corn, pole beans, oriental veggies, arugula, tomatoes, and peppers. Cooler weather also means you can tackle the heavier jobs without succumbing to the heat and dehydration. I finished installing nine posts for a new grape area.

Our large, potted soursop is looking good. It recently made five flowers and, after hand-pollinating, one fruit seems to have set.

The pecan tree was holding a moderate crop until the squirrels noticed. They knock off so many and eat them while still green. I am controlling the evil rodents as best I can.

We went to Pennsylvania for my father's one hundredth birthday celebration where everyone got to taste my wine. My brother, Dan, is trying to grow a few grapes despite it being too shady. Nevertheless, some were ripe and they tasted like Welch's White Grape Juice. This led me to believe they are the 'Niagra' cultivar which is what Welch's uses.

A few days after we returned, my daily inspection revealed that the lone Ilama fruit had split, indicating it was ready to pick. After a few days inside, this Annona was ready to eat. It was quite good.



Ilama fruit – ready to eat Photo: Paul Zmoda

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## **More important information regarding the October Plant Sale**

If you are selling plants, you must **be present** at the Sale as long as you have plants there for sale. **No Citrus** plants. All plants must be **edible**. **No** invasive, weedy, or prohibited plants. All plants must be healthy, no disease or insects, Plants must be properly identified and labeled. Cultural information is helpful to buyers. If you have your own table, chairs, or canopy, please bring them. All set up must be done on **Friday**, anytime between 9am – 3pm, you may drive your vehicle into the Gardens to unload, set up and leave. **No set-up** on Saturday or Sunday allowed. When **pricing your plants**, remember the Club gets 10%, and USF gets 20%, so price accordingly. Please **signup ahead** of time, as this will help us make sure all duties and time slots are filled. Plus, your name will then be on the list of who gets into the Gardens **Free** as a volunteer over the course of the weekend without having to pay the \$10 admission fee. You must bring a completed **Plant Manifest** for Susan, or you will not be able to sell. **Plant Manifest** is on page 25-79

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## ∞ Club Notes ∞

**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: **October 22nd**.

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## ∞ Membership information ∞



**Both new and renewing members can make quick, secure credit card payment using Square. Use this QR code**

**Check your newsletter email or address label for your membership renewal date.**

**Prefer using a check? Use address below.**

**NEW MEMBERS** - Download and fill out a membership application from: <https://rarefruit.org/membership/>, and send with check or money order for \$25 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 \$25 made out to Tampa Bay RFCI and mail to:  
Tampa Bay RFCI, 12722 Prosser Rd., Dade City, FL 33525

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## Tampa Bay Chapter RFCI

## Plant Manifest

**Seller Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

ALL PLANTS MUST BE LABELED, PRICED, AND HAVE SELLER INITIALS.

ALL PLANTS MUST BE EDIBLE.

[illegible]



***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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Tampa Bay RFCI  
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