

## Collier Fruit Growers, Inc.

In conjunction with the 'Tasting the Tropics' festival  
Is proud to announce a series of four lectures from 2:00 - 5:00 pm, July 2, 2022  
in the Buehler Auditorium, Naples Botanical Garden

**The lectures will be free to all persons**  
**A mango tasting and light refreshments will be available.**

**Dr. Noris Ledesma** will discuss her research with mangoes and related *Mangifera* species.



Dr. Ledesma is a renowned horticulturist specializing in tropical fruits. Her work experience includes throughout Latin America, Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Africa, India, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. She is a courtesy professor at the University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead FL. Currently work as a consultant with mango industry in Peru, USA, Mexico, and the Middle East.

Her work includes collecting *Mangifera* species and their contribution to the people of Borneo. Undergoing research includes creating interspecific hybrids between *Mangifera indica* and selected species. She is looking for a perfect mango, a mango variety than possess tree dwarfness, attractive color with good quality fruit, and tolerant to diseases for new sustainable and organic crops and production systems. She is active sharing her knowledge in South Florida, lecturing and doing volunteer work.

**Awards:** Florida State Horticulture Society President Industry Award for years: 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Florida State Horticulture Society Outstanding Commercial Horticulturist Award for having made significant contributions to the commercial Horticulture in Florida, June 2017.

**Books:** Book Chapters: Mango encyclopedia, Oman, 2018. The Genetic Diversity of Mangos, Achieving sustainable Cultivation of Mangos, 2018, and Avocado, Sustainable Horticultural systems, 2017. For the Love of Mangos-India, (2008), Miami Children Hospital Foundation. 2008. "Miami Flavors: Our City's Culinary Point of View", Miami Florida. A Quick Guide of Mangos (2005), The Exotic Jackfruit: Growing the World's Largest Fruit (2003); and Mangos: A Guide to Mangos in Florida (1992). She has authored over a hundred scientific and popular articles on fruit culture in the last decade, as well as coauthor three books, and numerous scientific publications and popular articles.

**Craig Morell** will give a brief history of The Kampong and will discuss propagation methods.



Mr. Morell recently retired from being the Director of The Kampong, David Fairchild's winter retreat on Biscayne Bay in Coral Gables, Florida. Craig is a lifelong horticulturist, starting his love of plants in the 1970s, growing orchids on the windowsills of his parents' home in Milwaukee. After reading David Fairchild's book "Garden Islands of the Great East" as a teenager, Craig decided to pursue horticulture as a career.

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Following the trail of a career in horticulture, Craig attended the University of Florida-Gainesville, working in nurseries along the path to an education in ornamental horticulture, as well as apprenticing with a master orchid hybridizer in Gainesville.

After graduation, Craig worked at the Florida Dept. of Agriculture at Chapman Field; a small orchid company in West Palm Beach; ten years as Horticulturist at the Boca Raton Resort in Boca Raton; and eleven years as Horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens in Miami.

**Jessica M. Ryals** will discuss 'Food Safety' & the current Florida Cottage Industry Regulations.



Jessica M. Ryals is the Agriculture & Sustainable Food Systems Agent in Collier County. She develops agricultural programs that focus on small farms, farm food safety, business development, agricultural awareness, consumer education and policy. She also enjoys gardening, chicken rearing and cooking. Email Jessica if you'd like to be added to the mailing list where information about workshops, classes and other UF/IFAS Extension resources can be sent: [jessicaryals@ufl.edu](mailto:jessicaryals@ufl.edu)

**Publications:**

- Costs and Benefits of Vegetable Gardening
- Raising Backyard Chickens for Eggs

**Posts by Jessica Ryals include:**

- Recap: Spring 2022 SWFL Small Farmer Network Meeting on National OJ Day
- Mulching Tropical Fruit Trees
- Planning A Tropical Fruit Grove
- 2022 Annual Collier County Ag Tour Recap
- 4-H Livestock Weigh-in: More Than Meets the Eye
- Are Colorful Chicken Eggs Healthier than White Eggs?
- What's an On-Farm Readiness Review (OFRR) and how can it help your small farm?
- Professional networking helps Southwest Florida farmers
- Carambola (Star Fruit) in Collier County
- Yearning to Learn about Tropical Fruit? Think JAMAS!

**Brian Galligan** will outline NBG's plans for the propagation, research, and accession of fruit trees.



Brian Galligan is the Vice President of Horticulture, Naples Botanical Garden. Part of what makes Southwest Florida special is its subtropical landscape, and Galligan is all about expanding and preserving it. He's responsible for every plant that grows within Naples Botanical Garden and helped developed it from a 170-acre wasteland of invasive plants to the nationally recognized botanical garden it is today. The certified arborist is especially skilled with ornamental plants and tropical fruits and offers his expertise to many community organizations, guiding their efforts in sustainable landscaping. In addition, he's volunteered with the National Park Service to eradicate invasive exotic species and preserve natural ecosystems.

Brian loves all things outdoors, including mountain biking, fishing, hunting, hiking, backpacking, and camping. He has two children with his wife, Rebecca.