

Miracle Fruit and Flavor: An Experiment Performed at APS 2010

May 28, 2011

The results are in! At Convention last year APS Past-President Linda Bartoshuk led a miracle fruit experiment with the audience during the Presidential Symposium in Boston, MA. Audience members tasted 'miracle fruit,' a freeze-dried West African berry, that changed the way they tasted fruit they ate afterwards.

Bartoshuk shared the results with attendees in a poster presentation at the APS 23rd Annual Convention in Washington, DC.

Synsepalum dulcificum berries (miracle fruit) affect the tongue such that sweet taste is added to acids. In a study of 823 subjects (APS 2010), after eating miracle fruit, strawberries and lemons were sweetened as expected; what's more, their flavors were also intensified. This effect has not previously been demonstrated.

The results were presented Saturday, May 28, 2011 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM in Columbia Hall.

Linda Bartoshuk, *University of Florida*

John Bohannon, *Contributing Correspondent for Science*

Donal Cahill, *Harvard University*

Elizabeth Cogan, *Montclair State University*

Larisa Heiphetz, *Harvard University*

Kathryn Hobbs, *Harvard University*

Sonia Hudson, *University of Florida*

Sara Hope Lincoln, *Harvard University*

Tyler Lorig, *Washington and Lee University*

Renee Marton, *Institute of Culinary Education*

Harold McGee, *New York Times*

Scott Parker, *American University*

Charles Sims, *University of Florida*

Laura Tully, *Harvard University*

Deb Zellner, *Montclair State University*

Linda speaking at last year's Presidential Symposium in Boston, MA: