Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club

Meeting Notice

Next Meeting:	**Wednesday, January 11, 2017**
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:	**Dr. Kevan Main, Director & Senior Scientist and Program Manager for the Marine & Freshwater Aquaculture Research Directorate of Fisheries & Aquaculture at Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL**
Topic:	**Sustainable Approaches to Growing Redfish and Sea Vegetables for Local Communities**

Dr. Kevan Main is a world renowned scientist with more than 30 years of experience in aquaculture. Dr. Main is the Director & Senior Scientist and Program Manager for the Marine & Freshwater Aquaculture Research Directorate of Fisheries & Aquaculture at Mote Marine Laboratory. She is the Past President of the World Aquaculture Society and she is the 2017 Steering Committee Chair of the World Aquaculture Society.

Dr. Main has recognized the potential for a seafood crisis in the U.S. and is doing her best to alter that course. It is estimated that 91% of the seafood we eat in this country is imported. Dr. Main and her team at Mote Marine Laboratory conduct ongoing research in aquaculture initially devoting their attention locally to bring aquaculture derived products to the Sarasota market while sharing their technology on a national level.

Dr. Main and her team conduct their research at the Mote Aquaculture Park located on 200 acres east of I-75 in Sarasota County where they focus on the marriage of aquaculture and hydroponic growing techniques. The project builds on two practices trending in global food production: Aquaculture and Hydroponics. Seafood farming today provides half the world's seafood, while hydroponics, which involves growing greenhouse crops in nutrient-rich water instead of soil, has shown potential for raising crops in small areas or unfertile land. While the concept of aquaponics is not new, previously, aquaponics was focused on freshwater operations. Dr. Main's team has successfully added an important dimension to the mix: the ability to sustain in-land marine aquaponics focused specifically on saltwater fish and sea vegetables.