



The Leaflett

California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter



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Going Bananas

Has the CRFG's year of the banana got you thoroughly enthused about this exciting fruit? If your answer is "yes", there's a great opportunity out there for you. Boasting over 17,000 items, the world's largest banana museum is located right here in California (Altadena). And, hold on to your hats...according to the L.A. Times *it's for sale!* For a mere \$300,000 you can obtain a lifetime collection of banana memorabilia including a sequined purse shaped like a banana with an image of Michael Jackson. So, if you have some extra cash hanging around and the stock market scares you, get out your checkbook. Just think how having all these yellow items will brighten your home.

Recent Happenings

July Meeting

Dave Wilson Fruit Tasting

Members attending this meeting had the pleasure of tasting scores of plums, peaches, etc. It was a warm day but the tantalizing taste of the various fruit was worth the wait in line. CRFG members helped the Dave Wilson staff with the presentation and our program chairman handed out chapter membership information to the hundreds of fruit tasting attendees. Our thanks to Dave

Wilson for including the chapter in their fruit tasting extravaganza.

August 10-Festival of Fruit Santa Barbara

Editor's Note: As is traditional there was no monthly meeting in August to allow chapter members to attend the state meeting. This year it was held in Santa Barbara (driving distance for most of our members). The following was submitted by Pet Daniels (Pismo Pet) who with her husband Marv attended.

Year of the Banana Party!

by Pet Daniels

The weather person said 75° was the expected high for Santa Barbara, so we were ready for a beautiful day at the Annual Festival of Fruit at Santa Barbara City College. The location was perfect, overlooking the ocean with three beautiful large meeting rooms for our lectures and parking lot space for the plant vendors where sales of many exotic sub and tropical trees were constant all day. There were lots of plants.

On the many terraces, tables were set for fruit tasting. Lucima ice cream, frozen cherimoya treats, registration, and lunch was served out on the lawn. It truly was a lovely setting!

The attitude of the crowd was that of "We're here to have fun, learn and relax". And, we did just that.

Fourteen extremely interesting speakers were on the agenda. Of the fourteen, two stood out as our favorites. A cooking professor served up bananas in many shapes and flavors along with the banana blooms and stalks and fresh banana smoothies. Apricots and coconuts were also featured foods for the session we attended. Yum...

Nurseryman/turned "medicine man", Jerome Black our other favorite speaker has trekked the Gangdise Mountains and valleys surrounding them in South China in search of more than 30,000 difference species of plant materials native to that area. South China is quite inaccessible. It is common to arrive in a remote village by air, then hike four days to your destination. According to Mr. Black, the effort is worth it, especially to find rare fruiting plants including Maca. This plant has medicinal properties that claim to promote high energy and increase endocrine system efficiency.

Mr. Black spoke showing slides of wondrous fruits totally unknown to us. Imagine 6" long mulberries, yellow, red and green Eggplants and numerous varieties of Diatromea.

Our first day at the festival ended with a yummy tri-tip dinner.

On Sunday there were three interesting tours: Condor Ranch in Goleta, the Beard's home, and a Monticito estate. The Condor Ranch is a working tropical

fruit ranch run by Jay Rusky. The Beard's home is surrounded by five acres of tropical fruits with its own nursery. The Monticeto estate is a producing banana plantation.

The Festival of Fruit is a highlight of the year for us and many CRFG members. If you have never attended this festival...try it you won't be disappointed.

Upcoming Events

See the attached (or the end of the e-mail newsletter) for a four month event list) Dr. Joe will send out details to members with e-mail as meetings get closer. For those still on snail mail, you can contact Dr. Joe at 756-7225.

Business meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. usually the second Saturday of the month. Joe will bring handouts to each meeting detailing future events. Remember to bring chairs and wear appropriate clothing. Refreshment groups for Sept., Group 1 (A-H); Oct., Group 2 (I-Q).

Chapter Chat

Congratulations Dr. Joe

For those who haven't heard (and there aren't many, Dr. Joe has been very vocal)

Dr. Joe Sabol retired from Cal Poly SLO in July. His retirement party at Cal Poly was attended by about 300 persons. Members from our chapter presented Joe with a memory album of our many past CRFG

activities. If you get a chance ask Joe for his "retirement activities list". Perhaps he would like some company on his hang gliding or travel adventures.

Ah...retirement. Congratulations Dr. Joe from all chapter members.

Webmaster Wanderings

Some of you have probably noticed our web site has not been updated in a while. It seems that our webmaster Art DeKleine has wandered over to Michigan this summer to help harvest cherries? He is supposed to be back this month.

Tips for Tomatoes-Follow-up

Art Henzgen wrote a nice article for the last newsletter on how to grow tomatoes. This advice was timely as we had 20 plants in the just planted stage (assuming half of them wouldn't make it). Be careful about doing things right. We...ah...now have a garden that could be featured in a sci-fi movie entitled "The Tomato Plants That Ate Nipomo". We had so many "fruits of our labor" that our friends hide when they see us coming with a plastic bag. Thanks Art, we will tone down our crop next year.

Announcements

Semi-annual Board Meeting is tentatively set for October 2...all are invited to attend. Chuck Atlee will distribute more details by e-mail.

We still need a coffee coordinator...
The chapter still needs a coffee

coordinator to bring coffee to the business meetings. The chapter picks up the cost. Contact Chuck Atlee at catlee@calpoly.edu.

Newsletter Update...Have an interesting article to contribute or comments on how to improve chapter communication? Send them to your newsletter editor at slpir@yahoo.com. Newsletter costs are way down this year due to electronic distribution. Please keep membership coordinator Dick Pottratz updated on your current e-mail address. Newsletters are distributed every two months the first week of the distribution month (i.e. first week in September for September/ October issue).

Thought for the Day

If all our misfortunes were laid in one common heap, whence everyone must take an equal portion, most people would be content to take their own and depart.

Socrates

CRFG



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