Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club Meeting Notice

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2015

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: Danny Blank, 12 Seasons Farm, Olga, Florida

Topic: Edible Landscaping with an Organic Approach

For 16 years, Danny Blank was an ECHO farm manager responsible for their fruit tree collections. Currently, he and his wife own and operate 12 Seasons Farm, where they have 10 acres, in Olga, Florida, east of Ft. Myers.

Presently, 12 Seasons Farm has 20 varieties of citrus. As we all know, citrus greening has had an effect on all of us as "Backyard Farmers" and especially commercial growers like Danny.

Danny's presentation will be a journey of his experiences as a citrus grower impacted by citrus greening, the steps he has taken to mitigate against the economic impact of greening and the options he chose to diversify into other fruits and vegetables.

Danny's diversification into other fruits and vegetables includes, among others, 41 varieties of tomatoes (21 heirloom and 20 hybrids of specific tastes), and strawberries. All are grown organically.

Danny will detail the main practices he has employed and the success he has encountered with his alternatives to citrus.