



Quarterly FSHS Newsletter

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In this issue:

- 1 Conference Update
- 2 Marie Selby Botanic Gardens
- 3 Untapped Potential in Common Fruit Trees
- 4 Editor's Report
- 5 Marketing Coordinator Needed
- 6 Get Social with FSHS
- 6 2021-2022 FSHS Board of Directors & Sectional Vice Presidents
- 6 FSHS Committee Chairs & Administrative Contacts

FSHS 135th Annual Conference News Update

By John L. Griffis, Jr., FSHS President

The **Mango Grower's Summit**, sponsored by the National Mango Board, will again be a portion of the Krome Memorial Section at this year's annual conference. Additionally, the entire Krome Memorial section of FSHS will be available virtually. The Monday morning, Monday afternoon, and Tuesday morning sessions for Krome Memorial will be available both in-person at the conference and also available online, and the Tuesday afternoon Mango Grower's Summit, with seven presentations, will be available **online only**.

Of course, we want to see you at the conference, but if, for some reason you cannot attend in person, you can register to attend all of the Krome Memorial sessions online. Attendees who register to attend the conference in person will also be able to view the Krome Memorial sessions online including the Tuesday afternoon online only Mango Grower's Summit session.





Marie Selby Botanic Gardens

A wonderful place to visit on “FSHS Day”, Sunday, June 5, 2022

By John L. Griffis, Jr., FSHS President

Only a few minutes’ drive from the Hyatt Regency Sarasota – the 2022 FSHS conference venue – you’ll find “the gardens”. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens was founded in 1973 when Sarasota resident and passionate gardener Marie Selby bequeathed her former home and property “for the enjoyment of the general public.” The 15-acre original Downtown Sarasota campus features botanical highlights such as a captivating banyan grove planted by Marie and her husband, William, nearly a century ago. Selby Gardens is the only botanical garden in the world dedicated to the display and study of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads and ferns, and other tropical plants. The historic Payne Mansion on adjoining property was purchased in 1973 and now houses the Gardens’ Museum. Selby Gardens maintains a plant collection representing specimens collected from New World Tropic locations during research expeditions and acquisitions from international institutions. The collection numbers more than 20,000 greenhouse plants, plus thousands more in the outdoor gardens. Eight greenhouses include the stunning Tropical Conservatory – the only greenhouse that is open to the public where unusual flora can be seen year-round. The Botany Department provides headquarters for the Bromeliad, Gesneriad, and Orchid Research Centers, and Selby Gardens’ Herbarium, Spirit Collection and Molecular Laboratory. The Ann Goldstein Children’s Rainforest Garden, opened in November 2013, features interactive stations that allow children and families to explore rainforest plants and habitats. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens has, in short, become a respected center for research and education, as well as a famous showplace that delights more than 200,000 visitors each year.

FSHS members can buy discounted admission tickets with their FSHS conference registration. Discounted tickets will be available only if purchased online one week before June 5, 2022; after that time, admission tickets at the regular price can be purchased at the Gardens. The Gardens are open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily.

Garden Map



WiFi, accessibility icons, social media handles: @selbygardens, #selbygardens

Selby Gardens programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenue.

Untapped Potential in Common Fruit Trees

By Mark Bailey

Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Agent

UF/IFAS Extension Marion County



Mark Bailey
ironhill@ufl.edu

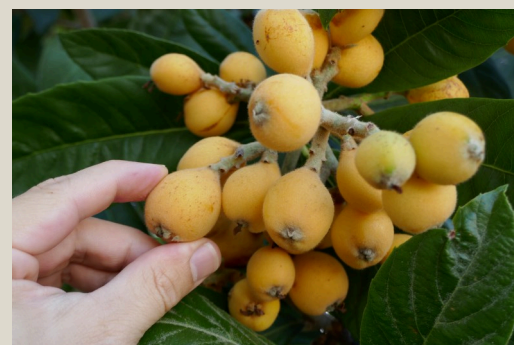
Florida's climate allows for a wide range of fruit crops to be grown year-round and only a small fraction of these fruit crops are produced on a large commercial scale. Citrus, strawberries, and blueberries make up the vast majority of fruit production in the state. Alternative crops such as avocados, lychee, carambola, peaches, and passion fruit could see expanded acreage in the future. While many of these alternative crops should continue to be researched and promoted, there are existing fruit crops that may have been overlooked as potentially commercially viable fruit crops.

Firstly, before a crop is rigorously investigated for its commercial potential there are several key questions that need to be asked. The most important question is: "will this crop grow well in Florida's environment?" What methods will be used to maximize crop yield and produce this crop sustainably? How can this crop become a commercial success? Once these key questions have at least tentative answers, the crops can then be further investigated for potential adoption.

Throughout Florida there are specific fruit trees grown for dooryard production and yet they have little or no commercial production. If Florida residents are easily growing these in their yard for their own consumption, could commercial production be an option as well? The top three candidates that should be considered are loquats, mulberries, and persimmons. These three fruit trees are grown on many thousands of acres all over the world and have proven to be commercially successful crops elsewhere. What needs to be determined is whether or not they will be a commercial success in Florida.

Loquats (*Eriobotrya japonica*) are extremely well-adapted to most conditions that Florida has to offer. They are tolerant to drought, temperature extremes, and have strong resistance to a range of pests and pathogens. Loquats will need several years before they will begin to produce substantial quantities of fruit, so planting older trees will accelerate the process for a grower. Once established, a loquat tree can produce a massive crop reliably and typically with no required inputs. Also, loquats come into season in very early spring, when many other fruit crops are months away from ripening. There are hundreds of loquat varieties grown all over the world and many have not yet been assessed for their crop potential in Florida. Loquats can be harvested by hand by breaking off bunches of fruit or individually.

Once harvested, they can last for several days at room temperature with little reduction to appearance or quality. If the fruit is bruised during harvesting or postharvest it will discolor in similar fashion to a pear or apple, which it is related to. Loquats are most commonly consumed as fresh fruit in international markets and they can be used for a great variety of culinary purposes.



Loquats (above) and mulberries (below) have potential as a commercial crop in Florida.



Mulberries (*Morus spp.*) are another fruit tree that is exceptionally well-adapted to Florida's variable climate. There are several species of mulberry that have potential as a commercial fruit crop. The native red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) and the black mulberry (*Morus nigra*), among others, have potential as a commercial crop throughout Florida. Like the loquat, once established the required inputs are minimal. Mulberries are typically propagated by cuttings and have an exceptionally high rate of growth. In most cases they can bear fruit in as little as a year or two after establishment. Mulberry can be harvested by hand or by agitating the trees and collecting the fruit off a sheet after they drop. Mulberry fruit have a very thin skin and will disintegrate readily if handled without care. They can be sold as fresh fruit, frozen, dried, or juiced. The range of culinary uses gives mulberries a versatility that may be attractive to prospective growers.

(Continued on page 5)



Editor's Report

By *Dr. Mary Lamberts*
FSHS Proceedings Editor

As of 1 February 2022.... The table below is the current status of papers from the 2021 conference.

Section	Program	Paper	SN	Abstr	ASHS/Other	Sent to ASHS	Proofs sent
ANR	8+1 poster =9	4	3		1 HT accepted 1 EDIS	8, including 1 EDIS HT manuscript will be included	6
Citrus	23	1	17	5	3 to be submitted to ASHS later	10	
HP	15	3	4	8*	1 already published elsewhere	15	6
Krome	23	15	6	2**	**1 to be published in JASHS	23	
OGL	8+2 poster =10	2	6	2†	† 2 to be submitted to ASHS	8	
Veg	39	8	24	7 ††	††1 published elsewhere	35	
Poster	7-3=4			4	Need poster pdfs for archive	4	
Totals	123	33	60	29	1 HT accepted	103	

We are working hard to finish the Proceedings so it will be available before this year's meeting. Please do your part and return your page proofs **as soon as possible** after you receive them or the paper will be published as it appears in the proof. So far, a couple of papers have been published in outside journals, in which case the abstract is published with a footnote providing a link to the full paper.

I am in the process of revising some things for the 2022 Proceedings: ASHS is revising the way the Literature Cited (and citations in papers) will look in their publications, so FSHS will follow suit with some additions for publications which seem to confuse our authors; clearer instructions for both papers (what a typical one contains) and scientific notes (these really should be a **total** of 700 words [or fewer with table and/or figures] unless you want to pay extra page charges). Samples of how author affiliations should be listed are also part of this update.

Plan Ahead...

Renew your membership & register early for our next FSHS meeting in Sarasota June 5-7

<https://fshs.org/meetings/>



Untapped Potential...continued from page 3

The persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*) is a crop currently grown on very small acreage in Florida. Most varieties are adapted to conditions in the northern half of Florida. They have a modest rate of growth and usually it takes several years before a persimmon tree will begin to produce a substantial crop. Fortunately, once the trees begin to be productive, they produce fruit reliably. Persimmons are known to be affected by few pests and pathogens, thus making this fruit tree potentially attractive to growers that are looking for crops that require low inputs. There are many varieties of persimmon which are categorized as either astringent or non-astringent. This may affect market acceptance due to likely consumer preference of non-astringent varieties. Persimmon fruit also commonly have superficial blemishes that varies by cultivar and should be considered by prospective growers. Fruit generally ripens in North Florida in fall and can remain on the trees for weeks or months after reaching maturity. Once picked, which may need to be cut from the tree, the fruit have a fairly long shelf life at room temperature. They can be consumed raw or used in a plethora of culinary dishes and beverages.

There are quite a few alternative fruit crops that should be considered and some have already been tried to varying degrees, but some of these should be given a second look. The three potential fruit trees that were listed each have the potential to be grown sustainably due to the natural adaptation to Florida's growing conditions, minimal inputs, and resistance to pests and pathogens. For growers that are interested in organic production of fruit crops, these fruit trees should be given serious consideration. Once a crop can be reasonably expected to perform well in Florida, the marketing of the crop is the next greatest challenge. A balance of well-researched production methods combined with marketing information needs to be made available to prospective growers for a crop to become a success. When that information is available it lowers the barriers to grower adoption and can bring another crop into the market: benefiting both grower and consumer alike.



Photo credits: Mark Bailey, UF/IFAS

Marketing Coordinator Needed



Are you an “internet guru”?
Interested in helping your
society flourish?

FSHS is currently searching for a Marketing Coordinator who can also work with our website operations to promote the Society effectively.

The current (not yet final) “job” description follows, but it is not the entire story. We are willing to negotiate the “term of office”, as the marketing coordinator position is currently vacant – so we need someone yesterday. Please contact John Griffis if interested: jgriffis@fgcu.edu

MARKETING COORDINATOR

The Marketing Coordinator is elected for a five (5)-year term, with an option for a second term, and chairs the Publicity Committee. The Marketing Coordinator is responsible for helping to develop and implement the Society's marketing plan. Besides **developing a variety of methods to disseminate a sustained stream of information to members** and potential members about the society and the important services it provides, an important focus is to identify groups and individuals that are not current members, but whose interests overlap with those of FSHS, and to send targeted information and invitations to those people to become members. The Marketing Coordinator is also responsible for obtaining photographs and other material/information that can be used to showcase the society.

The marketing coordinator will manage the existing FSHS social media accounts including Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter and will establish an Instagram account for the Society. Additional social media sites might be added as needed. Since ASHS is managing our website, the Marketing Coordinator will also work with ASHS staff to be sure that the required marketing information, such as conference dates and notices, is current on the website.

Get Social with FSHS

Don't forget to tag **@fshs_hort** to increase visibility of your work and our organization.



www.facebook.com/



<https://www.linkedin.com/>



www.instagram.com/fshs_hort/



https://twitter.com/FSHS_Hort



FSHS Board of Directors

- Board Chair:** Noris Ledesma
- President:** John Griffis
- President Elect:** Alan Chambers
- Secretary:** Fernando Alferez
- Treasurer:** Kevin Athearn
- Board Member-at-Large:** Craig Campbell
- Board Member-at-Large:** Richard Campbell



FSHS Sectional Vice Presidents

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|---|---|
| <p>Citrus:
Vice President: Manjul Dutt
VP Elect: Lorenzo Rossi</p> <p>Ornamentals, Garden & Landscape:
Vice President: Michelle Leonard-Mularz
VP Elect: Ashley Kush</p> <p>Handling & Processing:
Vice-President: Jeff Brecht
VP Elect: Angelos Deltsidis</p> | <p>Krome Memorial:
Vice President: Mark Bailey
VP Elect: Kimberly Morgan</p> <p>Vegetables:
Vice President: Prissy Fletcher
VP Elect: Lisa Hickey</p> <p>Agroecology/Natural Resources:
Vice President: Taylor Clem
VP Elect: Bonnie Wells</p> |
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FSHS Committee Chairs & Administrative Contacts

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| <p>Program Coordinator: German Sandoya Miranda</p> <p>Proceedings Editor: Mary Lamberts</p> <p>Marketing Coordinator: vacant</p> <p>Meetings Coordinator: Tracy Shawn (ASHS)</p> <p>Member Services: Heather Hilko (ASHS)</p> | <p>Student Awards Chairperson: Michelle Danyluk</p> <p>Sponsorship Coordinator: Gene McAvoy</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Alicia Lamborn</p> <p>Student Competition Coordinator: Xin Zhao</p> <p>Poster Coordinator: Prissy Fletcher</p> |
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