

Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club

Meeting Notice

- Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 9, 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:** Debbie Hughes, Senior Horticulturist and
Historical Garden Manager, Edison & Ford Winter
Estates
- Topic:** What is Old is New Again in the Garden

Debbie Hughes is Senior Horticulturist and Historical Garden Manager at Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers.

The Edison & Ford Winter Estates has over 20 acres of botanical gardens, 9 historic buildings including Edison's Botanic Research Laboratory and the Edison Ford Museum which contains an impressive collection of inventions, artifacts and special exhibit galleries. Today, the gardens contain more than 1,700 plants representing more than 400 species from six continents. The Estates collection includes the sausage tree, tropical fruit trees, orchids, bromeliads, cycads, and more than 50 species of palms.

It is interesting to note that Henry and Clara Ford owned a Florida estate named "The Mangoes" for the alley of mango trees that lined their property and the Edison Estate. The Edison family added innumerable orchids in the mango trees on this area of their property, which they called "Orchid Lane." Today Edison Ford continues the tradition begun by the Edison and Ford families. In fact, there are 17 different mango varieties on the property, including the "old Florida turpentine mango."

Edison Ford collaborates with ECHO gathering turpentine mango seeds. ECHO nursery grows the seeds as rootstock, grafts mango varieties to the rootstock, and distributes grafted fruit trees to needy communities throughout the globe to help grow their own. Edison's old mangoes have made their way around the world.

Debbie is a certified Horticultural Professional through the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association and through the Society of Horticultural Scientists. She is also a Certified Arborist.