



The Leaflett

California Rare Fruit Growers - Central Coast Chapter



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A Banana Tale

By Scott Flanders

Ever wonder how the banana came about? Well here's one person's opinion of that auspicious moment. The setting is a project results meeting between Mother Nature and her Research and Development team...

Mother Nature says, "Ladies and Gentlemen of the R&D Department, Fruit Division. What do you have to show me? You've had several weeks to come up with a new fruit...dazzle me with your creativity...and tell me it's not another round one again...they always roll off my plate."

A nervous looking R&D man stands up and says, "Well, Mother Nature... ahem...we've brought you this," and he holds up a slender, narrow looking item, that is colored bright yellow. "We call it a banana."

"A what?" asks Mother Nature.

"A banana," repeats the R&D man, looking more nervous.

"Where does it grow?" she asks.

"Um, well, it grows on a tree..." he says, getting an elbow in the ribs from a colleague, "...but it's not really a tree, its a really, really big herb—that looks like a tree."

"Okay," says Mother Nature, smiling. "I like the shape. I'm good with yellow-it worked for the lemon-but what's the sell? Will people want to eat it?"

R&D man, now filled with confidence, excitedly says, "Yes, they'll love it. Get this, it comes in a thick peel, that you can separate easily from the fruit inside. It's comes pre-packaged! A very sanitary benefit, I might add. And, it comes in a bunch, almost like a natural made six-pack." He gets elbowed again.

"A six-what?" asks Mother Nature.

"Oh, um sorry, I've been moonlighting over in the civilization division, it's something else we're working on."

"Go on."

"Okay, its highly nutritious. You can eat it raw or even cooked. Have it in your cereal or even with ice cream."

"Cereal? Ice cream?"

"Oops, sorry again, more civilization R&D, not scheduled for thousands of years. Sorry."

"Okay. Is that it then for the banana?"

"Oh wait, one more thing. It has sort of a comic appeal to it, (heh-heh)...pun intended. Watch this." He turns to a staff member, "Okay Briggs, bring in the volunteer."

Briggs stands up and walks over to the door. He pulls out the peel of a banana. "Okay, Ma'am, we put the peel down on the floor, skin up. Like so." He then opens the door, leans into the hallway and says, "Okay, volunteer, come on in."

The volunteer walks in hesitantly and sees Mother Nature sitting at the head of the table. In awe he walks toward her and starts to say, "Mother Nature! Wow! It's an honor..." And he steps on the banana peel, his feet shoot way up in the air, and he lands with a thump, flat on his back.

The room is completely silent, momentarily.

Mother Nature snorts loudly and begins to guffaw uncontrollably. Then the rest of the meeting members fall to pieces in fits of laughter.

Finally, bringing the room to some sense of order, Mother Nature says, "Oh, I love it, fruit with a prankish sense of humor. This is the best laugh I have had since the Mammal Division brought me the specs on the Platypus.

Thus the banana was born, bringing happy smiles to banana fanatics around the world.

Scott Flanders lives in Newport Beach, CA with his wife and two sons. Thank you Scott for giving CRFG members a few chuckles to brighten their day.

Recent Happenings

March Monthly Meeting Atascadero-Red Apricot Tree

Business: The meeting was called to order and last meeting minutes read and approved. **Treasurer's report:** We have \$2,408 in the bank. **Program Chair Report:** Plans and directions for the next five meetings will be distributed at the April meeting. **Community Orchard Report:** The orchard is in bloom and everyone is invited to come and view the splendor and do some trimming!. **Board Meeting Summary:** A recap of the Board Meeting was read. A copy of CRFG state by-laws has been requested from the state organization to decide term limits for officers.

Pruning Activities: Joe Sabol gave a brief history of the pruning activities on the tree. Then everyone joined in. As Arlene Vogele stated "I enjoy our CRFG members and their lovely personalities. I have noticed in particular CRFG's have such a good outlook on life. I especially love the humor. If we could not laugh at ourselves, the world would be a sad place indeed. The pruning of this very old Red Apricot tree was quite an accomplishment and fun in the process!"

Thanks to Linda Seely for her trust in allowing our group the opportunity to tend this lovely majestic old tree.

April Monthly Meeting Turtles and Tortoises and Lizards, Oh My

Business: Laura Lopez conducted the

meeting. Last meeting minutes were read and approved. . **Program Chair Report:** Joe Sabol handed out listings and directions for the next five monthly meetings.

Farm Tour: Bob gave a brief talk about the many turtles and tortoises on their "hobby that got out of hand" five acre farm. We were given information on their quite elaborate solar system and even got a peek at their home's "turtle room". Watching Judy coerce two tortoises the size of a small planet from their shelter out to meet their guests was quite a sight. We finally learned the difference between turtles who spend most of their time in water and have webbed feet and tortoises who spend most of their time on land, and have feet the shape of an elephant's.

Thank you Bob and Judy Thomas for your informative tour and your ongoing efforts turtle and tortoise rescue efforts!

Upcoming Events. . .

What a great Program Chair we have for this year!

Thanks to Joe Sabol for planning in advance activities for the next FIVE months. We will not have a meeting in October (the month of the state meeting), no August business meeting so we can all go to the Festival of Fruit, and our November meeting will be held at the Kings (details in the September/October

newsletter). Joe will bring handouts to each meeting for the next six months. See the attached for details and directions. Remember to bring chairs and wear appropriate closing for monthly meetings. Refreshment groups for May and June: May, Group 3 (R-Z) and June 1 (A-H).)Group 2 was skipped because they brought goodies in January and February). **Late Newsflash..**there will be roses on sale at the May meeting. Bring your checkbook.

Announcements

Newsletter by E-Mail: As announced last meeting, if you have an E-mail address on file at our chapter, this will be the last newsletter you receive by regular mail. 76 of our 110 members have progressed to the electronic age and this will save the chapter almost \$400 per year! So check your E-mail.

Coffee Coordinator Wanted: The chapter needs a coffee coordinator to bring coffee to the business meetings. The chapter picks up the cost. Contact Chuck Atlee at catlee@calpoly.edu.

CRFG



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