



Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation Newsletter

September 2007

Mission: WWFRF exists to advance fruit horticultural programs for our unique Western Washington maritime climate through advocacy, research, education, and demonstration for the benefit of the general public and the small farmer.

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President's Message

By Kristan Johnson, WWFRF President, Board Member

I heard a remark by a long-term member at the cherry "sample the harvest" day, that of all of these events he's attended over the years, he's never seen everyone so happy and gently talking to each other, sharing in this unique experience. As I listened to him, I smiled with a feeling of satisfaction that our many years of efforts to become a group of fruit enthusiasts focused on tasting new varieties, have been well worth it.

That said, it is very difficult to find a way to sustain this precious experience for the many children and all of the folks



Photo by Bill Davis

who are members of WWFRF. This experience and research may go away and never be replicated. In the following article written by our Vice President Sam Benowitz, he outlines the financial predicament that we face. We have been reporting on these financial developments in recent years, but the potentially immediate demise of the entire program is now at a crucial juncture.

Don't forget the Espalier Symposium at our Fall Field Day!

See how this tree looks now; this picture was taken in 2005.

I have been working with Tom Thorton, of Cloud Mountain Nursery, to develop a Fruit Trials Advisory Board, which is made up of representatives from all of the concerned groups that benefit from the fruit research. This includes representatives from the following:

- 1) Wholesale Nursery Fruit Tree growers
- 2) Retail Nursery Fruit Tree growers
- 3) Backyard Fruit Tree growers WWFRF - Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation
- 4) Backyard Fruit Tree growers WCFS - Western Cascade Fruit Society
- 5) Commercial Fruit Tree growers

The goal of the Fruit Trials Advisory Board is to develop a 5-year plan for Tree Fruit research. This Board will be responsible for: 1) providing leadership and direction in research trials. 2) Accessing existing trials and plantings for use in future projects. 3) Identifying research priorities. 4) Working with NWREC research staff on research proposals. 5) Working with NWREC personnel to identify practical annual funding requirements for research projects (you can see the 2007 budget projection in another section of this newsletter).

The overall intent is to directly involve a broader user base and to help consolidate the efforts and expectations of those groups to fund Fruit Research on a sustainable basis.

Finally, I hope you are all getting ready for our Espalier Symposium! In response to a growing demand, we are devoting an entire day of seminars and tours to the art of espalier! As many of you know, this is a favorite topic of mine, and of many others in WWFRF. You need to be forewarned to come early, as the seminars will surely fill up! Many folks will be attending for their first time due the popularity of the subject, so we will be overflowing into the tours.

I'm very excited about this and hope you are too. See you there!

Kristan



A great big “Thank You!!” to all those who helped make the Fruit Booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show such a success! We’ve had a positive response to our display and to the friendly WWFRF folks handing out information and answering questions. It seems that our efforts to proudly display WWFRF’s 15 years of dedication to fruit testing and education have finally come to fruition!

Every year, the limited slots to participate in the Fruit Booth are filled by enthusiastic WWFRF supporters who share taking care of the booth with the Seattle Tree Fruit Society, a great group of folks whose presence really helps the total presentation be so effective.

If you would like to help with this year’s efforts (and get in free to the show!) during February 20-24 (Wed-Sat), then don’t delay in signing up, as these 4-hour slots (9-1 or 1-5 or 5-9) tend to fill up early. It’s easy; all you need is a smile, and an enthusiastic love of fruit and WWFRF! First come, first served, email our terrific new Coordinating Secretary Pam Bennett at: faunadocpam@rainierconnect.com

Funding

The fruit tree research that has been going on for 40 years at Mt. Vernon is in serious danger of coming to an end. WWFRF has consistently provided WSU with \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year for many years, in addition to volunteer labor, which during the last year amounted to a value of \$100,000. But unless we are able to provide an additional \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year, hundreds of trees representing decades of work and untold future promise may have to be destroyed.

If WWFRF continues to contribute approximately the same amount then why are our programs in great danger? Although we will summarize some of the reasons here, the answer is complex. If you would like a 20 page report outlining the situation email sam@raintreenursery.com and I will send you the WWFRF study.

All groups are now being charged for activities that they were not charged for before at NWREC (the Mt. Vernon station). Gary Moulton is the only full time person working on our program who is paid by WSU. Moulton's only technician, Jacky King, was formerly paid by grants, but the grants have been cut considerably and she is currently being paid in part by WWFRF, and in part by grants.

Previously, there was a part time field technician position that was paid by grants, And for a couple of years there was a full time technician paid by WSU but that position was cut last year. Unless Moulton has at least one part time field technician, which he does not have at this time, the plants in the field can not be properly maintained. In addition, he needs a volunteer coordinator for at least ½ time. The \$100,000 in volunteer labor over the last year was organized and supervised by an unpaid WWFRF coordinator who has been doing it for years and will be retiring at the end of the year.

So without any help to care for the plants, Moulton has no alternative but to remove them, since without maintenance they immediately become major problems and spread disease. Once our field plantings are gone, the only fruit trees WWFRF will have left will be in our Demonstration Garden, but even that will need a volunteer coordinator to continue and will need paid help for spraying.

Larger commercial groups support some of the projects, such as the wine grape project, but commercial fruit tree growing in Western Washington is small scale and WWFRF is the primary group funneling donations from backyard growers directly into fruit tree research.

For about \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year, we could hire a qualified person to fill the void. This person could be trained to either take over for Gary when he retires or provide continuity and assistance for the WSU person who takes over for Gary. WWFRF and NARF committees continue to work to obtain additional funds. Working closely with both Rich Hines and Ellen Bynum, we have formulated a plan to establish sustainable funding, and we are beginning it's implementation, but time is running out and we need help in the form of a "bridge grant".

If you are interested in working with the funding committee or considering donating funds for these needed positions for the next year, please email please email me at sam@raintreenursery.com or call me at 360-496-6400.

We, along with Dr. Bob Norton, would love to show you the projects at NWREC (the WSU Mt. Vernon station) and discuss the situation and possibilities with you.

Sam Benowitz
WWFRF Vice President

PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION ALONG WITH THIS FORM September, 2007

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$_____ (Make check payable to WWFRF)

Charge my **Visa** or **MasterCard** (Circle card type)

Credit Card Number: _____ Expires: _____

Last 3 digits of the number on the back of your card: _____

Signature _____

Please designate my monetary gift toward:

Where it is needed most!

Fruit Display Garden

Fruit Variety Trials

Sampling and Field Days

I would like to volunteer!

In the Display Garden

On a WWFRF committee

On sampling and field days

Tell me how I can help

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____ Phone # _____

Please make my gift: In Honor of: In Memory of:

(Name of person) _____

Address of person or person's family

(So we can notify them)

Thank you.. Please send to: Walter Kropp
WWFRF Treasurer
29838 Marine View Dr. SW
Federal Way, WA 98023

Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax accountant for details.

Membership Report

by JoAnn Alidina, WWFRF Membership Chair, Board Member

Paid memberships for 2007-2008: 123 families; 98 Independents; 17 Sustaining; and 4 people paid for a one day harvest day. Total paid memberships 238!!!

Our membership dues totaled \$4800 for 2006 and \$1935 thus far for 2007.

Northwest Plum Soup

Thanks to Bruce Naftaly, owner of Le Gourmet Restaurant in Ballard.

Sautee in 2 Tlbs. unsalted butter or olive oil:

2 cloves garlic, peeled

2 shallots, chopped

1/2 onion, peeled and chopped

1 Leek: white part, chopped

1 Hot Thai pepper (Can use more or less for your desired fire)

Add 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock

2 Bay leaves

1/2 pound zucchini chopped

1/2-1 lb. Shiro plums (or any tart plum on your beautiful NW plum tree)

Simmer until veggies and fruit is tender, remove hot pepper, then:

Add 1/2 cup fresh mint, chopped

Blend in food processor or blender (Make sure to put towel over lid to prevent hot liquid from splashing out of the top).

Salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with fresh mint sprigs and enjoy hot, room temp, or cold.

New Vegetable Trials at LaConner

For those of you who remember the vegetable trials held in our Display Garden a number of years ago or for those who are also interested in growing vegetables. The vegetable trials are now being continued in LaConner at LaConner Flats, which is only about 12 minutes from the Mount Vernon station where our field days are held. Several members visited the trials after the July Sampling day, and Bob Hart and Andy Anderson gave us a wonderful tour. Thank you Bob and Andy!

The home page for the Veg Trials is:

<http://www.laconnerflats.com/VEGHOME.html>

**Think
Espalier**



Symposium

WWFRF Financial Report: 1/1/07 – 815/07

By Walt Kropp, WWFRF Treasurer, Board Member

Non-Restricted Funds	\$12,879.72
<u>Display Garden Funds</u>	<u>\$ 6053.77</u>
Total Funds on hand 815/07	\$18,933.49

Display Garden Funds Summary

Total Income (Donations)	\$1000.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 989.87</u>
Year +/-	\$ +10.13

Non Restricted Income 2007

Donations	\$5347.50
Credit adjustment	\$50.00
Insurance Refund	\$ 34.00
Membership Dues	\$ 5,260.00
Outreach	\$ 600.00
<u>Spring Field Day</u>	<u>\$871.19</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 12,162.69

Expenses 2007

Spring Field Day	287.00
Bank Charges	\$ 46.00
Flower and Garden Show	\$406.91
General Liability Insurance	\$1176.00
Liability Insurance	\$754.00
Outreach	\$400.00
Safety vests	\$211.36
Internet Connection Fee	\$120.00
Printing & Mailing	\$961.87
<u>WA State Filing Fee</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
Subtotal operating expenses	\$4423.00

WSU Addendum #17	
<u>(for fruit research)</u>	<u>\$11200.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15623.14

We owe \$3750 to WSU for Addendum # 17

We have pledged \$8600 to WSU for Addendum # 18

\$600 of non-restricted funds is for outreach, \$400 of this has been spent

We wish to give a big thank you to the Seattle Tree Fruit Society chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society and to Dr. Erik Pihl for their generous donations the past few months.

Also, as of this writing, our total income is about 35% above last year at this time.

All donations are used only for fruit research unless they are earmarked for something else by the donor.

New Website for Fruit Horticulture at Mount Vernon

WSU Mount Vernon NWREC is pleased to introduce a new and updated web site for its Fruit Horticulture program:

<http://mountvernon.wsu.edu/FruitHorticulture.html>.

We created our first Fruit Horticulture web site in 1999, and have since added lists of varieties included in our research trials each year, annual reports, links to our new Extension bulletins, and current pest management information. The new site is part of our mission to provide new and current information in an improved format that is clear and user friendly.

We encourage you to browse the new Fruit Horticulture web site and to pass this information along to anyone who might be interested. Note the web site address change and change this in your links where needed. We also ask that if you notice any dropped links or

other glitches during the transition, please let us know at kingjack@wsu.edu.

Board of Directors Minutes: July 7, 2007

By Kim Siebert, WWFRF Recording Secretary, Board Member

Held at: WSU Extension
16650 State Route 536
Mount Vernon, WA

8:00 am – 10:am

Board Members Present: Bill Davis, Kim Siebert, Kristan Johnson, Pam Bennet, Walt Kropp, JoAnn Alidina , Tarn Mower, Tom Mueller.

Board Advisors/Reps/other guests: Ellen Bynum, Gary Moulton.

Agenda Items:

1. **Preview of meeting** – Kristan gave a special thanks to Walt, Kim Pam and Jo for their work for WWFRF.
2. **WWFRF Vest** – Kristan showed a vest for volunteers to wear at events. The vest will help the volunteers to be easily found and identified at WWFRF event while they are helping with parking, giving instructions at Sample Days, etc. The vests will be \$35 each. Walt motioned to purchase up to 6 vests out of non-restricted funds. Seconded by Jo. Passed unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report – Walter** – Walter Passed out the Financial Report.

Financial Report 1/1/07 through 6/30/07

Current Balance Non-Restricted Funds	\$16,622.99
Current Balance Display Garden Funds	\$5,264.72
= Total Funds on Hand	\$21,887.71

Non-Restricted Funds Summary (to 6/30/07)

Income	
Donations	\$3257.50
Credit Adjustment	\$50.00
Outreach	\$600.00
Spring Field Day	\$871.19
Memberships	\$4605.00
<hr/>	
Total Income (Non-Restricted)	\$9,383.69

<u>Expenses</u>	
Internet Connection	\$90.00
Bank Charge (returned check)	\$46.00
Display Garden Expenses	\$778.92
General Liability Insurance	\$206.00
Spring Field Day Expenses (for WSU facilities)	\$287.00
Printing and Mailing	\$961.87
Wa State Filing Fee	\$10.00
WSU Addn 17	\$7500.00
<hr/>	
Total Expenses	\$9879.79

Walter mentioned that we need to figure out a policy for bounced checks as we received our first one recently. We need to have additional insurance to cover WSU at events so we paid \$206 for the meeting in February and we will be paying an additional \$187 in July. Last year the first half of the year brought in half of the years income. Last year our total income was \$15,600 and this year we have \$11,500 for the first 6 months, including a couple of donations that are on the way. There is a \$2000 donation coming from Seattle Tree Fruit Society. Tom motioned to pass the financial report, seconded by Pam. Passed unanimously.

4. **Charge cards** – We are not currently set up to take charge cards. Several options were discussed including PayPal and Network for Good. Network for Good is the least expensive for a non-profit. Bill motioned that we use Network for Good. Seconded by Tarn. Passed unanimously.
5. **Membership** – JoAnn – The old and New computer systems are being combined. Tarn is helping with the computer. Kristan's files are on the laptop and Pam's will be, too. We have about 200 paying memberships at this time. Walt motioned to accept the membership report. Tom Seconded. Passed unanimously.
6. **Going more organic** – Kristan and Gary – We have more opportunity to go organic now that Carol Miles is coming on board at the facility. This does not mean no spray, just a switch to organic sprays. We need to find a volunteer who is licensed to spray. Tom will be point person on this problem.
7. **Fundraising** – Ellen – Grants will wait until Carol is installed. The fundraising letter needs to have a signature in blue ink and a P.S. saying "Please write your check today and sent it to us." We may enclose a number #6 envelope. We may invite the Slow Food people to stage an event here with tickets perhaps at \$75. Ellen will contact them. Generally half the money from mailings comes in Nov and Dec so we need a mailing at that time.
8. **Espalier Symposium Fall Field day** – 1st class from 9:00 – 11:30. Picking at 1:00 pm. We hope to have 3 programs with a panel about espaller with overview. We may have a class on rootstocks this year or in the spring.

Meeting closed at 10:30 am.

Fruit Display Garden Progress Report

by De Arbogast, Board Member, WWFRF Fruit Display Garden Committee Chair, Webmaster

To date, we have put in 1035 hours of labor with an average of 12 volunteers per workday in 2007. These volunteers have done an exceptional job in furthering our goal of going organic this year.

We have minimized our spray program, using only a few early season sprays to control primary infections of anthracnose, scab and peach leaf curl. Codling Moth infestation has been light so far, using pheromone control (Last Call). I would greatly appreciate any feedback from our members if you find any codling moth damage in the apples and pears that you harvest from the Display Garden. Please burn or bury any infected fruit so as not to spread this pest in your neighborhood. We are also using 'maggot barriers' (nylon footies) on selected apple varieties to assess their effectiveness in controlling codling moth. We have not, as yet, seen any sign of apple maggot infestation.

Apple, pear, cherry, kiwi and blueberry production have been exceptional this season. Our grass mulching program seems to be paying off in weed control, moisture retention, scab and powdery mildew control and fertilization. We always emphasize fruit thinning to lessen stress on the trees and stabilize yearly fruit production. This is labor intensive but the results are worth it.

Grass cutting and sweeping takes up a lot of our time. Bill Pihl has helped us out with this never-ending chore and we greatly appreciate his continued support.

All of our fruit trees are now labeled. We would like to add more trees to the garden, but we are just able to maintain what we have now with our current volunteers. One way to increase our varieties is to graft new varieties onto existing trees. We will be pursuing this process in the coming years.

As the field trials wind down due to a lack of funding, the Display Garden becomes a focal point in sustaining the most successful fruit varieties from the field trials. If you want to see this continue, now is the time to volunteer or contribute more to fund our efforts.

Many thanks to all of our members who have continued their support throughout the last 17 years.

Fall Field Day / **Espalier Symposium**: October 6, 2007



Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation

Held at:

Washington State University, Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center

16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273



- 8:30 - 9:00 AM Registration—All members & non-members must first register and pay (if membership is not up-to-date)**
- Admission Fee for WWFRF Members: Included in annual paid dues*
Admission Fee for Non-Members: \$15.00/ Individual; \$25.00/ Family (One household only, does not include parents or grown children not living with members)
Free/ Children age 12 and below; Free/ Caregivers
- 9:00 – 9:45 AM Overview of Espalier – Kristan Johnson**
(Auditorium)
- 9:00 – 9:45 AM Espalier tour in the Fruit Display Garden**
- 9:45 – 9:55 AM BREAK**
- 9:55 - 10:25 AM Espalier Structure and Supports – David Connors, Kristan Johnson, Walt Kropp**
(Auditorium) Panel will allow time for questions.
- 9:55 - 10:25 AM Espalier tour in the Fruit Display Garden**
- 10:25 - 10:35 AM BREAK**
- 11:35 – 11:20 AM Rootstocks for espalier – Gary Moulton, Biringer Orchards, Kristan Johnson, Walt Kropp, David Connors, Raintree Nursery**
(Auditorium) Panel will allow time for questions.
- 11:35 – 11:20 AM Espalier tour in the Fruit Display Garden**
- 11:20 – 11:30 AM BREAK**
- 11:30 – 12:15 PM Belgian Fence Espalier – David Connors**
(Auditorium)
- 11:30 – 12:15 PM Espalier tour in the Fruit Display Garden**
- 1:00 PM Sample the Harvest – Apples and Asian Pears**



(Please bring your own lunch and beverage.)

For more information go to: www.wwfrf.org

WSU Fruit Horticulture – Quarterly Report August 2007

By Gary Moulton and Jacky King

The first of the seasonal orchard tours and harvest sampling for WWFRF members took place on Saturday, July 7. A meeting of the Board of Directors was held from 8 – 11 AM, followed by a tour and harvest of the netted cherry block. The cherry crop was good this year and although there was some damage from cracking and rot it was not serious, and plenty of good varieties were available for evaluation and sampling.

Several varieties of peaches and nectarines in the stone fruit trial set well this year, much better than in 2006. With the help of volunteers led by De Arbogast, we were able to collect data on split pits from varieties harvested on July 26, August 2, August 9, August 16 and August 23. A lot of skin cracking, not associated with split pits, was noted in the nectarine samples. After the data was recorded and samples collected for evaluation, remaining fruit was divided among the pickers. We very much appreciate the contribution of the volunteers to help us gather this data. Some of the later ripening peach varieties were available for the second orchard tour for WWFRF members on Saturday, August 11. Plums did not set as well this year, but some of them were ripe for sampling also.

The last of a series of workshops for viticulture and wine will be held Saturday, September 15, 2007. Topics will cover site selection using GIS, varieties and rootstocks, soil testing and amendments, identifying virus problems, yellow jacket control, harvest testing and techniques. The workshop includes a field tour of the vineyard with demonstration of virus identification, soil testing, and harvest testing. For information and registration call Debra Lancaster at 360-416-7605 or check the website here: <http://learningcenters.wsu.edu/skagit/wine.html#viti>

There are continuing efforts by WWFRF and other interested parties to find new sources of funding for the tree fruit program at Mount Vernon or to expand the existing funding. At this point, however, the support actually available for tree fruit is not enough to maintain the program at present levels. Since funds are very limited, we are setting priorities so that most of the required maintenance can be handled by current staff. Some of the test plots will be downsized or eliminated. With the restricted operating budget there does not seem to be an alternative.

2007 Budget Projection

General estimate of the annual cost to maintain each of the Fruit Horticulture project blocks now established

By Gary Moulton and Jacky King

Project	% Time	Salaries & Benefits	Timeslip Labor, Materials & Travel ¹	Total per project
Wine Grapes	25	19,000	16,000	\$ 35,000
Cider Apples & Perry Pears	15	11,500	4,700	16,200
Stone Fruit	20	15,300	5,300	20,600
Cherry Variety/Rootstock	10	7,200	4,600	11,800
Apples	10	7,600	4,200	11,800
Pears & Asian Pears	5	3,700	2,700	6,400
Ornamental Tree Fruit	12	9,300	1,300	10,600
Unusual Fruit	3	2,300	5,300	7,600
TOTALS	100	75,900	44,100	\$ 120,000

¹Travel includes mileage to off station plots, to grower sites, and to horticulture meetings where results are presented.



Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation Membership Form

Please check one box ONLY: Renewal New Member

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ 9-DIGIT ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please check all applicable lines to designate type of membership, extra donation, and/or individual or family open house/field day:

- _____ \$25 FOR ANNUAL **INDIVIDUAL** MEMBERSHIP *(One person only)*
- _____ \$40 FOR ANNUAL **FAMILY** MEMBERSHIP *(One immediate household only; maximum 4 persons)*
- _____ \$ _____ FOR **GIFT** MEMBERSHIP FOR: *(Please note for Whom Above)*
- _____ \$60 FOR ANNUAL **SUSTAINING** MEMBERSHIP *(Individual or family membership with higher level of financial support)*
- _____ \$60 FOR ANNUAL **CIDER APPLE SUSTAINING** MEMBERSHIP *(Sustaining membership with interest in cider apples)*
- _____ \$60 FOR ANNUAL **WINE GRAPE SUSTAINING** MEMBERSHIP *(Sustaining membership with interest in wine grapes)*
- _____ \$125 FOR ANNUAL **COMMERCIAL (List Only)** MEMBERSHIP *(Includes 3 people, and also includes business name on our website)*
- _____ \$200 FOR ANNUAL **COMMERCIAL (Full)** MEMBERSHIP
(Includes 3 people, and also includes a link from our website to the commercial members' website)
- _____ AN **EXTRA DONATION** of \$ _____ for WWFRF
- _____ \$15 FOR **INDIVIDUAL One-Day** OPEN HOUSE/FIELD DAY **ONLY**
- _____ \$25 FOR **FAMILY One-Day** OPEN HOUSE/FIELD DAY **ONLY** *(One household only; maximum 4 persons)*

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO DO THE FOLLOWING FOR WWFRF (please check all applicable lines):

- _____ TO HELP WITH FIELD WORK AT THE **WWFRF FRUIT DISPLAY GARDEN** (usually held every Thursday from 9am-12noon; March-Nov.)
- _____ TO HELP WITH FIELD WORK AT THE **WSU NWREC** in Mount Vernon
- _____ TO HELP SET UP THE DAY BEFORE A **FIELD DAY** (Field Days are usually held in February and October every year)
- _____ TO HELP AT THE **SAMPLING DAY**: Please check ALL applicable boxes: Parking Registration Bags Distribution
- _____ TO HELP AT **FRUIT TASTING/ROOTSTOCK SALES**
- _____ TO HELP WWFRF ON AN **ONGOING BASIS**
- _____ TO HELP WWFRF AT THE **NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW** in Seattle (usually held in February every year)
- _____ TO HELP WWFRF AT VARIOUS **DISPLAY BOOTHS** presented in _____ COUNTY
- _____ TO HELP WWFRF SELL FRUIT at the **FALL FRUIT SHOW**
- _____ TO HELP WITH **SPECIAL FRUIT HARVESTING DAYS, IN SEASON**, AT THE WSU NWREC

Please make your check payable to: WWFRF and MAIL your completed membership form and check to:

WWFRF – MEMBERSHIP
Attn: JoANN ALIDINA
704 N 84th ST, SEATTLE, WA 98103-4328
Phone: (206) 789-1106 Email: alidina.j@comcast.net

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Annual memberships cost \$25/year for Individuals and \$40/year per Family (One Household only). Membership entitles you to the newsletter, participation at all Field Days/Open Houses and Harvest Days, at no additional charge; other types of memberships are also available. Visit www.wwfrf.org and download the membership form OR contact **JoAnn Alidina, Membership Chair at (206) 789-1106, email: alidina.j@comcast.net** for a membership form.

The **WWFRF Newsletter** is printed 3x/ year in February, June, and September and mailed or emailed to all members.

FIELD DAYS/ OPEN HOUSES are free to members, and open to non-members for One-Day only fees of @ \$15/ Individual and \$25.00/ Family (One immediate household only, max. 4 persons/household) at **each** event.

- The **Spring Field Day/ Open House** is usually held at the end of **February**, and consists of hands-on pruning, grafting and budding, talks on insects and pests, scion wood sale, and root stock sale.
- The **Fall Field Day/ Open House** is usually held in **October** (and includes the *Fall Harvest Day for the same fee*), and covers various topics e.g., best fruit varieties for our area, harvest techniques, preservation and storage, orchard mason bees, fertilizer and nutrition, home wine and cider production, and fruit tasting.

HARVEST DAYS are free to members, and open to non-members @ \$15/ Individual and \$25.00/ Family (One household only) at **each** event:

- **Harvest Days** are held in **July, August, September, and October**. The following fruit is harvested in season: cherries, peaches, nectarines, pears, plums, and apples. Paid members and non-members are allowed to keep their portion of the harvested fruit.
- **Special Volunteer Harvests** occur on an as-needed basis to assist the WSU NWREC staff in harvesting specific fruit for data collection. This harvest is open to paid members only, and paid members are allowed to keep a portion of the harvest.

Have you renewed your membership yet? WWFRF membership is valid for 12 months from the date your check is received. For those of you who receive the WWFRF newsletter by **mail**, your membership expiration date is printed above your name indicating the month and year that your membership expires. If you receive your newsletter by **email** and wish to know the expiration date of your membership, please email **JoAnn Alidina** at alidina.j@comcast.net Renew your membership **before** it expires by completing the Membership Form and mailing it in.

WWFRF-WSU Committee Report

by *Sam Benowitz, WWFRF-WSU Committee Chair, WWFRF Vice-President, Board Member*

See www.wwfrf.org NEWSLETTER tab to view the latest WWFRF-WSU Committee Report.

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (WWFRF)

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www.wwfrf.org

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