

Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club

Meeting Notice

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 13, 2016
Where: Main Room Nokomis Community Center
234 Nippino Trail East, Nokomis, FL 34275
Agenda: 6:30 pm Chat and Tasting Table
7:00 pm Introduction and Presentation
8:30 pm Plant Raffle

Speaker: Marty Mesh, Executive Director, Florida Organic Growers and Consumers Inc.

Topic: What's Organic About Organic

Marty Mesh is an expert in sustainable agriculture. He has dedicated more than 40 years to a more environmentally responsible and socially just form of agriculture.

Marty became committed to organic and sustainable agriculture while a farm worker in 1972. For 25 years he learned the methods that would later become organic standards. In the meantime, he worked with other farmers to create a certification program to differentiate organic products in the marketplace.

In 1987, he helped form Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers ("FOG"), a not-for-profit organization becoming its Executive Director in 1995. The goal was to educate farmers and the public about organic production through their programs and initiatives. Under his leadership, FOG developed Quality Certification Services, a USDA, ISO Guide 65 and ANSI accredited organic certification program.

Marty has spoken at conferences all around the world on the subjects of organic production, food security, farm and food policy and sustainable agriculture. He is active in local and state policy and represents FOG on the National Sustainable Agricultural Coalition. He has served on the Board of Directors for many organizations. He has been recognized by *Natural Food Merchandiser* as one of the "Top 25 People Who Have Most Influenced the Organic Industry".

Marty is featured in and co-produced the documentary film "What's Organic About Organic" which was produced and directed by his wife, Shelley Rogers.