

# *Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club*

## *Meeting Notice*

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014  
**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:** Noris Ledesma, Curator of Tropical Fruit, Fairchild  
Tropical Botanic Garden

**Topic:** For the Love of Mangos

If you don't like mangos, perhaps this meeting is not for you; but then again who doesn't like mangos? Mangos are a special fruit that have everything: aromas, flavors, colors and culture. They can bring out passion and can appeal to everyone. Everyone with a yard, a patio or a balcony should always have a place for at least one or two mango trees.

It has been more than 200 years since mangos arrived in Florida, carried here by pirates. But it wasn't until 1889 that grafted Indian varieties were successfully introduced in Florida. That successful introduction was made by Dr. David Fairchild. Today, of the estimated 1,000 mango varieties grown around the world, 600 plus different varieties are grown at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

For those of you that saw our exclusive showing last fall of the film The Fruit Hunters, you know that Noris Ledesma is a fruit hunter. She is Curator of Tropical Fruit at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. She is one of the leading experts in the world on tropical fruits with a particular emphasis on mangos. As a plant collector her travels have taken her to Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Thailand, Philippines, South Africa, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Colombia, Brazil and India.

She has authored over one hundred scientific and popular articles on fruit culture in the last decade, as well as co-authored three books.