

**MEETING NOTICE
SUNCOAST TROPICAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CLUB, INC.
FEBRUARY 13, 2013**

**NOKOMIS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
234 NIPPINO TRAIL EAST
NOKOMIS, FL 34275**

**TIME
SNACKS 6:30
MEETING 7:00
SPEAKER 7:15 – 8:30**

SPEAKER: CRAFTON CLIFT

How many of you have read the book written by Adam Leith Gollner, "The Fruit Hunters, A Story of Nature, Adventure, Commerce and Obsession"? If you did not read the book, you may have a chance to see the recently filmed documentary based on the book that is presently on the film festival circuit in the U.S.

Why do I ask? The "Fruit Hunters" is a paean to the overwhelming diversity of fruits on this planet. The book tracks the stories of passionate and eccentric characters who dedicate their lives to studying, growing and preserving fruit varieties; some rare others most likely you have tasted. These characters made what once were exotic fruits mainstream and their search for new fruits and varieties have helped to promote biodiversity.

Crafton Clift is one of the "characters" cited in the "Fruit Hunters". He is one of a handful of men and women who have reached legendary status in Florida horticulture, and none has reached the international fame (and sometimes humorous notoriety) of Crafton Clift. The story goes that he may be frisked and relieved of his grafting knife before being allowed into some fruit parks and research stations because he has been caught doing "illicit" (or at least unauthorized) grafting. Crafton goes to Egypt to help one friend start a mango orchard and to Ecuador to help another start an avocado farm and to Guyana for a jackfruit farm, just for the fun of the trip, grafting thousands of trees. You ask a question on horticulture or tropical gardening and you get a knowledgeable answer.

Crafton will bring examples of fruits and vegetables that grow in our area and talk about how to grow them. We are fortunate and proud to have Crafton Clift as our next speaker.